

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

12th November 2015

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 17 November

P & F AGM and General Meeting, 7pm

Friday 27 November

P & F Gingerbread House Building Night

Mon 30 Nov – Fri 4 Dec

Swimming, K-Yr 4

Thursday 3 December

Advent/Christmas Celebration, 6pm

Monday 7 December

OLOW Celebrations of Learning Awards Ceremony
9am

Tuesday 8 December

Year 6 Farewell Mass
7pm

Wednesday 9 December

Swimming Carnival

Friday 11 December

Year 6 Social Night

Monday 14 December

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Thank You Morning Tea

Wednesday 16 December

Last Day for Students

Thurs/Fri 17/18 December

Staff Development Days

Wed 27 & Thurs 28 January

Staff Development Days
Mathematics Assessment Interviews for all Students from Years 1-6

Wed 27 to Fri 29 January

Staff Development Days
Literacy and Numeracy for Kindergarten

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

Last week we celebrated the feast of All Saints. This feast day offers us an opportunity to look back and celebrate all the great women and men who took seriously the words of the Gospel.

They were the poor in spirit who sought nothing more than the Kingdom of heaven. They were those who hungered and thirsted for righteousness and wanted nothing more than to have God satisfy their longing. They were the ones who showed mercy to their neighbours because they had experienced God's mercy. They were the peacemakers in whom our Heavenly Father's love was so real that they were called 'children of God.' They worked for justice and peace to the point of being persecuted and even put to death.

Experiencing our Heavenly Father's love and goodness, they wanted nothing more than to share it with others. Even while they looked forward to a heavenly reward and a final judgement, they strove to bring love and mercy to all those who were suffering around them.

The Church also celebrates and acknowledges All Souls. For all our loved ones – the 'personal saints' we have come to know and love - who have passed away, we give thanks for the many blessings they enjoyed and shared with us. May they be forever in our hearts.

God Bless,

Mrs. Sue Veling

Principal



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 4 WEEKS 4 & 5



Owen Tait; Eden Chapman, Taylor Latham, Daisy Anderson, Lily Callaghan, Blake Skinner, William Plummer, Mikayla Flanagan, Travis Shin, Alexander Hayward, Joshua Vanegas, Taylah Cowley, Jessie Craig, Erin Downie, Brooke Bentley, Isabella Toth, Ella Desmond, Declan Casey, Cooper Sulic, Carlie Spooner, Curtis Smith, Milaya Cleary, Riley Burton, Jack Prendergast, Conor Rudge, Maddison McCarry, Patrick Reeks, Hannah Selby, Grace Foster, Sandra Elias, Zoe Grech, Jorja Tabor, Lara Sullivan, Dominic Sagun.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

We understand that family circumstances alter and that children sometimes need to change schools. If you know that you will not be attending *Our Lady of the Way* in 2016 please advise Mrs Veling and complete a Notification of Leaving Form that is available from the school office.

We have healthy enrolments for most classes in 2016, with some children on waiting lists, so in fairness to these families we ask you to let us know if you are changing schools.

If you know of anyone considering a Catholic school education for their child at OLOW from 2016, in any grade, please encourage them to contact us as soon as possible to assist us with our planning.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



These summer holidays, Executive Director Mr Whitby is encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and providing students with more chances of winning a prize.

Entry is simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. Enter online at <http://parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>.

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.

Entries are now open and close at 5pm on 5 February 2016.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015

Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth countries since the end of World War I to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty. We commemorated this day on Wednesday, 11th November with a special prayer service, reflection and silence.

A large number of parents and friends joined us for this special ceremony.

O God, our ruler and guide,
In whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
We give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down
their lives to defend them.

We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
Gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
May have the grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace.

Amen



A community is like an orchestra: each instrument is beautiful when it plays alone, but when they all play together, each given its own weight in turn, the result is even more beautiful.

A community is like a garden full of flowers, shrubs and trees.

Each helps to give life to the others.

Jean Vanier



P & F

Annual General Meeting

Election of Positions for 2016

Tuesday 17th November, 7pm Leonay Golf Course

**ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME
AND INVITED TO ATTEND THE
P & F ASSOCIATION'S FINAL
MEETING OF THE YEAR.**

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. The key points are:

- ✓ *Attendance affects a child's academic achievement and their overall wellbeing.*
- ✓ *There is NO safe threshold of absence – every day counts.*
- ✓ *School attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling – research shows Year 1 attendance is a predictor of future attendance patterns.*
- ✓ *The effects of school absenteeism accumulate over time and affect children's development now and into the future.*
- ✓ *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.*
- ✓ *Sporadic absences can affect academic achievement as much as absences over consecutive days.*
- ✓ *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.*

Below is a table showing the thresholds established across the Diocese for student attendance and the accumulated effects over 10 years of school time lost.

| Attendance Rate | Student Absence | Educational Risk | Days absent per year | Cumulative Absence over 10 years of school |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 90% or more | Regular | Low or zero | 20 days or less | Adds up to 1 year or less schooling missed |
| 80%-89% | Emerging | Medium | Between 20-40 days | Adds up to 1-2 years schooling missed |
| 70%-79% | Chronic | High | Between 40-60 days | Adds up to 2-3 years schooling missed |
| 69% or lower | Complex | Severe | 60 or more days | Adds up to 3 years plus schooling missed |

2016 MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY

As was introduced in January this year, all students will be assessed using the **Maths Assessment Interview** on **Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January 2016**. *Our Lady of the Way* staff will be taking two Staff Development Days to assess students in Years 1-6. This is a one-on-one interview style assessment led by a teacher. Each assessment takes a minimum of 30 minutes. More details and an interview on-line booking schedule will be organised for later this term. **School will resume for students in Years 1-6 on Friday 29th January 2016.**

Kindergarten students will have a separate testing schedule for literacy and numeracy and this will take place from Wednesday 27th January to Friday 29th January 2016. **Kindergarten will begin school on Monday 1st February (8:45-1:25); then full days from Monday 8th February (8:45-2:55).**

WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE TICKETS

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is fundraising for World Youth Day 2016. **Raffle tickets** have been sent home. 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.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year we will be holding our Swimming Carnival to select the *Our Lady of the Way* representative team for 2016 at the end of this term to avoid the beginning school rush. The Carnival will be held on **Wednesday 9th December** at Glenbrook Pool, Wascoe St. Glenbrook.



- All children will compete in the novelty events with their grade.
- Children will compete in the 50m Freestyle events in the **age they turn in 2016**.
- All other 50m events are grouped as Junior (8-10 years), 11 years and 12 years.
- **The 25m events are for those children who are unable to swim 50m. It is important that all swimmers are given a fair and equal chance to compete. 25m events will be held at the same time as the 50m events**
- The 25m events will be freestyle and freestroke of the swimmers choice.
- Swim club times for the 200m I.M. need to be given to Mrs McKeon prior to the carnival.
- The carnival program indicating each student's events will be posted outside Year 6 prior to the carnival. This will indicate the competitors for all 100m, 50m and 25m events. Any changes to these events need to be given to Mrs. McKeon upon arrival at the pool.
- The current Year 6 students will be assisting on the day and will participate in the novelties and Year 6 grade races.

If your child is in Year 1 and is turning 8 years old next year they are entitled to try out for the zone swimming for 2016.

Your child must be a competent swimmer who is easily able to swim at least 50m.

In order to place your child in their correct events please complete the entry form that was sent home this week. For this event to be a success we need as many parent helpers as possible. If you are able to assist at the carnival, please indicate this on your child's entry form.

This will be a wonderful community day for the end of the year.

The entry form needs to be returned to your child's classroom teacher by Tuesday 24th November. The cost for the Swimming Carnival will be included in the General Activities Fee. A separate note regarding transport home from the carnival will be sent home prior to the carnival.

SAFETY FIRST - PARKING

Today I received a phone call from a resident in Troy Street. A number of our parents are using the carpark at 1-7 Troy Street to park and turn around in. This facility houses many elderly people, some with severe forms of dementia.

The owners of the property are anxious that these elderly residents will venture out while the cars are turning around and may get seriously injured.

In the interest of safety, and as an act of courtesy, I ask that no parent, carer or friend of *Our Lady of the Way School*, enter this property uninvited.

Mrs Veling

VERY IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday 17th November | 7pm P&F AGM (election of positions) and P&F general meeting @ Leonay Golf Club |
| Friday 27th November | P&F Gingerbread House Building night |
| Monday 30th – Friday 4th December | Swimming Kindergarten, Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 4 |
| Thursday 3rd December | 6pm Advent/Christmas Celebration |
| Monday 7th December | 9am OLOW Celebrations of Learning Award Ceremony |
| Tuesday 8th December | 7pm Year 6 Farewell Mass |
| Wednesday 9th December | OLOW Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Pool |
| Friday 11th December | Year 6 Social Night |
| Monday 14th December | 9.15am End of Year Thanksgiving Mass & Thank you Morning Tea |
| Wednesday 16th December | Last day for students |
| Thursday/Friday 17th /18th December | Staff Development Days |
| 2016 | |
| Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th January 2016 | Staff Development Days – Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) for all students from Years 1 - 6 |
| Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th January 2015 | Kindergarten students Literacy & Numeracy Assessments |



10 Tips to Parent Your

ANXIOUS Child

By Anne Marie Albano, PhD, author of ["You and Your Anxious Child"](#), with Leslie Pepper

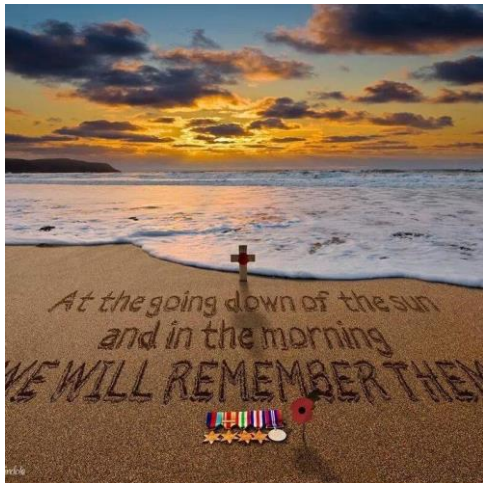


1. Respect and validate your child's feelings! Anxiety is a real emotion and not pleasant.
2. Teach your child deep, slow, belly breathing. This is an easy and very portable skill for self-soothing and calming.
3. Listen to your child and ask "Tell me what you are thinking?" This will help to reveal scary thoughts and scenes that build up in your child's mind.
4. Rather than swooping to reassure, ask your child "How likely is (that thing you're afraid of) to happen?" You'll be teaching him to challenge his anxious thinking.
5. Prompt your child with "Tell me some things you can do to handle this situation" and help her to brainstorm, rather than just giving her solutions. She'll feel empowered.
6. Give up the idea of "mental health days" "skip days" "sleep with mom nights" or other ways of avoiding feared situations. This just makes the anxiety stick more firmly and lead to further avoidance.
7. Encourage your child's attempts to be brave, no matter how small they may seem to you. Use labeled praise such as "I'm so proud of you for sleeping in your own bed last night!"
8. Work with your child to outline small steps leading to a bigger goal.
9. Create opportunities for your child to practice being brave and coping, and then high-five his/her efforts!
10. Recognize when you are anxious and say aloud what you can do to calm down and solve the situation. You'll be modeling coping for your child, but be mindful and don't overshare your anxiety!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Remembrance Day



Yesterday we gathered as a school community to acknowledge Remembrance Day. The children shared the significance of the day, a reading from St. John's Gospel and the symbolism of poppies and rosemary. The focus of our ceremony was to name all those people who have been remembered by their families on our school Remembrance Wall. We further acknowledged them through the reciting of the ode, the playing of the last post and a minute's silence. The children were so respectful and very mindful of the significance of the ceremony.



Thank you to the families that came to pray with us and remember with us.

Jump Up & Down 4 Kids



Currently there are over 200 children in detention on Nauru calling for our help and pity.

Jump Up & Down 4 Kids because no child belongs in immigration detention.

The Human Rights Commission's Forgotten Children report into children in detention provides evidence that is both shocking and shameful.

The reporting has been consistent. Children are being harmed and the trauma they are experiencing may be carried well into their adult life.

Surely most decent adults would step in and not let this happen to any child in pain?

Tomorrow at Our Lady of the Way all the children will be taking part in a Diocesan wide initiative to "Jump Up and Down 4 Kids" living in detention.

At 12 o'clock, after the Angelus, the children will listen to the theme song and jump up and down to say they don't want to stand by and let children be affected by the trauma of living in detention. They don't belong there. They never did. We don't want to be blind to their misery.

GENERAL NEWS



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The children of Our Lady of the Way have been invited to join the Christmas Vigil Mass Choir. Practise will commence on Tuesday 8th December at 6.30pm in the Church. Parents are also invited to join the choir.

CHANGE TO BUS PASSES

From Term 1, 2016 paper bus passes will be replaced by the new School Opal card. As with the current School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) students will be eligible for free travel as follows: Years K-2 (Infants) – no minimum distance from their school; Years 3-6 (Primary) – 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further from school. Applications can be made via a **new online application process**.

Many students with a current SSTS pass won't need to reapply, as a new pass will be issued automatically. This will be either a School Opal card or a school travel pass if the student needs to travel outside the Opal network to get to school.

However, you will need to complete an application form if:

- applying for SSTS for the first time
- enrolling in kindergarten
- progressing from year 2 to year 3
- progressing from year 6 to year 7
- changing name, school and/or address
- requesting a new additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation.



If a student doesn't qualify for a free travel pass, they may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Application for 2016 School Opal Cards and SSTS passes starts from Monday 2 November.

To apply online, please go to: <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply>.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB NEWS

The final Book Club brochures for the year have been distributed this week. If you would like to purchase anything from the catalogues as Christmas gifts, please notify the office and we can hold the items for collection rather than sending them home with the students (we can do this for you any time during the year). Many thanks to the parents who have embraced the new online purchasing system this year, it certainly makes ordering easier, however we are still happy to receive cash and cheque orders as well. Remember that the school earns 20% in rewards when you purchase through Book Club!

Please Note: Scholastic have extended the deadline for the Issue 8 brochure, orders will be taken up until the 26th November (not 20th as previously advertised).



COMMUNITY NEWS

Reflection Day for Women - Saturday 28th November, 2015 9.30am to 3.30pm. Looking for some quiet time to prepare for Advent and the Year of Mercy? Then this day is FOR YOU! Cost is \$25 and includes morning and afternoon tea, BYO Lunch. At: Family Hall, Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Bookings: info@schoenstatt.org.au or 4773 8338.

Christmas Carols at the Shrine – Saturday 19th December, 2015 7pm to 8.30pm: The Schoenstatt Sisters would like to invite you to join them for an evening of carol singing at the Shrine. Please bring a blanket or chairs and some snacks if you wish. Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels and shepherds. At: Outside Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

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



2016 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, there is still uncertainty around long term government funding for Catholic schools. Indications are that federal government funding for education post 2017 will be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which historically has been much lower than the education inflation rate. Funding growth linked to CPI will not meet increases in the real costs of schooling.

To maintain our current service levels we will need to increase diocesan tuition fees by 5%. This increase will mean we can continue to fund important initiatives to improve student learning, including:

- literacy and numeracy programs such as Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4 and professional learning for teachers and leaders to support the implementation of these programs
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our learning spaces, technology and infrastructure
- building new schools and expanding existing schools to cater for new places

Scholarships and fee arrangements

We are committed to ensuring that **no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation**. There are a range of scholarship and support programs to assist families including:

- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Fee arrangements and discounts
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2016

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fee can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Flexible payment plans are also available around weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments. The fee is only charged for the first three children currently enrolled in the diocese. There is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools.

Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2016

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard, and ensure we can expand or build new schools in high growth areas. To ensure this continues we will need to increase the building levy by \$33 per family per year. The levy for 2016 will be \$735 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$245 in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs and we do not take the decision to raise fees lightly. **If a school fee increase will be difficult for your family to manage, please contact your school principal.** We will provide every assistance to families in financial need.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools

The 2016 Annual Tuition Fees are as follows:

| Annual Fees | | 1st Child 100% | 2nd Child 75% | 3rd Child 50% |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tuition Fee Primary | Kindergarten | \$1,098 | \$825 | \$549 |
| | Years 1 - 6 | \$1,419 | \$1,065 | \$711 |
| Tuition Fee Secondary | Years 7 - 8 | \$1,968 | \$1,476 | \$984 |
| | Years 9 -10 | \$2,184 | \$1,638 | \$1,092 |
| | Years 11 - 12 | \$2,790 | \$2,094 | \$1,395 |

LOWES

BLACK FRIDAY SPECIAL

13% OFF*
SCHOOLWEAR

& EVERYTHING ELSE

ONLINE ONLY

1 DAY ONLY FRI 13 NOV

SIMPLY ENTER THE CODE **13FRI2015** AT CHECKOUT

*Offer does not apply to items already on sale. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.



COME & TRY NETBALL

Friday 4th December 5pm - 7pm.
Meet on the forecourt from 4:45pm to
register your name

This day is open to all junior players that have NOT
played at club level previously. It is designed to give
girls a chance to experience netball
before registering with a club.

For further information please contact
Penrith District Netball Association office
(02) 47 214 319.

