



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.ollowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>



Parent Communication Term 1 Week 5

PRINCIPAL

On Tuesday we celebrated our Opening School Mass. The theme of the Mass was 'Rise Up! Don't Hold Back!' It's a fitting theme for 2023 as we have emerged from three years of COVID impacted education. We lost the opportunity to be a community, and, in some ways, schools were deprived of carrying out their core business of educating children. Who can remember the lock downs?

In their introduction our school leaders spoke of challenging ourselves and each other, 'to create, to build, to envision a life for each one of us and for our community that is filled with amazing possibilities, exciting opportunities and great challenges that will enrich us and help us to reach our potential.' What an awesome challenge we have been set. In essence this statement captures much of what we try to do as a school community.

It can be hard to make the choices that challenge us to be the best we can. In schools this can be challenging as we work with parents and carers to ensure students not only do their best academically, but also develop the skills to be the future adults of our community. It can be confronting when all is not as we wish, and hard conversations have to take place. In my experience the vast majority of educators come from a place of trying to use every teachable moment to make our students the best they can be. This includes when things go wrong. In fact, these are often the moments when the most learning occurs when rising up is most apparent.

Father Michael spoke of the journey as he welcomed all of the new members of our community. He spoke of the need to walk with God, to 'rise up' in this time. In many ways we have the power to make this community what we want it to be. We all make a choice to build it up or tear it down. My hope as your new principal is that together we will rise up and continue the great work of building a school culture we can all be proud of.

Parents and Friends Meeting

Parents and carers, one of the greatest ways you can support your school community and build it up is through the gift of time. On the 15th March at 6.30pm the Parents and Friends Group (P & F) will meet for the first time this year. If we want to be a community that has a strong community culture we need parents and carers who are willing to 'rise up' and be the people who organise and help at school events. This task can't be left to a few or we run the risk of having no P & F group.

Listening Conferences

This week the staff are holding Listening Conferences. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child's teachers, discuss the year ahead and build a working relationship together. I want to acknowledge the parents who have attended and encourage those, who have not, to try to make the time to connect with your child's teacher.

I also want to thank the staff who have given up their time with their families and friends to support our school community. Staff are not compensated in any way to do this work and yet they willingly make the time as they value the connections with families.



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Staff Recognition of Service

This week I presented staff with Recognition of Service certificates acknowledging the years of service provided to Catholic education. In all, nineteen staff were recognised.

- Two staff members for 30 years' service
- Three staff members for 25 years' service
- One staff member for 20 years' service
- Three staff members for 15 years' service
- Six staff members for 10 years' service
- Four staff members for 5 years' service

It is affirming to know that we have such an experienced staff community at Our Lady of the Way. This experience is drawn on regularly to help the broader teaching body to support student learning.

NAPLAN

All students in years three and five will sit NAPLAN later this term. A significant change this year is that NAPLAN has been brought forward and will take place between Wednesday 15th and Monday 27th of March.

NAPLAN is completed online and includes the following tests;

- reading
- writing
- conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy

My advice to all parents is not to elevate stress regarding NAPLAN. We want every student to achieve their best and that is the message they should receive from home.

Mr Phillip Kapitanow
Principal



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Opening School Mass

Yesterday we celebrated our Opening School Mass. Congratulations to the Year 6 Leadership Teams and the Student Representative Councillors who received their badges and made a pledge to help lead our school community by showing Christian example. Thank you to the many families who attended our celebration and stayed to have a picnic morning tea afterwards. It was wonderful to have all of you with us.

The theme of our Mass; a theme which will permeate through all of our celebrations this year; is:
'Rise Up! Don't Hold Back!'

Our Student Representative Councillors presented a candle to their grade to be placed on the grade's Prayer Space as a reminder of our theme.

Fr Michael shared a challenge for all the grades:

**May this candle be a symbol of courage and strength for all of you this year.
May you live life to the full and never be afraid to challenge yourself to be
the best you can be.
Rise up! Don't hold back!**



Ash Wednesday

Today your child(ren) attended either an Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Kinder to Year 2) or Ash Wednesday Mass (Years 3 - 6). Thank you to those parents who were able to join us to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent.

The tradition of the Church has been to see Lent as a time of renewal and preparation for the great feast of Easter. Lent is a special time of prayer, fasting and reaching out to help others.

The children will be able to consider reaching out to help others by taking home a Project Compassion box.

They can learn about the stories of how the lives of people have been changed by Caritas through Project Compassion by clicking on this site:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/project-compassion/?resourceTopics=Project+Compassion+2023>



**Kind regards,
Carole Day
Religious Education Coordinator**



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Dear Parents and Carers.

All students of Our Lady of the Way will have the opportunity to participate in the 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. ***It is not a competition.***

The challenge requires children to read a certain number of books depending on their age.

After books are read (or 'read to' for Kindergarten to Year 2 children) **you or your child will need to enter the books on the PRC website using the child's unique log in code. All student reading logs/records can be submitted online at home.**

Students' login details and reading log will be issued at school. These are the same as previous years. Kindergarten students will be issued new login details.

During your child's school library visit, PRC books can be borrowed, and you may also borrow them from your local library. These books are recognisable by these coloured stickers on their cover.



**The 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge closes
Friday 18 August.**

Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge, see table below:

Challenge	Number of books needed to complete the Challenge	Minimum number of PRC books for your Challenge	Maximum number of personal choice books	PRC booklist selection
K-2	30	20	10	K-2 , 3-4 , 5-6 , 7-9
3-4	20	10	10	3-4 , 5-6 , 7-9
5-6	20	10	10	5-6 , 7-9

Need more information?

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> .

Mrs Susan Masters
Librarian



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PRIMARY SPORT

Catholic Schools

Parramatta Diocese

Zone Swimming Carnival Success!

OLOW produced some very impressive results at the Zone Swimming Carnival. The following students made it through to the Diocesan level.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the parents who came on the day. I thank you so very much for all your help and your support, both to the children and myself. Your presence is relished by the children and deeply appreciated by me. I look forward to announcing the wonderful results from the Diocesan Day (March 14th at Blacktown Aquatic Centre).

Congratulations goes to:

The Senior Boys Relay - Max Thompson, Patrick Moran, Memphis Cross and Remy Cross.

The Senior Girls Relay - Audrey Edwards, Ruby Coghlan, Ella Hirsch and Sarah Fenning.

The Junior Boys Relay - Jack Layt, Eli and Heath Mills and Max Roney.

Open 100m Freestyle Boys and Girls - Audrey Edwards and Remy Cross

50m Freestyle 8 yrs Boys and Girls - Henry Cairns, Penelope and Savannah Joseph.

50m Freestyle 9 yrs Boys and Girls - Eli Mills, Heath Mills and Chloe Pearson

50m Freestyle 10 yrs Boys and Girls - Max Roney and Ella Dwyer

50m Freestyle 11 yrs Girls - Audrey Edwards

50m Freestyle 12 yrs Boys - Remy Cross

50m Backstroke Junior Boys and Girls - Jack Layt, Max Roney, Maddison McGrath and Ella Dwyer

50m Backstroke 11 yrs - Audrey Edwards

50m Backstroke Seniors Boys - Max Thompson

50m Backstroke Junior Boys and Girls - Jack Layt, Ella Dwyer and Maddison McGrath

50m Breaststroke 11 yrs Girls - Audrey Edwards

50m Breaststroke Senior Boys - Max Thompson

50m Butterfly Junior Boys and Girls - Jack Layt, Zachary Trigg, Ella Dwyer and Maddison McGrath

50m Butterfly 11 yrs Girls - Audrey Edwards

50m Butterfly Senior Boys - Remy Cross

Age Champions - Audrey Edwards, Ella Dwyer, Jack Layt

Runner up Age Champion - Maddison McGrath

What a wonderful bunch of Athletes! It really was a great day!

Mrs Belinda Bunter
Sports Coordinator



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GENERAL NEWS

Bus Safety Week

Bus Safety Week began on Monday 20 February and will run until Sunday 26 February 2023. The annual campaign raises awareness for all road users on how to stay safe on and around buses, helping to reduce injuries and fatalities.

Be Bus Aware highlights the importance of bus safety for all road users. Buses are large, heavy vehicles and can't stop quickly. NSW has one of the largest metropolitan bus fleets in Australia. Almost 4000 buses operate in the Sydney area, while another 1000 buses service the Newcastle, Wollongong and Blue Mountains areas. In addition, more than 3000 bus services operate in rural and regional NSW.

Over the five-year period up to June 2020, a total of 34 people were killed in crashes involving buses in NSW. Of the 34 fatalities, 15 were pedestrians. During the same five-year period, 362 people were seriously injured in bus crashes, including 69 pedestrians and 18 bicycle riders.

RESOURCES

[Bus safety for school students](#) has more information on how families can help keep children safe getting on and off buses.

The [Safety Town website](#) has activities you can do with primary school children to help them keep safe on and around buses. There is also a section for families on driving safely around buses and getting children to and from the bus stop safely.

The [Agent Walker: Operation Safe Transit](#) bus safety video was produced for school students in years 5 and 6, who are starting to gain independence, and their teachers, parents and carers.





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ATTENDANCE

Absences from School

When your child is absent from school due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances you will need to login to the Compass Portal and indicate why your child is absent. If you have not entered the reason by 9.30am you will receive a SMS asking you to complete the attendance note. If a reason is not entered within 7 days of the absence it will remain as an unexplained absence.

Late Arrival

At *Our Lady of the Way School* we value and protect all-day learning time. Punctuality assists children to settle in the morning and reduces interruptions to a class. However, there will be times when children arrive late. Your child is considered late if they have not arrived at school by the first bell at 8:45am. Children arriving late need to be accompanied to the office by their parents to be signed in and collect a 'late note' from the school office prior to attending class.

Early release from School

The end of the day is an important time of day for children and their teachers every day. Teachers give out information regarding work that needs to be completed at home and reminders about events happening the next day. It is important that children do not leave school early unless absolutely necessary. If you do need to collect your child during school hours, you will need to come to the office to sign them out. The office staff will then follow school procedures and have your child come down to the office. Parents are not to go to their child's room during class time.

Late collecting your child or changing arrangements to go home

It is important your child knows how they are going home each day. When children are informed during the day about changes, they can become worried and anxious. If you have been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the school office by telephone **no later than 2:40pm** so that a message can be passed onto your child before they are dismissed. Please do not send late emails as the message may not be read in time for dismissal.



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FROM THE PARISH

Prayerful reflective Bible Study:

Matthew's Gospel. Groups (1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 2pm, 7pm)

begins 1st March. Reading required prior to meeting so please inquire now for copy of Commentary

Jim Potts 0421 125 722

You are invited to join **Dr Laurie Woods**, spiritual writer, and Scripture scholar, for an interactive exploration of:

Living the Spirituality of Matthew's Gospel in 2023.

Saturday 25th February, 9:00am - 12.30 pm Parish Hall, Emu Plains.

RSVP 22 February to Jim Potts 0421 125 722

OUR LADY OF THE WAY CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Event	
Feb 23 rd	Thur	03:30-05:00pm	Listening Conferences	Our Lady of the Way Primary School
Feb 24 th	Fri	09:30-10:30am	Penola Catholic College	Visiting Yr5 and Yr6 (for students only)
Feb 24 th	Fri	08.50-09.10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 1 st	Wed	09:45-12:25pm	Yr2 Incursion Fizzics Educ	OLOW Year 2 classroom
Mar 1 st	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Reconciliation Preparation	Session 3
Mar 3 rd	Fri	08.50-09.10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 3 rd	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 4 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 3 rd	Fri	08.50-09.10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 6 th -Mar 12 th	All week		Catholic School Week	
Mar 6 th -Mar 7 th	Mon & Tues		Yr 6 Canberra Excursion	Canberra
Mar 7 th	Tues	09:30-10:45am	Kinder 2024 Open Morning	Our Lady of the Way Primary School
Mar 8 th	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Reconciliation Rehearsal	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 9 th	Thur	03:30-04:30pm	Kinder 2024 Open Afternoon	Our Lady of the Way Primary School
Mar 10 th	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 10 th	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 3 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 15 th -Mar 27 th			Naplan Yr 3 & Yr 5	
Mar 14 th	Tue		Diocesan Swimming Carnival	Blacktown Aquatic Centre
Mar 15 th	Wed	06:30pm	Parents & Friends AGM	Our Lady of the Way Primary School
Mar 15 th	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 17 th	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 17 th	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 2 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 20 th -Mar 26 th	All week		Harmony Week	
Mar 24 th	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 24 th	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 1 & Year 6 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 29 th	Wed	08:45-01:30pm	Yr 3 & Yr 4 Cosmodome Incursion	Classroom
Apr 6 th	Thur		Last Day of Term 1	
Apr 7 th	Friday		Good Friday	
Apr 8 th	Sat		Easter Saturday	
Apr 9 th	Sun		Easter Sunday	
Apr 10 th	Mon		Easter Monday	