Dear Families, Staff, Students and Friends

Thank you to all for their preparation leading up to our first day last week. Starting school and a new year is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to ‘seize the day’ and meet the challenges that arise. New year, new teachers, new students and new friends. A new year provides us with the chance to grow, learn and develop into the best we can possibly be.

We particularly welcome our new families and 85 new Prep children as well as new teachers Nick Kenwright (Prep) Gerard Douglas (Year 1/2) Michael Lowe (3/4) Bridget O’Dwyer (5/6) Kylie Scandolera (5/6) and Rachael Robertson (Specialist).

I will be Acting Principal while the process to appoint a new Principal takes place.

In addition, we have Louise Hill, Dena Reddan and Gerard McCarthy as Deputy Principals to support the school in this transition period.

This week’s newsletter has a plethora of information and important dates that I encourage you to take note of. I particularly draw your attention to our Parent Education Session on Tuesday February 17, which will help assist in smooth transition into the learning areas. We strongly advise all families to also attend the ‘Finding the Balance’ seminar presented by Georgia Manning at St Therese on Thursday 26 Feb at 7pm. This seminar will cover on line safety, how to set limits around screen time and creating a healthy balance at home between technology and free creative play.

I wish everyone all the best for the new school year and invite you to look for ways to support your children and our school team.

Regards Darren Gibbons,
Acting Principal

Kirke our Crossing Man

The White family would like to thank the school community for all the support and condolences they have received during this difficult time. Your comfort and messages and especially the tribute at the crossing was very much appreciated. Your communities provided dad with one of his greatest joys crossing the children and their parents across the road and he cherished each and every one of you. Thank you for opening your hearts to him and providing him with so much warmth and appreciation.

The White family.

If you wish to advertise here in the Newsletter, please email Tess at info@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au
WHITE, Kirke. Condolences to Barbara and family. A much loved friend of parents, students and staff at St Therese Catholic Primary School, Torquay. A wonderful man who cared and kept our children safe for over 18 years.
St Therese Catholic Primary School Torquay.
Published in Geelong Advertiser on 19/01/2015

**Beginning of Year Mass:**
Our St Therese Beginning of School Year Mass will be held next Wednesday 11th Feb at 9.30am at St Therese School Hall. All students from Yr 1-6 will be present. At the Beginning of School Year Mass, we will be presenting the Year 6 Leadership badges.

**Ash Wednesday Mass:** On Wednesday 18th Feb all children from Years 3 – 6 will walk to St Therese Church to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass to begin the church's season of Lent in preparation for Easter. Years 1/2 will have a Liturgy and distribution of ashes at school. Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays at this stage.

**Parent Education Evening:** Tuesday 17th February, 2015

**Format:**
7-7.30 – Formal presentations– Prep Area, 1/2 Area (main building), 3/4 Area (main building), 5/6 Area
7.30-8pm – Informal opportunity to visit other areas and talk to staff

This year we are offering an opportunity for parents to select an area of the school to spend the first half hour of the evening with. During this time teachers will offer insight into the workings of that particular level of the school. Things such as approaches to learning and teaching, the importance of partnerships with parents and students, as well as some detail around the day to day functioning of the year levels will be addressed.

The second half hour will enable parents to wander and talk with other staff from other areas of the school. This will enable, for example, a parent who has children across different levels of the school to select an area to focus on, whilst still being able to touch base with other areas of the schools that they may have younger children in.

We would encourage a parent from each family to attend the evening as it will create an opportunity for parents to touch base with and be informed about their children’s education.

Please place this date in your diary as it one of the extra-curricular activities that will be offered this term.

Dena Reddan
Leader of Learning & Teaching
Ways we will continue to communicate with you during 2015 in the following ways:

1. **The newsletter:** is emailed to all parents fortnightly, commencing on the second week of each term and also can be accessed via our website.


3. **The St Therese's App:** this is a free App and can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and via Google Play for Android devices. You can access the app via the direct links below, or by searching for our school name.

4. **Emails:** will be sent via the Office, as required (may be used in case of emergencies)

5. **School calendar:** can be accessed via the website and School app. This is regularly updated and subject to change.

6. **Parent Teacher Interviews:** available every fortnight on Wednesdays. Parents can book a time online through our website. Please ensure that you have your password – a new password is allocated at the beginning of each year and will be sent out with your fee statements on Friday.

7. **Parent Education sessions:** sessions are currently being designed by staff for delivery during second and third terms this year.

Please let our Office staff know if you are not able to access any of the above, as we rely heavily on the belief that all parents are able to receive communication from us.

We will endeavour not to use paper communication, apart from the beginning of each year when the following will be sent home with the children. Please look out for it:

1. Parent Teacher login information
2. On occasion we will need to send out permission forms for non-local excursions.

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**Finding the Balance**

**Comprehensive Cyber Safety & Wellbeing Parent Seminar**

This unique seminar helps parents to establish a healthy balance between screen time and downtime each day so children can flourish mentally, physically and socially as well as assisting parents about online safety

Don’t miss this essential parent night!
7pm Thursday 26th February at St Therese
Presented by Georgina Manning
Please bring your iPad and iPhones to learn how to set restrictions on these devices.
Important Sacramental Dates for your Diary

**Term 1**

**February**
- 11\textsuperscript{th}  
  Beginning of School Year Mass
- 15\textsuperscript{th}  
  Prep Sunday Mass
- 18\textsuperscript{th}  
  Ash Wednesday Mass (3-6)  
  1/2 Ash Wednesday Liturgy (1/2)

**March**
- 1\textsuperscript{st}  
  Reconciliation Presentation Mass (Year 3 students)
- 25\textsuperscript{th}  
  Reconciliation Liturgy (@4 pm, 5 pm and 6pm)

**Term 2**

**May**
- 3\textsuperscript{rd}  
  Year 3/4 Sunday Mass

**June**
- 14\textsuperscript{th}  
  Confirmation Presentation Mass (Year 6 students)

**Term 3**

**July**
- 26\textsuperscript{th}  
  Confirmation (Sunday @ 2pm)

**August**
- 2\textsuperscript{nd}  
  Eucharist Presentation Mass (Year 4 students)
- 23\textsuperscript{rd}  
  First Eucharist Mass @ 8:45 am
- 30\textsuperscript{th}  
  First Eucharist Mass @ 8:45 am

**September**
- 13\textsuperscript{th}  
  Year 5/6 Sunday Mass

**Term 4**

**October**
- 15\textsuperscript{th}  
  St Therese Mission Day (Mass @ St Therese)

**November**
- 15\textsuperscript{th}  
  Sacrament Catch up Date
- 29\textsuperscript{th}  
  Year 1/2 Sunday Mass (1\textsuperscript{st} week of Advent)

**December**
- 9\textsuperscript{th}  
  End of Year Mass

**THANKS!!  Art Room:**
Many thanks to the people who have collected and delivered some recycled goods in the past week – it is much appreciated and will be well used! Thanks too, to Jacqui Abbott who has measured and made the calico covers for our new storage baskets for the Art Room. They are superb! If you would like to collect and donate any of the items below, you would be most welcome.

- Corks
- Large yoghurt / ice-cream tubs
- Plastic garden rakes [doesn’t matter if a prong or two is missing]
- Stamps [soaked from envelopes if possible, but not essential]
- Egg cartons
- Water-based house paints [any ‘left-over’ colours]
- Thick off-cuts of smooth wood in varying sizes
- Bottle tops – plastic or metal
- Cardboard cylinders from gladwrap, paper towels etc. [NO toilet roll cylinders please]
- Anything you think we could use!
- ‘left-over’ tiles from bathrooms, kitchens, pools etc.

Parents are also very welcome to come and join us for some creative fun in the Art Room [now located in the 1/2 Learning Community] whenever you would like. Preps and 5/6s on even and odd Thursday respectively. 3/4’s and 1/2’s on even and odd Fridays respectively.

Thanks so much, Beth Humphries and Cathy Ball
**SHED CLEARANCE:**
Friday 6 of February, after school there will be tables and chairs placed outside the sports shed for anyone who would like to take them. Anything left over the weekend will be thrown away the following week.

**WELDERS:**
If any parents can weld or know someone who can, we have broken cricket stumps and hurdles that desperately need to be fixed. If you are able to help please contact me on vmmcarthy@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au or through the office.

Regards
Vaughn McCarthy.

**Current School Fees for 2015:**
Fees are invoiced at the beginning of the year (including added costs where applicable). Statements are then issued via email once per term. Please note: *Fees are expected to be finalised by the end of Term 3.* Fees may be paid via EFTPOS, Credit Card, cheque or cash. Direct Payments and Direct Debits are available and details can be obtained from the office.

**Fees:** $1,410 (per family)
**Plus a Levy of:** $270 (per student) Stationery and excursion costs are covered within this levy.

**Added costs:**
- Swimming: Prep students - $70; Yrs. 1 – 4 $82
- Camp: Yr. 5&6 - $205
- Surfing Program: Yr. 5&6 - $86

**Parish Levy:** $150 per family per year. This is billed separately by the Parish

**Student and Contact details:**
Please be sure to advise the office staff of any contact detail changes as it is imperative that the school has this updated information e.g. current medical information, change of phone number or address, new emergency contact details.

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**
Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015. This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

**Conveyance Allowance:**
Families who live in excess of 4.8km from the school (not including Anglesea bus travelers unless you live more than 4.8km from the Anglesea Post Office), can claim a conveyance allowance by filling in a form obtainable from the school office. Families who claimed this allowance last year must reapply at the start of each year. Forms must be completed and returned to school by Friday February 27.
ONLINE Parent-Teacher Interviews 2015

Dear Parents,

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held for years Prep to Year 6, interview timeslots are 3.40 to 4.55 - 4.00 to 4.15 or 4.20 to 4.35 every second Wednesday Term 1 interviews commence on February 18. Interviews will be of 15 minutes duration.

NOTE TO PREP FAMILIES: as prep children have not been allocated a homeroom teacher, parents will be unable to make parent teacher interviews at this stage. We will notify you when P/T interviews have been activated.

Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer.

Please access the system as follows:

- Go to the school’s home page www. www.sttorquay.catholic.edu.au/
- Click the PTO Link icon as shown here …
- Enter your surname and PIN, (this is enclosed in your child’s school fees) if you misplace your Login details, call the office as the school has a copy of your details.

Full instructions are provided to you after log in. Please note the following points:

- When you log on, the system displays only your own child/children. Bookings are made for individual parents/guardians, not for couples. Couples can however log on to the system simultaneously to coordinate bookings. If two parents/guardians wish to attend a single interview time slot, one parent/guardian should make the booking then both can attend.
- You will only see time slots that are available at the time you are using the system. As time slots are booked for teachers, those time slots are no longer displayed as available. PTO prevents double-booking of teachers or parents/guardians.
- When you have made all the bookings you require, you can download or email a report of your bookings in time order for printing. You can log in and change bookings any time up to 2 days before interviews
- If you see this symbol displayed along side the class name, it means this teacher recommends that you book an interview.
- Other parents may be making bookings at the same time that you are using the system. It is possible, though unlikely, that a time slot is displayed to you as available, but is then booked by another parent shortly afterwards. If you then attempt to book this time slot it will not be available and a message will be displayed to indicate this.
- If you encounter any problems using PTO please contact the school office by phone on 52 614246, or by email to info@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

McHarry’s Buses:
The McHarry's T3 morning bus route has been amended after Torquay College parents put in a submission covering the increasing number of families travelling to their school from The Quay estate. From next week the T3 morning bus now travels through The Quay, along Flinders Lane and up Inshore Drive instead of Lochard Drive. However, in the afternoon, they have made similar changes but to T4 (which leaves at 3.10pm) not the T3 (which leaves at 3.40pm)

If you would be interested in supporting the extension of the pm T3 bus route through the Quay Estate, please show your support by contacting the school ASAP. See bus routes via link http://www.mcharrys.com.au/
Hi and welcome back to school for 2015. We would like to welcome all new families who have joined us this year. The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) is primarily a fundraising committee to help raise extra funds for resources and facilities for St Therese. It is also a fun and great way to meet new people and get involved in your child’s school. The P&F are already busy getting ready for some fantastic events for 2015. The best way to stay posted is through the school Newsletter. We are running with our very successful campaign from last year, ‘Just One Thing’, so would love to see you come along and help out!

**How to Get Involved In the P&F!**

1). Join the P&F. We meet once a month to discuss events and initiatives. Any new ideas and/or fresh approaches are always welcome.

2). Help Out (For Just One Thing!) We are always looking for helpers for, Family Night, Parent Night, Hot Dog Day, Sausage Sizzles, Pancake Day, Morning Teas, School Raffles and Stalls.

3). Become a classroom coordinator – see below

**Stay Connected**
The P&F are working harder on being sustainable by enhancing our electronic communications to the school community.

If you would like to get involved and help out with ‘Just One Thing’ or be kept updated with what’s going on, then please email me at 72debbielouise@gmail.com and I will put you on my email list.

I’m looking forward to another successful year.
Deb Adams

**Callout for Classroom Coordinators for all classes!**

How good would it be to get to know other parents in your class through organising social catch-ups and keeping them informed?

As a classroom coordinator you can:
- organise social functions for parents in your child's class
- capture contact details for parents and send notifications of social events like coffee mornings and drinks nights as well as broader school functions
- advise parents in your child's class about school's initiatives

Please email Imelda Lindsay (Classroom Parent Coordinator) imeldalindsay@gmail.com if you would like to become a classroom representative or if you would like more information.

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**SHROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE DAY**
Pancake Day, also known as Shrove Tuesday, is the Day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Pancakes became the food of choice so that rich ingredients, such as eggs, milk and sugar could be eaten before Lent.

**Pancakes at school**

On **Tuesday 17th Feb**, the P&F will make pancakes for all students. **Please bring plastic plate and fork**

Pancake races have become a tradition, which grew from the legend of one woman who was still making her pancakes as the church bells rang out. Rather than be late she took her frying pan and pancake with her.

In keeping with tradition the **teachers are having a pancake race at 11 am** at the basketball court. Come and cheer them on! **HELPERS NEEDED in the morning!** If you can help out on Pancake Day, please email Tania at cthuxtable@bigpond.com
FAMILY FUN NIGHT - ROCK ON!

It’s time to party like a ROCK STAR

St Therese Family Fun Night "Rock On”!

When: Saturday March 21

Helpers wanted ASAP!
Please contact Aly Boland alysonboland@hotmail.com or 0438 020 698

HOT DOG DAYS & SUSHI DAYS
Every 2nd Wednesday we hold our hot dog day for all students, which is run by parents who volunteer their time. Each child is to bring their money to their respective classroom and fill in the form located in their class. Correct money is required.

The first hot dog day will be Wednesday 4th February and every fortnight from there on. If you would like to volunteer to help out on the hot dog days, please email Leanne O'Brien on leanne_obrien@bigpond.com. All that is required is 1.5 hours on the day, once a term. Prices are as follows:

Hot dogs $2.50
Prima drink $1.00
Icy poles 50c

ORDERS CANNOT BE TAKEN AT THE KITCHEN.

Alternative Wednesdays are Sushi days and orders are to be placed in a brown paper bag with your child’s name and class room labelled on it and taken into your class room. These are supplied by a local Japanese restaurant. Vegetarian, chicken and tuna are available. Prices are as follows:

Snack pack: $3.50  Lunch pack: $7.00

First sushi day for 2015 will be Wednesday 11th February and every fortnight from there on.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The second hand uniform shop will be open once again this year!
All donations will be gratefully received, particularly summer dresses. All proceeds go to the P&F benefiting our school and children.
Any donations clean and suitable for re-sale can be made in the labelled large wheelie bin outside the hall. Payments - cash only!  Open hours - every Wednesday 3.15 - 3.45 pm.
Caz or Kristin look forward to meeting you as you grab a bargain!

P&F Key dates

Term 1

Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day - Tuesday 17 February – cthuxtable@bigpond.com

Hot Dog days (fortnightly) Wednesday 4 February - leanne_obrien@bigpond.com

“Rock on” Family Night - Saturday 21 March - alysonboland@hotmail.com

Sports Day Sausage Sizzle - TBC

Term 2

Mother’s Day lunch - Friday May 8
Community News:

Sustainable Hook & Vine Festival (Feb 28 11am – 6pm) Back to School Special
All Kids tickets FREE until Midnight Feb 8.
For all the information about the festival go to www.hookandvine.com.au

Surf Coast Energy Group
February is Sustainable Living Month. This festival is being conducted across Victoria with a range of informative activities. Locally it kicks off on Thurs. 19th 5:30pm with the Surf Coast Energy Group's "Green Drinks", at Patagonia Torquay. Julian Vincent from Market Forces will be talking about divestment from fossil fuels.
At GPAC on the following Sunday 22nd 10 to 4pm "The Big Sunday Smarter Living Festival" has a host of info through stalls, films and activities for the whole family. See Geelong Sustainability Facebook for details and other events particularly films and craft activities.
Many thanks
Bronwyn Spark
Surf Coast Energy Group
Ph. 5263 2224 M0408 63 2224

St Joseph's College Geelong Music opportunity:
We are opening up our Wednesday after school classes to boys at year 5 or 6. We are having a launch on Monday February 9 in the Brother Adams Gymnasium, St Joseph’s College from 7-8 pm. All are very welcome. There is an opportunity for boys to have an opportunity to try out all the instruments.
The total cost for instrument hire and group tuition for the year is $250, which works out at about $6.75 a week. A great deal starter-pack deal for beginning music tuition.
David Gallaher
Director of Music
Ph Office: 03 5226 8100