

## DIARY DATES

**Monday  
25 – Fri 29 Nov**

K-4 Swimming  
Lessons

**Monday 2 December**  
Christmas Concert

**Wednesday  
4 December**

Swimming Carnival

**Wednesday  
11 December**

Year 6 Graduation

**Wednesday  
18 December**

Last day of Term 4  
for Students

**Tuesday  
28 January 2020**

STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT DAY

**Wednesday  
29 January 2020**

Years 1-6 begin  
Term 1

**Thursday  
30 January 2020**

Kinder attend  
9.30am-12.30pm

**Friday  
31 January 2020**

Kinder attend  
8.45am-12.30pm

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

## 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***

Dear OLOW Community

*Each of us is absolutely unique and irreplaceable in the eyes of God. As parents and teachers each and every day we remind our children that they are loved and are unique children of God—one of a kind. God gave each of us special gifts and talents that we are born with to share with the world. Part of celebrating our uniqueness is learning to look for the good in ourselves. This is as important as looking for the good in others. Instead of looking critically at their faults, examining all their blemishes and focusing on all their failings, it is important for us to help our children to see themselves as a beautiful work of God's love. As adults, we can model this for our children by the ways in which we talk about ourselves. We can never underestimate the influence and power of what our children see and hear. When our children play and learn together with their friends and peers they are encouraged to share their ideas and insights which in turn can be enhanced and refined by the contribution of the ideas of others. These circumstances regularly provide opportunities and challenges for children to share their gifts. It takes courage to share our talents and gifts, and courage and curiosity to be willing to be open to new ideas and possibilities shared by others.*



*Our recent 40th Anniversary Celebration was a special occasion to celebrate our many gifts and talents and to give thanks to those who had to establish a Catholic school in Emu Plains. There was a real sense of community on this day as both the parish and school gathered to sing, pray and celebrate. We thank all those involved in organising this event, your contributions are always greatly appreciated. I thank the P and F for your contributions and to the amazing staff of OLOW who spent hours of their own time into organising this celebration. You are true professionals who see your work as a vocation and you always go the extra mile to ensure that our students are given the best opportunity to flourish - thank you!*

*We wish to thank the children and their families who shared their talents at our Parish Mass*



The cutting of the cake, kindly made by Mrs Robinson, involved the first P and F President as well as our current P and F president. We also thank Fr Paul for celebrating this with our community as well



The jumping castle and obstacle course was a popular attraction on the day



The choir and band did an amazing job entertaining the crowd

*Thank you*





*As we approach the busy end of the school year, we begin to look back with gratitude for the year we have shared, the learning that has occurred and the relationships formed and flourished. At the end of the term, some classrooms will be relocating. If you have any questions around this please feel free to contact the office for an appointment. This avenue will ensure that you are equipped with the correct information. At Our Lady of the Way, we are inclusive and decisions are made always with the needs of each student in mind. While some classes may remain in the same space, furniture will change as will other equipment to meet the needs of the students. Please keep in mind that it's what happens within the physical walls of the classroom not the classroom that makes the difference to a child's learning. At this stage decisions around staffing are still being made. When this is finalised it will be made public.*

*Last week we held our Kinder 2020 Orientation. It was wonderful to see the energy and curiosity of these new members of our community. Thank you to the current Kinder parents who provided morning tea and led a parent group to answer questions that our new parents had. Another highlight of the morning was watching our current Kinder cohort place a blessing on our new friends. It is hard to believe that it has been twelve months since they visited OLOW for their own orientation.*

*Over the remainder of this year, can I ask that you frequently check the Skoolbag App for information regarding events and other forms of communication. The information on the Skoolbag App is current and will ensure that the correct message is received.*

*Yours in Christ*  
*Donna McFadzean*  
**Principal**



## Kindergarten enrolments for 2020

*Offers of enrolment for Kindergarten 2020 have been sent out and we are in the process of finalising numbers. Ensure your child's place at Our Lady of the Way by completing and returning your*

*enrolment forms as soon as possible. Once complete, please submit your application to the School Office. Enrolment packs can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website at*

*<http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>.*

*There are limited places available in other grades. If you are aware of families wishing to enrol their children, please ask them to contact the school office on 4777 7200.*

### Cyber safety

Helping to keep our children safe online is one of those topics that as teachers and parents we know is so very important in today's world. With technology changing so rapidly and new apps hitting the market on a daily basis, it can feel like we are always a step behind. We want to know more about how to help educate our children on keeping safe online.

The eSafety Commission has spent the last 18 months working alongside various experts to create, refresh and streamline eSafety's content. Every page on their site has been updated with tailored advice, resources and support to ensure it helps Australians have empowering and positive experiences online.

Almost a third of the website features exciting new material, including a section for young people, guided by young people. Not only is this a great resource for students, but the topics can help with online safety conversations in Australian classrooms and homes.

Over 300 of the site's resources, including our popular education resources, have been refreshed and re-branded and are easier to find using our new filter feature. Now, you can search by education level and topic to ensure you find what best resonates with your specific children's age and needs. There is also a whole section designed specifically for parents with information on a range of topics. The site has also had some of its older resources scrapped — with new research and technology, they have become outdated and are no longer relevant.

The new online safety hub presents an incredible opportunity to reach a broader range of Australians and make them aware of eSafety's resources and services.

Click the link to visit the new site: <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

Congratulations to Mia Kuster who recently received the *Fred Hollows Humanity Award*.



This Award recognises Year 6 students who follow in Fred's footsteps by making a positive difference in their community. It celebrates students who show compassion, integrity and kindness in their everyday lives, just as Fred did. Mia has raised awareness of youth anxiety and used her initiative to make creative gifts to raise funds for Kids Helpline. You may have seen her at our recent 40th Anniversary celebrations selling her handmade bracelets.

**Emma Mizzi**

**Assistant Principal**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

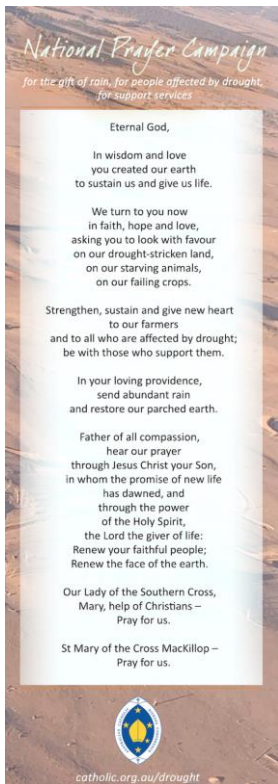
### Prayer for Rain:

From the Catholic Church in Australia:

*"The Catholic Church in Australia is dedicating the month of November 2019 as a time to pray for those affected by crippling drought conditions and to pray for the gift of rain."*

*Parishes, schools, families and other Catholic communities across the country are being encouraged to participate in the National Prayer Campaign for Drought, which also invites people to provide assistance to those most in need. The month of prayer is an additional response to the local work being done in affected communities."*

This week a prayer card will be sent home with each child. We encourage you to share this prayer as a family. Please keep all concerned in your prayers.



### Parish Mass:

You are invited to join the students to celebrate Parish Mass on the following dates:

Wednesday - November 13 - Kindergarten and Year 5 @ 9:15am

Wednesday - November 27 - Year 1 and Year 6 @ 9:15am

Wednesday - December 11 - Year 2, 3 & 4 @ 9:15am



### Remembrance Day:

Please join us on Monday November 11 at 10:40am in front of the Wall of Remembrance for our Remembrance Day Ceremony.



## Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

### Plenary 2020

The parents and school staff of Our Lady of the Way Catholic School are encouraged and are most welcome to attend the **Blue Mountains Catholic Community Forum** as part of the **Plenary 2020** process.

This forum is **not** a repeat of the forums we had last year and early this year but this is a part of the second phase, the listening and discernment phase. We will be using a traditional decision making process in small groups and considering the most common responses that made up a large part of the 18,000 responses to the first phase. The object of this forum is to hand on our results to the Plenary Council. Participants will have some choice as to which themes they can reflect upon. The Plenary Council has divided the findings into six overarching themes.

*Missionary and Evangelising*

*Inclusive Participatory and Synodal*

*Prayerful and Eucharistic*

*Humble Healing and Merciful*

*A joyful, hope-filled Servant Community*

*Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform*



**The members of the Catholic school community are considered by the Blue Mountains Deanery as key members of the local Catholic community. Therefore their participation in the discernment process is vital to the future of the Catholic Church reforms in Australia and especially in our diocese.**

**Our forum will be held on**

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm at St Thomas School Hall Springwood*

“Many lay people are freed and invigorated when they feel we clerics are genuinely listening and are inviting them to participate in an adult way. They love their church and want to be involved and have their say. They have theological and pastoral insights that don’t occur to us, the clerics”. *Fr Noel Connelly*

## LEARNING NEWS

### YEAR 5 CAMP EXPERIENCE

Last week, Year 5 spent two nights and three days at Berry Sport and Recreation Centre. The aim of the camp was for Year 5 students to develop their confidence, build relationships with one another and learn about leadership qualities. Throughout their stay, they participated in various activities including archery, raft building, ropes challenges, rock climbing and problem solving games.

The teachers were so proud to see the children having a go, persevering, encouraging each other and having lots of fun.

Here is what the children thought of camp:

Year 5 Camp - a place to have fun, become a leader and get to know each other better. This camp benefited me in a really good way, not only to become a leader but to know the privileges and consequences of being a leader. - Mia Eekman

Camp was amazing. Camp gave us a chance to be a leader and to build relationships. I loved this opportunity. Camp was about leadership, relationships but above all FUN.  
- Abby Godwin

Camp had so many benefits for me because I got to see a different side of my peers and bond with them differently. I also worked on my leadership skills. - Miah Hirsch

Camp was a once in a lifetime experience. We made new friends, new memories and had the best time. Thank you ‘berry’ much to the teachers for making it possible. - Lucia Hooke

At camp, I learnt and saw how we can help each other and that if we work together everything can become much easier and that you can have lots of fun and build bigger relationships. - Zac Levy

Our camp was a once in a lifetime experience! We found our inner friendships and worked together as a team! We also had a blast with our classmates and teachers! - Alyssa McDonald



Camp was such an amazing experience! I really enjoyed it and I hope the future year fives do too. My favourite part was that we worked really well as a team!

- Ella Reid

Year 5 should definitely go to camp because it is a wonderful experience where you can try new things, see other sides of people and develop leadership skills. - Annabelle Tran







## SPORTS NEWS

### STAGE 3 TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY

On Friday 27th September, 3 teams from Stage 3 took part in the Touch Football Gala Day at The Kingsway, Werrington.

All three teams, Year 5 Boys, Year 6 Boys and Year 6 Mixed, played very well and represented Our Lady of the Way skilfully, respectfully and with a good team spirit. Congratulations to our Year 6 Mixed team who were undefeated and came first on the day in their division!

We really appreciate the team managers and coaches who volunteered to help out on the day - Belinda Mott, Blake Hotz, Adam and Carly Phillips, Carly Eekman and Sean Sabutey, as well as the parents who were able to take their children to the event and support them on the day.

Well done to the Year 5 boys team: Nathan Gillett-Moore, Cooper Hegarty, Evan Hotz, Lucas Latty, Ashton Bartlett, Jacob Thompson, Zac Levy, Jacob Bennett and Darby Weber. The Year 6 Boys Team: Blade Funnell, Archie Prendergast, Marcus Skinner, Benny Tabor, Riley Tait, Mason Eekman, Cooper Hartstonge and Harrison Phillips. The Year 6 Mixed team: Lincoln Mayer, Tanner Crook, Brody Green, Dominic Vella, Kees Muller, Jade Elford, Ava Eekman, Leilahni Isaia, Breha Pearson, Cara Smith and Tianna Stansfield.

***Megan Vella***

Sports Coordinator





## AWARDS

**Term 3, Week 10 Awards**



Leilani Ah Kuoi, Jobe Degnan, Tilly Shaw, Levi Jackson-Logan, Kristian Liras, Madison Fitzsimmons, Martina Della Scala, Patrick Moran, Joey El-Sissa, Remy Cross, Zoe Robertson, Luka Kuster, Wayde Race, Olivia Walker, Jack Sikic, Holly Penny, Nicholas Heffernan, Tristan Bryant, Jessica Still, Samuel Cashel, Dominic Vella, Tanner Crook, Marcus Skinner

**Term 4, Week 1 Awards**



Mason North, Jack Layt, Pearl Johnson, Elijah Hughes, Roman Belcastro, Beau Edmonds, Jetta Grady, Max Thompson, Adam Penny, Avery Hall, Eli Hernandez-Milsom, Dylan McDonald, Jake Callaghan, Abigail Byrne, Emma Lohan, Archie King, Declan Casey, Michael Gardiner, Lucas Latty, Ariella Stroud, Ellie Gillett-Moore, Lachlan Stonehouse, Finbar Cullen

**Term 4, Week 2 Awards**



Sam Sikic, Jessica Miles, Hudson Ansell, Jack Palejs, Caitlyn Moran, Jackson Gabriel, Ben Thomas, Zachary Durham, Ava Jones, Rowan Astridge, Nikayla Pusko, Mya Kelty, Eva Curry, Jahkalian Pendreigh, James Byrne, Kallum Jackson-Logan, Akeda Deacon-Chilmaid, Jai Noronha, Cooper Hartstonge, Joshua Vanegas, Mia Kuster, Harrison Phillips

**Term 4, Week 3 Awards**



Bridie Clarke, Chloe Pearson, Matilda Boothroyd, Matilda Renny, Memphis Cross, Lorcan Byrne, Hamish Gauke, Adele Crook, Sarah Fenning, Oliver Casey, Mackenzie Degnan, Hannah Fullam, Tiana James, Krystal Tigg, Harrison Fisher, Ivy Hooke, Jake Walsh, Ashton Bartlett, Noah Downey, Ava Grech, Ella Reid, Ella Keigan, Isabella Bradley-Labra, Taylah Cowley, Jaxon Kenyon

### Strings Program

As the school year comes to an end, can all parents please ensure their 2019 Strings Program fees are paid in full by 29 November 2019. Fees are \$110.00 per term and can be paid at the school office.

### Creative Kids Vouchers:

A number of parents have inquired about paying for the Strings Program with the Creative Kids Vouchers, please note that this is not a possibility as stated on the NSW Government website: *All activities are to be delivered outside of the school curriculum. NSW public, private and Catholic schools are ineligible providers.*

*Providers must apply and be approved by Service NSW to be registered with Creative Kids.*

For further information please visit: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/creative-kids-faqs-providers#definitions-for-providers>

## **Student Travel for 2020**

Applications for student travel in 2020 opened on Friday, 11th October 2019.

Students progressing to year 3 and year 7 no longer need to re-apply *if* they:

- are continuing at the same school
- are residing at the same address
- have *not* been sent an expiry notification from Transport for NSW.

Where a student meets the new distance eligibility, the system will automatically update their entitlement. If they do not meet the new eligibility, they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

Term Bus Pass holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If students need to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>

Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2019 to ensure student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card is not cancelled. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2019, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2020.

## **OPAL CARDS**

One of the more significant changes created by the recent introduction of the Student Opal Card is the requirement for students to 'tap on' and 'tap off' when travelling to and from school on any school bus boarded in the course of their journey.

Opal data gathered by 'tap on' and 'tap off' is used to determine the demand for bus services. If students do not 'tap on' and 'tap off', lack of perceived patronage could lead to a review of the level of services provided to your school.

With this in mind, we seek your assistance in reminding your children that tapping on and tapping off correctly is one of the conditions of using the Student Opal Card.





## **JAPANESE STUDENT HOST FAMILIES WANTED**

### **26th - 31st March, 2020**

**Give our OLOW children the chance to share our Australian way of life and learn about Japan's**

Host One of Our Visiting Sasebo Junior High School Japanese Students  
13 - 15 years of age and they speak some English.



## **Would your family be interested?**



*VS Oceania Pty Ltd*

The Japanese students will arrive Thursday 26th March 2020 and will be at OLOW for 3 weekdays, Friday, Monday and Tuesday having English lessons in the morning, and participating in classes with the OLOW students in the afternoon. The students will spend the weekend with their host families enjoying family life.

Responsibilities as a host family would be to provide a comfortable bed, meals, lifts to and from school, and a friendly welcoming family environment. Host families are paid \$50 per night.

If you would be interested, we need to pass your contact details on to Mr Takashi Ushinohama from VS Oceania. This is the company organising the exchange for our Japanese visitors. Notes will be coming home in the coming week with your children, so if you would be interested in being a host family, please complete the form attached to that note, and return it with your child either to Mrs Schafer or the office.

## **Japanese Sasebo Kita Students' Visitors 2019**

Thank you so very much to our OLOW host families for 2019 - The Wards, Bretts, Pascoes, Taits, Caseys and Braces. Thank you also to our host families from the community and Mr Richard Trehay, the English Teacher from Sasebo Kita and Hiromi VS Oceania.







## What a Brilliant Fun Cultural Exchange we had last year!! ... Here are some of the photos.

The Sasebo Kita students taught us: Origami - Japanese art of paper folding; Japanese Calligraphy - Shodo writing Japanese characters with brush and ink; Hanafuda - a traditional card game and playing with Kendama and Otedama - traditional Japanese toys.







## 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.

## LEAVING OLOW AT THE END OF 2019?

A reminder to families that a terms notice (10 school weeks) in writing **MUST** be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term and where appropriate notice has been received, a pro-rata credit will be calculated. Where a term's notice has not been given to the principal, the term's school fees will be charged for your children. This is a Diocesan Policy.

## **CHANGE OF NAME MCCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE TO PENOLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE AS OF 2020**

From the beginning of the 2020 new school year, McCarthy Catholic College will be known as Penola Catholic College Emu Plains. This transition is due to McCarthy Catholic Trade Training Centre becoming part of the CathWest Innovation College from 2020, which will have a campus at McCarthy Emu Plains and Loyola, Mt Druitt. The College community welcomes this news as a significant step celebrating Australia's first saint starting a school in Penola to enable education to be accessed by children and adults.

Penola Catholic College will continue to serve students from Year 7 to Year 12. Penola Catholic College name recognises the strength that this proud learning community draws from values and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

The history of the College and the McCarthy name will continue to be recognised and acknowledged in a variety of ways at Penola Catholic College, as well as at the McCarthy campus of CathWest Innovation College.

We are looking forward to walking in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as we continue this exciting journey as Penola Catholic College in 2020.

Ms T Cairns  
Principal Leader





INSTITUTE FOR  
MISSION

# ALL WELCOME

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION NIGHT WITH DR MICHELE CONNOLLY RSJ

### GOSPELS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT



DR MICHELE CONNOLLY RSJ

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19**

**6.45PM NIBBLES FOR 7PM START**

**1-5 MARION ST, BLACKTOWN  
(OFF FLUSHCOMBE RD)**

**RSVP NOW VIA**

**email: [connect@ifm.org.au](mailto:connect@ifm.org.au)**

**OR Phone: 02 9296 6369**