



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 1

Week 4

2016

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Dear Parents,

On the evening of Friday 5 February we gathered together for our Welcome BBQ. What a fantastic evening! It was wonderful that so many families could attend this community event.

I had the privilege of meeting so many of you on the night. There was a common theme to all the conversations: St. Oliver's is a friendly community and it's a family. I would have to agree wholeheartedly.

I would also like to thank the staff of St. Oliver's who attended this night. They displayed such warmth, coupled with professionalism with the way they interacted with the children and parents throughout the night.

Last Wednesday we joined together with the Parish community to celebrate Ash Wednesday with a special Mass. Of course Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. One way we will respond to this is through our support for the Caritas Lenten appeal, Project Compassion. Pope Francis often reminds us that we must strive to attend to the needs of the poor. And so we pray

Dear God,

As we enter the Season of Lent, may it be a celebration of life: of an inward journey of contemplation and wondering, of learning and exploring. And in all of this, May we grow closer to Jesus, to one another, and to you. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Peace and best wishes

Ms Barbara Young
Principal

Dates to Remember

February

- 19th **GOLD n FOLD mufti day - gold coin donation**
Parish Mass – Stage 1
Whole School Assembly – Stage 3 @ 14:30
- 26th WYD raffle tickets due back
Parish Mass Kinder and Stage 3

March

- 7th–
11th Catholic Schools Week
11th Whole School Beginning Mass
14th Cross Country @ Robin Thomas Reserve
Coffee and Chat 14:30
- 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

World Youth Day – GOLD and FOLD

Mufti day Friday 19th February 2016

Join in the Gold and Fold Mufti day on Friday to assist the youth and young adult Pilgrims from Parramatta Diocese. These youths will be involved in a mission experience by helping people in Borhol, Philippines. **Reminder** - WYD raffle tickets are due back on 26th February. Thank you for your support.

Thank you - At the end of last Year St Oliver's Staff delivered the hampers to the Jesuit Refugees Service (JRS) filled with food for the Refugees and Asylum seekers. Donations were made from the very generous families from our St Oliver's school community. A big thank you for your big-heartedness. Staff contributed by donating Christmas presents to the Refugee and Asylum Seekers and personally delivered these at JRS Arrupe place Parramatta on the last day of school. Thank you all for your kindness.



School Photos - This year our School photos will be taken on **Wednesday 30th March, 2016**. All children will need to wear their **full summer uniform** on the day. There are several options for photo packages this year, which include:

- Deluxe Package - \$45, Value Package - \$40, Regular Package - \$37, Basic Package - \$35, Photobook only - \$32
- Group only - \$24

Photo envelopes will be sent home on Monday 21st March. Alternatively you can view the package options and order online by visiting www.advancedlife.com.au and using the following 9 digit code: **Z6B Y4P 5NJ**. Sibling photo envelopes can be collected from the office after Monday 21st March or they can also be ordered online using the website and 9 digit code as listed above.

SCHOOL FEES - School Fees have been posted this week. As Australia Post's delivery times have changed this may cause a delay in some parents receiving their Term 1 statements later than usual. This could be an extra 1-3 business days in most cases.

Whole School Assembly – Stage 3
Friday 19th February 2016 @ 2:30pm
In the school hall. All Welcome



Zone Swimming - On Tuesday 16th February, Joseph, Seth, Jonas, Miranda, Eloise, Sarah and Francine from Stage 3 went to the Zone Swimming Carnival. We all tried our best and had fun. After our races we got to enjoy hot chips. They were yum! Also thank you to Mr Sabbouh, Mr Z and Miss Pauline and all the other parents who came to cheer us on.



Every Day Counts - Key Facts About Attendance and Chronic Absence

- Attendance effects academic achievement. There is no safe threshold of absence- every day counts.
- A student's attendance pattern in Year 1 is predictive of their attendance pattern in subsequent years.
- The effects of chronic school absence accumulate over time. Absence from school is related to academic achievement not only in the current year, but for future years.
- Disadvantaged students are more adversely affected by absence.
- Unauthorised absences produce significantly stronger effects on academic achievement than authorised absences.
- Sporadic absences can affect academic achievement as much as absence over consecutive days.
- Students with previous attendance concerns are at greater risk of regular and deteriorating school absence in the future and require close monitoring for the rest of their schooling. There are strict procedures with regards student attendance that the school is mandated to follow. These range from calling and meeting parents about their child's constant absence from school, to working with counsellors, reporting to the Catholic Education Office, reporting to Community Services and if other options have not been successful, than legal compliance can be sought to the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000. To get an education, your child needs to be at school. The following table highlights the importance of being at school.

| Attendance Rate | Student Absence | Educational Risk | Days absent per year | Cumulative Absence (10 years of school) |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| 90% or more | Regular | Low or zero | 20 days or less | 1 year or less |
| 80% - 89% | Emerging | Medium | Between 20 and 40 | 1 - 2 years |
| 70% - 79% | Chronic | High | Between 40 and 60 | 2 - 3 years |
| 69% or less | Complex | Severe | 60 days or more | 3 years plus |

- As stated above, every day counts. As parents and guardians ask yourself - How often is my child at school? How often does my child arrive late to school? How often does my child leave school early?