



By The Way



Term 1 Week 4 2021

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OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au Web: <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>

Our Lady of the Way Parish Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 9:30am.
Weekday Mass times: Wednesday 9:15am, Thursday 8:15am, Friday 7:15am
All welcome!

Principal's Message

AROUND THE Grounds @ OLOW

Dear Our Lady of the Way Community

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.



Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

(Source: <https://www.catholic.org/>)

CLASSROOM NEWS

Stage 3 returned to school with a new look in their learning spaces. New furniture has been purchased to support contemporary pedagogy.

Today's students thrive in classroom environments that facilitate student engagement, collaboration, and connections with teachers. Research shows that when schools incorporate flexible classroom furniture together with paralleled technology, student learning often improves dramatically—because students are offered classroom spaces that have the ability to flex in alignment with their different learning styles.

HOW INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM FURNITURE FOSTERS COLLABORATION

As teachers experience daily, the primary problem with traditional desks or stationary tables and chairs is they limit student movement around the classroom. If a teacher wants to gather students in a circle to have a discussion, or the students want to collaborate with one another on a project, students need to push their heavy desks across the room, which is both time-consuming and messy.

Our new classroom furniture allows students and teachers to vary their routines. This has many benefits, including:

- **Encouraging peer-to-peer collaboration:** With easily movable desks, students can sit next to a new person every day, which encourages collaboration and creates a more supportive classroom environment. Students will get to know their peers a little better.
- **Breaking down the classroom hierarchy:** Innovative classroom furniture, such as modular mobile desks and chairs, make it easy to gather everyone in a circle to have open class discussions where all participants have equal footing.
- **Offering multiple options:** Every student learns differently. Some want to work independently so they can focus on the task in front of them. Others need the support of their fellow students. Offering a variety of chair and desk configurations that cater to multiple learning styles will make every student feel more comfortable and supported. Innovative classroom furniture provides flexibility and variety, helping to minimize learning challenges.





Strings Program at Our Lady of the Way

Did you know that every student in Year 3 and Year 4 at Our Lady of the Way learns how to play a String Instrument? Students in Year 4 will be able to take their instrument home in order to consolidate their learning. We are fortunate to have the resourcing for this program which is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Education Parramatta.

SPORT

Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our students who represented OLOW at the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival on Monday the 15th of February. Our competitors all showed great sportsmanship both in and out of the pool and we are very proud of their achievements!

Congratulations to our competitors:

Charlotte Ahern, Mason Benitez, Mikayla Blazek, Chase Bryan, Kye Chapman, Aisling Cremen, Remy Cross, Akeda Deacon-Chilmaid, Ella Dwyer, Lara Dwyer, Aidan Dyrka, Cohen Dyrka, Audrey Edwards, Sarah Fenning, Nicholas Heffernan, Archie King, Maddison McGrath, Mia McGrath, Holly Penny, Carter Pereira, Thomas Reeks, Jacinta Roser, Thomas Sheen, Jake Thompson, Max Thompson, Lola Troitsin.



A special congratulations to the following students who were extremely successful in their events at the carnival:

- Lara Dwyer - Junior Girls Champion
- Audrey Edwards - Junior Girls Runners Up
- Mason Benitez - 11 years Boys Champion
- Jake Thompson - Senior Boys Runners Up
- Akeda Deacon-Chilmaid - Senior Girls Runners Up



PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS - Key Learning Areas

The feedback we have received from the google form completed by parents suggests that you would like to attend information sessions related to Key Learning Areas. We will run a session this term on Mathematics. Next term we will run a session on English. We will survey parents to see if they would like these sessions to be in person (if permitted with COVID restrictions) or as a zoom meeting.

Thank you for your feedback, it is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact the school about any other areas you would like presented. We also welcome feedback on what you would like to be included in our newsletters. There will be three newsletters per term published on Skoolbag. Please ensure that you join our Facebook page where we share stories around learning.

CHROMEBOOKS AT OLOW

Every Stage 2 and Stage 3 student at OLOW now has access to their own Chromebook to support their learning. It is important to note that Chromebooks do not replace the need to complete tasks in books or develop handwriting. So, what are the benefits of using Chromebooks? Research supports the following reasons why Chromebooks are beneficial tools in the classroom.

1. Almost a Laptop

Google describes Chromebooks as web-connecting. They're not tablets but they're also not laptops. Chromebooks only access what you need – the internet and productivity tools. Chromebooks don't hold images or have a customizable dashboard. Its purpose is merely to serve as a tool, not entertainment. Therefore, there are no distractions for students.

2. Unique Operating System

Chromebooks run on a new operating system that Google created. It's called Chrome OS.

3. Updates Automatically

One benefit of running on Chrome OS is how the Chromebooks update automatically. In other words, IT does not need to update each device every time there's a new patch. Less maintenance means less classroom disruptions and reduced costs. When purchasing a large number of devices, this particular feature helps schools tremendously.

4. No Malware

Another benefit of running on Chrome OS is how they built the devices so securely that there are no malware risks. Malware is short for malicious software. It is intended to disrupt or damage information on the computer.

5. Long-lasting Battery

We all remember a time when we were using our laptops when suddenly we are rushing for the charger. Google thought that students shouldn't have to worry about this issue. As a result, Chromebooks last all day. So, even when Chromebooks are shared between classrooms, the devices do not require additional charging. The devices only need to be charged overnight.

6. Easy to Use

An evident benefit is its simple use. It's obvious for a regular laptop user to transition to a Chromebook. But for some students, this might be the first time they interact with a device – especially on an educational level. Google vouches that the simple interface and usability ensures a quick learning curve. Therefore, there's no classroom time learning about how to use the Chromebook. The focus is on learning material.

7. Access to Your Profile

To use a Chromebook, you need to sign into your profile. Even when you have your own profile on a desktop computer, you have to download the applications you need. When you sign on a Chromebook, you're securely accessing your profile and immediately accessing the productivity apps. The app includes Google Slides, Google Docs and Google Sheets.

8. Offline Productivity

It's possible to access productivity apps offline. If students do not have access to the internet, their learning is not affected. For this to work, students need to use the same device and need to stay signed into their account. In addition, you do not need to re-upload a file once there is internet access again. It uploads offline.

9. Paperless Possibilities

Several teachers are trying to reduce their environmental footprint. The tools you need are already on the Chromebooks. This was an advantage during the COVID environment

10. In-Class Participation

Chromebooks are a great addition to the classroom for every type of student. What do we mean? Students can participate in their Chromebooks. Thus, giving teachers immediate feedback. Chromebooks also make Project-Based Learning easy as well. Chromebooks make learning more effective.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT OUR LADY OF THE WAY

All staff at Our Lady of the Way value learning and are constantly updating their learning by attending professional learning opportunities. Please see below the courses and times that staff will be attending professional learning.

Date	Course	Teacher(s)
Every Tuesday in 2021	EMC3 - Numeracy Project A Teacher Educator works with teachers in the classroom to enhance the learning for all students in Mathematics.	K to 2 Teachers/ Leadership Team
Alternate Thursdays throughout 2021	Reading Recovery	Lisa Powderly
Throughout 2021- selected Thursdays	EMU EMU Opal Days	Bernadette Curry Rebecca Blazek Linda Flanagan
Even Weeks on a Friday Before School	Positive Behaviour Support 4 for Learning	PBS4L Team
Every Wednesday After School	Professional Learning Meeting	All Staff
Every Thursday Before School	Staff Briefing Meeting	All Staff
Every Monday After School	Leadership Meeting	Leadership Team Members

Enrolments are now open for 2022.

There will be two information sessions for families interested in enrolling their child at Our Lady of the Way.

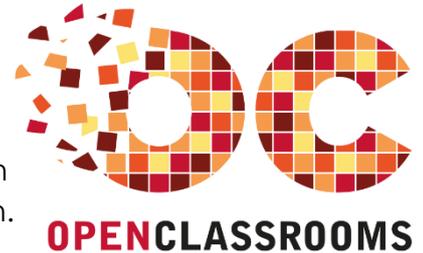
Come along, tour the school and visit our learning spaces.

***Wednesday 10th March 2021
10.00 -10.45am OR 4.30pm - 5.15pm***

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Friday 5th March, 2021 to Julie Irvine on 4777 7200 or email jjirvine@parra.catholic.edu.au

OPEN CLASSROOMS, 10TH MARCH - MARK YOUR DIARIES!

On Wednesday 10th March one visitor per family can come to visit the classroom to see what learning looks like at OLOW. A booking schedule will be available soon to book a time. We need to book in so we can manage the number of people onsite due to our COVID Safety Plan. Sessions will run for 20 minutes



School
F E E S

FINANCE

The 2021 School Fee Statements have now been posted home. If you haven't received your statement, please contact Pascale Vion on 4777 7200 or olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au to arrange for your statement to be sent home.

CEDP is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact Pascale Vion to discuss payment options. Your situation will be treated with care and confidentiality and an appropriate arrangement will be made for you.

A reminder to parents and carers that OLOW has become a **cashless** school, meaning no cash will be accepted at the office. Payments can be made via eft or the QKR app. We are aware some families pay their school fees with cash at the school office, for those families please note that you can take your fee statement to your local post office and pay via the biller payment details on your statement.

SkoolBag

Don't forget to download our school's SkoolBag app to ensure that you are kept in the loop on:

- * School newsletters
- * Notices
- * Events
- * Cancellations
- * Reminders
- * ...and more!

**INSTALLATION
INSTRUCTIONS**

Just download the "SkoolBag" app on your phone, open the app and add our school!

LIBRARY NEWS

To all Our Lady of the Way Families,

Welcome back! Our lovely Library is now located upstairs. The shelves are brimming with Australia's best children's books, as well as favourites from overseas authors.

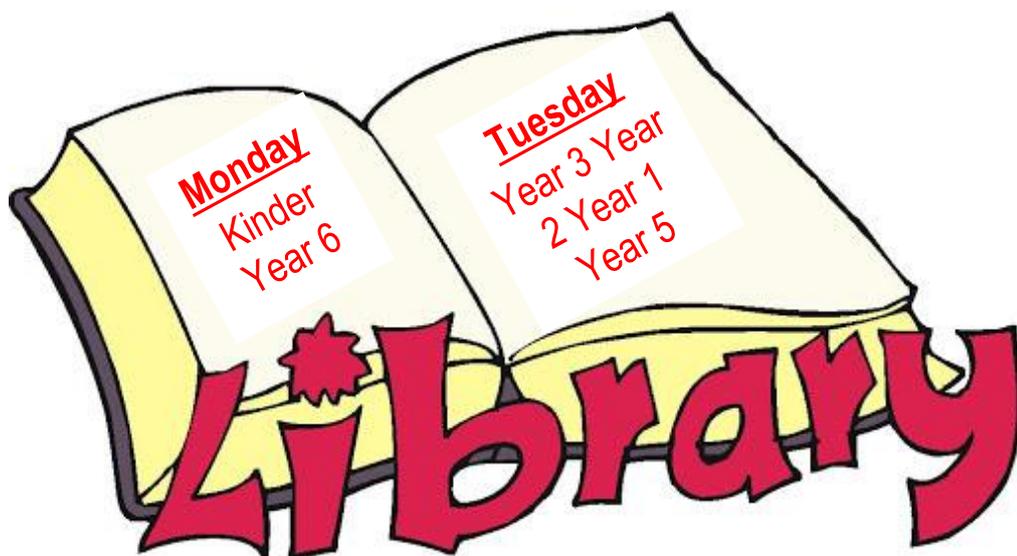
Each week the children visit the library as a class. During this time, a 'Read Aloud' book is shared with the students. Children are introduced to the library and we help them navigate their way around a library and show them what an information hub it can be.

Our Library is also opened each day at second break for the children to visit. This is a time when they can play chess, cards, escape from the heat, draw, or just chill out and read a book.

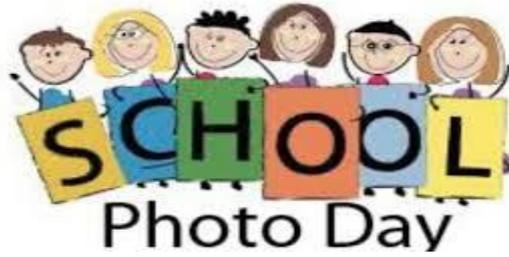
Please support your child by making sure they have a library bag each week. A plastic recycled bag is fine. Students are unable to borrow a book and take it home unless they have a bag. Gently remind your child to return all library books and readers each week.

"...as parents, we have to find the time and the energy to step in and help our children love reading. We can read to them, talk to them about what they are reading, and make time for this by turning off the television, putting down our phones ourselves. Libraries are a critical tool to help parents do this."

Happy reading
Susan Masters – Library Assistant



Dates for Term 1



Wednesday 17th March 2021

Students to wear their Summer Uniform

Order forms will be sent home soon



Date	Event
19th February	Stage 2 Cosmodome Incursion
4th March	Stage 1 Fizzics Incursion
8th – 12th March	Catholic Schools Week
9th March	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
10th March	Open Classrooms (One visitor per family can come to visit the classroom to see what learning looks like at OLOW). A booking schedule will be available soon to book a time. We need to book in so we can manage the number of people onsite due to our COVID Safety Plan. Sessions will run for 20 minutes
17th March	School Photos
19th March	Primary Cross Country
23th – 27th March	NAPLAN Practise Test
1st April	Last day of Term 1
22nd – 23rd April	Year 6 Excursion to Canberra



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NATIONAL LAUNCH BICENTENARY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

18 FEBRUARY 2021 10am & 2pm AEDT
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Join us for the National Launch for the Bicentenary of Catholic Education on Thursday 18 February 2021.

Broadcast 10am & 2pm AEDT via www.200years.catholic.edu.au

This is a free virtual event for educators, leaders, students and their families in Catholic schools, education offices and universities.

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