



## Our Lady of the Way Primary School

17 Troy Street, Emu Plains NSW 2750

Phone: (02) 4735 1930

Email: [OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au)

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



*Parent Communication Term 1 Week 7*

### PRINCIPAL

This week Year 6 went on their overnight camp to Canberra. I was fortunate enough to attend the camp. It was the first time in several years that I have attended a camp and it's fair to say I had forgotten about the lack of sleep and the constant nature of a school camp. The year 6 teachers, Mrs Bunter and Mr Jenkins supported by Mrs Dawes (Teacher's Aid) did a fantastic job both preparing the students and supporting them whilst on camp.

From my perspective it was a great two days where the students got to experience some of Canberra's facilities including Questacon, the Electoral Commission, The War Memorial, Australian Institute of Sport and of course, Parliament House. We were also lucky enough to have Melissa McIntosh, our local Federal Member of Parliament, take the time to speak to our students.

Our students always represented our Lady of the Way in a positive way. They were respectful of all adults including venue, accommodation, and school staff. Camp can be difficult for some students as they embark on a new experience away from their families, but our students rose to this challenge!

I want to thank our staff who went to camp, Mrs Bunter, Mr Jenkins and Mrs Dawes. The staff do this as they know how important it is to the students. They don't receive additional remuneration for going on camp and miss out on time with family and friends.

### Outside Services in School

Many students access external service providers outside of school. These include and are not limited to, speech therapists, behaviour therapists, counsellors, occupational therapists, and psychologists. Such providers support children in important ways as they develop strategies to overcome challenges. These services are an important element of a student's overall support.

At school we will engage with such service providers via a phone call or meeting. We are happy to engage with service providers to achieve the best outcomes for students. There are limits on our ability to engage outside service providers and one of the biggest is the ability for providers to enter the school to either observe students or provide therapy. According to Catholic Schools Diocese of Parramatta (CSPD) such engagement is a breach of policy.

We have many system provided services available to staff to support students and will engage these when required.

### Early Years Assessment

All students from kindergarten to year 2 are currently undertaking aspects of the Early Years Literacy Assessment (EYA). This assessment is standardised and all students in the Parramatta Diocese complete it. The assessment will help to inform instructional strategies used to ensure all students continue to make literacy progress, particularly in the area of reading.

**Mr Phillip Kapitanow**  
**Principal**



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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

### **Catholic Schools Week Mufti Day - Fundraiser for Caritas**

Just a reminder that we will be holding a fundraiser for Caritas this Friday March 10. For a \$5 donation the students can wear mufti and receive a packet of popcorn and a Zooper Dooper. Donations can be made via the Qkr! App.

Thank you so much to all the families who made donations already.

### **Project Compassion Boxes**

Thank you to all the students who have made a donation to Caritas and have brought in their Project Compassion boxes.

Please feel free to keep the Project Compassion boxes at home until the last week of this term, even if the collection of money has been completed. We are planning to present Fr Michael with the Project Compassion boxes in the last days of this term.

### **Harmony Day**

On Friday, March 24 our OLOW community will be celebrating Harmony Day.

On this day you are invited to bring a picnic lunch to share with your child(ren) and then take part in a Fun Afternoon. Teachers will be hosting various activities that you can enjoy with your child(ren). There will be time for three x fifteen-minute rotations. There will be more details about the activities next week.

The children can wear mufti that might include something orange, which is the official colour of Harmony Day.

We would love to see you there!



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### Grades attending Parish Mass

The following grades will be attending Mass over the next few weeks. You are very welcome to attend.

Year 3 - Friday March 10 @ 9:00am

Year 2 - Friday March 17 @ 9:00am

Year 1 and Year 6 - Friday March 24 @ 9:00am

Kindergarten and Year 5 - Friday March 31 @ 9:00am

***Mrs Carole Day***  
***Religious Education Coordinator***



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## NEWS FROM OUR YEAR 4

### Welcome to Year 4



## In Year Four we believe that we can be heroes together!

In our PBS4L lessons we wrote a recipe together for how to have the best day at school ever!



We have explored different strategies to solve mathematical problems including proving our thinking.



In Science and Technology, we have continued our learning about Earth and Space - our teachers have been amazed by our knowledge!



During Creative Arts lessons we learnt about the colour wheel and which colours compliment each other.







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In Religion we are learning about the Sacraments of Healing and how they strengthen our relationship with God. We have been unpacking the story of "The Forgiving Father" from Luke's Gospel and connecting it to the steps of Reconciliation.

Some of us will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 15th and we have all enjoyed the weekly visits from Mrs Kensey, OLOW Sacramental Coordinator.



We have role played what happens during confession and explored the signs and symbols of the two Sacraments of Healing. Creating sketch notes has helped to consolidate our understanding of these two sacraments.



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## PACER YEAR 6 OVERNIGHT CAMP

Students from our school have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. This rebate has already been deducted from the cost charged to our families.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Easter Raffle

It has become tradition at *Our Lady of the Way School* that, throughout the year, our Year 6 children fundraise in order to present a farewell gift to our school community.

Our **Easter Egg Raffle** is always a wonderful event with over 50 prizes allocated each year. To support this fundraising effort, we are requesting Easter Egg donations. The donated Easter Eggs needs to be given to your child's class teacher **before Monday 27th March**. Also, if you have any spare baskets could you please send them into the school office.



As this is a Year 6 fundraiser, we need a few Year 6 parents to assist with making up the Easter baskets on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 8.45am if you are available to assist, please email Mrs Irvine at [olow@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olow@parra.catholic.edu.au).

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and can be purchased via the QKR app.

**All tickets need to be purchased by Friday 31st March.**

### Scholastic Books

We have sent home today order forms for Scholastic Book Club, Edition 2 2023. Please take a look and if you wish to order any of the books or items, please use the payment method **Option 1 Credit Card** to process your payment. Do not send any cash into the school. Ordering for this edition will be available until close of business Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup>.





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**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen** OFM Conv DD STL  
Bishop of Parramatta

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March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Second Sunday of Lent and the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Dear friends in Christ,

Not long after my Installation as your pastor, I desired to hold a Diocesan Synod in order to develop a pastoral plan which would follow my predecessor's "Faith in Our Future" and chart a new pathway for the Diocese. However, we had to wait for the long-delayed national Plenary Council to conclude.

Today, after much prayer and consultation, I formally announce the convocation of the Synod in the Diocese of Parramatta. This will be the first Synod in the history of our young Diocese. Like the national and universal synods, ours will be also held in two phases. The first assembly will be held from Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 October 2023 and the final assembly will be held near the middle of next year 2024.

Recognising the fruits of the Plenary Council and in the spirit of synodality, to which you have already contributed so deeply, I invite you to walk with me as we discern further a framework by which we can revitalise our Church in the Diocese and discover together a path of renewal for all of us.

I have appointed a Preparatory Commission to lead this process, chaired by Sr Ailsa Mackinnon RSM, Chancellor of Ministries and Qwayne Guevara as the Lead Facilitator.

Pope Francis has called the entire People of God into a journey of listening and discernment, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us towards personal conversion and renewal in the Church. Pope Francis explains that *'The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from His church in the third millennium'*.

In preparation towards the Synod, I encourage you to participate in prayer, listening, discernment and local action, guided by the Holy Spirit, as we seek to witness to the Gospel and foster a more welcoming, compassionate, and humble Church. The Diocesan Synod will have a significant impact on the way in which we live out community and mission.

The time is now, here in the Diocese of Parramatta, for us to 'go out into the deep' (Luke 5:4) and step into the future that awaits us - one that is inspired by the deep understanding that God's love is not reserved for a few, but for all. Let us accompany one another along this path with firm hope and abiding trust in our God who desires our good, and who dwells among us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen** OFM Conv.  
Bishop of Parramatta



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### OUR LADY OF THE WAY CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Event	
Mar 8	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Reconciliation Rehearsal	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 9	Thur	03:30-04:30pm	Kinder 2024 Open Afternoon	Our Lady of the Way Primary School
Mar 10	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 10	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 3 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 10	Fri	All day	Mufti Day Caritas Fundraiser Turkey & Syria Earthquake	Zooper Dooper & Popcorn \$5 payable via QKR app
Mar 13	Mon	Morning Sess	Naplan Practice	Year 5
Mar 13	Mon	Middle Sess	Naplan Practice	Year 3
Mar 14	Tue		Diocesan Swimming Carnival	Blacktown Aquatic Centre
Mar 14	Tue	Morning Sess	Naplan Practice	Year 3
Mar 14	Tue	Middle Sess	Naplan Practice	Year 5
Mar 15	Wed	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #1	Year 3 – Writing (on paper)
Mar 15	Wed	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #1	Year 5 – Writing (online)
Mar 15	Wed	06:30pm	Parents & Friends AGM	Our Lady of the Way Primary School
Mar 15	Wed	07:00-08:00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 15	Wed		Scholastic Book Club	Orders closes
Mar 16	Thu	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #2	Year 3 and Year 5 – Reading
Mar 16	Thu	Middle Sess	Naplan Test Day #2	Year 3 and Year 5 – Convent of Language
Mar 17	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 17	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 2 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 17	Fri	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #3	Year 5 – Numeracy
Mar 17	Fri	Middle Sess	Naplan Test Day #3	Year 3 – Numeracy
Mar 20	Mon	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #4	Catch Up Testing Convent of Language and Numeracy
Mar 20	Mon	Middle Sess	Naplan Test Day #4	Final Catch Up Testing Year 3 Writing
Mar 22	Wed	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #6	Catch Up Testing Convent of Language and Numeracy
Mar 23	Thu	Morning Sess	Naplan Test Day #7	Final Catch Up Testing Convent of Language and Numeracy
Mar 20-Mar 26		All week	Harmony Week	
Mar 24	Fri	08:50-09:10am	School Assembly	OLOW Cola area
Mar 24	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 1 & Year 6 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Mar 27	Mon	All day	Easter Raffle Donation	Final Day for Easter Eggs Donations
Mar 24	Fri	01:30-02:30pm	Family Lunch Harmony Day	Bring a Picnic Lunch – Fun Arvo Activities
Mar 29	Wed	08:45-01:30pm	Yr 3 & Yr 4 Cosmodome Inc	Classroom
Mar 31	Fri	All Day	Easter Raffle Payments	QKR Payments close
Mar 31	Fri	09:00am	Kindergarten & Year 5 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Apr 3 – Apr 6		Last Week T2	Project Compassion Boxes	Need to be returned to school
Apr 6	Thur	09:00am	School Cross Country	Hunterfield Oval
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	