



# By The Way



Term 4 Week 4 2020

Our Lady of the Way Parish Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 9:30am.  
Weekday Mass times: Wednesday 9:15am, Thursday 8:15am, Friday 7:15am  
All welcome!

## *Principal's Message*

World Teachers Day and Student Growth at Our Lady of the Way.

Last Friday we celebrated World Teachers Day. A very big thank you to the P and F who presented gifts to each staff member to acknowledge the great work of our staff at Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains.. The staff were deeply touched by your kindness.



The demands on a teacher have dramatically increased over the years but I am sure you would agree that 2020 has been a time where this has sky-rocketed. The staff at OLOW went well above all expectations in order to provide for the needs of all students and their families during the COVID lockdown and have continued to ensure a quality education for each child since returning to school.

As a staff, we spent last week reviewing data on comprehension levels of each child in the school. The growth was remarkable. This achievement has been recognised by CEDP through our Growing Great Leaders Course. OLOW were invited to present our approach to whole school improvement to colleagues within the CEDP. Additionally, our work is being shared with educators in New Zealand. What an amazing achievement!

## *Updated Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education now available online*

For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people. An updated version of the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education with references to the relevant sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website together with a guide to help community members learn more.

The Draft New Curriculum remains faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition while ensuring that the way that the learning and teaching happens is kept up-to-date. When it is launched in late 2021 the Draft New Curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years.

### *Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge*

The 2020/21 Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge will start on 23 November 2020. Taking part in the Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of thirty runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. More details to come shortly.

### *Lift construction update*

We were amazed to see the construction development over the school holidays with the lift brick shaft completed. We are now just awaiting the lift itself. Once complete, this lift will enable all of our students, current and future, to have equal access to the Stage 3 learning environments. We thank the Catholic Education Office Parramatta for supporting us in this venture.

### *School Fees*

We are aware and understand the financial strain that COVID-19 is having on some families and its impact on their capacity to pay school fees.

If you require assistance with your school fees please contact Pascale Vion at Our Lady of the Way Primary on [olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olow-emupfees@parra.catholic.edu.au) or 4777 7200. Catholic Education Parramatta, is committed to supporting families who have been experiencing financial difficulty or hardship.

Unless alternative arrangements have been made with the school, all fees are due Friday 18 December 2020. If you wish to pay your fees at the school office, please do so by Friday 11th December. We thank those families who have finalised their school fees for 2020.

### *Dates for the Term 4*

- Year 5 leadership days Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November
- Year 4 CARES excursion Wednesday 4th and 11th November
- Year 5 Camp at Teen Ranch 9th - 10th November
- NAIDOC week Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November
- In school prayer for Remembrance Day Wednesday 11th November
- Swimming Lessons K-4 16th - 20th November
- Year 6 Canberra Thursday 19th - Friday 20th November
- Surf Safety Day Years 5 & 6 Wednesday 25th November
- K-2 Olympics Day with Motiv8 Thursday 26th November
- 1st session of Confirmation - Thurs 26th November at 7pm OLOW Church
- 3-6 Olympics Day with Motiv8 Friday 27th November
- 2nd session of Confirmation Sunday 29th November at 3pm OLOW Church
- OLOW Primary Swimming Carnival Wednesday 2nd December
- Semester 2 School Reports sent home to families Friday 4th December
- Year 6 Presentation and Thanksgiving Monday 14th December @ 9:15am
- Year 6 Fun Day Tuesday 15th December
- Final day of 2020 for students Wednesday 16th December
- Final day of 2020 for staff Thursday 17th December

# AROUND THE Grounds @ OLOW

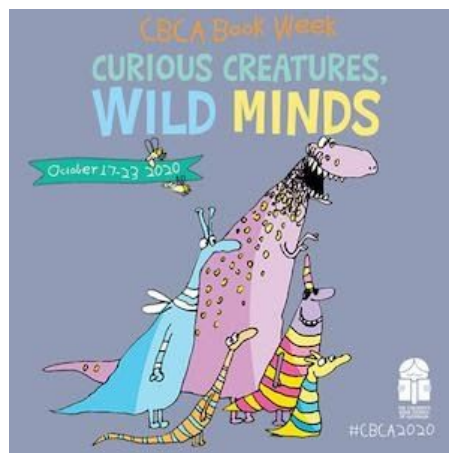
In this week's edition of Around the Grounds @ OLOW you can read about how we celebrated Book Week during our Library time with Mrs Masters, what our Earth Care Group has been up to looking at our playground waste and you can check out our Kitchen Garden.

## Curious Creatures Wild Minds - Book Week 2020

In 1946 the CBCA established annual book awards to promote children's books of high literary and artistic quality. These awards are now the most influential and highly respected in Australia.

Normally schools and public libraries across Australia spend a week celebrating books, and Australian authors and illustrators. Teachers and librarians conduct activities relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading.

Due to Covid-19 some activities have been restricted, but that didn't stop the students of OLOW connecting and enjoying Book Week when visiting the Library.





## Earth Care Team

Recently our students were invited to join an Earth Care Team. A video was shared encouraging the students to take action to care for our Common Home and then invited to join the Earth Care Team. One of the first tasks was to share some ideas about how the space around the Parish Church could be used. Fr. Paul has offered a challenge to our students to help support some environmental initiatives in partnership with Penola Catholic College.

Some of the ideas that we put forward were:

- Start by making sure that all the rubbish is picked up in our school so it doesn't go into the church yard
- Look at the rubbish at our school - think about the waste- recyclable waste, reusing, reducing
- Community garden
- Sensory garden
- Think about the types of plants that we could use - in the shade, flowers, easy to maintain
- Learning path
- Space for reflecting - time for prayer
- Chicken run - community farm
- Bee hives - bush bees
- Labyrinth



We look forward to our next 'catch up' with Fr. Paul and the team at Penola to see how some of our ideas might be put into action.

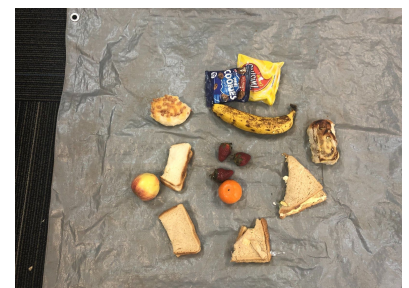
Meanwhile, last Friday the Earth Care Team started looking at the rubbish in our school. We did this by undertaking a 'rubbish audit'. We emptied just one bag of rubbish that would have taken three days to fill.

Here is what we found:

\*most of the rubbish was plastic. With plastic being an environmental problem, we agreed we have to do something about this much plastic going into landfill. We have some ideas that we'll be sharing with the school community soon.

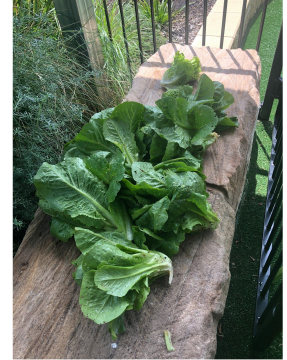


\*A lot of food is being thrown away. The students were concerned about the amount of full packets of food and whole pieces of fruit and sandwiches that were thrown away.



### *Vege Garden update*

Last term, a small group of Year 2 and Year 3 students embarked on establishing the OLOW Kitchen Garden. As you can see, our vegetables and herbs are thriving. We are hoping to use some of our produce to whip up some recipes a little later in the term. Year 1 helped us collect our first harvest on Friday picking cos lettuce, pak choy, carrots and mint. It was great to see how excited they were to be in the garden and learning about where our food comes from. It was also a great connection to their Religion unit learning about God's creation.



## **2021 School Travel Applications Are Now Open**

Applications for student travel in 2021 are now open.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now [apply](#) online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [re-apply or update their details](#).

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2020 .

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.