



14 August 2018

Dear Families of St Therese School,
Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Namaste, Malo ni, Makadini, Annyoung, Bonjour.

On Wednesday 8 August, we celebrated the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop who, in 2013, became Australia's first Saint.

In 1995 Pope John Paul II said,

"Mary MacKillop embodied all that is best in your nation and in its people: Genuine openness to others, Hospitality to strangers, Generosity to the needy, Justice to those unfairly treated, Perseverance in the face of adversity, Kindness and support to the suffering. Think of Saint Mary MacKillop and learn from her to be a gift of love and compassion for one another, for all the world."

Mary MacKillop was the foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the order who founded our school. She was born in 1842 in Melbourne, Victoria of Scottish parents and she had three sisters and four brothers. As the eldest child, it was her duty to provide for her family, so she moved to a little country town in South Australia called Penola where work as a teacher. In Penola, she met Father Julian Woods and together they opened a free school for poor children who could not afford to pay the money needed to go to school. In 1866, they opened St Joseph's school and classes were held in an old stable. Mary invited children of all social groups to come along and learn. She taught them about the Catholic faith, which was a large part of her life.

On the 19th of March, Mary formed a new order called The Sisters of St Joseph and dedicated her life to doing God's work. One of her favourite sayings was "**Never see a need without doing something about it.**" Whenever Mary saw someone in need, she would reach out to them with great love and compassion, just as Jesus did. All children were welcome at the schools, even if they couldn't pay. The Sisters sometimes had to beg on the street for money to continue their work. Mary cared about the people who had no-one to look after them like the boys and girls who just roamed the streets, children in the country who had no school to go to, people who were old and sick and people who had nowhere to live. Mary wanted more than anything to help these people. She was kind to all people, even if they didn't like her. Throughout her life she had a deep trust that God would provide for her and for people with whom she lived and served.

Mary MacKillop commissioned sisters to start 52 schools in New Zealand. St Therese School was one of them. It was officially opened in 1946 on the 27th May. Mary MacKillop made many visits to New Zealand schools to visit the sisters there and encourage them in their work. Mary was faithful, brave, caring, challenging and visionary. She died on 8 August 1909 in North Sydney.

By the time Mary died 750 women had joined the Order of St Joseph and had helped house over 1000 people in need. There are about 886 Sisters living and working throughout Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Peru, East Timor, Scotland and Brazil. They live among people, sharing their daily life and responding to the needs of the day.

They work where there is violence, fear and insecurity in our world. They identify and work with those who are today's poor, promote the dignity of each person and value difference. The sisters are engaged in a wide variety of ministries, including: education, aged care, chaplaincy, parish pastoral leadership, refugee support, ecology, spirituality and counselling, pastoral care and family support, prayer and hospitality.

Susan McDonald
Principal



TERM DATES 2018

TERM 3	23 July	to	28 September
TERM 4	15 October	to	Mon 17 December

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3 2018

Informal Assemblies – 24 Aug and 7 & 21 Sept

Primary Netball Practice – Monday & Wednesday @ 3.15pm

21 & 23 August – Intermediate Tech at Bunnings

15 August – NZEI 1-day strike – **School Open**

29 August – CZ Cross-Country

18 September – School trip to the Zoo

28 September – **End of Term 3 - School closes @ 3pm**

Cultural Groups – 17 & 31 Aug & 14 Sept

Intermediate Netball Practice - Tuesday & Thursday @ 3.15pm

15 August – Assumption Liturgy

29 August – Yr 5 – 8 Let's Act @ Vodafone Centre

10 September – School Photographs

28 September – Feast of St Therese Mass & Concert



SPECIAL CHARACTER

There will be a Liturgy to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on **Wednesday 15 August** at 2.15pm. This is one of only a few Holy Days of Obligation, when all Catholics are expected to attend Mass. All family and friends are invited to come along and share in this liturgical celebration with us.



St Therese School

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION - NZEI INFORMATION – PAY and CONDITIONS NEGOTIATIONS

On **Wednesday 15 August**, the NZEI, have called a full day strike for all Teachers who are in the Union. As only a few of the staff at St Therese School will not be at school, the BOT has decided to keep the school open, so classes will be as normal, with some supervision for those classes whose teachers are not at school. It is important that our parents are aware of the real concerns that all teachers have regarding the present situation and that strike action is a last resort. No teacher wants to go on strike but, they feel it is the only option left to them.

While St Therese School is very fortunate to have a teacher for every class and our classes, particularly in the junior area are small, many schools are not so lucky. In some schools they have had to employ non-qualified teachers to cover classes and some classes can have as many as 40 children in them, while most have about 30-32.

While it would seem that teachers are simply asking for a money for themselves, the main reason for the strike is that, if the level of pay is not significantly increased and funding given to employ more Teacher Aides, we will not be able to recruit new teachers into the profession in the future.

At the moment, if a vacancy occurs, many schools report that there are no suitable applicants and this situation can only get worse. Schools have been promised that class sizes will be made smaller and more teachers will be employed but the reality is that young people are not choosing Teaching as a career and prefer to take up other jobs which are paid more and have better conditions. We all want the best for our children and teachers see their actions as the only way they can try to do that. They realise that the strike will cause problems for some parents and that the children may not be able to go to school but, hopefully, the actions of teachers today will ensure that we can recruit teachers in the future.

Teachers would appreciate the support of their communities and hope the community understands why they have had to take this action.



NAVIGATORS

There will be no Navigators on **Wednesday 15 August** due to the One-day strike. Please put this in your diary as students will need to be picked up at 3pm.



READING TOGETHER

The First session for this will be held on **WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST**. We will have a session @ 9am in the Library and this will be repeated at 6pm for those parents who can not come during the day. You can bring younger children if you need them to be supervised while you attend. Looking forward to working together to make Reading an enjoyable activity for the whole family.



WRITING

Room 6 Winner: Eunice

Eunice created an amazing book titled 'The Person Who Took Everything Seriously', which follows the character Patrick Natrick Matrick through many hilarious situations. Patrick takes sayings such as "take a seat" or "bring a plate" way too seriously, resulting in some unexpected outcomes.

Room 5 -Winner Lorenzo

Have you ever been afraid of the swimming pool? Because I have. Every time that I go to the swimming pool I get terrified because of the last time I went. It went like this..... I arrive there and I smell the scent of bleach and dirty towels. The first thing I see are 5 people having a weird ritual in the swimming pool and people drying themselves after they have hopped out of the pools. So I go to the boys changing rooms and I get changed into my togs.

I get this really weird feeling in my stomach, it's like my brain is preparing for a complete shutdown. As soon as I hop into the pool I feel very uncomfortable because I can feel 3 kids kicking my leg. I tried swimming away from the kids who were kicking my legs.

Apparently at this pool you had to backflip off the top of the board and I was flabbergasted. When I found out about this backflip thing I realised it was my turn to do a backflip. I close my eyes, jump and I felt like I was doing it, I land and everything seemed fine until..... I look down, my shorts have floated across the pool. I did everything in my power to make my shorts tighter but it didn't work. That is why I am scared of swimming pools.

Room 4 – Winner Agape - The Humorous kid

It was lunch time and we had to go and eat again but there was a new kid called Josh. He was funny because he had more funny jokes than me. Once I told him to do a joke and he said, "What do you call a cow with no legs?" I said that I didn't know and then he said, "ground beef." I turned around and gave the loudest laugh: hahahahahahahahahahaha and when I told my friends they too looked at me and did a LOL.....

ROOM 1 Winner: Johanna



One day we went to doctors. My cousin Shawn had to have an injection. He was very scared and was crying. He made lots of excuses. I was laughing. I said you are not a baby you are a big boy you have to be brave. That was a funny day.



NETBALL

The St Therese Intermediate netball team participated in the CZ tournament last week. They came 13th out of 21 teams and the girls gave their best effort. Ilisapeti, the captain, led by example and all the girls displayed good leadership skills.



ASSEMBLY

On Friday we had a performance by the NED Show at Assembly. The theme was Kindness. This show was given free and to help finance future shows in other schools, they have asked us to sell some items for them. The last time they came we had yoyos for sale. This time it is a collection of items made in Africa. There are 3 groups to choose from and the prices are \$7, \$15 and \$20. The items are detailed below. Please send money to the office if you wish to purchase any. Please support this very worthwhile venture.

Kindness sale
handcrafted in Kenya

\$7 many styles and colours available. Items vary in availability and some due to changing supplier stock orders.

- rock ring
- Adjustable wristband
- backpack pulls
- fabric pencil pouch

\$15

- coil wraps
- beaded snap wristband
- maasai bracelet
- carved bone & beaded necklaces

\$20

- rock bracelet
- batik wristband
- leather coin pouch

100% guarantee
www.kindnessadventure.com
MEDI'S KINDNESS adventure



NOTICES

SKIDS Mt Roskill are close to the school if you want your child to attend their After School Care. A member of their staff comes to the school to walk the children there and it only takes 5 minutes. For more details contact George Bautista 021 278 4463 or george@ghbskids.co.nz



MARIST
Herne Bay

90th Jubilee
Saturday 8th
September 2018

82 Kelmarna Ave, Herne Bay

Invites all past pupils, families, PTA, Board members, teachers, priests and school leaders to join in celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the establishment of the school by the Marist Sisters.

2pm Mass and blessing of the 90th Anniversary Orchard site

3pm - 4.30pm Afternoon tea

Enjoy a complimentary glass of bubbles, purchase a commemorative tea towel, visit the classrooms, view old photos, decade photos to be taken

Tickets \$35.00
Current pupils free

Register today

For more information, to register, purchase a ticket or contribute to the 90th Anniversary orchard project please visit maristhernebay.school.nz
And click on "90th Jubilee" or email: principal@maristschool.co.nz