Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Kinder 2014

There was tremendous excitement, and more than a few nerves, at OLOW yesterday as our Kinder 2014 came in for their Kindergarten Orientation Morning. It is always a time of great joy and anticipation when a new group comes along full of hope and excitement…. and that’s just the parents!

These children will visit once again in a few weeks for the next phase in their transition to school. If you see them and their families around please say hello and make them feel extra welcome!

Many thanks to the staff team who did such a great job yesterday with thanks also to the 2013 Kinder parents who helped with catering, uniform shop and the discussion groups. Your efforts made a very strong statement to our families that Our Lady of the Way is a place where we all work together to make our school a great place to learn and grow!

What does, ‘Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God’ look like?

Jesus was a Divine man of great wisdom and compassion, who then took action! He reached out to those in need; to the marginalised; to the strugglers; to the outcasts; and to the ‘poor and lame’. What does this look like in contemporary Australia today? It means reaching out to those in our community in their time of greatest need.

“God won’t ask you how others do the work committed to them but will ask you how you have done yours and in what spirit.” St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 12/12/1890

Through the generosity of the families of Our Lady of the Way, we have so far been able to raise $1323.65 from our Coin Line and $723.25 from the Silly Mufti Day. A grand total, so far, of $2046.90. What a truly inspiring effort! And haven’t we had some fun helping those in need! (Hard to beat Mr Mifsud for silliness though!?)

Our final effort will be tomorrow when we raise further funds through our TOYS, GAMES, BOOKS and PUZZLES stall. This will be held at first and second break as well as at dismissal time and a ‘clearance sale’ at the P & F Movie Night! (K-2 will be assisted with their purchases just as they are with the Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day stalls.)

IMPORTANT DATES!!!

Friday 8 November
- Family Movie Night – Despicable Me 2
- 6.30 to 7.30pm: Strings Tuition Information Night for Years 3-5 (Years 4-6 next year.)
- NEW DATE for P & F Annual General Meeting. All welcome!

Monday 2 December
- Advent/Christmas Celebration, 7.00pm

Saturday 7 December
- Year 6 Graduation Mass, 6.00pm

Friday 13 December
- 9.15am End of Year Thanksgiving Mass
- 10.30am ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea
- 11.00am Special Assembly
- 7.00-9.30pm Year 6 Social Night (courtyard/hall)

Thurs/Fri 19/20 December
- Staff Development Days

“Education at Our Lady of the Way is the development and nurturing of the whole child in the Catholic tradition in order that they become life-long learners who interact positively with others and the world around them”
A wonderful team effort from staff in our Penrith Catholic schools......

On Monday evening over 60 staff, partners and friends from Catholic primary schools from across the local Penrith area gathered together at Restaurante Trevi to raise funds for the CatholicCare Bushfire Appeal. $4,645 was raised through a raffle and the dinner!

We were inspired to do this by the children in all the schools who are always so generous and always want to help! We are teaching them but we are learning from them too! Staff from a number of our schools lost their homes or were directly affected by the bushfires. We felt we had to do something!

Special thanks to Angela Latte (ex-parent of OLOW) and the staff from Restaurante Trevi for ensuring it was a most enjoyable meal and a highly successful event!

The involvement of the following schools is testament to the strength and unity of Catholic education in our area.

- Bethany, Glenmore Park
- Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains
- Corpus Christi, Cranebrook
- St Joseph’s, Kingswood
- Mary MacKillop, South Penrith
- St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith

Staffing News for 2014

Mr Colin Hartley has indicated to me that following Long Service Leave this year he will be retiring from teaching. ‘Mr H’ has always been much loved by the children, staff and families alike and will be truly missed. We wish him well for the next stage in his life’s journey! We will farewell Mr Hartley at our end of year Thanksgiving Mass, morning tea and Special Awards Celebration.

As announced at our Kinder Orientation yesterday, our Kinder Teaching team for 2014 will be Mrs Rebecca Kakoschke, Mrs Deanne Kuipers and Mrs Anne Atkins (Learning Support).

Parents will be informed of all of our K-6 Staffing arrangements for 2014 before the end of this year. I would note that sometimes it is necessary to make changes to staffing arrangements if unforeseen circumstances arise and thank you in advance for your understanding should this be necessary.

School Based Fees

Diocesan Tuition and Building Levy Fees were included in a recent newsletter.

We have reviewed our school-based fees and have made a couple of minor changes. It is some time since we have increased these fees as we are ever mindful of keeping Catholic education affordable for all families.

- The cleaning fee has been increased from $20 per term per family to $22 per term, payable in Terms 1, 2 and 3.
- The Technology Fee and Resource Fee have been combined into one “Learning Resource Fee” of $140 per child, payable in Term 1. This represents a small increase overall.
- The “Activities Fee” has been increased by $6 to cover increased cost of the various excursions and incursions for each grade.

I remind all families that no child need miss out on a Catholic School education due to genuine financial hardship. Please make an appointment with the Principal if you need assistance with the payment of Diocesan and school-based fees.

Strings Tuition

We are able to offer an opportunity for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 next year to receive small group Strings Tuition. A note was sent home yesterday regarding an information night on Tuesday 19th November from 6:30-7:30pm in the MacKillop (Music) Room. Please RSVP via the office if you didn’t get the note!

The Strings Program implemented in Year 4 this year will continue into Year 5 and the Year 4 children will commence the program next year. The Strings Tuition would be in addition to the regular Music Program lessons.

Jumping Gymnasts!

Congratulations to our Gymnastics Team who did so very well at the recent Parramatta Diocese Gymnastics Competition held at St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith. A fine effort from everyone involved!

Parent Online Survey

Almost 50 families have responded to this survey. It would be very helpful to ‘hear from’ more of our families! Get the children to help you and take some time to give your valuable feedback as we work together to make improvements here at OLOW. To complete the survey go to: https://docs.google.com/a/parra.catholic.edu.au/forms/d/18PQILIDAc/cVv8xtf_L7uIERKukjkaa4DPS9PLMBSU/viewform

P & F AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friends Association has had to be put back a week to Tuesday 19th November at 7:30pm in the Library. I encourage all parents to make every effort to come long to this important meeting. An opportunity to shape parent leadership at OLOW for the coming year! It is also an opportunity for us to celebrate the many great things achieved by the P & F throughout 2013.

See you all at the Movie Night tomorrow night!

Together, let us act justly;
Together, let us love tenderly; and,
Together, let us walk humbly with our God.

Allan Jones
Principal
Bushfire Appeal Fundraising:
Poor Mrs Alexander has finally finished counting the thousands of coins that our families generously donated. Congratulations and thank you for your donation of $1,300. To add to that, a further $720 was raised by the Silly Mufti Day. What an amazing effort so far!

Please remember our toy, book and puzzle stall that will be held tomorrow. There will be items on sale to the value of $10, $5, $2 and $1. The stall will be held in the hall during the middle learning session. Grades will be invited to come to the hall for the children to purchase items. Thank you to the many people who have donated items.

Year 4 seems to be a year when our students develop an awareness of those around them and feel the need to do something positive to help others. Consequently there are children who are very keen help support the bushfire appeal. A group of girls in Year 4 will run a lolly guessing competition next week. They will speak at Monday morning assembly and give everyone the details of their competition.

Parish Mass:
On the 22nd of November Years 2, 3 and 4 will be attending the Friday morning Parish Mass. You are very welcome to join your children.

Year 3 Psalms:
Year 3 have written some beautiful psalms and would like to share them with you.

God our Creator of all natural things.
We thank you for letting us and all natural things have life.
We will care and look after your creations.
We will love you and remember you God for many lives to come.

by Clare
O my God, all the things you have made; the birds, pigs, sheep, the land, the whole world.
We will respect all of these things from night to dusk, day to dawn-all these things you have made.
Close your eyes and pray to God above that the night be filled with peace and the day be filled with love.

By Tahlia
God our almighty, creator of all things alive (seas and sun).
We thank you for giving us life, the Earth and our environment.
We will respect all your creations especially the heavens, seas and land.
We love you and your creations for all life to come.

By Brandon
God our Father, thank you for the world around us. We thank you for the life you gave us.
We will try to look after your land and keep you in our heart forever.

By Ashleigh
Dear God, you created the animals that we now love. Thank you for making the sun to brighten our days, thank you for making the moon to calm the night with its beautiful reflection.
We will take care of the earth as you take care of us. We will make sure the sun is in the sky, and the fish are in the water. We will make sure that the stars are out and the waters are flowing.
If the earth's creatures and plants and all your creations are gone and it is us to blame-you will forgive us. We will love you as we love one another.
When we are blessed by you we are in your Holy family.

By Madeleine
Carole Day
Religious Education Coordinator
HOMEWORK AT OLOW

Our Homework policy is called Always Reading - Forever Learning and takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle.

This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

It provides students with opportunities to:

- consolidate and continue the learning they have experienced at school.
- pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond school.
- involve family members in their learning.
- develop learning based on personal interest and enjoyment.
- acquire independence in study habits.

Our Lady of the Way places a great focus and energy on Literacy and in particular the development of highly effective readers. We desire that our students develop a passion for reading.

We see reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning.

Research tells us that reading and being read to has the potential to:

- improve comprehension, students who read extensively learn reading strategies and increase their reading rates.
- allow students to make gains in overall language proficiency.
- increase vocabulary knowledge.
- improve writing skills.
- improve understanding of mathematical concepts and problem-solving.

FOR KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 2

In K-2 our homework policy involves the learning of sight words and reading a variety of home readers and quality literature. In these foundational years children become better readers by practising reading. Children may also pursue other learning activities with their families. The time suggested for this is approximately 15 – 30 minutes daily.

FOR YEARS 3 - 6

In Years 3-6 our homework policy involves reading a variety of text including visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations, images that embrace media and digital texts. Reading will be focussed across all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material. Children may also choose to pursue other learning activities with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school. The time suggested for this is approximately 30 – 60 minutes daily.

The responsibility for overseeing homework lies essentially with the parents. Homework need not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. The emphasis should always be placed on the learning value.

Please communicate with teachers any concerns you may have about your child's approach and motivation to reading and learning.

A copy of the Homework Policy can be found on the school website or ask for a copy from the school office.

Please contact me at mmifsud@parra.catholic.edu.au if you have any questions relating to the Homework Policy or the OLOW CURRICULUM SPOT.

Michael
**Library News**

Children’s literature can be used in many ways to support the teaching of mathematics. Through literature children can experience the wonder of mathematical problem solving. Literature leads the child to see the connections between mathematics and the imaginative ideas in storybooks. Children’s literature can also introduce to a child the vocabulary associated with mathematics.

Our school library has a number of titles that would be wonderful for opening up a great mathematical discussion with your child;

- Can You Count to a Googol? By Robert E Wells
- How Big is Big? By Gretel Watson
- The Real Princess By Brenda Williams
- Uno’s Garden By Graeme Base
- Counting on Frank By Rod Clement
- A Million Dots By Andrew Clements

Happy Reading

*Mrs Atkins, Mrs Masters and Mrs Morgan*

**School Captains and SRC for 2014**

Congratulations to the following children who will head the student leadership team next year:

**School Captains:** Erin Dargan and Harry McDonald.

**SRC members:** Alanah Eisenhuth, Isabella Nardi, Keisha Chilmaid and Max Prendergast, Lucas Horne, Joshua Patterson

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS**

**Bus Travellers Moving From Year 2 to Year 3**

When your child is moving from Year 2 to Year 3, you will need to re-apply for a bus pass as your child will NOT automatically receive one. Eligible students in Years 3 to 6 MUST be NO LESS than 1.6km (radial distance), or 2.3km or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school. If your child is eligible for a free travel pass, please collect a bus application form from the school office and return it as soon as possible.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you live inside the stated area, you are NOT eligible and, therefore, will not receive free travel. Please do not fill in an application if you live inside this area.

**Canteen News**

**Crunchy Munchy Café Meal Deal $ 4.50**

- Sausage Roll
- Juice Popper
- Frozen Juice Cup

Available for Weeks 5 and 6

**Animal Shaped Small Water only $ 1.50. Collect different animal bottles.**

**School Sports Shoes and Socks**

There have been a number of children wearing the wrong sports shoes and socks to school. As per our Uniform Policy, sports shoes are to be predominantly white. Fluoro or multi coloured shoes are not permitted.

Socks are to be ankle socks (ie coming up the ankle and able to be seen above the shoe). The smaller, low cut anklet socks (that can’t be seen above the shoe) are not permitted.

The wearing of the correct full school uniform is compulsory. We ask parents to insist that their children wear the correct uniform at all times. If this is not possible please address a note to the class teacher which will be passed on to the Principal. Children who do not wear the correct uniform will be asked to explain. A note will be sent home to parents in this case.
Congratulations
Congratulations to Mrs Atkins on the birth of a new granddaughter. Bridie, a daughter for Lauren and Justin. May God’s blessings be with you all, always.

REMINDER – PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF OUR NEIGHBOURS
PLEASE be considerate of our neighbours at all times.
PLEASE do not park across or close to driveways. Enjoy an extra few metres of walking in the sunshine!
PLEASE move away as soon as possible. If you need to stay and talk for a while please ensure you supervise your children’s behaviour.
PLEASE APPRECIATE that we have more street parking and better access than ANY other school I know!

Physical activity can be:
- sport and organized games
- playing with the dog
- backyard cricket
- climbing trees
- housework
- dancing to music
- wriggling and moving is normal for children and can be regarded as activity so avoid asking them to stop!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kinder 2014 Play Date
Kinder 2014 parents are invited to bring their child along for a play date with other children starting Kinder in 2014. The dates and times are:

Tuesday 19th Nov, 26th Nov and 3rd Dec at 9.30am in the Parish Hall
Wednesday 20th Nov, 27th Nov and 4th Dec at 1.30pm at Melrose Park.

Hope to see you there.

St Finbar’s Fete
Due to the bushfires St Finbar’s Fete has been postponed until 22nd November – 4pm to 9pm.
invitation to

HOLIDAY + MEMORY

20th Century Australia at Play

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 5-7PM

TO BE OPENED BY KEN DONE

ARTISTS: IAN ABDULLA NARELLA AUFIO
JESSICA BRADFORD JODY BROWN ANNA CAREY
MARC DE JONG KEN DONE MAX DUPAIN MARTINE ENDUR
A.R. FULLWOOD EDNA GARRAN-BROWN MINI GRAFF
ANARELLE JOSEF PETER KINGSTON WARATAH LANY
JOANNA LANK FRED LEIST JON LEWIS RUTH MADISON
NOEL MCKENNA STEPHANIE MONTFITH KENDAL MURRAY
CHRIS O’DOHERTY AKA REG NMBASHA TREVOR PARK
AMANDA PERNELLE HART PATRICIA PROCIV DAVID RALPH
SALLI ROBINSON ANNE ZAHALKA

Max Dupain. Bondi. 1959 silver gelatine photograph © Max Dupain Photographic Archive

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
RSVP BY PHONE OR EMAIL BY 21 NOV
EXHIBITING 23 NOV 2013 - 23 FEB 2014

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY
89 River Road
Emu Plains NSW 2750
P 02 4735 1100
E gallery@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au
W penrithregionalgallery.org.au

PP&VA
NSW Communities arts nsw
PENRITH CITY COUNCIL
Find us on Facebook
INVITATION

WHITE RIBBON RIVER WALK

Penrith City Council is proud to be supporting White Ribbon Day in raising awareness about violence against women in our community. Join the White Ribbon River Walk and show your support for Australia’s campaign to stop violence against women.

WHEN: Wednesday 27 November 2013

WHERE: Starting location at Weir Reserve (see map). The White Ribbon Walk will commence at Weir Reserve and follow the walking track for 3.5kms to Tench Reserve. The walk will be followed by a BBQ lunch and opportunity to take the White Ribbon Day oath and sign the commitment banner.

TIME: The walk commences at 11.30am from Weir Reserve. White Ribbon Oath and signing of the banner at 1.30pm

WHAT TO BRING: Participants are encouraged to wear white in support of White Ribbon Day. Don’t forget your sunscreen, hat, comfortable walking shoes and water.

CONTACT: For further information or to RSVP please contact edavidson@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au or phone 47328028 by Wednesday 20 November 2013.

All funds raised at the event will be donated to the White Ribbon Foundation.

FREE!
BBQ, MUSIC & FACE PAINTING FOR KIDS.

In support of
Australia’s campaign to stop violence against women

White Ribbon