



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 1

Week 6

2016

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

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Dear Parents/Carers,

From 7-11 March, our school will join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week (CSW).

We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to celebrating and showcasing the achievements of students in our school.

This year's theme is 'I belong. You belong. We belong.'

The 2016 CSW theme ties with the Church's celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which recognises our Catholic faith values of forgiveness, compassion, strength, aid and love.

Our school is proud of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms every day, as well as the contribution our schools have made to Australian communities, in particular the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our wider community.

It is for this reason that I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to join us to participate with members of our parish and wider community in the spirit of this celebration.

Listed below is a schedule of events for the week:

- | | |
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| Tuesday 8 March | Environmental Group are selling seedlings before and after school. |
| Wednesday 9 March | K – 6 mixed group activity afternoon. |
| Thursday 10 March | Parents invited – open classrooms 9am – 10am.
Environmental Group are selling seedlings before and after school. |
| Friday 11 March | Parents invited – Whole School Mass 9:15am followed by our badge ceremony in the church for Year 6 leaders AND bring your own picnic morning tea to have with your children in the school playground.
Environmental Group are selling left over seedlings before and after school. |

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to seeing you during Catholic Schools Week 2016.

Peace and best wishes

Ms Barbara Young
Principal

Dates to Remember

March

- 7th–
- 11th Catholic Schools Week – Invitation sent out to all families
- 11th Whole School Beginning Mass
- 14th Cross Country @ Robin Thomas Reserve – Years 3 - 6
Coffee and Chat @ 14:30 in the hall
- 18th Parish Mass – Stage 2
Whole School Assembly – Stage 2 @ 14:30
- 21st Back up Cross Country
- 25th Good Friday – no school**
- 27th Easter Sunday**
- 28th Easter Monday – no school**
- 30th School Photos

April

- 8th LAST DAY OF TERM 1
- 25th ANZAC DAY – no school**
- 26th First day of Term 2

OPEN DAYS AT OUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas. Monday 7 March, 4:00pm – 6:00pm for more information visit: www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au

Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta, Year 7, 2018 Enrolment Information Evening on 15 March. For more information visit: www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

Delany College, Granville Tuesday 8 March 2016, 3:00pm – 5:30pm for more information visit: www.delanygranville.catholic.edu.au

Catherine McAuley, Westmead Tuesday 15 March 2016 4:00pm – 7:00pm for more information visit: www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

School Fees. School fees are due on 7 March 2016. Thank you to the families that have already paid.

Premiers Reading Challenge. There is information about the Premiers Reading Challenge on the back of this newsletter in the InfoZone.



Cross Country will be held on the 14 March 2016 at Robin Thomas Reserve. Miss Hayes needs your help. If you can help please come into the office for more details. Thank you for your continued support.

Catholic Schools Week. 7 March – 11 March 2016. See the notice board for the time table for the week.

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2017

Application forms are available for collection from the school office. When the application form has been fully completed it should be returned to the office with the required documentation by Friday 8 April 2016.



Throughout our school we have a number of children with allergies to various forms of food. In order to care for these students we appeal to all parents to assist us by considering the type of foods you pack for your own child's recess and lunch. Our aim is to minimise the amount of peanut and tree nut products brought into the school. Common food that trigger an allergic reaction are; Peanuts, peanut butter, Nutella any foods containing nuts. **Thank you for your continued support to keep our children safe.**



Easter Raffle. Tickets were sent home this week and are due back on Monday 21 March 2016. Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24 March 2016



Easter Egg Donations. Thank you to the families who have already donated Easter eggs for our raffle. Remember, the more donations we get, the better the prizes will be.



Coffee n Chat

Monday 14 March at 2:30pm in the school hall. Come along and relax and chat to Ms Young before pick up time.

Personal devices e.g. mobile phones/iPods/iPads

Students are not permitted to have personal devices at school unless prior arrangements have been made by the parents with the Principal or Assistant Principal. Personal devices are to be kept in the school office for the day and collected at the end of the day. If prior arrangements have not been made the personal device will be confiscated and the parents contacted to collect it.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."' "

Reflection

Jesus tries to correct their mistaken idea that people who experience such disasters and accidents are sinners. At the same time, Jesus warns them to take a close look at their lives and to reform their ways because sin will be punished. Jesus then tells the parable of the fig tree, combining a call to reform with a message of hope. Would you keep a fruit tree in your yard if it never gave you any fruit? The vineyard carer in the parable continues to care for the fig tree just as God continues to care for us when we sin. Lent is a good time to examine the fruit of our life and to ask God's help to prune away the dead branches so that we can bear fruit again. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society.

Praise:

Thank you God, for loving us even when we turn away from you. Just like the man who looks after the vineyard, You have love, care and patience for us.

Repent:

We would like to transform our lives this lent by doing good for others as a way of bearing fruit.

Ask:

Help us to reform our ways by helping us to refrain from judging others.

Yes:

I would like to transform into a better person this Lent and bear fruit for others. Amen

IN BRIEF

- Reform your ways.
- Stand on holy ground.
- Bear some fruit.
- Is your life fruitless?
- Don't fall for judging others.



Lent is a wonderful opportunity to put our lives in order. It is a time to change and to eliminate the things that keep us from experiencing God's love. Jesus, when comparing God to a patient gardener, tells us that we will have another chance.

Caritas Project Compassion So far we have raised \$345.40 as a school for Project Compassion with Year 6 raising the most money. I wonder if we can exceed our goal of \$ 800. Thank you for your generosity.

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-3-dominic>



Through regular Community Conversations training sessions, Dominic learnt communication and problem-solving skills that helped him lead open, respectful community discussions in his village. By empowering everyone to voice concerns and play a role in community decisions, Dominic's village has achieved greater peace and increased respect, as well as reduced violence and alcohol abuse. Now, Dominic's community has a chance to thrive and create a better future for themselves. "When we start to realise we have power to stand independently to change ourselves, help ourselves, we feel liberated," says Dominic. "I am most proud of the positive changes I am witnessing. I pass my big thanks and pray God will bless our supporters in Australia.



InfoZone

Welcome to the Library and Technology section of the St Oliver's Newsletter

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



The 2016 Premier's Reading Challenge officially opens on 7 March, 2016 when the online records should be available. All Kindergarten and any children new to St Oliver's will receive an Information and Instruction page when the site opens. If the launch keeps to its published timetable this should be next week. Passwords will not be available until after the 2016 launch. There is plenty of time to participate in the Challenge – it is open until 19 August. However, parents may find out more about the Challenge by visiting <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

All children can start reading now if they wish. The extensive book lists are accessible now on the Premier's Reading Challenge site. A sample book is featured on the right.

ORAL LANGUAGE



As part of the English syllabus our Stage 3 students participate in an Oral Language Programme. There are two competitive areas:

Voice of Youth – All Year 6 students participate in the oral language programme that supports the Voice of Youth speaking competition. At the moment the students are learning strategies and practising skills, but are not preparing their speeches until next term.

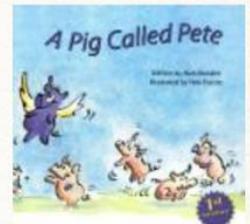
Delany Cup – This is a debating competition organised by Delany College for Year 5 students from schools in the area. All Year 5 students participate in debating. Learning to voice an opinion and to support it with clear and convincing arguments take patience and practise. It is even more challenging to do this for an opinion that is contrary to one's own view.

PHOTOS TAKEN AT SCHOOL

If you would like a copy of photos taken at school please visit the St Oliver's website and select Multimedia galleries from the News and Events menu. <http://www.stoliversharrisparlcatholic.edu.au/> Everything that is happening at St Oliver's via the School calendar which is also available on the website.

Mrs Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian

You might like to discover this book from the K-2 booklist.



Pig called Pete, A

"Pete zooms, glides and hovers as he takes the reader on a journey to exotic places. Unlike ordinary pigs, Pete is purple and has wings."

Bowater, Alan & Pascoe, Pete (ill)