Dear Families, Staff, Students and Friends
Welcome to the start of another school year which we hope will be a rewarding year for everyone in our school community. We welcome your presence at school, and encourage you to be active partners in the education of your children. We particularly welcome our new families and 60 new Prep children as well as new teachers/staff Ebony Sheppard, Nicky Aitken and Jenny Quinn.

As we start a new year together, there are many who are new and many who will experience something that is new, this could be new roles, being in a new place or being challenged by new perspectives. A new year brings with it new opportunities, new friendships, new colleagues, new beginnings, enhanced with the warmth of welcome and hospitality. Each of us is called to be open in both mind and spirit to the endless possibilities ahead.

As I begin my journey as Principal of St. Therese, I would like to thank staff, students and families who have made me feel so welcome. I particularly thank Darren Gibbons for the smooth transition into the life of the school. 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.

Thank you to the staff of St. Therese for their preparation, ensuring that the start of the year has been so smooth and a welcoming experience for the families and students.

Jubilee Year of Mercy
In March last year, Pope Francis made this announcement, “I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: ‘Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

The Year of Mercy asks us to come together in solidarity to reach out to all who need our love and mercy. Through the lens of the Gospel, we are able to see with more honest vision and allow God’s grace to work in our hearts.

In this Jubilee year of Mercy, Ash Wednesday will be different. Traditionally it is a sombre experience where fasting and self-reflection give us a sobering image of ourselves. This year it also offers us a new beginning, a marker on our pilgrimage to follow Jesus more closely.

It’s a wonderful opportunity to choose to make a new beginning, to experience the joy of receiving God’s mercy more fully, and to experience being merciful to others as Pope Francis has reminded us:

Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’ (Mt 5: 7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year (MV, n. 9).
God, our Father, bless us, so that Your Spirit within us will give us a common bond as together we take responsibility for the wellbeing of Your gift of creation to us. We ask for strength and determination to create more space in our lives for You, so that by the example of our lives, our children will be inspired to follow Your ways.

Peace and best wishes,

Noel Dillon,
Principal

**Beginning of Year Mass:**
Our St Therese Beginning of School Year Mass will be held next Wednesday Feb 10 at **10am** at St Therese Church. 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. This is also our Ash Wednesday Mass. Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays at this stage but are encouraged to attend with their families.

**Communication:**

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.  

   Notifications are sent via this App.

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. **3 Way 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.

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.

**School Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>9 – 11:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>11:30 – 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>12:00- 1:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1:25 – 2:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>2:15 – 3:30</td>
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**Parent Education Evening:** Tuesday February 16

**Format:**

**Prep**  
2:45- 3:30 and 6:45 – 7:45 (Parents are asked to attend one of these sessions)  
Prep parents will receive their child’s reader satchel with their sentence book at these session.
**Year 1-6**

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

Once again 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

**Emergency Management:**
As per our Emergency Management plan, we will be holding regular evacuation procedure drills each term. Our first drill for the year will be held next Thursday.

**Important Sacramental Dates for your Diary**

**Term 1**

February- 10 Beginning of School Year Mass
Ash Wednesday Mass
21 Prep Family Sunday Mass

March- 6 Reconciliation Presentation Mass
(Year 3 students)

**Term 2**

April- 20 Reconciliation Liturgy (@4 pm, 5 pm and 6pm)

May- 1 Year 3/4 Family Sunday Mass
15 Confirmation Presentation Mass (Year 6 students)

June- 19 Confirmation (Sunday @ 2pm)

**Term 3**

July- 17 Eucharist Presentation Mass (Year 4 students)

August- 21 First Eucharist Mass @ 8:45 am
28 First Eucharist Mass @ 8:45 am

September- 11 Year 5/6 Family Sunday Mass

**Term 4**

October- 12 The Feast of St Therese/ Mission Day
(Mass @ St Therese Primary School)

November- 13 Sacrament Catch up Date
27 Year 1/2 Family Sunday Mass (1st week of Advent)

December- 7 End of Year Mass
Primary Schools Swimming Championships:
This event will be held on the Friday March 4 at the Kardinia Aquatic Centre.
All schools can enter a maximum of two competitors for each event in each age group. Competitors are expected to be able to complete their event within the qualifying times that are listed below. As St Therese don’t conduct a swimming carnival, it is the responsibility of individual students and their families to provide us with accurate times that they have swum for the event they wish to compete in. If there are more than two students who wish to compete in an event from St Therese, it is likely that we will select the swimmer with the fastest qualifying time to represent our school.
Your child’s age group for this event is determined as the age they will be at the end of the year (31/12/2016.) Therefore if your child is turning 10 this year, even if they are only 9 on the day of the event, they will compete in the 10 Year Old age group. Students must be born between 2003 and 2007 to be able to compete. Students turning 8 or younger in 2016 are not permitted to compete.

Freestyle
9/10 Years Boys 1 min 00sec 9/10 Years Girls 1 min 00 sec
11 Years Boys 0 min 55 sec 11 Years Girls 0 min 55 sec
12/13 Years Boys 0 min 55sec 12/13 Years Girls 0 min 55 sec

Backstroke
9/10 Years Boys 1 min 08 sec 9/10 Years Girls 1 min 08 sec
11 Years Boys 1 min 05 sec 11 Years Girls 1 min 05 sec
12/13 Years Boys 1 min 05sec 12/13 Years Girls 1 min 05 sec

Breaststroke
9/10 Years Boys 1 min 15 sec 9/10 Years Girls 1 min 15 sec
11 Years Boys 1 min 12 sec 11 Years Girls 1 min 12sec
12/13 Years Boys 1 min 12 sec 12/13 Years Girls 1 min 12 sec

Butterfly
9/10 Years Boys 1 min 20sec 9/10 Years Girls 1 min 20 sec
11 Years Boys 1 min 10 sec 11 Years Girls 1 min 10 sec
12/13 Years Boys 1 min 10sec 12/13 Years Girls 1 min 10 sec

St Therese must have entries for this event submitted by February 18. Therefore, to allow sufficient time to finalise our team, could I ask that families of students who wish to compete email me informing me of the event/s that they would like their child to compete in, their child’s age group and the accurate qualifying times that their child has recorded for the event. I need to receive this information by February 12.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or via email that is listed below.
Sincerely,
Michael Low
St Therese Sports Coordinator.
mlow@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

Current School Fees for 2016: Fees will be emailed to family’s tomorrow- Friday
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: $1,432 (per family)
Plus a Levy of: $ 285 (per student) Stationery and excursion costs are covered within this levy.
Added costs: Swimming: Prep students - $75; Yrs. 1 – 4 $87;
Camp: Yr. 5&6 - $215; Surfing Program: Yr. 5&6 - $90
Parish Levy: $160 per family per year. This is billed separately by the Parish

Renovations of St Therese Toilet Block
Considerable renovations took place over the holiday period to our toilet block, first aid room and a new bathroom area in the 1/2 Learning Area. We would like to thank Torquay Homes, Phil Jessen, for his fantastic work over the summer break.

Sushi Days
Due to Health and Safety concerns we have decided not to proceed with Sushi orders. We are currently reviewing alternatives.
**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.

**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 26.

**Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)**
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists.

**Eligibility**
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
  
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
  
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

**Payment timing**
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school of the eligible applicant.

The CSEF will be available for schools to enter application information into the online CSEF web system from term one each year. CSEF payments will be processed directly to schools with the majority of payments to commence from March, 2016 onwards. The CSEF system will remain open during term one and term two for applications to be added.

CSEF payments are for the application year and cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

**How the CSEF will be paid**
School administrators will enter the parent/legal guardian’s information from the application form into the online CSEF web system. Authorised school users can access the CSEF web system.

More information for school administrators regarding the CSEF web system and processing support can be obtained by clicking on the 'Information for Schools' link at the bottom of this page.

CSEF payments will be made directly to schools from March 2016 onwards.

**Applications for parents**
Parents or legal guardians

Parents or legal guardians are required to complete a CSEF application form available from the school office and lodge it with their child’s school for processing.

Application forms should be completed and lodged with schools by **29th February 2016**, as payments are made from March. However schools will be able to accept and process applications up until the end of term two each year.

**Shared custody**
The CSEF system only allows one application per student. Parents in shared custody situations are encouraged to make decisions as to who applies for the CSEF. Schools should not be put into the position of arbitrating in decisions such as this. If the parents cannot decide between themselves who should apply, they should be encouraged to resolve the dispute through the Family Court, or contact the Department's CSEF Helpdesk for more information on 1800 060 970.
Hello to everyone returning to school in 2016 and a warm welcome to our new principal Noel Dillon, and to all the new families who have begun at St Therese this year.
The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) is primarily a fundraising committee to help raise funds for resources and facilities for our school, and support families when needed.
As the new president of the P&F I would like to acknowledge Deb Adams and her prior committees for the amazing fund raising they have done over the last few years.
This time last year we were a new family to the school, and throughout the year we enjoyed so many of the events and the genuine school community spirit. The committee and I would really like to continue the great work of the P&F and support the school community with your help.
We would also love to see some new faces at the P&F and I would like to mention how child friendly we are at meetings. To keep it easy for everyone to participate we will continue our “Just One Thing” campaign. This means that even if you can only help out on one thing, or just for one day in the year, then that’s great.
The P&F is already busy getting ready for some fantastic events in 2016 and we will keep you updated through the School Newsletter and the very handy St Therese App.

**Important Dates for 2016**
Pancake day - Tuesday 9 February  
Family Night - Friday 18 March  
Easter Raffle - Thursday 24 March  
Mother’s Day stall – Thursday 5 May  
Mother’s Day Luncheon – Friday 6 May  
Parent night – Saturday 6 August: Open Mic Night  
Father’s Day stall and Year 3/4 breakfast – Friday 2 September  
Father’s golf day – Friday 9 September

If you would like to be involved or help out with “Just One Thing” please email me at [kenlynheaney@gmail.com](mailto:kenlynheaney@gmail.com).
Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday 1 March at 2.15pm in the small meeting room next to the school hall at St Therese.
We are looking forward to another fun and successful year.
Kenlyn Heaney

**2016 Committee Members**
Our AGM was held at the end of last term and we are pleased to announce the new P&F members to the executive committee:
President - Kenlyn Heaney  
Vice President - Sally Hart  
Secretary - Laura Gordon  
Treasurer – Miranda Hayden & Sam Arkley  
Newsletter Co-ordinator - Kate Walsh

Our General Committee members for 2016 are: Paula Muir, Marisa Joseph, Ange DeGrandi, Clea Turner, Mel Boswell, Carolyn Calthorpe, Debbie Adams, Barb Ruzicka–Powell, Megan McGay, Tania Huxtable, Briony Smith, Kelly Pretlove, Steve and Susie Akers.
If you would like to become a member of the committee for 2016 please contact Kenlyn at [kenlynheaney@gmail.com](mailto:kenlynheaney@gmail.com).

**Pancake Day - Tuesday 9 February**
HELPERS NEEDED! Please contact Deb, [72debbielouise@gmail.com](mailto:72debbielouise@gmail.com) if you can help out at all after school drop off.

**SAVE THE DATE! - Family Night – Friday March 18**
On Friday March 18 the P & F will be hosting our annual Family Night in the school hall between 5:30pm-8:30pm.
This will be a great chance for our families to get together in a fun, social environment and also meet our new principal, Mr Noel Dillon.
Second hand Uniform Shop
St Therese has a great second-hand uniform shop located at the roller door shed next to the hall. There is a wheelie bin situated there; clearly labelled for any donations you would like to make. All uniforms should be washed and in good condition. The proceeds from the uniform shop go to the Parents and Friends Association to help support our school community, and many families are appreciative of this option. This year we will try something different with the uniform shop whereby an honesty system will operate. A uniform price list will be posted on the shelves and if you take anything please write “Second-Hand Uniform Shop” on an envelope provided there and put it in the P&F box in the main office. A parent will be at the uniform shop most Wednesday’s sorting and helping if you need assistance. Once again thank you for all the donations we already have on the shelves for 2016!! Kristin Dalton and Caz Lockett.
For further enquiries you can contact Kristin at kristind71@yahoo.com

Hot Dog Days - every 2nd Wednesday
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! All that is required is 1-2 hours on the day, once a term. If you would like to volunteer to be a parent helper on hot dog days, please email Leanne O'Brien - leanne_obrien@bigpond.com

Each child is to bring their money to their respective classroom and fill in the forms located in their class. Correct money is required.

Prices:
Hot dogs $2.50
Icy poles 50c
ORDERS CAN NOT BE TAKEN AT THE KITCHEN! The next Hot dog day will be on Wednesday 17th February.

Mother’s Day Lunch 2016
The date has been locked in for the popular St Therese Mother’s Day Lunch on Friday May 6. The committee has been working hard on organising the event already and are currently looking for:

Table Sponsors - we would like to extend to the school community an opportunity for your business to sponsor a table at the Mother’s Day lunch this year. With over 200 mums in attendance, it is great exposure for your business. To secure a table or for more information, please contact Briony Smith at brionypetesmith@bigpond.com

Silent Auction Donations – If your business would like to make a donation for the Silent Auction which is held at the Mother’s Day luncheon, please contact Kate Walsh at cawcommunication@outlook.com

Pancake Day

Shrove Tuesday

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.

Pancake races have become a bit of 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.

On Tuesday 9th Feb,
we will be having Pancake Day at School.
Every Student is required to bring a plate and fork.

In keeping with tradition the teachers will be having a pancake race and all welcome to cheer them on. The race will be held at 11.20am at the basketball court.
Meet the team leader

Hi, my name is Nicole. I have worked with Extend for almost a year now. I love to travel and to learn about different countries. I enjoy cooking and playing different sports. When working I love doing arts and crafts with the kids and making up games in the playground.

Our recap

To begin the year with Extend we had a fun time playing with all the new toys and fun resources. Kids loved helping to set up new toys to be played with. We even came up with some great new ideas for after school care. It was great to see some familiar faces again.

Forthcoming activities:

Monday 1 February
Self-Portrait Silhouettes – Show us a bit about yourself and help us begin our OSHC display wall.

Tuesday 2 February
Museum Statues – The museum comes to life when no one is looking

Wednesday 3 February
Mini Bow and Arrows – You only need a few bits and bobs to make these cool miniature toys!

Thursday 4 February
Getting to Know You Jenga – Two games in one!

Friday 5 February
Dress Ups and Dance – Time to let loose! Show us your best moves in a funky outfit! Play party games and celebrate the start of the school year!

ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437

Existing Families
Don’t forget to manage your 2016 bookings. Last year’s bookings do not roll over so log on to the parent portal NOW to secure your bookings for 2016. You can book for the entire term or year or even book specific dates.

New Families
Enrol online – allow 24 hours
Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply set up your own account online via the Parent Portal. Please note it is government regulation that all children must be enrolled BEFORE attending an Extend service. For information on operating hours and fees for your school, visit your After School Care venue or school website.

Enrol now, pay later The annual enrolment fee per family of $20 is NOT payable until you first use the service. So why not enrol now so you can access the service later? It doesn't matter if you don't end up using the service, because you won't be charged.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

Community News:

Music Lessons AT school
Piano, keyboard, Guitar, Ukulele or Singing Lessons
During &/or After School Hours at School
Would you like to try music lessons, without committing to the full term? Lessons are held at school by qualified and trained teachers. Instruments are available for hire. Private & small group lessons.
To enrol or for more information please contact Meagan: mbmt@bigpond.com
Providing Music Lessons in local schools since 1985.
Sunday 27th MARCH 2016
from 10am till 5pm

DEANS MARSH RESERVE
PENNYROYAL VALLEY ROAD

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
dog jump

LOCAL HARVEST:
beer, wine & produce
market stalls

ART & craft

DEANS MARSH GIFT KIDS ACTIVITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 5236 3388 facebook/DeansMarshFestival

DEANSMARSHFESTIVAL.COM.AU