



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

2014 - Celebrating 35 years of Catholic Education

27th February 2014

DIARY DATES

28 February

Diocesan Swimming Carnival, Blacktown

Wednesday 5 March

Ash Wednesday
Mass 9.00am (Yrs 3-6)
and Liturgy 12.50pm (K-2)

Sunday 9 March CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS

Thurs/Friday 13-14 March

Year 6 Excursion to Canberra

Monday 17 March

PUPIL FREE DAY

Thursday 20 March

Munch & Crunch – Kinder

Friday 21 March

Cross Country Yrs 3-6

Tuesday 25 March

P & F Meeting, 7.30pm
All welcome

Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day

Monday 7 April

School Photo Day

Thursday 10 April

Holy Week Liturgy
12.30pm

Friday 11 April

Last day of Term 1

Stage 3 Touch Gala Day
St Marys

Monday 28 April

Term 2 Commences

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Students,

As I look through my diary I cannot believe that we have already been at school for five weeks. The hours, days and weeks seem to fly by, but I know that your children have already had many wonderful experiences at Our Lady of the Way.



Thank you and well done to all parents & carers that visited their child's teacher during the week for the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. What an empowering experience for your child as they took personal ownership of their learning goals and presented them to you. Working with the teachers, you are also nominated as someone who can assist your child in achieving their goals. If you missed out on meeting the teacher, please phone the office to arrange a time. I also wish to publicly thank the dedication and professionalism of the teachers at OLOW who spent many extra hours at school to be available for these meeting. They do it for the love of your children.....there is no such thing as overtime in the teaching profession!

Our Lady of the Way has been well represented again in the Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge. Twenty students read a total of 314 books over the Christmas break. We are very excited to announce that Abbey Flanagan from Year 2 has won an iPad and this will be presented to her during the week. Parents want the very best for their child. Reading is one gift that remains for a lifetime, much longer than iPads, Xbox games and DVDs. Together let's make sure that all children are given a future filled with reading.

Our Lenten journey begins next week, with Ash Wednesday on March 5 using the forty days in preparation for Easter. I reflect back to our opening mass where I challenged the children to make sure no one in our school is lonely; no one is left out in class; and no one suffers because of others. As we look ahead to the season of Lent, if we could do something special in word, action or thought each day of Lent, we too will grow closer to God.

I offer this reflection as one way of growing closer to God:

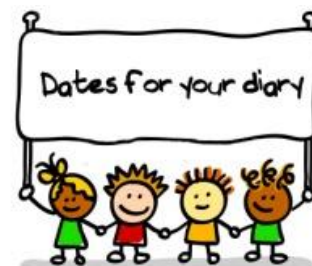
- Give up complaining – focus on gratitude
- Give up harsh judgements – think kindly thoughts
- Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness
- Give up negativity – be positive
- Give up gossiping – spread the good news
- Give up gloom – enjoy the beauty around you
- Give up giving up – hang in there!

May this Lenten season remind us to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.

God Bless,

Sue Veling
Principal

Working Bee – Saturday 8th March
School Fete – Sunday 1st June



2014 NSW PREMIERS READERS CHALLENGE

Last year many children from OLOW participated in the Premiers Readers Challenge. This year our students are encouraged again to pursue their love of reading for leisure, pleasure and learning by participating in the 2014 Premiers Readers Challenge. The Reading Challenge commences March 3 and concludes on August 22. For more information about the challenge see Mrs Masters or go to the following website: www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is being celebrated across the whole of NSW and ACT between 9-15 March. As part of our celebration at OLOW we will have our morning assembly and Catholic Schools Week prayer on Wednesday morning March 12. This will be followed at 9am by an open morning and tour of the school for prospective enrolments and their parents followed by morning tea. **Students** will then be invited to visit other classes in the school so they can see the wonderful work going on in each grade.

At 2pm parents, carers and friends are invited to visit our art gallery of beautiful portraits, landscapes and still-life created by the students depicting the theme of "Catholic Education - More than a great education" basing their style on a variety of famous Australian artists. (If you wish to purchase any painting, they will be on sale for \$5 each. All proceeds will go to sending a teacher from OLOW to World Youth Day in 2016.)

Year 6 will also present their 30 second video entries to the Catholic Schools Week competition, reflecting the Catholic Schools Week theme.

The week culminates with Year 6 going to Canberra on Thursday and Friday March 13 & 14.

At OLOW we have lots to celebrate!



NRL TACKLES BULLYING

On Monday, Years 3-6 were visited by the Penrith Panthers NRL team. The NRL players addressed the issue of bullying in schools. They showed a short video and talked to the students about the importance of preventing bullying in schools

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS

At OLOW, supervision of students on the playground does not begin until 8:15am. We are still seeing a handful of students being dropped off at school before this time without parent supervision. You are asked to use the service provided by COSHC, which provides supervision for a small fee. In Term 2 all school gates will be unlocked at 8:15am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Ash Wednesday:

Next Wednesday, on March 5, the season of Lent begins. Years 3 to 6 will be attending the Parish Mass which will commence at 9:00am. Children from Year 5 will be helping us to celebrate the Mass reading the Second Reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. Children in Kindergarten to Year 2 will take part in a prayer celebration prepared by our Kindergarten team later in the day.

Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent encourages us to turn our thoughts to those in need. It is the time of Project Compassion and reflecting on the work of Caritas and the inspiring stories of hope that they bring us. Next Wednesday the children will be invited to take home a Project Compassion box which they can use to show their support for others. Our Social Justice team will be sharing some of their projects in the weeks to come.

Faith in Our Future:

When you attended Mass last weekend you would have had some input from Bishop Anthony (via DVD or brochure) about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 'Faith in Our Future'. You are encouraged to visit the website: www.faithinourfuture.org.au to view ideas about how you can, in the words of Bishop Anthony, be involved in 'growing and sharing faith across our Diocese'.

Scripture in the Classrooms:

Year 6 are in the middle of the Religious Education unit 'Servant Leadership'. Key to their learning is the Scripture passage where Jesus washes the feet of the disciples prior to the Last Supper.

John 13: 5 – 17



After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

The students have been asked to reflect on different aspects of the Scripture, for example: to list the servant leader actions, to name the key moment of the Scripture passage, to write an imaginary conversation between Jesus and a school leader and to write a paragraph to explain what prompted Jesus to wash the disciples' feet.

Jerry from Year 6 shares his thoughts on the latter activity:

Jesus washed the disciples' feet to teach them one last lesson, the lesson of humility. He was washing their feet because it was a servant's job and he was trying to show that everyone is equal. No master is greater than their servant and no servant is greater than their master.

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

LEARNING NEWS

CSIRO INCURSION- MINI BEASTS AND LIFECYCLES – Year 1

I learnt that the male stick insects can fly.- Finbar

I liked when the male stick insect flew. I learnt that flies have blurry vision.- Cara

I liked when Taylor dressed up. He wore a costume with wings and antennae. It was funny.- Breha

I liked the fly goggles because I liked seeing blurry things. - Lachlan



MULTILIT

MultiLit is an Australian developed program that covers the essential reading components of word attack skills, sight word recognition and reinforced reading in an interactive, highly explicit and structured way. The MultiLit program will be run again in 2014 for selected students in Years 2-6.

If you are able to assist with the program for one or two hours a week, please contact Mrs McKeon. Training will be provided for interested volunteers. We hope to commence the program as soon as possible in some grades and at the start of Term 2 for the remainder.

DRAMA LITERACY

This term Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will experience a part of literacy learning at OLOW that builds on the student's ability to communicate and understand. Drama Literacy lessons are part of the regular literacy block. They are led by the classroom teacher along with Mrs Jenni Walsh and in Year 5 guided by a CEO Drama teacher Ms Lucinda Armour who is also a trained drama professional.

This term, *The Werewolf Knight* by Jenny Wagner is the book Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 are focusing on. Year 5 will be focusing on the book *The Ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon* by Aaron Blabey. Through drama games, activities and exercises the children explore characters, events and ideas. By using their whole bodies in their learning children are able to understand more deeply. What children begin to understand in the Drama Literacy session is explored more deeply in class, and the literacy skills are practised again and again through the week. Another great benefit of Drama Literacy is that children develop the skills needed for drama, which also happen to be very important for learning. Things like focus, stillness, listening, public speaking, improvising, being creative and confidence are all developed by Drama Literacy lessons.

The Essential Components of Reading...

What Makes a Good Reader?

Reading is not just about decoding words. Being a good reader relies on the development of many different skills. Scientific research shows that there are five essential components of effective reading that children must be taught in order to learn to read. Reading is a complex process and the concepts are acquired and built upon over time. Many complex understandings take years to develop. Teachers use a wide variety of strategies to develop reading skills in their students. This goes beyond the level or number on the back of the guided reader your child brings home. Building students' motivation to read and love of reading is central to developing effective, life-long readers.

The Five Essential Components of Effective Reading are:

1. **Phonemic Awareness:** Recognising and using individual units of sound to create words.
2. **Phonics:** The relationship between letters in the spelling of words and the sounds of the spoken language.
3. **Reading Fluency:** Recognising the words in a text rapidly and accurately and using phrasing and emphasis, that is reading with appropriate rate, expression and phrasing so that what is read sounds like spoken language.
4. **Vocabulary:** Learning the meaning and pronunciation of words and their context.
5. **Reading Comprehension:** Acquiring strategies to construct meaning from text that is accurate. Strategies that help to understand, remember and communicate what is read.

What Makes A Good Reader?

The way to identify a good reader goes beyond checking the number on the back of a book. Good Readers employ a wide variety of skills and strategies that help them to make sense of a text.

Good Readers:

- Use pictures and their knowledge of sounds and letters to understand the text.
- Use and consider their prior knowledge
- Make connections between texts and their own lives
- Self correct- if something doesn't make sense they will re-read
- Look for meaning while they read. Does this make sense?
- Ask questions as they read, and keep reading to find the answers
- Make predictions about what will happen next and use clues in the text to determine things the author does not say directly
- Understand what they have read.
- Re-read to find answers to questions and change their predictions as they get new information.
- Notice who the author is.
- Talk about books.
- Constantly check their understanding
- Use clues in the text to figure out the meaning of new words.
- See patterns in texts.
- Decode accurately
- Can summarise a story and identify the main idea.

Teaching children to read is a challenging responsibility met by both teacher and parent. We need to blend the five essential components to meet the individual needs of each child. The ultimate goal of reading is comprehension. Our aim is to develop effective, life-long readers.

Please contact me at mmifsud@parra.catholic.edu.au if you have any questions relating to the ***OLWCURRICULUMSPOT***.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.
[Joseph Addison](#)

Michael Mifsud

SPORTS NEWS

ZONE SWIMMING REPORT

On Tuesday 30 students represented OLOW at the Nepean Zone carnival. Once again the students demonstrated a strong sense of school spirit and pride in the achievements of their team mates. Congratulations to all members of the OLOW team, your teachers and parents were very proud of you on Tuesday.

An extra special round of applause for Keisha Chilmaid, Alyssa Procter, Tully Brown and Brock Healey who were all named as champion swimmers in their respective age divisions.

We wish the following students all the best as they represent OLOW and the Nepean Zone at the Parramatta Diocesan carnival on Friday at Blacktown pool:

Abby Ridding, Tully Brown, Clare Roser, Olivia Bennett, Shae Healey, Laura Patterson, Alyssa Procter, Keisha Chilmaid, Brock Healey, Jake Grosse, Kenny Mangan and Jerry Crumpton.

Many thanks to all the parents who assisted with time keeping and especially to Mr Dowdall and Mr Pearson for your extra efforts. Thanks also to Miss Kirsty Reynolds who was the marshall for the day on behalf of the OLOW team.



GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

BOOK COVERERS REQUIRED

We have many readers that need covering. If you are available to help please see Mrs Sue Masters in the library on Monday or Tuesday. Any assistance would be appreciated. All equipment will be supplied.

BOOKCLUB NEWS

An examination of our first Scholastic Book Club order for the year revealed we have a hoard of Minecrafters, pranksters, fact finders, potential spies and secret journal keepers. The overwhelming support for our first order of the year earned \$244.00 in reward points which will be utilised by the school to buy resources for the library and classrooms.

There has been some difficulty in Scholastic providing us with all our Minecraft orders this time around. A world-wide shortage of the *Minecraft Annual 2014* means it is unavailable (and won't be reprinted by the publisher) but Scholastic have provided a credit voucher to the value of the book amount and a replacement gift. The *Minecraft Redstone Handbook* is on back order and due within 2 weeks, and again customers will receive a back order gift from Scholastic. There are no problems with orders of the *Minecraft Beginners Handbook*.

Thank you for your support and look out for the next edition of Scholastic brochures soon.

Happy reading!

The Book Club Mums

OLOW School Website

Have you had a look at our website recently? You can find copies of most school notes on the site (Parents, School Notes), as well as photos from school events (News and Events, Multimedia Galleries) or our up-to-date School Calendar (News and Events, Event Calendar). Just go to:

www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au

CANTEEN NEWS

Crunchy Munchy Café Meal Deals \$ 4.50

Meal Deal 1

Salad Sandwich, Small Water, piece of Fruit

Meal Deal 2

Chicken Tender on Roll, Flavoured Milk, Fruit Stack Ice Block

Both meal deals are \$ 4.50

Also now available at the canteen: Coon Nibbles Cheese \$ 1.50, Sultanas \$ 1.00, Muesli Bar \$ 1.20

COMMUNITY NEWS

AUSSIE BANGLA SMILE

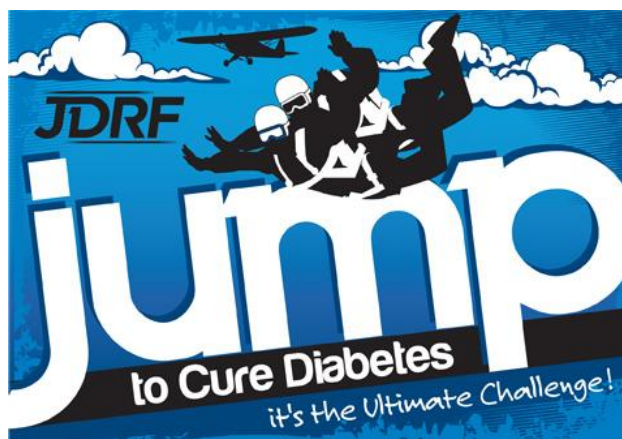
Best wishes to Karren Taber, mother of Annika (4G) and Chelsea (3G) who is part of a surgical aid group organised through Rotary and The Impact Foundation, leaving for Bangladesh on Friday to repair cleft lips and palates in children. AUSSIE BANGLA SMILE

Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park provides Catholic Education for Girls in Years 7-12 Enrolling now for 2015

An **Open Night** on Monday 3rd March from 6.00pm to 8.30pm includes information sessions, displays, performances and tours.

All considering enrolment in 2015 are invited to attend.
Students from Our Lady of the Way Primary are guaranteed a place at Caroline Chisholm College.

For further information contact the College on 4737 5506.



*Tickets will be available from
outside the office from
8.15am to 8.45am and from
2.55pm to 3.15pm every day
next week.*

*There will also be a 50 c jelly
bean guessing competition!*

Raffle



\$2 per ticket Drawn 1/4/14

1st prize – Gift Basket of Home Goods value \$400

2nd prize – Ladies Pamper Gift Basket value \$250

3rd prize – Kids Game Activity bundle value \$200

4th prize – Selection of Wines and Wine Carrier \$100

My son Carter is BRAVE every single day he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes April 2011 an autoimmune disease contrary to the belief's Carter did not eat too much sugar his pancreas just shut down no known reason and NO cure.

I am taking the plunge and Skydiving to raise much needed funds for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) a non for profit organisation that relies on fundraising for medical research. Currently JDRF have research programs that need funding. If my son is brave then I too have decided to be brave and take this challenge on even with my fear of heights!

Love Katie xo

www.jdrf.org.au/jump

Penrith BJP Physie are now holding registrations for 2014. Physie is a fusion of dance styles and a great way to get fit and have fun with friends. Classes are held Tuesday afternoons and are suitable for girls aged 3 and up. New members are welcome. For further information, contact Karen on 0418 975 765

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

If you have been separated or divorced and would benefit from regular shared discussion evenings with others who are in a similar situation to you, come along to STEPPING BEYOND on the last Tuesday of each month at CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, at 7.30pm! You are very likely to be supported and helped through the sharing of experiences on matters such as "How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?" Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry is commencing an eight session Bereavement Support Program in Blacktown for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or long term partner. They will be held on every second Tuesday commencing 4th March from 10.00am – 12.00pm at CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Each fortnight we will take a different aspect of grief and have some input, reflection, sharing and discussion about how grief is affecting you and how you are working through it. You do not have to commit to the whole 8 Sessions when you come; you may just prefer to come to Sessions that particularly seem fitted to your need. The first topic is "The Physical Effects of Grief". Details and Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

Smart Loving Workshop

On Sunday 23rd March 2014, from 2.00 – 5.00pm, there is a SmartLoving Workshop at the Holy Family School Hall, 32 Willowdene Avenue, Luddenham. It is open for all married couples and even couples who are engaged will find it beneficial. It is an opportunity for marriage enrichment where we reflect on our relationships with one another and our children. Bookings are essential. For further details please contact Jess on 9319 6280 or email infor@smartloving.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples

21 – 23 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings: 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au, www.wwme.org.au, www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Higgins Street Penrith

47321 444

ismpenrith@ismaustralia.com

Enrol now for 2014.

Small group piano/musicianship classes.

Private Singing Lessons

&

ISM Show Choir