



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 2

Week 4

2015

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

As I am writing this newsletter item, we are preparing for a visit from Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director, Catholic Education - Diocese of Parramatta. The purpose of Mr Whitby's visit is to find out more about our teaching practices in the area of literacy (reading, writing and speaking/listening). Our school was selected as our teaching practices in literacy are exemplary.

Claiming our practices are exemplary may sound like 'self praise'. However, our learning data and the observations from a number of experts in the field, confirm that we providing the students at our school with the opportunity to achieve their full potential. However, we are not resting on our laurels! Our teachers and leadership team are continually engaging in professional learning and evaluating our data to ensure that we 'don't take our eye off the ball'.

We also acknowledge that this work does not happen in isolation. It is through the supportive and trusting partnerships with our parents and carers that enable the children to flourish and our teachers to be innovative in their approach to teaching and learning.

I look forward to sharing Mr Whitby's interview with our community once it has been published.

On another note, I hope that all the mothers, grandmothers and special ladies had a delightful Mother's Day being spoiled by their children and loved ones. I know that the children take such joy in making a special fuss on this day and particularly in finding a special gift for their mums at the Mother's Day stall. Once again the Mother's Day stall was a huge success thanks to the large band of volunteers who offered their assistance on the day.

Peace and best wishes

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Dates to Remember



Friday 15th May 2015 @ 9:15
Stage 3 & Kindergarten
Parish Mass

Friday 22nd May 2015
Walk Safely to School

Monday 25th May 2015
School Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 27th May 2015
Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

Friday 29th May 2015
Diocesan Works Fundraiser
Gold Coin donation
CRAZY HAIR DAY

Friday 29th May 2015 @ 9:15
Stage 2 at Parish Mass

Friday 5th June 2015 @ 9:15
Stage 1 at Parish Mass

Monday 8th June 2015
Public Holiday

SCHOOL NEWS

Athletics Carnival

Students have been given notes for the school Athletics Carnival which is being held on **Monday 25th May** at Holroyd Sports Ground. All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be participating in a range of activities designed to promote fitness and have fun.

Students will be travelling to the carnival by bus and all parents and friends are invited to meet us at the Sports Ground from 9:30am. We would love to see you there!

A sausage sizzle is being organised by Mr Saliba and a menu and price list will be sent home next week. There will also be a coffee van on site for the adults.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please see Mrs Allison.

Staff Development Day

last day of Term 2 Friday 26th June 2015

Diocesan Cross Country 2015

Congratulations to Adriano, Derek, Don, Christian, Joseph, Antonious, Rashid, Dallo, Jaylen, Nehal and Tsepiso who represented St Oliver's at the Diocesan Cross Country last Tuesday. The event was held out at Sydney Motorsport Park in Eastern Creek and the students ran either 2km or 3km, depending on their age. The boys had a great day and many of them ran a personal best time.

Thanks to Mr Doumit, Mr Habib and Mr Fernandes who helped transport the boys to and from the Cross Country. Without your assistance, events like this are not possible.



Mother's Day Stall

Thank you for the many generous donations for the Mother's Day Stall. I would also like to acknowledge Officeworks - North Parramatta and Dooleys Catholic Club Lidcombe for donating gift vouchers for the raffle. A big thanks to the parents and grandparents who assisted with wrapping the many gifts and running the stall. It was a big job and your generosity is greatly appreciated. Without the support of our parents these events would not be possible.

Our Mother's Day raffle winners were Mit (Year 4), Jon (Year 4), Anthony (Kindergarten), Steve (Kindergarten), Charisse (Year 3), Mayana (Year 5) and Brodie (Year 6). Below - Joaquin & Prisha who assisted in drawing the raffle and some of our Mother's Day Stall volunteers



Crazy
Hair
Day
29th
May

Mother's Day Liturgy & Morning Tea

Last Friday we celebrated Mother's Day with a beautiful liturgy prepared by Stage 3. The morning tea after the liturgy was enjoyed by many of our mothers and grandmothers. A real highlight was the talk by our guest, Ms Anne Ferguson. Anne gave an insight to the life of Catherine McAuley and how she was like a mother to many. Catherine McAuley has a unique link to St Oliver's as she founded the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy established our school in 1930.



Winter Uniform

A reminder that all children should now be in full winter school uniform.

BOYS WINTER UNIFORM

Shirt: Blue Long sleeve
Trousers: Navy Blue 1/2 elastic back
Jacket: Navy Blue crested jacket
Tie: Check regulation style
Socks: Navy with sky/red/sky stripe
Shoes: BLACK leather
Hats: Navy Blue - AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL for girls and boys (**COMPULSORY - no hat no play**)

GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM

Dress: Check regulation style tunic
Shirt: Blouse Sky blue-Peter Pan collar
Jacket: Navy Blue crested jacket
Tab: Red tab
Socks: White ankle style or navy tights
Shoes: BLACK leather



Gospel John 15:9-17 Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.’



Reflection

A major theme of the Scripture readings is ‘God is love’. All who believe are baptised in the name of Jesus and welcomed into the church. In the reading from John’s Gospel, we learn that to love means to participate in the love between God the Father and Jesus. Jesus’ commandment is to ‘love one another as I have loved you’. In last week’s readings, our relationship with Jesus was described as branches on the vine. This week we are invited to be part of Jesus’ inner circle – one of his closest friends. We are called again to bear fruit by loving one another. It is loving others unconditionally. Jesus lay down his life for us. Jesus said love one another as I have loved you.

This is more than as loving others as I as you love yourself. At times we do not love ourselves, we may be abusive with alcohol, smoking, excessive eating, not exercising to name a few.

In Brief

- God is love.
- Love one another.
- God’s love doesn’t discriminate.
- Jesus calls us friends.
- Jesus has chosen us.

To lay our lives for others unconditionally is truly challenging but we must try. If we really want to be followers of Jesus, the most important thing we have to do is love God and love other people. Jesus gave us a lot of rules to follow, but he continually told us that we must love each other.

Answering Jesus’ Call

How do we show our love? Do we give unconditionally without expecting anything in return? How can I move out of my comfort zone to love someone like Jesus loves me?

Friday Morning Parish Mass

All are invited to Stage 3 and Kindergarten 9.15am at St Oliver’s Church

InfoZone

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

ORAL LANGUAGE

Stage 3 students are participating in an oral language program this term.



Year 5 will be focussing on debating skills. Some students will be offered the opportunity to represent our school in the Delany Cup Debating Competition.

Year 6 will be focussing on a formal speech preparation and presentation for the Voice of Youth Speaking Competition.



IS YOUR CHILD REALLY TECH SAVVY?



It's easy to play games – computer, ipad, phone, Xbox, Playstation etc. Just because children like pushing buttons fast and often does not mean they are tech savvy.

Basic technology skills that are useful to children include internet searching strategies, critical strategies to determine information accuracy, protection of privacy and simple word processing. Just as with a skill such as reading children do best if technology skills are modelled and taught in the home as well as at school.

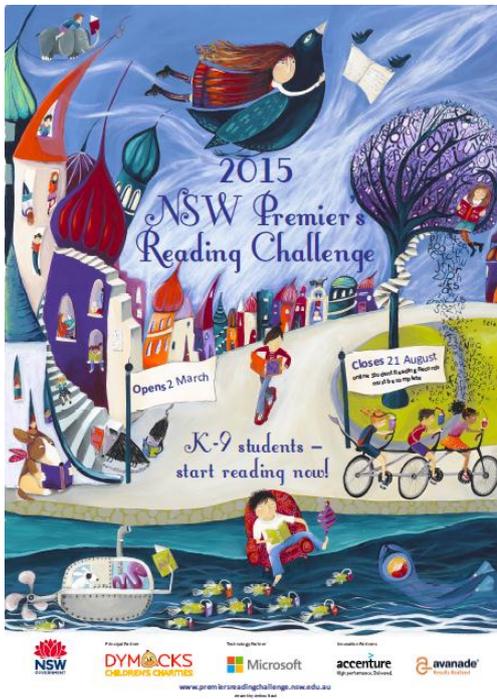
CARE OF BOOKS



It is lovely to see our library books being enjoyed! Please ensure that the books are returned in good order. Some of our books have been damaged beyond repair. Lost or damaged books must be paid for. If a book is damaged please do not attempt to repair it – we have the necessary equipment to do this properly.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Keep Reading!



All students in Years 3 – 6 have been re-issued their passwords. Passwords have not changed. All students in Years 3 – 6 are expected to read and enter the details of books read on-line.

Children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 also have a password. We are happy to enter the details of the books read for these children.

However, parents may enter the books read if they prefer. Just send a message to school and the password will be sent home with your child. Completed paper copies can now be brought to the School Library – or students may keep them while they continue reading. Students in Years 3- 6 should not hand in their paper copy until they have entered their details on-line. This can be done at school or at home.

All details and booklists are available at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

The challenge closes in August so there is still plenty of time to accept the Challenge!

Mrs Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian