



By The Way



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

2014 - Celebrating 35 years of Catholic Education

14th August 2014

DIARY DATES

Friday 15 August Feast of the Assumption Mass, 9.15am
Sat/Sun 16/17 August Weekly Sacramental Parish based lessons
Tuesday 19 August St Nic's Netball Gala Day
Wednesday 20 August Expo Choir Rehearsal (Note change of date)
Thursday 21 August Book Week Character Parade, 8.45am
Friday 22 August Diocesan Athletics
Sat/Sun 23/24 August Weekly Sacramental Parish based lessons
Thursday 28 August Chess Challenge at OLOW
Friday 29 August PUPIL FREE DAY
Sat/Sun 30/31 August Weekly Sacramental Parish based lessons
Wednesday 3 September Fathers' Day Breakfast Fathers' Day Liturgy Fathers' Day Stall
Thursday 4 September Confirmation Practice, 7pm Friday 5 September Stage 2 Touch Gala Day Sunday 7 September Fathers' Day
Mon/Tues 8 & 9 Sept Creative Arts Expo
Thursday 11 September Grandparents' Day Celebration of Learning
Friday 12 September 7:30pm Confirmation with Most Rev. Kevin Manning
Friday 19 September Footy Fever & Hot Dog Day
Tuesday 9 December Year 6 Farewell Mass, 7pm
Friday 12 December Year 6 Social, 6pm

Dear Parent, Carers, Students & Friends,

Next week we celebrate Book Week. The 2014 theme is 'Connect to Reading ~ Reading to Connect'. Connecting to reading is about enjoying the experience of exploring story, and travelling to other worlds, other times, other places. Reading to connect has a broader social meaning, suggesting that reading assists in creating a bond with others. Within the world of the contemporary child, this is also relevant as they read books and they read to connect through a variety of media.



On Thursday we will celebrate the importance of reading by holding a book character parade. Children are asked to dress up in a costume that reflects their favourite book or favourite character from a book. We ask parents not to go overboard in purchasing clothing. If possible spend time with your child and discuss a book that sparks their imagination and maybe they can design their costume using recyclable material from home. This is not a competition. It is fun activity that promotes the importance of reading in our lives.

Last week Mr Mifsud and myself attended a workshop led by George Couros, principal and inspirational speaker, where we shared some of the amazing opportunities that social media can and is providing for our students, teachers and ourselves. Social media gives us the opportunity to connect, openly learn and humanise our school. When we all learn together first, only then can we efficiently be involved in continuous improvement.

George brought to our attention the importance of creating a positive digital footprint. (Everything you post online combines to make your digital footprint.) Even now employers are checking out future employees by searching their digital footprint. They are after creative, innovative individuals who are able to communicate effectively and positively with others. This is the way of the future and our role as parents and educators is to help children to understand social media and how to use it in a positive way.

Why don't you check out your digital footprint.

Have a great week,
God Bless

Sue Veling
Principal



Security Fence around the School

After the failure of the school's application to council to close Mackay Laneway and due to continuing safety and child protection concerns, we have accepted the recommendation from the Catholic Education Office for the replacement of all current existing school fences with a security fence (2.1m high). This will include a video intercom and electric entry system to the school during school hours via the gate off Mackay Lane.

Unfortunately, owing to the fact that the existing brick bollards are not high enough, they will also be replaced. Work to install the fence should take place in the September/October school holidays.

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: OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au, Web: www.ollow.parra.catholic.edu.au

"To act justly, To love tenderly and To walk humbly with our God"

Raffle

Jet (Year 4) and Malaya (Year 2) Cleary have a goal. They wish to raise money to help Alex McKinnon after he sustained a career-ending injury playing in the NRL. Jet and Malaya have organised a fundraising raffle - \$2.00 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5.00.

First prize: a signed Penrith Panthers jersey
Second prize: 6 tickets to the Penrith vs Warriors game on Sunday 7th September
Third prize: a signed Penrith Panthers football

The raffle will be drawn in two weeks. If you wish to purchase a ticket they are available through the school office.

School Fees

Term 3 school fees statements have now been posted with a due date of 19th August 2014. A number of families have elected to pay their fees under a payment arrangement, which has been negotiated with the Principal. Please be aware that these arrangements must be kept up to date. If arrangements are not kept up to date, all outstanding fees need to be paid within 7 days. It is expected that if any regular payments are missed, then catch up payments are made within a short period of time.

Book Week Parade – Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect

Next Thursday 21st August at 8:45am we will be holding a Book Week Parade. Children are asked to come to school dressed as one of their favourite book characters or books and participate in the parade. You can find out more information at <http://cbca.org.au/>

Children can remain in their outfits all day if parents wish and they can wear any suitable shoes on the day.



Fathers' Day Breakfast – DADS WANTED



On Wednesday 3 September at 8am, staff at OLOW will be holding a special **Fathers' Day breakfast** for all fathers or father figures, and their children attending OLOW. There will be a sausage sizzle, cereals, toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice.

So, mark this date in your diary and be prepared to spend some early morning time with your children.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD CREATE A POSITIVE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Children today are more tech savvy than previous generations and have digital footprints from increasingly earlier ages. Many parents 'share' their children online before they are even born, through pregnancy updates and ultrasounds. Some parents post status updates about their child's milestones, grades, sports and activities. According to online security firm AVG in a 2012 study, 81% of U.S. children have a digital footprint before the age of two. But how can we keep this online imprint positive?

Importance of a positive digital footprint

It's difficult for children to consider their long-term future, like a college/uni acceptance or job opportunities, but as adults we know how vital a first online impression will be. Kids may be able to relate more to short-term goals.

Kids might consider what their digital footprint expresses to the neighbour thinking of hiring them for babysitting, dog walking, to the coach they are trying out for in a sporting team, to teachers and principals, or to peers and classmates counting on them to positively impact online and offline communities.

Kids are creating a digital footprint if they are participating on social media. That's why it's important to take control and manage that imprint.

Whether you are a parent or an educator, here are 3 things to consider when teaching children to create a positive digital footprint:

1. Monitor and educate: Guide children to use [digital media as a resource for learning](#) and making positive connections. Talk early and often about the pros and cons of social media and model how to participate in a positive way. As parents and educators, it's our job to know what digital media our kids are using and to become familiar with the security settings. Use

those settings to limit who a child interacts with based on age, skill level, and maturity. Many parents and schools introduce kids to social media by requiring the use of an “online” name. This is a good idea for younger children and early teens – especially with online games. But many sites, like Facebook, forbid the use of a false identity because the site is meant for social interaction, spreading news and sharing authentic information. Using a false name may distort a child’s view of what they can and can’t say. A comfort zone of anonymity can generate problems like cyber bullying.

2. Make positive connections: Remind kids that who they associate with will reflect back. This is especially true online, and children should understand that while social networks are vast and seemingly anonymous, online friends should be chosen with the care and consideration given to offline friends. Read someone’s profile before friending, visit their website or examine past posts before following or connecting with them.

3. Build a positive digital footprint: One of the best ways for kids to create a positive digital footprint is to highlight their achievements and success. Encourage kids to share links to any online news accounts showcasing their achievements and post information about their community service projects or extracurricular activities. Share academic awards, sports, and civic accomplishments. Sharing this information can show a pattern of success that can create opportunities and leave a positive digital footprint. Encourage kids to develop positive online AND offline leadership skills. A great way for children to learn the concept of paying it forward is to share links from favourite bloggers, books, shows, and news stories. This allows kids to take responsibility for creating a positive culture in their own networks. They are paying it forward by giving the creator of the content positive attention and showing maturity by sharing safe, positive, information within their online community! Through this kind of positive participation, a child learns how to network with future colleagues and is focused on suitable online behaviour, not just surfing aimlessly.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Scripture around the Classrooms:

Year 3 and Year 6 have a Creation focus for their Religious Education units at the moment. Year 6 is looking at their role as ‘stewards of creation’. Through a story-telling experience the story of creation was shared as well as how they can be stewards and co-creators of the earth, with God.

In the Bible there is a very old story about a great gift given by God. This story is about the beautiful and wonderful gift of all of creation and it has been told for thousands of years.

It is about how God created our earth;...The light and darkness, day and night...The sky...The waters, rivers, lakes and the land...Plants, trees and seeds...Sea Creatures...Birds...Creeping things and wild animals.

It is also a story about how humans were created. God gave humans a special place in the gift of creation and said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image and likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, all the wild animals of the earth, and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

We praise God and we give thanks to God for all the beauty and wonder of the gift of creation.

In the creation story, God blessed the people saying, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over all the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every other living thing that moves upon the earth.’

We enjoy all the wonderful gifts of God’s creation. The sun and moon...The sky...The waters...The plants and trees...The fish of the sea...The birds of the air...The animals.

God asks us to live in harmony with all of these gifts, to share them, to protect and care for them. We call this *stewardship*. Being a steward of creation means we are one with God’s creation and co-creators with God. Not destroyers of the earth.

Too much pollution from things like factories and cars is damaging the sky and the air we breathe.



Our planet is warming up, causing our ice caps to melt and flood some land or even whole countries.

If we take too many fish from the sea, some fish may become extinct as some sea creatures already have.

More and more forests are being cut down for timber to build our cities and homes. Some forests have completely disappeared.

In some places the water is so polluted that people can no longer drink it.

Some countries use more than their fair share of the earth's resources such as oil. Some countries have enough to feed all their people and still have food left over, while others don't have enough food.

When I am one with creation, a good steward of creation, I become a co-creator with God and not a destroyer of the earth.

I care for it...I protect it...I share it...I restore it.

When God saw what had been created in the universe, 'God rested from all the work that had been done in creation.'

This is called sabbath time. God gave to us, and to the earth, the gift of rest: time to recover, recreate, enjoy and to be one with God's creation.

The children were invited to write reflections about how God is revealed through nature:

God is revealed in and through the world by nature and the things he created. The image of the tree stood out to me because it shows God's strength and the strength he gives to others. It also reminded me of how a tree starts out as a small seed and grows tall and strong. The images show us the power and love of God because he created a world for us and in doing that, created great and powerful things. This shows that God is truly the Creator and it also shows his love for us.

Alanah Eisenhuth

Everything God created is a part of him. God is in the flowers, the trees, Antarctica, rocks, people and grass. It shows us that God loves us and that he has everlasting powers to build our world so we can live in harmony. He created the earth and space. God shows us that his love is everlasting by putting beautiful creations on earth like the elements of water, fire, wind, earth, life. God shows his power by helping others and showing his power of love and life to us.

Liam Curry

God is with us, but in the form of nature. He is revealed through his love and compassion for us and our world. His power is all through us and we reveal him through ourselves and our actions. God shows himself in many different forms through all his creation like our plants, trees, rivers, streams, snow, seasons, rocks, mountain and water.

Alyssa Proctor

Part of reflecting on the important language of the Creation Story involved an artistic response. The children created some beautiful works of art.





Year 3 also shared the Story of Creation. They were introduced to how the people of the Old Testament gave glory to God by looking at Psalm 104.

<p>Praise the LORD, my soul! O LORD, my God, how great you are! You are clothed with majesty and glory; you cover yourself with light. You have spread out the heavens like a tent and built your home on the waters above. You use the clouds as your chariot and ride on the wings of the wind. You use the winds as your messengers and flashes of lightning as your servants. You have set the earth firmly on its foundations, and it will never be moved. You placed the ocean over it like a robe, and the water covered the mountains. When you rebuked the waters, they fled; they rushed away when they heard your shout of command. They flowed over the mountains and into the valleys, to the place you had made for them.</p>	<p>You set a boundary they can never pass, to keep them from covering the earth again. You make springs flow in the valleys, and rivers run between the hills. They provide water for the wild animals; there the wild donkeys quench their thirst. In the trees nearby, the birds make their nests and sing. From the sky you send rain on the hills, and the earth is filled with your blessings. You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for us to use, so that we can grow our crops and produce wine to make us happy, olive oil to make us cheerful, and bread to give us strength. The cedars of Lebanon get plenty of rain— the LORD's own trees, which he planted. There the birds build their nests; the storks nest in the fir trees.</p>
<p>The wild goats live in the high mountains, and the rock badgers hide in the cliffs. You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set. You made the night, and in the darkness all the wild animals come out. The young lions roar while they hunt, looking for the food that God provides. When the sun rises, they go back and lie down in their dens. Then people go out to do their work and keep working until evening. LORD, you have made so many things! How wisely you made them all! The earth is filled with your creatures. There is the ocean, large and wide, where countless creatures live, large and small alike. The ships sail on it, and in it plays Leviathan, that sea monster which you made.</p>	<p>All of them depend on you to give them food when they need it. You give it to them, and they eat it; you provide food, and they are satisfied.</p> <p>When you turn away, they are afraid; when you take away your breath, they die and go back to the dust from which they came. But when you give them breath,^[c] they are created; you give new life to the earth. May the glory of the LORD last forever! May the LORD be happy with what he has made! He looks at the earth, and it trembles; he touches the mountains, and they pour out smoke. I will sing to the LORD all my life; as long as I live I will sing praises to my God. May he be pleased with my song, for my gladness comes from him. May sinners be destroyed from the earth; may the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, my soul! Praise the LORD!</p>

The children were invited to respond to Psalm 104 by writing their own psalms. Here are some beautiful examples:

I pray for the rain that feeds the garden.
I pray for the cross so great and southern.
I pray for the birds that sing happily and all of the fish that swim in the sea.
Oh Lord you've made the mysteries to find this wonderful world was filled by your mind.
So you should be proud of your sweet big crowd and your precious world that you've made quite loud.
Oh I love this world and everyone living on it should too.

Zoe Aitchison, Abigail Dixon and Brooke Bentley

You created the land that we rest on
You created the streams that animals drink from
so that animals will live for ever.

We thank you for the famous roar of the lion
that wakes the jungle.
We thank you for the plants that we feed off
now we will live for eternity

Kennedy Storr, Mia Urquhart and Patrick Urquhart

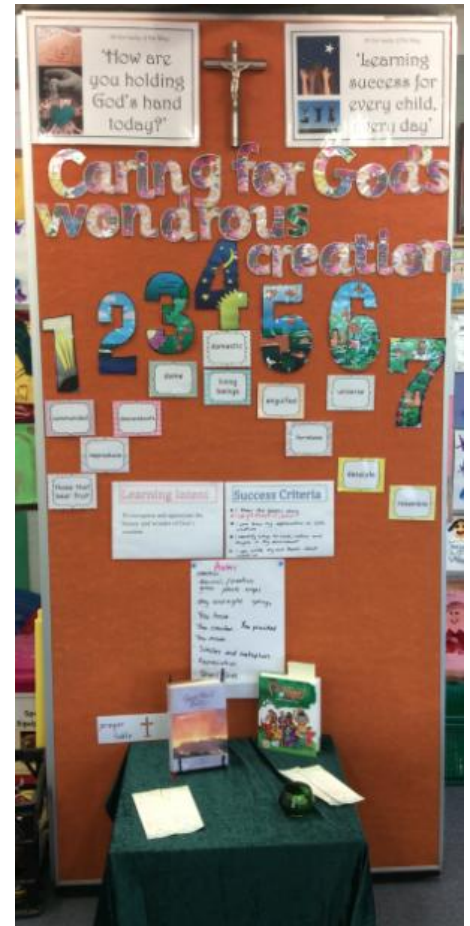
We pray for the day and night to make the sky.
You made the ocean and the land to create the land.
You created the flowers and grass for us to have a nice place to relax.
You made moon and stars to shine like a diamond in the sky.
You created the lovely rivers and the fish to eat.
You created the animals and humans to give us company.
The 7th day was rest day.

Daniel Prendergast, Sienna Rose and Jessie Lustri

Religious Literacy Assessment:

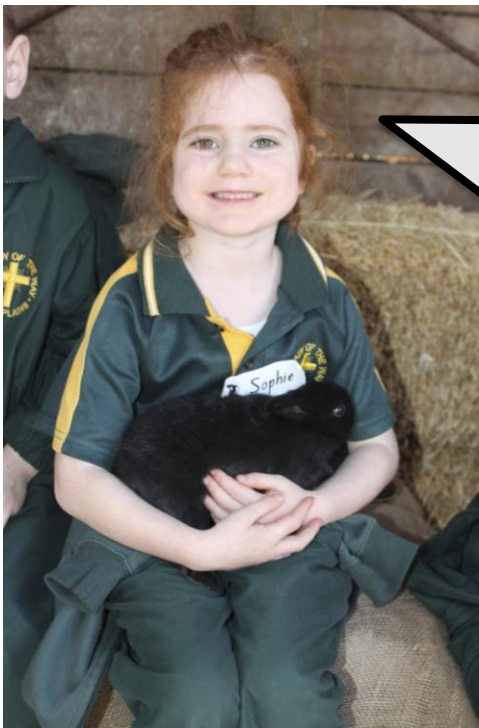
The students of Year 4 and Year 6 will be taking part in the online Religious Literacy Assessment during the coming weeks.

Carole Day
Religious Education Coordinator



FARM EXCURSION

On Wednesday 6th August Kindergarten visited Golden Ridge Farm as part of our integrated unit on animals. We then wrote recounts during modelled and independent writing about our visit to the farm. In writing, we have been working on including detail in our recounts, using time connectives such as 'after that' to sequence our ideas and using 'voice' in our writing to help deliver the message.

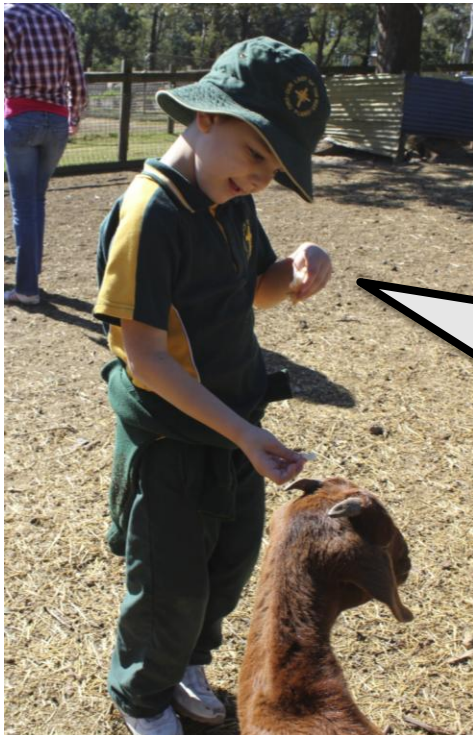
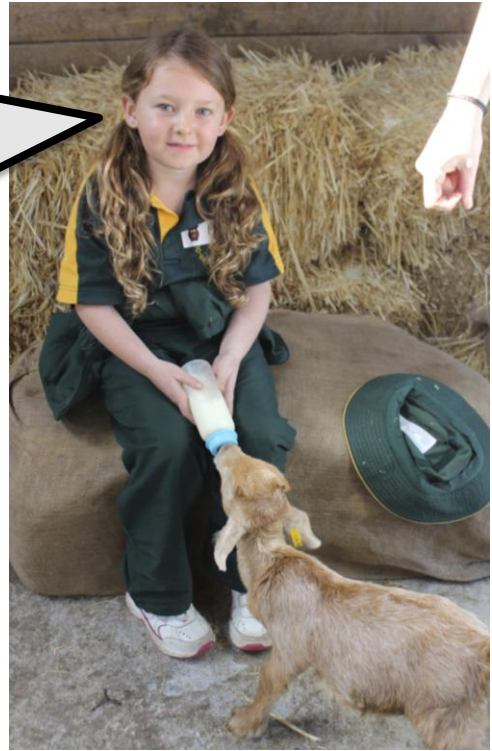


On Wednesday Kindergarten went on the bus. It took a long time to get to Golden Ridge Farm. We held a chick, a duck, a rabbit and...a puppy. They were so soft. They were cute too. The rabbit and the puppy have sharp nails. We had a yummy sausage sizzle. We had a walk around the farm. We had a great day at the farm.

By Sophie Wade

Yesterday Kindy went to Golden Ridge Farm. First we held the animals. We held a duckling, a rabbit, a puppy and we fed a kid. After that we had a sausage sizzle, then we fed the goats, a deer and a llama.

By Lucia Hooke



My class went to Golden Ridge Farm. When we got there we had recess. After that, we got to pat the goat and it grabbed Mr Mifsud's hat. That was so funny!

By Jakob Montgomery

Yesterday we went to Golden Ridge Farm. We had a little break, then we went into the barn and the farmer told us the rules. Next we fed the sheep. They were so grumpy and one of the sheep got Mr Mifsud's hat. It was so funny. We saw some pigs. They rolled in the mud.

By Abby Godwin



Yesterday we visited the Golden Ridge Farm and we got to hold the cute little animals. It was so much fun and we got to feed the animals. The goat grabbed Mr Mifsud's hat. Then we had a sausage sizzle. After that we fed the animals outside. Last we had a long trip back to school.

By Jessica Still

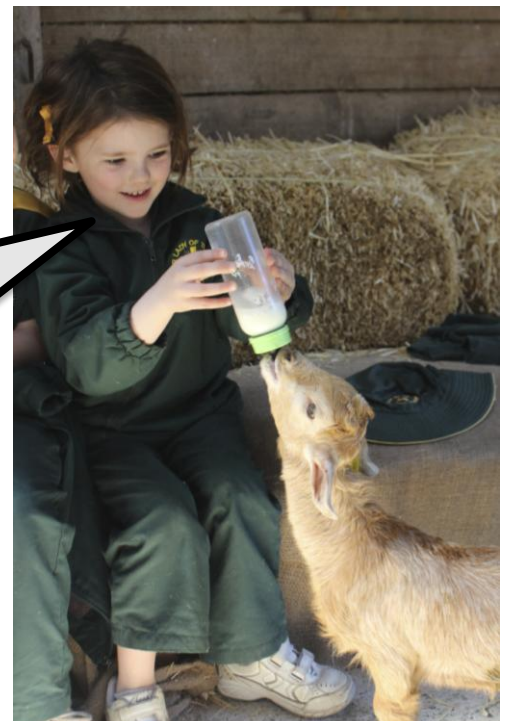


We went to Golden Ridge Farm and we got to hold the baby animals. We held a duckling and it was so, so fun. We went for a walk around the farm and we fed the goats and lambs. After that, we milked the cow and we went back on the bus.

By Alyssa McDonald

Yesterday Kindergarten went to the farm on a bus. It was fun. When we got off the bus we held some animals. Then we had a sausage sizzle for lunch. It was really yummy. After that we fed some lambs with bread.

By Abigail Andrews



Time to Play

In the 21st Century, with gadgets and devices all around us, is play still important for children?

YES, Absolutely!

For young children there is no distinction between play and learning – it's all play and it's also learning.

Why play is important?

Different kinds of play build different kinds of learning:

- **Creativity:** when you encourage your child to play, it exercises imagination and helps your child express emotions.
- **Role-play:** dressing up gives your child a chance to act out scenarios that might otherwise be scary or confusing.
- **Messy play:** playing with paints or water or in the sandpit is a good outlet for emotions.
- **Coordination:** clambering over playground equipment teaches coordination, balance and physical limits.
- **Cooperation:** board games teach your child about taking turns, following the rules, counting and being a good loser. These are tough lessons for any preschooler.
- **Laughing:** songs, books, riddles and rhymes tickle your child's funny bone and teach him or her new words.

Play ideas for preschoolers

To release emotions and express feelings, you can encourage your child to:

- act out feelings by role-playing with puppets or toys.
- run wild – a safe space for tumbling, rolling and giggling loudly can help release emotions.
- paint and draw.
- get into some **rough-and-tumble** play and play fighting – this can help children understand their own strength, and work out their social relationships.
- Explore some more great **"feeling" play ideas**.

To enhance imagination and creativity, you could give your child the chance to:

- read books and share silly rhymes with you.
- play dress-ups with a box of old cast-offs (don't forget to throw in some crazy hats).
- try something he has never done before, like a bushwalk or museum visit.

To encourage thinking, you and your child could:

- play board games together.
- read books and tell riddles.
- play memory card games.

To help with reading and identifying numbers, you could:

- read together often – you might like to make it a bedtime ritual.
- cook simple recipes together, like a cake – try talking about how much of each ingredient you're using.
- set up a 'shop' at home and let your child 'buy' items from you.

Please contact me at mmifsud@parra.catholic.edu.au if you have any questions relating to the **OLOWCURRICULUMSPOT**.

Michael Mifsud

SPORTS NEWS



Zone Athletics

Congratulations to all the 36 students who participated on Friday at the Zone Athletics Carnival. It was a fantastic day, with some great results. Thank you to Mrs Connell for helping on the day. Congratulations to the following children who will be representing OLOW at the Diocesan Athletics on 22nd August, at Blacktown International Sports Park.

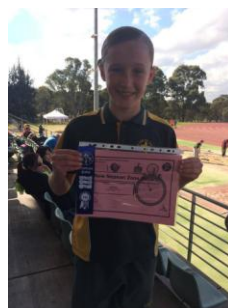


Nepean Age Champions

Bridie Witjes - Runner Up 11 Age Champion
Ruby Lowe - Runner Up Senior Age Champion

Zone record broken!

Well done to Bridie Witjes who broke the Zone record for Long Jump



Diocesan Athletics Team

Charlie Connell
Emilia Di Prinzio
Brock Healey
Ruby Lowe
Laura Patterson
Abby Ridding
Aimee Wagner
Bridie Witjes

Boys Jnr Relay
Charlie Connell
Jett Cleary
Blake Skinner
Ethan Dempsey

Girls Snr Relay
Georgia Ristevski
Aimee Wagner
Bridie Witjes
Ruby Lowe



Netball News

This is an exciting week of netball with the Sydney final of the NSW Netball Cup played today at Lidcombe and the St. Nicholas Netball gala day to be held next Tuesday. Good luck to all our teams and many thanks to the teachers, parents,

Year 6 students and big sisters who have helped with coaching and umpiring.

Special thanks to the Patterson family for the generous donation of an OLOW netball uniform for Stage 3 girls to wear for the NSW Cup competition.

Year 3 Girls	Year 4 Girls	Year 5/6 NSW Cup	Year 5 Girls
Sophie Procter	Abby Ridding	Alanah Eisenhuth	Jessica Daly
Jorja Tabor	Lara Sullivan	Laura Patterson	Amber Dempsey
Miah Green	Monty Clifford	Ruby Lowe	Shanice Matapo
Milli Oxley	Alisha Hoy	Alyssa Procter	Maddison McCarry
Jessie Whitely	Emma Fowler	Kate Charlton	Jemma Cashel
Chelsea Tabor	Emma Craig	Jasmine Ridding	Jill Downie
Brianna Mangan	Emma Patterson	Shae Healey	Olivia Downie
Isobel Campbell	Olivia Bennett	Madison Whitely	Mikayla Flanagan
Charlize Risse	Leila Woods	Bridie Witjes	Madalyn Jones
			Jemma Cashel

Year 5 Girls	Year 5/6 Mixed	Year 5/6 Mixed
Jasmine Moffit-Bourke	Keisha Chilmaid	Carina Buccicatinio
Olivia Newton	Emilie Donohoe-Thompson	Isabella Nardi
Brooke Robertson	Lucy Vinci	Felicity Mayor
Aimee Wagner	Madi Van Esveld	Ellie Tsarhalis
Lara Roser	Chloe Kessell	Kiara Ventra
Bianca Jordan	Aroha Tupaea	Caitlyn Pearson
Anne Joseph	Jeremy Skinner	Brock Healey
Sophie McDonald	Angus McIntosh	Joshua Patterson
Kirrilly Filla	Isaac John	Luke Mathison
Georgia Ristevski		



Mrs McKeon

GENERAL INFORMATION

Having difficulty getting your child to school?

Parent / Caregiver Information Evening

Does your child often say they do not want to go to school?

Is your child absent for more than 1 day a fortnight or often attending for only part of the day?

Does your child often complain of physical symptoms on school days, such as: stomach pain, headaches, nausea, tiredness.... and can't go to school?

Does your child say they can't or don't need to go to school on certain days e.g. sports carnivals, excursions, camps or avoid subjects, exams and/or assessments?

School avoidance is not uncommon however it can be difficult to manage and it can easily develop in to a major concern for parents, students and schools. We know the earlier it is recognized and responded to the better the outcomes for the student in the long term. This parent information meeting, presented by the Catholic Education Office – Student Wellbeing Team, is for parents who are concerned about their child's school attendance and want information and support to respond and manage their child's anxiety and school avoidant behaviour.

Where: Bede Polding College – Rifle Range Road Windsor South

When: Tuesday 9th September, 7pm

RSVP: 4577 6455 (Bede Polding Office)

CANTEEN NEWS

Crunchy Munchy Café Meal Deals \$ 4.50

Available until Friday 22nd August

Meal Deal 1

Ham and Salad Roll, Juice Popper

Meal Deal 2

Pizza Pocket, Flavoured Milk and Bag of Popcorn

COMMUNITY NEWS

A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... your Marriage!

Weekend dates: 12 – 14 September (7 – 9 November) at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

www.wwme.org.au

www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit

ECUMENICAL DINNER – 2014

Glenbrook-Blaxland Interchurch Group

WEDNESDAY 27TH AUGUST 2014
TIME: 7 – 10pm

Venue: Penrith Gaels Club
cnr. Glebe Place & Richmond Rd
Kingswood (entrance off Richmond Rd)

Guest Speaker: Dr Simon Longstaff, AO,
Executive Director of St James Ethics Centre, Sydney.f

Simon Longstaff



“ETHICS FOR FOOLS”

Cost: \$40.00 per person. Entrance by ticket only.

Enquiries: Tel: 4739 5273; or, 4739 5719