



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 4

Week 4

2015

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

There is abundant research available that overwhelmingly supports the notion that a strong partnership between the family and school has many academic and social benefits for both the child and the parent.

Principles which underpin effective Family-School Partnerships include:

1. All families and schools want the best for their children.
2. All children have the right to the opportunity to reach their full potential.
3. Families are the first and continuing educators of their children.
4. Effective schools provide a nurturing and supportive learning environment.
5. Families and schools value quality teaching and respect teachers' professional expertise.
6. Families and schools value the diversity of families and use this as a resource for building partnerships and communities.
7. Family-school partnerships are based on mutual responsibility, respect and trust.
8. Family-school partnerships improve student motivation and learning.
9. Family-school partnerships strengthen the connections between schools and their communities.
10. Partnerships can involve all organisations that support families and schools.

The partnership can take many forms including; assisting the school with the organisation and planning of community events; attending school events; taking the opportunities to meet with child's class at some point throughout the year; talking to your child regularly about what they are learning at school and there are many more.

Over the next two months we have some significant community events that provide parents and carers with an opportunity to be involved, including the disco, Bunnings BBQ and the Christmas celebration. Without the support of our families many of these community events are not possible. I look forward to connecting with many parents at these events!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the parents who assisted with the Pizza Meal Deal. It was well received by the children and raised almost \$400 for the school. This money will go towards the television and Apple TV that will be installed in the hall in the coming weeks

Peace and best wishes

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Dates to Remember

October

30th Parish Mass – Stage 1
Assembly – Stage 1 @ 2:30

November

1st All Saints Day
2nd All Souls Day
4th Kindergarten Transition – week 4
Stage 3 excursion to Powerhouse Museum
6th Parish Mass Stage 3 & K
6th **School Disco – help needed**
11th Remembrance Day
13th Parish Mass Stage 2
20th Parish Mass Stage 1
Assembly Stage 2 @ 2:30
27th Parish Mass Stage 3 & Kindy
28th **Bunnings BBQ – Fundraiser – help needed**
30th Swimming Program begins
Every day for 2 weeks

December

4th Parish Mass – Stage 2
11th Last day of the Swimming program
11th Parish Mass – Stage 1
16th Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass
Last Day of School for 2015



SCHOOL NEWS

New Sports Uniform - The new sports uniform is now available from Lowes. You may have seen a number of children wearing it already and I am sure you will agree with me that it looks great! Please remember that you do not need to go out and buy the new sports uniform straight away. We have an 18 month transition period that commences at the beginning of 2016.

School Attendance – If your child has an unexplained absence (s) a letter will be sent home stating the dates. **Please fill in the explanation section sign and return to school as soon as possible.** This is a requirement by law for all families to be accountable for absence (s). Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Mega Christmas Raffle

Next Monday (2 November) the Christmas Raffle tickets will be sent home. This year we have been blessed to receive many amazing donations, therefore we will not be requesting donations from our families. A list of organisations that have donated prizes will be published later this year. Each family that has agreed to receive raffle tickets will receive one book of tickets. Should you want additional tickets, please contact the office. The tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The ticket price has increased, however this reflects the quality of the prizes. The raffle will be drawn on 11 December. Following is the list of great prizes.

1 st Prize:	Men's Luxury Package (Ralph Lauren Polo briefcase, Genuine Oakley sunglasses, Nautica polo shirt). Value \$500
2 nd Prize:	Ladies Pamper Package (perfumes, skin care products and a range of cosmetics). Value \$400
3 rd Prize:	iPad Mini and Cover. Value \$370
4 th Prize:	Nintendo 3DS Bundle. Value \$300
5 th Prize:	Children's Toy Bundle. Value \$300
6 th Prize:	Hardware Package (wheelbarrow, cordless driver, garden products). Value \$300
7 th Prize:	Casio Keyboard. Value \$250

Professional Learning - Term 4

It is vital teachers have the opportunity to participate in ongoing professional learning. Following is the upcoming professional learning events.

Developing Writers in Years 3-6	28 October	Mr Ziebowski, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Mifsud
Reading Recovery Training (ongoing)	29 October	Mrs Mifsud
Numeracy Lead Teacher Reconnector	29 October	Ms Sandersan
Improving Religious Literacy	6 November	Mrs Bonserio

Birthdays - At St Oliver's children's birthdays are celebrated at morning assembly. The children receive a birthday sticker and the whole school sings "happy birthday".



NO CAKES OR LOLLY BAGS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL TO SHARE.

We Need Your Help!



We require assistance from parents and carers to assist with the disco on Friday, 6 November. If you are able to assist, please complete the form sent home last week (the pink note) or contact the office.



Also the Bunnings BBQ is fast approaching on Saturday, 28 November. Again we need many volunteers to assist. We will be sending home instructions on how to volunteer. We will be using the online booking system that has been previously used for booking parent/teacher interviews.

Families of children in Kindergarten to Year 5 not returning to St Oliver's in 2016

As a requirement of the Board of Studies, we ask that if your family is not returning to St Oliver's in 2016, you notify the school in writing as soon as possible.

Gospel Mk 10:46-52 **Master, grant that I may see.**

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, ‘Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.’ And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So they called the blind man. ‘Courage,’ they said ‘get up; he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’ the blind man said to him ‘Master, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has saved you.’ And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.



Reflection

A major theme of the Scripture readings is ‘No one is turned away’. In the Gospel reading, Jesus encounters the blind beggar Bartimaeus. Beggars were considered throwaways, but Jesus makes time for this one. Bartimaeus trusts Jesus as the Messiah and hopes in his mercy; Jesus says that Bartimaeus’ faith made him well. One minute the crowd is scolding him to keep quiet, the next minute they are reassuring him and urging him to go to Jesus. Jesus’ gift to Bartimaeus is not only his sight but also his status in the community. By reaching out to the outcasts of society, Jesus brings general acceptance to them. Bartimaeus’ response to Jesus’ healing is to become his follower. Jesus tells him, ‘Be on your way’. Bartimaeus chooses then to follow the way of Jesus. If Bartimaeus had been given sight, and yet failed to recognise God’s blessings in his life, would that have been much of a success story? Bartimaeus *threw* his cloak aside, *jumped* up, and *came* to Jesus. Bartimaeus could have stayed, you can stay, I can stay, sitting on the side of the road of life, content to have the security of the old familiar cloak, hoping for the occasional consolation of someone throwing us a few coins to feed our various hungers, especially of course, the deep down hunger for friendship or companionship.

Perhaps that is all that Bartimaeus initially wanted from Jesus: a *moment* of pity to him, the victim. Perhaps he didn’t really want to do the gutsy thing and take a risk, the enormous risk of having his life changed forever. So, Jesus puts it to him: ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Bartimaeus answered: ‘Master, let me see again,’ and he was cured of his disease and saved into a new way of living.

In Brief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can come back home. • Jesus welcomes outcasts. • Jesus is on our side. • Go to Jesus when you need help. • Jesus helps us see.

Answering Jesus’ Call

Have our eyes really been opened; have we been able to leave behind whatever prevents us from living the Christian life fully, to abandon our exiles or the trappings of our former lives? Have we accepted more genuinely the Christian responsibilities that are ours as baptised followers of Christ, in our own personal lives, in our families, in our relationships with others, at the workplace? To what degree have we been transformed into Christ? How open have we become to the action of the Spirit in our lives? Have we been made a new creation? And do we recognise Christ in our midst?

Mission Liturgy for Jesuit Refugee Service Thank you to all who were able to attend our Mission liturgy. A special thank you to Mrs Maeve Brown who spoke about her experience with refugee and asylum seekers and making the gold coin donation as a realistic opportunity for students to understand how the fundraising will be used to help people who settle in the Parramatta region. A big thank you for your generosity, and Stage 2 students who led the liturgy.

All Saints Day This Sunday the Church acknowledges all the known and unknown saints. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. God’s people, on heaven and on earth, are spiritually connected and united. Catholics believe that the saints of God are just as alive as you and I, and are constantly interceding on our behalf because of our common communion with and through Jesus Christ; our prayers are joined with the heavenly community of Christians.

All Souls Day All Souls Day is on Monday where all those who have passed away are honored and remembered.

Let perpetual light shine upon them, with your Saints forever, for you are merciful. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, with your Saints forever, for you are merciful. Amen.

Sacraments of Initiation All students who are eligible to receive the sacraments in 2015 and 2016 are asked to contact the parish of St Patrick’s Cathedral (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) The preparation courses will be completed at St Patrick’s Cathedral. The Sacraments will take place at St Oliver’s Catholic Church.
St Patrick’s Cathedral Phone: (02) 8839 8460

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator

InfoZone

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

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

A message from the Executive director:



These summer holidays, I am once again be launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

How to enter:

It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

Entries open on 2 November 2015 and close at 5pm on 5 February 2016.

All details at <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>

CHILDREN'S E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER WEBSITE

In July the Office of the Children's e-Safety Commissioner launched its website

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/> which provides comprehensive information and resources to combat cyberbullying of young people and illegal/offensive online content.

The website provides information and avenues for complaint/action/resilience building:

- * eSafety Legislation and Compliance
- * Complaints and Reporting
- * eSafety information on sexting, cyberbullying, online gaming, social networking
- * Classroom, school and parent resources
- * Social Media Regulation

It is important to note that if a social media site is involved in bullying conduct, a complainant must first make a report to the social media operator before making a complaint to the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.

A complainant must preserve evidence of the offensive material to support a complaint. Social Media operators include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Ask.fm, Flickr and Google+.

In the first 3 months of operation, the Office of the Children's e-Safety Commissioner resolved 40 cases of online bullying, referred 624 children to the Kids Helpline, and had removed over 2000 pieces of illegal content from websites.

Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian