

By The Way



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

16th June 2016

DIARY DATES

Sunday 19 June

First Holy Communion Mass

Thursday 23 June

Captivate Choir

Captivate Choir

Friday 24 June Yr 2, 3, & 4 to Mass

Wednesday 29 June

Dance-a-thon Raffle Draw

Catholic Mission Visit P & F Meeting, 7.00pm

Thursday 30 June Stage 2 Boys & Girls

Stage 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day

Friday 1 July

Last day of Term 2

Monday 18 July

Term 3 begins

Tues/Wed 26 & 27 July

Year 4 to CARES

Friday 29 July Pyjama Day

Saturday 30 July

OLOW P & F Trivia Night

Monday 8 August
Feast of St Mary of the
Cross MacKillop Mass,
9.15am

Tues/Wed 10/11 August

Confirmation Parent Information Session, 7.30pm (attend one only)

Sat/Sun 13/14 August

Confirmation Enrolment at Masses

Monday 15 August

Confirmation Lessons Begin

Friday 19 August PUPIL FREE DAY

Thursday 1 September Fathers' Day Stall

Friday 2 September

Fathers' Day

Breakfast 7.30am,
Prayer 9.00am

Thursday 22 September

Grandparents' Day - Mass, 9.15am

- Celebrations, 10.00am

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

Our Dance-a-thon, held last Friday, was certainly a wonderful day for our school. Every student from Kindergarten to Year 6 took part in a circuit of ten dances throughout the day led by the staff. The students were dressed in a sea of colour, while the staff's tutus were very becoming.

What amazing, happy students we have at OLOW! At the end of the dances the staff, students and parents joined a beautifully choreographed flash-mob dance that was so entertaining and performed with precision! The day finished with parents having lunch with their children.

All students and teachers agreed that the Dance-a-thon was a great P&F community fundraising event in which all could participate. I wish to thank the P&F for organising the prizes and fruit; Mrs Hensen for coordinating the flash mob dance; Miss Glynn, Mr Mifsud and Mrs Irvine for their fantastic organisational abilities – it was well worth it.



We are immensely grateful to each family for supporting their child in gaining participation sponsorship. Currently our promised total stands at \$13,000....with \$22,000 being a very much reachable total. So your job now is to collect your sponsorship money remembering that for every \$10 you collect you will receive tickets in our monster raffle draw.....and the prizes are truly amazing! The draw will take place on Wednesday 29th June.

The funds raised will go towards the building of an outside COLA (Covered, Outside, Learning, Area) for the students to utilise throughout the day. It will replace the existing shade-shelter on the infant's playground that is in need of costly repairs and which is not weather proof.

On a serious note, please keep Max and his family in your prayers. He has been in ICU for five weeks now with little improvement. A 'Go Fund Me' donation page has been set up to further help the family. This can be accessed through the link: https://www.gofundme.com/27xsv5uc

A special charity golf day has also been organised for 29th July at Leonay Golf Course. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Newsletter of Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School, Emu Plains

'Life just seems to get busier and busier.' How many times have you said that or had that said to you? This reflection may help us to get some perspective about what is important...

The Mayonnaise Jar and Two Cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are just not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two cups of coffee. A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. The agreed that it was. The professor than picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes'. The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things in life—your God, your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions: things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.



The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else: the small stuff." "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.

The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important for you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check ups. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean house and fix that dripping tap. Take care of the golf balls first; the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

May God Bless You and Your Family,

God Bless you, Mrs. Sue Veling Principal

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR WEEKS 6 & 7





Hannah Fullam, Thomas Reeks, Jacob Thompson, Aimee Woods, Riley Craig, Sophia Lusk, Alyssa Eekman, Edward Lennon, William Drummond, Hannah Selby, Hakopa Raukawa, Marshall Pereira, Daniel Prendergast, Isabella Clarke, Sophia Torresan, Isaac Steele, Brianna Mangan, Jessica Craig, Eva Curry, Billy Trad, Jakob Montgomery, Riley Brown, Larissa Stewart, Jack Prendergast, Jett Cleary, Lola Troitsin, Lilly Thompson, Cooper Hegarty, Shanyah Kubic, Seth Fullan, Jorja Tabor, Tahlia Robar, Blade Funnell, Bailey Houlihan, Jasmine Vanegas, Kate Roser.

SCHOOL CONFERENCES

Mid Year Reports were sent home yesterday for all grades except Year 3. Parent, Teacher, Student led Conferences will commence on Thursday 16 June [not necessarily with all teachers] and conclude on Friday 1st July. The School Interview password is m3r7 and the booking site is: http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/



Parents are reminded to book a 15-minute appointment with teachers. Please note that interviews must be completed within the 15-minute period, as other families will be waiting to speak with the teacher. If it appears that a longer interview is needed, teachers will organise one with you for a later date. If you have more than one child attending, please make your bookings early in order to avoid disappointment. Our Parent, Teacher, Student led Conferences are compulsory.

Bookings for Year 3 interviews will open on the last day of school, Friday 1st July. A letter with all the information you will need, will be sent home to parents in Week 10.

KINDERGARTEN 2017 ENROLMENT AND SCHOOL TOURS

Over the last month Mrs Veling and Mr Mifsud have been hosting regular tours of our school coinciding with the official enrolment period. These tours have provided many families with the opportunity to view the learning and teaching environment that typically occurs each day. Many families come through the school during the course of the month.

Please inform family and friends that first round interviews and offers for Kindergarten 2017 are currently underway. Enrolment places in Years 1-6 are also being processed. Enrolment packs are available by contacting the school office on 4735 1930 or by emailing an enquiry to olow@parra.catholic.edu.au. Please return enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2017 as soon as possible.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING

Our next P & F Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th June at 7pm in the library. All Welcome!

FIRST COMMUNION

On Sunday, two of our students – *Blake Skinner* in Year 5 and *Zoe Grech* in Year 4 will receive the sacrament of First Communion through the Parish Sacramental Program. Congratulations to these children and their proud families. As Catholics, the Eucharist is the culmination of our relationship with Christ. His presence under the earthly forms of bread and wine serves to nourish us spiritually. As we eat and drink in the Eucharistic banquet we believe that Christ becomes part of us, and we come alive in Christ - together we become the Body of Christ. St Augustine taught that if we truly love the Eucharist we will embody what we eat. We will become united with Christ: blessed, broken, poured out and shared in love.



We pray for each of these children and their families. May this Eucharist strengthen them and nourish them in love with Christ.

CAPTIVATE CHOIR (INFANTS AND PRIMARY) SHOWCASE

OLOW is a member of the Captivate Choir, which is made up of a number of schools from the Diocese. This special Musical Showcase takes place on Thursday 23rd June, with the performance commencing at 7pm at Nagle College Blacktown South.

OLOW has a proud and active involvement in this event. We wish our school choir well as they prepare for this musical performance. We thank our music teacher Mrs McGregor and choir director, Miss Vella, for their expert guidance of both our infants and primary school choirs. Tickets for the performance can be purchased by phoning Captivate on 9840 5649 or by emailing captivate@parra.catholic.edu.au

Important Changes for Parent Helpers / Volunteers - MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE START OF TERM 3

As a school, we are committed to developing protective practices to ensure that children and young people in our care are safe. The Australian Government has policies and procedures relating to child protection. The NSW Department of Education and Training, as an agency responsible for the care and welfare of students in schools, has a charter to protect the young people in its care from all forms of abuse.

All parent helpers and volunteers at OLOW need to fill in an online Volunteers Form (which will determine if you need a Working with Children Check number) and you will also need to complete an online Child Protection Training module every two years.

Examples of volunteer workers in a school include:

- * Music Helpers
- * Reading Helpers
- * Maths Helpers
- * Computer Tutors

- * Library Helpers
- * Excursion Helpers
- * Classroom General Helpers
- * Sports Carnival Helpers

To complete the online form and module, please go to:

http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers



Please click on 'Volunteer Form' and fill that in. Once completed, you will need to return to the above page and this time click on the 'Training Module' button. That will take you to a video presentation regarding child protection and there will be a short quiz at the end.

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been completed, and another email once the training module and quiz have been finished. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmations are emailed to OLOW.

If you are unsure whether your training is up to date, please contact the office and the office staff will be able to help you.

Please note: When you come to school to help out in any area of the school, or if you are attending an excursion, you are required to sign in and out at the office. This is a mandatory requirement for all schools.

To ensure the safety and welfare of all children at Our Lady of the Way, a record of volunteers who have complied with this requirement is kept at the office. Before any parent helpers are selected for excursions, it is standard practice to check that both of these requirements have been met.

Grandparents who would like to help in any way are also very welcome to comply with these requirements and be added to our list.

Thank you for your generous support, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved and thank you for working together to ensure our children are kept safe at all times.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Penrith Community Kitchen:

Thank you all so much for your wonderful generosity in helping to contribute to the Penrith Community Kitchen Food drive. So many items were donated that will help this organisation to reach out to those in our community.

Pyjama Day:

Just letting you know, for your diaries, that we will be having a Pyjama Day on Friday July 29 (Week 2 of Term 3). It will be a fundraiser to support the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. More details will be sent out next term.

Carole DayReligious Education Coordinator



LEARNING NEWS



Our Lady of the Way

Dance - A - Thon





On Friday 10 June OLOW held our amazing Dance-a-thon. The children experienced an exciting day with a finale that surprised everyone. Many thanks to everyone involved in making it a wonderful success.

As the Dance-a-thon is our major fundraiser for the year, it is now time to send into school all of the money promised by family and friends.

Remember: Every \$10.00 raised will go into a draw to win fantastic prizes.

If you bring all money in this week you will receive 10 bonus tickets

Lots of prizes will be on offer for individuals, grades, families.

The Students, Staff and P & F at Our Lady of the Way thank you for your support.

AND IN A FLASH

OLOW DANCE - A - THON FLASH MOB

YEAR 4 VISIT THE ROCKS

On the 3rd of June, 2016, Year 4 went on an excursion to the historic Sydney suburb known as The Rocks. But before all the excitement, Year 4 had their lunch and went to the bathroom to get themselves ready for the MASSIVE day ahead.

Firstly, the teachers, Miss Vella and Mrs Curry, called out a parent helper's name and their group would stand up and go into a line and in this case there was Mrs Flanagan's group, Mrs Curry's group and Miss Vella's group.

Secondly, we all got a person from the Big Dig to show us around and tell the stories of 3 convicts, George Cribb, Margaret Byrne and Anne Armsden. All three lived in the exact spot where we were standing almost 300 years ago!!!

Thirdly, after we took in all that knowledge we were brought into a sandpit where we got to dig out artefacts that they found 20 years ago at the real Big Dig site. After that we came into a room and we were all given artefacts from the real Big Dig site and we had to fill out an information sheet about our artefact. We had a big map of the site and we put our artefacts where we thought they were found and discussed who it belonged to.

Fourthly, after that we had some more lunch then one class headed into the Rocks Discovery Museum and the other class walked around Circular Quay and then we swapped over. All of us were tired so we ended the day by going home after the MASSIVE day.



By Charlie Thomas

Many people visit The Big Dig every day, some kids might think The Big Dig is a character from Bob the Builder, but I have got news for you... The Big Dig is an amazing place where you engage in your learning and see fascinating artefacts, I am adamant that next year, Year 4 must visit The Big Dig!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk where convicts have walked before? If you have, a great place to go is The Big Dig! You learn about three convicts



that lived there more than one hundred years ago. That's why I firmly believe that you must go to The Big Dig.

Have you ever wanted to actually go on a fun excursion for once! Well if you're learning about convicts, The Big Dig is the right place to go. You see cool artefacts and discover who might have owned them! This is why I firmly believe that you must go to The Big Dig!

The Big Dig is an amazing place! I loved The Big Dig and you would love it too. I am extremely adamant that you must visit The Big Dig!

By Kate Roser



As you may or may not know, Year 4 recently went on an excursion to learn about Australia's first people, where they lived and how they acted.

The bus drive there was about 1 hour long and a couple of people fell asleep, when we arrived we rushed out and headed to our parent helpers to get our next instructions. Soon after we headed in and ate some food. When we were done eating we headed inside The Big Dig area and split into three groups to begin our learning. The first thing my group did was dig up old artefacts and investigate them, we were doing what a real archaeologist would do.

After digging we were taken on a tour around the place and it was great. We got to see places where people lived and stories were made. We learnt about George Cribb who had three wives and another story about a man who was eaten by a shark. We also learnt about a disease which came from rat fleas and what happened if you got bitten.

Lastly we got to visit the Rocks Discovery Museum which held priceless artefacts that showed us so much information that we will never forget.

By Katelyn King.







SPORTS NEWS





OLOW ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2016

What a fantastic day! Thank you to all our staff, students and parents for making our Athletics Carnival such a fun and competitive event. The primary students performed their best across both field and track events, while our Infants children enjoyed a day full of games and novelty events. We were blessed to have a sunny day and also so many parents who volunteered their time to assist on the day.

The results will be posted once they are finalised.





GENERAL NEWS

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has launched our cybersafety program 'Cyberwise' which is aimed at promoting respectful and responsible online behaviour among our children.

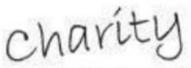
As you know connectivity is an integral part of everyday life and learning. It is critical that we equip our children to be discerning and responsible users of technology and to keep themselves safe online.

Please read the information below with your children.



COMMUNITY NEWS







for Max Selby

Friday 29th July, 2016

Leonay Golf Course

8.00am Registration 8.30am Tee off 1.00pm Lunch

followed by Presentation & Auction

\$600

Sponsorship Package

Includes: 4 players, 2 golf carts & lunch Contact Lee Waterhouse 0410 338 040

Payment for the days events & donations can be made to the following account.

Nicole Waterhouse - "Max Selby" BSB: 124 000 Account No: 22 491 007

(Please put your name as the reference with your deposit)

Presented by





Catholic Education in Western Sydney

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) provides quality learning and teaching in a faith centred environment. The core purpose of Catholic schools is to provide an education based on Catholic teaching and values. Catholic schooling is an integral arm of the Mission of the Church and our faith is at the heart of our existence.

The Diocese reaches from Dundas Valley, west to Katoomba, south to Luddenham and north to Richmond. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta provides quality Catholic schooling for over 43,000 students in 56 primary, 22 secondary schools and four early learning centres in greater western Sydney. Catholic Education employs over 5,000 staff.

Learning and teaching in Catholic Education

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is responding to the changing nature of learning and teaching. Learning is collaborative not isolated, integrated not segregated, personalised not programmatic.

CEDP is driving a pre to post schooling model. Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta embed partnerships with community, industry and government to support the learning community. This requires approaching education as a continuum of lifelong learning.

CEDP is leading a culture of change and innovation, embedding 21st century skills like creativity, curiosity, critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration into learning and teaching.

Next generation schooling is about:

- Transformation not tweaking the edges of an outdated model of schooling
- Personalising the learning for the diverse needs of each learner
- Authentic, real world and challenging learning
- · Teaching practice based on educational research and data
- · Community, partnerships and collaboration

Key needs

- Sustainable, sector blind, needs based funding for schooling K-12
- A long term commitment to funding universal preschool access for 15 hours per week for three and four year olds
- Support for flexible partnerships and pathways between industry, community, tertiary education and school
- A long term policy framework that is future focused and allows for greater flexibility in the delivery
 of pre to post education, recognising the changing nature of learning and teaching
- A national focus on collaboration between sectors and capturing and sharing good practice rather than competition and test scores
- Government investment for innovative schooling models through capital and seed funding





