

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

15th December 2016

## DIARY DATES

**Friday 16 December**

Last Day of School

**Fri/Mon 27/30 January**

MAI Interviews  
Years 1-6

**Monday 30 January**

COSHC Open All Day

**Fri 27/Tues 31 January**

Kinder Literacy and Numeracy  
Testing

**Tuesday 31 January**

School Resumes for Years 1-6

**Wednesday 1 February**

Kinder Students begin, half days

**Monday 6 February**

Kinder begin full days

**Monday 24 April**

**PUPIL FREE DAY**

**Friday 18 August**

**PUPIL FREE DAY**

**Sunday 22 October**

**LOW SCHOOL FETE**

WISHING  
YOU  
A  
VERY  
MERRY  
Christmas

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Throughout this year our children have been striving to be the face of Jesus to those within our community and within the wider community. There could not be a better time for us to focus on 'being Jesus to others' than at Christmas. This year when Mother Teresa was declared a saint we were reminded that each one of us actually does have the capacity to make a significant difference to the lives of others in our everyday actions and interactions. Today as we journey closer to the birth of Jesus I include St Teresa's prayer for your reflection and perhaps your family's daily prayer focus in these last days of Advent.



### St Teresa's Prayer

**Christ has no body now but mine No hands, no feet on earth but mine.**

**Christ has no body now but mine Let me be Christ, let me shine.**

**Mine are the eyes, with which he looks, Looks with love upon the world.**

**Mine are the feet with which he walks, Walks to do good in this world.**

**Mine are the hands with which he works. Works for peace here in this world.**

**Mine is the voice with which he speaks, Speaks his message to the world.**

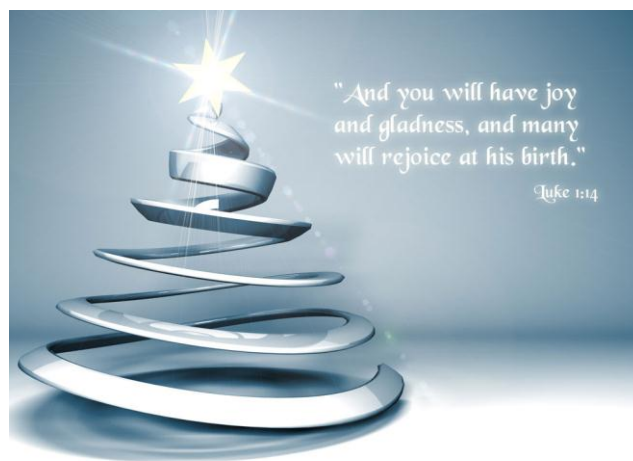
**Mine is the face with which he smiles, Smiles a welcome to this world.**

**Mine is the heart with which he loves, Loves all people in this world.**

I would like to say a special thank you to our staff who are leaving. To Mrs Anne Atkins who is retiring from teaching after 37 years. Anne is an excellent teacher who has held many leadership positions at OLOW. Catholic Education will miss Anne's professionalism and expertise. To Mr Michael Mifsud for his work as Assistant Principal. He has made a significant contribution to this role at OLOW over the past 4 years. Thank you also to Mrs Nichola Glazebrook and Mrs Mandy Marshall for their work in Year 1 and Year 3. They are both dedicated and capable teachers who will take on the role as casual relief in 2017. Finally, farewell to our IT Trainee Mr Brendan Edwards who has completed his two-year course and is stepping out into the 'real world'.

This is our final newsletter for 2016. I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas break. I hope that you spend quality time with your family and create many enjoyable moments. Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful school. Take care, drive carefully and make good decisions.

God Bless,  
Mrs. Sue Veding  
Principal



**Newsletter of Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School, Emu Plains**

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**"To act justly, To love tenderly and To walk humbly with our God"**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 4 WEEK 8



Madeline Wade, Tanner Clarke, Layla Pascoe, Oliver Herps, Finbar Cullen, Sebastian Hayward, Kye Lloyd, Sam Reidy, Grace Carey, Ivy Hooke, Lucas McClenahan, Ella Keigan, Talisha North, Ethan Knott, Zachary Levy, Taylah Cowley, Henry Starr, Matthew Sekulic, Adrianne Moffitt-Bourke, Harry Lewandowski, Lucienne Heffernan, Lucie McIntosh.

## NO PHONE OR INTERNET FROM FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER AT OLOW

Dear Parents & Carers

Due to the construction of our new Administration Block and installation of a new server, there will be **No Phone or Internet** services at OLOW from Friday 16 December 2016 until the New Year. Any fee payments will need to be finalised by Thursday 15 December. Please ring the following mobile number given to us in the interim for any urgent communication on Friday.

***Interim OLOW number from Friday 16 December 2016 - 0408 275 339***

### READING RECOVERY GRADUATES

Congratulations to Mrs Hensen and Ms Glynn who graduated as Reading Recovery specialist teachers. We are so proud of them and very lucky to have them teaching at OLOW.

Congratulations also to our Year 1 students, Ben Hall, Demi Boormakin, Isabel Gribble and Declan Casey who graduated from the Reading Recovery program. A great achievement!



### SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our swimming carnival at Glenbrook Pool was a great day of healthy competition and, most importantly, participation. The day saw BLUE (Bede) led by Matthew and Charlie, take out the overall trophy. Congratulations to all the colour houses. Our appreciation and thanks to Miss Reynolds for coordinating our carnival for all the children. Her attention to detail, as always, was outstanding and ensured the day ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all. Thank you also to the amazing team of teachers and many thanks to the multitude of parents who assisted on the day.

### BUILDING PROJECT

We moved into the administration block yesterday. The old block is to be demolished on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.





## **YEARS 1-6 ONLINE BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN – WE ARE HOPING FOR A 100% TURN OUT**

### **2017 MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY: YEARS 1-6**

All students in Years 1-6 will be assessed using the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) on Friday 27th and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017. *Our Lady of the Way* staff will be taking two Staff Development Days to assess the students. This is a one-on-one interview style assessment directed by a teacher. Each assessment takes a minimum of 30 minutes.

***(As at time of publication 188 students were booked in for their MAI. We strongly encourage parents of the remaining 110 students to book their interviews as soon as possible. Thanks.)***

Our COSHC will be providing full day-care on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Arrangements can be made for children attending COSHC to be tested during the day.

School will resume for students in Years 1-6 on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

### **2017 LITERACY & MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY: KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergarten students will have a separate testing schedule for literacy and numeracy and this will take place from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. Kindergarten will begin school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February (8:45-12:00); then full days from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February (8:45-2:55).

## **PREPARING FOR 2017**

Remember the following as you prepare for the new school year. All students are expected to wear the *Our Lady of the Way* uniform with pride throughout the school year. This includes wearing the correct hat, socks and shoes. This helps to keep students focused on their learning whilst also keeping a consistent atmosphere across the school. Please note the following uniform expectations from Kindergarten to Year 6: White sports socks are plain white ankle socks with school emblem on cuff. School shoes are black leather lace ups/velcro/buckle. Sports shoes that are predominantly white are to be worn for sport with WHITE laces - no slip on 'Raben' type shoes or coloured joggers, runners or basketball boots are to be worn.

## **HELPERS - THANK YOU**

The staff of OLOW would like to thank the large number of parents, grandparents and friends who generously give their time to support the school, in so many ways, throughout the year. As a way of recognising this huge contribution, parents and friends who have supported the school in any capacity, were invited to a thankyou morning tea on Monday, following the end of year thanksgiving Mass. Over 30 people were present for the morning tea provided by our staff.

## **SECOND HAND UNIFORMS**

We always welcome donations of second hand uniforms in good condition. Items can be sent in with your child or dropped into the office.

## **OLOW CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Our favourite night of the year, our Christmas concert, was a wonderful evening of Christmas spirit as we gathered as the OLOW community under the banner of our faith. Our concert, led by Andrew Chinn, inspired us to reflect on the many joys of Christmas and that Jesus is the reason for the season. The children certainly were the bright shining stars of the evening, as they put Christ back into Christmas.

My sincere thanks to all the teachers for their efforts in preparing the children. Thank you for your overwhelming presence and support (even under the extreme weather conditions). It was very much appreciated. It is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

## **YEAR 6 GRADUATION**

On Wednesday evening, we celebrated our Year 6 Farewell Mass and presentation evening. It was a great evening where our graduating students celebrated seven years of schooling at *Our Lady of the Way*. It was an opportunity to reflect over this cohort's time at school celebrating their success across all domains of their primary education as well as reminisce about the times they have shared together. It was wonderful to see all these children take an active role in the mass and presentations. A special thanks to our Year 6 teachers Miss Reynolds and Mrs Scott for coordinating the night's Mass and presentations. A special thank you to the Year 5 & Year 4 students who attended as part of the choir and to Emily Sekulic and Kate Roser for altar serving.

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Have you entered the Summer Reading Challenge yet? Haven't heard about it yet? Well it's on now and at OLOW we are going to see just how many of our students can register! Entry is easy go to [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au) to find out how you could win a mini iPad. You have all summer to enter and the more times you enter the more chances you have to win. Entries close on 7th February 2017. Remember we want the children to keep working on their reading skills over the long holiday break.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Last day for students</i>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Staff Development Day</i>
<b><i>From Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, the old administration block will be demolished</i></b>	
<b>2017</b>	
<b><i>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> &amp; Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017</i></b>	<i>Staff Development Days – Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) for all students from Years 1 - 6</i>
<b><i>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017</i></b>	<i>Kindergarten students Literacy &amp; Numeracy Assessments</i>
<b><i>Opening School Mass 9:15am and presentation of badges to Year 6 leadership groups</i></b>	<i>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017</i>
<b><i>2017 Pupil Free Days</i></b>	<i>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April &amp; Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August</i>
<b><i>Year 6 Overnight Excursion to Canberra</i></b>	<i>27<sup>th</sup> &amp; 28<sup>th</sup> April</i>
<b><i>Whole School Musical Performance at The Joan</i></b>	<i>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August</i>
<b><i>Year 5 Camp to Berry</i></b>	<i>18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> October</i>
<b><i>OLOW Fete</i></b>	<i>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</i>

## Our Lady of the Way Church Christmas Mass Times

We encourage you all to come along and join the wider Parish community for the Christmas liturgies being held at this special time of year!



**Monday 19th December**  
2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7.30pm

**Saturday 24th December**  
6pm Vigil and Midnight Mass  
(Carols commence at 5.30pm and 11.30pm)

**Sunday 25th December**  
8.00am and 9.30am Christmas morning  
(No evening Mass)



Children attending the Vigil Mass (6.00pm) on Christmas Eve are encouraged to 'dress up' for the celebration. Please come as angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary or Joseph.

***We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.***



## **A Farewell Message**

*Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Friends,*

*From the time I commenced at Our Lady of the Way I knew this was a very special community, filled with warmth, openness and a generosity of spirit. It has been a privilege to work with such enthusiastic children, dedicated and professional staff, and supportive parents.*

*The children at OLOW are happy and love to learn. I encourage them to continue their learning journey by remembering to always be respectful of others, to always be the best they can be, and to always look for Jesus in others.*

*Our staff are devoted to their work. Each day I am witness to exceptional people doing extraordinary things. I am grateful for what I have learnt from my colleagues and I admire their wonderful work ethic.*

*I thank you, the parents, carers and friends of OLOW for your generosity, support, loyalty and dedication to our school.*

*I wish to thank Mrs Veling for her compassion, honesty and focus on quality teaching and learning. Her decisions are always based on what is best for our students. She is a wonderful colleague and friend.*

*A big thanks to Fr Mick for his outstanding leadership of our parish community. He is a wonderful role model and brings the Gospel to life in his words and actions. I will miss his friendship and spirituality.*

*I wish every member of the Our Lady of the Way community all the very best for the future and hope that every one of our students continues to enjoy and appreciate the Christ centred, engaging and innovative learning opportunities that we provide at Our Lady of the Way.*

*I am a better person for knowing you all and I will miss you.*

*Michael Mifsud*







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Tuesday 6 December, 2016

## 2017 Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) Friday 27 January & Monday 30 January 2017



Book School Interviews Online

Dear Parents and Carers

Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) will be held on Friday 27 January and Monday 30 January 2017. It is an expectation that all children participate in the MAI on these days. These Interviews will take approximately 30 minutes to administer. Please choose your timeslot for the MAI based on your child's grade for **2017**. As we have allocated several teachers across each grade you only need to select A, B or C for the time that suits you.

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

Bookings will open on Tuesday 6 December at 3.00pm and will close on Friday 20 January 2017 at 12.00pm.

School event code

Enter THIS school event code.  
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

1 Enter your details

2 Choose teachers

3 Choose times



When you click **finish**, your MAI timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

The Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) is an opportunity for teachers to develop an understanding of your child and his/her development in Number over time. If you require more information about the MAI please contact the school office.

Parents can change their MAI booking at any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

Parents wishing to change their conference times after the closing date are asked to contact the school directly.

# GENERAL NEWS

## OLOW PARISH YOUTH CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY

Due to lack of numbers, the event planned for Sunday 18th December has been cancelled. However, the Parishes of Glenbrook, Penrith and Glenmore Park have expressed interest in a youth event closer to the time when school commences. For more events, please Facebook 'Catholic Youth Parramatta'.

Wishing you all the joy and happiness as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Ben Oxley

## OLOW PIANO LESSONS will be on AFTER SCHOOL HOURS commencing in TERM 1 2017.

45 minutes group lessons / \$15 per lesson / at OLOW Music Room.

For further inquiries/enrolment please see the flyer at the end of this Newsletter and/or contact: Rita Higuchi 0411 498 878 [ritahiguchi@gmail.com](mailto:ritahiguchi@gmail.com)



### Wellbeing

It is important to build resilience and we can help the students develop a growth mindset by prompting them to choose mindfulness and positive language. Resilient people fulfill their potential despite, even because of, adversity, and tend to see challenges as opportunities for growth and renewal. Brain science shows that our emotions, brain and body are intricately linked. We can change the way we feel by adjusting how we think or hold our body. For example, exercise or deep breathing techniques will help you get oxygen to your body and brain and shift your emotional state. Even a simple action like tidying your desk can create enough space to adjust and choose the best way to respond to situations rather than letting our emotional reactions dictate our behaviour. Positive emotions enhance our social resources. The more laughter, love and good feelings we experience and share with family and friends, the more we expand our ability to shift negative emotions and bounce back.







# PIANO AND SINGING LESSONS!

**Does your child want to play piano or sing?**

**Rita Higuchi offers professional music tutoring  
right here at OLOW!**

## **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**45 minutes group lessons will be  
offered after school hours at  
OLOW Music Room once a week.**

**In group lessons students will  
work not only on piano skills but  
also develop to be complete  
musicians through:**

**Ensemble playing, composition,  
improvisation, keyboard harmony,  
sight-reading and singing.**



## **QUESTIONS? WANT TO ENROL?**

**Rita Higuchi**

**Email: [ritahiguchi@gmail.com](mailto:ritahiguchi@gmail.com)**

**Call: 0411 498 878**



# *Reading not make sense???*

*Is your child a beginning reader  
Or struggling to learn?*



Emerging & Non-Readers WORKSHOPS \$55 p/day

Any age child

Expert Literacy Teacher—DAWN HORT

16th, 19th January 2017 10am-12.30pm

*Springwood Childrens Centre ph 47514642*



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

## Free Two Day Workshop for Parents and Carers

Parramatta

21 & 22 Feb 2017

### Positive Partnerships is coming to a location near you!

Join us for 2 days of learning with other parents and carers of school aged children on the autism spectrum, designed to help you foster productive school, family and community relationships to provide the best kind of support for your child. Our workshops are for parents, carers and grandparents wanting to understand more about autism and learn practical strategies using evidence based resources to help maximise their young person's learning.

### What will you gain by attending this workshop?

- An increased understanding of the impact of autism
- Further knowledge about how to develop effective partnerships with your school
- Information to help you access further support both inside and outside of school
- An opportunity to be part of a support network where you can share strategies and experiences with other parents/carers
- An understanding of a planning tool that can be used to share key information related to your child

### Workshop details

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel Parramatta  
106 Hassall Street  
Rosehill NSW 2142

**When:** Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February 2017  
9.15 am – 3.00 pm (Registration from 8.30 am)

**Catering:** Morning tea and lunch is provided. Please advise any dietary requirements upon registration.

**Register Online:** [positivepartnerships.com.au](http://positivepartnerships.com.au) Registrations open 8 December 2016 and close one business day prior to the workshop. Register early as places are limited!

**Questions?** If you are not able to register online please call the Positive Partnerships Infoline : 1300 881 971 or email [parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au](mailto:parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au)

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