



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

1st December 2016

DIARY DATES	<p>Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,</p>
Friday 2 December Gingerbread House Night	<p>Sunday 27th November marked the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Each season has its special grace and in the season of Advent we prepare for Christmas and await with expectant longing for God to be born again into our lives, our families, our Church and our world.</p>
Sunday 3 December WORKING BEE 8am	
Monday 5 December Christmas Carols Evening with Andrew Chinn, 6.00pm	<p>During Advent, we are meant to take stock of our lives, to check our direction and to await with expectation the special grace that God promises to offer us at Christmas. During the Advent season, we symbolically participate in the waiting of the patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, as we await Christ's final and glorious return. As we wait in long lines this Advent season, or as we wait for anything really, we can remember the waiting of those expecting the Messiah, and always wait with patience, humility, and expectant hope in a state of prayer.</p>
Wednesday 7 December Year 6 Farewell Mass 7.00pm Reports Sent Home	<p>It is difficult, but especially during Advent, waiting prayerfully and patiently, in the manner of our Lord and his blessed Mother, is not only a good spiritual discipline, but could also lower our risk of holiday induced blood pressure. It seems like we're all waiting for something, so why not use these experiences to enhance our Advent disciplines by prayerfully waiting, joining our prayers with Isaiah, Zechariah, and all the saints.</p>
Friday 9 December 9.00am OLOW Award Ceremony 6.00pm Year 6 Social Disco	<p>Come Lord Jesus may we be prepared for your coming in glory.</p>
Monday 12 December End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Thank You Morning Tea, 9.15am	<p>God Bless, Mrs. Sue Veling Principal</p>
Tuesday 13 December Meet Your Teacher Morning	<p>CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 4 WEEKS 6 & 7</p>
Friday 16 December Last Day of School	
Sunday 18 December Parish Youth Group Christmas Activity	<p>Cooper Jones, Krystal Trigg, Caleb Vanegas, Jessica Still, Miah Hirsch, Harrison Phillips, Keira Blazek, Harry Lewandowski, Rory Muller, Ben Robinson, Bailey Latham, Lara Sullivan, Max Selby, Kye Chapman, Isabel Gribble, Hannah Selby, Sophia Torresan, Marcus Skinner, Milaya Cleary, Georgia Cashel, Hayden Jenkins, Gardiner, Jade Elford, Tracy So, Sophia</p>
Fri/Mon 27/30 January MAI Interviews Years 1-6	<p>William Plummer, Olivia Scott, Ben Hall, Michael Lusk, Talesha Spooner, Mackenzie Degnan, Demi Boormakin, Chloe Luczak, Sophia Torresan, Daisy Andersen, Emma Jones, Hannah Carroll, Pierce Lucas, Cara Smith, Bailey Grima, Zak Roach, Cooper Hegarty, Aimee Woods, Harrison Armour.</p>
Monday 30 January COSH Open All Day	
Fri 27/Tues 31 January Kinder Literacy and Numeracy Testing	
Tuesday 31 January School Resumes for Years 1-6	
Wednesday 1 February Kinder Students begin, half days	
Monday 6 February Kinder begin full days	
Sunday 22 October OLOW SCHOOL FETE	

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

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

READING RECOVERY GRADUATE

Congratulations to James Byrne who successfully completed the Reading Recovery Program under the guidance of Ms Glynn. Reading Recovery is an accelerative reading program run by specialist teachers. The program is sponsored by the Catholic Education Office Parramatta Diocese.



ENROLMENTS FOR 2017

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 2017 please advise Mrs Veling and complete a notification of leaving form that is available from the school office. You are reminded that concerns regarding financial difficulties is not a reason for seeking another school, as the Catholic Education Office and *Our Lady of the Way* can and will assist families with meeting these costs when genuine financial difficulties arise

We have healthy enrolments for most classes in 2017, 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 2017, in any grade, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible to assist us with our planning.

TEACHERS FOR 2017

Our grade teachers and diversity support staff for 2017 include:

Kindergarten – Mrs Blazek, Miss Coutinho and Mrs Khalifeh

Year 1 – Mrs Kuipers and Mrs Thomas

Year 2 – Miss Lamaletie and Mrs Kakoschke/Mrs McKeon

Year 3 – Mrs Johnston/Mrs Walsh and Mrs Day/Mrs Walsh

Year 4 – Mrs Curry and Mrs Grima Starkey (Term 1) Mr De Celis (Terms 2, 3, 4)

Year 5 – Mrs Scott and Miss Vella

Year 6 – Miss Reynolds and Mrs Walsh (Monday)

Diversity Support Team: Miss Mizzi, Mrs Flanagan, Mrs Hensen, Ms Glynn

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

If you have not finalised your school fees for **2016**, it would be appreciated if this could be done before the end of Week 9 – **Friday 9th December**. For families with arrangements in place, no action is needed.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties please contact the office before the end of term. All other payments (e.g. Year 6 Social, Polo-shirts, etc) should be made before the end of Week 9.

Thank you

Bernadette Alexander

BUILDING PROJECT

The building of the administration block is running ahead of schedule. The office staff will move in on Thursday 14th December with the old block being demolished on Tuesday 20th December.

FURNITURE & BUILDING MATERIALS GIVE AWAY

We have a number of items that we are giving away from the old administration block including desks, bookshelves, filing cabinets 3 and 4 drawer, benches that might be suited to an office or a garage or workshop, doors, blinds, noticeboards, fans, shelving. If you are interested in any of these items please see Julie Irvine in the office by Friday 9th December.

END OF YEAR AWARDS

Our end of year AWARDS will be distributed on Friday 9th December at 9am. The awards consist of the following categories:

- Love of Learning Award
- St. Mary MacKillop of the Cross Award
- Most Improved Award
- Positive Attitude Towards Learning Award
- Music Award
- Japanese Award
- Good Sport Award

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

A CHEERY OLOW CHRISTMAS WITH ANDREW CHINN

Please join us for our OLOW Christmas Concert on Monday 5th December, commencing at 5:45pm. Bring a picnic & picnic blanket or chair to watch the children perform the Christmas Story led by musician and song writing, Andrew Chinn. The evening will start with a concert from our musical ensemble and choir. Each grade will then perform the Christmas Story through song and action. We hope you can join us for a lovely community celebration.

THANKSGIVING MASS INVITATION

An invitation is extended to all of the OLOW community to attend our Thanksgiving Mass on Monday 12th December at 9am in the Church, followed by morning tea afterwards in the hall. To assist us with catering please RSVP to the school if you are able to attend.

2016 ROTARY AWARD

Congratulations to Jessica Dray in Year 6 who was presented with the Rotary Award for 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' at a special function held on Tuesday evening. Jessica was nominated by her teachers to receive this award for her outstanding contributions to OLOW this year. The award recognises a student who has engaged in extra responsibilities; offered support and encouragement to others and displayed a willingness to be involved in extracurricular activities. Jessica has organised two fundraisers for the Leukaemia Foundation during her time at Our Lady of the Way and has willingly assisted with activities for students in K-2 during break times.

Jessica is a worthy recipient as her actions reflect the Gospel values of loving your neighbour and helping those in need. Jessica was gracious in her reply, thanking the teachers and school community for their support.



WORKING BEE

This Saturday 3rd December we are holding a working bee from 8am to move 40 plants before the administration block is demolished. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

If you have even 30 minutes to spare, your help would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Julie in the office or Mario from the parish.

YEAR 6 2017 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

On Friday the students voted in our school leaders for 2017. Congratulations to our School Captains: Layla Starr, Benjamin Robinson, Jorja Tabor and Daniel Prendergast. We also acknowledge our Student Representative Council Leaders: Espri Footman, Bailey Latham, Sophia Lusk and Kennedy Storr. We look forward to working with the leadership team next year.

During our Thanksgiving Mass on Monday 12 December, Olivia Bennett, Joshua Phillips, Lachlan Armor and Tully Brown 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.

2017 MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY: YEARS 1-6

As in previous years, all students in Years 1-6 will be assessed using the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) on Friday 27th and Monday 30th January 2017. Our Lady of the Way staff will be taking two Staff Development Days to assess the students. This is a one-on-one interview style assessment directed 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.

Our COSHC will be providing full day-care on Monday 30th January. Arrangements can be made for children attending COSHC to be tested during the day.

School will resume for students in Years 1-6 on Tuesday 31st January 2017.

2017 LITERACY & MATHEMATICS TESTING JANUARY: KINDERGARTEN

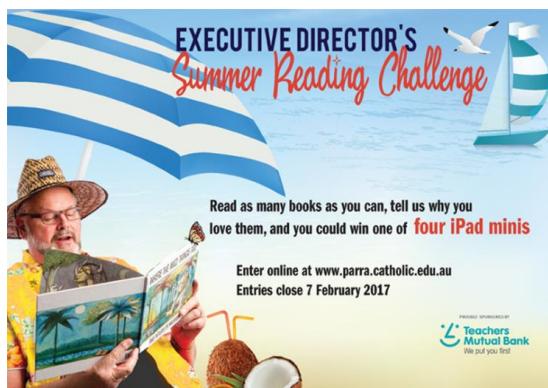
Kindergarten students will have a separate testing schedule for literacy and numeracy and this will take place from Friday 27th January to Tuesday 31st January 2017. Kindergarten will begin school on Wednesday 1st February (8:45-12:00); then full days from Monday 6th February (8:45-2:55).

THE ON-LINE BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERVIEWS WILL SENT HOME ON MONDAY

OLOW PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our Primary Swimming Carnival was held yesterday at Glenbrook Pool. It was a wonderful day! Thank you to all our parents for helping out; to Miss Reynolds for her fantastic organisational skills; to the staff for their commitment; and to the students for being great participants. The results will be announced at our final assembly for 2016 on Monday morning.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Have you entered the Summer Reading Challenge yet? Haven't heard about it yet? Well it's on now and at OLOW we are going to see just how many of our students can register! Entry is easy go to www.parra.catholic.edu.au to find out how you could win a mini iPad. You have all summer to enter and the more times you enter the more chances you have to win. Entries close on 7th February 2017. Remember we want the children to keep working on their reading skills over the long holiday break.



*A community is like an orchestra: each instrument is beautiful when it plays alone, but when they all play together, each given its own weight in turn,
the result is even more beautiful.*

*A community is like a garden full of flowers, shrubs and trees.
Each helps to give life to the others.*
Jean Vanier

PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Thank you to the parents that were able to join us last week for our final *Parent & Friends Meeting* for 2016. On your behalf, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Mrs Kelly Tabor for her support and leadership in the role of President and to Jeff Boulous as Fundraising Coordinator.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, the parents of OLOW for the wonderful support you give to this community, the staff and myself. We are blessed to have so many parents who are involved in so many aspects of our school, not just leaving it up to others.

Never underestimate the vital role each one of you plays whether through word or action in contributing towards the benefit of all the children in our care and in building our special community. OLOW has an excellent reputation for the outstanding education it provides throughout the diocese. You should be justifiably proud of the catholic school you as parents have helped create.

Together you are working in partnership with the school to make a difference for all the children, not just yours or theirs, but every child presently in the school and those of the future. It is very much a family looking after all its members. Whether your contribution is big or small it is greatly appreciated and valued. As a result of your efforts, our Christ Centred community continues to grow and our children continue to have nothing short of the best. So, on behalf of all the children and those to join us in years ahead, THANK YOU to you, our parents who really are making a difference.

Mrs Veling

Fr. Mick joined us as we voted in the new P&F committee. Congratulations to the new committee for 2017 –

President: **Kiery Pascoe** (Noah Yr 3 & Layla Yr 1)

Vice President: **Kate Andrews** (Jason Yr 4 & Abigail Yr 2)

Secretary: **Rochelle Bahlmann** (Riley Yr 5, Cooper Yr 2 & Jewel Kinder)

Treasurer: **Jane Cashel** (Georgia Yr 4 & Samuel Yr 2)

Fundraising Coordinator: **Vacant**

Fundraising Assistants: **Vanessa Keller-Garrahy** (Thomas Yr 6 & Ben Yr 4) and **Sarah Pereira** (Marshall Yr 4 & Carter Yr 1)

Social Media: **Julie Woods** (Lucas Yr 4 & Aimee Yr 3)

P&F Committee: **Regina Hawkes** (Alex & Paige Yr 4), **Kevin Houlihan** (Bailey & Ethan Yr 4 & Amity Yr 2)

Fete Coordinator: **Ben Cremen** (Declan Yr 5, James Yr 4, Aiden Yr 1 and Margaret Kinder)

Fete Executive: **Kelly Leehy** (Flynn Yr 6; Layla Yr 5 & Henry Yr 4); **Melissa McGrath** (Mia Kinder); **Michelle Cullen** (Finbar Yr 3, Lorcan Yr 1, Ronan Kinder); **Lauren Urquhart** (Mia & Patrick Yr 5); **Lisa Crambrook** (Jessica Yr 1); **Belinda Wade** (Madeline (Yr 4, Sophie Yr 2)

OLOW Parish Catholic Youth Group **Christmas Activity**

Our Lady of the Way Parish Youth Group is organising an end of year Christmas activity for children between the ages of **10 and 17**. The times and details are as follows:

Where: Penrith Indoor Mini-Golf

When: Sunday 18th December

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Cost: Approximately \$20 (depending on numbers) - Including ice-cream

Bookings are essential.

RSVP Ben Oxley by 30th November: ben.oxley5@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 2nd December	P&F Gingerbread House night
Monday 5th December	6pm OLOW Christmas Concert
Wednesday 7th December	Semester 2 REPORTS sent home 7pm Year 6 Farewell Mass
Friday 9th December	9am OLOW Awards Ceremony 6pm Year 6 Social Night
Monday 12th December	9.15am End of Year Thanksgiving Mass & THANKYOU Morning Tea
Tuesday 13th December	Meet your teacher morning
Friday 16th December	Last day for students
Monday 19th December	Staff Development Day
On 20th December the old administration block will be demolished	
2017	
Friday 27th & Monday 30th January 2017	Staff Development Days – Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) for all students from Years 1 - 6
Friday 27th - Tuesday 31st January 2016	Kindergarten students Literacy & Numeracy Assessments
Additional 2017 Pupil Free Days	Monday 24th April & Friday 18th August
Whole School Musical Performance	Thursday 17th August
Year 6 Overnight Excursion to Canberra	27th & 28th April
Year 5 Camp to Berry	18th, 19th, 20th October
OLOW School Fete	Sunday 22nd October

NSW STATE TRANSIT NEWS: STUDENT TRANSPORT OPAL CARD 2017

Is your child progressing to Year 3 or Year 7?

Do they have a current Opal Card?

Do they need to apply for an Opal Card?



Applications for 2017 school travel are now to be completed and submitted online.

Visit: www.transportnsw.info/schools-students

Full information guide will be included at the back of this newsletter.

Transport NSW requires that all children progressing from Infants to Primary grades (Yr 2 to Yr 3) and from Primary School to High School (Yr 6 to Yr 7) must update their details on the Opal Card site <https://transport.nsw.gov.au/sssts> Click on the tab: Is your child's free travel entitlement expiring? Check now

Children who receive free bus passes due to walking distance / health or safety reasons need to re-apply every year.

So applications can be processed in time for school resuming in 2017, **updated information must be submitted before 30th November 2016**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Christmas Carols Concert:

We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Carols evening with Andrew Chinn next Monday, December 5. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Together As One", "Rainbow" and "In the Beginning" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.



Andrew will be working with the children throughout the day preparing the children for the performance of their traditional or contemporary Christmas carol.

Please remember that those in the band and choir need to be at school by 5:30pm and other children to their classrooms from 6:00pm and no later than 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start.

Children in Year 2 are invited to dress as shepherds or angels, (apart from those with specific roles in the nativity) and all other grades are to wear clothes with a Christmas theme or Christmas colours.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal:



On Monday of this week you would have received a note inviting families to contribute to our St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal throughout Weeks 9 and 10. Thank you to the families who have already sent in lots of goodies.

We would ask that all items be in by Thursday, December 15 when we will be taking them to the hall for the Vinnies team to start packing the hampers.

Advent Ritual:

Today, the 1st of December is traditionally the day when we put up Christmas decorations in our home. Below is a ritual you might like to use or adapt for your family. :

This year, why not begin a new family "tradition" by dressing the tree together in ritual prayer? A few days before Christmas, the family meets together at an agreed time to assemble and decorate the Christmas Tree. This year, all the family members have been invited to contribute ONE special decoration that holds meaning for them. This could be something they have bought OR something that they have made themselves to hang on the tree. The parent(s) lead the simple ritual that follows. Parents may share leadership between them. Parents need to adapt the text to suit the level of understanding of their children/teens.

We Gather

Parent: *Tonight (today) is the day we have decided to set up our Christmas Tree. Its ever-green branches remind us of the new life that comes into the world when Jesus is born anew in our hearts this Christmas. To show our joy, we decorate our tree with bright and sparkling shapes and colours. At this time of year, there are Christmas Trees in many shops, in Churches, and in most homes – but our Christmas Tree can be a unique reflection of how our family looks forward to the birth of Jesus and the birth of new Love in the world.*

The family now takes the bare tree out of storage (or brings it in from the outside – if it is a real tree) and sets it in place ready to be dressed. The parent continues:

Before we dress the Tree, let us pray together ...

All: *Loving God, You sent Jesus into our world to fill us all with peace ... We welcome Jesus and the new life he brings. Bless our tree ... It reminds us of growing things, sturdy and green, flourishing life that never ends – just like your love for us. We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ And in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

We Listen

Parent: *Jesus the Saviour comes! Let us rejoice and be glad!*

All: *Jesus the Saviour comes! Let us rejoice and be glad!*



Scripture Focus: Ps 95 (96) Verses 1-4 and 11-13

The text of this psalm may be found in the Missal as the Responsorial Psalm for Midnight Mass. It refers to the trees of the forest as they shout for joy at the presence of the Lord who comes into our world. The verses of the psalm could be divided up between family members.

At the end of the Psalm, all say again: Jesus the Saviour comes! Let us rejoice and be glad! We Respond

Parent: Just like this tree, our hearts shout for joy when we think of God's amazing love. Let's watch quietly as the tree is dressed with this bunting and these lights. As I wind them around the branches, we remember all our family members - living and dead – present here or far away. We know that, even if they cannot be with us this Christmas, they still remain true branches of our family tree and we bind them gently to us in God's loving care.

All watch as the parent winds the bunting and the lights through and around the branches of the tree ... but the lights are not yet switched on. Then s/he continues:

Over the past few weeks, we have been preparing for Christmas. We have been busy choosing gifts for one another. But we have also been choosing a very special decoration to bring to our tree. Let's take it in turn now to hang our special decoration on the tree and tell our family what it means ...

Family members come to the tree, one by one, hang their decoration on their branch of choice, and say why they chose that particular decoration ... It could simply be: "I chose this for joy" or "I like this because it means peace for all the world" or "This one has such a bright colour to cheer our family", etc. NOTE: There are, in some regions of Australia, Christmas Shops that stay open all year round. If it becomes a yearly event to dress the tree together, family members could be on the look-out for a meaningful decoration well ahead of time!

We Go

When all have finished, the parent continues:

Parent: We now ask God for a special blessing for all who are preparing to celebrate Christmas this year. Let us bow our heads ... (pause) ... May God bless all the families who gather this Christmas with generous hearts and joyous spirits.

All: Amen.

Parent: May families who are separated be blessed with peace and forgiveness.

All: Amen.

Parent: May those who have no families find sharing and love at the table of friends.

All: Amen.

Parent: May almighty God bless us in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

If this is a singing family, all may choose to sing a carol. If not, the parent simply closes the ritual by saying:

Parent: Now that our tree is ready, we turn on the lights to show that Christ is the true Light of the world – the light of love that shines in our hearts.

The lights are switched on ...

Parent: Let us go in the love of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

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Assessment for Success

As Educators we assess our students in a variety of ways. The following are ways in which we use Formative assessment to know where our students are and where they need to be.

INVOLVE LEARNERS IN THE PROCESS

We:

- ask them to name their learning goal and tell us how they know they have met it.
- help students form habits in documenting their work, and then teach them how to self-assess.
- invite students to plot their own data, investigate the findings, and speculate the ways that will promote further successful learning.
- require students to reflect before, during, and after learning.

BY BECOMING VISIBLE LEARNERS

We:

- define the learning intentions.
- determine where learners will attend to the target (success criteria) most explicitly during the learning experience.
- consider how students might make the learning relevant to this target visible, and invite them to do so.
- document this learning using print, audio, and visual recordings.
- study the data gathered, looking for patterns for future success.
- use the ideas that emerge to inform our feedback, our own learning, and theirs' as well.

When we're able to assess without disrupting learning and when the learners themselves are part of every phase of the assessment process, the results can be truly amazing.

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

Michael Mifsud

SPORTS NEWS

2017 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

Currently the WINTER Sports of AFL, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, NETBALL, RUGBY LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION & TOUCH FOOTBALL are open and registrations close on Friday 3rd February as these trials will be held in early 2017.

All SUMMER sport registrations are closed.

Any Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2017 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One/Two in 2017.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is **strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2017 be invited to attend.**

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Football (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), & Touch(B&G).

For the sports of Diving & Golf nominations are through the CSSS website.

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2017 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST be approved by the child's school**. In order for the child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of the school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. **All fields and especially "Representative Experience" MUST be completed.**

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

Kind Regards,

Margaret

Primary Sport Teaching Educator
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta
Aengus Kavanagh Centre
59 Railway Street, Mt Druitt 2770
PO Box 215 Rooty Hill NSW 2766
T 9677 4314
M 0408 278 918
E mthornton@parra.catholic.edu.au
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F www.facebook.com/primarysportparradio

2017 Diocesan School Fees

21 November 2016

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the 2017 Diocesan school fees schedule which includes a modest 3.0% increase on the fees from 2016. Every effort has been made to keep the fee increase to a minimum and I am pleased to report that the increase is **less than** the 3.3% education CPI increase for the same period.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 3.0% increase to ensure we have consistency across our Diocese. School-based fees cover the costs of important things such as technology and school administration.

I appreciate that from time to time, some families might experience financial challenges. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to remind you that confidential fee support is available through

- discounts for families with multiple siblings in our schools
- flexible payment plans
- hardship concession policies for families in need
- the Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- the Byawalla Co-contribution Scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Tuition Fees - 2017

The 2017 diocesan tuition fees are outlined below:

ANNUAL FEES	No charge for 4th+ children	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$1,131	\$849	\$567
	Years 1 – 6	\$1,461	\$1,095	\$732
	Years 7 – 8	\$2,028	\$1,521	\$1,014
Secondary	Years 9 – 10	\$2,250	\$1,689	\$1,125
	Years 11 – 12	\$2,874	\$2,157	\$1,437

The 2017 term rate for each of the first three terms is outlined below:

TERM FEES	Charged in Terms 1, 2 & 3	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$377	\$283	\$189
	Years 1 – 6	\$487	\$365	\$244
	Years 7 – 8	\$676	\$507	\$338
Secondary	Years 9 – 10	\$750	\$563	\$375
	Years 11 – 12	\$958	\$719	\$479

Diocesan Building Levy - 2017

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas, and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. This levy has replaced the various building levies that parents previously paid to school building funds (managed by either parishes or schools). **The levy for 2017 is \$756 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$252 payable in Terms 1, 2 and 3.**

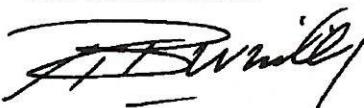
Annual Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents - 2017

The Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents for 2017 **is \$1,869 per student, payable in three equal instalments of \$623 in Terms 1, 2 and 3.** The fee applies to new students on the following visa numbers: 173, 401, 402, 411, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 456, 457, 459, 462, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 884, 944, 956, 976 and 977 including where any of these are the preceding visas for families on bridging visas 010 to 090.

Families charged this fee in 2016 will continue to be charged on a *per family* basis to the eldest student whilst the family has continuous current students.

Thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education. Please be assured that we will continue to provide exciting learning experiences for them within our Catholic faith environment.

With warmest wishes



Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Parramatta of Diocese

GENERAL NEWS



GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Gingerbread houses have now arrived. If you haven't collected them yet, please collect them from the office asap.



UNIFORM SALE

On Monday evening 5th December at our Christmas Carols Evening 2nd hand uniforms will be on sale for \$2 each. Take the opportunity to buy that spare shirt, jumper, jacket or shorts etc.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

15% OFF

Do you need to purchase new uniform items from Lowes? Call in to the Office and we will give you a 15% off voucher that can be used on all schoolwear purchases up until 31st December. To use online, please enter the code: **15SCHODS** at the checkout to receive the discount.



COMMUNITY NEWS

SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER - WOMEN'S REFLECTION DAY - ADVENT - A SEASON OF HOPE

Presenter: Sr Mary Louise Walsh

Cost: \$25 includes morning and afternoon tea. BYO Lunch.

Where: Family Hall, Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Time: 9.30 am to 3 pm

Bookings: info@schoenstatt.org.au or Phone: 4773 8338

RSVP: 21st November.

SUNDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER - ADVENT JOURNEY FOR YOUNG ADULTS - GUIDED MEDITATIVE BUSH WALK-DINNER-PRAYER & ADORATION.

Cost \$40 including dinner and materials-wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for bush walking.

Where: Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Time 3 pm to 9 pm

Registration and further information: Sr M Julie, juliebrcar@gmail.com or call 0408 738 334

RSVP: 24th November.

SATURDAY, 17TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE SHRINE

The Schoenstatt Sisters would like to invite you to join them for an evening of carol singing at the Shrine.

Please bring a blanket or chairs and some snacks if you wish. Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels and shepherds. You are welcome to enjoy a picnic dinner in the groups before the Carols commence.

Where: Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Time: 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Cost: Free - Everybody Welcome.

"CHRISTMAS AT THE SHRINE"

Fun for the whole family with a Christmas Carol Sing Along, Blessing of the Baby Jesus, Sausage Sizzle, Face Painting , Christmas Craft Booth , Soccer Fun and Games, Christmas Raffle, Christmas Tea and a visit from Santa Claus

Saturday, 3rd December, 2016

10.00am to 1.00pm

The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents

8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville, NSW

Please park at the Our Lady of the Rosary car park (8 Diana Av.) and walk next door to the Shrine.



This summer get active with cricket!

Cricket is Australia's fastest growing sport. It gives girls and boys of all ages and abilities the chance to get active, develop skills and have fun. This summer why don't you register your child at their local MILO T20 Blast Centre. Find out where you can play locally here: www.playcricket.com.au

Mary MacKillop Place, 7 Mount St, North Sydney

SUMMER HOLIDAYS & BEYOND AT THE MUSEUM

Tel 02 89124878 mackillop@sosj.org.au
marymackillopplace.org.au

**ROOM TO CREATE...
...GO WILD**

Opening 16 December 2016