

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear members of the Lisieux community,

Can you believe we have almost come to the end of our 2020 school year? Who would have imagined when we began this year, the challenges that would lie ahead. Despite all the hardships, we have much to be grateful for. Our Lisieux family has grown as a community, and continues to develop as a special place for learning and wellbeing. Looking back on this year, I feel very proud of and blessed by what we have achieved and where we are heading.

Next Wednesday, we will proudly farewell our 14 Year 6 students, knowing that we send them on to the next stage of their educational journey with memorable learning experiences and a strong range of character strengths that will support them in their future endeavours. We farewell the students and their families who come to the end of their Lisieux journey and thank them for being part of our story. We wish you the brightest of futures.

During 2020, parents have had limited opportunities to visit our classes. Now that restrictions have eased somewhat, we would like to invite family members to join us for a final farewell in class groups on Wednesday. Unfortunately, we still cannot permit parents to participate in assemblies or liturgies, however, if you are available at 12 noon on Wednesday to join your child's final gratitude circle for the year, we welcome you to come along. Each class will have its own particular outdoor setting, as follows:

Ubuntu Garden: Year 5/6

The Field: Year 3 /4 (Spotted Eucalypt Rouge and Bleu)

Basketball court: 1/2 Waratah Rouge

Playground grass area: 1/2 Acacia Bleu

Playground area near tunnel: 1/2 Acacia Rouge

Seated area under tree: 1/2 Waratah Bleu

New playground area (lower): Carmel Rouge

New playground area (upper): Carmel Blanc

Outdoor Discovery area: Carmel Bleu

At 12:20pm all students in P-5 will form a guard of honour and we will 'ring out' our Year 6 students for the final time. It would be lovely to see any family members that are able to be present.

Semester Two Reports have been sent home with children today. These present information about your child's learning environment and achievement throughout the second half of the 2020 academic year. The reports represent a snapshot of your child's broader growth and development. We are certainly very proud of the learning journey of each of our Lisieux students this year, and I hope you will be equally proud to read about and discuss with your child, their progress this year.

I'd like to recognise the amazing work of our staff team in 2020. I have never worked in a school with such a committed, enthusiastic and positive group of professionals as Lisieux. Every member of our staff, whether they be classroom educators, learning support staff, administration or leadership team, have each contributed to the rich tapestry that forms our colourful team. The passion, commitment and drive to support our Lisieux students and contribute to our Lisieux culture is something I am extremely proud of and grateful for, and I'd like to pay tribute to their hard work and dedication during what has been a particularly challenging year for all schools.

ISSUE 38 | 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

<b>Mon 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony &amp; Lunch</b>
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 6 End of Year Excursion Swimming with dolphins</b>
	<b>Prep-Year 5 Beach Excursion Including hot chip lunch</b>
<b>Wed 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>End of Year Liturgy &amp; Assembly 9:30am</b>
	<b>Including presentation of awards:</b>
	<b>Full attendance; Creativity; Love of Learning; Kindness Teamwork; Spirit of Lisieux Nativity Play</b>
	<b>Final class gratitude circles held outside 12 noon</b>
	<b>12:20: ringing out of Year 6 students</b>
	<b>12:30: Classes conclude. Dismissal</b>
	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I offer a heart-felt thanks to all Lisieux parents for your continued support this year. Your friendly waves in the car park, words of appreciation, eagerness to support school activities and initiatives, finely-tuned juggling of home learning and changes in routine, and positive energy, have been greatly appreciated. Thanks for volunteering when you could, checking bags and emails for school messages, for calling us when your child was unwell or you needed to clarify something, supporting your child with reading at home and for some of the lovely messages and treats that found their way to our staffroom this year. These things kept us going and reminded us that we work in partnership with you to support the learning journey of your children.

Finally, to our 2020 Lisieux students: every day you make us smile and laugh; you challenge and motivate us. You dream and create and you inspire us. You are the reason we are here, why we work hard to create a nurturing learning environment and why we love the work we do. Thank you for being you.

As this is our final newsletter for the year, I wish every Lisieux family a happy, holy and blessed Christmas season.

God's blessings for a wonderful Christmas,

**Susan Ryan**

**Principal**

[Susan.ryan@lisieux.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Susan.ryan@lisieux.catholic.edu.au)

## PRAYER

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Amen.



## LOST PROPERTY

Today all named items in lost property have been given back to those students. If you have any missing containers, drink bottles or clothing please come in and check our lost property tubs prior to the end of school tomorrow (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December).

The remaining school uniform items will be washed over the weekend and be for sale on Monday morning. Items will be \$5 (CASH ONLY), first in best dressed.



*If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody. – Chinese Proverb*

### GIVING JUST FEELS GOOD

The act of giving makes us feel good – this simple fact is backed up by decades of research. When we give to others, a part of our brain known as the pleasure circuit is activated. Chemicals, such as dopamine and endorphins, are released. These chemicals cause that warm feeling associated with happiness.

Sometimes children (and parents) get tricked into thinking happiness comes from things and so what research actually shows us is that ‘giving’ is related to ‘happiness’ and not ‘receiving’. Christmas is a great opportunity for parents to show children that there’s joy in being charitable and that there’s more to life than holding out hands for seemingly endless gifts.

Educators and parents can help children realise where true happiness comes from and that it’s not coming from toys, devices or other things and that it is coming from giving. Why not practice giving 365 days a year and not just at Christmas time? If children see us giving and modelling compassion and generosity they will learn to do the same.

### **How can we expand children’s whole idea of giving and help them understand giving is not just about giving money or things?**

They can give time, love and help to others. Little acts like saving an insect or an animal is an act of giving. And those acts which are helpful are going to make children happier and more confident.

### **How can a family volunteer with young children?**

By volunteering as a family, parents can raise children who not only care, but help others. Families with young children can participate in family volunteer projects. Talk to your children about what issues matter to them and what causes they would like to support.

How about visiting a nursing home or joining in with a community clean up day. Serving meals at a homeless shelter or holding a bake sale for a good cause is another way of a family giving.

### **We need to catch children giving.**

Notice when children give, notice how they feel, notice that they look happy when giving. Some Christmas gift giving ideas:

*Christmas box activities – filling a box with goods for someone of a certain age and gender who is homeless or less fortunate.*

*Donating good condition children’s and adult clothes all year round.*

*Buy gifts from charities linked to good causes.*

*Make sure that the list of what we’re going to give is longer than the list of what we’ve asked for.*

*Giving away toys that are in good condition when a new one is received (Christmas time).*

*At cubs preparing the homeless shelter at church by making the beds and preparing dinner before the guests arrive.*

*At school helping others who find math’s difficult.*

*Doing a beach clean up or helping a neighbor to clean up their garden.*

There are many ways to help children become happy givers, instead of always receiving gifts. There are so many ways to show children how to give generously. When a child has a strong sense of empathy for others, it not only encourages tolerance of others but it helps them build strong relationships and higher levels of overall happiness. Being generous can also promote good mental health.

Merry Christmas to all.

## PHOTOS WEEK 10





The P&F Committee would like to thank the Lisieux School Community and friends who have supported all our fundraising efforts this year.

**We have raised an incredible \$7268!** This has far exceeded our expectations, especially given the challenges of 2020!

The committee is now in discussion with the staff about how to allocate these funds and we look forward to sharing with you how it is spent.

**Tea-towels and Aprons** have arrived, and orders have been bundled. They will be sent home with the children this week.

**Wine** will be ready for collection soon. We will make an announcement about arrangements and make everyone who ordered wine get them in time for Christmas!

**Survey** We would love some feedback about Fundraising for 2020 and any ideas for 2021. Please follow this link here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XY575MM> it should only take a minute or two to complete.

Thank you and well done to the P&F Committee who spent much of their time and late nights this year working on all of our Fundraising initiatives, zoom committee meetings and engaging in many messenger conversations trying to arrange everything remotely! It hasn't been easy, but it's been worth it. We really look forward to a fresh start in 2021 and hopefully the opportunity to bring our community together, face-to-face!

Have safe and very Merry Christmas everyone!

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AND SUPPORTING THE  
LISIEUX COMMUNITY.**

**Chris Henson**



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