Dear Families,

Our Lenten Journey began with our opening school mass on Ash Wednesday. Congratulations to the students for the way they prayerfully engaged in the Eucharistic celebration. We also had an opportunity to induct our grade 6 leaders into our school community. We congratulate all Year 6 students on their commitment to leadership this year and wish them well in their leadership roles. Thank you to all staff for their preparation of the children for the mass and to Peter Caddy and Ron Dando for their organisation of the mass. We particularly thank Fr Linh for leading us so beautifully throughout the mass.

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. It is wonderful to see the early weeks of Lent as a catechism for those who are on a journey toward Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Each Liturgy offers a new “lesson in the faith” for these new believers. Viewed this way, Lent can be a journey of renewal in faith for us all. We listen, with the hearts of children, learning old lessons, as though for the first time.

Each day, we pray special prayers that simply help us keep turning to God for the graces we need for the day. Throughout the day, we find moments, perhaps “in the background” while we are doing other things that help us remember what we are asking for.

This Sunday we celebrate the second week of Lent and we continue the first part of Lent, during which we learn, along with those preparing for Baptism, wonderful lessons in our faith. We also welcome our prep children and families into our school community as part of the Parish 8.45am mass.

We can feel the rhythm developing. Sunday is always our celebration of the Lord's resurrection, and establishes our theme for the week. Wednesday and Friday reminds us of our commitment to a change of heart. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday reintroduces us to wonderful scriptures for our journey. Saturday is always uplifting and joyful.
The Opening Prayer of the Liturgy each day continues to guide our prayer. As we experience how simple these prayers are, and how easy they are to make our own, we find ourselves praying together in the same Spirit, with one another on this journey, around the world.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancakes:**
Many thanks to the Parents and Friends for your assistance organising the pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. There were so many helpers involved in the day, ensuring that the children had plenty of pancakes. Congratulations to the staff who competed in the annual pancake race. The photo finish technology enabled Mr Dando to bask in the glory for the day. Days such as these are important in the lives of the students and indeed the school. Thank you for your continued support.

**Road Rules:**
The school has been contacted by the Surf Coast Shire over a number of complaints they have received regarding the illegal parking and general breaking of road rules during the school drop off and pick up times. This matter has been raised with Torquay Police by the Surf Coast Shire who have undertaken to provide a visible presence as will Shire Rangers. The safety of our children is paramount so please be mindful of parking and driving regulations at all times.

**RE News:**
Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered to students from Year 3 who are baptised in the Catholic Church. Reconciliation will be celebrated in the second week of term 2. Further details will be emailed to all families of students in Year 3.
If there are other students in Year 4-6 who intend celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year, parents can inform Peter Caddy via email to receive the appropriate details. pcaddy@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

**Art News:**
Thanks so much for all the donations received so far – they have been / will be put to great use! At the moment I am looking for lids of any description [eg from the tops of soft drinks, shampoo, sauce, milk, cleaning fluids…]; as well as any paper cylinders [eg from hand towels, glad wrap, foil… NOT toilet paper rolls]. If any families have some other items they feel could be recycled in Art please feel free to donate, as we are committed to working as sustainably as possible throughout the art curriculum.

Congratulations to some of the students who have had their artwork accepted in the Catholic Education, Visual Arts Exhibition, to be held in March this year. Last year the students from Years 3/4 created a ‘warm’ and a ‘cool’ surfboard using recycled materials, and some Year 1/2 students created a tree from recycled materials. Individually, we have Lachlan Mooney’s painting of a boat and Maya Richard’s photograph of a duck at Taylor Park, all being exhibited. We wish them well and anyone wanting to view these works or the works of students at other Catholic Victorian schools, will find the exhibition at the Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne from Tuesday 15 - Sunday 20 March.
Finally, any parents who would like to come and join our Art sessions would be most welcome. The times of each class varies from one learning area to another, so if you are interested I will let you know the length of session and times, if you are free. You are welcome to come as a one-off support or on a continuing basis.
Thanks as always, in anticipation of your great support, Beth Humphries

**Vision Screening:**
St. Therese has been given an opportunity by Deakin University to have our students participate in Vision Screening. This is a great chance to have vision testing, eye movement and coordination, and an eye health check, free of charge.
An information sheet and consent form will be sent home tomorrow. It can be returned to the office. Vision screening will begin on the 21st March.
Dena Reddan
Leader of Learning & Teaching
Parent Education Sessions:
It was extremely pleasing to see so many parents engaging with us on Tuesday for our parent education sessions. A focus on the importance of student/teacher/parent partnerships and the child’s success was forefront in these sessions. We very much appreciate your interest in your child’s education and a willingness to participate in the evening. Thanks also to the staff for their time and effort in preparing for and presentation of the sessions.
Dena Reddan
Leader of Learning & Teaching

SING, ACT, SPEAK!
Private and group singing, acting and speech lessons for all ages and stages.
*HALF PRICE INTRODUCTORY LESSON FOR EVERY STUDENT*

For more information contact Jessica on 0422560522 or singactspeak@gmail.com
Head Lice:
A number of cases of head lice have been reported to the office. Please regularly check your children’s hair for lice and treat before sending them back to school. For more information please click on this link. 

School Fees: There has been a direct deposit of $75 made to our school bank account for school fees on February 12. This deposit has no Student or Family identification, it has come from the Bendigo Bank. If you have made this deposit please contact the office to clarify the details. When paying your fees online please be sure to place the family name and account number on the details.
REMINDER: Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) forms to be returned by February 29
Conveyance Allowance forms to be returned to office by February 26 refer to previous newsletter for more information.

Sustainability News

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES
You can recycle your old batteries at St Therese Primary School. The recycling bin is located in the front office. We will dispose of the batteries at Barwon Waste Management in Geelong North for you. Families are welcome and encouraged to drop off their batteries to our recycling bin. We will take button, AAA, AA, C, and D sized batteries. 4552 batteries recycled so far (approx. 90.39 kg)

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
On Friday March 4, it is the ‘schools clean-up day’ for this annual event. Students from St Therese will be collecting rubbish from our school grounds and along the Torquay foreshore. Preps will focus on the school grounds, 1/2 will participate during their out n about trip, 5/6 will be down at the Torquay foreshore and 3/4 will concentrate on Deep Creek and the nature strips around our school. Over the last two years we have collected around 8000 cigarette butts from the foreshore and around 100kgs of waste, so it’s an event worth participating in.

NUDE FOOD REMINDER
Thanks to all families who support our schools sustainability initiatives. We would encourage you to continue to send no wrappers in your child’s lunchbox, as this is a requirement for our schools 5 Star Sustainability Status and fits in with our beliefs about leaving a small ecological footprint.

ANTHONY HILL- PLASTIC POLLUTION SOLUTIONS PRESENTATIONS
On Tuesday February 16, Anthony Hill from Plastic Pollution Solutions spoke to our Years three to sixes about the devastating effect of Ocean Pollution on our planet. The presentations covered topics such as The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, how plastic affects animals and what we can do to help. Anthony will be holding a public session and trivia night at Bellbrae Primary School for parents and families who are interested. Contact Bellbrae Primary School for details

BOOMERANG BOX IN FRONT OFFICE
The Boomerang Box is an initiative of Plastic Bag Free Torquay. The box is used to hold reusable shopping bags and they are located at all the supermarkets in Torquay. The idea being, that if you go to get your groceries and you forget your reusable bags, you can access some from the Boomerang Box. Then in turn you can put them back in the box when you are done for others to use. The Boomerang Box service is designed to reduce our use of single us plastic shopping bags. This box is in our office foyer for families to use.

Check out: Plastic bag free Torquay on Facebook
What a fabulous start to the year.
60 new preps have begun their St Therese journey and many new students and families across the school have joined the St Therese community.
We hope you all enjoyed the tradition of Shrove Tuesday and the 1500 pancakes that the P&F cooked up and flipped for you all. Co-ordinated by Deb Adams and Tania Huxtable with the amazing support of P&F helpers, everyone had fun and especially enjoyed the teacher’s pancake flip race which was won by Mr Dando (much to the joy of his class who reaped the rewards of his prize; a bag of mixed lollies). Big thanks to Surfcoast Party Hire, a long-time supporter of St. Therese, for again providing BBQ’s for the annual event.

We have welcomed new families to the school and new faces to the P&F and would like to remind everyone (old & new) that our role of raising extra funds for the school is fun, and many hands make light work. P&F member forms are available at the office and we enjoy welcoming new members all year round.
If you would like to be involved or help out with “Just One Thing” please email Kenlyn at kenlynheaney@gmail.com

Now we are looking forward to the school Family Night on Friday March 18 and we are busy organising food vans, games, rides and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Fingers crossed for great weather and a balmy evening.

Kenlyn Heaney
President of Parents and Friends Committee

Family Night – Friday March 18 5:30-8:30pm
The P&F will be hosting our annual Family Night in the school hall on Friday March 18 5:30pm-8:30pm. There will be lots of fun for the kids including a mechanical surfboard, jumping castle/slide and disco. Families can purchase their dinner from the Pizza and Paella food vans or BYO. There will also be an ice-cream bar with a choice of toppings! Cost will be $5 per school aged child; parents and younger siblings are free. Children may pre-purchase wristbands on Friday 4 and 11 March in the morning or at lunchtime. This will be a great chance for our families to get together in a fun, social environment and also welcome our new principal, Mr Noel Dillon.

Easter Raffle – Thursday March 24
We are asking for donations for the Easter Raffle. Please bring an Easter related item (it doesn’t have to be an Easter egg!) to be placed in the box in the School Office before March 23. Tickets $1 each or 3 for $2.
HELPERS NEEDED! If you are available to help out with wrapping the Easter hampers on the night before (Wed 22 March) or selling tickets to the classes on the day from about 9.30ish please contact Michelle Jones via email sm.jones@hotmail.com or text 0417 047 904.

Second Hand Uniform Shop
Thank you to everyone who has embraced our honesty policy at the Second Hand Uniform Shop. 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! For further enquires you can contact Kristin at krisind71@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 March 2.

**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 organising the event 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 women 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

**Extend After School Care at**
**St Therese Primary School**

**Our recap-** At after school we have been having a fun week getting to know each other, playing with all the fun new games and toys. We have played some old favourite games on the playground and been getting into our summer cricket. So far we are looking forward to making our hacky sacks and kinetic sand. We also can't wait to try our delicious rice paper rolls!

**Wednesday 17th February**
Paper plane competition! Who will have the winning design?

**Thursday 18th February**
Kinetic sand creation! This amazing sand can be made from simply items in your kitchen!

**Friday 19th February**
Rice paper afternoon! Let’s create these tasty snacks and be transported to Asia!

Week 4
**Monday 22nd February**
Minute to win it afternoon! Can you beat the challenge?

**Tuesday 23rd February**
Hacky sacks! They were so popular last time, let’s do it again.

**Wednesday 24th February**
It's yoga and relaxation time! Let’s unwind and relax.

**Thursday 25th February**
It’s time to make delicious and healthy energy balls.

**Friday 26th February**
Let's feast! Let set the room up like were all eating at the family dinner table.

**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.

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