



By The Way



Term 4 Week 6, 2022

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Our Lady of the Way Parish Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 9:30am.
Weekday Mass times: Tuesday 6.00pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00am,
All are welcome!

Principal's Message

AROUND THE Grounds @ OLOW

Dear Our Lady of the Way Community

Last week was an exciting time for our Kinder to Year 4 students. They thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons and we had quite a few students who were exhausted when they returned to school. We received wonderful feedback from the venue who communicated with us that they thought the students from OLOW were the most well-behaved students and the staff were the most attentive that they had at the pool. Congratulations!

We had our Kindergarten 2023 students and their families attend an Orientation on 31 October. The current Kindergarten students assisted our new students to transition into the classroom. The parents had the opportunity to experience what a Religion, English and Mathematics lesson looks like.

Our students have also had opportunities to attend a number of sporting Gala Days. These are great opportunities provided by the Diocese of Parramatta. We thank the parents and staff members for volunteering to train our students and manage the teams on the day.

Earlier this week I shared the news that Phillip Kapitanow has been appointed as the new Principal of Our Lady of the Way Primary Emu Plains, effective from the beginning of 2023.

Phillip is currently the Principal of St Bernadette's Primary Lalor Park and was also Assistant Principal of that community for six years. An approachable and dedicated leader, Phillip models the Gospel values of inclusion, respect, honesty, compassion, empathy and servant leadership.

Phillip is a lifelong learner who works collaboratively with his team to review and revise teaching practices to ensure that they continue to meet the emerging needs of students and staff. He is committed to developing strong partnerships with parents and carers and parish, and has created a very family-friendly community in his current role.

I would like to inform you that Mrs Rebecca Blazek will be leaving OLOW at the end of this year and is taking up the position of an Instructional Coach in 2023. This position will see Rebecca working with students, teachers and families to enhance learning experiences and build the capacity of teachers to cater for the individual needs of each student. This is a significant leadership role. Mrs

Blazek will be based at Holy Family Luddenham. I know Rebecca is sad to leave the OLOW where she has been for the last 17 years. On your behalf I thank Rebecca for her dedication to all the students she has taught over the years, her professionalism and high standard of teaching which has a positive impact on beginning teachers and all staff who she has worked with. Rebecca truly cares about each student and her gentle approach has left a positive impact on all her students.

We are currently advertising a Japanese teacher position. Mrs Kate Filan-Schafer has been appointed as a Japanese teacher in the Broken Bay Diocese. She will also be taking up a consultative role within the diocese. This was a difficult decision for Kate to make as she has been part of our community for many years. The children are going to miss Mrs Schafer and their Japanese lessons. We thank Mrs Shafer for all she has done to enhance our community and wish her all the best on her new journey.

We are in the final stages of working out staffing for 2023. As soon as this is completed, we will communicate with parents and students. There will be an opportunity for the students to meet their new teachers before the end of the year.

Mr Crawford, Mrs Day and I had the opportunity to attend the CEDP System Leaders' and Clergy Symposium on 3 and 4 November. We had the absolute pleasure to listen to the Most Reverend Vincent Long OFM lead a Keynote. We also had the opportunity to listen to presentations from international presenters. The theme of the conference was What does "Catholic education for all" look like in the 21st Century in the Diocese of Parramatta?

Bishop Vincent presented us with a challenge. He reminded us that:

"In a society that increasingly sees education as a commodity that can be bought, we must resist being used as vehicles for socio-differentiation and elitism. Catholic schools find their authenticity in the Gospel priorities of respect for human dignity, outreach, inclusion and special concern for young people at risk of being left behind. Ours are not schools that provide education for Catholics only but Catholic education for all"

As we approach Advent and Christmas, I ask that you take note of the dates of a number of end of year celebrations. These can be accessed via this newsletter and also through Compass.

Yours faithfully
Donna McFadzean.
Principal Leader

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Socketober Soccer Shootout

Thank you so much to the families who sponsored the students in their Socketober Soccer Shootout. The students had lots of fun using the 'sock balls' that were made and using their skills to shoot goals. We held a House Competition and Clark (Gold) House won our competition.

A total of \$407 was raised which will go to Catholic Mission to be shared with families in need in Ethiopia.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

During Week 7 and 8 we will be holding our St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. We are inviting families to make a donation via the Qkr! App so that vouchers can be purchased for St Vincent de Paul members to make up Christmas Hampers.

Donations can be made from Monday November 21 and the QKR! App will be open for 2 weeks. Your generosity will help families survive the cost of living crisis.

Christmas Carols Evening

Our Christmas Carols Evening will be held on the school grounds on Wednesday December 7 commencing at 6pm. All grades will be presenting a Christmas Carol for our families to join in with and will share the Christmas Story. We hope you will be able to join us for this lovely community event.

End of Year Celebrations

In the last week of school we will be holding two celebrations to give thanks and farewell members of our community.

Year 6 Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass: Tuesday December 13 @ 10:00am in the Church

Farewell Liturgy: Thursday December 15 @ 9:45am in the Church

You are very welcome to attend these celebrations.

SPORTS NEWS

MAKAELA JARRETT, YEAR 5

Congratulations to Makaela Jarrett in Year 5. She will soon be competing in the National Cheer Titles on the Gold Coast. Good luck Makaela!



JETTA GRADY, YEAR 5

Jetta and her Southern Sky Synchronized Figure Skating team will be attending Nationals in Brisbane at the end of the month and also representing Australia in two international competitions in January: Britannia Cup in Nottingham UK and also the Mozart Cup in Salzburg, Austria.

The team have been training together and working towards this goal of international competition for the past 2 1/2 years. The team has definitely had to overcome hurdles. Covid lockdowns saw the team training via zoom and the recent closure of Penrith Ice Rink has seen team members travel to Erina Ice Arena for training each week.

We are all very excited to see them compete on the international skating circuit and do our country proud.



GENERAL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS OLIVIA EEKMAN

We recently received the following letter from Kids Giving Back. We are so very proud of Olivia and her efforts. Well done!

"I am delighted to write to you to acknowledge the wonderful young student from your school, Olivia Eekman, who participated in community programs at Kids Giving Back during the 3rd term of this year and the recent September/October school holidays.



This student is among close to 500 young people who produced over 7,500 hot meals, cold meals, fruit kebabs, breakfast boxes, snack packs and care packs which all included empathetic, positive messages on each item. These were then distributed to 9 charities around Sydney.

Thank you again for supporting your students and shaping them into caring emerging leaders to create the Next Generation of Generosity.

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Ltd

From the beginning of 2023, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will have a new name, Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Ltd. The organisation will also have a new governance framework. It is not expected that these changes will have an impact on the day-to-day operation of schools, or upon students, parents and carers, and parishes. Further information is available [here](#).



Date	Event
18/11	St Columbas Yr 7 Orientation
18/11	Yr 2 attending Parish Mass 9am
18/11	Assembly 2pm
21/11	Yr 4 Environmentors Incursion
23/11	Stage 3 Surf Day Bush Care Incursion, Year 2 – 11.30am to 1.30pm
25/11	Yr 3 attending Parish Mass 9am
25/11	Assembly 2pm
30/11	Swimming Carnival
2/12	Kinder & Yr 5 attending Parish Mass 9am
2/12	Assembly 2pm
7/12	Christmas Celebration, 6.00pm to 7.30pm
9/12	Yr 6 Social

9/12	Assembly 2pm
13/12	End of Year Thanksgiving & Yr 6 Farewell Mass, 10am in the Church
14/12	Yr 6 Fun Day
15/12	Farewell Liturgy, 9.45am in the Church
16/12	Last day of school for students
27/1/2023	Staff Development Day
30/1/2023	MAI Testing Day
31/1/2023	Years 1-6 students return
1/2/2023	Kindergarten begins