

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

26th November 2015

DIARY DATES

Friday 27 November

P & F Gingerbread House Building Night

Mon 30 Nov – Fri 4 Dec

Swimming, K-Yr 4

Thursday 3 December

Advent/Christmas Celebration, 6pm

Monday 7 December

OLOW Celebrations of Learning Awards Ceremony 9am

Tuesday 8 December

Year 6 Farewell Mass 7pm

Wednesday 9 December

Swimming Carnival

SCHOOL CANTEN CLOSED

Friday 11 December

Year 6 Social Night

Monday 14 December

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Thank You Morning Tea

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 for Kindergarten

Friday 29 January

Years 1-6 Commerce

Monday 1 February

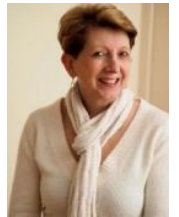
Kindergarten 8.45am-2.55pm All Week

Monday 8 February

Kinder Commence Full Days

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

Media advertising and the shop displays remind us the season of Christmas and gift buying is fast approaching. How well do we prepare our children for a season of giving rather than receiving, of showing thankfulness for what they have and of generosity towards those who are not as fortunate?



It is normal and natural for young children to believe everyone in the world exists exclusively for their benefit. Thankfulness is just not part of their job description. Part of our role as parents, is to lead our children out of their internal gazing and continually prompt them into a "concern for others" attitude towards the people around them.

Modelling thankfulness to our children is an important way to have them learn about living with and for others. We might need to project an attitude of thankfulness with our possessions, our clothes and appearance. Do we see the bigger world of need around us or is our focus simply on ourselves?

As recently as the past few weeks we are aware of the continued suffering of our human family in Syria and the refugees losing their lives in an attempt to escape to Europe for a better life. The lives of millions of people have been devastated leaving them homeless and with many children orphaned. Once the conflict ends we know that it will take years to restore homes, schools, hospitals and roads so that the people may resume their normal lives.

Thankfulness and caring for others is a major part of wellbeing as focusing on others creates an inner harmony of contentment and peace. As we begin the season of Advent the challenge is to balance preparing for the delights of celebrating the birth of Jesus with encouraging our children to focus on the needs of others.

people Helping People.

God Bless,

Mrs. Sue Veling

Principal



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 4 WEEKS 6 & 7



Will Pearson, Ivy Hooke, Ashton Bartlett, Milly Brace, Ayden Pusko, Milli Storek, Sebastian Hayward, Kye Lloyd, Charlie Connell, Aimee Wagner, Jessica Crambrook, Charlotte Ahern, Addison Riley, Jacob Thompson, Cara Smith, Isabella Bradley-Labra, Alex Godwin, Harrison Armour, Daniel Prendergast, Hannah Carroll, Christopher Elliot, James Byrne, Kate Budge, Adrienne Moffit-Bourke, Sophia Torresan, Toby Witjes, Bailey Grima, Kyan Roach, Jasmine Vanegas, Ethan Dempsey, Connor Clifford, Jake Walsh, Abigail Andrews, Eva Eekman, Harrison Phillips, Justine Baile, Harrison Bennett, Sienna Rose, Isabella Clarke, Noel Collins, Nicholas James.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2016

Last week our school voted for our new school leaders for 2016. It is with great pleasure that we announce our school captains for 2016. We wish to congratulate **Joshua Phillips, Lachlan Armour, Tully Brown and Olivia Bennett.** Jett Cleary, Ethan Dempsey, Jack Gale, Montana Clifford, Clare Roser and Lara Sullivan will be our Student Representative Council (SRC) leaders working with Mr Mifsud and representatives from each grade.

During our Thanksgiving Mass on Monday 14 December, Dominic Sagun, Jessica Daley, Amber Dempsey and Noah Panczyk will formally handover the 'keys' to our new leaders with a blessing from Fr. Mick.



QUALITIES OF SCHOOL LEADERS

In looking at these very important roles, I would like to share with you five very important qualities that I believe are critical for any student leader to have.

1. A Leader says, 'Yes, I Can!' It's called the power of Positive Attitude. A Leader understands there will be many people throughout their life who will tell them why they cannot do or be something. A leader stays focused on maintaining a positive attitude no matter what the people around them say or do. A leader stands up to peer pressure everyday to make choices for themselves.

2. A Leader says, 'It's not a problem, it's a Challenge!' It's called Overcoming Adversity. Everyday life is filled with challenges. However, many people call them 'problems' and therefore they are overcome by their magnitude. The first step to being a leader is to always say 'Yes, I Can.' There is always another solution. You just need to ask a different or better question to find more solutions. Each challenge in life is an opportunity to learn a new lesson.

3. A Leader says, "Never give up, never give up, never give up!" It's called Perseverance. The easiest answer or path whenever something gets hard in life is to stop or give up. A Leader knows that the easiest path is not always the best path. A simple well-known quote expresses the power of perseverance very well: 'Perseverance prevails when all else fails.' Quitting is easy. It's a habit that begins at a young age. Children need to learn at a very young age the power of building positive habits in life.

4. A Leader says, "I may fail or make mistakes BUT I always learn and move ahead!" It's called Commitment. Mistakes and failure are an integral part of life. We tend to learn the most in life from our mistakes or failures. Leaders learn to do their best and are not beaten down by their mistakes. Leaders learn to ask themselves a powerful question each time they make a mistake or fail: "What can I learn from this experience?"

5. A Leader says, "I will always do my best!" It's called Excellence. Excellence or doing your very best, is a daily decision. It's easy to be average. It takes a focused effort every day to do your best. It really is an attitude. Leaders choose to do their best in everything they do. It's not about being better than other people; it's just about challenging yourself to be your best.



FATHER MICK

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Fr. Mick has been officially appointed by Very Rev Peter Williams as Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains for the next six years. As a school we look forward to working with Fr. Mick to strengthen the image of the church within the school community.

2016 OLOW School Captains



Lachlan Armour

I am extremely excited to be school captain for 2016. I was really shocked to find out that I was school captain. I thought I was dreaming but when the photos were taken, I knew it was real. I was as shocked as my mum was when I phoned her. I know that when I get my badge, I will wear it with pride every day. I will lead school assemblies every Monday morning and I will do what I can to make the school a greater place. I am excited to be school captain and grateful. I can't wait to start my job.



Olivia Bennett

I am very excited to be an Our Lady of the Way school captain. I have the privilege to lead our school and give something back to the school which has given me so many opportunities. I love to help others and I can lead by a GREAT example. I am very confident and I will wear my badge proudly. I am very excited to represent our school in the best way possible. As school captain, I will make sure that every student will have a say and no one will be excluded. I will lead the SRC meetings and the Monday morning assemblies. I feel very happy and proud to be nominated by my classmates and the school. I am very excited to start this amazing journey with many wonderful students and teachers. Thank you for this great opportunity!



Tully Brown

Being a leader I feel happy and very excited to be helping everyone at Our Lady of the Way because I love helping others and cheering people up when they are upset. The privilege of being a leader is amazing to me because I get to be heard and I love hearing other people's ideas of what they think of our school. I am very, very, very excited to be on a journey full of fun and laughter with students, teachers, parents and visitors of our school. Being a leader I will get many opportunities in our school and it is a big task which I feel I am ready to take on. I'm very privileged to be school captain and when I receive my badge I will wear it with pride. Thank you for the great opportunity of being a school captain of Our Lady of the Way.



Joshua Phillips

I am very excited and proud to be a school captain of OLOW. I will help others be happy on the playground by including the people who are excluded. I will listen to other people's ideas in SRC meetings and try my hardest to get those ideas to be a reality. I am incredibly shocked and grateful to be a school captain for 2016. Thank you for voting for me to be school captain.



READING RECOVERY

Congratulations to our three Reading Recovery graduates, Erin Budge, Cooper Bahlman and Cruz Vilar who successfully completed the program under the guidance of their tutor Mrs Hensen.

EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING

Congratulations to our three EMU graduates, Holly Rech, Cooper Sulic, Lucas McClenahan who successfully completed the program under the guidance of their tutor Mrs Kuipers.



TEACHERS FOR 2016

Sadly we farewell Ms Bartolome who will be moving to Our Lady Queen of Peace School at Greystanes and Mrs Witton who will return to casual teaching.

Our grade teachers and learning support staff for 2016 include:

Kindergarten – Mrs Grima Starkey & Miss Coutinho

Year 1 – Mrs Kuipers, Mrs Thomas & Mrs Eekman

Year 2 – Miss Lamaletie, Mrs Blazek & Mrs Walsh

Year 3 – Mrs Johnston, Mrs McKeon & Mrs Atkins

Year 4 – Mrs Curry & Miss Vella

Year 5 – Mrs Day & Mr De Celis

Year 6 – Miss Reynolds & Mrs Scott

Learning Support Team: Mr Mifsud, Mrs Flanagan, Mrs Hensen, Ms Glynn, Mrs Khalifeh



HELP WANTED

HELP NEEDED MOVING CLASSROOMS

We require your **HELP**. On Thursday 10 December we will be moving **four** classrooms. As you can imagine this takes a great deal of work. If you could help out, even for a few hours, we would love to see you. We will begin at 9am and work until the move is completed.

END OF YEAR AWARDS

Just a reminder that the end of year awards will be distributed after morning assembly on Monday 7th December using the following categories:

- ★ Love of Learning Award
- ★ Mary MacKillop Award
- ★ Most Improved Award
- ★ Positive Attitude Towards Learning Award
- ★ Music Award
- ★ Japanese Award
- ★ Good Sport Award (New for 2015)



All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend this ceremony.

SEMESTER 2 SCHOOL REPORTS

Semester two reports will be sent home on Friday 4th December. In the envelope there is a letter explaining the A-E grading system used in Years 1-6. Please take the time to read through the report with your child, discussing their successes and goals for 2016.

Year 5 parents – You will need to keep your child's report handy, as they are required for high school enrolments in 2016.

Years 4 & 6 parents – Included in the envelope is your child's Religious Literacy Assessment completed last term.

Teacher Interviews – Interviews are available for any parent who has concerns about any aspect of their child's report. Please make an appointment via the office to see your child's class teacher.

LIBRARY BOOKS

The end of year is fast approaching. Could we please ask all Mum's, Dad's and Carers to check their children's bedrooms, school bags and homes for any READERS or Library Books that may belong to the school. We need them all back ASAP for inventory and stocktake. Thank you

Susan Masters

Library Assistant

**PLEASE
RETURN
YOUR
LIBRARY
BOOKS!**

AFTERNOON SAFETY

In the afternoon, some children have started to wait on Forbes and Troy Street to be picked up by parents as they pass by. This has never been the practice at OLOW. All students must wait outside the office until their parent parks and comes into the grounds. This is to keep our children safe at all times.

Please do not make any other arrangements with your child that puts them at risk of danger.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

We understand that family circumstances alter and that children sometimes need to change schools. If you know that you will not be attending *Our Lady of the Way* in 2016 please advise Mrs Veling and complete a notification of leaving form that is available from the school office.

We have healthy enrolments for most classes in 2016, with some children on waiting lists, so in fairness to these families we ask you to let us know if you are changing schools.

If you know of anyone considering a Catholic school education for their child at OLOW from 2016, in any grade, please encourage them to contact us as soon as possible to assist us with our planning.



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.

2016 MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY

As was introduced in January this year, 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. More details and an interview on-line booking schedule will be organised for later this term. **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 (8:45-1:25); then full days from Monday 8th February (8:45-2:55).**

PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Last week the Annual General Meeting for the P&F was held and all committee positions were made vacant. A very big thankyou to the outgoing president Kevin Houlihan. I wish to publicly thank the 2015 members for their dedication to building community and supporting the school by improving the learning environment and helping to provide much needed resources for all students at OLOW.

The newly elected Parent and Friends Committee for 2016 includes:

President:	Kelly Tabor
Vice President:	Kiery Pascoe
Secretary:	Rochelle Bahlmann
Treasurer:	Jane Cashel
Fundraising:	Jeff Boulous
Fundraising Assistant:	Kate Andrews
Social Media Administrator:	Julie Woods
Committee Members:	Vanessa Garrahy, Carolyn Burton, Sarah Pereira , Regina Hawkes, Kevin Houlihan



The school looks forward to working with the Parent & Friends Association in 2016.



We have some outdoor furniture that needs staining so that water can't seep into the timber and bird droppings don't penetrate the wood. There are 12 tables and 24 benches. All materials will be provided. If you are able to assist, even for a short time, please contact the school office. Thank you.

VERY IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 27th November	<i>P&F Gingerbread House Building night</i>
Monday 30th – Friday 4th December	<i>Swimming Kindergarten, Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 4</i>
Thursday 3rd December	<i>7pm Advent/Christmas Celebration</i>
Friday 4th December	<i>Semester 2 Reports sent home</i>
Monday 7th December	<i>9am OLOW Celebrations of Learning Award Ceremony</i>
Tuesday 8th December	<i>7pm Year 6 Farewell Mass</i>
Wednesday 9th December	<i>OLOW Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Pool</i>
Friday 11th December	<i>Year 6 Social Night</i>
Monday 14th December	<i>9.15am End of Year Thanksgiving Mass & Thank you Morning Tea</i>
Wednesday 16th December	<i>Last day for students</i>
Thursday/Friday 17th /18th December	<i>Staff Development Days</i>

2016

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th January 2016	<i>Staff Development Days – Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) for all students from Years 1 - 6</i>
Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th January 2016	<i>Kindergarten students Literacy & Numeracy Assessments</i>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Christmas Hampers

You can help St Vincent de Paul spread Christmas cheer this year by donating items to our Christmas hampers. The hampers will be in your child's classroom during Weeks 9 and 10.

Below is a suggestion of items you might like to include to help create some delicious hampers. (Please ensure all the food items are within the expiry date)

Christmas decorations (eg Bon Bons, tinsel)
Christmas cake/pudding
Longlife custard/cream/milk
Tins of fruit
Drinks (eg soft drinks, fruit juice, cordial)
Tins of vegetables (eg Carrots, peas, corn, potatoes)
Pasta and pasta sauces
Christmas plates/napkins
Rice
Jellies
Lollies
Jam/honey/vegemite
Chips
Salsa
Coffee/tea/sugar
Hot chocolate/Milo
Gravox
Meal base ingredients
Biscuits (assorted)



Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this festive season extra special for families in need for Christmas!



LEARNING NEWS

Year 3 Star Writer!

Year 3 have been writing short, sharp texts this week. Riley Craig in Year 3 has written a wonderful persuasive text about rubbish on our playground. Well done, Riley! Your friends are very proud of your efforts.

I firmly believe that you should pick up rubbish because it affects the environment.

I firmly believe that you should pick up rubbish and put rubbish in the bin.

I firmly believe that you should pick up rubbish because it makes our place clean and tidy.

I firmly believe that you should pick up rubbish because if you drop rubbish on the ground and don't pick it up that means you are littering our world.



Please put your rubbish in the bin.

YEAR 2 NEWS

Throughout the year the children in Year 2 have had many opportunities to write different types of texts, imaginative, informative and persuasive. Having experienced writing in different styles, the children have had some opportunities to choose their favourite type of text and write on a topic of interest.

This is an example of an imaginative text written by Jade Elford.

The Explosive Grand Final

I ducked and weaved through the laser-beamed security system at ANZ Stadium, the Grand Final ball tucked carefully under my blue trench coat. Looking left and right I managed to find a desk and begin to slice the ball in half. With a razor sharp scalpel I made careful incisions down the seam of the ball, 'beautifully sliced Jade' I muttered to myself. I pulled out an electronic microchip from my pocket and placed it inside the ball. Then, using the finest needle and thread, I stitched the ball back up perfectly. I could barely see where the incision had been made, so my months of practice for this moment had paid off. Just after midnight, I returned the ball to its place and made my escape through the laser beams out of the building.

Grand Final day soon arrived, as the stadium gates opened I was one of the first to enter. I had been a Penrith Panthers fan since I was just two years old, and I was desperate to see my mighty Panthers win on this big day. As flags waved, fans cheered, mascots jumped around and cheerleaders shook their pom-poms, I secretly switched on a little blue box.

The whistle blew and the Grand Final began. Bulldogs player James Graham was first to star, with a run of 15 metres down the field towards his try line. Spinning out of a tackle, Graham passed the ball to his left where Trent was waiting... at least he thought he did! The ball spun around and around then swooped to the right and landed on the ground. "Take that Bulldogs!" I whispered as my short fingers pressed the green buttons on the small remote. But after a race to the ball, the Bulldogs regained possession.



As Trent passed to Moses, the ball swerved towards the sun, spun twice and landed on the ground again. The players looked at one another in confusion. "What is going on team?" the Bulldogs captain demanded. "Pass the ball carefully!" Throughout the first half, the Bulldogs players continued looking like circus clowns, juggling the oval ball clumsily, it slipped through their hands like butter on hot toast. The crowd was astonished, many blaming Grand Final nerves for the Bulldogs' fumbling.

Little did the players know that there was nothing wrong with their ball skills. The microchip inside the ball was in charge now, with myself at the controls. I moved my fingers like mad over the buttons on the small remote, urgently trying to get the Panthers maximum possession of the ball. But although I had control of the ball, I didn't have control of the players, and the Panthers were unable to break through the bulldogs' defence. During the half-time entertainment, I was pacing up and down the stadium steps in frustration. I had been working on this microchip for years and I was sure it would help the Panthers to victory and the win was so close - yet so far. I realised that my secret weapon could not control everything after all.



The second half started and, with the first kick there was an enormous clap of thunder that shook the stadium and frightened the children. The rain started pelting down, escalating by the minute. While fans huddled under umbrellas and raincoats, I ignored the rain and continued to press the buttons furiously. Suddenly, as Trent threw a dummy pass to David Klemmer, there was an enormous **BANG** from the field, the ball had split in two and the two halves lay rigid on the ground with the microchip in the middle.

YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS OUR #1 PRIORITY!

In 2014, over 2000 children were killed or injured on roads in NSW. We want to ensure that no child is hit by a car when travelling to or from our school. *Your child's safety is our #1 priority!*

All Parents and Carers need to take extra care when driving and parking around our school. Make sure that you and your child understand the road rules. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting children at risk.

Staff & Parish Parking in Troy Street

As indicated by the signs, parents are asked not to park in the staff car park. Children regularly walk through this area before and after school and are not aware of cars reversing or moving in and out. We ask that you use the parking available in the street.

School Kiss and Drop off Area

The 'Kiss and Drop-off' area utilises the existing 'No Parking' zone in Troy Street. Drivers may stop to drop off children, however, **No Parking** rules apply.

- The Staff directed 'Kiss and Drop' operates between 8.25am - 8.45am daily.
- All vehicles need to wait until reaching the Church driveway (where a staff member is standing) before children leave vehicle.
- ***DRIVER MUST NOT GET OUT OF VEHICLE.***
- Make sure bags are in the car and ready and all 'Kissing' has been completed.
- Make sure children use the footpath side door when getting out of vehicle.
- Make sure the handbrake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
- Never double park, make a U-Turn or perform any other unnecessary manoeuvre in close proximity to the school.

**Do not use 'Kiss and Drop' if you cannot follow the above directions.
(Please park your vehicle and walk your son or daughter into the school safely).**

Finally, always cross the road using the crossing even if it means having to walk a bit further.
Hold your child's hand when crossing the road.

Penrith Council have indicated that parking wardens will routinely be visiting the school to monitor the parking practices in both Troy and Forbes Streets.

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

LOW SAFETY SPOT.



Cheers

Michael

GENERAL NEWS

Due to the Swimming Carnival, the
Canteen will be closed on Wednesday 9th December
as only Year 1 and Kinder will be at school that day.
There will not be any lunch orders available.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lara Sullivan and Amber Dempsey (Year 6) who competed in the BJP Physie National Championships at the State Sports Centre, Homebush. Lara placed 4th in Australia in the 10 years. Amber competed in the 12 years and was a semi-finalist (this is the top 32 girls in Australia). This is a big achievement for both girls as they had to qualify to compete and there are 72 competitors on the day.

Congratulations to Tully Brown who was selected for the MacKillop Basketball Team. Well done Tully!



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The children of Our Lady of the Way have been invited to join the Christmas Vigil Mass Choir. Practise will commence on Tuesday 8th December at 6.30pm in the Church. Parents are also invited to join the choir.

CHANGE TO BUS PASSES

From Term 1, 2016 paper bus passes will be replaced by the new School Opal card. As with the current School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) students will be eligible for free travel as follows: Years K-2 (Infants) – no minimum distance from their school; Years 3-6 (Primary) – 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further from school. Applications can be made via a [new online application process](#).

Many students with a current SSTS pass won't need to reapply, as a new pass will be issued automatically. This will be either a School Opal card or a school travel pass if the student needs to travel outside the Opal network to get to school.

However, you will need to complete an application form if:

- applying for SSTS for the first time
- enrolling in kindergarten
- progressing from year 2 to year 3
- progressing from year 6 to year 7
- changing name, school and/or address
- requesting a new additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation.



If a student doesn't qualify for a free travel pass, they may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Application for 2016 School Opal Cards and SSTS passes starts from Monday 2 November. To apply online, please go to: <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The St John of God Institute of Counselling, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment, pastoral care and in the workplace. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm – 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on **Tuesday 2 February 2016**. Enrolments are accepted up to the end of March. The cost for the course is \$450.00 for the year with an early bird offer of \$400.00 if paid in full by the end of February 2016.

For enquires please contact:

Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 432 (7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Mon to Fri);

Carol Harding - 0408 705 848 (anytime);

Janelle Carlile - 0431 598 004 (5.30 to 8.30pm Mon to Fri); or

Email: counselling1969@gmail.com

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



2016 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, there is still uncertainty around long term government funding for Catholic schools. Indications are that federal government funding for education post 2017 will be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which historically has been much lower than the education inflation rate. Funding growth linked to CPI will not meet increases in the real costs of schooling.

To maintain our current service levels we will need to increase diocesan tuition fees by 5%. This increase will mean we can continue to fund important initiatives to improve student learning, including:

- literacy and numeracy programs such as Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4 and professional learning for teachers and leaders to support the implementation of these programs
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our learning spaces, technology and infrastructure
- building new schools and expanding existing schools to cater for new places

Scholarships and fee arrangements

We are committed to ensuring that **no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation**. There are a range of scholarship and support programs to assist families including:

- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Fee arrangements and discounts
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2016

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fee can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Flexible payment plans are also available around weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments. The fee is only charged for the first three children currently enrolled in the diocese. There is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools.

Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2016

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard, and ensure we can expand or build new schools in high growth areas. To ensure this continues we will need to increase the building levy by \$33 per family per year. The levy for 2016 will be \$735 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$245 in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs and we do not take the decision to raise fees lightly. **If a school fee increase will be difficult for your family to manage, please contact your school principal.** We will provide every assistance to families in financial need.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools

The 2016 Annual Tuition Fees are as follows:

Annual Fees		1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Tuition Fee Primary	Kindergarten	\$1,098	\$825	\$549
	Years 1 - 6	\$1,419	\$1,065	\$711
Tuition Fee Secondary	Years 7 - 8	\$1,968	\$1,476	\$984
	Years 9 -10	\$2,184	\$1,638	\$1,092
	Years 11 - 12	\$2,790	\$2,094	\$1,395

GET YOUR KIDS INTO THE T20 ACTION

**SUPER FUN, SOCIAL, SAFE & ACTIVE
IT'S CRICKET & IT'S A BLAST!**

ALL KIDS RECEIVE A BONUS PLAYER PACK WHEN THEY REGISTER



PENRITH COMMUNITY MILO T20 BLAST



Play cricket in Term One!

Register for the Penrith Community MILO T20 Blast now! (8-week program)

Penrith Community MILO T20 Blast

FREE Come & Try: Tuesday February 9th 2015

Program Starts: Tuesday February 16th 2015

Program Ends: Tuesday April 5th 2015

Location: Howell Oval, Station Street, Penrith

Time: 5 – 6.30pm **Ages:** 7 - 12 **Cost:** \$99

We will be running a FREE 'Come & Try' session on Tuesday February 9th (5-6.30pm) at Howell Oval.

Bring your friends along and experience the fun and excitement of MILO T20 Blast!

Visit www.playcricket.com.au/t20blast or contact Jonathan Lees 0418 749 185



VISIT PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU/T20BLAST TO FIND OUT MORE

BODYBLITZ KIDS SPORTS

- Body Blitz Kids Sports is a fun sports and fitness program for kids aged 5-12 years.
- Kids will be participating in lots of games and activities with our emphasis being on fun and interaction.
- Our aim is to help develop your child's confidence, co-ordination, balance and fitness.
- There will be raffles & prizes given away to all kids on the day.
- Sausage sizzle lunch included!

WHEN: Monday 21/12 (9am-12pm)

WHERE: Our Lady of the Way Primary School, Forbes St. Emu Plains 2750

PRICE: ONLY \$50!!! **SPECIAL OFFER** – receive 20% off per sibling

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING: A hat and water bottle is required

For more information, or to book your child's spot, please call 9896 6662 or visit www.bodyblitzpt.com.au