



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

DIARY DATES

Monday 9 February

Kinder begin full time

Tuesday 10 February Year 2 Parent Info Meeting,

6.00pm P & F Meeting, 7.30pm

All welcome!

Wednesday 11 February

Year 6 Parent Info Meeting, 6.00pm

First Eucharist Parent Information Session 7.30pm

Thursday 12 February

Year 4 Parent Info Meeting, 6.00pm

First Eucharist Parent Information Session 7.30pm (*repeat from Wed*)

Tuesday 17 February 9.15am Opening School Mass Year 1 Parent Info Meeting,

6.00pm Kinder Parent Info Meeting, 7.00pm

Wednesday 18 February ASH WEDNESDAY

Year 3 Parent Info Meeting, 6.00pm

Thursday 19 February Year 5 Parent Info Meeting,

6.00pm

Friday 20 February P & F Family Night, 5.30pm

Sat 22 / Sun 23 February Enrolment Mass – Eucharist

Monday 23 February 9.15am Grandparents

Morning Tea in the hall

Friday 27 February

Tuesday 24 February Zone Swimming

Friday 27 February Diocesan Swimming

Tuesday 3 March Internet Safety Parent Workshop, 6.30pm

Monday 16 March Parenting Course – Being a

More Effective Parent 6.30pm

Dear Parent, Carers, Students & Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of '**By the Way'** for 2015 and a new year of living, loving and learning in Christ. As we begin this year, the parish school community welcomes our new parish priest Very Rev. Father Michael O'Callaghan (who likes to be referred to as Fr. Mick.)

5th February 2015

I also welcome those new families and staff who are joining our community this year. I wish them a rewarding and fulfilling experience at *Our Lady of the Way.*

As we embark on a new year let us be challenged to use our special gifts to:

- Laugh often at the joys of life
- Pray daily, giving thanks for what we have received
- Never turn away someone in need
- Continue to read and learn throughout life
- Pass on the stories of history and life with those we love
 - Take time to enjoy God's creation through gardening, bushwalks, ocean swims
- And of course...always be ready to greet someone, shake hands and smile!

May 2015 be a year of fulfilment and joy for our community as we walk humbly with our God. Be secure in the belief that we will continue to build God's kingdom alive here at *Our Lady of the Way.*

God Bless, Sue Veling

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.

NEW FAMILIES & STAFF

We welcome to the OLOW community 47 new Kindergarten children as well as:

- ★ Blade Funnell
- ★ Maya and Hanna Grieve
- ★ Nicholas and Joseph Curry
- ★ Katelyn King
- ★ Lily Callaghan

★

★

Mark

Dato

★ Samantha Emerton

We also welcome our new staff members

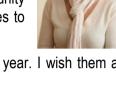
- Miss Megan Vella Year 4
- ★ Miss Therese Coutinho Kindergarten
 - Miss Kara Kim School Counsellor (Tuesday)
- ★ Mr Brendan Edwards IT Trainee (Monday & Tuesday)

Welcoming School Mass 9.15am - Tuesday 17th February, 2015

Newsletter of Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School, Emu Plains 49 Forbes Street, Emu Plains 2750 Phone: 4735 1930, Fax: 4735 6221, Email: <u>OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>, Web: <u>www.olow.parra.catholic.edu.au</u> "To act justly, To love tenderly and To walk humbly with our God"

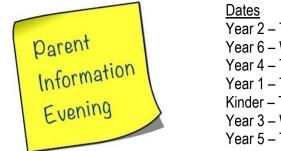






GRADE PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS

This year we will be holding grade parent meetings in Weeks 3 & 4 so teachers can communicate to you and so there is a shared understanding about what the expectations in each grade are. (A detailed note went home yesterday.) I encourage every parent to attend and hear first-hand information from the classroom teachers.



<u>Dates</u> Year 2 – Tuesday 10th February 6pm Year 6 – Wednesday 11th February 6pm Year 4 – Thursday 12th February 6pm Year 1 – Tuesday 17th February 6pm Kinder – Tuesday 17th February 7pm Year 3 – Wednesday 18th February 6pm Year 5 – Thursday 19th February 6pm



Interviews with teachers can take place at any time of the year. If you want to discuss your child's progress or have any concerns, please call the office and make an appointment so the discussion that takes place is productive and supportive in nature.

GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - HOLIDAYS

The Minister of Education has made changes that will affect students that go on holidays during school time. Holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be shown as absent on the attendance register. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations.

GRADE MERIT AWARDS

In addition to recognition in the classroom by teachers, Grade Merit Certificates will be presented at Monday Assembly. This will begin on Monday 9th February.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The first P&F meeting for 2015 will be held on Tuesday, 10 February at 7:30pm in the library. Please come along and get involved! Many thanks to those parents who have already put themselves forward to serve our community in this special way.

President – Kevin Houlihan Vice President: Kelly Tabor Treasurer: Carolyn Burton Secretary: Kiery Pascoe Fund Raising & Fete Coordinator: Jeff Boulous Fundraising Assistants: Jane Cashell & Kate Andrews Committee Members: Catherine Budge, Regina Hawkes, Julie Woods, James Tabor



The money raised throughout the year by the P&F goes towards investing in *Our Lady of the Way* School, so your child will ultimately benefit. The P&F is also about helping to build community.



We have a number of new families joining us this year. To welcome them to our school there will be a family night on Friday 20th February from 5:30pm. More details will follow soon, so save the date!!

MATHS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW

Thank you to all parents who brought their children in last week to complete their one-on-one maths assessment. This is a time consuming process and very difficult to complete during school hours. The information gathered is invaluable in getting to know your child's level of competency in counting, place value, addition & subtraction and multiplication & division by using an interview process rather than a standardised test under test conditions.

Next year we hope for a 100% turn out. A very big thankyou to the staff who have given up two of their Staff Development Days to complete these tasks. For those students who missed out, teachers will need to complete the assessment within the next two weeks.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BLUE TEAM (BEDE)

What a wonderful swimming carnival held at Glenbrook Swimming Pool on Wednesday. An idyllic setting with the ducks even wanting a piece of the action. It was a mighty effort by all four teams.

The highlights were the fantastic cheer-squad of parents and friends who came to encourage the swimmers; the many parent helpers; the wonderful organisational skills of Mr McKeon, Mrs Irvine and her band of merry staff; the enthusiasm of our new house colour captains –

Gold (CLARK): Tahlia Rando and Madison Whiteley **Green (MANNING):** Blair Stewart and Georgia Ristevski

Blue (BEDE): Nicholas James and Bridie Witjes Red (BENJAMIN): Amiee Wagner and Jack Palombo

The parent race (very competitive) and finally the fact that everyone had a go, even those who found swimming a challenge. That's what life is about – setting a goal that is just that little bit hard to achieve and doing something about reaching it!



ENROLMENTS FOR OLOW

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 will open in March. At present we still have a few places available for students in some of our other grades. If you know of anyone who is looking for a beautiful school for their children, please direct them to our web site or the office for further information.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We have been very lucky to secure two great workshops for parents this term. The first evening will be about being Cybersmart and the second is providing strategies on how to be a more effective parent. The presenters at both sessions will be spending the day at school and workshopping with both the students and staff, followed by a parents' session.

Internet Safety –Helping your child to stay safe online –A must for all parents! Tuesday 3rd March at 6:30pm.

To help your children stay safe online, OLOW is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach – Internet Safety Awareness Program in 2015. This program is designed for parents, teachers and students, and is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

OLOW is committed to helping our students develop appropriate behaviours when using digital technologies, both at school and home. This program will cover a range of issues including:

- ★ the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies;
- ★ potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content;
- ★ tips to help children stay safe online.



The presentation is thorough and non-technical.

Parenting Course: Being a More Effective Parent with Judy Hatswell – Registered Psychologist 16th March 2015 at 6:30pm



Being an effective parent is one of the hardest jobs in the world. There is no instruction manual that provides answers to all the problems that parents face daily. Without a clear understanding of how and why children behave, parents, while trying to do their best, can develop levels of frustration which may lead to them feeling powerless. This workshop aims to develop skills in positive parenting techniques and highlights the importance of adults modelling respectful and co-operative behaviours for children.

2015 OUR LADY OF THE WAY SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Dates have been set for parents who wish their child to receive the following Sacraments of Initiation in 2015.

- ★ First Holy Communion 2 sessions in May and then again in November (Children in Year 3 or above who have made their first Reconciliation)
- ★ Confirmation in August (Children in Year 5 or above)
- ★ Reconciliation in June (Children in Year 3 or above)

If you require further information, please speak to Julie at the school office or Kate at the Parish Office.

INCIDENTS ON THE PLAYGROUND

It is important that if parents witness an incident on the playground involving students that they report it to the teachers on duty or the school office. This will then be followed up and the school will contact the parents of the students involved. It can be very distressing for parents to receive phone calls from other parents advising them their child has been involved in an incident or injured in some way. We appreciate we are all looking out for the wellbeing of each other but it is necessary that procedures are followed.

CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS

At Our Lady of the Way we appreciate the love, help and support our wonderful grandparents give our families. Many grandparents are here of a morning and afternoon dropping off and picking up children and may not know many people. We will be having a 'cuppa and a chat' twice a term so everyone feels welcome and part of our community. Our first morning tea will be on **Monday 23rd February** in the hall at approximately 9.15am (after our morning assembly). So please come along and join us. Any enquiries please contact Mrs Irvine in the office.

ROAD SAFETY REMINDER

We have a dedicated drop off zone before school in Troy Street.

The sign reads: No Parking – 8:00am-9:30am SCHOOL DAYS

It has been noted that parents are actually parking in this area and moving away from the car. A "No Parking" sign means you **cannot park**, but you can drop off or pick up passengers or goods without leaving your vehicle (i.e. you must be within three metres of your vehicle). You must attend to your business promptly (within two minutes of stopping your vehicle.) The fine for this offence is \$173 and loss of 2 demerit points. Police regularly patrol this area. Please see a list of school zone offences at the end of this Newsletter.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome:

A warm welcome is extended to all families of our community.

We will be formally welcoming our new families and students to our school community through a special Welcoming Mass at 9.15am on Tuesday 17th February. We invite all families to join us for this celebration.

Religious Education Focus for 2015:

This year the students will continue to focus on Scripture and making connections to their lives. Through the units of work the teachers will help the students to gain greater knowledge of our Catholic tradition and encourage them to think deeply through a variety of engaging learning experiences. We want to keep you more informed about the learning in Religious



Education. At least once every term your children will bring home questions for you to discuss as a family, as well as an assessment task that they can share with you.

Sacramental Program:

Next week the Communion Sacramental Program begins at Our Lady of the Way. The program begins with a Parent Information Evening that parents may attend on either February 11 or February 12. Families then attend a Commitment/ Enrolment Mass on either February 22 (at 6:00pm) or February 23 (at 9:30am). Lessons will begin the following week on February 28 (at 6:00pm) or March 1 (at 9:30am).

Fundraiser:

Alyssa Eekman in Year 5 will be holding a lolly guessing competition throughout Week 4 to raise money for Horse Rescue Australia. Each guess will cost 50c. We hope the children will be able to support Alyssa's fundraiser.

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator



GENERAL INFORMATION



SCHOOL FEES

School fee invoices will be issued the week commencing the 9th February. Term 1 fees are due on the 6th March 2015. If you have any queries please contact Bernadette Alexander in the office.

CLOTHING POOL – VOLUNTEER NEEDED

If you have a half an hour to spare one morning per week, your assistance in the clothing pool would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

YEAR 1 & 2 DICTIONARIES

The dictionaries are now available in the office. The cost is \$4.00.

PARENT HELPERS / VOLUNTEERS

For your information, all parent helpers and volunteers at OLOW need to complete an online Child Protection Training module every two years. 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.

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

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.

If you would like to do the online Child Protection Training module, please go to:

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

After successfully completing the module, an email notification will be sent automatically to the volunteer's email address and the school will be notified.

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 their names are on our verified Child Protection Volunteers list.

Grandparents who would like to help in any way are also very welcome to comply with this requirement 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.

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS

Severe allergies are a community health issue. The most severe allergic reaction is called "**Anaphylaxis**" and can be lifethreatening. Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or insect sting). We have children at OLOW who do suffer from severe food allergies and whilst we are not a nut free school we do ask for everyone's co-operation in minimising the risk to our children. If you could supply your children with food that is nut free we would greatly appreciate it. There are posters up around the school or you can visit the website: <u>www.allergyfacts.org.au</u> for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

At times during the year, *Our Lady of the Way* students have the opportunity to be photographed and videoed. These photos and videos may be used as part of grade assessments, be uploaded to the school Facebook page, Twitter, Skoolbag etc, the school website or placed in school publications such as the Parent Handbook. Photographs may also be used in publications to promote the school in newspapers and other media.

When you enrolled your child, you gave us permission to do this. If you wish to withdraw this authorisation and consent, please notify the school in writing.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The Emu Plains Parish St Vincent de Paul Chapter extends its thanks to the Our Lady of the Way school community for its support of last year's Christmas hampers appeal.

Over fifty hampers containing food and presents were distributed to needy individuals and families. Many thanks to the teachers and students who supported the appeal. Your generosity brightened Christmas for many people.





OUR LADY OF THE WAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

P.P.D.

2015

SANDWICHES

AVAILABLE IN WHITE OR MULTIGRAIN BREAD

WRAPS ADD .60 TO SANDWICH PRICE		
BREAD AND BUTTER	\$1.00	
VEGEMITE, JAM OR DEVON	\$1.50	
TOMATO OR CHEESE	\$2.00	
TUNA OR EGG	\$2.50	
LEG HAM, CHICKEN OR SALMON	\$3.00	
SALAD SANDWICH	\$3.50	
LETTUCE, TOMATO, CUCUMBER, BEETROOT & CARROT		
SALAD WITH DEVON OR CHEESE	\$ <mark>3.</mark> 90	
SALAD WITH TUNA OR HAM	\$4.00	
SALAD WITH CHICKEN OR SALMON	\$4.20	
EXTRAS - INCLUDING TOASTING .40c EACH		
SALADS		
FRESH FRUIT SALAD CUPS	\$2.00	
LARGE GARDEN SALAD	\$3.60	
LARGE GARDEN SALAD-DEVON OR HAM	\$4.00	
LARGE GARDEN SALAD-SALMON OR CHIC	KEN	

CRUNCH	& SIP	SPECIAL	\$2.00
TO BE ORDERED BEFORE SCHOOL ONLY			

\$1.00 \$2.00 \$2.00 \$2.50

PIECE OF FRUIT plus SMALL WATER

AVAILABLE TO ORDER RECESS ONLY

CORN ON THE COBB	
GARLIC BREAD	
CHEESE & BACON ROLL	
MINI CHEESE BURGER	



HOT FOOD AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

INDIVIDUAL TOMATO OR BBQ SAUCE	\$0.30EA
CHICKEN NUGGETS EA	CH \$0.60
HASH BROWNS (3)	\$1.00
CUP OF NOODLES. Chicken. Beef or Oriental	\$2.50
HOT DOG WITH SAUCE	\$2.50
SAUSAGE ROLL-LITE	\$2.90
HOT CHICKEN ROLL	\$3.00
CHICKEN FINGERS X 8	\$3.00
PANCAKES (2) PLAIN OR CHOC CHIP	\$3.00
TRAVELLER PIE-BEEF	\$3.20
MACARONI & CHEESE 200GMS	\$3.50
LASAGNE 200GMS	\$3.50
CHEESE BURGER-BBQ SAUCE	\$3.50
CHICKEN BURGER-LETTUCE & MAYO	\$3.50
VEGIE BURGER OR FISH BURGER	\$3.50
HOT CHICKEN KEBAB WRAP	
With Lettuce, Tomato & Mayo	\$4.20



CHICKEN CEASAR SALAD

\$4.80

\$5.00

FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES.



www.classroomcatering.net

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

2015

SNACKS

FLAVOURED BREAD STICKS	\$0.20
MINI COOKIES	\$1.00
DELIGHTS SOUR CREAM OR BBQ	\$1.00
JJ NOODLES BBQ OR CHICKEN	\$1.00
FRESH POPCORN	\$1.00
ASSORTED CHIPS	\$1.20
GINGERBREAD MAN 97% FAT FREE	\$1.50
RIVIANA FRUIT CUP	\$1.50
PAULS SCREW TOP YOGHURT	\$1.60
VAALIA 160gm FRUIT YOGHURT CUP	\$2.00
BANANA BREAD—SLICE	\$2.50





Trading hours: 8:30 to 2.00pm School days

ICE BLOCKS	
ZOOPER DOOPER	\$0.50
COOL CUPS 100% JUICE	\$1.00
ICY MONY	\$1.00
JUICEE PUSH POP ICE BLOCK	\$1.00
VANILLA ICE CREAM CUP	\$1.20
PADDLE POP	\$1.50
CHOCOLATE, BANANA & RAINBOW	
SLUSHIE CUP	\$2.00
STREETS PADDLE POP CUP	\$2.20
DRINKS	
JUICE - POPPERS	\$1.50
BOTTLE WATER 350ML	\$1.50
POP TOP ORCHY FRESH JUICE 200ML	\$2.00
FLAVOURED MILK LITE 300ML	\$2.00
BOTTLED WATER 600ML	\$2.00
99% JUICE BOMB 250ML	\$2.20
ICED TEA-PEACH, LEMON, RASPBERRY	\$2.20
FLAVOURED MILK 500ML-LITE	\$3.00

ONLINE ORDERS

Can be placed every morning until 8.30am at: www.flexischools.com.au

PLEASE NOTE

- Recess orders are to be **PICKED UP** FROM THE CANTEEN.
- All ICE CREAMS ordered with lunch are given out when the LUNCH BAG IS RETURNED TO THE CANTEEN.
- Please write CLEARLY on bag:
- ⇒ CHILDS NAME
- ⇒ CLASS
- $\Rightarrow \quad \textbf{FOOD ORDER}$
- NO CREDIT AVAILABLE
- Products & Prices are subject to availability
- Canteen is leased by Classroom Catering Gluten free menu available on request.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lapstone Glenbrook Netball Club Registration Days 2015

Registrations will be held at the BMNA club house Explorers Road Lapstone on Saturday 7th February from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Wednesday 11th February 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

 New players must provide PROOF OF AGE (Sight original Birth Certificate or Passport. Club to retain a photocopy.)

 Enquiries: Debbie Ansell, Registrar: 4739 0765 or 0415 723 868 or Trish Oxford, Registrar: 0418 440 860

 Website: www.lgnc.nsw.netball.com.au

 e-mail (Secretary): lgncsecretary@gmail.com

St Finbar's (Glenbrook) Netball Club

SFNC are currently taking registrations for the 2015 Blue Mountains Netball Association's Winter Season. The Lapstone Netball Courts are located on Explorers Road - just a short 4 minute drive along the M4 from the Russell Street on ramp.

Registration Dates

When: Saturday 31 January from 9am – 1pm & Tuesday 3 February from 6pm – 8pm Where: Parish Hall, Levy Street, Glenbrook

If you are unable to make our registration times or have any questions please contact our Registrar, Sue Toole on 0418 692 326 or our President, Denise Hatton on 0419 157 353.





Boys and Girls, 7 – 13 years are invited to join

Penrith City Children's Choir

on Sunday 15 February for its Singing Day

Tumba, Tumba

directed by Lucy McAlary

If you love to sing, please join us. No auditions. Applications close 13 February.

For further information, contact the Administrator: Liz Strasser 0418 202 849 pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au

