Dear Parents, Friends and Community Members

Great gains
Some wonderful news to share with our community as per the letter below from our Director, Helen O’Brien, congratulating our great community of learners on their growth in both Literacy and Numeracy. I have also attached an article link from this week’s Advertiser.

To be named in the Top 8 schools showing the greatest growth in both Numeracy and Literacy over the past two years is a reflection on the outstanding educators, individualised approach and targeted intervention taking place at St Therese. Our work as a Cluster on our Numeracy Project and the fabulous Literacy Programs we offer at St Therese is a key reflection on this achievement. Well done to all!

‘Dear Amanda

I was pleased to receive advice from ACARA (The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) of St Therese Primary School’s inclusion in the list of schools that demonstrated above average gains in NAPLAN scores between 2014 and 2016.
I am advised that these substantial improvements were shown in both Reading and Numeracy by the cohort of students moving from year 3-5. Please pass on my appreciation of this achievement to your students and teachers.

Helen O’Brien, Director’

Share Point Page Parent Information evening
As a staff we are committed to finding new ways to keep you as parents informed and to give you as many ‘windows’ into the learning happening at St Therese School.

The staff have been working very hard in completing their Share Point pages through the Office 365 platform. Every family will have free access to this and it will be accessible via your child’s log in and email address. Every student from Year 3-7 already has this and we will be distributing the student’s emails addresses and passwords for R-2 over the next two weeks. To show you the full capabilities of the Share Point landing page we are inviting parents and students to an interactive information session on Tuesday 28 March at 6pm in the Dominican Building. Bring along any device that can connect to our Wi-Fi and we will share more around this exciting initiative with you.
Please put this date into your calendar:
**School Board AGM – Tuesday, 21 March**

On Tuesday, 21 March the Annual General Meeting of the School Board will be held at 6pm. Three of our current members who serve on the Board, Adrian Howard, Adam McMillan and Sean Kirchner have all sought reelection. As we had no further nominations these parents will continue in their role on our School Board. I am also delighted to announce that Ann Simnovec has been nominated and accepted the role of Parents and Friends representative. We thank each of these parents for their service to our community.

**Zoo snooze**
We are very excited to announce that the Year 3 and 4 classes will be going on a Zoo Snooze in October this year. It will be an overnight camp experience for these students and is in line with our newly formed Outdoor Education Procedure and Policy, and will form a yearly initiative for these Year levels – more exciting news for other year levels soon!

**Lent**
The season of Lent goes for 40 days from Ash Wednesday. During this time we are called to reflect on our lives and asked to try and live more in the footsteps of Jesus. As a staff we pray together every Thursday morning and this week Julie Hardiman led us in prayer. She reminded us of the words of Pope Francis about Lent; He asks us to:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and trust in God
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

[Image: Maria and Lily visiting me at lunchtime to see how my day was going.]

[Image: Can we have a selfie with you Mrs Humeniuk? Sure why not!]

[Image: Volleyball friendship and fun in the sun with Tahlia, Abbey, Lulu and Grace A.]

[Image: Georgin and Jenson wanted to show me that they looked after one another because ‘That’s what we do at St Therese!’]

[Image: Ash Wednesday Mass]
Project Compassion

As we continue our Lenten journey with Caritas and Project Compassion, we thank you for your support and donations so far and ask that you please continue to give generously; every little bit helps. Please keep an eye out on our tally in the office window.

During the weeks of Lent, the Federation of Catholic Schools Parents Communities will share weekly stories that reflect this year’s theme from different people around the world and that have had their lives and the lives of people within their community positively and significantly changed. The changes have been because of the generosity of our communities and the support our Catholic schools give to Caritas. Please see the link from the Federation with links to each of these stories. http://www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au/news/latest-news?newsItem=11653

St T’s

A huge thank you to our magnificent St T’s. Over the last fortnight they have worked selflessly behind the scenes to create some wonderful opportunities for our students. On Shrove Tuesday they made and served over 200 pancakes. On Wednesday, 8 March, to celebrate the Chinese New Year/Lunar Year, St T’s prepared an Asian themed Meal Deal; delicious fried rice and fortune cookies. We were also spoiled with Asian art and craft at recess and lunch time and the most exciting of all – an authentic ‘Dancing Chinese Dragon’.

~ Thank you so much, St T’s. ~

If anyone would like to join this group please come along to the next meeting on Wednesday the 15th March at 7pm in the Staff room.

Diary Dates

Sacramental Team Leaders Meeting:
Tuesday 14th March
7pm at Kingswood

Parish Class Mass: Year 3-4 F & 3-4 Mc
Thursday 16th March at 9 am

Children’s University

During our assembly on Wednesday, 22 March at 2:40 pm a representative from Children’s University will come to talk to us about this great programme. Please come along and find out how your child can benefit from being involved.

You will also get to see a graduate from last year dressed in their graduation gown.

Every Blessing from,
Amanda and Jacky
ahumeniuk@sts.catholic.edu.au; jswanson@sts.catholic.edu.au
Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

**Volleyball Skills Lessons and Carnival**

Students in Years 4-7 have shown wonderful volleyball skill development during PE lessons, and the year 5, 6 and 7s showed off their skills at yesterday’s **Beach Volleyball Carnival**: What an amazing day Rooms 7 and 8 had at the Beach Volleyball Festival on Thursday 9th March. The weather was stunning. Congratulations to you all for playing fairly and exhibiting wonderful sportsmanship and team spirit. A special congratulations to our Year 4/5 Boys, Year 6/7 Boys, Year 4/5 Girls and Year 6/7 Girls teams who made the semi-finals. Following the semi-finals our Year 4/5 Girls competed in the Grand Final. Congratulations on your success coming runners up in this final!

Thank you so very much to our volunteers.....Ciara Keogh, Janine Donato, Heidi Mettner and Kylie Lojszczyk. Without your support, days like this cannot go ahead. Well done to you all!!!!!
Swimming Carnival
We have just completed our 4th training session at Unley Swimming Centre in preparation for the carnival in Week 8. I am pleased to announce and congratulate the following students who will represent St Therese as the squad:

U11 - Abbey L, Abby C, Tamara J, Niamh K, Mitchell L
U12 - Lenne D, Caitlin R, Taylor D
SENIOR - Samuel M

Sporting Schools
Just a reminder that sporting schools begins next week (Week 7). Rec-Year 2 Cricket will run on Thursdays and Years 3-7 Volleyball on Tuesdays, both sessions are 3:30-4:30pm. At this stage we have Cricket at 20 and Volleyball at 10 so there are still positions available if interested. A free and wonderful way to be active after school!!

SAPSASA Trials
Throughout the school year our senior students have the opportunity to try out in various sports in order to represent the City South District which St Therese is part of. We wish Mia and Taylor all the best in their trials for Netball and Adrian in his for Cricket.

Winter Sport
The St Therese Winter Sport Packages will go home soon. On offer for Years 2-7 are Netball, Basketball, Football and Soccer. Please read the information carefully and if interested return the 'Expression of Interest' form to your child/children's class teacher or the front office by the due date. Also please give consideration to coaching a team - we may have great interest but without a coach we cannot nominate.

Thank you.
Yours in sport, Barbara Mee

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is on again this year. The Challenge aims to encourage young people to read regularly and to raise awareness about the importance of reading to children at home.

Reading to and with your children helps lay the foundation for future learning and provides them with a strong grounding in literacy.

This year, the Premier’s Reading Challenge will run from now until 8th September, 2017. The challenge involves reading at least 12 books (of course the more the better!) before the cut-off date.

Every child who completes the challenge will receive an award –

- First year – a certificate signed by the Premier of South Australia
- Second Year – Bronze Medal
- Third Year – Silver Medal
- Fourth Year – Gold Medal
- Fifth Year – Champion Medal
- Sixth Year - Legend Medal
- Seventh Year - Hall of Fame Medal
- Eighth Year Onwards – Hall of Fame for Life Medal including year of participation

**Students in Reception to Year 2 will be completing the Challenge in the classroom.** Students in Year 3-7, can get forms from their teacher and are encouraged to complete the challenge at home as well as at school.

To find out more about the Premier’s Reading Challenge visit: [www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au)

**Vinnies Uniform Shop** at Hawthorn is currently unmanned for fittings until they fill a vacant position. You are still able to purchase uniform items off the shelf or place an order but if you require a fitting, please call first to ensure someone is available to assist you. Their number is 8271 9712
As part of the Trauma Sensitive Schools project which began last year, all classes have been learning about the Brain. As children learn about how their brain works, they build a better understanding of themselves, their actions, thinking and feelings, which in turn assists them in their learning and interactions with others.

Current research on brain plasticity has shown that the brain is changeable. With practice, new neuron pathways can be made, strengthened and re-wired. Carol Dweck’s research on Mindsets (Fixed and Growth) works in conjunction with this. A Growth Mindset involves the belief that a person’s traits can be developed through persistence and effort. A Fixed Mindset is the belief that a person is born with set traits which cannot be changed. www.mindsetonline.com

Carol Dweck suggests these 4 steps to foster a growth mindset:
1. Learn to hear your fixed mindset “voice”
2. Recognize that you have a choice
3. Talk back to it with a growth mindset voice
4. Take the growth mindset action.

Students in the Primary Years classes have been investigating Growth Mindset and Mind Master (positive) thinking. Some of the sayings they have come up with and researched are:

- Just do your best
- We can do anything
- You can’t do it .... yet!
- Try again
- This might take a while
- Don’t give up
- You can do it
- Try everything
- Just follow your dreams
- Learn from others
- Slow progress is still progress
- If you fail, try again. If you fall, get back up
- Mistakes are learning opportunities
- Change your words, change your mindset
- Ever tried, ever failed, no matter, try again, fail better

Reminder: Flu Vaccination Clinic will be held at school on Friday 7th April from 2pm. No appointment required. Cost is $18 which can be paid to the front office or via QKR
The children in Room REC PS - Mrs Paley and Mrs Swanson were asked, ‘What do like best about school?’

I like playing with Batman - Charlie

I like playing on the iPads. - James

I like making because I get to make stuff - Sienna

I like playing with my friends. - Rhys

I like going on the hardcourt because it’s fun to play on. - Alfie

I like playtime and playing with my friends - Leila

I like playing in the playground because I like going on the slide. - Sophia

I like going on the hardcourt because it’s fun to play on. - Alfie

I like the whiteboards. - Isabella

I like playing with the Lego and the block area. - Hadrian

The children in Room REC PS - Mrs Paley and Mrs Swanson were asked, ‘What do like best about school?’

I like drawing and reading. - Sophie

I like making because it’s my favourite. - Emily

I like going in the library and playing cars. - Lucas M

I like that we get to play with playdough. - Tara

I like playing with my friends on the playground. - Lorenzo

I like playing with my friends. - Lukas

I like drawing. - Asha

I like doing my work. - Jet
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