



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

4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## DIARY DATES

### Monday 8 February

Kinder Commence Full Days

### Wednesday 10 February LENT BEGINS

Ash Wednesday Mass for Years 3-6 - 9am

Ash Wednesday Liturgy for Kindergarten, & Years 1 & 2 - 11.30am

### Friday 12 February

9.15am- Opening School Mass

### Monday 15 February

Parent Teacher Student Conferences begin - Years 1-6

### Thursday 18 February

Kindergarten Information Evening - 7pm

### Friday 19 February

Family Bush Dance - 5.00pm - 7.30pm

### Thursday 25 February

School Photos

### Monday 7 March

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

### Thursday 10 March

Celebrations of Learning - 9.15-10.15am

### Tuesday 15 March

Cross Country

### Friday 25 March

GOOD FRIDAY  
no school

### Monday 28 March

EASTER MONDAY  
no school

### Friday 8 April

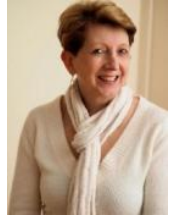
Last Day of Term 1

### Tuesday 26 April

Term 2 - School Resumes

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 'By the Way' for 2016 and a new year of living, loving and learning in Christ. As we begin this year, the parish community welcomes our new families and staff who are joining our school this year. I wish them a rewarding and fulfilling experience at Our Lady of the Way.



At the start of any new year we are filled with anticipation of what this year will deliver and hope that prosperity, love and success is abundant.

My feelings this year were very much the same as on my first day in 2014 when I walked through the gate alive with enthusiasm, passion and faith. Only now I have first hand experience of the positive energy, dedication and commitment of the Our Lady of the Way community.

Our newest and youngest members of our community began school this week. Their happy faces and excitement bubbled over as they walked through the gates carrying their school bags and wearing their hats with such pride. The children settled into school routine very quickly and they have embraced the learning agenda like fish to water. Well done to our Kindergarten students.

May 2016 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,  
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.***

### NEW FAMILIES & STAFF

We welcome to the OLOW community 55 new Kindergarten children as well as Dylan Babbage, Emilie Brett, Anthony Smith, Megan Smith, Tracey So, Ariella Stroud and Jai Noronha.

We also welcome our new and returning staff members Mr Duncan De Celis in Year 5, Mrs Jenni Walsh in Years 2 & 5, Mrs Carlie Eekman in Year 1 and Mrs Barbara Mulligan as school counsellor.



### MRS IRVINE

Our school secretary, Mrs Julie Irvine is on leave until March on a well-earned holiday. We welcome Mrs Vicky Hovenden to our school as she takes up the office position.

## OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our Opening School Mass will be held on Friday 12 February at 9:15am. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the coming year and welcome our new staff, students and leaders.



## PUPIL FREE DAY TERM 1

Apart from the pupil free day that was held on Thursday 28 January, there will be no additional pupil free days in Term 1

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

The 2016 school photos are scheduled to take place on Thursday 25 February. This year the children will wear their summer uniforms. Pre-paid envelopes will be sent home shortly.

## KEEP THIS EVENING FREE - FAMILY BUSH DANCE

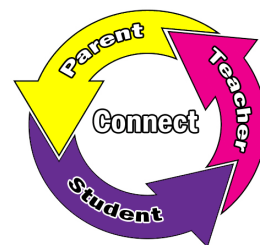


We are very lucky this year to have secured a bush band for Friday 19 February (5-7:30pm). This will be our welcome gathering and family celebration. The P&F will be selling food and drinks on the evening and this will be available through a presale system. You are also free to BYO picnic. More information to follow.

## PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONFERENCES FOR YEARS 1-6

The formation of a positive school and home relationship is important for your child's well-being and development. With this in mind, *Our Lady of the Way* will begin the year with individual Parent/ Teacher/ Student Conferences in Weeks 4 & 5. These conferences are compulsory and we ask all parents to attend so learning goals can be presented for each child.

Next week a questionnaire will be sent home for you to complete so teachers get further information about of your child. We ask that the questionnaires be returned to the class teacher no later than Friday 12 February.



These conferences will occur in Weeks 4 & 5 between Monday 15 February and Friday 26 February. The online system will be available soon for booking.

## PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT FOR KINDERGARTEN

A meeting for Kindergarten parents will take place on Thursday 18 February at 7pm in the Kindergarten classrooms. This meeting will fill parents in on the learning, routines and everyday running of Kinder. We encourage you to come along and join us, even if you have attended in the past.

## 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 and division by using an interview process rather than a standardised test under test conditions.

A big thankyou to the staff who have given up two of their Staff Development Days to complete this task. For those students who missed out, teachers will need to complete the assessment within the next two weeks.

## CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING



On **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** the classroom doors will be thrown open for ***Celebrations of Learning*** between 9:15-10:15am. This will be a time for the children to reflect upon their learning and achievements for the term and share it with their family and friends. All grades will have the open morning at the same time and you can move in and out of learning spaces throughout the session. The ***Celebrations of Learning*** will be an interactive time for you to join in with the learning. Come and be an active participant in a 21st Century classroom!

## THANK YOU

During the holidays a small group of dads met at school to stain the student's outdoor furniture. I wish to personally thank David Procter (Sophie), Greg Bahlmann (Cooper and Riley), James Tabor and Greg Clare (Jorja, Benny & Thomas' Grandpa). This furniture is costly to replace and staining will lengthen its life. I also want to thank Michael Armour (Lachlan and Harrison) for repainting the handball courts.

## YEAR 6 SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2016

**School Captains**- Lachlan Armour - Olivia Bennett - Tully Brown - Joshua Phillips

**SRC** - Montana Clifford - Ethan Dempsey - Jack Gale - Clare Roser - Lara Sullivan - Jett Cleary

**Red Sports House** – Jett Cleary – Alyssa Gardner

**Blue Sports House** – Matthew Sekulic – Charlie Connell

**Green Sports House** – Emma Craig – Keegan Smith

**Yellow Sports House** – Montana Clifford – Jack Gale

**Outreach Social Justice & Pastoral Care** – Jasmine Vanegas – Madeleine Godfrey – Layla Woods – Jessica Dray – Emma Fowler – Tahlia Robar – Talesha Spooner

**Civics and Citizenship** – Olivia Craig – Tyanna Kubik – Flynn Starr – Taylor Carroll – Isabelle Clarke – Tristan Isaia – Olivia Boulous – Clare Roser – Isabella Toth – Boyd Boormakin

**Technology** – Ethan Still – Alyssa Eekman – Thomas Garrahy – Hannah Carroll – Noel Collins – Conor Rudge – William Plummer – Brandon Kruzic – Noah Clifford – Sam Reidy - Tahlia Robinson – Bailey Gregory – Ethan Dempsey.

## PARENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

All school newsletters, school events via the parent calendar and notes sent home are accessible on our website <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au> or through the school communication app SKOOLBAG. This app can be downloaded on any smartphone. Our Facebook page is also a great way to keep in touch with what is happening at school on a day-to-day basis. If you would like the newsletter automatically emailed to you each fortnight all you need to do is register through our website. Go to <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au/newsletters> and enter the relevant details under 'Subscribe to Our Newsletter' at the bottom of the page.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE TICKETS

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is fundraising for World Youth Day 2016. **Raffle tickets** were sent home at the end of last year. There are great prizes on offer including a car. Raffle tickets are \$2 per ticket or \$20 per book. All monies raised from selling these raffle tickets will go directly to sending our Year 6 teacher, Ms Reynolds as a pilgrim to World Youth Day (Krakow, Poland) via the Philippines. Raffle tickets can also be purchased at the office.



**Raffle tickets sold and unsold, need to be returned to the school office by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February.**



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

*Just a reminder that all entries in the Executive Director's Reading Challenge are due by 5pm on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016.*

*Students can read anything they like to enter whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. The more books a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.*

*So far 2,500 texts have been read across the Parramatta Diocese.*

## KISS AND DROP

Thank you to everyone for helping to make the **Kiss and Drop Zone in Troy Street** work smoothly. We again ask parents and relatives who are dropping children off to:

- Use the designated area on Troy Street;
- Move forward towards the Church driveway until it is your turn;
- Children should stay in the car until you reach the driveway;
- Be patient and wait for the vehicles to move on;
- The driver should stay in the car;
- Children should use the kerb side door when getting out of the car
- Please kiss your children before they get out of the car.
- Staff are on duty from 8:25 and they will open the car door and help your children alight.





## BABY NEWS

Congratulations to the Phillip's Family (Josh in Year 6, Zac in Year 4 and Harrison in Year 3) on the birth of their baby sister Abbie. Baby, Mum and Dad doing well!

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St Vincent de Paul parish group passes on its thanks to the children and parents who provided food and presents for the 2015 Christmas hampers. Your generosity allowed them to help sixty individuals and families in our community.



## SCHOOL OPAL CARD



From term one 2016, eligible students within the Opal network will be able to travel to and from school with the new School Opal card.

Most students who already have a 2015 school student travel pass will have their School Opal card automatically issued and sent to their school.

Some students, including new applicants and students changing school, updating their personal details, or going from Year 2 to 3 who have already applied or who need to apply, will have their School Opal cards posted to their home address. Most School Opal cards should be received in the first two weeks of Term 1, 2016.

Students who have been approved to travel on more than one operator or to more than one home address, for example where there is shared parental responsibility, will only receive a single Opal card.

### School Opal cards sent to schools

Schools will receive a consignment of School Opal cards, by courier including:

- envelopes with a single personalised School Opal card for eligible students, sorted by grade and last name
- a list of all Opal cards issued to the school to help with distribution.

Schools should phone 131 500 or email: [concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au) if they don't receive their cards within the first two weeks of Term 1, 2016.

### Travelling in Term 1

School students will need to carry their School Opal card and tap on and off when travelling. A grace period applies at the start of each new school year, where school students who have been approved for SSTS travel can travel without a valid pass while new passes are being issued. Students must be in school uniform or be able to provide evidence (such as a school ID or school books) that they are travelling to or from school during this time.

To report a lost, stolen or damaged School Opal card, customers should phone 131 500 or visit <http://transportnsw.info/school-students>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BUS COMPANY

### For Students who catch buses and are using the new OPAL Card

As we start a new year with new students, I want to bring to your attention to matters of safety, lost or frightened children and emergency contacts for the younger students.

This year will be different than other years with the new Opal cards replacing bus passes. The driver will no longer be able to look up a name and be able to call mum or dad if the student misses their stop.

I would like to suggest that parents write just a simple ICE (In Case of Emergency) number on or inside their child's bag. This could save a lot of tears and anxiety from students, parents, teachers and bus drivers.

Thank you  
Kind regards,  
**John Williams**  
Service Delivery Manager  
Blue Mountains Transit

## 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 on Friday February 12 at 9:15am. The theme of our Mass will focus on the Year of Mercy.

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and announced a holy Year of Mercy. The symbol of a holy door has been used since the fifteenth century as a ritual expression of conversion. Pilgrims and penitents passed through it as a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold from sin to grace, from slavery to freedom, and from darkness to light.

## An Image of Mercy: Luke 13:11-13

And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God....

Luke 13: 11-13

Holy Scripture and our Christian tradition offer us many rich words to describe the mystery of God. Like each facet of the most beautiful diamond, words such as loving kindness, justice, peace, faithfulness and mercy offer us brilliant glimpses into the nature and mystery of God. Gospel stories have the same purpose and many could be used to demonstrate the mercy of God. The Gospel story above may not be well-known to some as it is not included in the Cycles of Readings for Sundays in Year C; yet it offers us powerful insights into how the mercy of God works, and its effects on our lives.

Some years ago I had a back spasm which left me bent over unable to straighten up for some time. This has led me to try to imagine what life would be like for this woman, being 'weighed down' for 18 years. Her vision and in fact her whole perspective on life would be dramatically altered – reduced, impoverished, depleted. To relate to others when she could only see their feet and legs would be frustrating and isolating. What a good candidate such a person would be to experience the mercy of God!

We heard the word 'mercy' many times in the media earlier this year before the executions of Bali Nine members Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. In their situations, mercy was not granted and the loss of their lives was felt deeply by many in our Australian community. However, for this bent over woman in Luke, Mercy sees, acts, speaks, touches and heals. Imagine the scene: Jesus, busy in the synagogue, can't help but notice this woman who stands out in a crowd. He calls out to her and invites her into relationship.... I wonder how she would have felt after so many years of awkward attempts at relating. But in her rigid state, still hopeful of having her burden lifted after 18 years, she responds to his call. I can see Jesus tenderly bending over towards her so that he could meet her at her level... eye to eye....where she was. He too must become bent double to make eye contact with her...to relate.

Imagine that moment of encounter; and with Jesus' words of invitation, imagine the muscles of her whole body loosening, relaxing and then straining, hoping, seeking a new and better kind of life. Jesus' presence, his words and his touch opened this woman to a whole new vision of life: a life of wholeness, uprightness, wonder and new possibilities. I can imagine her dancing with joy at her experience of freedom and release.

From this story, we see Christ, as Mercy, always looking out for the downtrodden and prepared to offer them healing at all levels in the interaction. From the woman, we are reminded to remain hopeful when life weighs heavily on us and to be open to responding to 'life' whenever and wherever the invitation is made. God comes to us disguised as our life.

Christ was alive when the world began, yet I myself have seen him with my own eyes and listened to him speak. I have touched him with my own hands. He is God's message of life. 1 John 1:1

For your reflection:

- When has Mercy invited me to 'new life'?
- What form did Mercy take?
- What did you hear, see, feel?
- What was the effect?

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## Ash Wednesday:

The church season on Lent begins in earnest on 10 February with Ash Wednesday.

Years 3-6 will attend the parish mass at 9am while Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 will hold a prayer liturgy at 11.30am in the kindergarten classroom.

All parents are welcome to attend.



## Carole Day

# P & F NEWS

## OUR LADY OF THE WAY IS ON FACEBOOK

The official Facebook page for the school can be found by searching **Our Lady Of The Way, Emu Plains**. You should also 'Like' the P&F homepage **Our Lady Of The Way P&F, Emu Plains** for the latest information regarding meetings and P&F events around the school.

Additionally, each grade has its own parent-based Facebook page which all parents and carers are most welcome to join. These pages are useful for sharing information, arranging get togethers and asking questions. You can find these pages by searching **OLOW Kinder [insert the year your child stered Kinder]**. For example this year's Kindergarten page can be found at **OLOW Kinder 2016**.

*\*Facebook tip! Make sure you never miss a post from the OLOW pages by bumping them up your News Feed. When you **Like** an OLOW page, choose **See First** in the News Feed options.*



# Online Canteen Ordering

To set up an online account:

- Go to [www.munchmonitor.com](http://www.munchmonitor.com)
- Select Login to Munch Monitor
- Select Register



Step 1: Set up NEW ACCOUNT

**SCHOOL ID: olotw**

**SCHOOL PASSWORD: munch2750**

Step 2: Create your new account

You will then receive a confirmation email. Once you activate your account via the link in the email, follow these steps to create your account details:

1. Create a **Parent Profile**
2. Add your child/children to your account
3. Click on **Account Top-Up** to transfer money into your account. You will be directed to ANZ's secure eGate website
4. You're ready to **use your online account**

What does it cost?

MunchMonitor costs just \$2.50 per Family Account per Term

**Munch Monitor offers:**

- ✓ Easy and convenient online ordering 24/7, up to 4 weeks in advance
- ✓ Key tags can be used to purchase items instead of cash
- ✓ Control of food allergies
- ✓ Daily/weekly spend limits can be set
- ✓ The ability to monitor what your child is buying

**Online ordering cut off is 8.30am. Orders can also be placed at the canteen or via a lunch bag and placed into the basket in the classroom.**



## OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN DAY



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

**College Open  
Morning Tour**  
Monday  
August 31, 2015

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2016 Open Day on Sunday, February 28 from 10am – 2.00pm. Principal's welcome at 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

*Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.*

Reservations can be made by visiting [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phone 9683 3300 to obtain further information.

## ST FINBARS NETBALL CLUB

SFNC is currently taking registrations for the 2016 Winter Competition and are seeking additional players for the following age groups:

- Under 11's - players born in 2005
- Under 13's - players born in 2003/04
- Under 15's - players born in 2001/02
- Under 18's - players born in 1998/99 & 2000
- Senior players - born in or before 1997



We also have a dedicated team for our PWD's (Player With Disabilities) who are seeking additional players. Junior games are held on Saturday mornings at the Lapstone Netball Complex. To register, simply go to [www.stfinbarsnc.nsw.netball.com.au](http://www.stfinbarsnc.nsw.netball.com.au) and click on the 'Register now' button. For all enquiries please contact our Registrar, Jodie Eisenhuth on 0417 771 673



## NSW Churches Football Association Inc



Competitions cover all age groups from under 6's through to our Premier League in the all age, NSW Churches Football covers a large part of the Sydney metro area.

Competitions include the regular season on Saturdays, midweek knockout competitions, 6 a side competition held on the Queen's Birthday weekend and Representative opportunities.



All games are played on Saturdays, there are NO Sunday games.

### NEW COMPETITION FOR 2016 Girls Saturday Eights

Are you a girl aged 13 – 16 who would like to play soccer on Saturdays with and against other girls?

The NSW CFA is offering an opportunity for teams of girls to play 8 a side soccer on Saturday mornings.

Games will be competition, on a modified field and available to all girls regardless of skill level., Beginners welcome!

All enquiries should be directed to:

The Secretary on 0458 003 495 or Email: [secretary@nswcfa.com.au](mailto:secretary@nswcfa.com.au)

Or register on line at Webpage: [www.nswcfa.com.au](http://www.nswcfa.com.au)

Scan with your  
smartphone or  
tablet to go to the  
OLW website.

