



Acting Principal's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to Term 2, it has certainly been a wet start to the term. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead.

Athletics Carnival

Thank you to all the staff, students and parents/carers for your flexibility with the Athletics Carnival last week. While the weather was not the best, we made the best of the day and were able to get through all the races for the students aged 8 years and over. We will ensure the students complete their shot put and long jump, as soon as possible. We are also looking at an alternate date for the Infants Carnival, once the wet weather eases, this will be communicated with you as soon as possible. Thank you in particular to Mr Bowen for the organisation of the carnival and Mr Smith for his assistance with organisation and for convening on the day. Thank you also to the Year 6 parents who organised the delicious treats for the Cake Stall, I enjoyed a few pretzels, cakes and cookies myself.

Newsletter

We will be sending out the Newsletter fortnightly, to avoid duplication of information across multiple weeks. We are also training staff on the use of School Zine, and fully interactive and online Newsletter, that is used by many schools as well as the Catholic School Office. It will take us a while to train staff, as well as provide effective communication around this to the parent community. Our hope is to go to School Zine later this term, or at the start of Term 3.

PB4L

Last Friday, fifteen staff, including Mr Konik and myself, attended a training day at the Catholic Schools Office focusing on Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). This has previously been known as PBS. The day was facilitated by Dr Shiralee Poed who is a world leader into PB4L. Following this day, the staff Wellbeing/PB4L Team will meet to discuss how our learnings will be implemented at St Therese's. At the next PEG Meeting, this will be a major agenda item to discuss with parents/carers.

Dates to Remember

10TH MAY - MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

22/23 & 24 MAY – YR 6 SCHOOL CAMP

3RD JUN - WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

10TH JUN – PUPIL FREE – PUBLIC HOLIDAY – KING'S BDAY

13TH JUN – REGIONAL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

DIO SOUNDS

17TH JUN – PUPIL FREE – STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.

Parent Engagement Group (PEG)

Our next PEG Meetings will be held on **Thursday 30 May** at the following times:

- 2pm in the Learning Centre
- 6pm in the Catherine McAuley Centre

We invite all parents and carers to join us to discuss PB4L and curriculum updates. Beginning in Week 3, we will also have meetings for the four subcommittees: Wellbeing & Engagement, Fundraising, Sport and Environment. These dates and times will be sent out via Compass by Friday. Our Year 6 Graduation Subcommittee will meet this **Thursday 9 May** at **5pm** in the staffroom.

Mother's Day Breakfast

A reminder that this Friday 10 May, we will have our Mother's Day Breakfast beginning at 7:30am. We invite all our wonderful mums to come in for a light breakfast of croissants, fruit cups, juice and tea or coffee. We will also have pikelets with butter and jam and fruit juice for all the St Therese's children. We wish all our wonderful mums, and those that take on the role of mum, a very Happy Mother's Day on Sunday.

Sport Day

Sport Days for the term were sent out via Compass during the holidays, but are also listed below:

- Kindergarten - Wednesday
- Year 1 - Tuesday for Weeks 1-5 then Thursday for Weeks 6-10
- Year 2 - Thursday for Weeks 1-5 then Tuesday for Weeks 6-10
- Year 3 - Wednesday
- Year 4 - Thursday for Weeks 1-5 then Tuesday for Weeks 6-10
- 5N - Tuesday
- 5W - Thursday
- 5L - Wednesday
- Year 6 - Tuesday for Weeks 1-5 then Thursday for Weeks 6-10
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Disrespect for Property

We have had some acts of vandalism at school, especially in the toilets. Two doors have been forcibly opened too far, breaking the hinges – this has come at a cost of \$400 per door to fix. We have also had fruit, sandwiches, popcorn and plastic rubbish thrown into the toilets, causing blockages which have required plumbers to be called, often at a high cost. Please discuss this with your child/ren, as it is very disappointing that some children are not being respectful of property at school.

Winter Uniform

The weather can be quite unpredictable now, so children are able to wear a mix between Summer and Winter Uniform, if all clothing is part of the school uniform. Today there were several children in casual jumpers, this is not permitted. The official change over to Winter Uniform is 1 June.

Attendance

We encourage all children to attend school each day unless they are unwell. Having regular days away from school, can have an impact on a child's academic, social, and emotional development. This can also occur when children often come to school late or leave early, as they miss interacting with their peers and teachers, as well as important information that may be given at the start or end of the day. Attendance at school also teaches children important lessons on organisation and routine. So we ask that parents avoid picking children up early to attend appointments or when parents are on their way home from work or their own appointments.

Donation

Thank you to Luke Wilson, from Harcourts Real Estate, for your very generous donation of \$1000 for the school. Luke donates \$1000 for any home he sells through families at St Therese's. This donation will go towards installing shade sails at St Therese's.



Thank You

Decodable Readers

Thank to Mason and Logan O, who have donated a set of decodable chapter books for the library. The *Fox Kid* series, written by Adrian Beck, are graphic novels that are engaging for readers. I encourage the children to look out for the books in the library, I read *Fox Kid and the Bee Sting* in the holidays and really enjoyed it. Thank you, Mason and Logan, I am sure your very generous donation will bring enjoyment to many students at school.

Kaylene Maretich
Acting Principal



Acting Assistant Principal's Message

PB4L – Positive Behaviour for Learning

Teachers from the school Well-being team attended Professional Development with Dr Shiralee Poed last week. At the day Dr Poed shared her deep knowledge about Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). The PB4L framework is used to promote the consistent use of proactive, evidence-based behavioural strategies to increase the likelihood of success for all students. The learnings from the day will now be used to enhance our already comprehensive school PB4L framework and will have a benefit to all students with regards to their positive behaviour and well-being.

COSI

Each year all schools in the diocese attend a Curriculum Focus Day. This year the process will focus on the school's teaching of English and Human Society and Its Environment. A facilitator from the Catholic Schools Office will evaluate the school's policies and procedures, work programs, student work samples and assessments. These Curriculum Focus days are important in our school's process to continue with our culture that ensures ongoing compliance and helps to improve student achievement.

Mark Konik
Acting Assistant Principal

Catholic Culture News

Faith Formation



Francis' Focus – The words below are Pope Francis' reflections on Sunday's Gospel (John 15:9-17) and what true Christian love requires of us, a reminder that actions speak louder than words:

Jesus' command to 'love one another' is given twice in this short passage. As such, it needs to be taken seriously and become the guiding principle in our daily lives. But, as Pope Francis once said, expressing Christian love means going beyond 'words, words, words'.

'First and foremost,' the Pope points out, 'it is important to realise that Christ's love is not a superficial feeling.' In this Gospel passage Jesus was not telling his disciples to be unflappably polite or overtly nice to each other. This was not a message about social conventions. Jesus is concerned with our attitude toward others, and those actions that flow from it. 'Love,' as the Pope points out, 'is fulfilled in everyday life, in attitudes, in deeds.'

As the Pope has repeatedly stressed, loving another person often requires us to challenge our own attitudes. We are called to love everyone, with openness to, as the Pope puts it, 'however they may be and whatever their situation.'

While sometimes hard, this is our Christian duty: We are called to love in response to being loved.

Which means it is not our place to judge or put conditions on the love we receive and share. 'To love as the Lord loves us,' the Pope says, 'means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be.'

Taken from: <https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024May05/0/RefNickB>

Religious Education

The list below is an overview of the units all grades are completing this term from K-6 in Religious Education. In subsequent newsletters we will return to look, in more depth, at what each grade is learning.

- Kindergarten – Knowing God the Son
- Year 1 – Belonging to God's Family
- Year 2 – The Story of the Catholic Church Community
- Year 3 – Encountering the Word of God
- Year 4 – Sacrament of Confirmation *and* Sacrament of Eucharist
- Year 5 – Sacraments of Healing *and* History – Monotheism
- Year 6 – Justice – Stewards of Creation *and* Sacraments of Service

Prayer, Celebration & Mission

Thank you all for your generous contributions towards **Project Compassion** last term. From the Mission Day, and all the home contribution boxes, our community **raised a total of just under \$910** for this important Catholic social justice initiative.

Below is an overview of some of the Faith Life celebrations and events occurring throughout Term 2. More details will be added in the coming weeks.

- **Week 2:**
 - The current **Sacramental Program** will recommence for students in **Year 4** with Confirmation. There will be an **information session this evening (Tuesday 7th May) at 6:30pm**. This will take place in the Hall and online via Zoom for those who cannot be there in person.
Zoom Details:
ID – 689 6383 3884
Password – 076 385
- **Week 4:**
 - **Catholic Schools Week** – We will celebrate this with a whole community liturgy in the Hall on **Monday 20th May at 9:30am** followed by open classrooms (*this will also replace the usual liturgy and open classrooms in Week 7 due to the June public holiday*).
- **Week 7:**
 - **Catholic Community Week**
 - **Sacrament of Confirmation** – This will take place on the evening of **Thursday 13th June at 6:30pm** in the church.

Upcoming Events - Term 2:

- **Week 2**

The current **Sacramental Program** will recommence for students in **Year 4** with Confirmation (Term 2) & First Holy Communion (Term 3). There will be a **parent information session on Tuesday 7th May at 6:30pm**. This will take place in the Hall and online via Zoom for those who cannot be there in person. I will send out a Zoom code next term.
- **Week 4**

Catholic Schools Week
- **Week 7**

Thursday 13th June at 6:30pm – Confirmation (St Therese's Church)

Luke Smith
RE Coordinator

School Community News

Volunteering

Throughout the year, we welcome all parents/carers to volunteer at the school. To volunteer, you must complete the volunteer's induction via the link <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/families-communities/volunteers/>. This process can take up to 6 weeks, so you are encouraged to complete this early.

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.



External Providers with the School

If your child receives services from external providers such as a speech pathologist, occupational therapist, or from another provider at school such as piano, chess or guitar, please ensure you complete the 'Application-access 3rd party contractor' in the link below and return to the office as soon as possible.

<https://mncatholic.sharepoint.com/sites/NLTP/ layouts/15/viewer.aspx?sourcedoc={3183748c-779f-433d-878b-c82782e00624}>

School Fees

Thank you to those families that have started payments towards this year's school fees. Our preferred payment methods are BPay, direct debit or credit card. If you choose to use Compass Pay, please double check the amount before you submit the payment. Refunds can no longer be given for incorrect amounts paid unless your account is in credit.

Canteen

Mon 13/5	Tues 14/5	Wed 15/5	Thurs 16/5	Fri 17/5
Elesha Finlay	Lauren Ross	Holly Van Schakowsky	Brittany Boutillier	Anna Perkins
	Charlene Price		Sue Goldman	Kareena Gupta
				Sally Curzi
Mon 20/5	Tues 21/5	Wed 22/5	Thurs 23/5	Fri 24/5
Amy Staikos	Alison Sharman	Jacqui Osborn	Sarah Bagnall	Michelle Randall
	Annabel O'Neill	Abby Walkom		Nicole Green
	Sarah White			

EVERY DAY
IN SCHOOL MEANS
SO MUCH MORE

Catholic Schools Office
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

1 day a fortnight = 4 weeks per year
= **Over 1 year missed over their school life**



Wellbeing - The Resilience Project

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Welcome back to Term 2! This term, the students will continue to engage in The Resilience Project and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding around the GEM Values and Emotional Literacy.

Empathy

Did you know

80% of our happiness is derived from:

- Friendship.
- Health.
- Work fulfillment.
- Loving relationships.
- Spirituality.

When you do something kind for someone else your brain releases the love hormone oxytocin. This makes you feel good too. Check out Martin Heppell from The Resilience Project talking about being kind and the benefits of kindness.

"Kindness is the greatest wealth of all. Small acts of kindness last longer than a lifetime" - Eddie Jaku (Author of 'The Happiest Man on Earth').

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™



I'm concerned my child may be experiencing mental ill-health, where can I go for help?

1. The Resilience Project is not a treatment or assessment service.
 2. If you are worried about your child:
 - Speaking with your General Practitioner is a great place to start.
 - The School wellbeing team may be able to assist you with local support services that work with young people.
 - Websites such as [Beyond Blue](#) and [Headspace](#) have some great resources and information, too.
- Melissa Pyers (Primary Coordinator) & Danika Graham

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St Therese's Learning Support Teachers in Samoa

Ms Faehndrich and Mrs Schneider (Learning Support) were approached by the University of Newcastle (Dr Angela Page), to work on a project in Samoa. The project involved going over to Samoa in the April school holidays, to teach Samoan teachers about inclusion and different teaching styles, to meet the needs of all students. The project also focused on upskilling the teachers on different ways to engage their students with Literacy. Mrs Schneider taught the teachers about the importance of vocabulary building and using visual stimulus to engage the students with their extended writing tasks. Ms Faehndrich taught the teachers about Multi-Sensory Learning for spelling and reading. She also introduced them to literacy rotations with many 'hands on' activities. Dr Angela Page from Newcastle University also brought over VR Headsets, and the teachers were able to get a 360 view inside our classrooms. The Samoan teachers had so much fun and were very grateful to Ms Faehndrich and Mrs Schneider for giving up their holidays to work with them. The project will continue in the July holidays with Ms Faehndrich and Mrs Schneider.

