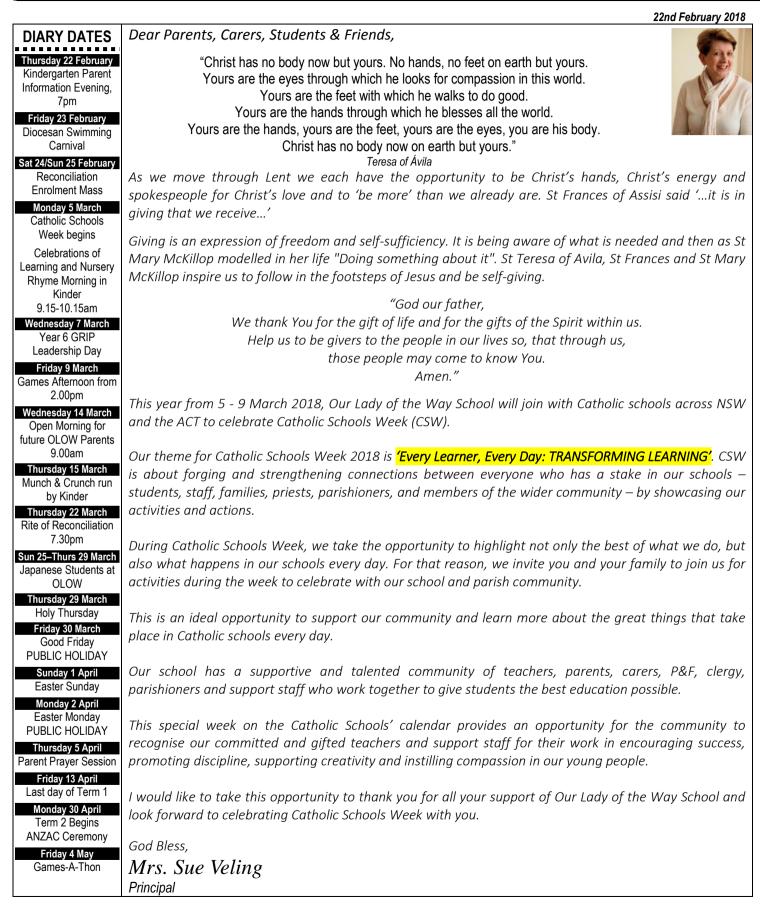




MASS TIMES: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am. All welcome!



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

17 Troy Street, Emu Plains 2750 Phone: 4777 7200, Email: <u>OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>, Web: www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au/ "To act justly, To love tenderly and To walk humbly with our God"

OUR LADY OF THE WAY MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of the Way is a Catholic community in which children, teachers and parents nurture a sense of personal worth as they work together in a safe, happy, challenging and faith-centred learning environment.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 1 WEEKS 2 & 3



Rowan Astridge, Flynn Weber, Harper Watson, Ella Hirsh, Roman Belcastro, Koby-Lee Edwards, Iven So, Oliver MacLennan, Ashton Clark, Drae Funnell, Lucas McClenahan, Zac Levy, Cooper Hartstonge, Sophie Jones, Isabelle Moran, Harrison Armour, Daisy Andersen, Jessica Craig, Katelyn King, Henry Hurst, Lorcan Byrne, Charley Whalan, Ruby Coghlan, Luke Wilding, Ava Dyrka, Sarah Fenning, Jetta Grady, Thomas Sheen, Olivia Eekman, Dylan McDonald, Eva Curry, Abby Calleja, Mikayla Blazek, Eli Downey, Hayley Burton, Natalie Burke, Alex Hayward, Evan Hotz, Ella Reid, Blade Funnell, Ava Eekman, Harry Lewandowski, Bailey Houlihan, Henry Starr, Tracy So.

SCHOOL FEES

The school fee statements for Term 1, 2018 were mailed out on Monday 19 February. **The due date for payment is on or before Wednesday 21 March 2018**. If you have not received your statement by Monday 26 February, please contact me on 4777 7200 to arrange for a copy to be sent home.

The Flexible Payment Plan will again be offered as an option for the payment of 2018 fees. Parents can complete the form online or by post. The necessary information required to take up this convenient payment alternative will be provided with Fee Statement 1. Please note that if you wish to be included in the Flexible Payment Plan option, all paperwork needs to be returned to Catholic Education Office, Parramatta no later than **9 March 2018**.

The Catholic Education Office is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with the school Principal to discuss payment options. Your situation will be treated with care and confidentiality and an appropriate arrangement will be made for you. Please note that as part of this process you may be required to complete a Statement of Financial Position so that the school is able to conduct an accurate assessment of your current financial situation. Please be assured of **complete confidentiality** with regards to any information you are asked to provide.

Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made regarding the payment of your account it will be assumed that full payment will be made on or before the due date. Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued". Outstanding accounts will be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office for actioning.

A reminder to all families that a term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing MUST be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term and where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit will be calculated. Where a term's notice has not been given to the Principal the terms school fees will be charged for your child/children.

EXPLANATION OF SCHOOL FEES

TYPE OF FEE		COMMENT
Diocesan Fee	Per child per year	Amount determined annually by CEDP – 3 instalments – Term 1, Term 2, Term 3
School Resource Fee	Per child per year	Covers the cost of learning resources used during the year
Building Levy	Per family per year	Amount determined annually by CEDP – 3 instalments – Term 1, Term 2, Term 3
School Cleaning Fee	Per family per year	3 instalments – Term 1, Term 2, Term 3
School Activities Fee	Per child per year	Covers the cost of most incursion & excursion during the year - 3 instalments – Term 1, Term 2, Term 3 (excludes Yr 5 & Yr 6 overnight camps)
Year 5 Overnight Camp 24 th - 26 th October	\$297 per child	3 instalments – Term 1, Term 2, Term 3
Year 6 Canberra Trip 10 th – 11 th May	\$240 per child	Charged in Term 1

If you need to discuss any issues, or have any questions, regarding the school fees, please contact me by phone on 4777 7200 or by email <u>olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>.

School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, cash, EFTPOS, credit card or cheque.

Pascale Vion

Senior Finance Officer

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT FOR KINDERGARTEN

A meeting for Kindergarten parents will take place tonight (Thursday) at 7pm in the Kindergarten classrooms. This meeting will fill parents in on the learning, routines and every day running of Kinder. We encourage you to come along and join us, even if you have attended in the past.



Our Lady of the Way CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK PRAYER

As part of our Monday Assembly, our school captains will lead us in prayer as we celebrate Catholic School Week. Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate and give thanks for Catholic Schools, especially our own school *Our Lady of the Way*. It is a time to give thanks for the wonderful learning and teaching that takes place each day in every classroom. In our prayer, we acknowledge and thank all who work together in the service of Catholic Education.

Our Lady of the Way CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING

As part of Catholic Schools Week, on Monday 5th March the classroom doors will be thrown open for Celebrations of Learning between 9:15-10:15am. This will be a time for the children to reflect upon their learning and achievements for the term and share it with their family and friends. The Celebrations of Learning will be an interactive time for you to join in with the learning. Come and be an active participant in a 21st Century classroom!

On Monday, Kindergarten celebrates Nursery Rhyme Morning were students dress up as their favourite Nursery Rhyme character.

Our Lady of the Way CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK GAMES AFTERNOON

On Friday 9th March between 2-2:45pm there will be a games afternoon. The OLOW community is welcome to join in the fun. The games may come in the form such as board games, sporting games, Maths games etc.

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2018

In Term 1 there will be no additional pupil free days. In Term 2 the Pupil Free Day will be on **Friday 6th July**. Staff will have their Religious Education Formation Day. In Term 3 the Pupil Free Day will be on **Friday 28th September**. The staff will be completing their CRP and First Aid training.

SKOOLBAG

Skoolbag is an app that can be downloaded to your phone as a form of communication with the school. It is available from iTunes and Google Play. Just search for OLOW Emu Plains and you will see our school crest.

SOCIAL MEDIA (Facebook, Instagram etc.)

With the growing use of Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites, it is essential to remind parents that photos of school students/events cannot be placed on personal pages or sites. This is to ensure that privacy and child protection practices are not breeched.

Parents are also reminded that in keeping with our Catholic faith and respecting the dignity of each person, it is not appropriate to make comment on other parents, children or staff on **any** social media sites.

Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains OPEN MORNING FOR NEW PARENTS

A dedicated OPEN MORNING for prospective parents and their children will take place at OLOW on Wednesday 14th March between 9:00-10:30am. Come along, tour the school and visit our learning spaces. Morning tea will be provided for parents and pre-schoolers. If you are aware of any families wishing to enrol their children, please invite them to come along.

The enrolment period for Kindergarten 2019 will begin formally on Monday 26th February and finish on Friday 25th May. If you have a child of school age or know of someone who does, please download a form from our website or visit the school office and ask for an enrolment form.

NUMERACY NOOK

Engaging with Maths

As we begin a new school year as parents and teachers it is important that we encourage our children to do their best with every learning opportunity. Sometimes we hear children and adults alike say, "I am not good at Maths!" or "Maths is too hard!" As a community we can help turn this around.

The following is an excerpt from an article, titled "Engaging Maths" which addresses four ways, in which build parents can help success in Maths. This is the link to the full article: https://engagingmaths.com/2018/01/15/tips-for-parents-to-help-kids-succeed-at-maths

1. Be positive about Maths! Be conscious of the way you talk about Maths. Acknowledge that it can be difficult at times but using words such as "Let's work it out" or "How we can we solve this puzzle?" will go a long way to demonstrating that perseverance and investigation is needed.

2. Maintain a positive relationship between school and teachers. If possible attend parent forums about Maths, discuss issues with the teacher if your child is anxious or having difficulty. Our job is to assist children reach their full potential and working together on an issue is the best way forward!

3. Know what your child is learning. At Our Lady of the Way, we follow the mandated Maths curriculum and understand that for children to be proficient in using their Maths knowledge effectively they require an understanding about how numbers work. Rote learning alone does not equip students to be flexible and adaptable when Mathematical problems are presented. The curriculum is available for all parents.

4. Make Maths a part of your everyday activities. There is Maths in nearly everything we do from working out time, to cooking, construction projects and tallying the cost of shopping. Look for the opportunities to bring Maths into the everyday conversations between you and your children. We look forward to engaging with Maths each day at Our Lady of the Way and discovering where our journey may lead as we solve problems and learn strategies to assist our learning.

OLOW STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2018 -EVERY LEARNER-EVERY DAY-

At *Our Lady of the Way*, we continue to promote student attendance. Thank you to our parents for the support and value that you place on your child being at school each day. Regular school attendance plays a critical role in ensuring that every student has access to the same learning opportunities. When students are not at school, are late to school or leave school early, they are missing out on so much that can impact on their future learning.

School Name		School Attendance Level %
Our Lady of The Way Primary Emu Plains		91.0%
Scholastic Year		Sch Yr Attendance Level %
K		• 96.2%
01		• 92.9%
02		• 91.4%
03		• 87.2%
04		98.1%
05		e 88. 9 %
06		e 83.1%

As you can see our school average this week is 91%, which exceeds our target of 90%. Congratulations to all the grades who have shown excellent attendance. We love seeing you at school and look forward to a healthy year where attendance is a priority for every family.

Absence Explanation Note: If your child is away from school, a note explaining their absence is required within 7 days of returning to school. If no note is received the absence is recorded as 'unexplained'. Parents can use the Skoolbag app to email an absence note to school.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE



It is with much sadness that we announce that Mrs Christine Small passed away last week. Christine was the Finance Secretary at OLOW for over 30 years. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family. May she rest in peace

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The 2018 school photos are scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 30th May (not June)**. This year the children will wear their winter uniforms. Pre-paid envelopes will be sent home in Term 2.

ZONE SWIMMING TEAM RESULTS

Congratulations to all our wonderful students who participated in the Zone Swimming Carnival on Tuesday. We had some wonderful personal bests and fantastic results overall... not to mention great sportsmanship and positive behaviour. Thank you to all the parents and relatives that were present on the day and to Mrs Cremen for being the team manager.

We have 18 students who have made it through to the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday at Blacktown Swimming Pool: Milayna Brace, Georgia Cashel, Samuel Cashel, Eden Chapman, Holly Clark, James Cremen, Akeda Deacon-Chilmaid, Jade Elford, Lucienne Heffernan, Oliver Herps, Archie King, Taylor Latham, Holly Penny, Carter Pereira, Marshall Pereira, Hakopa Raukawa, Tiare Raukawa, Tianna Stansfield, Jake Thompson

Congratulations to Lucienne Heffernan and Jade Elford who were crowned Age Champions and also to Tiara Raukawa who was Age Champion runner up.







FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mindfulness

It's a busy world in which we live. As adults, we constantly have many things on the go and this is also reflected in the lives of our children. Information is at our fingertips and often being presented to us in various forms, sometimes at the same time. But in the rush of trying to get everything done, are we at risk of never being present IN the moment, and in doing so, are we losing the connection with what we are doing and the people we are with?



According to Harvard Health, mindfulness "is the practice of purposely focussing your attention on the present moment - and accepting it without judgement." Although mindfulness and meditation is a technique rooted in many religions, it is now being examined scientifically and is noted as a key to happiness.

Many of our classes have introduced mindfulness techniques and/or meditation in to their weekly routines. They are often used following a break to help children refocus from the playground to the learning environment. Mindfulness and meditation also has benefits for those who suffer from anxiety of an overactive mind and body, helping to centre oneself and become more present in the moment.

Key Mindfulness messages:

- Mindfulness is about tuning in (and paying attention) not about tuning out.
- Mindfulness helps to quieten the mind and clear the mind.
- You can train your mind to be more mindful and pay more attention.
- We are happiest when we are in the present moment.
- What we practice is what we become good at.

If you're looking for a great app to get started with mindfulness, I would recommend 'Smiling Mind'. There are different age brackets to suit the whole family.

Emma Mizzi

Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Opening School Mass:



Thank you to the parents and friends who joined us at our Opening School Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year and welcome our new staff and students. We shared a beautiful liturgy with many of our students being involved. There were many prayerful moments - the highlight for me being the Year 5 offering a blessing to all the new members of our school community. It brought tears to my eyes!









Project Compassion:

Meet some of the special people who have, in partnership with Caritas, have had life-changing experiences through Project Compassion:



Meet Janaki...a young entrepreneur from Nepal, who has turned her life around. Growing up in a world of poverty and disadvantage, coupled with a forced marriage at the age of 12, she was in a very vulnerable position. Even more so when her husband died just two years into their marriage. She's now running her own successful sewing business and has become an inspirational community leader.

Rattanak is a skilled young barber, living an independent life in rural Cambodia. But it wasn't always that way. As a child he contracted polio and also became deaf. Like many people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Rattanak faced isolation at home, with a lack of opportunity to escape poverty...Having emerged from his isolated world at home, Rattanak is now running a successful business, supporting himself and his wife...and now a baby.



Lent is a special time for us to spend more time in prayer, make changes in our lives and give to the poor. We encourage the children to support Project Compassion and play a part in helping to change the lives of people like Janaki and Rattanak.



Parish Sacramental Program:

For those of you who are presenting your children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a reminder of important dates are below:

Reconciliation Sacramental Program				
Enrolment Mass	Saturday Sunday	February 24 February 25	6:00pm 8:00am & 9:30am	
Lessons	Week 1 - Monday Week 2 - Monday	March 5 March 12		
Rite of Reconciliation Liturgy	Thursday	March 22	7:30pm	

Children in Year 3 are beginning to look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Religious Education program.

Our Eucharist and Confirmation Sacramental Programs are as follows:

Eucharist Sacramental Program						
Parent Information Evenings	Wednesday Thursday	May 9 May 10	7:30pm 7:30pm			
Enrolment Mass	Saturday Sunday	May 12 May 13	6:00pm 8:00am & 9:30am			
Lessons	Week 1 - Monday Week 2 - Monday Week 3 - Monday	May 21 May 28 June 4				
Rehearsal Group 1	Wednesday	June 20	7:30pm			
Mass Group 1	Sunday	June 24	11:30am			
Rehearsal Group 2	Wednesday	June 27	7:30pm			
Mass Group 2	Sunday	July 1	11:30am			

Confirmation Sacramental Program					
Parent Information Evenings	Wednesday Thursday	August 1 August 2	7:30pm 7:30pm		
Enrolment Mass	Saturday Sunday	August 11 August 12	6:00pm 8:00am & 9:30am		
Lessons	Week 1 - Monday Week 2 - Monday Week 3 - Monday	August 20 August 27 September 3			
Rehearsal	Monday	September 17	7:30pm		
Rite of Confirmation Mass	Wednesday	September 19	7:30pm		

LEARNING NEWS

GOOGLE CLASSROOMS

As the students at Our Lady of the Way begin moving into the primary, and particularly upper primary grades (Years 5 & 6), you will find that they will start to collaborate with their teachers and classmates using technology. This is a great way for the students to begin preparation for their secondary studies where they will begin receiving assignments and submitting learning tasks online.

Your child's teacher may set up a Google Classroom for your child's class to join. Through this online classroom, teachers will set tasks, provide feedback and answer any questions that your child may have when they can't speak with a teacher face to face.

As a parent, you can access your child's Google Classrooms, using their login details, to keep up to date with what learning tasks they are working on. It is a great opportunity for your child to share their learning, celebrate success and support future learning. Stage 3 parents are also invited to become a 'guardian'. This will provide you with an email summarising information about your child's classes and work. Another opportunity to build home and school relationships and for parents to be up-to-date with their child's school work.

Please ask your child if they are using Google Classrooms yet or see your child's classroom teacher should you have any further questions.

JAPANESE NEWS





Host Families for Japanese Students

It is with excitement that we await the arrival of 20 Japanese students aged 13-15 from Nagasaki Japan to visit our school. The students are on a trip to Australia, and as part of this trip, will work at our school. The students arrive on Sunday 25th March and depart on Friday 30th March.

A big thankyou to the 14 host families that have already committed to providing accommodation for these students. Your details have now been passed on to VS Oceania which is the company that is organising the visit, and a representative will be contacting you shortly.

We still require a further 6 families to assist. If you are interested, please contact the office by Monday 26th February.

The Japanese students will be at OLOW for 3 days, having English lessons in the morning and participating in classes with our Stage 3 OLOW students in the afternoon. The other days will be excursions for the Japanese students leaving from OLOW.

With thanks for your support, *Kate Filan-Schafer*





Google Classroom

GENERAL NEWS

NOTES THAT HAVE BEEN SENT HOME IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS

- 1. Expressions of Interest for Japanese Exchange Students Accommodation
- 2. Acceptable Use of Information Technologies Policy & Agreement
- 3. Letter from Most Reverend Vincent Long OFM Conv.
- 4. Every Learner Every Day Improving Attendance Together (Kindergarten)
- 5. 2018 Parent Handbook
- 6. Nursery Rhyme Morning (Kindergarten)
- 7. Learning Overview for all grades
- 8. Welcome to Year One Learning

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Emu Plains St Vincent de Paul group would like to thank the Our Lady of the Way school community for its generous contributions to last year's Christmas hampers.

We were able to provide assistance to forty six families and individuals, giving food and toys that brightened up their Christmas.

Many thanks to the students and teachers for your generosity.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

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

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

Examples of volunteer workers in a school include:

* Music Helpers * Readin

* Library Helpers

- * Reading Helpers * Excursion Helpers
- * Maths Helpers
- * Classroom General Helpers
- * Computer Tutors * Sports Carnival Helpers

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

RACE FOR GRACE

Mrs Casey (Declan -Yr 3 and Oliver -Yr 1) alongside her amazing team at the Grace Ward have put together this amazing fundraiser to help many new born children all over NSW, ACT and surrounding Islands who need lifesaving surgery.

Miss Reynolds and her family as well as many other families are gearing up to raise many for the Grace Ward at Westmead Children's hospital, this is something that is very close to our hearts. We will be racing for Grace, as the Grace Ward at Westmead Hospital is looking at raising money for much needed resources including special coya for new borns who need surgery. These cots cost \$10,000 each and we would love any contributions either big or small to help raise much-needed money for the Grace ward. Go Team Molly!

https://raceforgrace2018.gofundraise.com.au/page/KirstyMaree







YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CatholicCare Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether or not you are a parent. First Gathering for the Year will be held on Tuesday 20th February.

Please note new venue: 13 Buller St, North Parramatta. Time: 7pm – 9pm Cost: \$5.00. Registration: Call Rita Ph. 8843 2530 or Email: <u>soloparentservices@ccss.org.au</u>

STEPPING BEYOND

This Support run by CatholicCare Solo Parent Services is held on the last Tuesday of each month for men and women who are separated or divorce. At the February meeting we will be speaking about "Identifying Challenging Emotions and strategies for dealing with them."

Date: 27th February Venue: 13 Buller St, North Parramatta Time: 7pm – 9pm. Cost: \$5.00. Registration Essential: Call Rita Ph. 8843 2530 or email <u>soloparentservices@ccss.org.au</u>