



Our Lady of the Way Primary School

17 Troy Street, Emu Plains NSW 2750

Phone: (02) 4735 1930

Email: OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au

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



Parent Communication Term 1 Week 11

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This week is Holy Week. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday when we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. On that day, the people laid palms before Him. At mass on Sunday, we received a palm as a symbol of this significant day.

On Thursday we celebrate the Last Supper. This is the final meal Jesus shared with the disciples before being betrayed by Judas and arrested.

The next day is Good Friday, and on this day, we commemorate the trial, punishment, and crucifixion of Jesus.

This concludes Holy Week. The following day is Easter Sunday, the day on which it was discovered that Jesus' Tomb was empty. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion. Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence.

This is an important week in our Catholic Church and personal faith journey. I encourage our families to find the time to take part in Holy Week masses. We have held whole school recounts and prayer times for the students. In these times the students hear the gospel readings associated with Holy Week and have the time to pray and reflect on Jesus love for us and what we can do as Catholics to emulate this throughout society.

This Easter session I hope you make the time as a family to reflect on the gospel messages and ensure your children understand the significance of the chocolate egg. The chocolate egg is a symbol of new life and new beginnings. In the northern hemisphere it is Spring, and this is where the Catholic faith originated. There are many more complex analogies available, but for children the concept of beginning fresh after easter is a simple one they can understand.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Easter break. One where you find the time to create new memories with your family and friends.

Bullying Prevention and Response Procedures

At Our Lady of The Way we are committed to ensuring the safety and well being of all students. We know that students learn best when they feel safe and supported. As such we take all instances of bullying seriously.

The school adopts a proactive approach by promoting our whole school expectations –

1. We live Respectfully
2. We act Responsibility
3. We Learn Together

We teach our students how to be positive members of the school community.

When students do exhibit unexpected behaviour this is managed through a process that is fair and consistent.



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CSPD and the school have a zero tolerance on bullying behaviour. All reported matters are thoroughly investigated using the CSPD Response Procedures. A copy of these procedures may be requested through the school office.

Attached to this newsletter is CSPD's, Bullying Frequently Asked Questions brochure. The brochure helps parents to refine their understanding of what bullying is and the appropriate steps to take to support your child.

Attendance

Positive student attendance at school is extremely important. Students with regular absences miss out on learning opportunities and can fall behind their peers.

We have the responsibility of monitoring student attendance and working with families when attendance falls below expected levels. Our aim is that no child falls below 90% attendance at any given time. This means the maximum number of days a student can miss from school is five days a term.

If a student goes on a holiday during the term this counts as an absence. The school approval process for leave allows a family to go on a holiday, but it does not omit the absence from the students record.

When a student is sick, we expect parents / carers to keep the child at home. This can become problematic when students have a lot of time off due to illness. Our goal in these instances is to understand what is impacting student attendance and work with families to maximise future attendance.

ABSENCES ADD UP!



Regards
Mr Phillip Kapitanow
Principal



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Sunday Parish Mass

In last week's newsletter we shared that Fr Michael has extended an invitation to our students to lead various aspects of the 9:30am Sunday Parish Mass. This might include reading, taking part in the Offertory Procession or sharing a liturgical movement.

There are 2 dates that have been chosen:

May 21 - Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 students are invited.

June 25 - Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students are invited.

Please take the time to chat with your children about whether they would like to be part of these Parish Masses over the holidays. I will visit grades early next term and will hand out notes to those students who are interested.

Mother's Day Liturgy and Morning Tea

On Friday May 12, we invite all our mothers, grandmothers and those who are like mothers to us, to join us for a Mother's Day Liturgy followed by a morning tea picnic.

The Liturgy will begin at 10:15am. Afterwards you will have the opportunity to share a picnic with your child(ren) and other family members.

The teachers and students of kindergarten will be leading the Mother's Day Liturgy. We are very much looking forward to you joining us for this celebration.

Caritas - Project Compassion

On Thursday afternoon we will be presenting Fr Michael with our Project Compassion boxes. The children are invited to send in their Project Compassion boxes this week.

Grades attending Parish Mass

Please place the following dates in your diary if you would like to attend your child(ren)'s Grade Parish Mass:

Year 4 - Friday May 5 @ 9:00am

Year 2 - Friday May 19 @ 9:00am

Kindergarten and Year 5 - Friday June 2 @ 9:00am

Year 3 - Friday June 9 @ 9:00am

Year 1 and Year 6 - Friday June 16 @ 9:00am



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ANZAC Day Prayer

On Wednesday April 26 (our first day back next term) we will be holding an ANZAC Day Prayer at 9:00am. The prayer will be led by members of our Student Council. You are more than welcome to join us.

Holy Week Liturgies

On Monday and Tuesday of this week the school gathered to acknowledge Holy Week - the most important celebration of the Church. We gathered to remember how much Jesus loved us that he gave his life for us.



Regards
Mrs Carole Day
Religious Education Coordinator



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YEAR 4 COSMODOME PLANETARIUM INCURSION UPDATE

Year 4 went on an incursion to the Cosmodome. The Cosmodome is an inflatable planetarium that helps people learn about Earth and Space. It was amazing and inspiring to be so close to the stars. Firstly, we gazed upon the constellations and noticed that the planets were located on the ecliptic plane. It made us feel like we were soaring through space. We then watched the movie 'Tilt' that taught us about how the Earth's tilted axis causes the seasons. It was a great experience to extend our knowledge of our Earth and Space unit that we have been learning this term.

Year 4 students



Regards

Mrs Anne-Maree McKeon, Mr Jordan Winkle, Mrs Bianca Alderton
Year 4 Teachers



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GENERAL NEWS

Enrolments 2024

Our Lady of the Way Primary School Emu Plains

Kindergarten 2024

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been conducting our Kindergarten interviews for 2024. It has been lovely meeting all these young children and their families wishing to become members of our community. This week we will be sending out our first round of acceptances.

This year there has been a very keen interest in enrolments for Kindergarten 2024 and we encourage family and friends, wishing to enrol their child, to submit their enrolment forms early next term as the next round of interviews will commence at the beginning of May.

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.ollowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>; picked up from the school office the start of Term 2 on 26 April. Once you have completed the forms and returned them to the school office, with the required documentation, we will arrange an interview for you and your child.



If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact the school office on 4777 7200.

Term 2 Uniform

With the uncertainty of the weather for the beginning of Term 2 it has been decided that the students can come to school in **FULL** summer uniform or **FULL** winter uniform for the first two weeks. At the beginning of week three (**Monday May 8th**) all students will need to be in FULL winter uniform.

Clothing Pool Volunteer Friday April 28th – Sam Robinson

THANK
YOU!



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NSW Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival

The NSW Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival was held last week, 31st March, at Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. Congratulations to Penelope J and Savannah J from Year 2; Ruby C, Ella D, Jack L, Madison M, Eli M, Heath M, Chloe P and Max R from Year 4 who competed in relay teams and individual events. These students represented Our Lady of the Way School and the Parramatta Diocese competing against students from across the state. It is such a wonderful accomplishment to have competed at this level! Well done everyone.



New Canteen Services for Our Lady of the Way – Classroom Catering Commencing Term 2 2023

Commencing in Term 2 will be our new canteen services – Classroom Catering. This service will be available Monday to Friday. Please find below the instructions to download the app and the delicious menu.

Please follow the instructions below to download the app

Spriggy Schools Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains

Introducing Spriggy Schools for online ordering

How to get started

1. Download the Spriggy Schools app
2. Create a profile for your child
3. Conveniently place orders online

Download the app now!

[GET IT ON Google Play](#) [Download on the App Store](#)



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OUR LADY OF THE WAY EMU PLAINS

MENU

Hot Food

Macaroni & Cheese	\$5.00
Butter Chicken & Rice	\$5.00
Beef or Vegetable Lasagne	\$5.00
Fried Rice	\$5.00
Traveller Pie	\$4.60
Sausage Roll	\$4.00
Spinach and Ricotta Roll	\$4.00
Party Pies	2 for \$3.00
Garlic Bread	\$2.50

Drinks

Bottled Water - 600ml	\$2.00
Plain Milk - 300ml	\$2.20
Juice Popper	\$2.60
Flavoured Milk - 300ml	\$3.00
Juice Bomb Sparkling Juice	\$3.00
Up 'N' Go	\$3.20

Snacks

Laughing Cow Cheese	\$1.20
Carrot Sticks	\$1.20
Piece of Fruit	\$1.50
Boiled Egg	\$1.20
Popcorn	\$2.00
Custard Cup	\$2.00
Red Rock Crips	\$2.00
Grainwaves	\$2.00
Riviana Fruit Cup	\$2.00
Banana Bread Slice	\$3.00

ORDER ONLINE

For a detailed menu, and online ordering, please visit spriggyschools.com.au



Cut-Off time for all orders is 8:30am

Sandwiches & Wraps

All Sandwiches are made on wholemeal bread

Upgrade to Wrap	\$0.80
Vegemite, Jam or Cheese	\$2.50
Tuna or Egg	\$3.50
Ham, Chicken or Roast Beef	\$4.20
Salad Sandwich	\$4.20
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Beetroot and Carrot	
Salad with Tuna or Ham	\$4.50
Salad with Chicken or Roast Beef	\$5.00
Extras including; Toasting,	\$0.60
Cheese, Avocado, Sprouts	

Build your own Sub Roll

\$5.50

One choice of Meat with any fillings and sauces

1. Choose your Meat;

Chicken Breast, Ham, Tuna, Meatball, Roast Beef

2. Choose your Fillings

Carrot, Cheese, Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber, Beetroot

3. Choose your Sauce/Dressing

Caesar. Garlic Aioli, Sweet Chilli, Tomato, BBQ, Mayo

Salads

Small

Large

Garden Salad	\$4.50	\$5.20
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Beetroot and Carrot		
Garden Salad with Ham or Tuna	\$5.20	\$6.00
Garden Salad with Chicken	\$5.20	\$6.00
Chicken Caesar Salad	\$5.50	\$6.00
Extras - each		\$0.70

Burgers & Wraps

Chicken Tender Wrap	\$5.50
With Lettuce & Mayo	
Chicken Burger	\$5.00
With Lettuce & Mayo	
Cheese Burger	\$5.00
Beef, Cheese & BBQ Sauce	
Veggie Burger	\$5.00
With Lettuce & Mayo	



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EASTER HAT PARADE PHOTOS





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Safe School Parking - Reminders

In recent weeks we have had neighbouring residents contact the school to notify us of some unsafe parking practices that have been impacting their ability to access their driveways and residences.

It is important to remember that extra care is needed when driving and parking around school zones. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting not only your child but other children at risk. The parking and traffic rules around our schools are there to protect your children. Police and Council Rangers patrol school zones and if you break the rules you will be fined.

Below are some examples of situations that have been recently reported to us, occurring in neighbouring streets. Please be mindful of residents when parking to collect your child/ren from school.

[Penrith City Council Education Information](#)

OBSTRUCTING DRIVEWAYS, RAMPS, PATHS AND PASSAGEWAYS

WHY IS IT ILLEGAL?

Obstructing a driveway even if it is to your own property is an offence as it prohibits access for emergency services such as the police, the fire brigade and ambulances.

- **Driveway offence penalty exceeds \$268 or \$344 in School Zone plus two Demerit Points.**

Obstructing a ramp, path or passageway can limit access points for prams and mobility impaired pedestrians, resulting in them having to use the roadway.



- **Obstruct access to ramp/path/passageway penalty exceeds \$268 or \$344 in School Zone plus two Demerit Points.**

PARKING ON FOOTPATHS AND NATURE STRIPS IN BUILT-UP AREAS

WHY IS IT ILLEGAL?

Parking on footpaths can damage the concrete surface and create ruts on grassed nature strips, resulting in trip hazards that may cause serious injury to pedestrians.

Parking on the nature strip is an obstruction to pedestrians, postal delivery services, people in wheel chairs or pushing prams.

- **Stop on path/strip in built-up area penalty exceeds \$268.**
- **Stop on path/strip in built-up area within School Zone penalty exceeds \$344 and two Demerit Points.**





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SPORTS DAYS FOR TERM 2 – Please note the change

Sport will be held on **one day** per week as of term 2.

Kindergarten to Year 2 – will be Mondays

Year 3 to Year 6 – will be Thursdays

MUSIC LESSON UPDATE

Music is alive and well at OLOW. Singing club occurs second break on Thursday, while guitar club occurs 8.15 on Thursday mornings.



Regards
Mrs Elizabeth McGregor
Music Teacher



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BULLYING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) is committed to providing a welcoming, safe and respectful learning space for every student. We support each student in their learning development and maintain a respectful and safe space for them to learn and grow in a Catholic faith environment. We do this to support and promote student wellbeing and help young people develop and achieve their full potential.

In the interests of all community members, we respond to student behaviours in a way that keeps the school, staff and students safe. When a concern about bullying is raised we work closely with the students involved and their parents or carers to ensure that we act fairly and that we focus on helping students to grow and learn.

THESE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS WHEN BULLYING IS THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over someone who feels unable to stop it from happening. **Bullying** can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices, and it can be obvious or hidden. Bullying behaviour is usually repeated over a period of time and is selective and intentional.

Bullying behaviour is not:

- children not getting along well
- a breakdown in friendships
- disagreements between two or more people
- a single occasion of nastiness
- two unrelated incidents months or years apart.

Children will sometimes say or do something hurtful. While it is important for the school to address the behaviour, it is incorrect to label all poor behaviour as bullying.

What should I do if I think my child is being bullied?

Children sometimes find it hard to talk about bullying. They can feel embarrassed or ashamed and perhaps believe the things that the bullies tell them. Children may be shy to tell adults about bullying, as they fear that they will take the matter out of their hands.

Signs that your child is being bullied may be:

- **Acting out:** displaying unusual aggression at home, talking about hating school, refusing to attend school
- **Acting in:** subtle changes such as being moody, withdrawing from activities, being quieter than usual, and inability to sleep or restless sleeping
- **Physical signs:** physical injuries, torn clothing, altered school routes, avoiding certain people or places, unacceptable behaviour.



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What can I do to support my child who may have experienced bullying?

Talk to your child about their right to feel safe, how to recognise if they feel unsafe and what to do if they experience or witness bullying.

- 1 Listen to their story:** Children are often shy to tell adults about bullying because they feel embarrassed or ashamed that it's happening. It's really important to stay calm and make sure your child gets the chance to talk. Let your child know that you take the bullying seriously and that it's important to stop it from happening. Be careful not to become too emotional or angry as your child will absorb those feelings.
- 2 Get the facts:** bullying behaviour usually follows patterns. An accurate picture will help determine your next step. Write down dates, times, places, words and actions.
- 3 Recognise and validate their feelings (anger, fear, sadness):** Bullying always surfaces strong feelings so make sure you give your child time to understand and express their thoughts and feelings with you.
- 4 Contact the school:** Decide who is the best person to share your concerns with (it is not always the principal, and more likely a classroom teacher or coordinator). The school has a process they will follow to respond to your report.
- 5 Talk about active coping skills:** Practice scenarios at home where your child learns how to ignore or develop confident skills for coping with bullying. Help your child identify teachers and friends who can help them if they're worried about being bullied.
- 6 Help build your child's support network and self-confidence:** Positive friendship groups are great protection for children when they are bullied so do all you can to encourage and build their friendship groups inside and outside the school.
- 7 Build their self-confidence:** Provide your child with encouragement. Let your child know they will get through this. Be available when they want to talk about it.

What should I do if I think my child has bullied someone?

It can be upsetting to be told that your child has bullied others. Children who use bullying behaviours need support to learn better ways of relating to others. Stay calm and call your child's school to learn more about the situation. Together you can learn and address the behaviour:

- discuss with your child why they might be behaving this way
- discuss the behaviours with the school
- explain why bullying is unacceptable
- make clear rules and consequences for your child's behaviour.

TIPS

- 1** Listen calmly and respond respectfully
- 2** Acknowledge and validate your child's feelings: "That must have made you feel upset", "I can see how upset you are"
- 3** Ask your child to recount what happened and keep it factual
- 4** Work in partnership with the school.

For more information, please contact your Principal or the CEDP Community Liaison Unit on (02) 9840 5796.

The CEDP Anti-Bullying Procedures can be found here:
www.parra.catholic.edu.au/about/our-strategy-and-policies/policy-central

Translation services can be arranged via the Community Liaison Unit.



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Gateway Family Services Term 2, 2023 Parenting Programs Summary



Program	Date & Time	Location	Registration
Life, the Universe & Stories <i>A relaxed social group that centres around the reading, reflection and discussion of great stories. Drop in whenever you feel. All ages welcome, FREE morning tea.</i>	Every Friday 10:00am—12:00 noon	Blaxland Uniting Church Hall 70-76 Old Bathurst Road, BLAXLAND	Ph: Chris 0468 346 834 OR Email chris@sharedreadingnsw.com
Circle of Security <i>Learn how to be a strong, wiser & kinder parent with your kids. Suitable for parents of 0-12 year old</i>	Every Tuesday 2nd May - 13th June 6:30pm—8:30pm	Euroka Children's Centre Corner Hope St & Great Western Hwy BLAXLAND	Ph: 4720 6500 OR Email groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au
Circle of Security <i>Learn how to be a strong, wiser & kinder parent with your kids. Suitable for parents of 0-12 year old</i>	Every Wednesday 3rd May - 14th June 10:00am—12:00pm <i>* Childcare available - must register *</i>	Nepean Multicultural Access Building 1, 29 Swanston Street ST MARYS	Ph: 4720 6500 OR Email groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au
1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching <i>Learn how to understand & manage your child's difficult behaviour. Suitable for parents with 2-12 year olds.</i>	Every Wednesday 10th May—24th May 10am—12:00pm	Blaxland Uniting Church Hall 72 Old Bathurst Road BLAXLAND	Ph: 4720 6500 OR Email groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au

For more information and individual Flyers go to:

www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or www.facebook.com/GatewayFS

Gateway Family Services parenting programs are funded by DSS and DCJ.

Gateway works collaboratively with community partners to bring parent groups to communities from St Marys to Blackheath.

Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone.





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OUR LADY OF THE WAY CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Event	
Apr 6	Thur	09:00am	School Cross Country	Hunter Field
Apr 6	Thur		Last Day of Term 1	
Apr 7	Friday		Good Friday	
Apr 8	Sat		Easter Saturday	
Apr 9	Sun		Easter Sunday	
Apr 10	Mon		Easter Monday	

TERM 2

Date	Day	Time	Event	
Apr 24	Mon	All Day	Pupil Free	Staff Development Day
Apr 25	Tues	All Day	Public Holiday	Anzac Day
Apr 26	Wed		Term 2 Commences	Students return for Term 2
Apr 26	Wed	09:00am	ANZAC Day Prayer	Cola – All Welcome
Apr 28	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
May 5	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
May 5	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 4 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
May 8	Mon		Full Winter Uniform	
May 10	Wed		Diocesan Cross Country	
May 10	Wed	07:30-08:30pm	Eucharist Information Night	Parents Only – more info to come
May 12	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
May 12	Fri	10:15am	Mother's Day Liturgy	
May 13	Sat	06:00-07:00pm	Eucharist Blessing	Our Lady of the Way Church
May 14	Sun	08:00-09:00am & 09:30-10:30am	Eucharist Blessing	Our Lady of the Way Church
May 14	Sun		Mother's Day	
May 15	Mon	06:30-07:30pm	Growing Towards Wholeness Program	Years 5 and 6 Parent Session via Zoom – refer Compass Note 21.03.23
May 17	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Eucharist Preparation Session 1	More info to come
May 18	Thur	08:45-10:45am	Growing Towards Wholeness Program	Year 5 girls
May 18	Thur	11:25-01:25pm	Growing Towards Wholeness Program	Year 5 boys
May 19	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
May 19	Fri		National Walk to School Day	
May 19	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 2 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
May 24	Wed		Feast of Mary Help of Christians	
May 24	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Eucharist Preparation Session 2	More info to come
May 25	Thu	08:45-10:45am	Growing Towards Wholeness Program	Year 6 girls
May 25	Thu	11:25-01:25pm	Growing Towards Wholeness Program	Year 6 boys
May 26	Fri	All Day	OLOW Athletics Carnival	
May 28	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
May 30	Tue	11:25am	Ranger James Tours	Year 5 Incursion
May 31	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Eucharist Preparation Session 3	More info to come
Jun 2	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
Jun 2	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year Kindergarten and Year 5 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Jun 7	Wed		Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day	



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Jun 7	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Eucharist Preparation Session 4	
Jun 9	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
Jun 9	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 3 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Jun 14	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Eucharist Rehearsal	
Jun 16	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
Jun 16	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 1 and Year 6 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Jun 23	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome
Jun 30	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	Cola – All Welcome