Dear Families,

We were all saddened to hear of the sudden death of our school parent, Vanessa Owen. Vanessa is the wife of Chris and mother of Archer in Grade 1/2 Orange, Poppy 4yrs, Ryder 2 and Bonnie 3 months. The family are so appreciative of the support offered by the St. Therese community. We are so fortunate to be part of such a caring community.

We will have a condolence book available at the front office for parents to use as a way of sending your sympathy to the Owen family. There will also be a condolence box for anyone who would like to leave tributes, cards or messages. These will then be passed on to the family.

We pray for Vanessa, Chris, Archer, Poppy, Ryder and Bonnie and their extended family in this time of sadness, we give thanks for all the goodness in their family. Hold them in your love, strength and peace. Lord hear our prayer.

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.

Loving God, help me to find time in the frantic moments of each day to become centered on you. Walking through a store, riding on the bus, hurrying down a street: let each of these times be moments when I can remember your incredible love for me and rejoice in it.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many people that are part of our school community. Thank you to the staff at St Therese, they are a committed and dedicated group of people who continue to provide a learning environment that is both educationally challenging and nurturing for our children.

Thank you to the families for your continued support of our school. In particular, we thank the Parents and Friends and the School Board. Both groups continue to move our school forward, with careful planning and guidance. Congratulations to our Grade 6 graduates. We thank you for your leadership and the positive role modelling that you give our school community. We wish you well as you move onto the next stage of your education.
Christmas Picnic and Carols:
The weather was very kind to us last Thursday night, as we celebrated as a community. The atmosphere created by the picnic environment was enhanced by the children singing. Many thanks to the staff at St. Therese for their work preparing the children for the night, in particular Michelle Budd for her work coordinating the evening. Also thank you to the Parents and Friends for organizing the food vans, which added to the festive environment of the night.

Building works over the holidays:
As you would be aware, our application for the loan to complete a number of major projects over the holidays was successful. This is exciting news for our school community. To ensure we have the least amount of disruption to the children, work will begin on the school oval next week.  

**As large earthmoving equipment will be on the oval, the oval area will be fenced off and unavailable for use.**

Alterations to normal routine will involve:  

**No entry** via the double gates and single gate near the sports shed in Illawong Drive. (Entry available via the small gate near the prep building in Illawong drive and the front of the school).

The oval area will not be able to be accessed at any time.

The play equipment will not be available before and after school.

**Play areas available to the students for the last week of school will include:** Play equipment and the half basketball court on the Illawong drive side of the school during recess and lunch, the areas in and around the front of the grade 1/2 classrooms, basketball court near the 3/4 area, front of school and the hall will be opened up during recess and lunch.

**To reduce the number of students in and around before and after school, could you please drop your children off from 8.45am and collect them straight after school, as we will be unable to accommodate additional students in the school.** All of these arrangements to the school areas have been put in place to ensure your children are safe at school during the building works. We have attached to the bottom of the newsletter a letter from the construction company with details of the building works. We thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

The initial groundwork will be completed by the end of January, with the astro turf laying taking a further 2 to 3 weeks into Term 1 2017.

Staff and Classes for 2017:
In 2017 we welcome Leigh Kentish PE Specialist, Ruth Hanns Specialist, Georgia Hutchins Year 3/4, Marty Umanski, Year 3/4 and Patrick Delahunty Year 5/6. We also welcome back Irene Wiffen who has been on Maternity Leave. Throughout the year we have farewelled Julie Nicholson, Chelsea Macpherson, Hannah Robertson and will farewell Leanne Todd and Jenny Quinn at the end of the year.

**Principal:** Noel Dillon  
**Deputy Principal:** Darren Gibbons  
**Learning and Teaching Leader:** Dena Redden  

**Teachers:**  
**Prep:** Nick Kenwright (Team Leader), Helene Richard, Gerardine Farrelly, Ronald Dando. Jessica Chisholm - additional support  
**1/2:** Adam Costley, (Team Leaders), Gerard Douglas, Chris Grayland, Ebony Sheppard, Nicky Aitken, Vaughn McCarthy, Madeleine Lindquist, Elizabeth Windmeyer - Literacy support  
**3/4:** Jo Sertic-Medson (Team Leader), Tracy McDonald, Peter Caddy, Sarah Armour, Marty Umanski, Michael Low, Georgia Hutchins  
**5/6:** Stephanie Nitschke (Team Leader), Gerard McCarthy, Kylie Scandolera, Rachel Robertson, Patrick Delahunty, Anne Jordan - additional support
Specialists: Beth Humphries, Leigh Kentish, Michelle Budd, Birute Liebich, Jessica Chisholm, Emma Rayson, Leigh Kentish, Ruth Hanns, Irene Wiffen.

Office Staff: Tess Tucker, Kerrie White

Education Support Staff:
Cathy Ball, Angie Clifford, Jackie Richards, Ty Hudson and Jo Scott,

Reports:
On Monday of next week (December 12) your child will bring home their report. These written reports are only one part of the reporting process at St Therese, the fortnightly opportunities that you have to discuss your child’s progress with their teacher is also of importance. Please take the time to discuss the reports with your son or daughter, talk about strengths first before looking at areas that need improving. Ask for their opinion about how they have progressed in their learning and discuss this with them. There will be no surprise in the reports as teachers are continually giving students feedback.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence their happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator of their future.

Our School Band, The Truants, will be playing at the Cowrie Market on Sunday 18th December at 2.00pm. Come along and support the group.

School Photos:
School Photos were sent home last week to all families

Please remember that School concludes at 3:30 pm on Friday December 16th.
As in past years, the Year 6 students will be farewelled from the basketball court at 3:15 on this day and this will also be a chance for parents to say goodbye to those staff who are departing.

Carols By the Sea:
Our School will be represented by some students at this years Carols By the Sea, Elephant Walk Saturday December 10 @ 7.30pm. All Welcome.

Lost Property:
Are you missing something?? Lost property is full of jumpers, jackets, lunchboxes etc so please have a look as it will be cleared out on Monday and put into the second hand uniform shop or thrown out.
Year 6 Awards:
At our end of year Mass this week the following awards were made to these Year 6 Students:
Principal / Teacher award: Darienne Reid, Ethan Gross
Knights of the Southern Cross: Ioan Millar
Lions Club: Ryder O’Neil , Lexi Burn
Rotary Awards - Aidan Cunneen , Charlotte Gerversoni, Nicole Otter, Oscar Egan, Ella Mc Carthy
The Lodge of the Great Ocean Road (Junior Citizenship award): Cooper Jablonski, Kirra Steel

Congratulations to these students on their faithful response to the challenge of leadership, their good works and kind deeds of friendship towards others. We congratulate all our Year 6 students on an amazing year and wish them all the very best as they commence Secondary College in 2017

Our Grade 6 graduation Night will be held on Monday December 12, 6.30pm in the grade 5/6 area.
3/4 Performance of Dahl’s Dilemmas:
We would like to sincerely thank the following parents who worked very creatively to help make some of the costumes for our budding actors and actresses – Jacqui Abbott, Sara Doble, Lydia Hill, Tania Huxtable and Nicole Hayes. We would like to thank Otis Jones’ grandmother, Maria Vulin and Dharma Barker’s grandmother, Judith Hill who both contributed greatly to the making of the costumes. We would also like to acknowledge the men from The Men’s Shed who crafted our sensational Big Friendly Giant and came along to the performance. All very much appreciated.
Our photographers on the day were Stevie Weldon, Mia Bartolo and Harvey de Vercelli. Some of their photos are attached. Archer Clay and Harry Muir filmed both performances and have put together footage which will be uploaded to the Performing Arts Blog [3/4 page] http://34ctorquay.global2.vic.edu.au/ shortly.
If children still have any costumes, or part of costumes, given by the school could these be returned as soon as possible, please. Thanks for all those already returned.
The children all performed to the very best of their ability, in whatever role they had, both on and off stage. We are so very proud of these children and the effort and stamina they have demonstrated throughout the process of putting on a large performance – as well as their amazing efforts on the day! They are a credit to their school, their families and most importantly, to themselves.
The 3/4 Specialist Team
‘5 Secrets
to develop confidence and resilience’

7pm Wednesday
8th February
St. Therese

Parents learn:
• Practical strategies to support their child to build confidence
• Effective parenting strategies that foster resilience
• How to teach their child positive and effective thinking habits
• Normal developmental stages of socialisation in primary school
• How to support their child to deal with conflict in the senior years
• Fundamental life skills that all children need to be happy, confident and successful

Parents are supported to teach their child how to:
• Lessen their anxiety
• Cope with life’s ups and downs
• Develop independence and persistence with school work
• Become more resilient
• Develop more confidence
• Develop independence and self-efficacy
• Solve problems independently and deal with conflict effectively
• Approach life with a positive outlook to create success

This seminar will also discuss helping your child in Prep and what to expect in the first year of school

Presented by
WeelBeing
For Kids
.com.au

To register for this seminar please click here:
goo.gl/TguxIE

goo.gl/TguxIE
CHRISTMAS EVE’S FAMILY MASSES: Thursday December 24
St. Therese Church, Torquay
Children’s Mass @ 5.00pm
Family Mass @ 7.30pm
Nazareth Church, Grovedale @
(Christmas carols commence 15mins prior to all Christmas Eve Masses)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: Friday December 25
St. Therese Church, Torquay @ 8.45am
St. Christopher’s Church, Anglesea @10.30am

Bring your own (BYOD) Year 3/ 4 & Year 5/6 2017:
The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for Students in years 5/6 will again be implemented in 2017 as well as Year 3&4 for the first time. This program allows students to use an iPad, mini iPad or other tablet that they have purchased and are wholly responsible for. We have worked with our IT management provider, Centorrino, to ensure that all students can access their device through our school network and security system. We will continue to provide school – owned laptops and iPad for all students to use and no student will be disadvantaged if they do not have their own device.
A careful consideration for Year 6 students is that most secondary schools will require students to purchase or lease a completely new device in Year 7. There are no expectations that your students will purchase an iPad or mini iPad for next year. We are aware that many students have an iPad and with Christmas coming up we wanted to inform you of our plans.

- Students may provide their own personal iPad , mini iPad or other tablet and this will be to be linked to the school network
- We will continue to offer the availability of school-owned netbook/ laptops and iPads in all classes
- If Students bring their own device they are fully responsible if it is lost, stolen or damaged.
- A detailed BYOD policy will be presented to all families that intend to take this offer up

Any questions please direct to Ron on rlando@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au or Darren on dgibbons@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

Lions Club Peace Poster Competition:
Earlier this year the Torquay Lions Club invited students from all local Primary Schools who were aged 11 and over to enter the Lions International Peace Poster Contest, entitled A Celebration of Peace. We are delighted to announce that Georgia McCardel [Year 5] received an ‘Honourable Mention’ and that George Eddy [Year 5] is our local winner. Congratulations to you both!

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.

5,727 batteries recycled so far (approx. 114.89 kg)
I SEA, I CARE- MARINE AMBASSADORS
Recently our Year 6 Sustainability Leaders travelled Point Lonsdale for a workshop as Ambassadors in the I Sea, I Care Program. The theme was all about the coast and the day was packed full of activities. The Ambassadors began with sessions on the seagrass invertebrates where we found some incredible creatures such as, sea centipedes, anemones, shrimps and molluscs. The students also learnt how to be a citizen scientist to monitor the ocean for animals and boats. This was followed by a fabulous session about indigenous heritage and culture by Uncle Bryon Powell from the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation.
After a barbecue lunch, we headed to the lighthouse and spent time exploring the rock pools.

Following the workshop in Point Lonsdale, the students travelled to Queenscliff for their last official trip as Ambassadors to swim with the seals, fish and sea dragons of Port Phillip Bay. We would like to thank Joanne Miller, Jodie Gervasoni and Sonja Leon for transporting our students to these events.

Western Metropolitan Regional Relay Championships:
On Saturday November 19, 4 students from our school represented Geelong Little Athletics Centre at the Western Metropolitan Regional Relay Championships.
The students performed really well and their results are listed below. Some of the performances were so outstanding that some of the students will now go onto represent Geelong at the State Relay Championships during the Christmas School Holidays.
Renary Karlich: Under 9 Mixed 4x100m- Silver
Cooper Patton: Under 11 Boys: 4x100m- Gold and 4 x 200m -Gold
Lila Burns: Under 9 - 11 Mixed Aged Medley - Silver
Zachariah Kelly: Under 10 Boys: 4x100m- Bronze
On behalf of the entire P&F Committee of 2016, we hope you all have a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Kenlyn Heaney
President of Parents and Friends Committee

Prep and New Families Morning Tea
We would like to invite all of the 2017 Prep parents and new families to the school for morning tea in the School Hall after drop off on the first day of school – Tuesday 31st January. We look forward to meeting you all and welcoming you to St Therese, as well as seeing some returning faces.

Mother’s Day Lunch
Preparations are already in order for the 2017 Mother’s Day Lunch which will be held on Friday 12th May at the Torquay RACV Resort. Put this date in your diary! The Mother’s Day committee are now seeking expressions of interest for event and table sponsors. If you own or work for a business who may be interested in finding out more information about sponsorship, please contact Briony Smith at brionypetesmith@bigpond.com

Second Hand Uniform Shop
We are currently looking for donations of summer items, particularly summer dresses, t-shirts and boy’s shorts. If are doing a clean out before the end of year these items would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be left at the front reception or dropped off to the Uniform Shop.

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is run by a parent every Wednesday if you need assistance; otherwise you are welcome to help yourself. Thank you for your constant support with the honesty system. Prices are listed on the shelves and we just ask that you put the money in the envelopes provided there and put the envelope in the P&F mail box at front reception. Also it is much appreciated by the next person coming along, if you could replace clothes back neatly in the correct size boxes. For all enquiries please contact Kristin at kristind71@yahoo.com

Munch Day Lunch Orders
Thank you for supporting Munch Day throughout this year. We look forward to continuing Munch Day Lunch Orders throughout 2017. Please remember: Tuesday orders must be in by midnight Sunday prior. Thursday orders must be in by midnight Tuesday prior. You can order ahead for the whole week and even a few weeks in advance by putting in the correct dates per order. The link below is how and where to order. Happy Munching!

7th December, 2016

Dear St Therese Catholic Primary School Community,

RE: Resurfacing of the School Oval and Car Park

Norris Plant Hire have been contracted to undertake works which include the resurfacing of the current school oval and asphalting of the staff car park. The proposed duration of works will coincide with the end of Term 4 and we anticipate completion of works before the commencement of Term 1, 2017.

The following activities impact the staff and students during the last week of term 4, 2016:

- Saturday 10th December – temporary fence erected around the school oval – perimeter indicated on the picture below in RED
- From Monday 12th December - School oval surface removed. Machinery will be in use within the perimeter of the temporary fence

During the oval resurfacing access to the school grounds will still be possible along Illawong Drive.

The safety of children, staff, friends and family visiting the school is paramount for the entirety of the project.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact Norris Civil Constructions.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Purton
Tender and Project Coordinator
Norris Civil Constructions
SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN – COMING SOON

Get ready for a ‘Sensational Summer’ of fun! Summer Holiday Club Program is coming and it is going to be one of the greatest holidays yet.

Here are just some of the feature theme days coming up:

At the movies
SING (PG) The movie event of the Summer is here. We’re off to meet Dapper Koala Buster Moon and see the world’s greatest singing competition!

Science Spectacular
Interactive Science Session - Bubble, Bubble, POP! Mini Scientists get ready, it’s time to experiment! With a take-home Science notebook.

Flying Hole in One
Frisbee Golf Course - Will you be first to score a flying hole in one? A colourful and wildly fun indoor obstacle course awaits and we’re ready to score! Plus, you’ll get your own take-home Frisbee!

Inside Out
Nesting Dolls - Design and take-home your masterpieces. Will it be a footy team? A music band? The choice is yours!

Program Details
To find your closest Holiday Club location and to book visit www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

We look forward to seeing you and your family soon.

From The Team at Camp Australia.
Community News:

TORQUAY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Join us for season 2016/17
Something for everyone!

KIDS  
Nippers Training Now

TEENS  
U14 up Seniors Training Now
Bronze Medallion Live in Camp Dec 11-17

ADULTS  
Bronze Medallion Nov 18-20

Join online anytime
or Sundays 9am - 10am at the Club

CLUB BAR
OPEN TO PUBLIC

Every Month - first Friday
December - every Friday
January - every Fri, Sat, Sun

www.torquayslsc.com  e: info@torquayslsc.com.au

LEARN TO SWIM

ENROL FOR SUMMER

VICSWIM Summer Kidz Program is a great way for your child to learn how to swim & stay safe in & around water!

VICSWIM.com.au

Aquatics & Recreation Victoria (ARV), through its VICSWIM Summer Kidz Program has been teaching children to Play it Safe by the Water with swimming & water safety lessons, since 1976. The VICSWIM Summer Kidz Program is offered to all Victorians, with nearly one million children participated over this time. This long standing, proven program is offered for one, two or three weeks during the January school holidays, at pools and open water locations throughout Victoria.

VICSWIM Summer Kidz is coming to a pool or beach near you. For dates, locations & times go to www.vicswim.com.au
Enrolments now open for Summer 2016/17 Surf Education Program.

- Learn skills to keep you safe on our beaches.
- Learn valuable First Aid skills.
- Start or continue your journey towards becoming a Lifesaver.
- Have great fun and make new friends.
- 8 sessions – Friday 30/12 to Thursday 12/1.

For details and enrolment –
OR Call – 5261 2755.