



# St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 2

Week 10

2015

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

Over the past fortnight a number of children from St Oliver's have celebrated their First Holy Communion. First Holy Communion is the common name for a person's first reception of the sacrament of the Eucharist. Catholics recognise the importance of this event as the Eucharist is the central focus of the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

A couple of years ago, Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI had a question and answer session with a group of First Communion children. When the Pope was asked about his memories of his First Communion, his response contained the following: *"I understood that Jesus had entered my heart, he had actually visited me. And with Jesus, God himself was with me. And I realised that this is a gift of love that is truly worth more than all other things that life can give."*

Holy Communion is an incredible gift and the amazing thing about the gift is that it can be unwrapped time and time again in our lives, and every time we do this, the gift will be brand new. Each new unwrapping gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what the gift actually is.

In 2003, Saint Pope John Paul II published a letter on the Eucharist and gave a clear insight into the nature of the gift: "We talk of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, because Jesus' presence in the Eucharist is a presence in the fullest sense, where Jesus is wholly and entirely present. The Consecration at Mass changes the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the Body of Christ and the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his Blood." Saint Pope John Paul II further reminds us that we are all united through the Eucharist, that though we are many, we share one bread. Bread is made up of many grains of wheat but in the bread the difference between them is not apparent; likewise, we are joined to one another and united in Christ through the Eucharist. Hence, we have good reason for a family to celebrate when a family member receives Communion for the first time.

The people who lived and associated with Jesus, had the comfort and support of his actual presence. Jesus foresaw the need for his presence to remain with them so they could carry on with his mission and so, the events of the Last Supper. For us, who have so many distractions in life, we might sometimes forget about God, forget about the Eucharist, forget to pray each day, forget to read the New Testament. First Communion day for a family member, can be a time of renewal for all family members, perhaps a time to unwrap the gift again and discover an understanding that is truly relevant to where we are in life. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of God's love and love is something that all of us can use plenty of.

## End of Term 2

As we draw to the end of another busy term, I am mindful of the extremely dedicated and hard-working staff we have leading our students at St Oliver's. Each day the staff generously give of their time and skill to ensure the children in their care are afforded the best education possible. During term 2 and into term 3 there is often a great deal of illness about, our staff are not immune from such bugs. On the occasion where staff have to take sick leave, most of them are still marking work or planning units of work for the students in their class. After reading almost 160 school reports, I note that many students are achieving at their level with those who aren't receiving as much support as is available to assist them. It is important that we recognise and accept that for some children learning is very difficult. We need to be mindful of their efforts as well as their achievements. Most parents would see a tiredness creeping in, the daylight and cold mornings along with much illness means the students are looking forward to a well-deserved rest.

I wish to once again acknowledge the very active and engaged parent community we have here at St Oliver's. I thank you for the positive way you have supported the staff and students this term in meeting our educational and community objectives. We truly have a wonderful partnership – long may it continue. Please enjoy a break from the routine of school in the coming week, we look forward to seeing you all again in Term 3.

## Dates to Remember

### JUNE

- 25th SCHOOL DISCO
- 26th **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY, Pupil Free Day**
- 29th First day of holidays

### JULY

- 13th **First day of Term 3**
- 24th Multicultural Day

### AUGUST

- 4th Zone Athletics
- 15th Feast of the Assumption
- 25th Netball Gala Day, Penrith
- 26th Book Week Parade

### Principal's Morning Tea - Term 2

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 Daniel, Erin, Adrian, Joya, Avni, Matthew S, Christian, Serena, Scarlett, John Paul, Derek, Sarah, Leila and Samueel who were nominated to attend the Principal's Morning Tea. Tiana and Henry joined us this term as they were absent when the Term 1 morning tea was held.



### Staff Development Days – Terms 2 & 3

A reminder that the Staff Development Day for this term is on Friday, 26 June. The Staff Development Day for Term 3 will be on Friday, 14 August. Please note that the date for the Term 3 Staff Development Day has changed. It was originally advertised to be on Friday, 28 August.

### Condolences to Miss Isaac

Our condolences to Miss Isaac on the passing of her grandfather last week at the age of 91.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

*May he rest in peace.*

*Amen.*

### School Zones

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the break at the end of Term 2 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even Staff Development Days.

Peace and blessings,

Mr Anthony McElhone  
Principal

We wish all our St Oliver's  
families a happy holiday break!



**TONIGHT  
THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

Kindergarten - Year 2: 5.00pm – 6.30pm

Year 3 – Year 6: 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Tickets \$3

Or pay \$5 and get crazy hair colour, popcorn and a glowstick.

TICKETS PURCHASED ON THE NIGHT

WEAR YOUR FUNKIEST DISCO OUTFIT

Parents, if you can assist, please come along on the night.

### **MULTICULTURAL DAY Friday 24 July 2015**

This year we have organised activities for the students for our celebration of Multicultural Day and the Feast day of St Oliver.

There will be 3 workshops the students will take part in. The students will be participating in 3 different forms of dance and learning about the background and culture behind each form of dancing.

The workshops are:

Bollywood Bling

Latin Fiesta

Hip Hop

**ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WILL BE  
WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND WATCH THE  
ACTIVITIES**

We will also have our Multicultural Day Lunch. We encourage families to prepare a dish from their country of origin and bring along on the morning. We will also be needing parent helpers on the day to help with the lunch.

More information will go home next term.

# Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.

**Gospel** Sunday, 21 Jun 2015: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B Mk 4:35-41



With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

## **Reflection**

When we hear of Jesus' miracle of calming the storm we tend to focus on the miracle, but it is important to go beyond the miracle to a deeper reality. St Mark calls us to believe in the person of Jesus who has divine authority over everything. If we fail to see the deeper reality – the person of Jesus – we miss the point of his miracles. The experience of the disciples as their boat was tossed about the sea by the powerful storm may sound like a familiar situation. At times in life we may feel that we have lost control of our situation and we are being blown from one 'disaster' to the next. At these times, we may find ourselves asking the question that the disciples asked of Jesus, 'Master, do you not care?' Jesus' reply to the disciples suggests that had they been calm and trusted in the slow work of God then they would have made it through the storm unharmed.

## **Answering Jesus' Call**

The disciples had fear of the storm, yet Jesus assures them that they have no need to be afraid. And he was absolutely right. No matter how bad things are, as long as we have faith then we really have no need to be afraid. Sometimes the storms in our lives test our faith. As a family we can discuss the reality of Jesus – that Jesus is always with us. We can deepen our family's faith by reflecting on the storms of our lives and how Jesus was there for us.

## **First Eucharist**

We pray for all receiving their First Holy Communion this month. Loving Father, Please guide and protect these children in your care. May they always stay close to you. Amen.

## **Prayer for Children**

Dear Jesus,

I humble myself before you, I love you as you love us all. Help me and strengthen me to do your work at home and at school and be the best person I can be to all whom I interact with each day. Amen.

## **Sacraments of Initiation**

All students who are eligible to receive the sacraments in 2016 are asked to contact one of these parishes: (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) for information about the programs for next year

St Patrick's Cathedral  
Phone: (02) 8839 8460

Holy Trinity Granville  
Phone: (02) 9637 1904

Holy Family Parish  
Phone: (02) 9543 2614

*Franca Bonserio*  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

### **In Brief**

- God is our hope in the storm.
- When God speaks, the waves listen.
- Jesus makes all things new.
- Jesus is our protector.
- God rescues those in danger.

# InfoZone

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

## VOICE OF YOUTH



Congratulations to all our Year 6 students for presenting speeches of such a high standard this week. Three students were selected to represent St Oliver's School at the cluster final next term.

Special congratulations to our three representatives: Henry Cheng, Jedson Hermogenes and Leila Nehme. Brodie Bechara was highly commended.

## FREE ENTRY TO MUSEUMS

As of 27 June 2015, general admission will be free for children under 16 at the Australian Museum and Powerhouse Museum, thanks to the NSW Government's initiative to make culture, arts and science more accessible to children.

However, this weekend 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June **adults as well as children have free entry**. This is a great saving for families.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/free-for-all-weekend>

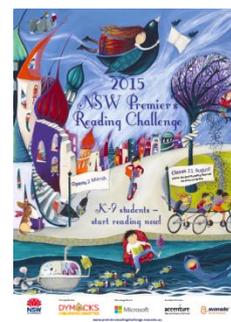
## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The holiday period is a great time to catch up on reading and to enter the books read on-line.

Completed paper copies can be brought to the School Library next term.

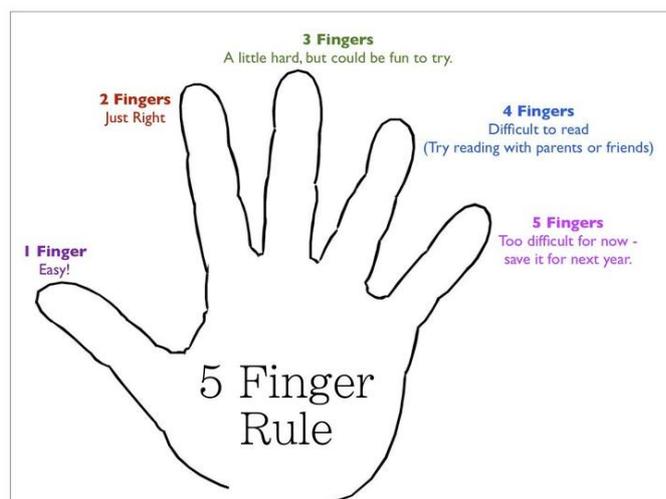
The challenge closes in August so there is still plenty of time to accept the Challenge!

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>



## TRY THE 5 FINGER TEST AT HOME

Open the book to any page. Read it out loud. If your child can read all the words then the book is too easy. 1-2 challenging words it is just right, 3 challenge words may be too hard, but 4-5 challenge words means that the book is definitely too hard.



Mrs Lesley Quinn  
Teacher Librarian