



# ST. THERESE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## From the Principal...

### **Parent Information sessions /P & F Welcome BBQ**

Thank you to the families who attended our parent information sessions last week. These sessions were important briefings that allowed teachers to distribute details and arrangements pertaining to the classroom.

This session which I presented for all families at the beginning of the evening outlined some of our major achievements as a school during 2016, as well as touching on the major school goals and initiatives of 2017. It also allowed for a forum to distribute information to families on important issues such as social media usage (including Facebook), car park protocols, grievances procedures and preferred communication processes between families and school.

Many thanks to all our families who were able to come along and support our beginning of the year welcome BBQ last Friday. A massive thank you to our P and F who did a fantastic job coordinating everything prior to and on the night to ensure everything ran so smoothly. Thanks also to a number of staff and families who assisted with a number of tasks throughout the evening.

### **SCHOOL CAMPS**

School camps are considered an essential element of the St Therese's Catholic School curriculum. Camps are held annually for our Grades 3 – 6 students as part of the outdoor education program. A particular duty of care exists when on school camps and this differs from that which exists on school premises. Through the careful and detailed planning of teachers, students are given opportunities to experience living away from the school and home environment and in a way that teaches them the value of co-operative group work, the need to develop an awareness of God in their lives and the skills necessary to live in different environments.

Listed below are some of our major aims and goals for our Outdoor Education Program

- The development of character building with a strong Christian emphasis.
- The development of an appreciation of the wonder of the world.
- The development of skills to facilitate co-operative learning.
- Linking all areas of the curriculum and, in particular, links to Religious Education, Science, Humanities and Social Science.
- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learning
- To provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to a lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits.

- To provide a program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance.

Recently our Grade 6 students returned from a successful camp to Camp Clayton, Ulverstone. I was able to attend for the first 2 days and it was wonderful to see how well the students participated and behaved during the camp. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr Cracknell, who was also supported by Mrs Schofield, Miss Vaughan, Mr McCormack and Mr Dwyer during the camp, for the thoughtful planning and coordination of a wonderfully successful camp.

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### **REMINDERS RE SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

It is expectation from the school that your child attends every day while school is in session. The expectations to this are if your child:

- is excused from daily attendance because they are sick or because there is another acceptable reason why they cannot attend
- is exempt from enrolment
- has been suspended
- has been placed on a part-time enrolment

If your child is going to be away from school for a short time (for example illness), please notify the school office as soon as possible to let them know that your child will be away from school and the reason for the absence. If your child is absent from school for three or more days because of illness, you may be requested to provide a medical certificate to the school.

If your child is going to be away for an extended period of time (more than a few days) please contact your child's teacher to work out a learning program so that your child doesn't fall behind. If your child is not at school and an acceptable reason has not been provided, the absence will be recorded as 'unexplained' and you will be contacted by the school. If your child is frequently absent from school, we will work with you to find ways of helping your child continue or resume their education.

You have a legal obligation to ensure that your child attends school each day as required and you can be prosecuted for unexplained prolonged absences of your child from school.

Your child may be excused from attending school if they are sick or have a medical condition that prevents them attending, or for any other reasonable reason such as bereavement. You may be asked to keep your child home from school if they have an infestation such as head lice, or suffer from an illness that is infectious, contagious or harmful to the health of others at the school.

If your child becomes ill or is injured at school, the office will contact you and seek the necessary medical attention. In the event of an emergency, your child will be moved to a safe place for appropriate care or treatment. In extreme cases this may be by ambulance or another form of transportation. It is therefore important for you to keep the school updated about any medical condition or allergies that your child may have, and that you keep contact numbers for you and your doctor up to date. St Therese's Catholic School keep records of accidents and follow guidelines for dealing with them and removing any dangers.

Cameron Brown  
Principal





## Reflection



### Facing the Fire

I grew up in bushfire country, serious bushfire country....so serious that Dad liked to control burn part of the property each winter to limit our vulnerability in bushfire season. These burns were dangerous but also a bit of a lark – there was something of the pyromaniac in all of us. Carefully done, they would lower the load in the bush and not allow a bushfire to be so ferocious.

Uncontrolled fire through bush is terrifying. I know. When I was 13, we got caught in a firestorm which went over the top of the car. I was in my 30's before I could speak of it. It was not the fire or the heat that caused the terror but the noise. It sounded like a train going over us. Physically, we all came out of the day safe but emotionally, there were scars.

This week, we start the season of Lent – which here in Australia occurs in what is often the worst of our bushfire season. It is now that people appreciate the control burns done in the winter. These burns symbolise for me what we are about in Lent. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and supporting each other in prayer, we face our weaknesses and our sins so that we lower the possibility of them breaking out and causing destruction in our lives. We each have our liabilities – anger, gossiping, negative thoughts, addictions, tendency to lying. You know yours as I know mine. The purpose of this season is to bring them before God and using practices of prayer and self-control face them and lessen their power over us. Yes, it can be difficult, even a little dangerous as we may not like what we find out about ourselves but in the big picture of our lives, it leads to safety for ourselves and for those we love. We have, on our side, Jesus knew temptation and comes to help us in our weakness.

*Loving God, you know my weakness, failure and sin even better than I do myself. In this Lent let me truthfully face myself and deal with what stops me from being the loving person you have made me to be. I ask this in Jesus' name, confident that you will hear me.*

Sr Kym Harris osb

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### Tuesday 28 February

Board Meeting & AGM 5.30pm

### Wednesday 1 March

Swimming Trials - Grades 3, 4 & new students of Grade 5 only  
Ash Wednesday

### Friday 3 March

Induction Mass in the Church 2pm - Class Captains 2017

### Thursday 9 March

STS Swimming Carnival - Glenorchy Pool

## Validation & Payment Arrangement Forms

These forms have been sent home with students over the past week. Could you please return the forms ASAP so we can update any changes to your details. Also, we require the payment arrangement form to be signed & returned, even if you already have a payment plan in place.

### Kindergarten 2018 Enrolments

Kindergarten applications for 2018 are due before Friday 5th May 2017. If you have a child due to start Kinder next year, please get your application to us before this date. Enrolment forms are available from the school office.

### Grade 7 Enrolments

Grade 7 enrolment applications are due at your nominated Catholic high school before Friday 31st March 2017. If you intend for your child to continue on at a Catholic school for Grade 7, please ensure you contact that school for enrolment forms.

## Some of our talented Art students!



## School Canteen

As we all know, last year our canteen was run by one of our grandmother's - Deb Large.

Deb has kindly offered to run the canteen again this year & the first canteen day will be the 17th March. Canteen information will go out on the Skoolbag app before then.

A huge thank you to Deb for volunteering once again. If you are able to give a couple of hours to help Deb out, please let the school office know.



## GRADE 6 CAMP - CAMP CLAYTON

Grade 6 camp was a wonderful, enriching experience for all involved.

Students extended and challenged themselves through all the activities that Camp Clayton has to offer. They worked as teams and encouraged each other to do their best.

When not shooting arrows, giant swinging or flying over lakes, the students took in the sites of Gunns Plains Caves and Wings Wildlife Park.

An amazing three days!

Mr Cracknell  
Grade 6 Teacher



## Closure of Kookaburra Catholic Development Fund School Banking

St. Therese's has received notification that we are no longer able to process  
Kookaburra CDF school banking for students.

The CDF will issue a letter to all account holders shortly regarding this.

St. Therese's will be implementing Commonwealth Bank Dollarmites school banking  
in place of Kookaburra and we will notify you with  
details once it is up & running.



The poster features a photograph of three students and a teacher on the left. The text on the right reads: "Senior School Open Day", "Thursday March 9, 9am-5pm", "To register visit [www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au](http://www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au)", and "Community Justice Respect". The St Virgil's College crest and name are on the right, with the tagline "A Catholic boys school in the Edmund Rice tradition" below it.



### Volunteer Opportunity

St Vincent de Paul Society are seeking volunteer members (18+) in the Moonah area, to help provide  
Emergency Relief assistance to people in need.

Our volunteer members give encouragement and hope to the people they visit. They aim to provide tools and  
resources which enable individuals and families to take control of their own destiny.

We ask our volunteer members to dedicate as much or as little time as they can to their volunteer work.  
Members are not required to be trained counsellors, they just need to have great listening skills, have  
empathy and compassion for those in need. All training is provided.

Would you like to know more?

Please contact State Membership Manager, Melissa White on 63 330822 or [melissa.white@vinniestas.org.au](mailto:melissa.white@vinniestas.org.au)







# **Moonah-Lutana Parish**

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION 2017**

Please remember to pray for our Parish children who are preparing for their First Reconciliation, which will be celebrated on  
**MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL AT 7PM**  
**ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME!**

The families of these children will be involved in their preparation.  
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the Sacraments of Healing.

####

Meeting dates for families involved in preparing their children.

- 1. FOR PARENTS ONLY – MONDAY FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
7 PM in the PARISH CENTRE – former Convent.
- 2. PARENTS AND CHILDREN Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
Presentation of candidates at 9 am Mass and workshop at approximately 10.15am in the PARISH CENTRE.
- 3. PARENTS AND CHILDREN Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
9 am Mass and at approximately 10.15 am in the PARISH CENTRE .
- 4. PARENTS AND CHILDREN Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL**  
9 am Mass and at approximately 10.15am in the PARISH CENTRE .

**FIRST RECONCILIATION - MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL AT 7PM**

# St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Parish

Conducted by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

PO Box 819, Moonah, Tasmania, 7009, Australia  
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Email: moonahlutana@netspace.net.au  
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16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## AN INVITATION - PREPARING TO CELEBRATE FIRST RECONCILIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

A time for preparing our children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is approaching. When parents present a child for baptism they commit to being the first educators of their child in the Catholic faith. For much of a child's development this is simply a day-to-day part of life: bringing a child up to love God and to love neighbour, teaching a child about Jesus, praying together, and belonging to a Church community. When a child reaches the age of sacramental preparation – seven years or older – the role of parents takes on a new dimension.

Here in the Archdiocese of Hobart, as in many other places throughout Australia, parents have the primary responsibility for preparing their child for First Reconciliation, and at a later time for Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Parents who have experienced preparing their children for the sacraments describe this opportunity as a privilege and a joy. Some delightedly said they learned more than their child.

St Therese's Parish has a Sacramental Team who assist parents to prepare their children. This Team, comprising several dedicated members of the parish community, accompanies parents and their children throughout the preparation period. Together the parents and the Team guide the children through times of formation, opportunities for reflection and discussion, and moments of prayer.

With this letter, I warmly invite you and your child to take part in preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation. An introductory session for parents and carers will be held at the Parish Office, (the old convent) in the chapel, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 pm. During this introductory session the Sacramental Team will describe the meaning of the Sacrament, outline the process of preparing for First Reconciliation, answer your questions, and provide the opportunity for you to enrol your child. Please bring your child's Certificate of Baptism, a copy of which can be obtained from the parish of baptism if you do not have the original.

Following the introductory session there will be three preparation sessions for children and their parents. These sessions, held on Sundays 5<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> March, and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, will begin in the church with the 9:00 am parish Mass and continue in the Saints Louis & Zelig Martin Parish Centre from approx. 10:15 am until about 11:30 am. First Reconciliation will be celebrated in the church on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7:00 pm.

I very much hope you will accept this invitation to participate in preparing your child to celebrate First Reconciliation. Please feel welcome to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Mark Hanns MSC, Parish Priest



# *Catholic Parish of St Therese of Lisieux, Moonah-Lutana*



Cared for by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

24 Hopkins Street

(PO Box 819)

Moonah TAS 7009

Phone: 6272 1442

Email:

[moonahlutana@aohtas.org.au](mailto:moonahlutana@aohtas.org.au)

## **Registration Form - Preparing to Celebrate - First Reconciliation**

(TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY PARENT/S)

**Child's Surname:** .....

**Child's Given Names:** .....

**Date of Birth:** ...../...../..... **Age:** .....

**Date of Baptism:** ...../...../.....

**Place of Baptism:** .....

**Child's School:** .....

**Current Grade:** .....

**Father's Surname:** .....

**Father's Given Names:** ..... Catholic? / Non Catholic?

**Mobile:** .....

**Mother's Surname:** .....

**Mother's Maiden Surname:** .....

**Mother's Given Names:** ..... Catholic? / Non Catholic?

**Mobile:** .....

**Family Address:** .....

**Phone (Home):** .....

**Email:** .....

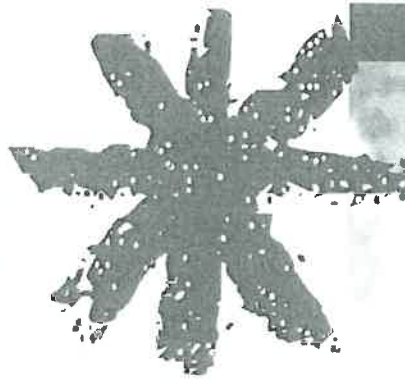
**Parent's Signatures:** .....

I would like to register my child in the parish program of preparation for celebrating First Reconciliation. I commit to participating fully in the program

**Prior to celebrating First Reconciliation, a child must have been Baptised. A copy of the Certificate of Baptism for the child is required with this form.**

**Please return to the Parish Office, Ss Louis & Zelig Centre, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah or post to PO Box 819, Moonah TAS 7009 by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

# parenting \*ideas insights



## Four parenting priorities for 2017

By Michael Grose

Like the earth's crust the parenting landscape is constantly shifting always bringing new challenges for parents. Not only are children and young people constantly growing and developing but societal trends evolve and change at such rapid rates that it's hard to keep up. It's also hard to differentiate between the significant and the frivolous when it comes to trends and changes.

The following four priorities are both current and significant, deserving to be top of mind for parents as the 2017 school year begins.

### 1. Time to tackle technology

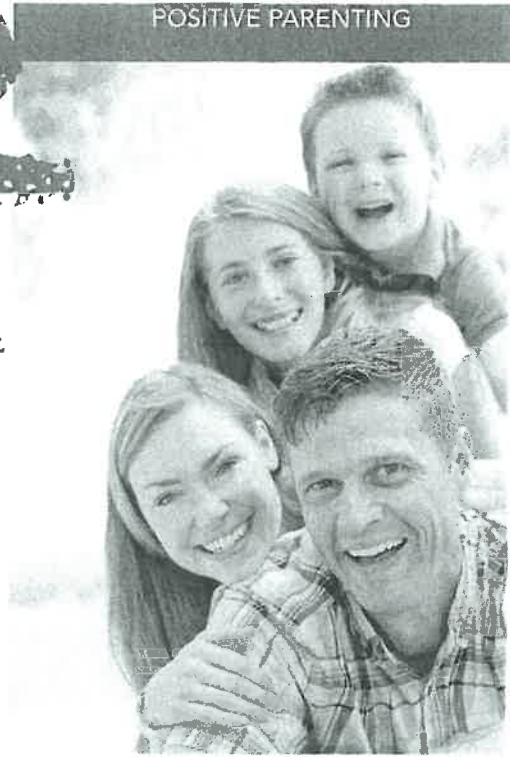
Want to travel along Parenting Easy Street? That's easy. Make tackling this parenting game-changer your priority. It's no point being all doom and gloom about technology because tablets, mobile phones and smartphones are here to stay. They connect us, educate us and entertain us like nothing has before.

But the jury is still out on the impact of digital devices on children and young people. Currently there are studies being conducted on the effects of technology on children's brains, as well as studies on gaming addiction, social media addiction, attention-related issues, obesity, decision-

making, hand-eye coordination and sleep to name a few.

The technology genie maybe out of the bottle, but we need to bring some sanity into the area. Children and teenagers, (and yes technology, primary school and secondary school kids can be mentioned in the same sentence as first-time smartphone users become younger by the day) who use communication technology need constant parent vigilance and diligence, a flexible approach and the ability to say a loud and clear "NO you can't have/use that now."

It takes a lot of parental backbone to swim against the current all-encompassing technology tide. You can't hold it back, but you can slow it down. You can suggest it sits on the metaphorical shelf for a while or at least while you eat dinner together. You can insist that social media isn't the only way to stay in touch with friends and show them that Dr. Google may be clever but he/she only knows so much and that accurate and current information can be found offline. When it comes to kids and technology, don't be an onlooker. Make this a year for getting in the game with kids, tech boots on and all.





# parenting \* ideas

## Four parenting priorities for 2017

### 2. Promote physical and mental health

Finally, good mental health habits are top of mind in Australian schools. A focus on student wellbeing is now a well-established pathway to academic success for children and young people.

But kids' levels of physical activity need a boost. Recent research tells us that children's physical activity peaks at around four years of age in Australia and gradually decreases every year from there. It makes a mockery of the image of Australian childhood spent in the great outdoors.

Remember the old 'healthy body, healthy mind' maxim that past generations so fondly spruiked? Well, it's true. Physical and mental health are inextricably linked.

So this year while we encourage our kids to practise mindfulness; get a good night's sleep and ensure they relax and unwind, let's also make sure kids get plenty of physical activity, preferably outdoors.

### 3. Put the spoon back in the drawer

I've hidden the controversial part in the middle of the article. Ready for it? I think that parents currently do too much for kids. We spoonfeed them. We make life too easy and don't demand enough from them. Not all parents, but enough that we should be worried that our kids may grow up to become risk-averse, fearful adults who have difficulty making decisions lest they make a mistake. That is, if

they ever do grow up? As reported in Fairfax Media recently, "In 1970's only one in five under-30's in Australia lived with their parents but now it's one in two." This high dependency of children and teenagers on adults is the exact opposite of what adults have done in the past, which is develop their children's independence and achieve the most important parenting outcome of all – their own redundancy.

In 2017 remove the spoon, put it back in the drawer and make independence building a high priority in your family.

### 4. Put integrity top of the pedestal of character traits

Every parent wants their child to have the strength and fortitude to do the right thing and not follow the crowd. This is easier for young children because the pull of the group and the allure of the media doesn't have such a strong hold as it so often does in adolescence. Strong-willed children and those who like to have their own way can also find doing the right thing less of struggle. But the development of integrity and related traits such as respect, honesty and fairness is an important part of a child's moral compass that will help him/her make smart decisions when you're not around. Generally, integrity is developed in childhood and put to the test in adolescence.

In 2017 put some focus on developing a sense of integrity in your kids – the rock star of character traits.



**Special note:** I'm thrilled to announce that my latest book *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children* is out. It's available at [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)

**Visit our website for more ideas and information to help you raise confident and resilient young people.**

