



St Oliver's Primary School

Newsletter

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park

Tel: 9682 1244 Fax: 9897 3326

Email: stolivers@parra.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 , Week 5

<http://www.stoliversharrisparke.catholic.edu.au/home>

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Tomorrow, Friday 11 November is Remembrance Day. World War One ended at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, when Germany accepted an armistice and the guns went silent on the Western Front. After World War Two, the day became known as Remembrance Day to recognise all the people who died in wars and conflicts.

Our Children will be gathering together to commemorate Remembrance Day at 11am on Friday.

*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
From the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

In Flanders fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

– John McCrae (1872–1918)

"In Flander's Field". This poem reminds us why the poppy is so symbolic and is worn on Remembrance Day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

11th

Remembrance Day

Stage 1 & ES1 @ Parish Mass

Whole school assembly @ 2:30pm
presented by ES1

School Disco 5pm - 6:30pm

18th

Stage 3 @ Parish Mass

25th

Stage 2 @ Parish Mass

December

2nd

Stage1 & ES1 @ Parish Mass

Whole school assembly @ 2:30pm
presented by Stage 1

5th – 15th

Swimming Program @ SOPAC

8th

Reconciliation @ St Oliver's Church 5pm

St Oliver's Christmas
Concert @ 6pm

16th

Graduation/Thanksgiving
Liturgy and Awards – more information to
follow

Weekly Attendance for Term 4 Week 4 - 95%



Focus On Learning

Earning the right
by Michael Grose



Earning the right and not assuming a sense of entitlement is a life lesson parents, teachers and coaches must instil in children.

On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert. He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables; brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she'd proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage. This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller's earning the right story is a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn't give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it's tempting to simply give kids what they want.

"Dad, can I have a...?"

"Sure!"

The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, "You can't always get what you want!" Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn't mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it. Similarly, kids don't automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement. In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up a rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It's a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it's a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That's a lesson that stays for life.