





MASS TIMES: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am. All welcome!

16th March 2017

DIARY DATES

Friday 17th March St Patrick's Day

Tuesday 21 March

Harmony Day

Thursday 23 March **Primary Cross Country**

Friday 24 March

Bandaged Bear Fundraiser

and Mufti

Wednesday 29 March Rite of Reconciliation

Friday 31 March Disco

Infants - 5.30 to 6.30pm Primary – 7.00 to 8.30pm

Monday 24 April

Wednesday 26 April

ANZAC Day Prayer, 10.15am

P&F Meeting, 7.00pm Thurs/Fri 27/28 April

Year 6 in Canberra

Wed 3 / Thurs 4 May

Evening, 7.30pm (repeated)

Tues-Thurs 9-11 May

NAPLAN

Thursday 11 May Mothers' Day Stall

Friday 12 May Mothers' Day Mass and

Devonshire Tea

Monday 15 May

School Photos Sat/Sun 20/21 May

Eucharist Enrolment at Mass

Wednesday 24 May Feast of Mary Help of

Christians Prayer

Saturday 27 May

Parish Trivia Night

Wednesday 31 May

P & F Cookie Dough Promotion

Wednesday 14 June Eucharist Rehearsal, Group 1

Sunday 18 June

First Eucharist, Group 1

Wednesday 21 June Eucharist Rehearsal, Group 2

Friday 23 June

Feast of Sacred Heart Mass. 9.15am

Sunday 25 June

First Eucharist, Group 2

Friday 18 August PUPIL FREE DAY

Sunday 22 October DLOW SCHOOL FETE Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

It was exciting to see so many people join us for our Catholic Schools Week activities. It began with a beautiful prayer led by our Year 6 leadership team at assembly. On Tuesday many future parents arrived for a tour of the school and information session outlining our facilities and learning platform. On Wednesday eight of our Year 6 students went with Miss Mizzi to a leadership conference at Homebush with schools



from all over the state. On Thursday the rooms were buzzing with children sharing their learning with their parents, grandparents and relatives. Our photos on the school Facebook page tell a great story of collaboration and partnership. Over thirty parents then stayed for a Maths Workshop about the teaching of Multiplication and Division.

Throughout the week, the OLOW Art Exhibition was on show in the hall. What a wonderful display of creative ideas and designs. The display raised an additional \$1200 towards the building of our covered outdoor learning area and we thank all parents and friends for showing your appreciation.

I wish to thank our teachers and support staff for all they do to make the learning at Our Lady of the Way engaging and interesting for our students.

May God Bless You, Mrs Sue Veling **Principal**

OUR LADY OF THE WAY MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of the Way is a Catholic community in which children, teachers and parents nurture a sense of personal worth as they work together in a safe, happy, challenging and faith-centred learning environment.

QUALITY CATHOLICS SCHOOL SURVEY

Each year, every school in the Diocese of Parramatta participates in the Quality Catholic School Survey. Staff, students and randomly selected parents are invited to participate. The survey period begins on 13th March and concludes on 24th March. I encourage parents who receive a survey to complete it, as it gives us another lens by which to gather information about how we are functioning as a faith community.

PUPIL FREE DAY

Our next Staff Development Day (PUPIL FREE DAY) will be held on Monday 24th April. The following day is the ANZAC day holiday so students return back to school on Wednesday 26th April.

WINTER UNIFORM CHANGEOVER

Students return to school after the holidays on Wednesday 26th April wearing their winter uniform. There will be a two-week change over, if you feel the weather is still too warm for children to return in winter uniform. By Monday 8th May all children will be wearing winter uniform. The correct uniform should be worn at all times in order to maintain high expectations. If, for any reason, a child is unable to wear any part of the correct uniform, a note should be sent to the child's teacher. The school hat is an essential item of school uniform. The wearing of the school hat is compulsory throughout the year. For a full list of school uniform requirements, please refer to our School Website.

ENROLMENT TIME

The month of March marks the beginning of our enrolment period. If your child is of school age and is ready to begin Kindergarten in 2018, please collect an enrolment package from our school office or download an application from our website. Please share this information with family and friends who are interested in sending their child to Our Lady of the Way.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 1 WEEKS 6 & 7





Zac Welton, Dylan McDonald, Georgia Cashel, Holly Penny, Abby Godwin, Joshua Vanegas, Jason Armstrong, Samuel Bray, Ben Thomas, Mikayla Blazek, Emma Lohan, Noah Downey, Tianna Stansfield, Taj Le Breton, Kennedy Storr, Kieran Smith, Jayden Ryan, Isaac Steele, Zoe Robertson, Ashley Hughes, Billy Trad, Lucia Hooke, Isabelle Moran, Justin Bailie, Logan Sultana, Harper Watson, Maggie-Rose Cremen, Jai Noranha, Cooper Sulic, Sienna Footman, Charlie Thomas, Jessie Whiteley, Roman Belcastro, Cooper Bahlman, Milaya Cleary.

CONGRATULATIONS

As we await the birth of Mrs Grima-Starkey's baby we are pleased to announce that Mrs Kakoschke is expecting her second baby in July. With everything progressing well, Mrs Kakoschke will begin her maternity leave from 30th June.

NAPLAN 2017

National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing will be conducted at *Our Lady of the Way* from 9-11 May 2017 for all students in Years 3 & 5.

	Tuesday 9 th May	Wednesday 10 th May	Thursday 11 th May
Year 3	* Language Conventions (40	* Reading	* Numeracy
	minutes)	(45 minutes)	(45 minutes)
	* Writing		
	(40 minutes)		
Year 5	* Language Conventions (40	* Reading	* Numeracy
	minutes)	(50 minutes)	(50 minutes)
	* Writing		
	(40 minutes)		

If you have any concerns about your child sitting the NAPLAN testing, please talk to Mrs Veling.

OLOW NEW PHONE NUMBER

If the school has phoned you, you may have noticed a new phone number appearing on your screen. CEDP are installing a new phone system across the Diocese and our existing numbers do not comply. Our New number is 4777 7200. The old number will continue to be diverted to the school for a few months.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

On Monday 15th May all students will have individual and grade photos taken. As in previous years, pre-paid envelopes will be sent home two-weeks prior to the date. Please ensure that the correct money is enclosed in the prepaid envelope, as no change will be given. Family photos are also available, and these envelopes will be available from the office. This year students will wear their **SPORTS UNIFORM** for the photos.

Year 6 students will have a graduation photo in their summer uniform and a grade photo in their new white polo shirts.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY 2017

All *Our Lady of the Way* students and their parents are invited to join our Year 6 leadership team at the 37th Annual Emu Plains ANZAC Day Service.

Date: Tuesday 25th April 2017

Address: Emu Plains Guide Hall (cnr Nepean Street & Great Western Highway)

Time: 7:50am for 8am start - marching across to the Cenotaph in Emu Plains Park

Please wear your summer uniform and meet Mrs Day, Mrs Flanagan and Miss Mizzi as we march together

carrying our school banner.

OLOW STUDENT ATTENDANCE - EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY

Our Attendance figure to date for 2017 is:



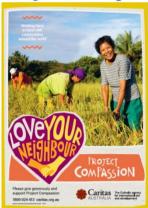
This is the first time we have reach the 90% target this year! Unfortunately, until yesterday our whole school attendance level was at around 86%. While 86% may look reasonable - in real terms this is 344 absent days across the school so far this year.

School attendance EVERY DAY is very important.





Project Compassion 2017 – Love Your Neighbour



The theme for Project Compassion 2017 is "Love Your Neighbour". This year Project Compassion demonstrates how love for our neighbours can transform lives. For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in First Australian communities and in many other countries. Working with our partner agencies in those communities, we have developed the strength to combat poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of every person.

Each family received a Project Compassion Box at the beginning of Lent. Children are encouraged to sacrifice some of their own treats during lent and placing the money in the Project Compassion Box in order to help someone in need.

Bicycles and Scooters Safety @ OLOW

As outlined in the OLOW Parent Handbook and in keeping with RMS and Department of Education & Training guidelines, **only children in Years 5 and 6** are permitted to ride bikes or scooters to school unsupervised, provided they:

- are at least 10 years old;
- have their parent's permission in writing to be provided to the class teacher at the beginning of each year;
- obey all road safety rules when travelling to and from school;
- walk their bike/scooter while in the school grounds;
- wear a helmet.

For the protection of the children and other road and footpath users you are urged to take some time to talk to your child about bike safety and the laws they are required to follow. The privilege of riding to school will, after consultation with parents, be withdrawn from any student known to be behaving in a dangerous or unsafe manner while riding to and from school.

Year 4 students participate in the C.A.R.E.S. Bike and Road Safety Education Program later in the year.

Bandaged Bear Appeal Mufti Day

On <u>Friday 24th March</u> we will be having a mufti day to support The Children's Hospital at Westmead, through the Bandaged Bear Appeal.

The Bandaged Bear Appeal is a fundraising appeal held in March each year, helping to raise vital funds for brave patients who rely on the hospital for treatment. *Our Lady of the Way* School has many children who receive or have received treatment at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Our support of the Bandaged Bear Appeal makes it possible to continue providing world-class care and treatment to thousands of children.



The children are asked to wear yellow or pink items of clothing and to bring their favourite teddy to school to share the day. **A \$2 gold coin donation from each child** will help raise as much money as we can for this important appeal.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

At Our Lady of the Way, we believe that developing our students as leaders is of great importance. Some students will have the opportunity at some point to be a part of the Student Representative Council and all students will be student leaders in Year 6. Developing students as leaders provides opportunities for student agency and voice in our school and helps to develop skills that each of them require in teenage and adult life. Last Monday, 8 of our school leaders joined me at the GRIP Student Leadership Conference at Homebush where they learnt about what it means to be leader. Over the course of the year, they will work with their Year 6 peers and the SRC to develop leadership at OLOW and take action in the school. Some of the concepts explored were:

- Responsibility: They have the ability to stand up and make a difference. Our student leaders are empowered to stand up and take this responsibility.
- Leaders are helped by knowing:
 - Their own strengths
 - Their own weaknesses
 - Other's strengths
 - Their own character strengths

"No person is strong at everything but a team is strong at many things."

- Responsibility in leadership means accepting the duty to contribute to others and follow through on expectations.
- Responsibility can be displayed in 4 ways:
 - Role modelling values
 - Upholding the trust of others
 - Responding to needs
 - Developing own strengths
- Leaders need to be able to turn ideas into action.
 - A: agree on an idea
 - C: create a proposal
 - T: talk widely
 - I: identify tasks
 - O: organise roles
 - N: navigate challenges





This was a fabulous experience for the student leaders and they are energised to bring their new learnings back to school. Well done to Daniel, Benjamin, Layla & Jorja, Espri, Bailey, Sophia and Kennedy and a big thank you to Mrs Storr who attended the day with me and the leaders.

Emma Mizzi

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The 3 Senses In Religious Education

As teachers of Religious Education we believe that an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ can transform students' lives. In order for this to occur students need to make meaning of the scriptures and connect on a deeper and personal level.

When exploring scripture, the students enter the **Literal sense** and look at the who, what, where, when and why by exploring the facts in the passage. By identifying important words and phrases the children connect with the main ideas and the teacher can clarify any confusion or misconceptions.

Looking at the same scripture they enter the **Spiritual sense**. Connecting it to Catholic Practice and Tradition and asking *where is God/Jesus in the passage and what is revealed about them?* Exploring a connection to the *Catholic Church and/or the Sacraments*. Then asking *How does this passage guide a Christian to live a moral life? How does this passage point to Heaven?*

Finally, they enter the **Application Sense.** By applying the literal and spiritual senses students can consider 'What can I change in my thoughts, words and actions?'. They also consider how prayer can deepen their connection with God and help them to identify ways they can lead a Christian Life.

By exploring scripture in this way students have a deeper sense of connection to God's word and feel that God is speaking directly to them. The students will *dig deeper* as the Word becomes relevant to their lives. Exploration of scripture will take students to deeper levels of personal application. When students discover that God's Word is relevant to their everyday lives, they will get excited about meeting God.

Parish Sacramental Program:

Please keep in your prayers those children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as their families who are supporting them. The Rite of Reconciliation for the children will be held on March 29 at 7:30pm in the Church.



Scripture Bags:

Our Religious Education goal for this year is to help bring a deeper understanding of the scriptures to the children, including reflection on how to apply the message of the scriptures to their lives. One of our strategies in working towards achieving this goal is to share Scripture Bags with families. Each grade will have two bags and the students will be invited to take them home to share with their family.

Families will be able to reflect on a piece of scripture that the grade has looked at in Term 1 or share a simple prayer experience together. We are hoping that together we can reflect on the importance of the presence of Jesus in our lives. More information will be shared in the next newsletter.

Project Compassion:

Our Outreach Team would like to challenge students to be contributing to Project Compassion during the season of Lent. They will be working on a project called 'Piggytas' where children can bring in money and contribute to their grade Project Compassion box in order to raise money to buy pigs for a community, such as the one shared by Caritas.

Dinia, from the Philippines, took part in training on how to raise pigs for income, and share their offspring with neighbours through a Hog Dispersal Program. How many pigs could we 'buy' from our fundraising?

Our Outreach Team will visit classes to speak the students about their challenge.

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent began with our students from Years 3-6 attending the Ash Wednesday Mass and received ashes from Fr Mick, withstudents from McCarthy College and the parish community. The Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 students and their parents attended an Ash Wednesday liturgy in the church.

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

EARNING NEWS

What is Project Based Learning

Project Based Learning (PBL) refers to students designing, planning and carrying out an extended project that produces a product, publication or presentation. Well designed PBL enables the students to drive the learning where the teacher acts as a facilitator and works beside the student asking questions.

As teachers, we always need to be looking for new and exciting ways to teach our 21st century students to the best of our ability. PBL is one way we can do exactly that.

PBL allows students to:

- come up with a solution to a real world problem
- be inspired and engaged
- research their topic
- work collaboratively
- develop confidence
- work independently
- use the knowledge they gain
- use technology in the classroom
- solve problems and think critically
- present their findings and solutions in a variety of ways



Our Year 5 and 6 students have already embarked on their first PBL focussing on *Natural Disasters*. The driving question for this project is:

How can we, as emergency preparation teams, help people to be planned to survive a natural disaster? The students are already so engaged in the first steps of this project. They are working in small groups, pairs and individually to research a chosen Natural Disaster answering some key questions. We look forward to seeing their projects develop.

SPORTS NEWS

CROSS COUNTRY

The OLOW Cross Country Carnival will be held on Thursday 23rd March at Hunter Fields, Emu Plains commencing at 9.30. All children will need to wear their sports uniform on this day as well as Monday and Friday. Students in Year 2 who turn eight this year and students in Years 3 through to Year 6, will all walk down to Hunter Fields together and students will be called when it is their turn to participate. They will have the chance to compete and an opportunity to watch their classmates compete.

All children are expected to participate and complete the circuit to the best of their ability.

Children who are:

- 8/9 or 10 years old will run 2000 metres (Please note that the 8 and 9 year age groups will run together.)
- 11 and 12 years will run 3000 metres.

All other Year 2 students will participate in a mini Cross Country with Kindergarten and Year 1 students at school.

The Diocesan Sports Council advises that any child who has been ill in the two weeks leading up to the carnival should not participate in such an event. Please advise your child's teacher if this is the case. Children who suffer from asthma must bring their medication with them. Every child must bring a hat and a bottle of water.

The children will return to school after they have competed in their event.



GENERAL NEWS

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS AT OLOW

All parent helpers and volunteers at OLOW need to fill in an online Volunteers Undertaking (which will determine if you need a Working with Children Check number) and you will also need to complete an online Child Protection Training module every two years.

Examples of volunteer workers in a school include:

- * Music Helpers
- * Reading Helpers
- * Maths Helpers
- * Computer Tutors

- * Library Helpers
- * Excursion Helpers
- * Classroom General Helpers
- * Sports Carnival Helpers

Volunteers will need to complete the Volunteer Form and the Training Module. These can be accessed by going to:

http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers



Please click on 'Volunteer Form' and fill that in. Once completed, you will need to return to the above page and this time click on the 'Training Module' button. That will take you to a video presentation regarding child protection and there will be a short quiz at the end.

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been completed, and another email once the training module and quiz have been finished. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmations are emailed to OLOW.

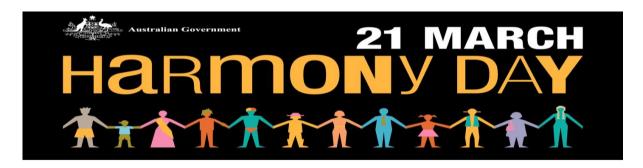
If you are unsure whether your training is up to date, please contact the office and the office staff will be able to help you.

Please note: When you come to school to help out in any area of the school, or if you are attending an excursion, you are required to sign in and out at the office. This is a mandatory requirement for all schools.

To ensure the safety and welfare of all children at Our Lady of the Way, a record of volunteers who have complied with this requirement is kept at the office. Before any parent helpers are selected for excursions, it is standard practice to check that **both** of these requirements have been met.

Grandparents who would like to help in any way are also very welcome to comply with these requirements and be added to our list.

Thank you for your generous support, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved and thank you for working together to ensure our children are kept safe at all times.



Tuesday March 21st is Harmony Day here in Australia. It is also the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This is a time when we celebrate both the wonderful diversity of cultural backgrounds that make up our lucky country Australia and what it is to be an Australian today.

The theme for this year's Harmony Day is "Strength in Diversity" and the message is always "Everyone belongs." We are taking time to appreciate all the many gifts that have been brought to our country from cultures all over the world and from our indigenous Australians, the Aboriginal people.

To celebrate Harmony Day here at OLOW, we are having discussions in our Japanese lessons over the next week about Australia's cultural diversity and our cultural diversity here at school. Last year, we discovered that our families came from over 40 different cultural backgrounds.

This year we are not only looking into our own families' cultural backgrounds but we are also exploring our positive encounters with other cultures in Australia. Maybe you would like to visit the Harmony website and read of some of the inspirational stories there from people who have come from other countries to live in Australia.

http://www.harmony.gov.au/stories/

At our Monday morning assembly, we will have a special Harmony Day prayer presented by our Year 6 leaders. Some students from Year 5 will then tell us about what Harmony Day means to them and some of their positive experiences with another culture here in Australia and remind us about what we can wear to show our support for Harmony Day on Tuesday.

Orange is the colour of harmony. We ask that each student wear just a touch of orange with their school uniform on Tuesday 21st of March - For example maybe you could wear an orange ribbon pinned to your school shirt, an orange scarf, an orange cap or hat, a Harmony Day Badge (you could make one at home saying "Everyone Belongs") or maybe you could wear or bring something from your family's cultural background to share with your class.

Our music for the bells at school for the week of Harmony Day (Monday 20th March to Friday 24th March) will be from many different cultural backgrounds and we will again hold a Guessing Competition to see if the children can guess what country the music comes from.

The entry box will be located next to the Kindergarten Room outside the Staff Space. Look for the Big Orange Entry box under the Harmony Day Sign.

Children need to write their name, their class and the country they think the music is from on a piece of paper and pop it in the box. (There will be paper and pencils near the Entry Box. The first correct answer drawn each day wins the prize.

Gambatte!! (Gum ba tay) Japanese for Good Luck!!

With thanks for your support,

Mrs Kate Filan-Schafer

Japanese Teacher



CLOTHING POOL – ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for additional volunteers to open the clothing pool and sell second hand clothing one afternoon or morning a week from 2.30pm (any day that suits). If you have a half an hour to spare one morning or afternoon per week (around bell time), your assistance in the clothing pool would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

KINDERGARTEN MUNCH 'n CRUNCH

A big thank you to the Kinder parents for providing such a wonderful array of treat today for the Munch 'n Crunch Fundraiser.

Our students love these special days!

A BIG THANK YOU FROM YEAR 2

The Year 2 students and teachers wish to thank the MacLennan and Tait families their donation of city interlocking mats. We all greatly appreciate your generosity.



SCHOOL FEES REMINDER

Thank you to the families who have finalised their school fees for Term 1. The due date for payment was 6th March 2017. Thank you also to the families who have commenced their Flexible Payment Plan arrangements.

Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made with me, fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued."

If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, I encourage you to contact me on 4777 7200 or pvion@parra.catholic.edu.au to discuss payment options. The Catholic Education Office is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. Please be assured of complete confidentiality when discussing financial issues.

The school fee collection process has commenced on overdue accounts that have not been addressed as above.

School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, Direct Debit, cash, EFTPOS Credit Card or cheque.

Ms Pascale Vion

Senior Finance Officer

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

On Tuesday our Kindergarten teachers and leadership team head off for the annual compliance audit where documentation is checked against the NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) and CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta) requirements. All schools must display compliance to remain registered.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Emu Plains Community 37th Annual ANZAC Day Service

Tuesday 25th April 2017, 8:00am

Emu Plains Guide Hall

(Cnr Great Western Highway & Nepean St, Emu Plains)

Assemble at Emu Plains Guide Hall for flag raising ceremony followed by the march across to Melrose Park Cenotaph for the ANZAC Day Service.

If you have any questions please contact Emu Plains ANZAC Day co-ordinator Nerida Rylewski on (02) 47357228 or nlobsey@hotmail.com





