

DIARY DATES

Friday 25 May DISCO
Wednesday 30 May School Photo Day Winter Uniforms
Wednesday 6 June Year 4 Reconciliation 10.00am
Thursday 7 June Year 3 Reconciliation 10.00am
Friday 8 June Yrs 1 & 6 to Parish Mass
Monday 11 June PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Wednesday 13 June Kinder & Yr 5 to Parish Mass Parent Meeting ICT in the Classroom 6.00pm P & F Meeting, 7pm
Monday 18 June Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 20th June Reports sent home Eucharist Rehearsal, Group 1
Sunday 24 June First Holy Communion Mass, Group 1
Mon 25 June-Thurs 5 July Parent/Teacher/ Student Led Conferences
Wednesday 27 June Eucharist Rehearsal Group 2, 7.30pm
Sunday 1 July First Holy Communion Mass, Group 2
Thursday 5 July Last day for students
Friday 6 July PUPIL FREE DAY
Monday 23 July Term 2 begins
Wednesday 1 August Confirmation Parent Information Meeting 7.30pm
Thursday 2 August Confirmation Parent Information Meeting 7.30pm (repeat)

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

Parents have been appointed by God himself as the first and principal educators of their children
(Pope John Paul 11)



A few of years ago, a university study asked a randomly selected number of parents to respond to the question, "What does it mean to be a parent?" Here are extracts from three responses:

"Responsibility for teaching about love and caring for others, responsibility for keeping them safe and secure so their personalities can develop in a healthy way."

"Something very special, close and loving; it means an enormous responsibility, it changes your life-course; once you start being a parent, it's an ongoing thing with worries and anxieties attached."

"It's the most important job you'll ever have to do in your life. The social ramifications of parenting are so important, because the responsibility is yours to bring happy, well-adjusted people into adulthood ... and the joy and despair are often only seconds apart."

It can be helpful, on occasion, to think about our role as parents, for it is truly a privilege to have given life to a child and have accepted the responsibility, great though it is, of nurturing and providing for that child through those developmental years.

As parents, we are the source of our child's affirmation. Children will believe what the people they love and trust believe, including how they feel about school and their own ability to learn. So, after praise and encouragement, encourage perseverance. A warm, supportive home atmosphere will influence our child's confidence and motivation to become a successful learner.

If education is valued in the home and seen as life-enhancing, then children will view their schooling as being positive for them and worth investing their energies in.

At Our Lady of the Way School, we have teachers who are professionals and who serve to help you nurture your child's love of learning. Parents and teachers working in collaboration is a powerful combination that can present education as a happy and fulfilling experience for children.

Finally, as a Catholic school, it is appropriate that we gather together in prayer to celebrate our feast day - **Our Lady Help of Christians** on Thursday 24th May with Mass at 9:15am. You are welcome to join us, as we celebrate Our Lady's love, care and help for all. Students will receive a special treat and work through activities that focus on Mary as a model helper of all.

May God bless you with patience and grant you tenderness to care for your families and yourselves with great joy. May you continue to feel the loving embrace of our God.

God Bless,
Mrs Sue Veling
Principal



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 2 WEEKS 2 & 3



Patrick Bourke, Orlando Pontello, Thomas Walker, Casey Crambrook, Eliza Herps, Tyler Gahagan, Hayley Edwards, Hugo So, Kosta Bouletos, Dylan Andersen, Vera Sen, Daniel Partlett, Lara Dwyer, Jahkalian Pendreigh, Harry Fisher, Elijah Bradley-Labra, Aidan Callaghan, Cassidy Southall, Grace Foster, Taylah Cowley, Mason Eekman, Georgia Cashel, Tyler Clifford, Kristian Liras, Vanessa Bogaerts, Ruby Neeves, Rose Zeidan, George Bouletos, Oliver Casey, Harper Watson, Beau Edmonds, Olivia Eekman, Declan Keigan, Ashley Hughes, Bailey Stonehouse, Krystal Trigg, Mya Kelty, Marlie Robertson, Isabel Gribble, Eden Chapman, Michael Gardiner, Luke Durham, Ellie Gillett-Moore, Isabella Bradley-Labra, Sebastian Hayward, Abbey Flanagan, Cadence Biggar, Tracy So, Rory Muller.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Andrew's family - Mrs Kate Andrews (P&F treasurer) and her family, Abigail in Year 4 and Jason in Year 6, following the recent passing of Kate's father, Mr Lew Zammit. Lew was an enthusiastic volunteer at OLOW school for many years and worked with lots of our students teaching Multi-Lit and Maths. He also celebrated many liturgies with the school as an Acolyte. May he rest in peace. The funeral mass for Lew will be held at OLOW church on Thursday 31st May at 10:30am.

PLEASE TELL THEM FROM ME (TTFM) PARTNERS IN LEARNING SURVEY

Over the next two weeks we will be inviting Stage 3 students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The survey is an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process. A letter has been sent to parents this week with a link to the URL, which will give you access to the survey. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We encourage all families to take the opportunity to provide this very valuable feedback to our school.

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP

Skoolbag is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone, iPad and computer as a form of communication with the school. Skoolbag IS NOT a social media app. It is available from iTunes and Google Play. Just search for OLOW Emu Plains and you will see our school crest. All school notes and newsletters are updated onto this site and you will receive an alert when something is uploaded or there is an important or urgent announcement.

SCHOOL OPAL TAP CAMPAIGN TERM 2

This term, bus inspectors will be checking to ensure students are using their Opal cards when boarding the school buses. Students that do not present a valid Opal card will be asked to pay a fare. Failure to produce a valid Opal card or bus fare will result in the Inspector recording the student's name. All students need to produce a •School Opal card •Child/Youth Opal card •Or pay a fare to travel on our buses.

PENTECOST

Pentecost always falls fifty days after Easter. It celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Virgin Mary. It is often called the 'the birthday of the Church'.

The disciples of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that is what Jesus told them would happen. Just before He was taken up to heaven he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they would be his witnesses in the whole world (Acts 1:8).

The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were singing. Next, they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. When the tongues of fire came they were filled with the Holy Spirit and the disciples began speaking in different languages.



The main message for the disciples was to go out and spread the Good News. That is our mission today as Catholics. **We must spread the Good News to all we meet.** Let others know about our faith, do not be afraid to let everyone know that we follow Christ.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2019 KINDERGARTEN

Enrolment packs are available to those families who intend to enrol any siblings of students already at Our Lady of the Way for Kindergarten in 2019. Please collect these packs from the office and return as soon as possible as this information will assist us in preparing for next year's intake of students. **Interviews have already commenced.**

ATTENDANCE - 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	88.8%
Scholastic Year	Sch Yr Attendance Level %
K	94.3%
01	83.8%
02	91.4%
03	85.2%
04	96.0%
05	76.9%
06	93.2%

Our school average this week is **88.8%**, which is **still below** the CEDP target of 90%. **Congratulations to Kindergarten, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 who display excellent attendance.** We love seeing all our students at school!

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.

SCHOOL PHOTOS NEXT WEEK

As previously advised, the school photographer will be at school on **Wednesday 30th May**. All photo envelopes need to be returned to their class teacher **prior** to photo day. A schedule will be placed on Facebook and Skoolbag. All students will be photographed in their **winter uniform**. Year 6 will have two photos – one in their winter uniform and a graduation photo in their Year 6 sports shirts.

THE COLLECTION ZONE AT OLOW IS OPEN.



Our Lady of the Way School has joined forces with the Return & Earn Container Collection at Blacktown and has been asked to participate in the 'Scrap for Schools' Program.

This means the school is **a drop off and pick up point for recyclables**. The school has an account with the Blacktown collection point and all funds generated from recyclables collected from our school or dropped off by families at their facilities, will be paid into our account.

If the bottle/carton has 10c refund written on the label, please deposit it in our white bags.

MACKILLOP CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Jade, Edward, Sienna G, Jacob, Zoe and Tiare who have made it into the MacKillop Cross Country Team and will compete on June 15th.

P&F SCHOOL DISCO

This Friday, 25th May the school disco is being held in the hall. Entry Fee is \$5 which includes unlimited water. Fluoro bands will be on sale.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2: 5:30-6:30pm

Years 3, 4, 5, 6: 7-8pm

Parents are asked to drop off their child and pick them up at the end of the event. If you wish to help out, please contact the P&F via Kiery Pascoe. All volunteers must have completed the compulsory volunteer CEDP training. Please contact the school office for more information.

NATIONAL CAPITAL EXCURSION.

Our Year 6 students recently attended an educational tour of the National Capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational programs focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributes \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution is being paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

The students visited venues such as the War Memorial, Parliament House, Old Parliament House and the National Electoral Education Centre. This excursion was a rewarding experience for all students.

Miss Reynolds said, "We're here at Canberra, but first we're going to the War Memorial. I got my wallet and my camera and I was ready. I took a lot of pictures there and I got to make a cross. Then we went to see the eternal flame, the names of people who had fought in WW2 and WW1 and also the unknown soldier tomb.

Jack Sykes

I had an absolutely fantastic time and am very grateful that I got the opportunity to experience those amazing trips and tours and over all learn about how our government works and what they have a responsibility to do.

The main highlights of my journey were going to the War Memorial and seeing our Australian history come back to life inviting myself and others into a whole new perspective on war and fighting; Going to new Parliament House and seeing our leaders discuss and challenge each other's opinions in Question Time; and finally, going down the slide at Questacon and watching light, water, natural elements, etc turn into fun, exciting and memorable games and activities that have given me a cool experience to remember.

Katelyn King

So we started at school and then left for our three-hour long drive (even that was fun). When we arrived in Canberra we went straight to the War Memorial. It was a sad, happy, interesting, intriguing place and so much more. It was a place to reflect and remember all of those who have and who are fighting for what's right. We then departed from the War Memorial to Parliament House. After going through security we set off for role play and that was something awesome. In role play we acted out the Senate and our question was 'All schools should spend three hours a week at school doing team sports'. I was the leader of the Opposition. Shortly after we made our way to Question Time. It started off awesome but you could tell the government were trying to avoid all the different questions the opposition party threw at them.

All in all this camp was amazing, outstanding and spectacular. It was an awesome, once in a lifetime experience.

Madeline Wade

My favourite part of Canberra was Old Parliament house. I liked it because we got to see all the old rooms and objects. For example, the coat that was worn by the Prime Minister for the opening of Old Parliament house. I also liked how they have the interactive screens that you could learn about things that you are interested in.

Overall Canberra was an amazing experience that I will remember forever.

Connor Lohan

If someone asked me to describe how my trip at Canberra was in one word, I wouldn't be able to do so. I wouldn't have a simple description or say it was just 'good'. I would have a whole story packed with amazing memories and facts that will stay with me forever. If I had a whole description of the trip and what I liked it would be two times the size of the newsletter so I will just write about my overall favourite parts.

Firstly, in all honesty my favourite part was definitely the time when I was chosen as the 'bossy' President. I can't say I'm proud of that title but I also can't say I hate it! It felt so real sitting in the President chair, looking over all my classmates! I loved all the reasoning and debate about the topic. Talking of the topic, the class learnt that a law before it is made official is called a bill. The bill we were practicing was kids having three hours of team sport each week in school. The Government team won!

After all of the fun and learning I experienced on camp I realised it wouldn't have happened without Miss Reynolds, Mr Chapman, Mrs Veling and Mrs Irvine. So, thank you for the amazing experience, I will never forget!

Georgia Cashel

Canberra was amazing! I cannot thank the teachers enough for their effort and hard work that went into this awesome camp. One of my key highlights was the Australian War Memorial. It was so amazing to see the artwork and some of the uniforms that the soldiers wore during the war. It was cool to find some of our family members names on the honour wall. Did you know that the tomb of the unknown soldier is made out of over 6 million tiles.

Oscar King

We had a tour guide that took us on a tour at the War Memorial and explained everything to us mainly about Gallipoli. When that was finished we headed outside to look at the memorial walls that had all the names of people who died in war. Then there was the most interesting part...The tomb of the unknown soldier.

Seth Fullam

On 10th and 11th May we went to Canberra. Firstly we went to the Australian War Memorial and we had a tour. Then we went over to Parliament House. We went and had a roleplay of the senate and then we watched Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten fight over taxes. Then we went and played on the top of Parliament House...After dinner we went to the AIS. We went into a sports playroom with different sports. At the skeleton run I had the time of 31.67 seconds. I was amazed at myself!

Lucas Woods

A photo with Emma Husar MP for Lindsay



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Feast of Mary Help of Christians:



Today we celebrated the feast of Mary Help of Christians. On this day we also celebrate our school's feast day.

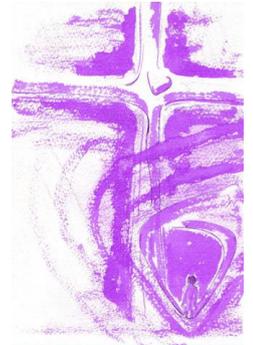
Thank you to the Year 2 children who helped to lead our Mass. Their reading and singing was outstanding! Thank you also to the Year 2 team: Mrs Curry, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Walsh and Mrs Mathison for preparing the children so beautifully.

Throughout the day the children will focus on Mary as a helper and respond through prayers and artwork. We hope to share these with you later.

Feast of the Sacred Heart:

On Friday June 9 our school will celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart 9:15am. You are very welcome to attend the Mass that will be led by the children of Year 4.

Traditionally our school holds the food drive for Penrith Community Kitchen at this time. A note will be sent out soon detailing items that could be sent in.



Parish Sacramental 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

Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

SPORTS NEWS

ATHLETICS FOR SENSORY AND DISABILITIES

On Tuesday Max and Edward participated in the Athletics for Sensory and Disabilities day, where they were able to try a variety of different events from shot put, javelin, to wheelchair races and long jump.

The boys had an absolute blast. It was such a wonderful opportunity for the boys to try all activities in a safe and supported environment. They also engaged in conversations and had fun with new found friends at this event, acknowledging individual goals and achievements of themselves and other children.

Congratulations to both the boys and thank you to Miss Mason for taking them on behalf of OLOW as well as the support from Ms Smythe.



GENERAL NEWS

LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our school captains, Kate, Henry, Charlie and Katelyn who received a leadership acknowledgement certificate from the Mayor of Penrith, Cr John Thain, yesterday at a civic function.



SCHOOL FEES

School fee statements for the second instalment of school fees for 2018 have been mailed out. The due date for payment is on or before Wednesday 6th June 2018. If you have not yet received your statement, please contact me on 4777200 to arrange for a copy to be sent home.

Catholic Education Diocese, Parramatta, 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 either me or the Business Manager to discuss payment options. Your situation will be treated with care and confidentiality and an appropriate payment 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 aware 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 Catholic Education Diocese, Parramatta, for actioning.

If you need to discuss any issues regarding the school fees, please contact me by phone on or by email olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au. School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, cash, Direct Debit, EFTPOS, credit card or cheque.

MILES FAMILY

If you wish to help Ryder Miles, (baby brother of Brodie and Jayden in Year 4 and Bryson in Kinder), please go to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/5jww66o>

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2019 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary, Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900 or 4754 8907

Support the Stroke Foundation – Beard Shave Fundraiser

#fightstroke

The Cullen Family are raising funds for the Stroke Foundation, with Dad, Siv, set to shave his beloved beard off on the 30th May, with the Beard Be Gone campaign.

In 2014, at the age of 39, Suibhne (Siv) suffered a major stroke, as a result of a congenital heart condition. The family benefited greatly from the knowledge and support from the Stroke Foundation and would like to support the research to help prevent, treat and beat stroke.

If you would like to donate, please visit:

<https://give.everydayhero.com/au/beard-be-gone-4>



Did you know

- Strokes can strike anyone, at any age, with 1 in 3 happening to younger people of working age.
- Many of the 55,000 strokes in Australia (this year alone, 1 stroke every 10 minutes) could be prevented.
- Stroke kills more men than prostate cancer, more women than breast cancer and leaves hundreds of thousands of Australians with life-long disabilities.

Recognise **STROKE** Think **F.A.S.T.**



F
Has their
FACE
drooped?



A
Can they lift both
ARMS?



S
Is their
SPEECH
slurred and do they
understand you?



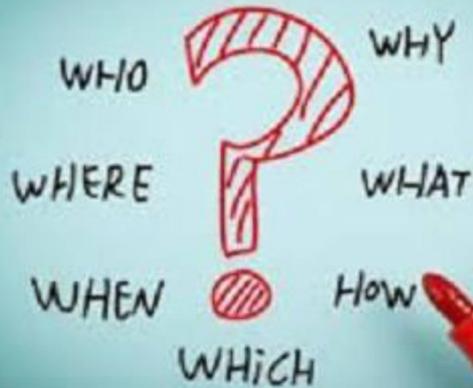
T
Call 000,
TIME
is critical



If you see any of
these symptoms
Act FAST
call 000



Early Career Planning & Transition to Work



The WHY to, the HOW to and the WHAT to do when transitioning out of school and into your future. How to choose the correct electives and all the other questions you have in between.

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 8-12!

Our guest speaker for the evening is:

Dianne Mills

Partnership Manger/Career Coach.

Building Industry, Community, Education partnerships to assist in career transitions

Register FREE now: www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Monday, 4th June 2018

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start (approx. 2 hours)

Term 2 – PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our speaker session

Tea, Coffee and light snacks will be provided and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

Diocesan Assembly Centre (DAC), Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown NSW

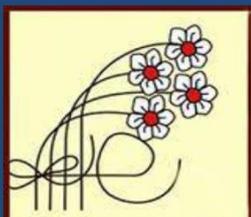
www.prc.catholic.edu.au



@preparra



@preparra



THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SPONSOR

Floral Expressions

For details on the School fundraising program

Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116

