



Dear members of the Lisieux community,

As I prepare our last newsletter for 2021, and cast an eye back over some of the calendar entries and notes of this year, I am once again overwhelmed with equal parts of awe and gratitude. Many of us (falsely) assumed that after the pressures of 2020, this year would be smoother. In fact, we barely made it through a fortnight of Term One, before we had our first 'circuit breaker' lockdown, and the pattern of lockdowns and remote learning continued for over three terms. Along with that came, for many families, a yo-yo of working from home and juggling remote learning supervision - some of our families experienced retrenchment and financial stress; others battled health issues and family crises. It was a tough year. After a long period of remote learning, the gradual return to school began with Prep -Year 2 in late Term 3, and by the third week of Term 4 all our students were back on site. As a staff team, we noticed the challenges this extended period of lockdown had on students, particularly our older cohort, many of whom had 'disconnected' from peers / school and 'connected' heavily in other ways with social media, cyber-communication and gaming during time away from school. We had to re-learn our ways of being as a community. Character strengths such as perseverance, grit and humour surfaced as friendships and learning behaviours were re-established.

As exciting as it has been to be back on site and into our school routine, this has not come without a level of stress. We have been consistently vigilant about social distancing, hand sanitising, mask wearing and following mandated protocols to keep our community members safe. Many of our special calendar events could not go ahead as planned. Several families and staff members have been impacted closely by COVID and this has caused considerable anxiety. We have made it through this time by looking out for one another and displaying agility in our thinking and actions. Our students deserve a huge pat on the back for the resilience and growth mindsets they have displayed throughout this extraordinary time. Thank you to our Lisieux parents and family members who have worked with us in a spirit of goodwill and partnership throughout 2021. Thank you to our dedicated Lisieux staff who have stayed calm, turned up (remotely or on site) with a positive energy and willingness to be flexible, always putting our students at the centre of their decision making and planning. You are the people who make our community special.

DECEMBER

Thurs 9th Year 3/4 Camp Sovereign Hill return

Fri 10th End of Year Mass 9.30am

Beach Clean Up Excursion 2pm

Parents Welcome

Mon 13th Year 6 Graduation Dinner 6pm

Tues 14th Prep – Year 4 Beach Picnic Day

> Year 5/6 Excursion-Anglesea River

Wed 15th Students Conclude 12.30 PM FINISH TIME Despite the challenges of 2021, we have so much to be grateful for. We were thrilled to see the successful completion of our Stage 2 building, ready for Term 4 occupation, and were able to go ahead with the official opening and blessing of both buildings. With some flexibility, we were able to proceed with our School Production, a wonderful celebration of talent and creativity. Friday Flow resumed with great excitement; we were able to proceed with Prep transition sessions and the sacramental celebration of First Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation. Our Parents & Friends Committee were not held back by lockdowns and through some clever fundraising initiatives, raised some considerable funds for our playground landscaping project and sporting equipment. There were babies born, a staff member's wedding took place, and many opportunities to celebrate our blessings. May we always be grateful for the sense of welcome and togetherness we share within our community.

Our Year 3/4 students return from camp this afternoon and will be energised to share some of their special experiences from the last two days. For almost all of them, it was their first camp experience and for many, their first ever sleepover. How wonderful that we were able to re-schedule this event for our students before the end of the year.

Next Monday evening, we will proudly celebrate the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and farewell our 8 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. It will be our last small cohort of Year 6's and these students have been a very special group. 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 and pray for God's blessings on you.

With some sadness, we also prepare to farewell some staff members from Lisieux next week. Emily Marsh has worked with us as a Learning Support Officer this year. Emily has combined her role at Lisieux with the final year of her teaching degree and we congratulate her on her appointment to a teaching position at Geelong Lutheran College which she will begin in the new year, acknowledging her positive contribution to our school this year. Eckhart Phillip has worked with the four parish schools as Director of Faith and Mission for the last two years and has recently been appointed to a position at Sacred Heart College. We are appreciative of Eckhart's expertise and support over the past two years and wish him well in his new role. Georgia Hutchins commences maternity leave at the beginning of the 2022 school year. This is a happy time for Georgia, as she awaits the arrival of her second precious child, and her plan is to return to her home state and family in Hobart, Tasmania, during this time. Knowing that Georgia may indeed remain in Hobart, we thank her for her significant contribution to Lisieux. Georgia was the first staff member I employed when I was appointed to my role at Lisieux; she is a remarkable teacher and she will forever be a part of Lisieux story. She will be greatly missed. We also farewell Brianna McGennisken who, after three years as a Prep teacher at Lisieux, is taking on a new teaching opportunity at St Augustine's in Coffs Harbour. As much as we would love Brianna to stay with us, as an early career teacher she is modelling risk-taking and a growth mindset by giving herself opportunities to learn and grow, and I have the greatest admiration for this. Brianna is an incredible educator and if she has taught your child, you will know how lucky they have been to have her in their lives. We wish her every happiness and hope she may one day decide to return to Lisieux.

Semester Two Reports will be sent home with children next Tuesday. These present information about your child's broader growth and learning achievement throughout the second half of the 2021 academic year. I hope you enjoy reading and discussing the report with your child and I am sure you will be very proud of their achievements.

Our End of Year Liturgy will take place tomorrow at 9:30am followed by the presentation of awards. Parents are welcome to attend, but rather than entering the building, should check in outside the Multi-Purpose Area and will be seated outside (the doors will be open.) As you know, proof of double vaccination status is required if you wish to come along.

Thank you for the most amazing response to Branching Out Week. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of families and we know all the donations will be gratefully received by local charity organisations. Nothing is more 'Christmas' than giving to those in need and the kindness of our community is personified in the enormous, overflowing boxes of beautiful donations.

As this is our final newsletter for the year, I wish every Lisieux family a happy, holy and blessed Christmas season. May the new year bring growth, joy and good health.

God's blessings for a wonderful Christmas,

Susan Ryan

Principal

Susan.ryan@lisieux.catholic.edu.au



A reading from the Gospel of Luke (2:8-20)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

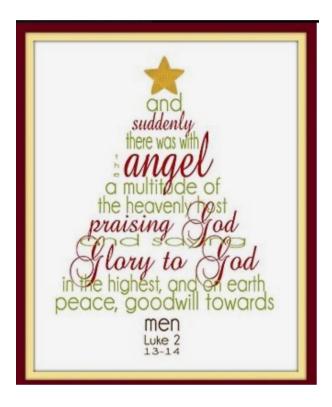
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Reflection:

Every one of us has a birth story that is very special, but for a birth to be announced by an angel, as this Gospel writer tells us happened for Jesus' birth, is amazing! The announcement is made to the shepherds, who were poor and disadvantaged. This lets us know that Jesus came for all people, especially those who were having a hard time. This story reminds us that there is great joy in the birth of Jesus, and it brings us hope.

Loving God, in this Christmas season we thank you for the great joy you have sent us in the birth of Jesus. Help us to be the voice and hands of the angel sharing Jesus with one another this Christmas season. Amen.





A big congratulations to Daniel and Amy Shirley on the safe arrival of their precious daughter Isabelle
Born 20/11/21

3490g

Completely adored little sister for Finn (Carmel Rouge), Kai & Indi



Sport - By Matilda Wraight

When we all play sport we feel free
Everytime you get a goal, a shot, a point you high five yourself
You try not to smile because you don't want to look lame
You try to do your best in all games

We all want to be famous like Lebron or your famous idol
Be better than them
When you go to sleep dream of you playing for the dream team
When you wake up you feel you can do anything
Soon to realise it takes work and dedication

You might not be amazing at school work but you can be great at sport
When you put your team jersey on you feel a responsibility
A responsibility to win with your team
Make your team proud

When you get back from school and you had a tough day
Pick up that ball, jump into that pool
Shoot that ball, get your fastest lap
And all your worries fly away
You feel like you can do anything that the world throws at you

That's what sport does for you



Our Lost Property tub is overflowing. Items that have not been claimed by Monday morning will be available for sale at \$10 per item (cash only) from 8am on Tuesday morning in Reception. First in best dressed!

Wellbeing

RECOMMENDED PODCAST

'Why Daisy Turnbull Loves Taking Risks'

Resilience is one of the biggest self-development buzzwords. Everybody wants to be more resilient yet anxiety and depression in young children has hit an all time high.

Daisy Turnbull knows this all too well.

The author, mother of two, and director of wellbeing has researched different parenting styles extensively and one thing is clear. The rise of helicopter parents, who are protecting their kids from risk is leaving us with a bubble wrapped generation with stunted independence.

In this podcast, she chats about parenting and the surprising link between risk-taking and resilience.

Scan the QR code to hear more.























































Chicken, Duck and Ubuntu Garden Volunteers



Dear Families and Friends,

We are in need of volunteers these holidays to look after our chickens, ducks and Ubuntu Garden.

Jobs are- Keeping water tubs full, making sure food containers are full, opening and closing coop and watering the garden.

The dates are the following:

- Thursday 16th Dec- Wednesday 22nd Dec
- 2) Thursday 23rd Dec- Wednesday 29th Dec
- Thursday 30th Dec- Wednesday 5th Jan
- 4) Thursday 6th Jan- Wednesday 12th Jan
- 5) Thursday 13th Jan- Wednesday 19th Jan
- Thursday 20th Jan- Wednesday 26th Jan

If you would like to volunteer, please email Ron Dando with the dates that suit you-

Ronald.dando@lisieux.catholic.edu.au

Thank you in advance.





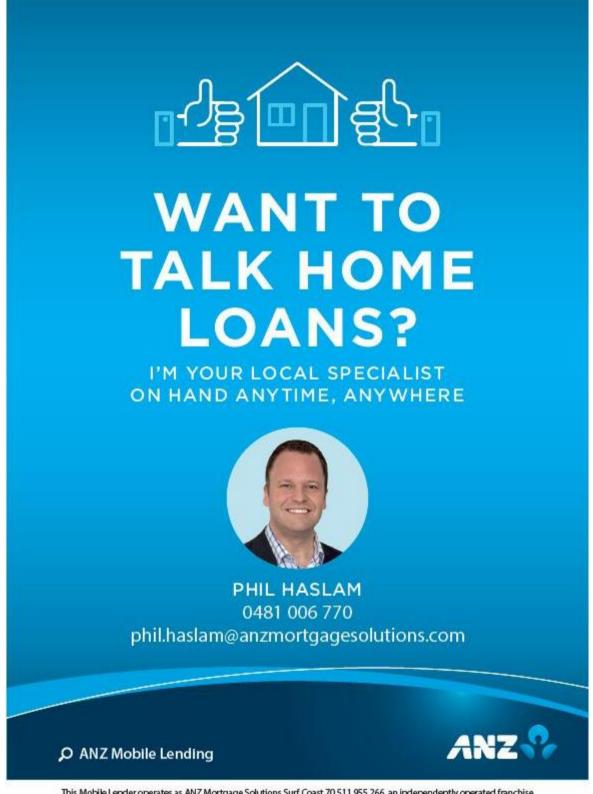
2022
JUNIOR
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
NOW OPEN



EOIS close 15. 01. 2022 (late submissions will be placed on a waiting list)

https://www.torquaytigers.com/netball or Email us @ Torquaytigersnetballclub@gmail.com

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS



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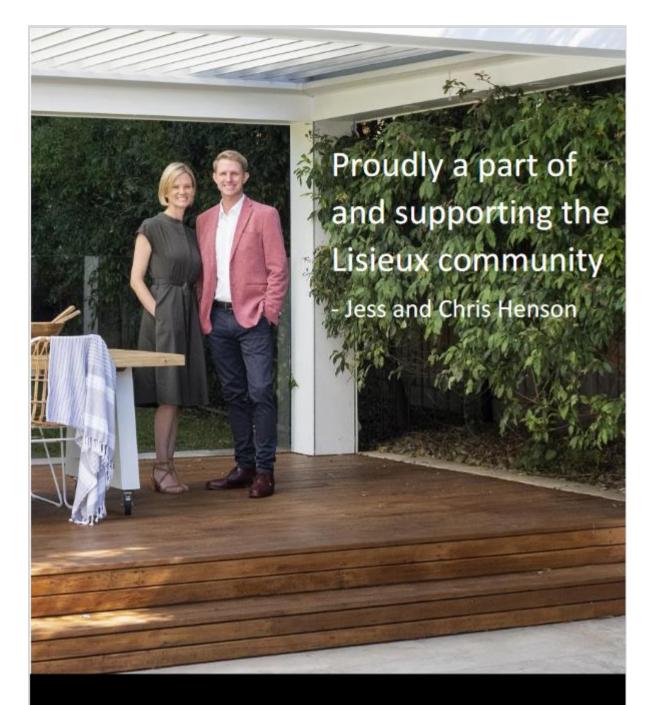


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If you have any questions about real estate, we're always happy to have a chat.

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They are on again! Lions Beached Duck Races

Have a "quack" by adopting a duck in the Lions Club of Torquay's Beached Duck Race.

Race Day

9.30am Saturday December 11th

\$10/duck, a limited number of ducks are available for adoption. All funds generated will go to Lions projects serving our community.

1st Prize \$350 Bunnings Voucher 2nd Prize \$100 IGA Voucher 3rd Prize \$50 Torquay Books Voucher

Please go to our **Facebook** page or **torquaylionsclub.org.au** for further information on ticket purchasing and prizes.

Lions Club of Torquay

