

## DIARY DATES

**Monday 10 June**  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

**Tuesday 11 June**  
Primary Drama  
Learning Exhibition

**Wednesday 19 June**  
Years 2, 3, 4  
Attending Parish  
Mass, 9.15am

Stage 3 Boys  
Soccer Gala Day

6.30pm First  
Eucharist  
Rehearsal, Group A

**Sunday 23 June**  
First Eucharist Mass  
Group A

**Monday 24 June**  
Student-led, Parent  
& Teacher  
Conferences begin

**Wednesday 26 June**  
Mass to celebrate  
Feast of Sacred  
Heart, 9.15am

Stage 2 Soccer  
Gala Day

6.30pm First  
Eucharist  
Rehearsal, Group B

**Sunday 30 June**  
First Eucharist Mass  
Group B

**Wednesday 3 July**  
Year 1 & 6  
Attending Parish  
Mass

**Friday 5 July**  
Last day of term

**Monday 22 July**  
Term 3 begins

**Thursday 25 July**  
Kinder Excursion to  
Calmsley Hill Farm

Dear OLOW Community

Well we can certainly feel the winter chills this week and I'm sure you are all looking forward to an extra sleep in next Monday as we celebrate the Queen's Birthday long weekend.



You may have noticed a number of changes and additions to the school over the last couple of weeks. Our "Sensory Playground" is well underway and we hope to be using this new space by the end of this term. This space is located behind the current Kinder learning space.

You may also have noticed that our music room has been relocated to the space next to the library. The reason for this change was that we are fortunate to have the support of additional staffing from the Captivate Team (Creative Arts Team at Parramatta) so music can now flow over into the library space when required. The old music room is now an additional learning space named "The MacKillop Room". The location of this room downstairs allows for an inside/outside learning space for Project Based Learning. It is also used for Drama Literacy and as a staff space for meetings. The flexibility of the space meets a number of purposes.

Our Library has also received a "face-lift". We have new shelving in this space which allows for easy access to all reading material. The space is also used as an area that students can gather to read or play boardgames during lunchtime.

Shortly, there will a ramp installed outside the "Garden Room" near Kinder and the boys toilets. This will provide access for wheelchairs.

## 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.***

Thank you to all those families who have taken the time to complete our recent "Communication Survey". As a result of your feedback we have now updated the parent calendar and are including extra "What's On" alerts on Skoolbag. If you have not returned your survey yet, it is not too late to do so. We value clear lines of communication and we are always eager to hear how we can enhance our communication systems.



This Sunday, 9th June is a significant time in our liturgical year. It is known as Pentecost. **Pentecost** is the annual Christian festival commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension from earth to heaven on Ascension Day. ... **Pentecost** means "fiftieth day", as it is celebrated on **Pentecost** Sunday, the 50th day of the Easter season

Lord Jesus, as God's Spirit came down and rested upon you,

May the same Spirit rest on us,

Bestowing his sevenfold gifts.

First, grant us the gift of understanding,

By which your precepts may enlighten our minds.

Second, grant us counsel, by which we may follow

in your footsteps on the path of righteousness.

Third, grant us courage,

by which we may ward off the enemy's attacks.

Fourth, grant us knowledge,

by which we can distinguish good from evil.

Fifth, grant us piety,

by which we may acquire compassionate hearts.

Sixth, grant us fear,

by which we may draw back from evil

and submit to what is good.

Seventh, grant us wisdom,

that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love.

(Prayer of St. Bonaventure to the Holy Spirit)



We ask that you please keep Mrs Curry in your prayers. Unfortunately Mrs Curry will not be returning to school for the remainder of the term. She is hoping to return to school in the second half of next term, however we will keep you updated when we know any more information. Mrs Curry will be undergoing surgery in mid June.

Yours in Christ  
**Donna McFadzean**  
Principal

## Improving Reading Comprehension at OLOW

Each year the staff set a goal for improving Literacy outcomes for our students. We select this goal based on the data we collect across the school and find areas for improvement. Over the last five years we have worked on improving our student's capacity as writers. This year we have changed our focus to the improvement of reading and comprehension.

### SO WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF READING?

One of the biggest reasons why we read books is to gain knowledge. Books are a rich source of information. Reading books on varied subjects imparts information and increases the depth about the subject as well. Whenever you read a book, you learn new information that you otherwise would not have known.

When learning to read, or helping a child learn to read, it is easy to get bogged down in the mechanics of reading. Although very important, knowing that the purpose of reading is to gain meaning and build knowledge, the teaching of comprehension is just as important as learning how to decode.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

#### **Make connections.**

Connecting what your child already knows while they read sharpens their focus and deepens understanding. Show them how to make connections by sharing your own connections as you read aloud. Remind your child that good readers make all kinds of connections as they read.

#### **Ask questions.**

Asking questions will make your child want to look for clues in the text. Pose questions that will spark your child's curiosity as you read aloud. Frequently ask them, "What are you wondering?" Remind your child that good readers challenge what they're reading by asking questions.

#### **Create "mind movies."**

Creating visual images brings the text alive. These "mind movies" make the story more memorable. You can help your child do this by reading aloud and describing the pictures you're seeing in your own imagination. Use all five senses and emotions. Invite your child to share their "mind movies." Notice how they're different from yours.

#### **Make inferences.**

We "infer" by combining what we already know with clues from a story. For example, when we read, "Her eyes were red and her nose was runny," we can infer that she has a cold or allergies. You can help your child with this reading skill by predicting what might happen in the story as you read aloud. Then invite your child to do the same.

#### **Monitor comprehension.**

Readers who monitor their own reading use strategies to help them when they don't understand something. Some strategies include:

- Re-read.
- Read on—now does it make sense?
- Read out loud.
- Read more slowly.
- Look at the illustrations.
- Identify confusing words.

Emma Mizzi

Assistant Principal

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss

### Sacrament of the Eucharist:

\*Wednesday - June 19 - 6:30pm- 8:00pm (Rehearsal - Group A First Eucharist on Sunday June 23)

\*Wednesday - June 26 - 6:30pm- 8:00pm (Rehearsal - Group B First Eucharist on Sunday June 30)



\*First Eucharist will be celebrated on a choice of:

Sunday June 23 (8am Parish Mass or extra Mass at 11.30am)

Sunday June 30 (9.30am Parish Mass or extra Mass at 11.30am)

At our Friday afternoon assembly last week, we invited the children that are preparing to celebrate their First Eucharist to come out for a blessing...

*Lord we ask your blessing upon these children as they prepare to receive you in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Help them to come to their lessons with an open mind and an open heart. Help them to understand the wonderful gift of Jesus that will be present in their lives.*

*Bless their parents and those who are preparing them to receive Jesus for the first time. Help them to nurture in these children a desire to give and not simply take and teach them to truly live what the Good News shares with us.*

*May they know the love of God and work each day to share that love and become one in the Body of Christ.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

### Parish Mass:



Please join us as the grades celebrate Parish Mass together on the following days:

June 19 - Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

July 3 - Year 1 and Year 6

### Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass:

Our community will be celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June at 9:15am. You are very welcome to join us as Year 1 teachers and students lead us in prayer.



We will also be having a collection for the Penrith Community Kitchen in conjunction with the feast day. A separate note will be shared with you on Skoolbag soon.

### Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

## LEARNING NEWS

### ENROLMENTS FOR 2020 KINDERGARTEN

Enrolment packs are available to those families who intend to enrol any siblings of students already at Our Lady of the Way for Kindergarten in 2020. Please collect these packs from the office and return as soon as possible as this information will assist us in preparing for next year's intake of students. **Interviews have already commenced.**

## KINDERGARTEN BILLY CART INCURSION

Kindergarten recently took part in a Billy Cart incursion to explore Push and Pull forces as part of our Science Unit this term. The children engaged in workshops to cooperatively build a billy cart. They then had the opportunity to use various equipment to build a moving object. Finally they paired up to push each other in a billy cart around a miniature racing track - using the force of push and pull. A wonderful learning opportunity was had by all.



## SPORTS NEWS

### Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day

On Wednesday the 29th of May, eleven of our Stage 3 girls attended the Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day at Jamison Park in Penrith. The girls gave up a number of lunch breaks to train and, in the lead up to the day, were able to work together as a team.

They had a wonderful day despite the freezing cold winds. They showed great sportsmanship and team spirit and are to be commended on the way in which they supported and encouraged each other throughout the day.

We would like to thank Mrs Eekman and Mrs Foster for being our coach and manager. We really appreciated your time and efforts on the day.

Congratulations to *Ella Keigan, Grace Foster, Isabella Bradley-Labra, Isabelle Roots, Maya Deacon-Chilmaid, Annabelle Tran, Abby Godwin, Mia Eekman, Ella Reid, Madison Stansfield and Alyssa McDonald* who represented Our Lady of Way at the Soccer Gala Day. Special mention also to *Holly Rech* who put in a lot of effort during training sessions but was unable to attend on the day.



### ***Athletics Carnival***

On the 27th of May the whole school community joined at Parker Street Oval for our Athletics Carnival. We didn't let the wind and cool weather stop us from having a great day of skills, best efforts and sportsmanship. Well done to all students who tried their best and made some personal growth in their events. Results regarding students who will be representing OLOW at the Zone Carnival will be shared in the next week.

A special congratulations to Breha, Luke and all of the students in the Bede House who won the most points at the carnival.

Lastly, but most importantly, a big thank you to all the parent helpers and a big congratulations for surviving the day! We are so grateful for your assistance and hope you will be back next year too!!





### **More Athletics News**

*In May, Max Selby and Eddy Lennon from Year 3 represented OLOW at a 'Have A Go' Athletics day where they were able to participate in different events with a student from all different schools. Eddy and Max continue to inspire their peers with their persistence and determination in sport and we are so proud of them.*



### **Representative Sports**

We have some very talented Year 6 students who were accepted into the Parramatta Representative Teams and then trialed for the Mackillop teams and were successful in their efforts. Congratulations and we look forward to hearing how you go at your next tournaments.

Dominic Vella - Rugby League

Milly Brace - Touch Football

Jade Elford - Touch Football & Rugby League

### **Megan Vella**

Sports Coordinator

## **AWARDS**



**Kinder:** Jessica Miles, Ashton Tran, Noah Shalbaf, Samuel Tabor

**Year 1:** Adam Penny, Henry Hurst, Vanessa Bogaerts, Charlotte McDonald, George Kenyon, Madison Fitzsimmons, Iustinian Vasilescu, Archie Pearson, Ben Prendergast, Maison Still, Lucas Edwards, Aryton Russell

**Year 2:** Olivia Eekman, Patrick Moran, Sarah Fenning, Joey El-Sissa, Summer Stansfield, Roman Belcastro, Makaela Jarrett

**Year 3:** Abby Hurst, Tyra Footman, Ashleigh Ryan, Sienna Fitzsimmons

**Year 4:** Marcus Elias, Holly Penny, Archie King, Jessica Crambrook, Emma Lohan,

**Year 5:** Abby Goodwin, Oliver Herps, Jayden Miles, Ella Reid

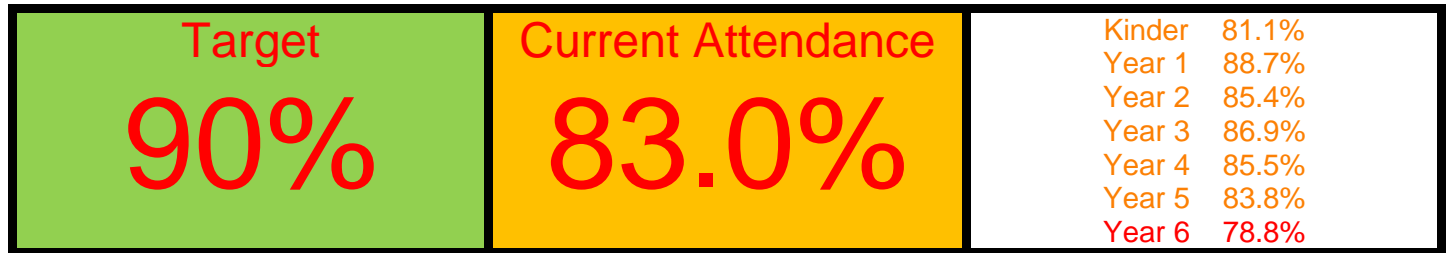
**Year 6:** Milly Brace, Adrienne Moffit-Bourke, Taylor Latham, Blade Funnell, Jaxon Kenyon, Holly Clark



## ATTENDANCE

### **ATTENDANCE - EVERY LEARNER - EVERY DAY**

At *Our Lady of the Way*, we continue to promote student attendance. Thank you to our parents for the support and value that you place on your child being at school each day. Regular school attendance plays a critical role in ensuring that every student has access to the same learning opportunities. When students are not at school, are late to school or leave school early, they are missing out on so much that can impact on their future learning.



**Absence Explanation Note:** If your child is away from school, a note explaining their absence is required within 7 days of returning to school. If no note is received the absence is recorded as 'unexplained'. *Parents can use the Skoolbag app to email an absence note to school.*

## GENERAL NEWS

### **THE CURIOUS CHILD: How Curiosity Helps With Learning**

Every teacher loves it when children ask questions and then start exploring the answers. Their minds are awake, they sit up in attention and their curiosity is piqued. The lights are on. When children are curious, they are far more likely to stay alert and engaged.

#### **So why is curiosity so important, and why does it make the brain so stimulated?**

According to a study from the University of California, when we become curious our brain chemistry changes, which helps us to learn and retain information. The brain is a fascinating organ. Every day we are faced with mountains of information, but even those with excellent memories will remember just a fraction of what they were exposed to.

#### **So why is it that we remember some things and forget others?**

Researchers discovered that when an individual's curiosity was aroused, the parts of the brain that regulate pleasure and reward fired up. There is also increased activity in the hippocampus, which is where memories are created. When we are stimulated, this part of our brain lights up and dopamine releases, which gives us a type of high. Dopamine is a chemical that is released when we are exposed to a variety of pleasurable or dangerous activities such as receiving rewards, money, gambling, taking certain drugs or sugary foods. Thankfully, it is also released when we are curious. When this happens, it improves the connections in the brain required for learning (the limbic system), making it easier for us to learn.

#### **How does this help with getting children to learn?**

Stimulate children and pique their curiosity, and you will enable them to learn more easily and to retain the information. What's more, the study confirmed that curiosity helps with remembering the more boring information, too. For example if a child is in a class which they find stimulating and they are inspired, and then move straight into a less interesting class, their brains will continue to be more receptive to understanding and recalling the information in the second class.

Some teachers use this process by inspiring children with interesting questions that will get them excited before launching into a less stimulating activity. A teacher may ask a string of questions about a favourite subject to get kids thinking and stimulated. Then, when the kids are on their 'learning high' the teacher can introduce a more complex concept that is important to remember – with positive results!

For many teachers, this is something they've been intuitively aware of and have been practising for years. Now though, it's been tested and backed up by science!

#### **How can parents help their children to become more curious?**

1. Teach them to be flexible thinkers and doers. Remind your children that there is always more than one perspective to look at an issue and they should consider more than one whenever possible.
2. Ask them to practice suspending judgments about people. Teach them to always remain curious, don't fall prey to stereotypes, and continue learning about other people.
3. Provide an environment that supports their autonomy. Children are more curious and find it easier to persist in the face of obstacles, and are more creative when they are given support to make personal choices. When parents attempt to identify their child's interests and be responsive to what they care about, curiosity has a chance to flourish.



4. Help your child feel competent. Creating opportunities for skill-building and success is an important process. One way to do this is to allow time for play, free of constraints such as the fear of failure and mistakes. It is also important to dole out praise and constructive feedback to your child.

5. Be your child's safe haven. To take risks, act on our curiosity, and experiment with new ways of thinking and acting, we need to feel safe. Be responsive when your child shares past explorations or future plans with you. If they feel uncomfortable, let them know that anxious thoughts and feelings are natural when trying new things and taking on just manageable challenges. When you are accepting of their negative feelings, they will learn to do the same. Not only will you enhance their curiosity and tolerance of pain, you will also strengthen your relationship with them.

6. Schedule regular doses of novelty and challenge. Help them select activities that require them to stretch their skills and knowledge to the limit. By repeatedly being curious, our children become more open to new experiences, more comfortable dealing with tension and anxiety, and more intelligent, wiser, and resilient.

Your children can't feel good all the time but they can almost always be profoundly aware, open-minded, and curious. With this mindset, they are liable to catch happiness, meaning in life, wisdom, and plenty more of what a good life entails on the way...

## ***How do you nourish curiosity in your child?***

### **A REMINDER ABOUT SAFETY**

***Due to the mounting complaints from residents in Forbes, Troy and surrounding Streets, the NSW Police have sent our school the following email.***

**ARE YOU SCHOOL SAFE?** Illegal parking around schools endangers children's lives. If you've heard the expression "it's only a matter of time until someone gets hurt" then you'll understand why it is important for EVERYONE to obey the road rules.

School opening and closing hours are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school. Park safely even if it means walking further to the school gate. Schools provide information in school newsletters and emails to promote safe behaviour and this includes parking legally during drop off and pick up times.

Always take extra care in 40km/h school zones, which operate on gazetted school days. Observe all parking signs. They are planned with children's safety in mind.

Illegal parking around schools puts lives at risk. That's why Council and the Police take a 'zero tolerance' approach. Council Rangers, Parking Officers and Police regularly patrol schools across the Penrith LGA.

**Parking in a No Parking area** - means you can stop to drop off or pick up passengers for a MAXIMUM of 2 MINUTES. You must stay within 3 metres of the vehicle.

**Parking in a No Stopping area** - means you CANNOT stop in this area for ANY reason.

**Parking in a Bus Zone area** - means you CANNOT stop or park unless you are driving a bus.



### **Tell Them From Me**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we would like to invite you to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey.

We value the role the Parents and Carers within our school community play and we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at OLOW.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by clicking <http://tellthemfromme.com/sssxq>

The survey is now open and will be available for completion until Friday 14 June. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey.

## PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP

Skoolbag is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone, iPad and computer as a form of communication with the school. Skoolbag IS NOT a social media app. It is available from iTunes and Google Play. Just search for OLOW Emu Plains and you will see our school crest. All school notes and newsletters are updated onto this site and you will receive an alert when something is uploaded or there is an important or urgent announcement. **This is a requirement for all families to ensure clear communication from the school to the home.**

## SCHOOL FEES

The second instalment of school fees were due on 5 June 2019. Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Principal or me, fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued."

If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, I encourage you to contact me on 4777 7200 or [olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au) to discuss payment options. The Catholic Education Office is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. Please be assured of complete confidentiality when discussing financial issues.

The school fee collection process has commenced on overdue accounts that have not been addressed as above.

**Please note: There is no 50/50 split of school fees. Enrolment signatories are jointly and severally responsible for payment of fees.**

A reminder to families that a term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing MUST be given to the Principal before the removal of a student from the school or a full term's fees will be payable.

**Pascale Vion**

Senior Finance Officer

## CHATTERBOX LIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

*Join Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, for a transparent and engaging Q&A session with parents and guardians from learning communities throughout the diocese.*

*Held at St Andrews College in Marayong on 13<sup>th</sup> June, the event will begin at 7pm with light refreshments, followed by a Q&A session with Executive Director Greg Whitby where parents will have the chance to raise their questions around education and school in today's world.*

*Can't make it in person? This event will also be live-streamed via the CEDP Facebook page. Be sure to click on 'Interested' or 'Going' to be reminded before the discussion goes live! You can do this via the event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1988053254654264/>*

*Free ticket registration for this event will be available from Monday, May 20th at 9am by visiting [chatterbox.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://chatterbox.parra.catholic.edu.au).*

*If you have any questions or would like further information in regards to this event, please contact Lachlan Andrews from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta via [landrews8@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:landrews8@parra.catholic.edu.au) or on 9840 5790.*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2020 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due.

For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary, Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900 or 4754 8907.