Dear Families,

Pope Francis ‘Year of Mercy’
The term ‘Mercy’ reflects the enduring Love of God and the person of Jesus. In this the year of Mercy we are called to get in touch with who we are, to show compassion and forgiveness. The message of Mercy reminds us all that we are all capable of wrongdoing, in John 8 we come across the judgmental nature of people as they prepare to punish the sinful women, Jesus says “Let those without sin cast the first stone.”

In reflecting further, the church’s first duty is not to hand down condemnation but to proclaim God's Mercy, that is, forgiveness. Pope Francis, in his writing, tells us that this is central to our faith, that we show mercy because mercy has been shown to us. We work with our children to show mercy to others, that when they fail we start anew and move forward. Our response to God's loving mercy towards us is to act in that same way to all those we meet.

As parents and teachers we are reminded that we are models for our children and by modelling ‘Mercy’ we can only enhance the lives of our children.

School Board Meeting:
The School Board held its first meeting for the year on Tuesday night.
Items discussed included:
School Curriculum review
Draft Constitution presented
Master Plan for School Improvements
Prep Buddies picnic
A great night was held Tuesday night. Prep children and their buddies enjoyed a night together as a way of building the connections between the groups. The Year 6 students are to be congratulated for the way in which they engaged with and supported their Prep buddies. Thank you to the many families who attended the picnic. Nights like this are an example of the wonderful community spirit that exists at St. Therese.

Cross Country:
On Wednesday March 16 St Therese will be holding their annual Cross Country Carnival at the Torquay Front Beach, opposite the Front Beach Cafe. The whole school will be travelling by bus leaving the school grounds at 9:00am and returning to school before lunch.
All children involved will be expected to wear their sports uniform for the day and bring a water bottle. Fruit will be provided. Prep children will run first at approximately but not before, 10.15am with the next year levels following about fifteen minutes apart. Year 6 will run last. All children have been training for this event during PE lessons.

- Preps will run 400 metres 10.15am
- Year 1 will run 800 metres 10:30 am
- Year 2 will run 1km 10:45am
- Year 3 will run 1.5km 11:00 am
- Year 4 will run 2km 11:15am
- Year 5 will run 3km 11:30 am
- Year 6 will run 3km 11:45 am

All Families are most welcome to come along and support the students.

Bus Service:
We have been asked to seek expressions of interest for a bus to travel between Ocean Acres area and the schools. If you would use this service please email the school reception@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au to show your interest, including the number of students in your family. These numbers will be passed on the McHarry’s and they will decide if it is a viable option.
Is your child missing their glasses?
We have these two pairs in the office if anyone recognises them.

Social Justice Committee News:

Donations for Wye River Fete
On the 26th of March the Annual Wye River Easter Fete will be held. There will be a donation box at the front office. We would appreciate if you are able to donate any items that they are in new or good condition. We are supporting this cause in our local community after the bushfires that occurred over the summer period.

An apple a day, helps the girls in Vietnam play!
Yesterday, Wednesday March 2, the Social Justice Committee went around to classes and sold apples. We raised $333.50 for the girls in Kontum. A special thanks to the Steel family and Naturipe Fruits in Bacchus Marsh for donating the apples.

- The Social Justice Committee
  Arden, Kirra, Jack, Lexi, Lux, Olivia & Neshren

Year 6 Garden Project
This term a group of Year 6s will be designing, creating and planting the garden at the back of 5/6. If anyone has old teacups or plates and can donate them, it would be much appreciated. There will be a box in the office to put them in. We are planning on creating plate flowers for the back fence, so glass or porcelain plates with lots of colour would be great.

Lainey, Maggie, Nicole, Ella & Remy

P&F News

Important Dates for 2016

Wednesday March 16 – Cross Country
Thursday March 24 - Easter Raffle
Thursday May 5 - Mother’s Day stall
Friday May 6 - Mother’s Day Luncheon
Saturday August 6 - Parent night: Open Mic Night
Friday September 2 - Father’s Day stall and Year 3/4 breakfast
Friday September 9 - Fathers golf day

SINGING LESSONS
Private and group singing lessons for all ages and stages!

*HALF PRICE INTRODUCTORY LESSON FOR EVERY STUDENT*
For more information contact Jessica on 0422560522 or singactspeak@gmail.com
Hello everyone,

We’ve juggled and we’ve tried, but with so much on over such a short term we have postponed the P&F Family night, scheduled for Friday March 18. We will make sure it’s a fun surprise for everyone when we announce the event later in the year.

I would like to extend an invitation to all school parents and guardians to pick one P&F event to help out with for the year. I admit that last year I didn’t help out because I had a two year old with me all the time and thought I couldn’t. Well we can. It’s a mini social day for the little ones too and they love being at their big brother’s and sister’s school helping out.

Currently we are looking for helpers for the Easter Raffle. We need four parents from each group level in the school to help on Raffle Day, Thursday March 24 from 9.30am until recess.

We also need just three more helpers on Wednesday March 23 from 7.30pm for about an hour or so to help wrap the Easter hampers.

The Hot Dog Days continue to be a school favourite and we are asking parents to nominate at least one Wednesday in the year to take part in this great school fundraiser.

The events the P&F run are all raising extra funds for our children’s school and are fun and inclusive, so please let us know, as any help would be greatly appreciated.

With thanks,

Kenlyn Heaney
President of Parents and Friends Committee

Cross Country – Wednesday March 16
If you available to help out with cutting fruit for the kids to enjoy when they finish their cross country race, please meet at Front Beach at 9:00am on the morning of Wednesday March 16 (on the beach in front of Front Beach Café). BYO chopping boards and knives.

Easter Raffle – Thursday March 24
The Easter Raffle is an absolute hit with the kids so we are asking for donations for the Easter Raffle Hamper. 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 23 March. Tickets will be sold on the last day of term for $1 each or 3 for $2.
If you are available to help out with wrapping the Easter hampers on the night before (Wed 23 March) or selling tickets to the classes on the 24th from about 9.30ish please contact Michelle Jones via email sm.jones@hotmail.com or text 0417 047 904.

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 correct money to their respective classroom and fill in the forms located in their class.
Prices:
Hot dogs $2.50
Icy poles 50c
SORRY, ORDERS CANNOT BE TAKEN AT THE KITCHEN.
The next Hot Dog Day will be on Wednesday 16th March.

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. For further enquiries you can contact Kristin at kristind71@yahoo.com
Mother’s Day Lunch 2016 – Friday May 6
The date has been locked in for the popular St Therese Mother’s Day Lunch on Friday May 6 at the RACV Torquay Resort; tickets will be on sale early in Term 2. The organising committee has been working hard 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

Special Parish Event
A screening of the movie “Risen” is planned for Wednesday March 9 at 11am at Village Cinemas Geelong. This movie has a Christian based theme and examines the question: What did Pontius Pilate and the Roman soldiers do after Jesus’ rose from the dead, leaving an empty tomb?

Tickets are $10 per head and are available from the Parish Office or after any Mass. If you would like to come but can’t make it to the office please call or email me and I will hold a ticket for you to pay on the day.

There are only 55 tickets available so please purchase your ticket as soon as possible. This event is not intended as a fundraiser but as a parish community event. We would love to you there! For more information please contact Ange De Grandi on 52439891 or email ange.degrandi@cam.org.au

Extend After School Care at
St Therese Primary School

Our recap- At OSHC we have really treated ourselves. We enjoyed making hacky sacks again and visit Vietnam twice by cooking up a storm in kitchen with our rice paper rolls. We like to be healthy here at St Therese so we also made some healthy apricot balls. Mm mm they were so simple and yummy.

Week one
Wednesday 2 March - let's visit Italy
Thursday 11 March - Show and tell time
Friday 4 March - Red faces. I wonder who has a funny skit to share with others?

Week 2
Monday 8 March - it's time for our volcano to erupt!
Tuesday 9 March - time to glow and the dark!
Wednesday 10 March - let visit Greece!
Thursday 11 March - tissue paper crafts
Friday 12 March - Bubble art

Our Extend superstars
We would like to thank all of our kids at OSHC for being amazing and starting off the school year with smile and a good attitude.

Thank you to all the boys and girls who have taken on monitor rolls and set a good examples for others to follow.

ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au

CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437
Community News:

Saint Ignatius College Geelong **2016 OPEN DAY**
Sunday March 20th 11am-2pm
Information sessions at 11am and 12.15pm

*St. Ignatius. Inspiring me to be a leader.*

Year 7 – 2017 Enrolment Applications close Friday 20th May 2016
Visit [www.ignatius.vic.edu.au](http://www.ignatius.vic.edu.au)
View a Prospectus and Download an Application for Enrolment Form

*A Jesuit Partner School*
27 Peninsula Drive, Drysdale 3222 Phone: 5251 1136 Registrar: Gail Myers Email: registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au

---

TORQUAY SLSC GOOD FRIDAY FISH DAY
25TH MARCH LUNCH: 12PM - 2PM DINNER: 5PM - 8PM
BAR OPEN FROM 12PM
FISH & CHIP BOX $13 CALAMARI & CHIP BOX $12
SWEET POTATO FRIES MIN $6 CHIPS MIN $4
SALADS AVAILABLE
BOOKINGS PREFERRED: 0438 618 868

---

Girls Basketball:
We are enthusiastically looking for girls interested in playing basketball. No experience is required. We are hoping to establish an age group competition for the girls within the current structure run by the surf coast gym in Torquay on a Monday night. We are happy to put teams together or facilitate finding additional players. The ultimate goal would be to have U/10 U/12 and U/14. Please call me on 0414380511 if you are interested
Loretta McGrath

---

Meagan Burch Music Tuition

**Music Lessons at school**
Piano, keyboard, Guitar, Ukulele, Drum or Singing Lessons
Private & Group Lessons
During &/or After School Hours at School

Come & try music lessons without committing to the full term. Join together with a friend in a shared lesson.
To enrol, or to receive more information please contact Meagan:
Providing Music Lessons in local schools since 1985.
mbmt@bigpond.com

---

Geelong and Beyond Dyslexia Support Network -

with thanks to Surf Coast Secondary College we welcome back Karen Starkiss
**Thursday March 3 2016 6pm - 7.30pm** 75 White Street Torquay Surf Coast Secondary College
This is a wonderful opportunity for a question and answer session with Karen as a follow on from her education session with us last year - now a chance for us to ask all our questions!
If your child is having challenges at primary or secondary school, or if your child has been diagnosed with Dyslexia/SLD this will be a helpful session by a very experienced educator to assist you and your child.
Please share this wonderful opportunity - all welcome Enquiries - Catherine Vest-Gerdts or Deb Carroll - dyslexiaG21@yahoo.com.au RSVP and gold coin donation appreciated PS - now find us on Facebook
Dyslexia Support Network - Geelong and Beyond
The Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal:

Here is a great opportunity to contribute to a really amazing children’s facility. Hamish who is in Grade 1 at St Therese is a patient of the RCH. He has Type 3 Spinal Muscular Atrophy which is a genetic condition. Hamish has 6 monthly Neuromuscular Clinics at the RCH where he meets a team of specialists that monitor his condition. The RCH in conjunction with the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute is currently participating in Phase 3 Clinical Trials of a new treatment that has the potential to improve Hamish’s condition and ultimately change his life. This trial is one of the many amazing things the Children’s Hospital does for children in Victoria. Any donation to the RCH Good Friday Appeal is worthwhile. If you refer to the link below you will meet Simone Lionetti who is the face of the Good Friday Appeal this year. She has Type 2 Spinal Muscular Atrophy.


Understanding and Supporting Children with Anxiety

Monday March 7th, 2016  7pm to 9pm
Berkeley Lodge  258 Pakington St, Geelong West  Location MAP

$20 per person (at the door) Cash only – No EFTPOS

Session outline:
• Understand anxiety as a natural response to life events
• When to worry about anxiety
• Learning how to recognise anxiety signs and symptoms, as it takes hold upon a child’s thoughts, emotions and in turn behaviour.
• Learning how to support a child to manage their anxiety
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Quiksilver

No tickets at the door!
Limited number of tickets available for
St Therese Year 5 & 6 students from Bellbrae P.S. Office on
Tuesday 15th March, 2016.
First come…First Served – Limit 2

Just bring your ticket to the hall and pay $5:00 at the door on the night

Time: 7.00pm -9:30pm

When: Friday, 18th March, 2016

Where: Bellbrae Hall

Free drinks - (No BYO Soft Drinks or Energy Drinks allowed)

Lucky Spot Prizes