

**DIARY DATES**

**Thursday 18 February**

Kindergarten Information Evening - 7pm

**Friday 19 February**

Family Bush Dance & Picnic. 5.00pm - 7.30pm

**Tuesday 23 February**

NAPLAN Parent Information Evening  
Zone Swimming Carnival

**Thursday 25 February**

**School Photos**  
(Summer Uniform)

**4 March**

Student work samples sent home – Maths

**7-11 March**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK and OLOW ART EXHIBITION**

**9 March**

Open Morning Tour of School 9.00-10.00am

**Thursday 10 March**

Celebrations of Learning - 9.15-10.15am

**Tuesday 15 March**

Cross Country

**21 March**

Harmony Day

**22 March**

P & F Meeting, 3.00pm

**Wednesday 23 March**

Dance Fever Challenge Homebush

**Friday 25 March**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**No School**

**Monday 28 March**

**EASTER MONDAY**  
**No School**

**Tuesday 29 March**

Easter Prayer Celebration 10.15am

**Thursday 31 March**

Year 3 Excursion Penrith Lakes

**Friday 8 April**

Last Day of Term 1

**Tuesday 26 April**

Term 2 - School Resumes

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

What a lovely start to the term – with Shrove Tuesday, our Opening School Mass and Commissioning of Leaders, Ash Wednesday Mass and Infants prayer. It is these community acts of joyful and solemn prayer that bring us together as a Catholic faith filled community.



We commenced our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. The Season of Lent is a time for us to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. It may be better not to give up something but to take on something, to build up our spiritual muscles.

There are often two approaches during Lent. The first is to give up something - perhaps chocolate, ice cream, gossiping etc. The second approach is to do something like - clean your room without being asked, find peace within relationships, eat your vegetables with joy, be a friend to someone you wouldn't normally etc.

During this Lenten period, whether it is the first or second approach that is taken it is the act of sacrifice or thoughtfulness for another. Lent is about mindfulness, reflection, consideration and prayer to renew our relationship with God.

Jesus retreated into the desert for forty days to prepare for His ministry. It was for Him a time of reflection and contemplation. In Lent, for us to pass time in the desert means to find occasions when we create a little emptiness and silence around us, rediscover the road to our heart, remove ourselves from the noise of external distractions, enter into contact with the deepest source of our being and faith.

Thank you to all the parents and friends who celebrated our Opening School Mass with us. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but I received wonderful feedback upon my return about the beautiful Mass, our wonderful students, and the commissioning ceremony for our Year 6 leaders and school SRC (Student Representative Council).

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following members of the SRC led by our Year 6 students:



- Year 6 SRC Leaders:** Jett Cleary; Montana Clifford; Ethan Dempsey; Jack Gale; Clare Roser; Lara Sullivan
- Year 5 SRC:** Jorja Tabor; Sophia Lusk
- Year 4 SRC:** Paige Hawkes; Abby Flanagan
- Year 3 SRC:** Cara Smith; Luke Durham
- Year 2 SRC:** Miah Hirsch; Evan Hotz
- Year 1 SRC:** Marlie Robertson; Billy Trad

Tomorrow (Friday 19 February) I look forward to seeing you at our BUSH DANCE. This social gathering is to welcome all families to the 2016 school year. So put on your dancing boots, pack a chair and picnic and join us for an enjoyable night with our 'live' bush band and caller.

*God Bless you,  
Mrs. Sue Veling  
Principal*



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR WEEKS 2 & 3**

Declan Casey, Erin Budge, Grace Foster, Lily Fowler, Nicholas Curry, Zac Phillips, Espri Footman, Emma Craig, Jake Walsh, Megan Smith, Kate Roser, Sophie Jones, Lily Callaghan, Lucas Woods, Kennedy Storr, Sam Reidy, Jacinta Roser, Samuel Cashel, Isabelle Bradley-Labra, Marshall Pereira, Bailey Latham, Olivia Bennett, Hayley Burton, Mia Eekman, Ellabeth Fischer, Joshua Vanegas, Riley Craig, Zoe Grech, Kyan Roach, Clare Roser.

### **ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Congratulations to our 30-strong swimming team who will be attending the Zone Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Swimming Pool on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. We wish them well as they compete against our neighbouring Catholic Primary Schools.

Olivia Bennett  
Milaya Cleary  
Jade Elford  
Taylor Latham  
Harrison Phillips  
Madeline Renny  
Kate Roser  
Ethan Smith

Isabella Bradley-Labra  
Emma Craig  
Thomas Garrahy  
Lucie McIntosh  
Sophie Procter  
Benjamin Robinson  
Matthew Sekulic  
Lara Sullivan

Tully Brown  
Erin Downie  
Sebastian Haywood  
Rory Muller  
Hakopa Raukawa  
Jayden Roots  
Blake Skinner

Jett Cleary  
Ava Eekman  
Lucienne Heffernan  
Marshall Pereira  
Tiare Raukawa  
Clare Roser  
Keegan Smith

### **TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL**

During Term 1, we have our local high schools come to introduce themselves and visit our Stage 3 students (Years 5 & 6). This is the beginning of transition for our students as they finish their Primary years.

### **PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONFERENCES**

Thank you to all the parents that have booked in for their child's conference. We still have over 70 parents that have not taken the opportunity to visit their child's grade teacher so they can start to develop a good home/school partnership. We would appreciate if you would take the time to phone the office as soon as possible to arrange a meeting.

### **NAPLAN PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**

To help disseminate the information about NAPLAN and answer your questions, we will be holding an information evening for parents.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 23 February 2016  
**TIME:** 6:30pm  
**WHERE:** Year 5 classrooms

All parents are welcome to attend.



## SCHOOL PHOTOS - Thursday 25 February

On Monday, prepaid envelopes were sent home. Students are asked to bring in their envelopes on photo day to hand to the photographers. If you require a family envelope please pick one up from the office. If children forget their envelopes on the day parents can go online and order.

**Students are to wear their summer uniform.** Year 6 will have their grade photo. However, their Graduation and leadership photos will take place on a day to be advised once their polo shirts are delivered.

## PHOTO TIMETABLE

**Order for the day beginning at 8:45am**

1. **Year 3**
2. **Kindergarten**
3. **Year 1**
4. **Year 2**
5. **Year 4**
6. **Year 5**
7. **Year 6**
8. **Family Photos**



## SCHOOL ABSENCES

When your child is absent, on their return to school please send a note explaining the reason. It is a requirement of roll marking that all absences, both whole day and part day, are explained by a parent/carer in writing. These notes should be received by the student's teacher within 3 days, or the absence is recorded as unexplained absence. Notes should be written and signed by the parent/carer and should be dated.

## Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Student Attendance Guidelines EVERY DAY COUNTS

The CEDP Attendance Guidelines are based on current legislative requirements, research on attendance and best practice.

1. Children's attendance affects academic achievement and their overall wellbeing. There is NO safe threshold of absence – EVERY DAY COUNTS.
2. School attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling – research shows Year 1 attendance is a predictor of future attendance patterns.
3. The effects of school absenteeism accumulate over time and affect children's development now and into the future.
4. Sporadic absences can affect academic achievement as much as absences over consecutive days.
5. Daily punctuality is important. The early part of each day is critical. Important learning is scheduled during this time when children are rested and receptive. Key concepts are built up in the time.
6. We all need to work together with our children's best interest in mind to ensure that students are at school every day that they are well enough to attend – they only get one go at this part of their education and every day counts.

## SCHOOL FEES

*Our Lady of the Way* has moved to a new financial system, which may result in some parents receiving their Term 1 statements later than usual. We apologise for the delay. If you have any enquires please contact Mrs Bernadette Alexander at the school office.

## OPEN MORNING – OUR LADY OF THE WAY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

There will be an **open morning on Wednesday 9th March from 9am – 10am** for families interested in enrolling their child in Kindergarten 2017. Staff will be on hand to guide parents through the school, answer questions and provide information about enrolling.

Please call the school office on 4735 1930 to RSVP for the open morning or for any further information regarding enrolments.

## ENROLMENTS FOR OLOW

Kindergarten enrolments for 2017 will open in March. At present we still have 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.

# PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING

Our next P & F Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 22 March at 3pm** in the library.

**BABYSITTING WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

## FOR YOUR DIARY – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

**“I belong – You belong – We belong”**

This year, Our Lady of the Way will again join Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate *Catholic Schools Week* (CSW) from 7-11 March 2016.

*Catholic Schools Week* is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by show-casing what happens in our classrooms every day. Parents, extended family members, friends and the wider community are invited to celebrate with our school and parish community

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK PRAYER

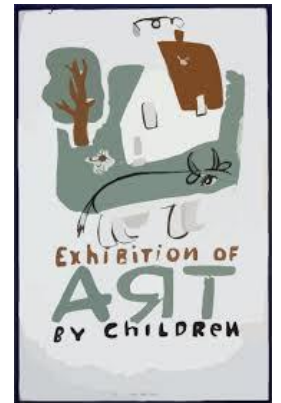
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 8:45am Assembly

### TOUR OF SCHOOL

Our school will be celebrating *Catholic Schools Week* with our annual **Tour of the School & morning tea** on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March between 9-10am. Staff will be on hand to guide you through our school and answer questions and provide information about enrolling.

### 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 from 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!



### OLOW ART EXHIBITION

During Catholic Schools Week, all students will display their artistic talents at the **OLOW ART EXHIBITION** to be held in the Parish Hall from Monday 7 - Friday 11 March. All art works will be on sale with our aim to raise \$1500 to help send Miss Reynolds to World Youth Day in July. The cost to send a participant to World Youth Day is \$6000.



## Catholic Schools Week

Join Us as We Celebrate Communities  
of Faith, Knowledge & Service!

## Opening School Year Mass:

Thank you to all of the family members and friends who helped our school community celebrate the beginning of the new school year. Our theme was the Year of Mercy and we hope to continue to raise awareness of this 'extraordinary' year that has been named by Pope Francis.

The children, who were prepared so beautifully by their teachers, helped to make our Eucharistic celebration very special and prayerful. Thank you for your reverence and participation.

## Year of Mercy:

*Why the Year of Mercy? In the words of Pope Francis...*



Dear brothers and sisters,

Many question in their hearts: why a Jubilee of Mercy today? Simply because the Church, in this time of great historical change, is called to offer more evident signs of God's presence and closeness. This is not the time to be distracted; on the contrary, we need to be vigilant and to reawaken in ourselves the capacity to see what is essential. This is a time for the Church to rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter: to be a sign and an instrument of the Father's mercy. For this reason, the Holy Year must keep alive the desire to know how to welcome the numerous signs of the tenderness which God offers to the whole world and, above all, to those who suffer, who are alone and abandoned, without hope of being pardoned or feeling the Father's love. A Holy Year to experience strongly within ourselves the joy of having been found by Jesus, the Good Shepherd who has come in search of us because we were lost. A Jubilee to receive the warmth of his love when he bears us upon his shoulders and brings us back to the Father's house. A year in which to be touched by the Lord Jesus and to be transformed by his mercy, so that we may become witnesses to mercy. Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favourable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.

May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ.

*(Celebration of first vespers of Divine Mercy Sunday, 11 April 2015)*

## Project Compassion:

On Ash Wednesday last week, our journey of Lent began. During this season we are asked to pray more, fast or make sacrifices and give to the poor. We are able to help the poor by supporting Caritas through Project Compassion. Through our newsletter, during Lent I would like to share with you some of the people whose lives have been turned around and renewed by the support of Caritas and the funds raised by Project Compassion. All of your children took home a box last Wednesday and we hope that you can encourage them to share what they have and learn about these remarkable people.



Meet Doney from Malawi...

Malawi is one of the poorest countries of the world and there have been times when Doney and her family have gone months without food. Caritas began working with Doney's village and together they set up procedures for sustainable farming and creating access to clean water. Doney has a passion for learning and she is now an Adult Literacy Facilitator, being trained through Caritas.

"My life has been transformed," smiles Doney.



Meet Hum Noy from Loas...

Hum Noy, who has Down Syndrome now is able to reach his full potential thanks to Caritas. He faced a life of discrimination and limited educational opportunities, but the Lao Disabled People's Association has been set up with the support of Caritas Australia.

"It's important to use our knowledge to help our children grow and develop," she says. "We are lucky to have this program."

Our Outreach Team will be coordinating some fundraising activities during Lent. We will keep you informed.

**Carole Day**

## LEARNING NEWS

### **THE IMPACT OF DADS READING TO CHILDREN**

*The following is an extract from an interview with Dr Elisabeth Duursma, Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Literacy at The University of Wollongong.*

*They [fathers] have very different ways of interacting around the book. Mums are what I call kind of 'teachers' - they ask a lot of questions about the book, objects in the book, labelling ... How many apples are there? What are the colours of this animal? What sound does he make?*

*Dads use far more abstract language, which we know is really good for children's vocabulary development. For example, in one of the books they talked about a ladder and lots of the dads said: 'Oh, remember that time that I used a ladder to paint the house (or for work)?' Or even little things, in one of the books they talked about a spider and one of the dads said: 'Remember that spider we had in the bathroom? Daddy was a little afraid and had to call mummy to get the spider'. Mums didn't do any of that.*

*I think one of the reasons is, probably, dads are not used to reading very often, so they use a lot of different techniques to engage the child and one of them is probably relating things to the child's own life. But, on the other hand, they used a lot of very different language, more abstract, more challenging to children - so I think that might be one of the reasons why it had such a big impact on children's language and cognitive development. It was really challenging for them [the children] to read with their fathers.*

*I strongly recommend that dads read. A lot of dads don't realise how important it is, what they are doing. They often say 'Oh, the mum is doing all the work, what I do doesn't really matter.' I actually found that's not the case, they each have their unique contributions. I think mums may be doing kind of the 'groundwork' on the book but what dads do ... even when you observe them, you can see they do totally different things.*

# HELP NEEDED

## 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 2016 for selected students in Years 3-6.

If you are able to assist with the program for an hour a week, please contact Mrs Hensen. Training will be provided for interested volunteers. We hope to commence the program at the start of Term 2.

Acting as a MultiLit tutor is a rewarding experience, working one on one with our beautiful students.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### Dance Fever Challenge Homebush (Years 3-6)

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

More information coming soon!

### Dance Fever Open Class

All parents and caregivers are invited to watch their child dance.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April

9.00 - 9.40	Year Six
9.40 - 10.20	Year Five
10.20 - 11.00	Year Four
First Break	
11.25- 12.05	Year Two
12.05 - 12.45	Kindy
12.45 - 1.25	Year Three
Second Break	
1.55 - 2.35	Year One



*Our Lady of the Way is a proud Sun Smart School. We endeavour to make sure all students, parents and teachers Slip. Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide all year round. The following information will convince you about why being Sun Smart is vitally important for all of us.*

*Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two in three Australians (2 in 3 men and 3 in 5 women) will develop some form of skin cancer before the age of 70. Over 440,000 Australians are treated for skin cancer and more than 1800 Australians die each year from skin cancer.*

*But this doesn't need to be the case. Nearly all skin cancers can be prevented by protecting yourself from the sun and most skin cancers can be cured if they are diagnosed and treated early.*

## **Be SunSmart**

Always protect your skin when UV levels are 3 (moderate) and above. [Find out today's UV levels.](#)

Protect yourself in 5 ways:



- **Slip on clothing that covers your shoulders, arms and legs.** Choose shirts with collars, high necks and sleeves and trousers or longer shorts and skirts that come below the knees.
- **Slop on SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen.** Apply generously 20 minutes before going outside and re-apply every 2 hours. Never rely on sunscreen alone.
- **Slap on a broad-brimmed hat that protects your face, ears and neck.** Broad-brimmed, bucket and legionnaire style hats provide good protection. Baseball caps are not recommended, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.
- **Seek shade whenever you can** especially when UV levels are highest between 10am and 2pm (11am and 3pm during daylight saving).
- **Slide on sunglasses that meet Australian Standard AS1067 and that fit your face well.**

*For more information: [www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart](http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart)*

### **OLOW has a 'No Hat No Play' policy.**

**All students are to wear a school hat when they are outdoors.  
(Sporting activities, Before school, First Break, Second Break & After school)**

**We also encourage all parents to be Sun Smart by wearing a hat when you are dropping off or picking up you children, and also during any outdoor activities.**

Cheers  
Michael



# GENERAL NEWS

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB NEWS

Returning users of Book Club will notice a couple of new features this year. Firstly, the five different catalogues have been combined into one easy to use super-catalogue that gives students access to a wider range of reading materials. There were some great bargains in the first issue of the year, with around 52 items under \$5 including a book tie-in from the latest Goosebumps movie.

Second, for those taking advantage of the online LOOP payment system, you will now notice this icon.



This arranges for your order to be held back for collection from the office, rather than going to the classroom. Great for when you are purchasing books as gifts! (If submitting a cash/paper order form, just write clearly on the form if you would like the books held back).

### Reading really takes you places!

*In other very exciting Book Club news, Lachlan Armour (Year 6) has been asked by Scholastic Australia to continue his great work from last year and keep reviewing books for their 'Review Crew' website and catalogues again this year. You can see some of his work from last year on posters around the school. This year he will also be submitting video reviews and appearing on a new promotional poster for an upcoming book release! Amazing work Lachlan!*

## 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 check for 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.

## SCHOOL TERM DATES – 2016

Term 1	Friday, 29 January	Friday, 8 April
Term 2	Tuesday, 26 April	Friday, 1 July
Term 3	Monday, 18 July	Friday, 23 September
Term 4	Monday, 10 October	Tuesday, 20 December



*Our Lady of the Way Primary School*

**49 Forbes Street, Emu Plains NSW 2750**  
**Phone: (02) 4735 1930 Fax: (02) 4735 6221**  
**Email: [OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au)**  
**Web: <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>**



# HOMework

## *Parent Information 2016*

*Learning - Thinking - Choosing - Relating - Being*

*Our Lady of the Way* Homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits. The responsibility for overseeing homework lies essentially with the parents. Homework need not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. The emphasis should always be placed on the learning value.

*Our Lady of the Way* places a great focus and energy on literacy, numeracy and inquiry learning skills. We desire that our students:

- cultivate a passion for reading, becoming highly effective readers and seeing reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning;
- acquire a love of Mathematics and becoming numerate learners by developing the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across all areas of their lives;
- develop the skills of curiosity, creativity and innovation by extending and consolidating their learning beyond the classroom;
- become self-motivated learners to encourage life-long learning;
- involve all family members in their learning;
- develop learning based on personal interests and enjoyment;
- acquire independence in their study habits.

Through the home and school partnership, students have the opportunity to:

- improve comprehension; (students who read extensively learn reading strategies and increase their reading rates)
- make gains in overall language proficiency;
- increase vocabulary knowledge;
- improve writing and spelling skills;
- improve understanding of mathematical concepts and problem-solving;
- build fluency through the recall of factual knowledge and concepts;
- develop research and critical thinking skills
- develop time management skills.

### **HOMEWORK IN KINDERGARTEN & YEAR 1**

In Kindergarten and Year 1, homework involves reading a variety of home readers and quality literature as well as the quick identification of sight words and exposure to spelling patterns. In these foundational years children become better readers by practising reading.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through counting games and using Mathematics in real-life situations around the home for 5–10 minutes each day. Children may also pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families.

***The time suggested for homework for Kindergarten and Year 1 students is approximately 15 - 30 minutes daily.***

### **HOMEWORK IN YEAR 2**

In Year 2, homework involves reading a variety of home readers and quality literature. Some children will need to work on the quick identification of sight words and exposure to spelling patterns.

Teachers will send home individualised spelling words that students have spelled incorrectly in their writing and provide suggested activities parents can do, to help their child learn these words.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through counting games and using Mathematics in real-life situations around the home for 5–10 minutes each day. Children may also pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families.

***The time suggested for homework for Year 2 students is approximately 15 - 30 minutes daily.***

### **HOMEWORK IN YEAR 3 & YEAR 4**

In Year 3 and Year 4, homework involves reading a variety of texts including quality novels, picture books, magazines, visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material.

Teachers will send home individualised spelling words that students have spelled incorrectly in their writing and provide suggested activities parents can do, to help their child learn these words.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts for 5-10 minutes each day. Children may also choose to pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school.

***The time suggested for homework for Year 3 & Year 4 students, is approximately 30–45 minutes daily.  
This time frame includes at least 15 minutes of reading.***

## **HOMEWORK IN YEAR 5 & YEAR 6**

In Year 5 and Year 6, homework is an important part in developing good time management skills. Each student is given a diary to record homework, events, information and messages to and from parents.

Homework involves reading a variety of texts including quality novels, picture books, magazines, visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum.

Homework activities will be drawn from all Key Learning Areas including Religion. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of. Activities will be communicated via 'Google Docs.'

Parents are encouraged to provide regular opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts as well as the spelling of unfamiliar words for 5-10 minutes each day. Children should also choose to pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity, imagination and creativity with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school.

***The time suggested for homework for Year 5 & Year 6 students is approximately 45-60 minutes daily. This time frame includes at least 20 minutes of reading each day.***

***It is the expectation that all children at Our Lady of the Way read each day at home.***

### **WHAT CAN PARENTS/CARERS DO TO ASSIST?**

- Take into account the need for your child to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.
- Take an active interest in your child's reading.
- Be a good role model and read with and to your child.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place and routine for homework if possible.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about your child's approach and motivation to homework.

Each afternoon when children get home, they are encouraged to participate in activities that connect their learning with life experiences. We know from research that when children make these connections, then true and long lasting learning takes place.

## OUTINGS

*Help plan a holiday/trip: research attractions, compare and contrast the costs, calculate daily distances if driving.*

*Grocery shopping: read ingredients to help choose the healthiest products for the best prices, find products that you have coupons for, figure out best deal between sizes of items.*

*Going shopping and computing how much 25/30/50% off would be on the sale price of clothes.*

*Go to a play or musical.*

*While in the car make up words using the letters and add up the numbers from the surrounding number plates.*

## SPORT

*Play sports or after school activities.*

*Establish daily exercise plan: calculate distance walked, swam, biked, etc. and how many calories are used.*

*Spell words or do multiplication tables as you jump on a trampoline- one letter/number per jump.*

*Spell words or do multiplication tables as you play basketball. One letter/number per shot.*

*Spell words or do multiplication tables as you jump rope.*

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

*Swimming.*

*Relay races.*

*Learn and perform magic tricks.*

*Hopscotch.*

*Puddle jumping.*

*Go camping.*

*Name that rock.*

*Name that plant.*

*Name that insect.*

*Learning - Thinking - Choosing - Relating - Being*

## MATHEMATICS

*Use homemade pizza, pie, pieces of bread to work on fractions.*

*Use a fish tank to discuss conversions: litres to gallons.*

*Create items for an "Estimation Table" where kids "estimate" how many items are in different containers with colourful objects.*

*Addition and subtraction of food on their plate during dinner. It works really well using vegetables!*

*Measure the time it takes to count to ten, one hundred, one thousand etc.*

*Count the steps it takes you to get to different locations in your house from the front door.*

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

*Make a simple scribble and the other person turns it into a completed composition.*

*Origami (Japanese paper folding).*

*Make a family banner using handprints to tell about a family member.*

*Write a script from their favourite book, do research on the web to find out how to make puppets and produce a puppet show.*

*Build models, such as birdhouses, cars, etc. This activity requires organization tools, measuring, cutting, creativity, art, painting, neatness; the list goes on, and at the end, they have something they created, that can be used or enjoyed by them, birds, etc.*

*Create mosaics from bits of coloured paper.*

*Make birthday cards for relatives: recycle objects around the house and include a picture of the kids in the card to make the card extra special.*

## GAMES & ACTIVITIES

*Reading out loud to each other.*

*Email relatives: this makes writing and spelling words fun.*

*Tic tac toe.*

*Checkers.*

*Watch a movie or show together on and talk about it after.*

*Cook as a family: include meal planning within a budget (cost, calories, nutrition), time it takes to create meal, etc.*

*Make a graph of TV/Video time for a month. Compare with sleeping and/or exercise.*

*Read the newspaper.*

*Junior Monopoly/Original Monopoly.*

*Read a book together, then watch the movie - compare/contrast the contents.*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park provides Catholic Education for girls in Years 7 – 12

Enrolling now for 2017

An **Open Night** on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm includes information sessions, displays, performances and tours.

All considering enrolment in 2017 are invited to attend.

For further information contact the College on 4737 5506.



Faith, Courage, Tolerance

## PENRITH OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Saturday 27 February 2016 (8.00 pm – 10.00 pm)  
IS ANY ONE OUT THERE?

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



Come along a listen to Dr Ain De Horta's talk on the hunt for ET. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50 family Bookings are essential: To book and pay for tickets visit [westernsydney.edu.au/observatory](http://westernsydney.edu.au/observatory)

### YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not.

**Next gathering: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Please note change of Venue:** Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, 1 Canyon Rd, Baulkham Hills. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

**STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED** CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those struggling through a separation or divorce.

**Next Gathering:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30 – 9.30. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

### **BE PAID TO HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT**

Jamison and Nepean Creative & Performing Arts high Schools are hosting a group of co-ed Japanese high school students for 1 week from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April. These students are coming to Australia to improve their conversational English and to experience our Australian culture and our beautiful natural environment. **We are seeking expressions of interest from families who might be interested in hosting a student during their time in the Penrith/Emu Plains area.** Home stay hosts will be paid a tax free allowance for each student which will more than defray the costs of hosting. As well as the stimulation of having a foreign student share your home for a few days, this will be a rewarding and memorable experience for Hosts and students alike.

Why not consider hosting a student in your home for just 6 nights and enjoy this positive and rewarding experience? Contact Margaret Clark on 0488 777 886 or email [bill.clark@edexaustralia.com.au](mailto:bill.clark@edexaustralia.com.au).

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



**Healthy Harold's**  
**First Family Fun Day**

**Sunday**  
21st February  
10am-3pm  
10 Hewitt St Colyton  
[Life Education NSW]