



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Term 2

Week 2

2015

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

The significance of this year's ANZAC Day commemoration was that it marked the 100th Anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australia and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The news of this military action had a profound impact on Australians at home and April 25th soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who died in the war. ANZAC Day is regarded as a day of National remembrance and commemoration services are held at dawn – the time of the original landing.



In my family attending the dawn service has been a long standing tradition. In previous years, where we attend the service, there has been around 1000 people gather. This year it was most pleasing to see over 10 000 men, women and children attend this significant event. As a school we recognised the Centenary of Anzac Day with a beautiful prayer service last Monday. I would like to thank the many parents who supported this occasion with their attendance. It sends a great message to children that this National Day of Remembrance is a significant cultural event.

What can we learn from our Anzacs?

Mateship: The Anzac spirit is very much based on the value of mateship. Helping friends in their time of need and maintaining morale were traits that were regularly exhibited during wartime by Australian and New Zealander troops.

The following quote comes from Private Percival and was written on August 7, 1915 from Gallipoli and is an excellent example of what real mates will do for each other:

One man was caught through the side of the head, severing his right ear but not killing him. He lay... in a dangerous position – right in line of a point from which some snipers were potting our lads... A man crawled out of our shallow trench and wormed his way along the ground to a position within a couple of yards from this man. Ping! Zipp! Zipp! Bullets hit the ground... but the rescuer worked his way snake-wise until he got to the wounded man. Clumsily turning the man over he shouted, "How's she going, mate?". There was no answer. He yelled, "Strike me pink the poor bugger's just about outed", and began to drag him... he got a bullet through his ankle but managed it at last and we cheered him. He looked over and grinned.

Retain Your Sense of Humour: The Anzac troops have always been renowned for retaining their ability to laugh even when under extreme pressure. Practical jokes were a regular event, normally at the expense of their British Allies who didn't appreciate the perceived lack of discipline.

This is a great lesson for us. It would be very rare that in today's world we would experience anything like the pressure that our troops did, however there are times when we do feel stressed and everyone around you is under pressure as well. Keep on smiling and look for opportunities to lighten the mood when the people around you are getting too serious.

Courage under Fire: The story of Simpson and his Donkey is one of the great legends of Gallipoli. Simpson was a stretcher bearer who was able to obtain a donkey to assist him in rescuing wounded soldiers from the battlefield. He would make dashes into no mans land and saved up to 300 soldiers over a period of a few weeks before being shot himself. Simpson's reckless and selfless courage has made him one of the most revered figures in Anzac history.

Whilst we are unlikely to face the same conditions, there are occasions when we may need to make decisions that will require courage. To defend the disadvantaged, stand up for an important principle or do the right thing when everyone around you disagrees takes a different type of courage, but it's still important.

Peace and best wishes

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Mother's Day Stall

We are requesting small donations (to the approximate value of \$5) for our Mother's Day Stall. Donations can be given to your child's class teacher or the office. Gift wrapping will take place from **9am on Monday, 4 May and Tuesday, 5 May** (if required). If you have some time we would love you to come and help out. We also require volunteers to assist with the stall on **Thursday, 7 May**. If you are able to assist with the stall contact the school office. Please note our Mother's Day liturgy and morning tea is on **Friday, 8 May from 9:15am**.

NAPLAN

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in **Years 3 and 5**. Aspects of Literacy and Numeracy will be assessed. Following are the dates for each aspect of the assessment.

- **Tuesday, 12 May** – Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Writing
- **Wednesday, 13 May** – Reading
- **Thursday, 14 May** – Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

St Oliver's Skoolbag App

In addition to our school app being available for iPhone and Android users we have been advised that the St Oliver's Skoolbag app is now available for **Windows Phones**. Windows phone users simply look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed users will need to find their school, and pin it to the Phone's Home Screen.

Did you know that you can submit **Absentee Notes and Change of Details information** by using the eForms in the app? A simple and paperless option that reduces the chances of notes being misplaced!

School Uniform

We are currently in transition mode to winter uniform. All students are expected to be in full winter uniform from the Monday after Mother's Day which is Monday 11 May 2015 until the Monday after Father's Day. Note – Students in this transition period must wear either full summer or full winter uniform – not a combination of both.

Complaint Handling Process

From time to time, parents may have an issue with something that occurs in the classroom or within the school community. Initially concerns should be addressed with the child's class teacher directly, however, if not able to be adequately addressed at this point, it is recommended that the concern be addressed through a member of the school leadership team. In the case that a satisfactory outcome is unable to be achieved, a formal process is available for complaints handling. Our school has aligned its approach to complaints handling using the model proposed in the Diocesan Complaints Handling procedure. As parents, it is very important that you don't make critical comments about your child's teacher in front of your children. Negative comments can result in a lack of respect and undermine the efforts of the staff. My advice to parents that if there is any concern raised about learning or behaviour by your child, that you would approach the classroom teacher in the first instance to obtain a clearer picture of what has taken place. This should be done in a respectful and dignified manner, to enable accurate information about the issue to be obtained. As human beings we strive for happiness, however, there are times when things do not necessarily go our way. In our modern world the constant aim for perfection adds increasing pressure to all aspects of our life.

Kindergarten 2016 Enrolments

Commencing **Friday 1st May** we will be conducting interviews for families who wish to enrol their child in Kindergarten 2016. If you know of anyone who hasn't returned their application form to school please encourage them to return it as soon as possible.

Each term the Principal has a special morning tea to recognise students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to learning and excellent behaviour. Congratulations to Benjamin, Jarrod, Angeline, Matthew T, Matthew D, Jovan, Tiana (absent), Don, Nick, Eloise, Sunaina, Henry (absent) and Rishabh who were nominated to attend the Principal's Morning Tea.





Walk Safely to School Day

Friday 22 May 2015

MARRIAGE ANNULMENT INFORMATION NIGHT

CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding **it's only Information Session** on the process of Marriage Annulments in the Catholic Church **for this year**. The evening is open to anyone who is interested. **Venue** : Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd Orchard Hills **Date**: Tues 5th May **Time**: 7.30pm – 9.30pm. **Cost** : \$7.00. **Registration**: Rita or Eileen. PH: 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

Staff Development Day
last day of Term 2
Friday 26th June 2015

St Oliver's is a nut free school

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 foods that trigger an allergic reaction are: peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter, sesame seeds, Nutella, any biscuits that contain traces of nuts.

The canteen is a nut free zone.

Thank you for helping us provide a safe environment for all children at St. Oliver's

Dates to Remember



Thursday 30th April 2015

Stage 1 Incursion
Fairy Tales with a Twist

Friday 1st May 2015

Stage 2 Excursion
Parramatta River Walk and Town Centre

Monday 4th Tuesday 5th May

Mother's Day wrapping
Volunteers needed

Tuesday 5th May 2015

Diocesan Cross Country
Eastern Creek

Thursday 7th May 2015

Mother's Day Stall
Volunteers needed

Friday 8th May 2015 9:15am

Mother's Day Liturgy followed by
Morning Tea
All Welcome

Monday 11th May 2015

Full Winter Uniform

**Tuesday 12th Wednesday 13th Thursday
14th May 2015**

NAPLAN Year 3 and Year 5

Monday 25th May 2015

School Athletics Carnival



Gospel Jn 10:11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Reflection

The Fourth Sunday after Easter is traditionally 'Good Shepherd' Sunday. Good Shepherd Sunday, is celebrated in the Church as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. On this day, the faithful are encouraged to pray for men, asking God to awaken in them a call to the Catholic priesthood, and for the Holy Spirit to give them a love and apostolic zeal for God and His faithful people, the Church.

Christians are called children of God who enjoy a very close relationship with God. Unfortunately, being God's children is not without risk. The world fails to recognise them. At the same time, being children of God promises a remarkable future.

In today's reading from the Gospel of John, Jesus likens himself to a humble shepherd. But unlike shepherds who work for pay and might abandon the sheep when danger appears, Jesus lays down his life for his sheep. Jesus regards all people as his sheep, not just those who join his flock as Christians.

In Brief

- The name of Jesus saves.
- Jesus is our cornerstone.
- We are children of God.
- Listen to the voice of Jesus.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

We, as Christian members of Jesus' flock, are called to be shepherds like him – not to lead with power and ambition, but to put the welfare of others before our own welfare. For a true story of a priest who sacrificed his life for others please click on this hyperlink
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rXx0UTQ5SA>

Answering Jesus' Call How do I hear the voice of the Good Shepherd in our everyday life? What are some of the other voices that distract me from listening to the Lord's voice? Who are some of the people who help me hear the voice of Jesus? How can my voice become more like the voice of the Good Shepherd?



We pray for all priests and clergy, particularly the many who have led and lay down their lives for others. We give thanks for those who lead with love, compassion, justice, peace and who have made sacrifices for others. We pray for new priests to join who are willing to lead the way and lay their life for others. Amen.