

DIARY DATES

Friday 11 December

Year 6 Social Night

Monday 14 December

End of Year Thanksgiving
Mass and Thank You
Morning Tea. 9.15am

**Wednesday 16
December**

Last Day for Students

**Thurs/Fri 17/18
December**

Staff Development Days

**Wed 27 & Thurs 28
January**

Staff Development Days
Mathematics Assessment
Interviews for all Students
from Years 1-6

**Wed 27 to Fri 29 January
Staff Development Days**

Literacy and Numeracy
Assessments for
Kindergarten

Friday 29 January

Years 1-6 Commerce

Monday 1 February

Kindergarten
8.45am-1.25pm
All Week

Monday 8 February

Kinder Commence Full
Days

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

This is our final Newsletter for 2015. As we come to the end of year, we have much to be thankful for at Our Lady of the Way.



Thank you to our wonderful children. Each day the children at Our Lady of the Way bring great joy to one another and to their teachers. It is a privilege to work with children who are so enthusiastic about their learning, caring for one another and eager to give their very best.

Thank you to the staff. Here at Our Lady of the Way, we are blessed to have a great team of teachers, assistants and support staff. I wish parents were lucky enough to see 'behind the scenes' work that takes place each and every day – This group of people go above and beyond their duty and your children are lucky to be in the care of this special team. In a special way I would like to acknowledge the staff who are leaving this year – Miss Bartolome, Mrs Witton and Ms Wiggins. We thank them for their contributions to our school and we ask God to continue to guide them as they move to new ways of serving Him.

Thank you to Father Mick and the OLOW Parish. The constant care, guidance and support we receive is a great source of encouragement for all the staff in what we do. Our school exists solely to support the parish in its mission of bringing Christ to His children.

Thank you to our Families – It is a great privilege to join with families in continuing their children's education here at Our Lady of the Way during their school years. We celebrate parents as the first educators of their children, and we thank you for entrusting your children's educational care to us. In a special way, I acknowledge those families who are leaving us this year. Thank you for the support you have given us.

On behalf of all the staff, may I wish each family a peace filled Christmas and a safe holiday break. May the joy of the newborn Jesus bring you much happiness.

God Bless,
Mrs. Sue Veling
Principal



Our Lady of the Way Church

Christmas Mass Times

We encourage you all to come along and join the wider Parish community for the Christmas liturgies being held at this special time of year!



Monday 21st December
2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7.30pm

Thursday 24th December
6pm Vigil and Midnight Mass
(Carols commence at 5.30pm and 11.30pm)

Friday 25th December
8.00am and 9.30am Christmas morning
(No evening Mass)



Children attending the Vigil Mass (6.00pm) on Christmas Eve are encouraged to 'dress up' for the celebration. Please come as angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary or Joseph.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 4 WEEK 8



Jordan Fayne, Maya Deacon-Chilmaid, Shanyah Kubic, Aimee Woods, Connor Lohan, Josh Robinson, Dieter Erdmann, Phoebe Kruzic, Sophia Lusk, Jessica Dray, Madison Whiteley, Charlotte Ahern, Chloe Luczak, Mason Eekman, Ellie Moore, Breha Pearson, Chloe Riley, Nicholas Curry, Hayden Jenkins, Madeleine Godfrey, Shanice Matapo.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – The “Christmas Star”

We had an amazing Christmas Concert last Thursday night and what a beautiful evening! Thank you to the staff and students for their efforts in making the presentation of the “Christmas Star” a success! In particular, I want to mention Mrs Day who was instrumental in all the planning and preparation. Thank you to our choir, string orchestra and band for showcasing their talents with their musical contributions to the evening. Thank you to the great audience of parents, grandparents and friends - another great example of our strong OLOW community. Merry Christmas!





Thank you to Mr Hawkes (father of Paige and Alexander in Yr 3) who took these beautiful photos.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to the following students who received Jesus for the first time at two beautiful ceremonies performed by Fr. Mick. Also a big thankyou to our altar servers Jill & Olivia Downie and Lara & Clare Roser and the parish sacramental team and facilitators who helped with the preparation of the children.



Jason Andrews, Harrison Bennett, Jack Brown, Sarah Budge, Jessica Craig, Erin Downie, Sandra Elias, Dieter Erdmann, Abbey Flanagan, Ben Garrahy, Maya Grieve, Alexander Hawkes, Paige Hawkes, Katelyn King, Phoebe Kruzic, Connor Lohan, Cody Luczak, Rory Muller, Marshall Pereira, Tiare Raukawa, Chloe Riley, Emily Sekulic, Larissa Stewart, Millina Storek, Charlie Thomas, Madeline Wade, Luca Woods, Daisy Andersen, Harrison Armour, Jason Armstrong Cohen Borg, Georgia Cashel, Milaya Cleary, Tyler Clifford, Nicholas Curry, Brodie English, Sienna Gahagan, Jude Godfrey, Alex Godwin, Bailey Grima, Sebastian Hayward, Bailey Houlihan, Ethan Houlihan, Oscar King, Harry Lewandowski, Lucie McIntosh, Zachary Phillips, Kate Roser, Kieran Smith, Isaac Steele, Toby Witjes

MEET THE TEACHER

The students at Our Lady of the Way will meet their 2016 teachers on Tuesday 15 December between 11:30-12:30.

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2016

In our last newsletter we acknowledged our new School Captains and the Student Representative Council for 2016. It is with great pleasure I now present our full Leadership Team and their portfolios for 2016.

School Captains - Lachlan Armour - Olivia Bennett - Tully Brown - Joshua Phillips

SRC - Montana Clifford - Ethan Dempsey - Jack Gale - Clare Roser - Lara Sullivan - Jeff Cleary -

Red Sports House - Jeff Cleary - Alyssa Gardner

Blue Sports House - Matthew Sekulic - Charlie Connell

Green Sports House - Emma Craig - Keegan Smith

Yellow Sports House - Montana Clifford - Jack Gale

Outreach Social Justice & Pastoral Care - Jasmine Vanegas - Madeleine Godfrey - Layla Woods - Jessica Dray - Emma Fowler - Tahlia Robar - Talesha Spooner

Civics and Citizenship - Olivia Craig - Tyanna Kubik - Flynn Starr - Taylor Carroll - Isabelle Clarke - Tristan Isaia - Olivia Boulous - Clare Roser - Isabella Toth - Boyd Boormakin

Technology - Ethan Still - Alyssa Eekman - Thomas Garrahy - Hannah Carroll - Noel Collins - Conor Rudge - William Plummer - Brandon Kruzic - Noah Clifford - Sam Reidy - Tahlia Robinson - Bailey Gregory - Ethan Dempsey.

2016 MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY

ON-LINE BOOKINGS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER.

All students will be assessed using the **Maths Assessment Interview** on **Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January 2016**. Our Lady of the Way staff will be taking two Staff Development Days to assess students in Years 1-6. This is a one-on-one interview style assessment led by a teacher. Each assessment takes a minimum of 30 minutes.

School will resume for students in Years 1-6 on Friday 29th January 2016.

Kindergarten students will have a separate testing schedule for literacy and numeracy and this will take place from Wednesday 27th January to Friday 29th January 2016. **Kindergarten will begin school on Monday 1st February (8:45am-1:25pm); then full days from Monday 8th February (8:45am-2:55pm).**

OLOW SWIMMING CARNIVAL



What a fantastic Swimming Carnival! Congratulations to our students, all the parent helpers (we can't run a day like this without your help) and the staff for running such a wonderful day. A special thankyou to Year 6 for helping out, Miss Reynolds for coordinating another sporting event in 2015 and Mrs McKeon for being the convenor on the day.



KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR ONE FUN DAY

While Years 2-6 were at the swimming carnival, Kindergarten and Year 1 had a water fun day. The children loved it!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

These summer holidays, Executive Director Mr Whitby is encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and providing students with more chances of winning a prize.

Entry is simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.

Enter online at: <http://parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>.

The more books a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

Entries are now open and close at 5pm on 5 February 2016.

YEAR 6 GRADUATES

Our Year 6 students had their farewell mass on Tuesday night. This was celebrated with all their proud parents and relatives. The Mass was said by Fr. Mick with help from seminarian Chris, acolyte David Clements, our Year 5 students who have helped out with the singing and our altar servers, Clare Roser and Matthew Sekulic.

As Year 6 take the next step in their life they are reminded to do a few things:

- Remember that you don't have to follow the crowd.
- Do the right thing, even if no one is looking.
- Study hard and remember that you are investing in yourself with every test you take and every book you read.
- And finally, don't be in too much of a hurry to grow up. There are some great times ahead in your life. Don't rush past them.



Lions Club Citizenship Award

The Lions Club Leadership Award recognises a Year 6 student who demonstrated outstanding leadership across a range of areas in our school community. This year's recipient is **Amber Dempsey**.

Stuart Ayres All Rounder Award

The Stuart Ayres All Rounder Award recognises a Year 6 student who has demonstrated consistent effort and a high level of achievement across all aspects of school. This year's recipient is **Maddison McCarry**.

The Community Spirit Award

The Community Spirit Award recognises a Year 6 student who makes a positive contribution to the wellbeing of others. This year's recipient is **Alannah Walker**.



WHAT A TEAM

A BIG thankyou to the group of parents and siblings who helped move four classrooms this morning. All the heavy lifting was completed by 10am. We just could not do it without you. WE LOVE YOU!



Our Lady of the Way Youth Group Christmas Celebration

ATTENTION YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 STUDENTS

When: Sunday 13th December

Time: 4:00pm - 6:30pm

Where: OLOW Hall

What's Happening: Board Game Extravaganza Competition & Pizza Dinner.

What to Bring: Yourself, a friend (if you can) AND your favourite board game.

Contact: Madeline Arnold on 0411 969 398 to RSVP by Friday 11th December.

VERY IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 11th December	Year 6 Social Night
Monday 14th December	9.15am End of Year Thanksgiving Mass followed by a Thank you Morning Tea provided by the OLOW staff
Wednesday 16th December	Last day for students

2016

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th January 2016	Staff Development Days – Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) for all students from Years 1 - 6 (On-line bookings open)
Wednesday 27th- Friday 29th January 2016	Kindergarten students Literacy & Numeracy Assessments
Friday 29th January	Years 1-6 begin school

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The Christmas Vigil Mass Choir will be practicing at 6.30pm on Monday 14th December and Tuesday 22nd December. We look forward to seeing you there.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Scholastic Book Club

1. The final book club of the year has been distributed, however we received one envelope containing an order form and money (not an online order), with no name or contact details.

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

Could you please take a moment to think about whether you ordered from book club and did not receive a parcel. The order was for 2 copies of the same book from the **Star** catalogue which is distributed to Years 5 & 6. The order amounted to \$16 so we are anxious to ensure it goes to their rightful home. Please contact the office if you are the owner and can identify the books.

2. Scholastic are running two competitions over the summer break that might interest students. To celebrate the movie release of Goosebumps, there is an 800 word Scary Story competition as well as an Australia vs New Zealand Summer Reading Challenge. Details can be found at <http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/> under the Competitions tab.

A PROVEN WAY TO KEEP KIDS READING OVER SUMMER
IS PARTICIPATION IN A SUMMER READING PROGRAM.

Registrations for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge open soon

AUSTRALIA'S BUNYIP VS **NEW ZEALAND'S TANIWA**

FEED YOUR INNER BOOK BEAST AND BATTLE THE 'SUMMER SLIDE'!

LAST YEAR WE SMASHED THE READING MINUTES RECORD!

SUMMER 2014-15 COMBINED TOTAL **003,400,000**

Let's set a new record this summer and beat New Zealand!

In celebration of the
NEW Goosebumps MOVIE COMING IN JAN 2016!

Give yourself Goosebumps!
AWAKEN THE WRITER LURKING WITHIN YOU!

WIN your very own Goosebumps® boxed set and \$100 in Book Clubs vouchers for 2016

Now a MAJOR MOTION PICTURE!

Goosebumps



Important Dates

P&F Meeting
Wednesday 3rd
February 2016
at 7pm

Family Bush
Dance –
Friday 19th
February 2016

School Photos -
Thursday 25th
February

From the sidelines

Welcome to our first newsletter from the 2016 P&F Committee! We will bring you information of what is going on within the P&F, how you can be involved, upcoming events and fundraising activities for the school.

The role of the P&F is to promote the interests of our school, *Our Lady of the Way*, by bringing together parents and friends, teaching staff and the parish in a spirit of collaboration. We provide a forum to discuss how to support the school with their initiatives and support the teaching and learning. We provide opportunities for the school community to celebrate and socialise to build a strong community spirit for our children. We assist in the maintenance and improvement of amenities, resources and facilities of the school.

The P&F committee is made up of the executive committee and our committee members, all of whom volunteer their time for the good of our beautiful school.

A note from the president

A quick introduction, for those who don't know me My name is Kelly Tabor and I will have 3 children at the school in 2016, Jorja in Year 5, Benny in Year 3 and Thomas in Kinder ... I also have Sam who is 2. A rough calculation has me at *Our Lady of the Way* until 2025...yes 2025!!!

Firstly, I would like to thank Kevin Houlihan who has been our president for the last two years. Thank you to Kevin and his team for the hard work and dedication that you have all put in. Kevin and Carolyn Burton our treasurer have stepped down from the executive committee but will stay on as committee members. So thank you to you both!

We are so blessed to have such a generous group of parents who give up their time to form the P&F committee. I am very proud to be a part of the P&F and look forward to all the great things we can achieve for our wonderful school next year.

Next year we are going to mix things up a little ... you can expect some exciting new changes to our P&F meetings. We will have guest speakers and information sessions for parents specific to their child's grade. We are also going to trial some afternoon P&F meetings. We would love to see you at our next meeting and look forward to your continued support.

A survey will come out early next year to ask you your opinion about the P&F and any suggestions you may have.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and most of all enjoy the school holidays!!!!

Warm Regards
Kelly



The next P&F meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 in the library at 7pm.

AN
INVITATION
TO THE
OPENING
OF A
HOLY DOOR
OF
mercy



"I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed."

Pope Francis



WHEN: SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2015

WHAT: 11AM HOLY MASS FOLLOWED BY THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
"HOLY DOOR OF MERCY"

PICNIC LUNCH (BYO)

2PM INPUT BY SR.M.JULIE BRCAR
"ENCOUNTERING GOD'S MERCY"
WITH CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN & CHILDCARE

WHERE: MOUNT SCHOENSTATT
230 FAIRLIGHT ROAD MULGOA

WWW.SCHOENSTATT.ORG.AU

FACEBOOK: MT SCHOENSTATT SHRINE & RETREAT CENTRE, MULGOA

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





SUMMER KIDS' CAMPS THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

- ✓ New friendships ✓ Fun
- ✓ Great value ✓ Safe

Summer is all about having FUN in the great outdoors. There is no better way for kids to jam-pack their school holidays with adventure and excitement than by attending a Sport and Recreation Kids' Camp.

Choose from day programs and residential camps to Duke of Edinburgh's Award journeys. Activities include raft building, mountain biking, flying fox, giant swing, cookouts and more. With so many programs on offer, you'll be sure to find a camp your kids will love.

Kids' day camps start from \$50. Residential camps include 24-hour supervision, accommodation, meals and activities, and many offer supervised transport to and from Central Station, Sydney.



sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps | 13 13 02
fb.com/nswsportandrecreation

 **Office of Sport**
Sport & Recreation

ORAL HEALTH SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

 **Health**
Nepean Blue Mountains
Local Health District

**IT'S
FREE!**



**CALL
TODAY**

General dental treatment for
children under 18 years
of age is free at NSW Public
Dental Health Clinics.

* Some specialist services require additional eligibility and/or may incur a fee.



Clinic Locations:

PENRITH | WINDSOR | SPRINGWOOD | KATOOMBA | LITHGOW

PHONE (02) 4734 2387 or 1300 769 221



Drama Studio

Holiday Drama Workshops

Don't miss out! Avoid disappointment and get in early!

"Springwood Court" 133 Macquarie Road, **Springwood**.

(Next to Domino's)

Lights Camera Action:-Take Two

Wed 13th Jan (9.30am-2.30pm)

A Pirates Life For Me

Thurs 14th Jan (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Puppetry No.3

Mon 18th Jan (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Fairy Tale Jumble

Tues 19th Jan (9.30pm-2.30pm)

Drama Games & Scenarios

Wed 20th Jan (9.30am - 2.30pm)

MORE WORKSHOPS also available in SOUTH PENRITH!

Check out the website for more details and to enrol or contact

Cathie for a chat!

0414 475 158

www.kidscanact.com.au

kidscanactstudio@gmail.com



Drama Studio

Holiday Drama Workshops

Don't miss out! Avoid disappointment and get in early!

"South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre"

Cnr Trent Street & Birmingham Road. **South Penrith**

Mime &Mask

Mon 11th Jan (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Drama Games & Scenarios

Tues 12th Jan (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Puppetry No.2

Thurs 21st Jan (9.30am - 2.30pm)

MORE WORKSHOPS also available in SPRINGWOOD!

Check out the website for more details and to enrol or contact

Cathie for a chat!

0414 475 158

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