



## 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 9*

### **PRINCIPAL**

Last week we held our first Parents and Friends meeting for 2023. I want to thank the parents who found the time to attend the meeting and provided their ideas to make OLOW a better place for our students. The P & F voted in a new committee and attended to a number of initiatives including fundraising. Other issues raised included options for a canteen and proposed changes to student uniforms. I appreciate that both of these issues are important to the broader community, but there is a process for investigating and then implementing these changes. There are no short fixes to either of these issues.

### **CANTEEN**

An initial inquiry by the school has determined the following.

- The option of finding an external company to operate the canteen via a tender process will not be pursued. This has been previously attempted without success. Due to the size of the school and financial accountabilities of running a business, our canteen is not a viable option for a small business operator.
- The P&F wanted to pursue the option of a parent run canteen. Upon investigation with Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) we have been advised that this is not option. CSPD have provided the following reasons, regulatory requirements, including the need for an ABN , Workers Compensation Insurance, Public Liability, Child Protection challenges and the need to enter a contractual arrangement with the parish to pay rent for using the site.

Obviously, this is disappointing news for the school community. To be clear as Principal, I value an operational canteen, but this is a CSPD decision.

As a way forward, we are investigating alternative options for lunch orders. We are investigating providers who would be able to provide a more regular service with improved food options.

### **UNIFORM**

Potential changes to student uniforms were raised as an ongoing discussion point. We have conducted initial inquiries and determined that although this is possible any changes would need to go through an extensive approval process and then meet our contractual agreements with Lowes. There is also a need to ensure current stock levels are sold to families before any changes to stock can occur at Lowes. This means a change would be a long-term prospect with a phased in period.

### **NAPLAN**

Last week students in Years 3 and 5 completed their NAPLAN assessment. I want to acknowledge the students' efforts in completing the assessments and their parents and staff who did a great job of preparing them for the test.

NAPLAN is one assessment used to monitor student progress. Its power is in making comparisons as a student progresses through school and ensuring student progress is being maintained. In many ways it is affirming assessment that supports what the school already knows about each student. Results of the assessment are not due for some time and will be sent to parents as soon as they are received. In previous years this occurred in August or September.



## 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>



### **SPECIALIST PROGRAMS AT OUR LADY OF THE WAY**

All teachers are entitled to a set amount of Release From Face to Face Teaching (RFF). The amount of time is stipulated in the Teachers Enterprise Agreement and is currently fixed at two hours per week for full time teachers and pro rata for part time teachers. Those following the current enterprise negotiations would be aware that teachers are asking for this time to be increased in acknowledgment of the growing demands placed on teachers.

At Our Lady of the Way this time is provided to teachers through specialist programs including;

- The Strings is a Two-Year Program starting in Year 3
- Music Program for Kinder, Years 1, 2, 5 and 6
- Indigenous Immersion Program K-6
- Visual Arts Program for Years 4, 5, 6

### **INDIGENOUS IMMERSION**

Our Indigenous Immersion Program replaced the former Japanese Languages Program. This occurred late in 2022 when the current Languages teacher left OLOW. A recruiting process was run to try to employ a new languages teacher without success. As many of you would be aware there is a shortage of teachers in NSW, and this is impacting schools' ability to resource programs. Mrs Graham was employed under advice from myself as she worked with me at my previous school running the Indigenous Immersion Program.

The Indigenous Immersion Program involves planned and structured lessons like any other Key Learning Area. Students are assessed and therefore it will be included in Student Progress Reports.

Indigenous Immersion lessons will involve the learning of Aboriginal history, culture and language to engage all students in reconciliation, respect, and recognition of the world's oldest continuous living culture.

Students learn about linguistic features and structures of the local Dharug language oral and written. This provides a unique opportunity to learn about and extend respect to Aboriginal Languages and cultures.

### **THE CREATIVE ARTS PROGRAM**

Students in years Four, Five and Six attend a weekly creative arts lesson. This term the focus has been Visual Arts

- In Years 5 and 6 Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists have been the stimulus for learning activities. Students have been exploring the relationship between artist and subject matter and particularly, the cultural significance of art for indigenous communities. Students have been thinking about their own artistic intentions as they produce art. They have used a range of forms and techniques including sketching, etchings and paintings with mediums such as chalk, charcoal, acrylic paint, watercolour paint and ochre.
- Year 4's Visual Arts program focus subject matter has been exploring a variety of landforms affected by weathering and erosion.



## 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.ollowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>



---

### STRINGS PROGRAM

The strings program is a classroom-based program in which the students learn one of the 4 stringed instruments - Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass over a 2-year period starting in year 3. It is co-delivered by the school music teacher and a string specialist tutor. In year 4 the students are allocated an instrument to take home to further their learning.

CAPTIVATE also offers a small group lesson program for students who wish to continue learning the instrument at the end of the program.



### MUSIC PROGRAM

Students from Early Stage One, Years One, Two, Five and Six attend a weekly music lesson. Years Three and Four do not complete this component as they attend the Strings Program.

The lesson aims to have:

Children actively participate in a variety of games and songs, exploring elements of pitch and rhythm. The program is based on the principles of Zoltan Kodaly.

Through singing, games, fun and play, the child discovers the musical elements, as they are presented sequentially and have the opportunity to enter the world of music through the creative development of the ear and eye.



## 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>



Children will develop their sense of pitch.

- By imitating, reading hand signs, each year increasing the range of notes. (CA, CD, CDA....)
- By developing singing and playing skills, through echo singing, then playing known patterns on instruments (keyboards, recorders, xylophones)
- By developing listening skills and visual memory children will transfer from hand signs to graphic notation, then standard notation.

Children also develop auditory memory and rhythm through clapping patterns with rhymes, echo patterns. Children can maintain the beat, while singing a song, moving to the beat in games. Children can express themselves through responding to sound, rhythm by singing or playing the answer to a question.



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





## 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>



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

### Harmony Day

This 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. You are invited to **arrive at 1:30pm** for lunch.

Teachers will be hosting various activities that you can enjoy with your child(ren). They will begin at approximately 1:55pm.

Below are the activities that you can choose from. If you are attending, you might like to discuss with your child(ren) what you would like to attend.

- **Just Dance Disco** - in the Kinder room
- **Lego / construction** - in the Music Room
- **Art Hub** - in the Year 2 room
- **Escape room** - in the Year 3 room
- **Ultimate Scissors Paper Rock challenge** - outside the Year 4 classroom
- **Chess, board games** - in the Library
- **Sports games** (lead by Year 6 Sport Leaders) - on the Astroturf
- **Biscuit decorating** - under the COLA

There will be time for three x fifteen-minute rotations.

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!



## 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>



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the many students who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first-time last Wednesday night, March 15. The children were so reverent, and it was obvious that they were well prepared and understood the importance of this sacramental moment. We wish all of you every blessing.



Congratulations



### Easter Hat Parade

In the last week of term, we will be holding an Easter Hat Parade. The students are invited to decorate a hat and bring it in on Wednesday morning, April 5<sup>th</sup>. You are very welcome to attend and join in the fun. The Easter Hat Parade will begin at 9:00am under the COLA. We are looking forward to seeing you there.





## 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>



### Caritas - Project Compassion

Thank you so much to the families who helped to support the Mufti Day during Catholic Schools Week. You all helped to raise \$1,200 for the Caritas Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. We have such a generous community! Thank you!

In the last week of school, we will be presenting Fr Michael with our Project Compassion boxes. Please feel free to keep your Project Compassion boxes at home until the last week of school. They can be sent in on Monday of Week 11 (April 3).

### Grades attending Parish Mass

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

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

Year 5 - Friday March 31 @ 9:00am

Kindergarten will be attending Parish Mass with their buddies for the first time on **June 2 @ 9:00am**. This will be in Week 6 of Term 2.

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



## 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>



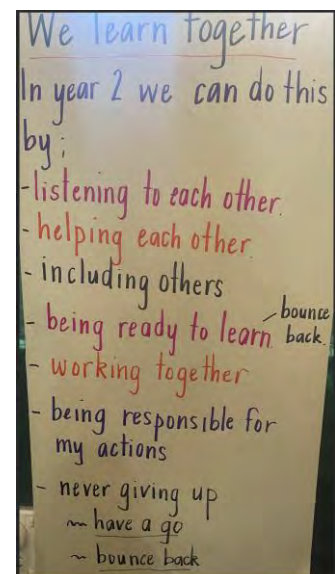
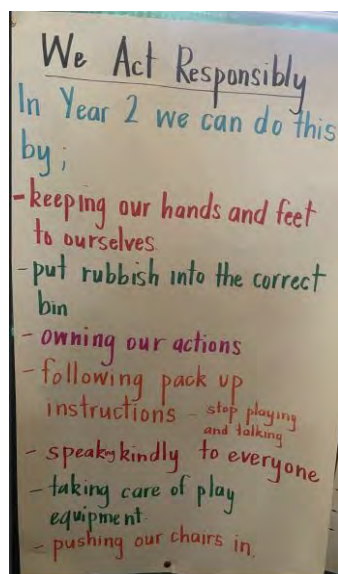
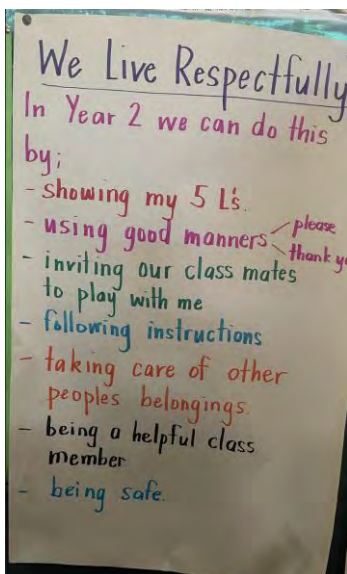
## NEWS FROM YEAR 2

# Welcome To Year 2!

In Year 2 we have been super busy! We wanted to share with you the awesome work our students have created.

## PBS4L

We started the year discussing what successful learners look like in Year 2. We wrote our own expectations and agreements - We Live Respectfully; We Act Responsibly; We Learn Together - based on the school expectations and agreements.







## 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>



## Religion

To help support the school fundraiser for Caritas, the students wrote beautiful prayers of thanks and petition. Thanking God for what they have and asking God to help those in need around the world; especially the people of Turkey and Syria.

A heartfelt prayer written by one of our students.

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for everything you do for me. Thank you for keeping my family and friends safe in our community.*

*Please help the people in Turkey and Syria.*

*Thank you*



## Science/English

The students have engaged in the science unit - Earth and Space.

They thoroughly enjoyed the incursion, Fizzics Education. Students had an in-depth lesson about the earth, sun, moon and our solar system. Year 2 had many questions and the presenter was very impressed with their knowledge.

Year 2 has also been reading information text about the sun (The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal) during shared reading and writing an information report about the sun.





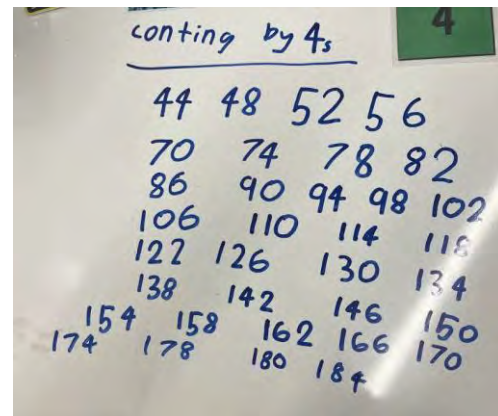
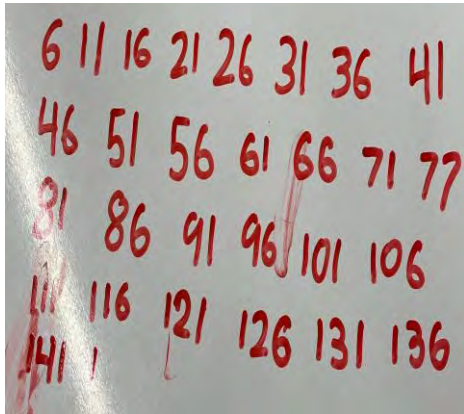
## Our Lady of the Way Primary School

17 Troy Street, Emu Plains NSW 2750

Phone: (02) 4735 1930

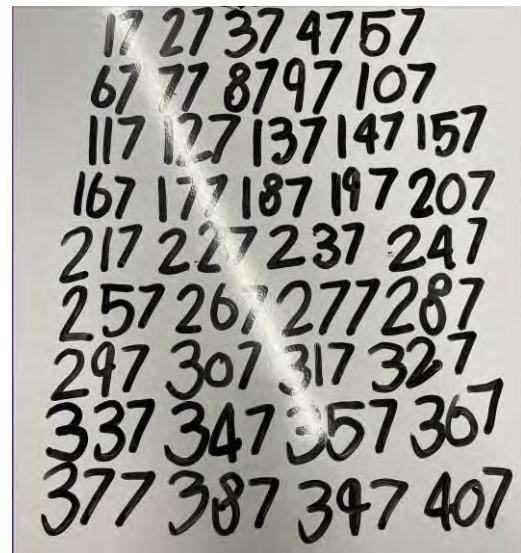
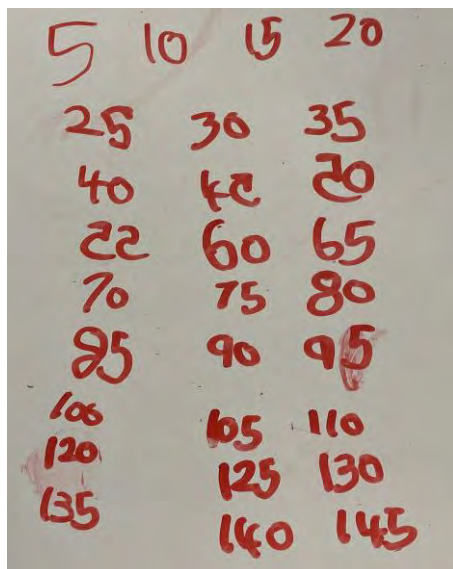
Email: OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au

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



## Mathematics

The students have been starting their Maths lesson each day practising their counting. They have been counting forwards and backwards by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s and 10s as well as counting by a number from a number. For example, counting by 10 from the number 6 or counting by 5 from the number 4. The students are encouraged to recognise patterns, challenge themselves each day and transfer this knowledge to other topics in Maths.





## 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>



## Visual Arts

In Art this term, we are creating different kinds of portraits of ourselves. We are learning how to think about proportion when we are drawing a picture of ourselves.

We incorporated our Science Unit into the Art lesson last week, where we created shadow portraits. We spoke about how the sun casts shadows and how it can look different at different times of the day.



**Regards**

**Mrs Joanne Thomas, Mrs Patricia Scott, Ms Shania Clark**





## Our Lady of the Way Primary School

17 Troy Street, Emu Plains NSW 2750

Phone: (02) 4735 1930

Email: OLOW@parra.catholic.edu.au

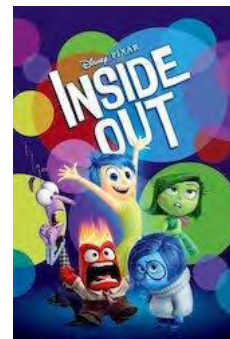
Web: <http://www.ollowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>



### GENERAL NEWS

#### Year 1 Movie

Year 1 will be watching the PG rated movie 'Inside Out' on Friday 31st March (Week 10). This is in relation to finishing the PDH unit which was focused on the Zones of Regulation. The Zones framework teaches students to become more aware of, and independent in controlling and responding to their emotions.



#### Mobile Phone/Smartwatch Agreement

As stated previously in our newsletter and in our Parent handbook students are NOT to have mobile phones or smartwatches at school. We understand that some students require a mobile phone or smartwatch to get in touch with parents after school. If your child needs to bring a phone or smartwatch to school, they will need to leave it at the school office during the day, it is the student's responsibility to collect it at the end of each day. If your child will be bringing a phone or smartwatch to school, please read and complete the attached agreement.

<https://forms.gle/uBWq2QVrab1QsVa96>

#### Clothing Pool

At Our Lady of the Way we have very generous families who donate their old uniforms. Our clothing pool is available to all families by filling out a uniform request form which is located at the front office. You can also send a request through the school email which is [olow@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olow@parra.catholic.edu.au).

Every Friday our small team of volunteer parents fills these orders. Once they are filled you will receive an email to pay via the QKR app. If you would like to volunteer to help in our uniform shop (which is normally once or twice a term) please email your name to [olow@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olow@parra.catholic.edu.au).

#### Clothing Pool Price List

Microfibre Jackets	\$10
Dresses	\$10
Sloppy Joe Jumpers/Jackets	\$5
Shorts – Grey/Sports	\$5
Shirts – Long/Short Sleeved/Sports	\$5
Trousers – Grey	\$5
Trackpants	\$5

Clothing Pool Volunteer Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> – Deanna Chapman

THANK  
YOU!





## 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>



### SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to the families who have finalised their first instalment of school fees for 2023. The school fee statements for Billing Period 1, 2023 were due on **15 March 2023**.



Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made regarding the payment of your account it will be assumed that full payment will be made on or before the due date. Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued". Outstanding accounts will be forwarded to Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese for actioning.

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. If you are experiencing difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact Deanne Hearnden. Discussing of fees will be dealt with confidentially and each person is guaranteed that they will be treated with respect and dignity.

Fees can be paid either by bpay, postbillpay, BPoint, direct debit or by using our EFTPOS facilities.

If you need to discuss any issues in relation to your school fees, please don't hesitate to contact Deanne Hearnden on 02 4777 7200 or email [OLOW-EMUPFees@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:OLOW-EMUPFees@parra.catholic.edu.au).

### EASTER RAFFLE

Just a quick reminder regarding the Easter egg raffle donations. They can be dropped in at the office or to your child's class.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They can be purchased via the QKR app.  
**Closing date for ticket sales - Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Thank you for your continuing support.





## 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>



### OUR LADY OF THE WAY CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Event	
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 Incursion	
Mar 31	Fri	All Day	Easter Raffle Payments	QKR Payments close
Mar 31	Fri	09:00-09:30am	Year 5 Parish Mass	Our Lady of the Way Church
Apr 3	Mon		Project Compassion Boxes	Need to be returned to school
Apr 5	Wed	09:00	Easter Hat Parade	Under Cola
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	