



St Theresa's School Albion



Be Safe,
Be Happy,
Be Caring,
Be Ready To
Learn

Newsletter December 8th 2022 (Term 4 Week 10)



PRESENTING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022

4th Row : Angela Pepdjonovic, William Sidebottom, Anekah Bartram-Hatzi, Ethan Everett, Theodora Galovich, Oliver Rep, Hoang-An Huynh-Vu, Brodie Dixon

3rd Row : Tapasvi Dandamudi, Kapish Ramsahaye, Venice Barizo, Krystal Nguyen, Fiancelle Valentos, Angelica Mathieson, Joy Bagu, Joe Everitt-Hirota, Darren Prempeh

2nd Row : Gauri Vasudeva, Archer Kung, Patrick Nguyen, Dylan Lu, Daksh Rawat, Jack Donnellon, Ivy Nelson, Amelia O'Neill

Front Row : Scarlett Englehart, Freddie Martinu, Lupita Pullen, Waylin Chen, Valma, Teanna, Isabelle Montalto, Kirthik, Elina

Inset : Ethan Clarke, Ethan Monaghan and Alex Woolfield who were absent.

Next week we will farewell 37 Year 6 students. We wish them well as they continue on life's journey and we congratulate them on an outstanding senior year. As they leave, we encourage them to occasionally stop and remember their years here and know they have helped to make St Theresa's the place that it is. Come back to see us and know that you always have friends here.

We also say goodbye to quite a few of our families, some who have shared many years with us.

Thank you to the following families for giving wonderful support to the school and good luck for the future....

Priya Bobba & Ramana Dandamudi, Sophie Sokolov & Leigh Englehart, Dean Galovich & Irena Jelic, Esther

Bathula & Sanju Lal, Beth & Neil Mathieson, Inma Sanchez & Trung Nguyen,

Marcela Posteraro & Liam O'Neill, Himmat & Usha Rawat, Michelle Arico & Michael Woolfield,

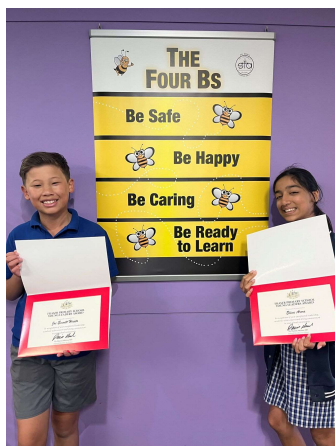
Thuy & Khoa Nguyen, Ramachandran Govindhan & Geetha Ramachandran, Diem Huynh & Khiem Vu,

Eugenie Ng & Joseph Prempeh, Laura & David Nelson, Paul Everitt & Kaori Everitt-Hirota,

Raj Deep Vasudeva & Navdeep Kumar, Elizabetha Pepdjonovic, Donna Williams & Jeremy Sidebottom, Mia Lu,

Rose & Joe Montalto and Vivienne Hatzichristodoulou & Jeremy Bartram

We also say goodbye and good luck to Isobel Woolfield, Aiden Casem, Jessica Ramachandran and Vidhusha Keerthiban who are also moving on to new places and adventures. May you always remember St Theresa's with happiness.



YEAR 6 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Every year the Lions Club of Sunshine provides us with \$100 to be awarded to a senior student who has shown the most growth and endeavor during their final year at primary school.

Congratulations to Waylin Chen for winning the 2022 Lions Club Award.

Our local Member of Parliament Daniel Mulino, also sponsors an award for general excellence in Year 6. The well-deserved winners of this award are Elina Arora and Joe Everitt- Hirota.

Congratulations to these excellent students!

Introducing Our School Leaders for 2023

Last week, the Grade 5 students delivered their leadership speeches to the school community. There were many aspiring leaders and the staff and students were impressed with the standard of delivery and the well-expressed content in their speeches. The vote was close and we are very proud to announce the successful candidates.

School Captains

Marissa Kang & Andrei Galovich



SRC

Conor Dixon & Abigail Kung
Ethan Barizo & Gisele Huynh



Sports Captains

Green : Arnav Pawar & Lucas Nokunthong
Gold : Jett Highett & Mathilda Beggs
Blue : Winston Chen & Dan Tran
Red : Peace Bagu & Milla Roach



Eco Leaders
Sarah Thai
Alex Pongnarakun



Flag Monitors
Harry Xuereb
Aditya Tomar (absent)
Hendrix Rerehau



Library Monitors
Louis Kaing
Ryan Tony



Principal's Assistants
Abuk Majok, Nathaniel Calleja,
Anastasia Lee, Arlin Arora



Media Team
Milla Riviere, Charlotte Attard & Kitana Do

Congratulations to the students. The staff look forward to working with you and watching you develop into strong, proud and thoughtful leaders who inspire the other students at St Theresa's to follow your example.



We have a very talented young pianist at
St Theresa's.
Congratulations to Year 6 student
Tapasvi Dandamudi, who was recently
awarded a music scholarship to Sunbury
Downs Secondary College.

END OF YEAR ORGANISATION

Tomorrow, Friday 9th December your child will bring their Semester 2 report home.... Also included in the envelope will be your child's grade and teacher for 2023.

.... so please check your child's bag.

Monday 12th December : The Yr 6s will be spending the day together at Adventure Park.

Tuesday 13th December : Students to spend time with their 2023 teacher between 11.30 and 12.30

Wednesday 14th December : **CHRISTMAS CAROLS : 1pm – 3pm.** Please join us for a pleasant afternoon listening to your children sing carols (you can join in as well!) Children will be able to wear casual clothes as long as they look like Christmas. Parents, bring something to sit on because we will be outside. Looking forward to seeing lots of family members there! The **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** will be drawn at the Carols as well.

The school will gather for the last time on **Friday 16th December at 12pm** for the **ST THERESA'S END OF YEAR MASS**. Please join us as we say goodbye to our Year 6 students and the school year.

STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED FROM SCHOOL AT 1PM FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER

OSHCLUB will be available on this day.

Christmas Mass Times : Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th Dec) : 6pm at Mother of God / 8pm at Queen of Heaven / Midnight Mass at St Theresa's

Christmas Day (Sunday 25th Dec) : 9am at Queen Of Heaven / 10.30am at St Theresa's

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023...First Week Back

FRIDAY 27th JAN : Staff return to work but not students. School Office is open

MONDAY 30th JAN : 2023 Goal Setting Conversations 10am -6pm.

Please make sure you book an interview time with your child's 2023 teacher on schoolinterviews.com.au

TUESDAY 31st JAN : 8.45 – 11.30am School begins for **2023 PREP STUDENTS ONLY**

WEDNESDAY 1st FEB : 8.45 - 3.15 Years 1-6 Begin. Preps stay at home

THURSDAY 2nd FEB : All students at school

FRIDAY 3rd FEB : All students at school

Other important dates

SACRAMENT of PENANCE : Wednesday 24th May at 6pm

CONFIRMATION : Friday 17th March at 6pm

SACRAMENT of the HOLY EUCHARIST : Sunday 27th August at 12 noon

Term 1 ends on Thursday 6th April

Good Friday 7th April

Easter Sunday 9th April

2022 SPORTS DAY

On the 25th of November, St Theresa's took part in our annual Sports Day.

The day was a huge success. It was so wonderful to see so many families either spectating or volunteering. All students participated well in a range of activities that were organised by Education Sports Carnivals. They were enthusiastic and willing to have a go.

This was a new experience for quite a few students and parents, as we have not been able to have our Sports Day for the last couple of years.

I'd like to say a special thank you to all staff as they ran each activity for all the groups of children, and a special thank you to our Fundraising Committee for organising the BBQ lunch and icy pole for all. I had students approach me throughout the day saying "thank you". This was very heart-warming as seeing smiles on children's faces is what this day is all about.

Special congratulations to Green House who were the winners on the day.



Special thanks also to Britt Elliott, our Phys Ed teacher who was responsible for the excellent organisation on the day.





FUNDRAISING PAVERS

Next time you walk along the Adelaide St school entrance, look down and check out the brand-new pavers that have been laid into the path. More of our families (and staff) have immortalised themselves into St Theresa's history, by purchasing a brick paver with their name on it. Thanks to a huge effort from Mark Carroll who spent a couple of weekends laying them and to our fundraising group who organised it and made \$\$\$\$\$\$ for the school.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. We need **ALL LIBRARY BOOKS** back at school next week. We are still missing a lot of books from when we gave them out during COVID. If you could have a good look around your house for stray books and return them to school, we would appreciate it.
2. Next Wednesday 14th December (Christmas Carols Day), there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS**.
3. **MINI WORKING BEE : NEXT TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER. CAN YOU HELP...PLEASE?????**
We are getting our gardens ready for Summer and ordering some mulch which will need to be spread around the garden beds. If you could spare an hour or two next Tuesday, we would appreciate your help. Even better if you can bring along a shovel and a wheel barrow.
4. **ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB** : A huge thankyou to Albion Football Club and to Chantelle Hyett in particular, for helping us out with extra tables and chairs needed for our wonderful Graduation Dinner tonight.
5. **SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE**. Any outstanding fees need to be paid as soon as possible...definitely before the 19th December.

ADVENT

Right now, we are in the second week of Advent. Advent lasts for 4 weeks and we use it to prepare ourselves in a spiritual way for the arrival of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

Advent is not about Christmas decorations, or sending cards or about buying or gifting presents. Advent is about the true gift – the Gift of God's Son in our lives- and the gift we give to each other.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love the dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always and particularly at this time of Advent. Amen



WHAT HAVE OUR STAFF BEEN UP TO RECENTLY?

For the last couple of weeks Maree, our Italian Teacher, has been volunteering in Alice Springs, teaching the community how to sew and other creative skills (Maree has many talents!!). We're really pleased that she was able to do this and what a success it was, as you can see by this local newsletter article.



School Newsletter 21st November 2022

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School

Church Street, Santa Teresa, PMB 221, Via Alice Springs, NT, 0872.
Tel: (08) 8956 0937 email: justin.colley@nt.catholic.edu.au

Dear Families,

Last week, this week and next week, the **Senior Ladies** are running an 'intergenerational' **sewing workshop** in the Spirituality Centre. Maree Stone (aka *Apwerte*), who taught here in 1988 and 1989, has returned to run the sewing. The Good Samaritan Foundation has funded the workshop. Women of all ages are welcome and have been busy making shoulder bags and pouches. The machines and fabric were donated from all over Australia and transported by Maree's friend who owns Cahill Transport. The workshop is still going. Everyone is welcome! Mwarre Anthurre, ladies!



....and while Maree was working hard up North, others were busy getting a Santa photo (look closely, he is in there somewhere!!) during some down time at our recent staff conference.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE"

As we move into the busy time that Christmas is, this article from Positive Parenting comes just in time!

Unspoiling Your Kids This Christmas



- **POSITIVE PARENTING**

Even in homes where getting by is a bit of a struggle, Christmas is generally a time of indulgence for most families. We might be fighting inflation, increased rent and mortgage payments, and rising fuel and food costs, but it's Christmas! We want to make it memorable, and spending seems to be the default to make that happen.

Yet, at the same time that we spoil ourselves and our loved ones, we often bemoan the ingratitude of our children. We feel that they're spoiled. We wish they'd look beyond themselves and stop making Christmas all about "me, me, me." And apart from that, it's expensive!

With this in mind, here are 10 tips for "unspoiling" your children this Christmas.

First, focus on others!

1. Focus on Service

This year, one family I know is baking cookies and visiting the local police station, ambulance station, and fire station to drop off some Christmas cheer. They take the time to thank the people who work to keep us safe. Others I know visit the local RSPCA with supplies or donations, drop food, books, and toys at a women's shelter, or donate food (or money for a well) to one of the many overseas charities that help those who are impoverished and in need.

2. Focus on Your Neighbourhood

Who are the people in your neighbourhood? Perhaps an elderly widow could do with a hand in her yard. 'Tis the season for fast-growing grass and gardens.' Perhaps someone has just gone through a tough separation and could do with a Christmas basket to ease the pain (financial and emotional) that Christmas might bring.

One of our favourite things to do is to host a neighbourhood Christmas party. We invite all of our neighbours for a barbecue and to sing carols. Every year, we are asked for the date in advance, so people can be available!

3. Try a Secret Santa Drop

Our children's favourite Christmas activity is playing "knock and run." We select a handful of people we want to give something to each year. It might be a teacher, a friend, a coach, or a church leader. We wrap their parcels (often home-made treats), write thank you cards, and drive to their home. After parking out of sight, we sneak to their door, place their gift on the doorstep, and bang on the door before sprinting for a hiding place. Then we watch with delight as someone gets an unexpected, anonymous Christmas surprise. (It can be hard to do this well with six children, and we've often been caught—but it's always fun.)

Next—focus on the children.

4. Give Something Exciting

The reality is that our children DO want to get something exciting at Christmas. So, pick something great for them (within your budget) and help them enjoy it. A decision to not get anything can leave them feeling resentful, particularly when they see everyone else "getting."

5. Reduce the Number of Gifts They Receive

Some children receive gifts from everyone. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, and even siblings are all expected to buy for everyone. This not only costs a fortune, but it can overwhelm children and leave them expecting more and more. Invite your extended family to contribute to one meaningful gift, rather than lots of bits and pieces.

6. When Opening Gifts, Take Time to Savour Them

Savouring is the magnifying, or amplifying, of a positive experience. When the children open a gift, give them time to savour it. Encourage them to play with it. Let them breathe in the excitement of the moment, rather than ripping into the next package and flinging their gifts aside.

7. Experiences Are Better Than Things

One of the most remarkable findings from positive psychology research is that spending money on experiences brings more happiness than spending money on "stuff." Perhaps a family trip will be more memorable than more toys?

In a similar vein, gifts that encourage relationships are better than gifts that promote isolation. A new game console might be fun, but it may lead to

withdrawal (and fights). It might be better to purchase some games that bring the family together.

8. Rather Than Gifts, Give Letters

One year for Christmas, I contacted my siblings and asked them to give me 10 memories of special times with Dad. With six children, we had a total of 60 memories, each written on separate pieces of coloured paper and rolled up into mini-scrolls and placed into a jar. Dad opened the jar and looked at us, perplexed. He reached in and pulled out the first note. He read it and chuckled. Then it dawned on him that there were 60 notes from his children. He dipped his hand in again and read. Then he began to weep. The rest of that Christmas morning, he read, cried, laughed, and reminisced. It was a meaningful, wonderful gift that cost nothing but meant the world.

9. Encourage the Children to Write “Thank You” Notes

Christmas break is a great time to take stock of gifts and say thank you. Invite your children to write thank you notes to those who gave to them, saying specifically why they’re grateful. Sincere thanks takes time—but it is a wonderful way to help the children show appreciation.

Finally, give the most valuable gift you can: time.

10. Give the Gift of Time

There may be no gift more appreciated by our children than your time. It costs so little yet is so hard to give generously. But when we give of our time generously, all the material desires our children have will fade away.

This Christmas, “unspoil” your child by reducing the emphasis on materialism, crowding out the crass commercialism of “getting” with sincere, compassionate giving. It can make your Christmas truly memorable.

How are you planning to make this Christmas one to remember?