

DIARY DATES

Monday
25 – Fri 29 Nov
K-4 Swimming Lessons

Monday 2 December
Christmas Concert

Wednesday 4 December
Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 11 December
Year 6 Graduation

Wednesday 18 December
Last day of Term 4 for Students

Tuesday 28 January 2020
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Wednesday 29 January 2020
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

MAI Testing

Thursday 30 January 2020
Years 1-6 begin Term 1

Kinder attend 9.30am-12.30pm

Friday 31 January 2020
Kinder attend 8.45am-12.30pm

Dear OLOW Community

I have recently had a number of conversations with parents around the benefits of our learning spaces being “agile spaces” and it was suggested that this might be of interest to all parents. In May 2018, Trinity Grammar School published an article outlining the many benefits of agile spaces. The comments that follow are part of this article.

Agile spaces in contrast to traditional classroom layouts, are designed to be fluid, adjustable and flexible. They are intended to promote classroom discussion and collaboration, improve student engagement and enhance creativity.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) identified seven key aspects of an Innovative Learning Environment, each of which is hampered by the design of traditional classrooms:

1. Considers student-centred learning
2. Considers social learning
3. Considers emotional development
4. Leaves room for individualisation
5. Stretches students
6. Considers assessment for learning
7. Builds horizontal connections



What does an agile learning space look like?

Traditional classroom layouts feature rows of desks all focused on a blackboard or white board at the front of the classroom. They were designed to allow only the person at the front to be in control of learning and limited the types of experiences one could have in the space. Their primary role is to provide a basic shelter for a group of children and an adult.

Today we might expect to see adjustable standing/sitting desks, beanbags, cushions, amphitheatres and breakout spaces. The most significant difference is that you will see learners *moving* around the classroom. These spaces allow the teacher and the student to explore many different types of settings and experiences, sometimes within the same day. It also shifts the teacher’s position from authority of power, to leader of learning.

At OLOW, we are committed to providing dynamic teaching and learning spaces that allow students to learn and perform at their best. As principal of the school, in consultation with staff, we make conscious decisions around the team of teachers who work together in each space. We consider the individual needs of all students in the grade and then select the staff that can complement these needs.

Trinity Grammar cited five benefits of agile spaces for their students and I concur with their report.

1. Design impacts achievement

A growing body of research suggests that the design of a learning space can have a significant effect on student success. For instance, a study by researchers at the University of Salford in England found that classroom design can have a 25 percent impact, either positive or negative, on student achievement over the course of an academic year — with factors such as colour, complexity, flexibility, lighting and student choice having the most influence.

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

2. Collaboration builds social skills

With collaboration a strong focus of adaptive learning spaces, students have greater opportunity to build strong bonds and friendships with their classroom peers. Developing these social skills is vital for preparing them for life after school.

3. Movement promotes engagement

Students need movement. Research suggests that in order for boys in particular, to open up and talk, action-orientated activities such as sport, physical activity and movement are found to have positive results.

4. Greater interaction with teachers

Agile spaces create greater opportunities for students to interact with teachers on a more practical level. Teachers will gain a more thorough understanding of how each student prefers to work and learn and therefore be able to cater for their needs better. In agile spaces, teachers are afforded more opportunities to address these needs compared to traditional spaces. We find at OLOW that if a student is experiencing some difficulty due to anxiety or other concerns, one teacher can spend some one on one time with this child while the other teacher or teachers in the space continue teaching the other students.

5. Caters to individual learning experiences

Not every student is the same. One of the most significant benefits of agile learning spaces is their adaptability. Teachers can modify learning spaces to suit an intended activity. Further, students can select a learning environment that suits them. Some students will be quite happy to sit for long periods, while others will prefer to stand or have the chance to walk around the classroom on occasion. Agile learning spaces also allow children to work at their own pace or in groups – they can accommodate students at all levels.

I hope this article has provided some clarification around why we support agile spaces. I'd love your feedback around this article and I'd like to invite parents to suggest some topics that they would like addressed in future newsletters. Communication and clarity is important to me and I value your input.

(Source of research: 5 BENEFITS OF AGILE LEARNING SPACES FOR BOYS Posted by Trinity Grammar School on May 2, 2018)

Yours in Christ

Donna McFadzean

Principal



Kindergarten enrolments for 2020

Offers of enrolment for Kindergarten 2020 have been sent out and we are in the process of finalising numbers. Ensure your child's place at Our Lady of the Way by completing and returning your

enrolment forms as soon as possible. Once complete, please submit your application to the School Office. Enrolment packs can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website at

<http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>.

There are limited places available in other grades. If you are aware of families wishing to enrol their children, please ask them to contact the school office on 4777 7200.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

OLW CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019

What a wonderful time of year as we begin our preparations for our school Christmas Performance. This year the children will be retelling the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the often-forgotten Innkeeper. He was woken up throughout the night by visitors wanting to meet our Saviour and proceeded to send the visitors to the stable, as there was no room in the inn.

Each grade will retell part of the story through song. Below there is a table that shows the character/s of each grade and the costume they will require. Thank you for your help with preparing your child/ren for the performance. It is going to be a truly wonderful evening, celebrating the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas as a community.

WHAT:

OLW Christmas Performance ~ *Jesus' Christmas Party*

WHEN:

Monday 2nd December starting at 6:30pm
(Children to be in their classroom at 6:10pm)
 The OLOW School Band and Choir will begin at 6:15pm
(these students are asked to meet in the Music room no later than 6pm)

WHERE:

OLW Back Playground (Parents invited to bring a picnic blanket or chair to sit on the grass)

GRADE	CHARACTER	COSTUME
Kindergarten	Farmyard animals in the stable	See note attached for which animal and specific requirements
Year 1	Angels	White Christmas-themed clothing- white T-shirts or white dresses. Accessorise with angel wings/ tinsel/Christmas accessories, if you have them.
Year 2	Mary & Joseph	Mary and Joseph style clothing. Possibilities for Mary: Blue or white dress, optional blue material as a veil. Possibilities for Joseph: Natural coloured clothing, could be a sheet wrapped around with a tie or rope around the waist. Possible tea towel on head.
Year 3	The Star	Yellow T-shirt and plain coloured shorts or skirts. Gold coloured tinsel for wrists and headdress.
Year 4	Shepherds	Shepherds clothes or dark pants/shorts and plain, light coloured top. Plain tea towel or small towel for shepherd headdress.
Year 5	The Wise Men & Women	Plain coloured shirt (students will be advised of their colour on Friday). Denim pants/shorts or skirt. Gold tinsel as a crown.
Year 6	Inn Guests	Plain black and/or white clothing (no brands) - White shirt, black pants or shorts + Plain, single coloured aprons if you have one.

We look forward to seeing you all there. Please extend the invitation to your family and friends.

As this is a school event, it is expected that all students participate and attend. If there are extenuating circumstances, please make contact with Mrs McFadzean.

In partnership,
Emma Mizzi
 Assistant Principal



Plenary 2020

The parents and school staff of Our Lady of the Way Catholic School are encouraged and are most welcome to attend the **Blue Mountains Catholic Community Forum** as part of the **Plenary 2020** process.

This forum is not a repeat of the forums we had last year and early this year but this is a part of the second phase, the listening and discernment phase. We will be using a traditional discernment process in small groups. At the forum we will be considering and discerning the most common responses that made up a large part of the 18,000 responses to the first phase. The object of this forum is to hand on our results to the Plenary Council. Participants will have some choice as to which themes they can reflect upon. The Plenary Council has divided the findings into six overarching themes.

Missionary and Evangelising

Inclusive Participatory and Synodal

Prayerful and Eucharistic

Humble Healing and Merciful

A joyful, hope-filled Servant Community

Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform



The members of the Catholic school community are considered by the Blue Mountains Deanery as key members of the local Catholic community. Therefore, their participation in the discernment process is vital to the future of the Catholic Church reforms in Australia and especially in our diocese.

Our forum will be held on

Sunday 24th November at 2pm at St Thomas School Hall Springwood

“Many lay people are freed and invigorated when they feel we clerics are genuinely listening and are inviting them to participate in an adult way. They love their church and want to be involved and have their say. They have theological and pastoral insights that don’t occur to us, the clerics” *Fr Noel Connelly*

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the following children who participated in the Basketball Gala Day on the 4th of November.

Basketball 2019					
Stage 2 Girls	Stage 2 Boys	Year 5 Girls	Year 5 Boys	Year 6 Girls	Year 6 Boys
Abigail Byrne	Eli Hernandez-Milson	Myra Davidson	Hunter Grima	Scarlett Storr	Blade Funnell
Amara Frank	Marcus Elias	Holly Rech	Pierce Lucas	Keira Blazek	Archie Prendergast
Lola Troistan	Carter Pereira	Holly Harstonge	Cooper Bahlmann	Sienna Footman	Noah Pascoe
Akeda Deacon Chilmaid	Eli Downey	Annabelle Tran	Lucas McClenahan	Taylah Cowley	Jaxon Kenyon
Jacinta Roser	Aidan Latty	Lucia Hooke	Lucas Latty	Isabelle Moran	Joshua Vanegas
Demi Boormakin	Wayde Race	Abigail Andrews	Michael Gardiner	Grace Foster	Brody Green
Natalie Burke	Declan Casey	Maya Deacon Chilmaid	Carter Jones	Mia Kuster	Lincoln Mayer
Ivy Hooke		Hannah Selby	Hamish Rose	Lucienne Heffernan	Benny Tabor
Holly Penny		Chloe Luczak	Alex Hayward	Simrin Latchminarain	

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped on the day!

Some thoughts from Year 4 girls:

The Basketball Gala day was really fun. When we weren't playing against another team we played fun games with each other. When we were versing another team we passed the ball around and took turns shooting. We won two out of six games. During our games, whether we lost or won, we had lots of fun.

Jacinta Roser

The Basketball Gala Day was really fun. My team won the first and last game. We were a bit disappointed in the other games but we had a great time. I got to play for my first game of basketball and even better, I was with all my friends. We played all together 6 games. Whilst we weren't playing we were eating yummy foods and playing our own mini games. It was amazing.

Holly Penny

On Monday we all gathered at the Penrith Basketball Stadium and got our tops. We watched the Year 4 boys play and got a few ideas from them. After that we played our first game and we won. For the rest of the day we had lots of fun and it was a great experience, even though we lost five games. Our last was such a good game and a great way to finish off the day with a win.

Demi Boormakin



Gymnastics Gala Day

On the 14th of November, we had 7 children represent OLOW at the Gymnastics Gala Day. These children performed 4 different routines: Floor, Vault, Mini Tramp and Static. These students should be commended for their efforts on the day and in the weeks leading up to the event, as they were practising their routines in their own time.

Congratulations to Emily McDonald, Mya Kelty, Lara Dwyer, Akeda Deacon-Chilmaid, Hayley Burton, Carter Pereira and Madison Stansfield. Also a special mention to Alyssa McDonald who practised and prepared for the day but was unable to compete due to illness.

A special congratulations to Carter who competed exceptionally well and placed in all of his events. He received 1st place for his Floor, Vault and Mini Tramp routine and received 3rd place for his Static routine. Carter's achievements resulted in him being the overall champion for his group. Well done Carter!!!

A massive thank you to Marshall Pereira who represented OLOW as judge on the day and Mrs Pereira who was our team manager. Our team could not have participated if it wasn't for your help!



Megan Vella
Sports Coordinator

AWARDS

Term 4, Week 4 Awards



Charlotte Robinson, Lexi Bryan, Bridget Whyllie, Charlotte McDonald, Iustinian Vasilescu, Elara Layton, Kosta Bouletos, Audrey Edwards, Amara Frank, Mason Benitez, Ruby Murphy, Ayden Dyrka, Lorcan Cullen, Addison Riley, Jayden Miles, Carter Jones, Maya Deacon-Chilmaid, Evan Hotz, Tianna Stansfield, Lucienne Heffernan, Lincoln Mayer, Taylor Latham

Term 4, Week 5 Awards



Ashton Tran, Zahli Johnson, Noah Shalhaf, Dylan Thompson, Andrew Kennedy, Logan Noronha, Edward Whyllie, Arliyah Casey, Ave Dyrka, Koby Lee Edwards, Ruby Johnson, Eddy Lennon, Vera Sen, Kaliyah Kessell, Fraser Tait, Will Elford, Jack Casey, Charlotte Ahern, Aidan Callaghan, Christopher Elias, Cooper Hegarty, Brodie Miles, Cara Smith, Jade Elford, Leilahni Isaia, Shanyah Kubik

GENERAL NEWS

Your Help is Needed for One of our Families Please

The Stonehouse family (Bailey, Yr 3 and Lachlan, Yr 6) need our help. Jennifer Stonehouse (mum) is suffering from serious health issues. In 2016, Jennifer was diagnosed with a degenerative bone disease. This means that her bones can spontaneously break. For the past three years, Jennifer has suffered from numerous, serious, medical conditions which mean her life is filled with constant and excruciating pain. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to assist the family in their time of hardship. If you are able to donate (any amount at all) or help in any other way, it would be greatly appreciated. The link to the page is:



https://www.gofundme.com/f/medical-amp-support-for-jennifer-stonehouse?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Strings Program

As the school year comes to an end, can all parents please ensure their 2019 Strings Program fees are paid in full by 29 November 2019. Fees are \$110.00 per term and can be paid at the school office.

SCHOOL FEES

The fees for 2020 have now been set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. A copy has been attached to the end of this newsletter.

Please note that the **LAST day that we can accept any payments** for fees, excursions, uniform items etc or make any sales of uniform items is **Tuesday 17th December**. We will be unable to take any payments or make any sales after that date.

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

Pascale Vion

Senior Finance Officer



JAPANESE STUDENT HOST FAMILIES WANTED for 26th - 31st March, 2020

**Give our OLOW children the chance to share our
Australian way of life and learn about Japan's.**

Host One of Our Visiting Sasebo Junior High School Japanese Students
13 - 15 years of age and they speak some English.



Would your family be interested?



VS Oceania Pty Ltd

The Japanese students will arrive Thursday 26th March 2020 and will be at OLOW for 3 weekdays, Friday, Monday and Tuesday having English lessons in the morning, and participating in classes with the OLOW students in the afternoon. The students will spend the weekend with their host families enjoying family life.

Responsibilities as a host family would be to provide a comfortable bed, meals, lifts to and from school, and a friendly welcoming family environment. Host families are paid \$50 per night.

If you would be interested, we need to pass your contact details on to Mr Takashi Ushinohama from VS Oceania. This is the company organising the exchange for our Japanese visitors. Notes have been sent home, so if you would be interested in being a host family, please complete the form attached to that note, and return it with your child either to Mrs Schafer or the office.

LEAVING OLOW AT THE END OF 2019?

A reminder to families that a terms 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 the 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 term's school fees will be charged for your children. This is a Diocesan Policy.



2020 Diocesan School Fees

22 November 2019

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the Annual Diocesan fees schedule for 2020. The new schedule includes a very modest 1.5% increase on the fees from 2019, a reflection of Bishop Vincent Long's aim of making our Catholic schools as affordable as possible for families.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 1.5% increase. School-based fees cover the costs of things such as technology and school administration.

School fees are generally billed in instalments during Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is made up of three main parts:

1. Diocesan tuition fee

These are set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and are the *same for every school*. There are **significant sibling discounts** for families with more than one child at a Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta school (it does not have to be the same school).

Those discounts and a list of the annual Diocesan tuition fees for 2020 are outlined below:

2020 Diocesan tuition fee schedule (per year)

	1 st child (100%)	2 nd child (75%)	3 rd child (50%)	4 th Child (0%)
Kindergarten	\$1,224	\$918	\$612	No fee
Years 1 – 6	\$1,581	\$1,185	\$792	No fee
Years 7 – 8	\$2,190	\$1,644	\$1,095	No fee
Years 9 – 10	\$2,430	\$1,824	\$1,215	No fee
Years 11 – 12	\$3,102	\$2,328	\$1,551	No fee

2. Diocesan Building Levy

This fee is set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and is the same for every school. The annual Diocesan building levy for 2020 is \$822. This is an increase of 2% from 2019. This increase is slightly higher than the tuition fee increase of 1.5% as governments do not provide sufficient capital funding for our school provisioning program.

There is only one Diocesan building levy per family with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood and it is billed in instalments over the first 3 terms of the year. A sibling discount for the building levy of 50% applies to families with children within the bordering Archdiocese of Sydney and Dioceses of Wollongong and Broken Bay.



3. School-based fees

These are determined by the school according to the needs of that school and billable for each child. School-based fees are often called 'resource fees' or 'activity fees'. These fees help schools cover the costs of things like teaching resources, technology, excursions etc.

This fee varies between schools. Please contact the school to find out more about their school-based fees.

Although it varies from school to school, as a guide, the Diocesan tuition fee represents roughly half the overall fee per year.

Here's how we can help

We appreciate that from time to time, some families experience financial challenges. As well as sibling discounts, confidential fee support is available through the following means:

- **Flexible payment options**

Families enrolled in CEDP schools are offered flexible payment options at the start of each year. These options provide opportunities to select a payment plan that best suits you. Payments can be made by direct debit on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis at no additional charge.

- **Fee assistance**

We understand financial circumstances can change and that these changes can impact on families. Please speak with your school principal confidentially if your family experiences financial difficulty or hardship so an appropriate arrangement can be made.

- **Bishop Manning Support Fund**

In addition to fee assistance programs, the Bishop Manning Support Fund is available to families who experience challenges meeting the cost of school fees due to financial hardship. Further information is available at the [Bishop Manning Support Fund](#) page of the CEDP website.

- **Byallawa Co-contribution Scheme**

The Byallawa co-contribution scheme provides assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to ensure a quality Catholic education is affordable and accessible. Further information is available on our [Byallawa Co-contribution Scheme](#) page of the CEDP website.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Catholic schools.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

LEARNING FOR TODAY'S WORLD



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9840 5600



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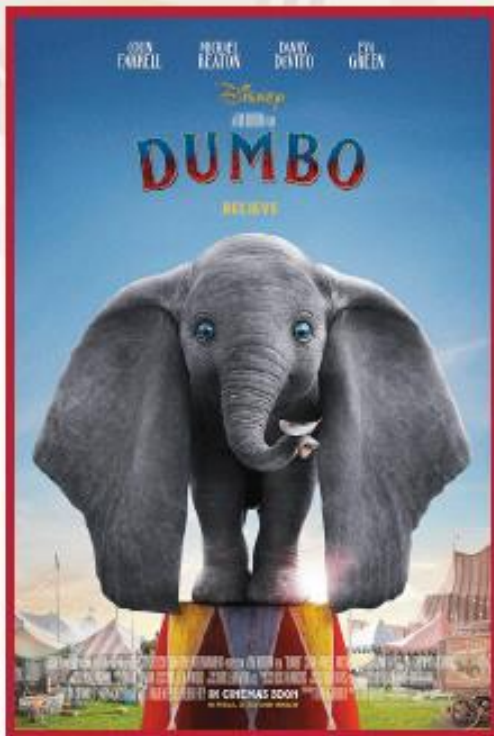
[catholicedparra](https://www.youtube.com/catholicedparra)

Cinema

IN THE

Park

SATURDAY 30
NOVEMBER



TIME: 6pm until late,
movie commences at dusk.

WHERE: Regatta Park,
River Road, Emu Plains

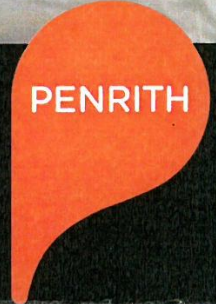
FEATURE FILM: 'Dumbo'

Kids activities & food for sale.

For more information phone 1300 736 836.

PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

penrith.city/events



WALK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sunday 24 November

9 - 11.30am

Join us for a morning river walk from River Road Reserve, Emu Plains to Tench Reserve, Nepean River, Penrith to show your support for ending domestic and family violence in our community.

This event demonstrates Penrith City Council's continuing commitment and support to raising awareness to help bring an end to domestic and family violence.

Statistics show that, on average, one woman is killed every week by a current or former partner and that domestic and family violence is the principle cause of homelessness for women and their children. Ending violence against women and supporting safe families is everyone's responsibility.

After the walk, stay for the free breakfast BBQ provided by the Outback Steakhouse and live music at Tench Reserve. Free shuttle bus back to Weir Reserve and River Road from 10.30am

Don't forget your sunscreen, hat, comfortable walking shoes and water bottle.

For more information contact Erin on 4732 8028 or go to penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



PENRITH CITY COUNCIL