Our 2016 Message: God knows me and wants me to be the best I can be

The beginning of a new school year is always a fantastic time. After a long break away everyone comes back fit and healthy and enthusiastic for what the new year holds. This year is no different at St Theresa’s. We have really enjoyed meeting our new preps and their families and watching them settle in to school life. At the other end of the school it’s also rewarding to watch a new grade of school leaders emerge. It has been wonderful to watch and listen to our new Grade 6 students as they embrace the challenge of school leadership. They are a group of committed, confident and well-prepared young people who will make capable leaders for our school and be excellent role models for our students.

Last Friday we gathered as a whole school community to celebrate the beginning of the year and in particular welcome our new and returning staff members, our families and our new students. The message for all was to remember that we are all special in God’s eyes and with His guidance we will all reach our full potential.

Loving Father we gather together as a community to celebrate a new beginning. We ask that you inspire and guide us to use the gifts you have given us, in everything we do throughout the year, so that we become the best people we can be. Amen

Each class was asked to make a cross for their classroom altar table, which was blessed by Father Barry.

IMPORTANT: We are noticing that children are still being dropped off at school before 8.30am. We need to remind our families that there is no formal supervision for children before 8.30. If you need to drop your children at school earlier than 8.30 we ask that you book them into OSH Club (before school care). If you need further information about this, it can be collected from the OSH club staff.

ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY at 2.30 Please Join Us!
We have our first school assembly for 2016 tomorrow at 2.30 in the Multi Purpose Room. Grades 5 and 6 will be the combined hosts and it will be a great opportunity to see some of the work that is being done by our senior students, as well as a chance to congratulate the students of the week.

We would like to wish our families a Happy Chinese New Year and a happy and successful year ahead!
Getting to know our new staff...

It’s great to be able to welcome John, Carla and Jane to the St Theresa’s team.

John Kremers comes to us from Resurrection Primary School. His favourite subject is Literacy so naturally he likes to read and his favourite book is ‘The Giving Tree’. On the weekends he likes to spend time with his family and friends and on the holidays he loves travelling to places in Europe. John thinks the best thing about St Theresa’s is the friendly staff, parents and children.

Carla Pullen is sharing a P/1 class and she teaches them on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Carla is also a mum at the school and has Lupita in P/1MS. Last year she was busy being a mum and baking cupcakes and other yummy things, which she loves to do. On the weekends she spends time with her family and goes shopping and her favourite holiday place is New York! Carla thinks St Theresa’s children are all very friendly.

Jane Cahill is our Performing Arts teacher and loves the way she has been welcomed into the St Theresa’s community. Last year she was busy being a mum to her 3 children and also doing some study. Her favourite subject is drama and in her spare time she enjoys reading autobiographies and running, but the best thing is spending time with her family. Jane has 2 favourite holiday spots, Tathra in NSW and Hawaii.

First 2 weeks of school for Preps!

We asked our new preps what was the best thing about school so far and it seems like the playground is the place to be.....

"I like playing on the playground’ Nervaeh.

Brodie likes playing in the playground with Venice.

Eleanor wants to play on the playground with her buddy.

Parihan and Elina love to play with the ponies.

William loves playing with the blocks with Chloe, Isabelle and Alex and Amelia loves Lego.

Aneka loves to write and Senna doesn’t quite know what he likes the best!!

CUDDLE UP & READ

Every second Friday afternoon we have ‘Buddy Time’ with our Gr 5/6 and prep children. We would like to begin a ‘Cuddle up and read’ time just with our Grade 1s. It’s a chance to spend some quality time with a child reading a story together. However we need helpers so if you are free on Fridays at 2.30 and would love to read with your child (or somebody else’s) we would really appreciate the help. We’ll see you next Friday 19th February at 2.30 in the multi purpose room. Thanks... Mary, Sharon, Jessica, Carla, Larissa & Kathryn
Learning & Teaching @ St Theresa’s : Wellbeing

Our Student Wellbeing program addresses the students’ physical, social and emotional learning. Wellbeing is central to learning. Students who have a good sense of wellbeing and are socially competent and resilient achieve better academically and have more productive relationships with adults and peers. The wellbeing of students is the whole community’s responsibility and there needs to be a strong partnership between home, school and the wider community.

At St Theresa’s we develop students’ social and emotional learning by fostering learning, pro-social behaviour and social connection. We teach Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills that encourage everyone to recognise and manage their emotions, develop care and concern for others, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions and handle challenging situations constructively and ethically.

This term we are introducing a wellbeing initiative that hopefully will help develop your child’s social skills...**MIND YOUR MANNERS**. Every fortnight we will be concentrating on a specific skill or manner. We will be reminding the students to use the skill all the time so that it becomes an automatic response from them. **We are asking you to reinforce the manner at home so that we are working together to get the best outcome for your child.**

## Mind Your Manners...No. 1: We will start with an easy one.

**ALWAYS SAY PLEASE & THANKYOU**

---

**A Message From The Maintenance/Garden Committee**

We have a fantastic (but very small) committee who, over the past couple of years, has put together our walkway garden, seating and pathway, our front garden, the Bunjil’s nest display, our reflection garden area and the trees around the school border. We have lots of plans to further beautify our school but we’d love a few more members to share ideas. Our next meeting is **next Wednesday 17th February at 7pm in the staff room.** Please consider joining us... you don’t have to be an expert you just have to want to help out.

---

**DISTRICT SWIMMING SPORTS**

The district swimming sports are on Thursday, March 10, at St Albans Leisure Centre. If any children turning 9 or older this year swim competitively in a squad they are invited to nominate for the swimming carnival. Parents will need to provide Laurie with a time their child has achieved for an event, verified by an Austswim accredited coach on their swimming school letterhead.

---

**Marie** is our Wellbeing Leader. If you have a wellbeing issue that is worrying you or your child or want to discuss something with her, her office is at the end of the corridor just before the door to the church. Alternatively you can email her at marieg@stalbion.catholic.edu.au

---

**PICNIC**

HV McKay Memorial Gardens
120 Anderson Rd, Sunshine

**SAT 5th MARCH**

FREE

12noon - 4pm **FAMILY DAY. PACK A PICNIC LUNCH & A BLANKET. MUSIC, FOOD, CULTURE, GAMES**

follow us on **Facebook**
Pancakes!!

Last Tuesday was Shrove Tuesday. Throughout the day we had a great range of
parent helpers assist the staff in making pancakes. The children enjoyed cooking the
pancakes and enjoyed even more the eating of them! Thanks to all those that
helped.

Historically pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and
eggs which were forbidden during Lent. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated the day
before Ash Wednesday and is therefore the final day before the commencement of
Lent, leading up to Easter Sunday.