



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

2014 - Celebrating 35 years of Catholic Education

20th November 2014

DIARY DATES

Friday 21 November

Faith@Work Fundraiser
MUFTI DAY \$2.00
Wear Pink, Purple or Blue

Sat/Sun 22/23 November

Weekly Parish based lessons – Reconciliation

Mon 24 Nov – Fri 5 Dec

Swimming Program, Yrs K-4

Thursday 27 November

Reconciliation Practice
7.00pm

Sunday 30 November

9.30am Mass
Kinder, Yr 1 & Yr 2

Monday 1 December

Christmas Concert led by Andrew Chinn, 7.00pm

Thursday 4 December

Celebration of Reconciliation 7.00-8.00pm

Monday 8 December

8.45 Celebration of Learning Award Assembly

Tuesday 9 December

Year 6 Farewell Mass, 7pm

Friday 12 December

9.15am End of Year School Mass and Morning Tea

ICE CREAM DAY

Year 6 Social Night, 7.00pm

Friday 12 December

Year 6 Social, 6pm

Wednesday 17 December

Last day of Term

Tues/Wed 27/28 January

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Students in Yrs 1-6 to attend Mathematical Interview Assessment at appointed times.

Thursday 29 January

Years 1-6 Resume

Thurs-Fri 29/30 January

Kinder testing - literacy & numeracy

Monday 2 February

Kinder commence 8.50am to 1.25pm

Monday 9 February

Kinder begin full time

Dear Parent, Carers, Students & Friends,

As we enter the final four weeks of school, I can't help but notice that there is a lovely air of excitement to carry us into the holidays. What can we look forward to?

- ★ Year 5 leadership nominations and voting – 21st November.
- ★ Sunday Parish Mass for Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 – 30th November.
- ★ School Christmas pageant led by Andrew Chinn. The children will lead us through the beautiful Christmas story using scripture, prayers and actions – 1st December.
- ★ School and Parish community Ginger Bread House night – 4th December.
- ★ End of year reports that celebrate the achievements of your children as they have grown in faith, knowledge and skills in 2014 – 5th December.
- ★ Celebrating student achievements at our end of year Award Assembly – 8th December.
- ★ Celebrating our Year 6 students as they make the exciting new journey into secondary school – Farewell Mass 9th December and Social 12th December.
- ★ Celebrating as a faith community at our end of the year Thanksgiving Mass and Morning Tea -12th December.
- ★ P&F providing ice-cream treats – 12th December
- ★ Children meeting with their new teachers for 2015 – 15th December.



While the end of the year and the approach of the Christmas season, can cause many of us to feel hurried and overly busy, let's instead hold the feelings of celebrating great activities and new memories.

We have much to celebrate this year at Our Lady of the Way...let's join as one in giving thanks for all that we have shared.

Have a great week,
God Bless

Sue Veling

Principal



Teachers for 2015

I am very pleased to announce two new teachers who will be joining the staff at OLOW – Miss Therese Coutinho and Miss Megan Vella. I also announce that Mrs Carlin Eekman will be on leave for 2015 and congratulate Mrs Jenni Walsh who will be on maternity leave in 2015.

Sadly we farewell Miss Justine Colyer who will be moving to England to teach and Mrs Bridget Morgan who has been our library assistant since 2011. We also farewell our IT trainee Mr Blake Harper.

Our grade teachers and learning support staff for 2015:

- Kindergarten – Mrs Kakoschke & Miss Coutinho
- Year 1 – Mrs Kuipers, Mrs Blazek & Mrs Filan Schafer
- Year 2 – Miss Lamaletie, Mrs Thomas & Mrs Witton
- Year 3 – Mrs Johnston, Mrs McKeon & Mrs Atkins
- Year 4 - Mrs Grima Starkey & Miss Vella
- Year 5 – Ms Glynn & Mrs Day
- Year 6 – Miss Reynolds & Mrs Scott

Learning Support Team: Mr Mifsud, Mrs Flanagan, Mrs Curry, Mrs Hensen, Mrs Khalifeh



Teachers on Leave

Both Mr Mifsud and Mrs Johnston will be on leave from tomorrow Friday 21st November. We wish them a blessed Christmas and a safe and happy holiday.

P&F Meeting & AGM – Tuesday 11 November 7pm

Thank you to the parents who attended the AGM for our Parents and Friends Association. I wish to publicly thank the 2014 members led by Kevin Houlihan for their dedication to building community and supporting the school by improving the learning environment and helping to provide much needed resources for all students at OLOW.

I am proud to announce the new P&F committee for 2015:

President – Kevin Houlihan

Vice President: Kelly Tabor

Treasurer: Carolyn Burton

Secretary: Kiery Pascoe

Fund Raising & Fete Coordinator: VACANT

Fundraising Assistants: Jane Cashell & Kate Andrews

Committee Members: Catherine Budge, Regina Hawkes, Julie Woods, James Tabor



Swimming Program Kindergarten – Year 4

OLOW's swimming program for all children in Kindergarten to Year 4 will begin on Monday 24th November to Friday 5th December. The cost of this 10-day program is covered in the school activity fee. A final swimming reminder note with the timetable will go home on Friday.

End of Year Awards

Just a reminder that the end of year awards will be distributed at the morning assembly on Monday 8th December using the following categories:

- ★ Love of Learning Award
- ★ Mary MacKillop Award
- ★ Most Improved Award
- ★ Positive Attitude Towards Learning Award
- ★ Music Award
- ★ Japanese Award



All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend this ceremony.

Christmas Concert led by Andrew Chinn

The musical composer Andrew Chinn will again be at OLOW to run his fantastic music workshop with the students. The day will culminate with a Christmas Concert at 7pm on Monday 1st December held on the playground. All students are asked to wear clothes with a Christmas theme and their sports shoes.

End of Year School Reports

Semester two reports will be sent home on Friday 5th December. If you wish to discuss your child's report/progress, please make an appointment to see the classroom teachers.

Winner of Telstra Projects Across Western Sydney Competition

Congratulations to Caitlyn Pearson from Year 6 who won the Telstra *Projections across Western Sydney* Competition. All entries are being displayed on the side of Blacktown Civic Centre each night over the next two weeks. Caitlyn received a Samsung Galaxy Note 10.4, 4G and the school received a further three Galaxy Notes.



Individual Numeracy Assessments 2015 for Year 1-6

The first two days of school in 2015 will be **Staff Development Days** – Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th January. Staff will be using these days to assess children using a one-on-one numeracy interview. Each test goes for a minimum of 30 minutes.

An on-line booking form will be available towards the end of the year. Those students who miss out will be able to complete the test with a teacher at a later date.

School begins for * Years 1-6 students on Thursday 29th January 2015.

School begins for * Kindergarten students on Monday 2nd February 2015 8:45am – 1:25pm

* Kindergarten students on Monday 9th February 2015 full day

Please note: Children starting Kindergarten in 2015 have a different testing regime. Please refer to the information received at Orientation.

2015 School Fees

The Diocesan School Fees have been announced for 2015. These fees are charged annually in terms one, two and three as follows:

ANNUAL FEES PRIMARY	Note: no charge for 4 th + children	1 st Child 100%	2 nd child 75%	3 rd child 50%
Tuition Fee	Kindergarten	\$1,047	\$786	\$525
	Years 1-6	\$1,350	\$1,014	\$675
Building Levy	One Levy per Family	\$702		

Diocesan Tuition Fees include a level of student accident insurance through Catholic Church Insurances. The 24-hour cover is for school activities during school hours and approved school activities outside school hours such as camps, sports, work experience and travel to and from school for approved activities.

School Based Fees

Learning Resource fee increasing by \$5.00 to \$145.00 per student.

Cleaning fee increasing by \$3.00 to \$93.00 per family.

Activities fee will remain unchanged: K-2 \$282.00; Years 3-4 \$291.00; Years 5-6 \$177.00

OLOW School Captain Trifecta for 2015

The school captains for three of our feeder high schools - St Dominic's College; Caroline Chisholm College and McCarthy Catholic College are all ex students of Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains.

This must be some sort of Trifecta record. Congratulations to the following students and their families.

St Dominic's College School Captain – Peter Pavlakis

McCarthy Catholic College School Captain – Daniel Morgan

Caroline Chisholm College School Captain – Samantha Arnold



DATES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY

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. In 2015 our program of internet safety initiative includes:

This presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers 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.

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.



All families are invited to join the Parish this week for **Thank You Sunday after the 9.30am Mass**. There will be a jumping castle and refreshments for all. Please come along and celebrate with the Parish.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Diocesan Works Fund Appeal – faith@work:



Please remember **tomorrow** we will be holding a **mufti day** to support the Diocesan Works Fund. Your children are invited to **wear pink, purple or blue** and give a **\$2 donation**. Please be generous and help support this appeal so that the good work being done in our diocese can continue.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal:

Next week our St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal begins. Each grade has been connected to a family or person to support. A note will go home tomorrow sharing the specific details with you. Baskets will be in classrooms from Monday to start the collection. Thank you to Ms Glynn for all her organisation of this appeal.

Stage 3 Fundraiser:

The generosity of spirit of our children never ceases to amaze me. Isabella and Ellie of Year 6 have been inspired by their grade's Religious Education unit on 'mission' and have invited all of Stage 3 to help by donating chocolates. They have decided to show witness to the mission of Jesus by raising money to purchase gifts for children through the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

Next week they will be holding a Chocolate Toss at various times of the day. They would like to invite parents before and after school to also try their luck. The girls will share the details of their appeal at assembly on Monday. Please help to support this worthwhile initiative.

Grade and Stage Masses:

- Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 Parish Mass at 9:30am - Sunday November 30
- Year 5 attending Parish Mass at 9:00am - Wednesday November 26
- Year 6 attending Parish Mass at 9:00am - Wednesday December 3



Advent/ Christmas Concert:

On December 1, religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to be a part of our Christmas celebrations. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Together As One", "Rainbow" and "In the Beginning" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Parents and friends are warmly invited to be a part of the celebration of faith and fun. The concert will take place on our Infants Playground, beginning at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2015

The Students in Year 5 are currently nominating for Student Leadership positions for 2015.

As part of their preparation they participated in a Leadership Day last Tuesday. This followed on from a very successful leadership camp in Berry where the children worked and played cooperatively to develop and build upon the skills and qualities necessary for student leaders. Leadership roles must be seen by the students as useful and worthwhile and should give student leaders a sense of purpose and a feeling of achievement.

All Year 6 students in 2015 will take an active role as a **Student Leader** at Our Lady of the Way. Strategies such as active and reflective listening, critical and creative thinking, problem solving and decision making will provide opportunities for students to develop student participation and leadership skills.

Our students will be active in contributing to a caring, safe environment for fellow students, staff and parents. They will be encouraged to provide their views on school community decisions, using agreed upon processes, which include the Student Representative Council (SRC).

Following on from the leadership day, the students are participating in a nomination and election process in order to finalise the OLOW Year 6 Student Leaders for 2015. We have commenced the process with the nomination of 8 students for the four school captain positions - two boys and two girls. This will be followed by nominations for a number of other Student Leadership roles and responsibilities including Social Justice, Sports Captains, Pastoral Care, Civics and Citizenship, Green Team and Technology.

Tomorrow, Friday 21st November, the eight nominated students will present a speech addressing the criteria for OLOW School Captain. All Year 3, 4, and 5 students and OLOW Staff will vote for the school captains for 2015.

The Announcement of 2015 School Captains to the community will be made on Monday 24th November at Assembly.

On Tuesday 25th November, nominations for all other Leadership roles and responsibilities will take place. The announcement of 2015 Student Leaders will be made on Friday 28th November.

In early 2015 – Nominations and elections will be held for Student Representative Council representatives from Years 2 to 5 (Year 1 in Semester 2). Two students from each grade will lead class meetings with their teachers and also act as representatives of their peers at regularly held SRC meetings led by our Year 6 Captains.

The opportunities for Leadership in 2015 allow all students to develop an understanding of how useful and worthwhile decisions are made. They should give student leaders a sense of purpose and a feeling of achievement.

*If your actions inspire others to dream more,
learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

John Quincy Adams

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

Take Care
Michael

GENERAL INFORMATION



New Baby on the Block

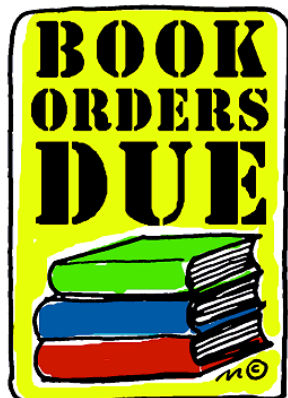
Congratulations to Jack (6S) and Mikayla (1B) on the recent birth of their new baby brother.

Library Books

The end of year is fast approaching. Could we please ask all Mum's, Dad's and Carers to check their children's bedrooms, school bags and homes for any READERS or Library Books that may belong to the school. We need them all back ASAP for inventory and stocktake. Thank you

Susan Masters

Library Assistant



Book Club

Final bookclub orders for 2014 are due TOMORROW (Friday 21st November).

Parents, if you'd like to purchase anything from the catalogue to use as Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers, we can arrange for books to be held at the office for your collection, rather than sending them home with students. Please write these instructions on your order form if you'd like to take advantage of this.

Thanks for supporting Book Club this year.

The Book Club Mums.

CHANGE OF DETAILS FORM

(Please complete only those details that have changed)

SURNAME:	CHILD/CHILDREN'S NAME/S:
<u>New</u> Address Details:	
<u>New</u> Home Phone No:	
<u>New</u> Mother's Mobile No:	
<u>New</u> Mother's Work No:	
<u>New</u> Father's Mobile No:	
<u>New</u> Father's Work No:	

New Emergency Contact Details:

(This is someone that can be called in the event that a parent cannot be contacted)

<u>New</u> Name:	Relationship to Child:
<u>New</u> Home Phone:	<u>New</u> Work Phone:
<u>New</u> Mobile Phone:	
Date:	Signature: