

DIARY DATES

Monday 6 February

Kinder begin full days

Wednesday 8 February

Year 1 Parent Information Meeting, 6.00pm

Thursday 9 February

Year 4 Parent Information Meeting, 6.45pm

Friday 10 February

Opening School Mass 9.15am

Monday 13 February

Parent Information Meetings

Year 3 - 6.00pm

Year 6 - 6.45pm

Wednesday 15 February

Parent Information Meetings

Kinder - 6.00pm

Year 5 - 6.45pm

Thursday 16 February

Year 2 Parent Information Meeting, 6.00pm

Wednesday 22 February

P & F Meeting, 7.00pm

Wednesday 1 March

Ash Wednesday Mass, Years 3-6, 9.00am

Ash Wednesday Prayer, Infants, 10.30am

Mon-Fri 6-10 March

Catholic Schools Week

Thursday 16 March

Kindergarten Munch & Crunch Fundraiser

Wednesday 22 March

P & F Meeting, 7.00pm

Monday 24 April

PUPIL FREE DAY

Wednesday 26 April

ANZAC Day Prayer, 10.15am

Thurs/Fri 27/28 April

Year 6 in Canberra

Thursday 11 May

Mothers' Day Stall

Friday 12 May

Mothers' Day Mass and High Tea, 9.00am

Friday 18 August

PUPIL FREE DAY

Sunday 22 October

OLW SCHOOL FETE

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 'By the Way' for 2017 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.

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.

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.

laugh love pray

May 2017 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 keep God's kingdom alive here at Our Lady of the Way.

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.

FAMILIES & STAFF

We welcome to the OLOW community 52 new Kindergarten children as well as Vera Sen in Year 1, Eli Smith and Madison Stansfield in Year 3 and Trianna Stansfield in Year 4.

We also welcome our new staff members - Miss Emma Mizzi as Assistant Principal, Miss Rochelle Mason as Teacher Assistant, and Mr Kyal Judson as our trainee technician.

FINANCE SECRETARY

With sadness we announce that our school finance secretary, Mrs Bernadette Alexander, resigned from her position during the holidays. Bernadette has worked at OLOW for 4 years and has been a very professional, capable and compassionate member of staff. Nothing was ever too hard for her. She will be sadly missed. At present, CEDP are interviewing for the position.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our Opening School Mass will be held on Friday 10 February at 9:15am. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the coming year and welcome our new staff, students and the commissioning of our Year 6 leaders and SRC members from Years 1-6.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Apart from the pupil free day that was held on Monday 30th January, there will be no additional pupil free days in Term 1. Our next Pupil Free Day will be held in Term 2 on Monday 24th April – the first day back after the holidays.



MATHS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW

Thank you to all Parents, Grandparents and Carers who brought their children in to complete their one-on-one Mathematics 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.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT FOR KINDERGARTEN

A meeting for Kindergarten parents will take place on **Thursday 15th February at 6pm** 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.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR YEARS 1-6

At the beginning of each alternate year, we provide parents with a grade information meeting rather than individual Parent/Teacher/Student Goal Setting Conferences. These sessions run for about 30 minutes and are provided so teachers can communicate to you and so there is a shared understanding about what the expectations in each grade are. I encourage every parent to attend and hear first-hand information from the classroom teachers.

Dates & Times:

Year 1 - Wednesday 8th February at 6pm

Year 4 - Thursday 9th February at 6:45pm

Year 3 - Monday 13th February at 6pm

Year 6 - Monday 13th February at 6:45pm

Year 5 - Wednesday 15th February at 6:45pm

Year 2 - Thursday 16th February at 6pm



Meetings 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.

Goals that have been set with each student for writing, numeracy and learning behaviours will be sent home on Friday 24th February.

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2017

Dates have been set for parents who wish their child to receive the following Sacraments of Initiation in 2017.

Reconciliation - in Term 1 (Children in Year 3 or above)

First Holy Communion - in Term 2 (Children in Year 4 or above who have made their first Reconciliation)

Confirmation - in Term 3 (Children in Year 5 or above)

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

ENROLMENTS FOR OLOW

Kindergarten enrolments for 2018 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.

2017 PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The first P&F meeting for 2017 will be held on **Wednesday, 22nd February at 7pm**. Please come along and get involved, particularly in this fete year! Many thanks to those parents who have already put themselves forward to serve our community in this special way.

P&F EXECUTIVE

President:

Mrs Kiery Pascoe

Vice President:

Mrs Kate Andrews

Secretary:

Mrs Rochelle Bahlmann

Treasurer:

Mrs Jane Cashell

Fundraising Coordinator:

Vacant

Fundraising Assistants:

Mrs Sarah Pereira and Mrs Vanessa Garrahy

Social Media Administrator:

Mrs Julie Woods

P&F Committee Members:

Mrs Regina Hawkes & Mr Kevin Houlihan

Fete Coordinator:

Mr Ben Cremen

Fete Executive:

Ms Kelly Leehy, Mr Luke Starr, Mrs Melissa McGrath, Mrs Michelle Cullen,
Mrs Lauren Urquhart; Mrs Lisa Crambrook; Mrs Belinda Wade.



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.

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



This '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.

A member of staff is on duty from 8:20am each morning. This ensures that the traffic keeps moving and cars do not have to line up past the Forbes Street intersection.

Our major concern is the safety of every family!

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS

Severe allergies are a community health issue. The most severe allergic reaction is called "Anaphylaxis" and can be life-threatening. Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food, animal fur and saliva or insect sting). We have children at OLOW who do suffer from severe 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. You can visit the website: <http://www.allergyfacts.org.au/> for more information. Dogs and cats are not allowed on the premise.



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.



COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If the issue is about something to do with the classroom and/or playground -

- **Contact the Class Teacher**

Parents are advised to make an appointment with the class teacher through the school office. If further assistance is required parents are advised to make an appointment with the Stage Coordinator, in the first instance, then the Assistant Principal or Principal.

**IF YOU HAVE A
COMPLAINT**
ABOUT OUR
SERVICES, WE
WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

If the issue is about another parents or child

- **Contact the School Leadership Team**

An inquiry at the school office is the first point of contact for people with complaints. The office staff will take the complaint and refer it to the person designated to deal with the nature of the complaint. This person may be a Coordinator, the Assistant Principal or Principal.

- **Contact the Principal**

The matter may be more serious and in this instance parents are advised to make an appointment with the Principal through the school office.

- **Contact the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta**

There may be occasions when a person wishes to take their concern directly to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). It may be they are not satisfied with the school's response or that they have other legitimate reasons for not approaching the school directly, such as a conflict of interest.

The Catholic Education Office (CEDP) has a community liaison line for taking general inquiries or concerns. The CEDP Officer will take the complaint and refer it to the relevant CEDP personnel.

In some instances the CEDP Officer may advise that the complaint is more appropriately dealt with at the school level. In general, the CEDP Officer will refer the complaint to the Director of Performance for the school involved.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KYAN



Congratulations to Kyan Roach (Year 5) who was the key figure in the qualifying World Cup tournament against Guam during the holidays in the Australian Under 12 Baseball Team. After winning the match, his team has now qualified for the World Cup in Taiwan later this year.

Kyan, a catcher, recorded a number of hits that helped change the Australian fortune and beat Guam in their second match by 19-0.

Kyan is the only representative from Western Sydney. In the World Cup his team will play teams from Russia and Japan. Kyan said, "Japan will be very hard because baseball is everything to them and it's becoming the same for me now."

BUILDING PROJECT

Our building project is well underway (about 5 weeks ahead of schedule) and due to be completed half way through March. The new administration block and its surrounds are nearly completed. The new playground will be levelled and artificial turf laid soon. The walkways to Year 2 will be covered as will the staircase outside Year 6. A bit to go, but we are excited with what is to come. Our main concern is the safety of our children and risk assessments are completed every day. Thank you for your patience with the building project.

COSHC

Congratulations to Kate Easthope who has been appointed supervisor of the OLOW before and after school care. Benn resigned at the end of 2016. We wish her every success in her new role.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Opening School Mass:

You are warmly invited to attend our Opening School Mass that we will be celebrating next Friday, February 10 at 9:15am. The theme of our Mass is 'We are Rainbow People' and together we will acknowledge that we all have special qualities and together we make a unique and beautiful community. Following our Eucharistic celebration we will welcome our new community members and our Year 6 students and Student Representative Council members will receive their badges.

Parish Sacramental Program:

For those of you who are presenting your children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a reminder of important dates are below:

Reconciliation Program			
Parent Information Evenings	Tuesday Thursday	February 28 March 2	7:30pm 7:30pm
Enrolment Mass	Saturday Sunday	March 11 March 12	6:00pm 8:00am & 9:30am
Lessons	Week 1 - Monday Week 2 - Monday	March 13 March 20	
Rite of Reconciliation	Wednesday	March 29	7:30pm

Children in Year 3 are beginning to look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Religious Education program.

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Welcome back to a new year of learning. I hope that your families have been able to enjoy quality time together over the Christmas season and summer holidays and that we're all ready for a great year together.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those in the community who have made me feel so welcome, with particular thanks to Sue, the fabulous staff and friendly students at OLOW. I feel very blessed to have joined such a wonderful community.

I was born and raised in the Hawkesbury and my coming back to the area has been very much like a homecoming. I began my career with a year teaching in London and travelling the world. On my return, I spent 6 wonderful years teaching at Mary MacKillop in South Penrith and 6 further years at Holy Cross Catholic Primary in Woollahra where I was the Religious Education Coordinator for 4 years. In 2016, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be the Assistant Principal at St Ignatius Parish School in Bourke, a small school in the outback of NSW.

I have been fortunate to have been exposed to many and various formative professional learning opportunities that have developed my personal love of learning and passion for providing a quality, holistic education for our students, parents and teachers with Christ at the centre of all we do. This can best be achieved when there is a true partnership between the school, home and parish. In the coming weeks there will be opportunities to meet with your child's class teachers and I very much look forward to meeting you also.

Emma Mizzi

Assistant Principal