



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

2014 - Celebrating 35 years of Catholic Education

10th April 2014

DIARY DATES

Friday 11 April

Last day of Term 1

P & F MOVIE NIGHT!

Monsters University
Entry from 5.30pm for start time of 6.00pm

Monday 28 April

Term 2
Commences

Tuesday 29 April

Easter Liturgy
9.15am

Friday 2 May

ANZAC Day prayer

Thursday 8 May

Mothers' Day
Prayer

Mothers' Day Stall
Year 2 parents will have some lovely Mother's Day gifts available for purchase

Friday 9 May

PUPIL FREE DAY

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 May

First Holy Communion

Sunday 1 June

School Fete

Thursday 11 September

Grandparents' Day

Mon/Tues 8 & 9 Sept

Creative Arts Expo

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Students,

What an exciting first term we have shared – it has been filled with celebrating our faith and learning, being challenged, the forming of new friendships and opportunities to participate in stimulating activities. I asked some of the children to summarise our term with their most memorable moments:

I love jelly-bean groups – Mia in Kindergarten

I love playing soccer on the playground – Carter E in Kindergarten

I got dressed up as a monkey on Nursery Rhyme Day – Ava in Kindergarten

I've learnt new maths symbols – Finbar in Year 1

A new friend called Asha, started last week – Gabrielle in Year 1

We read my favourite big book 'Mr Brown's Magnificent Apple Tree' – Cooper in Year 1

I enjoyed drama/literacy when we made postcards and freeze-frames – Chelsea in Year 3

I learnt about how to make a tornado in a bottle – Henry in Year 2

I enjoyed learning about the weather – Sarah in Year 2

I loved being a news reporter – Millina in Year 2

I loved running in the cross-country – Emma in Year 3

My favourite thing was making a landscape artwork after I saw Albert Namatijira's painting - Jack in Year 3

I like the swimming carnival and all the races - Noah in Year 4

I loved being able to choose my own inquiry question – Flynn in Year 4

I like working with my tribe – Jessica in Year 4

I thought it was great when Chris Olsen brought in some real Antarctic ice and I touched it – Christian in Year 5

In our maths investigation we got to build a housing estate – Jackson & Madalyn in Year 5

I loved going to Canberra because it was fun and we felt all grown-up. It made our learning real – Alanah and Yasmin in Year 6

For the first time in seven years, Clark (red) won the swimming carnival and I swam with the ducks – Jack M in Year 6

It was great to meet our member for Penrith, Fiona Scott MP. She shared lots of interesting facts and seemed real. She gave us a new Australian flag and certificates, which she signed during question time – Brock in Year 6

These memories and moments are signs of the life of the school.

When we celebrate Palm Sunday on the weekend, we begin the journey of Holy Week that culminates with the great feast of Easter Sunday. Easter is the most important season in the Church's calendar for us. It's a time when we celebrate the fact we have been saved by God's son – Jesus. What a priceless gift we have been given and it costs us nothing. May we join as a faith filled community to give thanks for the Easter experiences in our own lives – those times of pain and fear that are then followed by times of new life and joy. May we each know the joy of the risen Lord in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for a wonderful term. Let us all have a holy, safe & enjoyable holiday break.

God Bless,
Sue Veling
Principal



Pupil Free Day – Term 2

Our Staff development Day for Term 2 will be on Friday 9th May. Staff will spend time aligning our English outcomes, developing a scope and sequence and completing professional development around the new English continuum. **Friday 9th May will be a pupil free day.**



Celebration of Learning

It was very encouraging to see so many parents and extended family that took up the opportunity to visit the classrooms and observe learning in action during our 'celebrations of learning' in Week 8. You would have noticed many learning activities taking place, in different formats, which may have looked very different to your school days. One significant difference is that technology is now a prominent teaching and learning tool in every classroom.

As you are aware and appreciate, the teachers at *Our Lady of the Way* are exemplary in their dedication to the responsibility they have in working with students and parents. They are to be commended for the quality teaching they provide and the time and energy they give to their work and to updating their professional knowledge. Teachers spend a great deal of time outside school hours reflecting on their teaching, undertaking professional development and reading current educational literature. The reason these activities are important is that teachers are committed to providing good quality teaching and learning for each student.

Sometimes we can be very quick to criticise teachers, yet how often do we say thank you to them for the great job they are doing with your precious children? Many great moments go unrecognised. So on your behalf, I join with Pope Francis and say -

*"Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools.
Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life."
Pope Francis*

Learning Conversations

On Thursday, eighteen parents took up the opportunity to engage in a conversation about reading, facilitated by Mrs Kakoschke and Mrs Kuipers. In Term 2, it is hoped that a number of learning conversations will take place about maths and in particular Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) strategies and vocabulary. So, watch this space!

Peer Review/Compliance Audit

On 25 March, staff at OLOW took part in a Peer Review/Compliance audit. This is a process that looks very closely at the standard of teaching, learning, assessment and reporting that occurs in the school and aligns it with the expectations of the Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards (BOSTES). I am very proud to report that *Our Lady of the Way* was congratulated on the very high standards that we are achieving and acknowledged for the excellent teaching programs that cater so well for the learning needs of all students. We are always very proud when we receive high praise for the quality of education that is provided by *Our Lady of the Way* school as we know we have quality teachers providing the best education for all students. It is certainly encouraging for all parents to know that OLOW has been recognised as an outstanding educational facility.

Winter School Uniform

Students are required to wear full winter uniform in Term 2. We are conscious that the weather can be unseasonal so we will allow a grace period of 2 weeks. If families require winter uniforms these are available from Lowes in Penrith.

Sports Shoes

Now that all parents and students are aware that sports shoes should be white in colour, with white laces (or white velcro), it is anticipated that after the term 1 break, all students will be wearing the correct sports shoes. It has been very disappointing to see our senior students wearing a range of sports shoes with coloured laces, coloured socks or ankle socks. Most OLOW parents are very supportive of our uniform policy and as mentioned last week, students should wear each of our uniforms (summer, winter and sports) with pride, especially when representing the school.

Letters will be sent home next term to students wearing the incorrect uniform and they will not be able to represent our school unless they are wearing the correct uniform.

Please make an appointment to see Mr Mifsud or myself if you are having financial difficulties providing the correct uniform.

Mrs Veling

Before School Supervision (Final notification)

At OLOW, supervision of students on the playground does not begin until 8:15am. For the safety of students, all school gates will be unlocked at 8:15am from Term 2.

Father Robert Farewell Mass and Morning Tea

Sunday 20 April at 9:30am - If you wish to contribute to the monetary gift, please send your donation to the office by Friday.



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Scripture in the Classrooms:

The Year One Lenten unit focuses on Lent being a time of change. In the story of Zacchaeus, Jesus encourages the tax collector to have a change of heart through his words and actions. Jesus' words are also for us to hear and reflect upon.

The Year One teachers shared the story of Zacchaeus through Exploring Scripture which is where the story is narrated while the teacher moves the characters along the setting. The following was shared with them:

This story comes from our special book, the Bible. It comes from the part of the Bible called the New Testament.

Jesus was entering the town of Jericho with his friends

There was a chief tax collector named Zacchaeus, living in the town. He was a very rich man.

Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was a little man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd.

So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree, so he would be able to see Jesus as he passed by.

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up. Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Hurry down Zacchaeus because I must stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus with great joy.

All the people who were with Jesus started grumbling, saying "This man has gone as a guest to the house of a sinner!"

Zacchaeus said to Jesus "Listen sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much."

Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today, for this man is also a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out the lost."

I Wonder...

- *Why Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus?*
- *How Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was up the tree?*
- *Why Jesus decided to go to Zacchaeus' house?*
- *What made Zacchaeus decide to give away half of what he owned?*
- *What Jesus meant when he said, "Salvation has come to this house today"?*
- *Where you are in this story?*

Sienna in Year One was so inspired by the experience she made her own characters and scenes for homework and retold the story for her class the next day. This then inspired Scarlett, Addy, Rosie, Dominic and Lily to do their own for homework and share their story with a small group of children.



Here are some responses by Year 1 to the story of Zacchaeus:

<p>Jesus helped Zacchaeus to change by telling him the right thing to do. Before Jesus came, Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He snatched money off people who wouldn't pay. He was very naughty. After he went to his house he heard someone shout out "Jesus is coming". He didn't care. He wanted more money.</p> <p>By Rosemary</p>	<p>Jesus helped Zacchaeus to change by making him give back their money. He gave back 4 times as much money. Zacchaeus was being a better person. He was saying sorry to the people.</p> <p>By Seth</p> 	<p>Jesus helped Zacchaeus to change by having a talk about what he was like before. Zacchaeus was a tax collector and he was a bad man. He decided to be a nice man and shared all of his gold.</p> <p>By Lewis</p> 	<p>Jesus helped Zacchaeus to change by teaching the actions that he needed to do. Zacchaeus was a tax collector he was greedy. Very greedy. After Jesus visited Zachaeus' house he took four pieces of gold to the poor people.</p> <p>By Grace</p> 
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Holy Week Celebration:

Today our school community reflected on the events of Holy Week by celebrating a Liturgy of the Word. The students of Year 3 and Year 5 helped us reflect on the last days of Jesus life through mime and leading us in prayer. We encourage you to attend the many Holy Week events being celebrated by the parish with your family.

Project Compassion:

Please remember that tomorrow is 'Five Cent Friday' - a fundraiser for Caritas and Project Compassion. The children are encouraged to bring in five-cent pieces (or other coins) that might be in moneyboxes. We hope to cover a large Caritas symbol on the Infants playground tomorrow morning before school.



Meet the last two people highlighted by Caritas and helped by Project Compassion...

 <p>5th Week of Lent Project Compassion, Week 5, brings you the story of Lorraine.</p> <p>When Lorraine, from Aboriginal Australia, learnt that she would have to move 550km away to receive vital dialysis treatment, she was heartbroken to be separated from her mob and culture. <i>The Purple House</i> is providing her with a home away from home. An income-generating bush balm program is helping her reconnect with culture and community.</p> <p>Your donation to Project Compassion helps Lorraine, and other First Australians, retain their dignity and connection to culture during difficult times. www.caritas.org.au</p>	 <p>Photo: Simon Hewson</p>
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 <p>6th Week of Lent Project Compassion, Week 6, brings you the story of Nirangini.</p> <p>After moving 11 times during the civil war, Nirangini is now re-establishing her life back in her childhood village in Sri Lanka, thanks to a permanent home and participation in an income-generating program.</p> <p>Your donation to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to continue aid and development work reflective of the life of Jesus Christ, in over 30 countries. www.caritas.org.au</p>	 <p>Photo: Vivan Fernando</p>
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Wishing you and your families hope and joy this Easter season.

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

OLOW Writing Goal for 2014

Our English goal for 2014 states that by the end of 2014 students will have a deeper understanding of the writing process, using a common vocabulary for talking about, thinking about and composing writing.

Here are some suggestions and ideas to assist you with how you can partner with the school to achieve our writing goal for 2014.

Allow time

Help your child spend time thinking about a writing project. Good writers often spend a lot of time thinking, preparing, and researching before starting to write. Your child may dawdle, sharpen a pencil, get papers ready, or look up the spelling of a word. Be patient - this may all be part of the preparation.

Respond to your child's writing

Respond to the ideas your child expresses verbally or in writing. Make it clear that you are interested in what the writing conveys, which means focusing on "what" the child has written rather than "how" it was written. It's usually wise to ignore minor errors, particularly at the stage when your child is just getting ideas together.

Praise your child's writing

Take a positive approach and find good things to say about your child's writing. Is it accurate? Descriptive? Original? Creative? Thoughtful? Interesting?

Provide your child with spelling help when they are ready for it

When your child is just learning how to read and write, they may try different ways to write and spell. Our job is to encourage our children's writing so they will enjoy putting their thoughts and ideas on paper. At first, your child may begin to write words the way that they hear them. For example, they might write "haf" instead of "have", "frn" instead of "friend", and "Frd" instead of "Fred." This actually is a positive step in developing their phonemic awareness. Keep practicing with them, and model the correct spelling of words when you write. As your child gets older and begins to ask more questions about letters and spelling, provide them with the help they need.

Practice, practice, practice

Writing well takes lots of practice, so make sure your child doesn't get discouraged too easily. It's not easy! Give them plenty of opportunities to practice so that they have the opportunity to improve.

Read together

Reading and writing support each other. The more your child does of each, the better they will be at both. Just trying one of the suggestions above can have a fantastic influence on your child's learning and your relationship with them. Let your child see how you are living out the quality of a creative learner.

Cheers
Michael

LEARNING NEWS

Australian Government Assistance for National Capital Excursion.

The Year 6 students recently attended an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational programs focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program toward the travel expenses incurred.

This contribution is to be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

The students visited venues such as the War Memorial, Parliament House, Old Parliament House and the National Electoral Education Centre. This excursion was a rewarding experience for all students.

I also enjoyed the Australian War Memorial because it taught me a lot about why people go to war, to try to get freedom for their country. It was sad seeing all the names on the wall outside but they are there for a good cause, they did it for peace and so that their country would not have to suffer. I loved listening to all the amazing stories of people who fought in war and some were even as young as 14! **Isabella Nardi**

The students were very excited to be in the House of Representatives. We have been learning about our system of government for quite some time and it was a thrilling experience. Our tour guide was sharing information with us as well. It was very interesting and I learnt a lot more about how parliament works. **Max Prendergast**

SPORTS NEWS

OLOW Cross Country

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the OLOW Cross Country, you all showed great determination and persistence! Well done to the following children who will be representing OLOW on Tuesday 6th May (Week 2, Term 2) at Sydney Motorsport Park (formerly known as Eastern Creek Raceway) Brabham Dr, Eastern Creek.

Zoe Aitchison
Lachlan Armour
Olivia Bennett
Tully Brown
Keisha Chilmaid
Jett Cleary
Montana Clifford

Charlie Connell
Olivia Downie
Madeleine Godfrey
Jake Grosse
Shae Healey
Brock Healey
Alysha Hoy

Nicholas James
Brandon Kruzic
Kye Lloyd
Ruby Lowe
Luke Mathison
Harrison McDonald
Jack Palombo
Laura Patterson

Emma Patterson
Josh Patterson
Alex Pintos
Sophie Procter
Alyssa Procter
Jasmine Ridding
Abbey Ridding
Brooke Robertson

Ben Robinson
Sienna Rose
Claire Roser
Matthew Sekulic
Jeremy Skinner
Blake Skinner
Keegan Smith

Flynn Starr
Chelsea Taber
Aroha Tupaea
Thomas Vanegas
Aimee Wagner
Ryan West
Bridie Witjes

Also, thank you to all the parents who assisted with the running of the morning. We could not have done it without you and it was very much appreciated.

Miss Reynolds

NSW CPS Swimming Championships

On Friday March 28th Brock Healey, Laura Patterson, Keisha Chilmaid, Alyssa Procter and Shae Healey competed in the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Championships at Homebush. The five swimmers were part of the Parramatta Diocesan team competing against swimmers from other Dioceses in NSW. Alyssa, Keisha and Brock competed in a number of individual events and the girls were joined by Shae and Laura for the relay at the end of the day.

Keisha was chosen to represent our Diocese in the opening ceremony, carrying our banner along with another swimmer.

Whilst our swimmers did not place they achieved many personal bests as well as being wonderful ambassadors for our school. I was very proud of these five swimmers and wish them all the best as they continue to compete in other formats. Many thanks also to our very supportive group of parents and to our cheer girls Maya and Bronte.

Mrs McKeon



GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY – Help Please!

In Term 2 Week 1 Our Lady of the Way will be celebrating ANZAC Day. We will be celebrating this very special day with a whole school celebration.

We would like to offer an invitation to any parent, caregiver or friend who would like to help with the preparation of this celebration. If you are able to help could you please contact Mrs Grima Starkey or Miss Colyer (in Year 3).

We would like current or past service men or women to read prayers and bring up symbols during the celebration or perhaps share their personal stories.

We appreciate any offer of assistance and look forward to celebrating this very important day.

Mrs Grima Starkey and Miss Colyer



Kinder Enrolments 2015

Please make sure you submit your enrolment application for 2015 as soon as possible. Interviews have already commenced and offers of placement will be made next term. Please contact the office for an enrolment form or look on our Website.

NEW ONLINE CALENDAR

Communication is at the core of the school and parents working together. It has come to our attention that many parents are having difficulty accessing the school newsletter and the calendar and receiving notification on Skoolbag. This problem has now been rectified. Below are the instructions for receiving information about Our Lady of the Way School. It is vital that parents receive this information on a regular basis.

Our New Online Live Calendar

The School calendar is now *live on our website*. All you need to do is

- visit our school website at <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>
- go to News and Events
- then Event Calendar – this can be printed off at any time.

This calendar is live and has our up-to-date information there for you 24/7.

School Newsletter

Our school newsletter is the major way we communicate with parents. The OLOW 'By the Way' newsletter comes out every two weeks (odd weeks) on Thursday and is posted on the school website.

It is very important that you access this newsletter.

Go to the OLOW web site at <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>

In the right hand column press the green writing to subscribe to the newsletter. Each time a newsletter is uploaded onto the site you will receive a reminder email and a link to the site.

Or

Go to the OLOW web site at <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>

Press on News and Events on the top bar, then press on Newsletters and download the latest newsletter.

Skoolbag

Skoolbag is a mobile App for you to receive information instantly on your phone. It works on smart phones and smart devices such as iPads and Android Tablets. Please see the page at the end of this Newsletter for instructions.

Facebook & Twitter

And don't forget to [find us on facebook](#) and [follow us twitter](#)

Please take the time to look at these means of communication.

Thank You

Katie English would like to thank everyone for their support with her fundraising efforts for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She raised over \$1700. Katie's Skydiving adventure has been postponed but we will sure to have some great photos to show you once it happens.

The winners of the raffle were:

1st The Elias Family

2nd Mrs Zarlenga

3rd Cashel Family

The Jelly Bean Guessing Competition was won by Mikayla Flanagan

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jayden Roots (currently in 3C) who recently finished Nippers at Wet n Wild (he was in the Under 8 Seals). This is the first program run by Surf Lifesaving at Wet n Wild. This began in December last year and finished with a carnival on 30 March 2014. They had two medal events on the day of which he came second in both (Pegs race on the sand and the surf/ski boards). Well done Jayden.

CANTEEN NEWS

Crunchy Munchy Café Meal Deals \$ 4.50

Until the end of term

Meal Deal 1

Chicken, Lettuce & Mayonnaise Roll, Flavoured Water Buddy, Frozen Juice Cup

Meal Deal 2

Hot Dog with Sauce, Flavoured Water Buddy, Home Ice Cream

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

The Solo Parent Ministry is now taking registrations for their next Post-Separation Recovery Program (commencing on May 14th) This is an excellent 7 week Program to assist you work through many of the issues that you face as you negotiate your way through the loss, pain and challenges following the break-down of your marriage relationship. It will be held at Blacktown from 7.30pm – 9.45pm for 7 consecutive Wednesdays. Cost \$80.00..

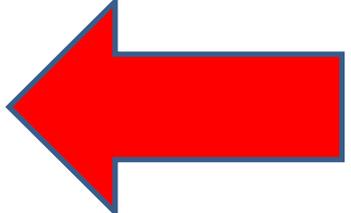
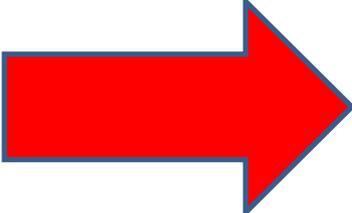
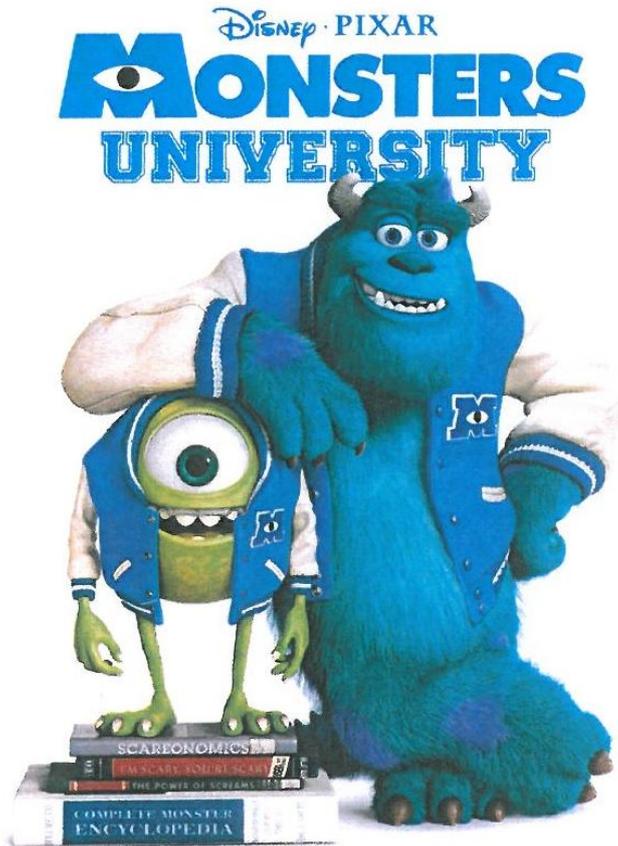
WACKY SCIENCE CLUB – Penrith Library Theatre

Have you ever wanted to create weird and wacky science experiments? To examine gross super slime, gigantic bubbles and gruesome body bits? What about making dry ice and water cannons or radical water rockets that land with parachutes? Well, you can do all this and more with 'The Crazy Scientist' each week at Penrith Library! Thursday 1 May - 26 June at 4:15pm - 5:15pm, Cost: \$135 for the term. Contact: Barjinder on 4732 7890 or bkaur@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au to book your place. We need a minimum of 20 children to run the 'Wacky Science Club'

Penrith Regional Gallery - Term 2 - Art Attack Saturdays

8 week workshop program, 10 May – 28 June, Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, 86 River Road Emu Plains. Bookings Essential: p:02 4735 1100 e:gallery@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

LOW Movie Picnic Night



Friday 11th April

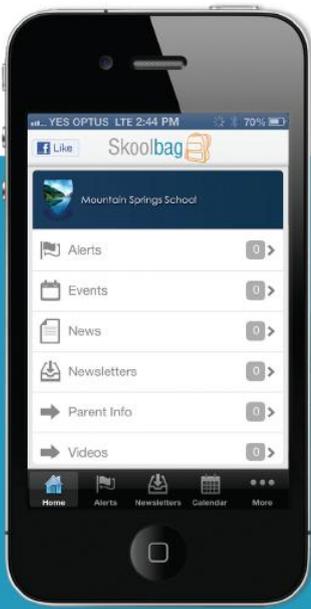
**Get out your picnic blanket and
pack your Esky!
Coffee cart, ice-creams, & drinks
Available**

**Admission
\$5 per person or \$20 per family.**

OUR LADY OF THE WAY EMU PLAINS



**Entry is from 5:30pm and screening time
will begin at 6:00pm**



Skoolbag

Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone Users

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.



Android Users

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! 

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones

