

DIARY DATES

**Wednesday
11 December**
Year 6
Graduation, 7pm

Friday 13 December
Thanksgiving
Mass 9.15am

End of Year
Awards 11.15am

Year 6 Social
6.30pm

**Tuesday 17
December**
Year 6 Fun Day

**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

Sunday 1st December marked the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Each season has its own special grace and in the Season of Advent we prepare for Christmas awaiting with expectant longing for God to be born again into our lives, our families, our Church and our world. 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. 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.



Come Lord Jesus may we be prepared for your coming in glory.

Semester Two School Reports will be sent home on Tuesday 10th December. In the envelope, there is a letter explaining the 5-point grading system used at OLOW for K-6. Please take the time to read through the report with your child, discussing successes and goals for 2020. Teacher interviews are available for any parent who has concerns or questions about any aspect of their child's report. Please make an appointment via the office or Skoolbag to see your child's class teacher.

An invitation is extended to all of the Our Lady of the Way community to attend our Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 13th December at 9:15am in the Church. At this time of the year, it is important to stop and give thanks for the great successes our community has shared.

On Monday 16th December at 8.45am under the COLA, we will give thanks for those families and staff who are leaving OLOW this year. We give thanks to God for each of these people and for sharing their gifts with us all.

Prayer for the end of the school year

At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school,
both in and out of the classroom,

For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed;

For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,

For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days

And for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are, and we ask you Lord –

Bless our students: may your Spirit inspire them with confidence and a love of learning;

Bless our families: may your spirit keep them safe through the holidays and

Leave them with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

OLOW CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We had an amazing Christmas Concert last Monday night led by the talented children of OLOW. We also congratulate our amazing band and choir. It was a beautiful evening for our community as we continue through the Season of Advent, preparing for Christmas. I would particularly like to thank the staff for their preparations with the children. Thank you to the great audience of parents, grandparents and friends – another great example of our strong OLOW community. Merry Christmas!



END OF YEAR AWARDS

Our end of year AWARDS will be distributed on Friday 13th December after our Thanksgiving Mass and morning tea. 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*

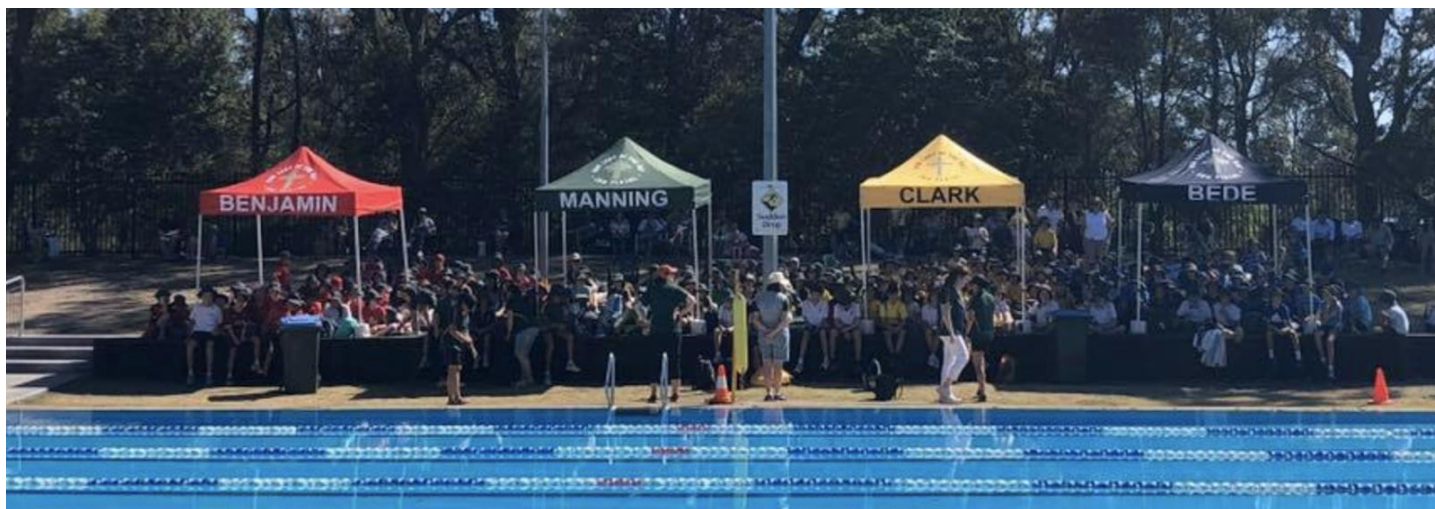
All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend the ceremony.

OUR LADY OF THE WAY MISSION STATEMENT

At Our Lady of the Way we are a Catholic community setting the foundations for lifelong learning. We aim to provide students with a positive learning environment allowing them to develop the knowledge, skills and values to contribute positively to the world beyond school by *living respectfully, acting responsibly and learning together.*

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The 2019 Swimming Carnival was another great day for our students. Thank you for all of the cheering and encouraging. Thank you to our parent helpers for keeping the day running smoothly. Thank you to Miss Vella and Mrs Irvine for the preparations leading up to the day. (Additional photographs are available on our Facebook page)



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.

LIFE AND LEARNING AT OUR LADY OF THE WAY

Today each family will receive a booklet outlining life and learning at OLOW. This booklet outlines our PBS4L initiatives and behaviour management processes. This booklet is the result of many discussions with students, parents and staff. We believe that this booklet communicates a clear message about our agreements and expectations for all members of our community. We welcome your feedback.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2020

We are planning for the 2020 school year and to help us with this please let the office know if your family will not be continuing at OLOW in 2020. 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 all classes in 2020, 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 anyone considering a Catholic school education for their child at OLOW from 2019, in any grade, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible to assist with planning.

Before the end of the year, we will share with you some important information in preparation for the new school year. This will include staffing, our student leadership teams and other important information to assist you in preparing over the holidays.

*Yours in Christ
Donna McFadzean
Principal*

Our Lady of the Way Church Christmas Mass Times

We encourage you all to come along and join the wider Parish community for the Christmas liturgies being held at this special time of year!

Monday 16th December

1st Rite (1:1) 6pm-8pm

Sunday 22 December

1st Rite (1:1) 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 18th December

2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7.30pm

Combined with St Finbar's
46 Levy Street, Glenbrook

Tuesday 24th December

6pm Vigil and Midnight Mass

(Carols commence at 5.30pm and 11.30pm)

Wednesday 25th December

9.30am Christmas morning

(No evening Mass)



Children attending the Vigil Mass (6.00pm) on Christmas Eve are encouraged to 'dress up' for the celebration. Please come as angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary or Joseph.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

AWARDS

Term 4, Week 6 & 7 Awards



Heath Mills, Max Roney, Leah Durham, Ella Dwyer, Ruby Carey, Tyler Callaghan, Serafina Bessi, Patrick Burke, Isaac Ahern, Hayley Edwards, Kelsey Ellis, Lucia Rose, Hugo So, Jewel Bahlmann, Kye Chapman, Emily McDonald, Grace Carey, Sienna Fitzsimmons, Akeda Deacon-Chilmaid, William Drummond, Natalie Bourke, Eli Smith, Jacob Thompson, Oliver Herps, Hunter Grima, Aisling Cremen, Noah Sykes, Flynn Weber, Joey El-Sissa, Declan Keigan, Ella Grech, Ashleigh Ryan, Ronan Cullen, Jack Sikic, Daniel Partlett, Nicholas Heffernan, Marcus Elias, Holly Rech, Madison Stansfield, Mia Eekman, Jacob Bennett, Emilie Brett, Jack Brown, Luke Durham, Kees Muller

Reading Recovery Graduates

Rose Zeidan, Summer Clarke, Bryson Miles, Vanessa Bogaerts



EMU Graduates

Kallum Jackson-Logan, Ashton Clark



Rotary Award

On Tuesday the 26th November, Taylor Latham received the Service Above Self Rotary Award. Taylor was nominated for this award as he is someone who always leads by example, he demonstrates excellent leadership qualities and is humble in everything he does. Congratulations Taylor, we are all very proud of you.



Primary Sports Award

After a big day at the Swimming Carnival, Jade Elford and Eddy Lennon attended the Parramatta Diocesan Primary School Sport Awards evening. Jade and Eddy, along with 32 other students, were acknowledged and congratulated for their outstanding efforts in school sport in 2019.

Both students have represented OLOW, Parramatta and MacKillop throughout the year and have made us super proud! We can't wait to continue following their sporting careers!...



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OLOW?



<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Wednesday 11th Dec</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>	<i>Year 6 Graduation Mass Followed by certificates and supper in the hall (All welcome)</i>	<i>Church</i>
<i>Friday 13th Dec</i>	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Mass / Morning tea in hall for parents End of Year Awards Ceremony (Whole School)</i>	<i>Church / hall</i>
<i>Friday 13th Dec</i>	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Year 6 Social - students and parents</i>	<i>COLA</i>
<i>Monday 16th Dec</i>	<i>8.45am</i>	<i>Special assembly to farewell families and staff who are leaving and presentation of 2020 Year 6 leaders</i>	<i>COLA</i>
<i>Monday 16th Dec</i>	<i>12.00pm</i>	<i>Students meet their teacher for 2020</i>	<i>Learning Spaces</i>
<i>Tuesday 17th Dec</i>	<i>All day</i>	<i>Year 6 Fun Day</i>	<i>Back playground</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th Dec</i>		<i>Last day for students</i>	

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

SCHOOL FEES

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.

Read & win

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Win a
**GOOGLE
CHROMEBOOK**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **two Google Chromebooks** or one of **thirty gift vouchers** valued at **\$30**.

The more books you read, the more chances you have to win.

Enter online
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

**Competition opens
on 2 December 2019 and
closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020**

Terms and conditions apply.

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