



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

3rd March 2016

DIARY DATES 4 March Student work samples sent home – Maths

7-11 March CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK and OLOW ART EXHIBITION

Art Exhibition open to Parents All Week

9 March Open Morning Tour of

School 9.00-10.00am Thursday 10 March

Celebrations of Learning -

9.15-10.15am

Friday 11 March Years 1 & 6 Attending Parish Mass, 9.00am

Year 6 Reconciliation

Tuesday 15 March

Cross Country

Wednesday 16 March Yrs 2, 3, 4 Attending

Parish Mass, 9.00am Year 6 Graduation and

Leadership Group Photos

Friday 18 March Kinder & Yr 5 Attending Parish Mass

> 21 March Harmony Day

22 March

P & F Meeting, 3.00pm Wednesday 23 March

Dance Fever Challenge

Friday 25 March GOOD FRIDAY No School

Monday 28 March EASTER MONDAY No School

Tuesday 29 March Easter Prayer Celebration

10.15am Thursday 31 March

Year 3 to Penrith Lakes

Friday 8 April Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 26 April

Term 2 - School Resumes ANZAC Day Celebration

10.15am

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

It is so important, that we teach our children to have a positive attitude to life and to be optimistic about themselves. We all know from experience that what we believe about ourselves affects the way we act.

Our children's belief in their own ability to do things is of great influence on their motivation, perseverance and success. Self-belief and a 'have a go attitude' can motivate our children more than their actual skill level. If they



truly believe that through effort they can succeed at a test or write a poem, they may be more likely to achieve it than other children who have better ability, but who don't believe they can achieve it.

The more our children believe they can do, the more likely they are to generalise that selfbelief to other areas of their life. They then believe they have the ability to attempt, persevere and succeed in a whole range of activities.

Parents can help children to believe in their own ability by teaching them to take the initiative to make things happen, instead of waiting for them to happen. Likewise, parents can help children to be proactive by helping them – not telling them – to think about options and solutions instead of problems and barriers.

When we, as adults, evaluate our lives, we are more likely to regret challenges we did not confront, risks we did not take and contests we did not enter as a result of self-doubt or lack of self-belief. We are less likely to regret actions we took as a result of innovative self-belief or being too optimistic or even foolish. At least we made the attempt and knew the result.

God Bless you, Mrs. Sue Veling Principal

> Compassion is to "suffer with", to feel what the other feels, to accompany them emotionally. *Pope Francis June 2014*

During this important time of Lent, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter, the following reflection has the potential to speak to each one of us:

Lent - What to give up Give up complaining Focus on gratitude Give up pessimism Become an optimist Give up harsh judgement Think kindly thoughts Give up gloom Enjoy the beauty that is around you Give up gossiping Control your tongue Give up sin Turn to virtue Give up giving up Hang in there!!!



Newsletter of Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School, Emu Plains 49 Forbes Street, Emu Plains 2750 Phone: 4735 1930, Fax: 4735 6221, Email: <u>OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>, Web: www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au/ "To act justly, To love tenderly and To walk humbly with our God"

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR WEEKS 4 & 5



Tiare Raukawa, Ella Keigan, Olivia Scott, Ben Hall, Ava Grech, Keira Blazek, Jessica Craig, Aaron Houston, Montana Clifford, Abigail Byrne, Holly Penny, Oliver Herps, Taylor Cowley, Layla Starr, Isaac Steele, Flynn Starr, Erin Downie, Eli Downey, Carter Pereira, Alexander Boyd, Dylan Baggage, Bailey Houlihan, Madeline Wade, Thomas Vanegas, Olivia Boulous, Mikayla Blazek, Maddison Prendergast, Abby Godwin, Lachlan Stonehouse, Archie Prendergast, Larissa Stewart, Talisha North, Emma Jones, Keegan Smith.

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to our swimming team who attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Swimming Pool on Tuesday 23rd February. They competed against our neighbouring Catholic Primary Schools with many beating their personal best times.

Olivia Bennett, Isabella Bradley-Labra, Tully Brown, Jett Cleary, Milaya Cleary, Emma Craig, Erin Downie, Ava Eekman, Jade Elford, Thomas Garrahy, Sebastian Haywood, Lucienne Heffernan, Taylor Latham, Lucie McIntosh, Rory Muller, Marshall Pereira, Harrison Phillips, Sophie Procter, Hakopa Raukawa, Tiare Raukawa, Madeline Renny, Benjamin Robinson, Jayden Roots, Clare Roser, Kate Roser, Matthew Sekulic, Blake Skinner, Keegan Smith, Ethan Smith, Lara Sullivan



DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Congratulations to the following students who competed at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival held on Friday 26 February at Blacktown Swim Centre. What a wonderful group of children. They really swam their best in a very competitive field. We are so proud of you: Harrison Phillips, Lucienne Heffernan, Marshall Pereira, Jade Elford, Ben Robinson, Clare Roser, Tully Brown, Emma Craig, Olivia Bennett, Jayden Roots, Tiare Raukawa and Sebastian Hayward.

My appreciation and thanks to Miss Reynolds our Sports Coordinator who leads all of our sporting endeavours with enthusiasm, expertise and such commitment. In all, helping each child to reach their personal best and together as a team, achieve outstanding results. Thank you for your continued support.

Congratulations to Clare, Marshall and Lucienne who are off to the NSW MacKillop Championships on 31st March.



SCHOOL FEES

Our latest advice from CEO is that statements have been printed this week. For families wishing to set up a flexible payment plan, these will be offered with the fee statements. Forms will need to be returned by the 14th March 2016 to CEO Parramatta.

We apologise for the delay. If you have any enquiries please contact Mrs Bernadette Alexander at the school office.

ENROLMENTS FOR OLOW

Kindergarten enrolments for 2017 will open in March. At present we still have places available for students in some of our other grades. If you know of anyone who is looking for a beautiful school for their children, please direct them to our web site or the office for further information.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING

Our next P & F Meeting will be held on

Tuesday 22 March at 3pm in the library.

BABYSITTING WILL BE AVAILABLE.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK "I belong – You belong – We belong"

This year, Our Lady of the Way will again join Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate *Catholic Schools Week* (CSW) from 6-12 March 2016.

The theme for CSW 2016 is 'I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.' which aligns with the Church's mission to support refugees and asylum seekers at this time in our world where vast numbers of people are fleeing war and poverty.

The theme also ties in with the global Catholic Church celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which focuses on pardon, strength and love. Pope Francis sees the Year of Mercy as an opportunity for forgiveness and reconciliation, and is calling on all Catholic communities to extend mercy to those in need, particularly refugees.

Catholic Schools Week is also about forging and strengthening relationships between everyone who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by show-casing what happens in our classrooms every day. Parents, extended family members, friends and the wider community are invited to celebrate with our school and parish community.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK PRAYER

Monday 7th March at 8:45am Assembly

TOUR OF SCHOOL – OPEN MORNING & MORNING TEA

Our school will be celebrating *Catholic Schools Week* with our annual **Tour of the School & morning tea** on Wednesday 9th March between 9-10am for families interested in enrolling their child in Kindergarten 2017. Staff will be on hand to guide you through our school and answer questions and provide information about enrolling.

Please call the school office on 4735 1930 to RSVP for the open morning or for any further information regarding enrolments.

CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING

On Thursday 10th March the classroom doors will be thrown open for **Celebrations of Learning** between 9:15-10:15am. This will be a time for the children to reflect upon their learning and achievements from the term and share it with their family and friends. All grades will have the open morning at the same time and you can move in and out of learning spaces throughout the session. The **Celebrations of Learning** will be an interactive time for you to join in with the learning. Come and be an active participant in a 21st Century classroom!

OLOW ART EXHIBITION

During Catholic Schools Week, all students will display their artistic talents at the **OLOW ART EXHIBITION** to be held in the Parish Hall from Tuesday 8 - Thursday 10 March. All art works will be on sale with our aim to raise \$1500 to help send Miss Reynolds to World Youth Day in July. The cost to send a participant to World Youth Day is \$6000.



2016 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S READING CHALLENGE



Thank you for your support of the 2016 Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge. The results were terrific with 3582 texts read by 796 students in the Diocese.

Congratulations to the 21 students from *Our Lady of the Way* who submitted entries:

Daisy Andersen Olivia Bennett Oliver Herps Zachary Phillips Charlie Thomas

Harrison Armour Taylor Carroll Kieran Smith Cara Smith Billy Trad Lachlan Armour Taylah Cowley Oscar King Ethan Still Harrison Bennett Jessica Crambrook Harrison Phillips Jessica Still Jacob Bennett Mario Della Scala Joshua Phillips Cooper Sulic

ANZAC DAY 2016

This year commemorates the 101st anniversary of the Gallipoli landing on ANZAC Cove, and all parents, students and friends are warmly invited with our Years 6 leaders to attend the **36th Annual Emu Plains ANZAC Day Service**. The involvement of schools and the wider community is essential in ensuring the ANZAC spirit continues into the next generation.

Date: Monday 25th April 2016

Address: Emu Plains Guide Hall (cnr Nepean St and Great Western Highway) Time: 7:50am for 8:00am start - marching across to the cenotaph in Emu Plains Park.

Students that are participating in the commemoration service are asked to wear their full school uniform and will march behind the school banner. A teacher from OLOW will be present to help with the organisation.

YEAR 6 PHOTOS & SRC GROUP PHOTO

Year 6 have now received their white polo shirts so their graduation photo and leadership group photos will take place on **Wednesday 16 March** from 8:45am. In addition, there will also be a SRC photo with student reps from Year 1-6 represented. Students are to wear their summer uniform with Year 6 bringing their white polo, sports shoes and shorts in a bag to school.

Individual leadership group photos and SRC photo will be available for viewing and ordering at the office once they arrive.

KINDERGARTEN MUNCH & CRUNCH FUNDRAISER When: Thursday 17 March Time: First & Second break Food: Yummy treats provided by Kinder parents



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

PROJECT COMPASSION

Meet Dominic...



Dominic is from Papua New Guinea where poverty has led to many challenges. But when Caritas Australia and local partner, the Sisters of Notre Dame, established the Community Conversations program, Dominic saw an opportunity to create change. Being able to communicate with others has created respect within his and greater peace.

Dominic said: "I am most proud of the positive changes I am witnessing. I pass my big thanks and pray God will bless our supporters in Australia."

Meet Evangeline...



Evangeline, from the Northern Territory, was offered a position as an Artsworker at the Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre in Beswick, when she was 22. The centre runs a program that brings elders and young people together so that aspects of traditional culture can be learned.

"Culture is our identity and how we understand ourselves," Evangeline explains. "It's important for us young people to be able to learn these skills and then we can pass them on when we are old."

From the Outreach Team...



The Outreach Team would like to share an idea about fundraiser we are holding to support Caritas and Project Compassion.

This year Caritas is celebrating 50 years of Project Compassion, so our fundraising idea is connected to '50'.

On Friday March 11 we will be holding a Silly Sock Day. Everyone will be wearing sports their sports uniforms, but you will be invited to wear silly socks. You might wear odd socks, one short and one long, or ones with crazy designs...the sillier the better.





In return for participating in the Silly Sock Day we would like you to make a 50c donation. This is our first connection to '50'. You don't have to bring in a 50c piece, your coins may just equal 50c. You may even like to bring in 50c for each sock you wear.

On Friday March 11, instead of handing the donation to the teachers like normally happens, children are asked to bring their money to the breezeway at First and Second Breaks and hand it to the members of the Outreach Team. They will have boxes with grade names on them to place money in. We would like to set a challenge for each grade. Which grade will bring in the most money per person? We understand that grades are different sizes so the grade that brings in the most money per person (we'll use some hard mathematical thinking to work it out!!!) will win a prize. There has been a suggestion that the prize be an autographed photo of Mr Mifsud, but this is still being discussed!

When a donation of 50c or \$1 or even \$5 is made, children will receive a small token (one for every 50c donated) in the shape of a 50c piece. This is our second connection to '50'. On this token children can write their name to show that they have made a donation and a difference.

In the breezeway we will have an outline of a giant '50'. This is our third connection to '50'. Children will be invited to place their token, with their name on it, within the '50'. We hope that by the end of Second Break our giant '50' will be full of people's names who have made a difference to the lives of others.

The Outreach Team would like to challenge our school to raise \$700 during this season of Lent. We are hoping that the personal donations and the Silly Sock Day will be able to achieve this goal.

Parish Grade Masses:

You are very welcome to attend Mass with your child's grade on the following dates:

- Friday, March 11 at 9am Year 1 and Year 6 Parish Mass •
- Wednesday, March 16 Years 2, 3 and 4 Parish Mass
- Friday, March 18 Kindergarten and Year 5 Parish Mass

Carole Dav

Religious Education Coordinator

GENERAL NEWS



MEDICAL DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION THAT THE SCHOOL ISN'T AWARE OF? If you child has a medical condition that the school isn't yet aware of, could you please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and submit it to Sarah Zarlenga at the office as soon as possible please. The form is also available through our website at http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/196/UserFiles/PublicationLinks/Form%20-%20Request%20for%20Info%20from%20Parents%20Generic.pdf

P & F HOT CROSS BUNS FUNDRAISER.

Please note that the Hot Cross Buns will be sent home on Tuesday 22nd March. If you elect to pick them up from school please collect them from the canteen on this day.



PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

At times during the year, Our Lady of the Way students have the opportunity to be photographed and videoed. These photos and videos may be used as part of grade assessments, be uploaded to the school Facebook page, Twitter, Skoolbag etc. the school website or placed in school publications such as the Parent Handbook. Photographs may also be used in publications to promote the school in newspapers and other media.

When you enrolled your child, you gave us permission to do this. If you wish to withdraw this authorisation and consent, please notify the school in writing.

REMINDER FOR FAMILIES

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the Teacher/s, Assistant Principal and/or Principal, to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience of our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures. These documents can be accessed on the school website: http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au/ or system website: www.parra.catholic.edu.au.



Date:

Dear Mrs Zarlenga,

Our child has a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of. Could you please add the following information into the schools medical conditions register.

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Class</u> :	Condition:
Please describe the condition.		
How does this condition affect your child?		
How do we need to treat the condition at school?		
	10	
What medication will you be supplying to the scho	0 ?	
Is this condition life threatening?		
What should we do in an emergency situation?		
Is there anything else we need to know?		

Signed: _____

CANTEEN PRICE LIST

Homemade Bolognese	Spaghetti Bolognese (G)	Pasta (G) Penne Vegetarian	Homemade vegetarian	Homemade beef	Lasagna (G)	~ PASTA ~	Oven baked potato wedges (A)	With 5 nuggets	ts with mash potato (A)	Nachos (A) With salsa & cheese		Lean chicken burger (A) With lettuce & mayo	With tomato, lettuce, beetroot & bbq sauce	Lean beef burger (A)	Fish burger (A) With lettuce & mayo	& cheese	With tomato sauce	Low fat hot dog (A)	Cheese & Tomato	Cheese	Jaffle (A)	Sweet chilli chicken tender (A)	Chicken wingettes (A) Each	Chicken & corn roll (A)	8x	×б	x4	Chicken Nuggets or Goujons (A)	~ HOT MEALS ~	HOT BAR
	\$4.00	\$4.00			\$4.00		\$3.50	\$4.80		\$4.00	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$4.60		\$4.00	\$3.50	\$3.00		\$3.50	\$3.30		\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$3.40	\$2.80			r

6:0

~ PIES ~

\$3.50	Spinach & Ricotta Roll (A)
\$3.60	_ean Potato Pie (A)
.\$3.00	_ean Sausage Rolls (A) (GF)
\$3.40	_ean Beef Pie (A) (GF)

~ HOME MADE PIZZA SLAB ~

Margarita (G) Cheese & Tomato	\$3.50
Vegetarian (G) Olives & roast capsicum	\$3.80
Hawaiian (G) Ham & Pineapple	\$3.60
Chicken (G) Lean roast chicken & bbq sauce	\$3.60

~ TURKISH BREADS ~

Chicken schnitzel, roo	Chicken Schnitzel De
zel, roast capsicums & cheese	light (A)
	\$5.50

Roast chicken, avocado, sundried tomatoes & cheese Chicken Delight (A) \$5.00

Olives, artichokes, roast capsicum & fetta cheese . Mediterranean Delight (A) \$5.00

Eggplant, sundried tomatoes, roast capsicum & cheese Vegetarian Delight (A) \$5.00

Hot Chocolate (G)

\$2.50

Care of the second seco

Ham Delight (A)

\$5.00

Smoked ham, sundried tomatoes, olives & cheese

Roast turkey, cranberry sauce & cheese Turkey Delight (A) \$5.00



ONLY	WINTER - HOT DRINKS - DN
\$1.50	Juice Poppers (A)
\$2.50	Kyneton Flavoured Mineral Water (A) Orange, lemon lime, rasberry, apple
\$3.00	Elavoured Milkshakes (A) Chocolate, otrawberry, vanilla, caromet
\$1.20 \$2.50	Milks – Low Fat – 300mi (G) Plain Chocolate, strawberry
\$2.00 \$2.50	Water (b) Spring water 600ml Sports water
2	

Toast (G) Jam or honey	Toasted Sandwiches (G) Cheese Ham & cheese Ham, cheese & tomato	Smoothies (G)	Fruit (G) Fruit available daily Fresh Fruit Salad	Fresh Fruit Salad (G) (GF) Seasonal Fruit & Yoghurt Yoghurt & Muesli (G) (GF) Yoghurt & Berries (G) (GF)	HEALTHY STAR	- FOOD CODING - G Green - fill the menu A Amber - select carefully 1 GF Gluten Free	PRIMARY SCHOOL	OUR LADY OF THE WAY
\$1.00	\$3.30 \$3.50	\$3.00	\$1.00	\$3.50 \$3.00	C	R Red - only occasionally		

Ice blocks & ice creams (A)	Jumpy's (A)	Custard (A)	Low fat muffin (A) Small \$3.00	Chocolate, Strawberry	Low fat frozen yoghurt (G)	Orchy juice cup (G)	Fresh seasonal fruit pieces (G)	Fresh fruit salad (G)	Jelly & low fat custard (G)	
\$0.80 ~ \$2.20	* \$1.20	\$2.00	Small \$3.00 - Large \$3.50		\$2.50	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.50	G

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~ SANDWICH BAR ~

Curried Egg (G)
Egg, lettuce & mayo (G)
Cheese & tomato (G)
Smoked Ham, cheese & tomato (G)
Smoked Ham & cheese (G)
Smoked Ham & Tomato (G)
Smoked Ham & salad (G)
Roast chicken (G)
Roast chicken, lettuce & mayo (G)
Roast chicken & salad (G)
Salad (G)

Chioken Teriyaki (G) Tuna (GE) (G) Crab avocado (G)	- SUSHI (G) (GF) ~	Chicken schnitzel, lettuce & mayo (G) Ham & salad (G) Cheese & salad (G)	Chicken Caesar, croutons, bacon, cheese & Caesar dressing (G)	WRAPS BAR (G) ~ Sweet chilli chicken, salad & cheese (G)	Wrap White roll Turkish/Focaccia	Tuna & salad (G) Breads (G) White, wholemeal or multigrain		COLD BAR
\$3.50 \$3.50		\$4.50 \$4.50 \$4.00	\$4,50	\$4.50	\$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00	\$4.00	\$3.50	

~ SALAD BOX (G) ~

Vegetable (GF) (G)

\$3.50

Garden Salad	Tabouli	Greek Salad	Chicken Caesar	With chicken or tuna	
Small \$300 -	Small \$3.50	Small \$3.50 -	Small \$4.50 -	Small \$3.50 -	
Small \$300 ~ Large \$4.00	Small \$3.50 Large \$4.50	Small \$3.50 ~ Large \$4.50	Small \$4.50 ~ Large \$5.50	Small \$3.50 ~ Large \$4.50	

COMMUNITY NEWS

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE Academic and Trade Training Centre (TTC) Enrolling now for 2017

Open Morning: Sunday 13 March 2016 Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Meet the Principal, staff and students

- Tours of the College facilities
- > TTC information for senior study
- Enrolment packages available

Enquiries:4735 3211Address:75 Mackellar Street, Emu PlainsEmail:mccarthy@parra.catholic.edu.auWebsite:www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 25TH APRIL 2016

The City of Penrith RSL sub-Branch will be holding its annual Anzac Dawn Service with assembly at 4.30am and a silent march will commencing at 4.45am from Castlereagh Street, outside of Penrith RSL Club, to Memory Park. The service will commence once all are assembled in the park. The Catafalque Party is normally provided by the 176 Air Despatch Squadron from Richmond. Breakfast is provided by the RSL Club LTD commencing approximately 06:30am for marchers.



Ideas and resources to improve our daughters' lives..

Mamre Anglican School

STEVE BIDDULPH RAISING GIRLS

7.30pm. Thursday 17 March, 2016

- Mamre Anglican School, 45 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek
- Cost: \$20 per person
- Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/178425
- Info: (02) 9834 1881

WE REGRET BABIES & CHILDREN CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE VENUE.

You'll hear stories about girls who have overcome tough situations, families who have healed, and how you can avoid bad outcomes in your own family.

The **five stages of girlhood**, and the unique roles played by mums, dads, and aunties in girls lives.

How to give your daughter **inner security**, a feeling that the world is hers to explore, confidence in friendship, and a sense of herself that goes beyond the trivialities of looks, fashion, or pleasing boys.

This is feminism in action, as Steve calls for a whole new wave of

activism to overcome the corporate attack on children, the uncaringness of the media, and the loss of community around us. You will leave feeling roused to change things at home, and in the big world. "Biddulph is a spellbinder - 60 Minutes "A cross between Billy Connolly and Dr Spock"

Entertaining, powerful, funny and practical, this talk about how to save our daughters from growing up too fast, and help them be confident and strong, covers EVERY AGE FROM TODDLER TO TEEN.

Steve Biddulph's books including Raising Girls, and Raising Boys are in 4 MILLION HOMES, and his talks are world-renowned for making parents laugh, cry, and learn to love their kids even more. Don't miss out!

Steve's books will be available for sale on the night.

A JOINT VENTURE

WITH

STEVE BIDDULPH

Steve Biddulph is a Professor of Psychology, whose talks became world famous for their humour, honesty, and powerful stories.

Wednesday 16 March

Fusion Western Sydney Centre 12 Carsons Lane, St Marys

Raising Boys

Info & Bookings: www.fusionwesternsydney.org.au Phone: (02) 8805 5900

Thursday 17 March

Mamre Anglican School 45 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek

Raising Girls Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/178425 For more info: (02) 9834 1881



Boys and Girls, 7 – 13 years are invited to join

Penríth Cíty Children's Choir

for its next project

The Singing Game

directed by Lucy McAlary

Sunday 20 March, 2.30pm – 5.00pm

If you love to sing, please join us! No auditions.

> For further information, contact the Administrator: Liz Strasser 0418 202 849 pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au

Scan with your smartphone or tablet to go to the OLOW website.

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Enjoy a night of entertainment & dancing while helping your community fundraise for the Penrith Dawn Service.

Friday 15th April

St Marys Band Club

Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

Tickets \$90 each or \$850 for table of ten Includes 2 course meal, beer, wine, soft drink and dessert bar

For further information or to purchase tickets phone 4722 5556 or email gai@penrithcbdcorp.com.au

Buy a

ticket or table

AN VALUE

ANZAC DAWN all night! SERVICE FUNDRAISER

"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"



Time to reboot education

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topoftheclass with greg whitby

WHEN I began my teaching career in the late 1970s most households only had one television set. Last year there were more mobile phones in Australia than people, according to SBS News.

Greg Whitby is

the executive

director of

schools for the

Catholic Diocese

of Parramatta

Today's world is a very different one to the era in which I taught. The spread of, and access to, technologies has impacted powerfully on every aspect of our lives.

American author and academic Yong Zhao recently said that if schools want to get to Mars, we need to stop improving the horse and cart and actually build the equivalent of an educational spaceship.

The horse wagon Zhao was referring to is the wellknown "industrial" model of schooling. It's the one most of us experienced – those factory-like structures where you were sorted by age, tested on how well you could memorise facts and figures and moved through the system. At the end of it, you were sent out into the world with a set of functional skills and found a job usually for life.

It always surprises me to hear people talking about going back to the "good old days" of schooling but no one ever talks about returning to the good old days of medicine! Would you get your tonsils removed at a hospital that was built in the 1930s and hasn't changed since?

What we know about learning and teaching has changed radically since the day of the blackboard and the cane but the classroom hasn't kept pace.

Many schools today are at risk of being left behind – caught between the structures, processes and thinking from a past era despite the fact that we are living in a new age.

Students in Kindergarten today will finish their schooling in 2029. We can only begin to imagine what the world will be like then.

We are all challenged to think differently and do differently when it comes to learning and teaching in today's world. The most important thing we can teach students is not to remember information but how to think, learn and relearn.

This requires us to radically rethink the nature of schooling and to ask some fundamental questions like what is the new role of teachers; how do young people learn best today (and with what tools) and what should they learn?

Schools will need to teach learners knowledge and skills critical for managing the challenges of a changing world and the changing nature of work.

One of the highest performing regions in education is Singapore. They are moving away from traditional models of learning and looking at the need to nurture entrepreneurs, and creative and critical thinkers.

Australia needs to meet this challenge and ensure we have great schools relevant to today's world and today's learners.