Dear Families and Friends of Our Lady of the Way,

**Father’s Day Celebration**

Mrs Day and the children prepared a most moving celebration of fatherhood at our last Whole School Assembly. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and for honouring our dads in such a special way! Many thanks also to the enthusiastic P & F team for organising the Fathers’ Day Stall for the children. Hope all our dads loved their carefully chosen gifts!

Loving God, We thank you for the gift of dads, and everything that they do for us. Help them to have patience when we’re difficult, wisdom when we can’t see the way, strength when we need comforting, and love at all times, so that, through them, we get a little glimpse of how you feel about us, our heavenly Father. Amen

**Reading Focus - Whole School Learning Goal - More Food for thought…….**

(As recently included in the St Nicholas of Myra School Newsletter)

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) conducts surveys every three years. In 2009 this survey was conducted across 65 countries. Parents were directly surveyed. The results showed the following:

*That of the forms of involvement that parents have with children the most beneficial are not necessarily those that require the most time or money*

Parents who read themselves benefit their children’s learning because it shows children that reading is something their parents value

Student performance in reading was higher when parents ‘read a book with their child’, ‘talked about things they had done during the day’ and when they ‘told stories to their children’

When parents and children interacted in ‘discussing books, films or television programs’, ‘ate main meals together around the table’ or ‘spent time just talking together’ the children’s reading performance was improved.

What are you doing now to encourage your children to be good readers? What else could you try? By working together we will be able to make a difference for ALL children!

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**KEEP READING FOR SCHOOL FUNDING NEWS**

**Monday 8th October – Term 4 begins**

**Wednesday 19th December – last day of school for students in 2012**

**Wednesday 30 January – School resumes for Years 1-6**

**Friday 1st February - Kinder half days Then full days from Monday 4th February**

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Together, we are learning! Learning how to relate…… Learning how to be Learning how to learn…… Learning how to think…… and Learning how to choose!
WOW! What a fantastic Term 3 it has been!

Grandparents Day was certainly a highlight but we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for!

- Book Fair and Book Week performances
- Staff Readers Theatre for the children
- First Eucharist
- Children’s Parish Mass
- Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- Feast of the Assumption Whole School Mass
- Year 4 Religious Literacy Assessment
- Maths Olympiads
- Chess Competition Day
- Athletics
- Netball
- AFL
- Social Skills groups in Years 1 and 2
- Friends Program for Year 1
- Choir and band
- Oz Opera
- The NED show
- Powerhouse Museum
- Golden Ridge Farm
- Year 5 Gold Day
- P & F Disco
- London Olympics and Paralympics
- Fathers’ day

And so much more with Year 5 Camp and K-2 sports day still to come next week!

NOW! Get ready for a Terrific Term 4!

Are you ready for……???

- October, the Month of Mary and Mission Month
- All saints and All Souls
- Remembrance Day
- Parish ‘Thank You’ Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King
- P & F Trivia Night
- Kinder 2013 Orientation Program
- Basketball
- Gymnastics Comp
- Touch Footy
- Pizzazz!
- K-4 Swimming Program
- Advent/Christmas Celebration
- St Vinnie’s Hampers
- Yr 6 Graduation Mass
- Year 6 Social Night
- Thanksgiving Mass, Morning Tea for helpers and Special Awards Assembly
- And so much more……

A Term 4 Parent Calendar was sent home today!

???? School Funding ????

Investing in our most valuable and precious resource – OUR CHILDREN!!

The recent decision by the State Government to slash the funding of all schools is of serious concern. Schools ALREADY do everything possible to make the most of every minute and every dollar! How does the government think we can do more with less in order to maintain high standards of learning, student wellbeing and community?? Our staff, parents and families work together to create the best possible learning environment and to provide the very best learning experiences for the children and WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO!

Why do our governments NOT place a much higher value on education? How long can we keep squeezing the very last drop of energy and creativity out of teachers, staff and parents? How much EXTRA do parents have to do, and pay, to provide their children with a high quality Catholic school education.

Recently announced changes WILL put more pressure on families by increasing the proportion of costs that need to be met by parents. NO child need ever miss out on a Catholic school education because of genuine financial hardship, and this Diocese of Parramatta Policy remains strong. However, our system will find this increasingly difficult to achieve!

1. Parents should be free to choose the type of education they want for their children.
2. One in every five Australian students attends a Catholic school.
3. According to the latest data provided by the Australian Government’s My School website, even with parental contributions included, Catholic schools operate at 90% of the recurrent resources of government schools.
4. Catholic school students receive, on average, 20 per cent less government funding than students in government schools.
5. Students with disability in Catholic schools receive less funding from government than if they were going to a government school.
6. If government funding for Catholic schools does not keep pace with annual cost increases in schools, it is the same as a funding freeze. A funding freeze is a funding cut, and school fees will have to rapidly rise.
7. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta have been committed to continuous improvement; school improvement is reviewed annually and has been in place for years.

I urge you to contact Mr Stuart Ayres, Member for Penrith, and the Premier to voice your protest at decreases in the funding levels for ALL schools.

Mr Stuart Ayres, MP
P O Box 4006
Penrith Plaza 2750

Office:
Shop 23, Ground Floor
Penrith Centre
501-534 High Street
PENRITH 2750

Phone: 4722 8660  Fax: 4731 4782
Email: penrith@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Office:
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Phone: 9228 5239  Fax: 9228 3935
Email: office@premier.nsw.gov.au
Web: http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au

Please find attached the most recent letter from our Bishop, and a press release from Greg Whitby, the Executive Director of Schools for the Parramatta Diocese, regarding this matter.

Staffing News
Mrs Jenny Smith will be resuming her Learning Support Teacher role here at OLOW, from next week. Mrs Smith will teach Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Mrs Rebecca Blazek continuing in Year 3 each Thursday. Our sincere thanks to Mrs Blazek for the tremendous work she has done since the beginning of the year and a very warm welcome back to Mrs Smith!

ADVANCE NOTICE:
From the start of 2013, school will commence at 8:45am and finish at 2:55pm. These five minute changes to either end of the day will give us a 10 minute designated eating time. More news about this and what we aim to achieve with regard to developing healthy eating habits, and also sustainability, will be sent home early next year! Get ready for even more ‘nude food’ in 2013! (the lucky year!)

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

Allan Jones
PRINCIPAL

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Fathers’ Day Prayer:
Thank you to all the fathers and grandfathers who attended our special Fathers’ Day Prayer. We hope that you were spoilt by your families and had a wonderful day on the 2nd of September. A big thank you is also extended to the members of the SRC who so beautifully helped to lead the prayer.

Sacrament of Confirmation:
We wish Gabby, Nathan and Jarred Gregory and Jackson and Connor Walker our best wishes and prayers as they celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation tonight. They will be joined by children from St. Nicholas of Myra, St. Joseph’s of Kingswood and St. Francis of Assissi in Blacktown. The celebrant will be Fr. Christopher de Souza, assisted by Fr. Robert and Fr. Mathew Antony, the parish priest at St. Nicholas of Myra. We wish them every blessing for the future.

World Youth Day 2013 Raffle - WIN A BRAND NEW CAR whilst supporting the youth of our parish, diocese and church!
Thank you so much to all the families who have helped to support the raffle to raise money to send a representative to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro next year. We have decided to extend the time frame of selling to the end of Week 1 in Term 4. In this way you might have the opportunity to sell more tickets during the holidays. We would like to offer an extra half hour sport lesson to the grade that brings in the most money per child. So we encourage you to support this fundraiser which is being held throughout the Parramatta Diocese.

Parish Mass:
Please remember that tomorrow, September 14, the children of Kindergarten and Year 5 will attend the parish mass together. You are very welcome to attend and sit with your children.

Carole Day
Religious Education Coordinator
GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Lunch Orders
The P&F would like to thank you for supporting this new initiative over the past 2 weeks. Can we remind you that orders need to be placed in the "lunch order" box located in the office by 9:00am each Wednesday. We welcome any feedback that you may have so please write to us and leave your written feedback at the office marked:

Feedback - Lunch Orders, C/O P&F

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO LUNCH ORDERS THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER AS WE ARE HOLDING A HOT DOG LUNCH ORDER DAY ON FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER.

School Fees
A reminder to parents that payment for school fees are now overdue, prompt payment would be appreciated. If you are experiencing difficulties in finalising your account please contact Mrs Small on 4735 1930 (Monday – Thursday).

Achievements….

Congratulations to:

- Aaron (1M) and Isaac (5M) Haskett who both recently won gold medals at the Adams State Ice Hockey Championships.
- Jacqui Freney, the cousin of Annika (2C) and Chelsea (1M) Taber’s Aunty, who won 8 gold medals at the London Paralympics. This was the most medals of any individual at the 2012 Games. We hope we can meet you one day to congratulate you personally!

Congratulations…..BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mrs Jenny Smith on the birth of another grandson! May God bless you and him always!

Silver and Gold Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following children who received awards recently:

**Silver Awards**

- Justin Bailie
- Harrison Armour
- Taj Le Breton
- Oscar King
- Taylen Larsen Tai
- Lucas Woods
- Toby Witjes
- Zac Phillips
- Annika Taber
- Sarah Budge
- Tiare Raukawa
- Emilie Donohoe Thompson
- Jason Andrews
- Ellie Tsitahtalirs
- Jack Collins
- Sienna Gasahagan
- Georgia Cashel
- Charlie Thomas
- Lachlan Armour
- Ashleigh Hurley
- Ben Garrahy

**Gold Awards**

- Annie Boreham
- Jacob Kahwach
- Flynn Starr
- Madeleine Godfrey
- Henry Starr
- Tahlia Robar
- Abbey Flanagan
- Antonea Winch
- Ella Boyer
- Phoebe Kruzie
- Bailey Houlihan
- Emma Stanley
- Sebastian Hayward

Canteen Roster

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<tr>
<th>Friday 14-Sep-12</th>
<th>Monday 17-Sep-12</th>
<th>Wednesday 19-Sep-12</th>
<th>Friday 21-Sep-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leanne Bennett</td>
<td>Melissa Panczyk</td>
<td>Kylie Newton</td>
<td>Tracey Procter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Val Mullins</td>
<td>AnnMaree Kamml</td>
<td>Gai Graham</td>
<td>Jane Cashel</td>
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<td>Melissa Crutch</td>
<td>Fiona Boulous</td>
<td>Nicole Graham</td>
<td>Kate Walker</td>
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<td>Wendy Filla</td>
<td>Dot Newton</td>
<td>Pauline Laredo</td>
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Until we have a replacement canteen co-ordinator, if you are unable to attend on your nominated day or have any issues with this roster, please contact: Rochelle Bahlmann on 0403 245 019 (Monday Volunteers); Fiona Sweeney 0428 987 318 (Wednesday Volunteers); Jo Whiteley 0408 022 036 (Friday Volunteers). Please arrive by 1.10pm. Finish time will be approximately 2.00pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

Twice a year the Solo Parent Ministry runs the “Recovery” Program which is an excellent seven week process aimed to assist those who are separated or divorced to work through some of the issues and agendas that come up as a result of this very traumatic and difficult event in their lives. It begins on Wednesday 17th October. 7.30pm at Blacktown. $70.00. Register with Sr Eileen Quade Ph 99330205. eileen.quade@ccss.org.au

Discover Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta in September

See Mercy values in action at our next College Open Morning Tour on Friday September 21, 2012. The College is now enrolling for 2014 and there are limited vacancies for 2013. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.
OCTOBER HOLIDAYS SPORTS CLINIC - AT ST DOMINIC’S COLLEGE

DATE:  October 2, 3 & 4 2012.
TIME:   9.00 – 12.30pm
VENUE:  St Dominic’s College – Copeland St, Kingswood.
AGES:   6 – 13 Years. (Boys and Girls welcome)
COST:   $80 (less for siblings)

The aim of this clinic is to increase the enjoyment gained from sport through the development of skills, self-confidence and positive social interaction. Participants need to wear sports style clothing and bring a water bottle and a hat. Morning snacks provided. Limited Spaces: Register by phoning Steve Muller on 0418642697 by 21/9/12.

Mamre Art Show
We are excited to announce the Mamre Art Show as our opening event for the Taste of Mamre. We are looking forward to a month of farm, food and feasting events starting at the Fine Food and Wine Festival on Sunday the 21 October. Every Saturday and Sunday from 21 October – 16 of November there will be farm tours, bushland conservation walks, cooking classes, foodie delights and more. Be sure to book for the 100 mile dinner on Saturday November 3rd and visit our website at www.mamre.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE
10 September 2012

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Shortsighted policy is no solution to NSW budget problems

Executive director of schools in the Diocese of Parramatta, Greg Whitby, today called on parents to complain in the strongest possible terms about the injustice of cutting funding to Catholic schools.

‘It is appalling to see the issue dismissed when there is universal agreement that we need to invest more heavily in educating young people,’ Greg Whitby said.

‘Catholic education has a proud history of providing quality education in western Sydney for 190 years,’ he pointed out. ‘We have only had government funding since the 1960s so for the majority of that time the Catholic community has carried more than its fair share.’

While noting that Catholic schools will not be the only ones to lose funding, Greg said the reality is that the Catholic parent community would have to bear the extra cost burden if the government chose to implement these unprecedented cuts.

‘My office has been inundated with concerned and distraught parents seeking ways to have their voices heard to get this decision overturned because they do not want to be forced to move their children out of Catholic schools,’ he said.

‘If Catholic schools were to close tomorrow the O’Farrell Government would face a massive funding blow out in terms of recurrent and capital costs. This is a shortsighted policy which won’t solve the budgetary problems of NSW.’

Greg said Catholic schools have, for decades, consistently worked with governments to ensure they play their part in delivering quality education.

‘To have the government take action without consultation flies in the face of the longstanding commitment, cooperation and trust needed to ensure the Catholic sector has the capacity to educate its share of young people.’

Greg said this issue would be a test of the Liberal Party’s integrity, who promised, while in opposition, there would be no state funding cuts to Catholic schools.

‘Less than halfway through their first term they see fit to break this bedrock promise and it has disappointed the people who put their faith in the O’Farrell Government.’

#ENDS

Media enquiries to Olivia O’Connor, Communications Officer on 0413150322 e: Olivia.OConnor@parya.catholic.edu.au
For immediate release 10 September 2012

School cuts a massive broken promise to parents, teachers, students

From Bishop Anthony Fisher OP
Chairman, Catholic Education Commission of New South Wales

State MPs, Church and education offices, have all been inundated with expressions of alarm at the news that the NSW Government will be slashing Catholic school funding – according to Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, Chair of the Catholic Education Commission NSW.

The Bishop understands that the Cabinet is soon to meet in the face of this reminder from constituents that the Coalition was elected last year on a promise that if it won government it would not cut funding to Catholic schools.

“At the last election the Coalition guaranteed it would continue existing support to Catholic schools,” Bishop Fisher observed. “The Catholic Bishops of NSW urge Premier O’Farrell to keep his promise, listen to the voice of concerned parents, teachers and parishioners all across NSW and reverse the planned slashing of $67m per annum from non-government schools.

“This is not about non-government versus government schools: we don’t want cuts to any schools at this crucial time.”

Parents and teachers agree. The Council of Catholic School Parents described this as an attack on “the right of parents to choose a Catholic school for their children that is high quality and affordable.”

Independent Education Union Secretary John Quessy, speaking on behalf of teachers, said, “It represents an unprecedented attack on the funding of non-government schools and an almighty breach of trust with the electorate.”

Bishop Fisher said that only last week, Premier O’Farrell was criticising the Commonwealth for failing to consult with the states on education reform and funding. “But it seems he didn’t think it necessary to consult on education funding cuts with major stakeholders in his own state.

“Meanwhile, Education Minister Piccoli has been talking up the Gonski Report – the main recommendation of which is that all sectors invest more in the education of Australia’s children. When I met the Minister recently there was no hint of slashing grants to schools. This leaves us feeling betrayed.

“Drastic cuts at such short notice could force significant fee increases, staff cuts, curriculum cuts or worse.”

Last week it was revealed that the NSW Government plans to slash recurrent funding to non-government schools by $67m a year from the beginning of 2013. Two-thirds of the schools affected by the cuts are Catholic systemic schools, city and country.
There has also been talk of changing the formula that presently pegs per capita state grants to Catholic and independent schools to 25% of the cost of educating a state school student. “If legislation to allow this were introduced we would vigorously oppose it,” Bishop Fisher said. “It would prove that this is no emergency measure affecting everyone, but rather a retreat from state government responsibility to Catholic and other children.

“The Catholic Bishops recognise that in tough economic times governments need to be fiscally responsible but we believe it is false economy to compromise our children’s education and therefore their life opportunities.

“Struggling families cannot afford this cut to education. The Church does all it can to keep Catholic education affordable so that no child is ever denied enrolment because of an inability to pay fees. But justice requires funding continuity for all children in all Australian schools. We ask our state government to reconsider this disastrous decision.”

_Media inquiries to Jane Favotto 0418 208 280._