From the Principal

Class Configurations for 2015

I wish to inform you of an exciting and innovative opportunity for class reconfiguration which will occur at St Thomas More’s Catholic Primary School for the year of 2016. The classes will be:

- Grade 3 class consisting of boys and girls – Mrs Janet Wilson
- Grade 4 all boys class - Mrs Denise Morgan
- Grade 3/4 all girls class – Mrs Julie Love and Mrs Kate Chugg

We are able to configure this arrangement due to the larger number of boys currently in the Grade 3 level 2015. In all classes we continue to embrace diversity and inclusion and will continue to teach according to the Australian Curriculum in all learning areas.

New Staffing for 2015

I would like to welcome Jessica McLachlan to our staff for the next 7 weeks on 1/2 Rooney. Aimee will be at school in the capacity of Support Teacher in the 1/2 area and also helping out with transitions of students for classes next year. Aimee will be liaising closely with the 1/2 staff, with Julie Nailer and with Julie Love.

Jessica is a recent graduate teacher with a diverse range of experience in 12 schools across the greater Launceston area over the last 12 months. Jessica is a committed young Catholic heavily involved as a volunteer in The Edmund Rice Organisation since 2006, where her involvement with young people cemented her desire to go teaching.

Jessica will be linking directly with Aimee with the teaching and learning for the next seven weeks and is looking forward to enriching the students experiences as they finish off the learning year for 2015.

Carol Seagar
Principal
I love the passage above but have always been slightly confused on why we should consider the poor, the sad, the meek to be blessed when God wants us all to flourish. However recently reading the explanation below I have come to a new understanding on these wise words.

Jesus astonishes the crowd by saying that such people are ‘Blessed’. How can this be? Certainly, it is paradoxical.

The answer lies in Our Lord’s emphasis on the community, the new society, the new people he is establishing under the reign of God: what he calls ‘the Kingdom of God’.

Those in such wretched circumstances will have things set right, will experience a great reversal of their situation, but only if other people in this new group of the followers of Jesus do everything possible to lift the poor out of the poverty which crushes their spirit, do everything possible to comfort those who mourn, do everything possible to make sure the gentle share in the earth’s resources, do everything possible to satisfy the craving for justice, do everything possible to prevent persecution or at least to strengthen those undergoing such torments.

So, when we read the Beatitudes, we should not read them as a message advocating a passive ‘suffer your lot because there is pie in the sky’. The Beatitudes are a call to action, a call to the followers of Jesus to be maternal, to be comforters, to be whole-hearted, to be active in overcoming those divisions which are unjust and destroy people, whether individuals or societies. (Father Michael Tate)

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**Book Club**

The final issue of Scholastic Book Club for 2015 will be sent out shortly. If you would like any items kept aside for gifts please let me know and they will be left at the office for collection.

Thank you. Rebecca

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**FAIR NEWS**

- Reminder to bring raffle books back.
- Get your art competition entries in - great prizes!
- Donations of toys and books.
- Treasure chest keys available for sale from Monday morning in the piazza. $5 each
- Bring back your lucky cups.
Minnie Vinnies’ Van Fundraiser
Please donate any of these items in order to help feed the homeless in Launceston.

**TOWELS AND APRONS**

Many thanks to the community for supporting this fundraiser for the fair and to the P & F ladies for their organisation of this, especially Mrs Karen Cashion.
Why is The Old Umbrella Shop a significant building in Launceston?

The National Trust
When John Shott died in 1978, there was no one to take over the family business. The National Trust realised the importance of the building and seeing as the Shott family ran the business for over 70 years, they bought the shop in 1979 and re-named it "The Old Umbrella Shop". Today it is one of Launceston's top tourist attractions and still sells umbrellas and souvenirs. It is run by a team of 80 to 90 volunteers.

So why is the Umbrella Shop significant building in Launceston?

The Umbrella Shop is a significant building because it has played an important role in Launceston's history and has continued selling umbrellas, walking sticks and souvenirs for over years. The interior of the shop remains intact with its blackwood cabinets, beautiful displays and original signs. Old Umbrella Shop gives us a gateway to the past.

References
R. Shott and Son (1941) From the NE Advertiser 5/8/1941.