



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Term 4

Week 6

2014

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisparc.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 9682 1244

Dear Families of St Oliver's,

New Sports Uniform

After an overwhelmingly positive response to the proposed change to the sports uniform, we provided families with the opportunity to give feedback on the preferred style and fabric of the shirt (survey results below). The majority of the responses selected the style pictured below, which is currently on display in the school foyer. At the last Coffee n Chat this information was presented to the parents and the decision was made to go ahead with the change to the sports uniform. Therefore, the new sports uniform will be available from Lowes Parramatta from October next year (2015) and can be worn from the beginning of the 2016 school year. There will be a two-year transition period in which children can wear either the old or new sports uniform. All children need to be in the new sports uniform by the beginning of 2018.

Sports Shirt Survey Results

OPTION A (above)	43
OPTION B	15
OPTION C	8
OPTION A OR B	1



Cost Comparison

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>
Jacket	from \$38	\$50
Trackpants	from \$25	\$30
Sports shirt (polo)	from \$28	\$32
Shorts	from \$27	\$30

Diocesan Works Fund

During the month of November, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Also known as faith@work this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions. The collection envelopes were sent out at the beginning of November with a letter to parents about the Appeal. Those families, who are not giving at parish collections, are invited to consider supporting the works of the Diocese through the school appeal. If you are able to support this appeal please include your donation in the envelope provided (cash, cheque or credit donations will be accepted) and return it to the school office by Friday, 28 November.

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone, Principal

Dates to Remember!

Monday 24th November
Coffee n Chat

Tuesday 18th & Thursday 20th
November
After school sport finishes

Friday 28th November
Subway Meal Deal

Friday 5th December
Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17th December
Final day of the year for students

2015
Wednesday 28th January
School resumes for Yr 1-6

Monday 2nd February
School resumes for
Kindergarten



SCHOOL NEWS

Coffee and Chat

Please come along on Monday 24 November morning after assembly to have a coffee and chat and discuss the events happening in Term 4 and planning for next year. Everyone is welcome and if you haven't been before please don't feel shy – we are always grateful for parent interest and support and new ideas.



Christmas Raffle

It's not too early to start thinking about our Christmas raffle! Each year we have a raffle that is drawn on the night of the Christmas Concert. If you are able to donate a gift for this raffle we would be very grateful. In the past this has been a very popular event and we have been able to offer great prizes thanks to the generosity of our families. This year our Christmas Concert will be held on Friday, 5 December.

Canteen News

New style round pizzas now available – still only \$2.50 each.



What Responsibilities Do Parents Have For Student Attendance?

There has been a significant increase in students arriving to school late and leaving early. As we have stated many times before it is necessary for students to arrive to school on time. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time and to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. This requires parents to send in a note explaining why their child was absent.

If your child is late to school you need to accompany them to the office and sign them in. NO child is to enter the school after the bell on their own. There are some new procedures schools need to take regarding attendance and we need to be vigilant in this. If you are taking your child/ren out of school for more than 3 days to attend a holiday or special event you MUST complete the 'Application for Exemption from Attendance' form prior to taking the children out of school (at least one week). This form can be obtained from the school office.

Last Day of School

The last day of school for our St Oliver's students is Wednesday, 17 December 2014.

Please note that school resumes for 2015 on Wednesday, 28 January for Years 1- 6 and Monday, 2 February for Kindergarten.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

CatholicCare Solo Parent Services holds fortnightly Bereavement Support Sessions for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. Details and Registration: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

Free Study Buddies Program

Homework assistance for primary school aged children from 3:30pm – 4:30pm Monday & Thursday followed by a Creative Arts Program till 5:30pm at the Harris Park Community Centre. Ph: 9635 0157 www.hpcc.org.au

YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding a monthly support group for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children. It will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **Next meeting:** Tuesday 18th November **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** \$5.00.

Details and Registration: PH: 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au

OLMC Open Morning

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta will be holding a College Open Morning Tour on **Monday 17, November.**



Scholastic Book Club – Issue 8

Please return your orders to school by Monday 17th November using the order forms provided on the back of the catalogues.

Gospel Jn 2:13-22 The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

He spoke about the temple of his own body.

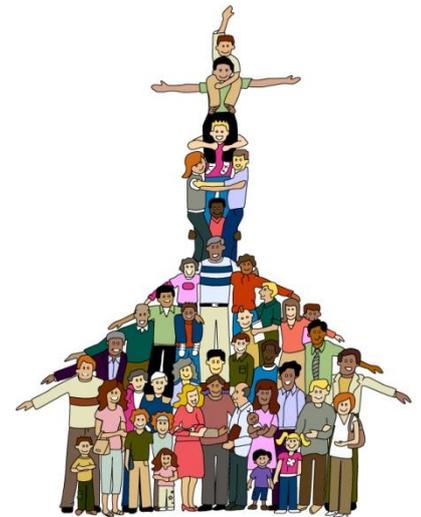
Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

Reflection

In this week's Gospel, we pause in the liturgical cycle to celebrate the church as a building. The Basilica of John Lateran in Rome, is not just any building, it is the first official 'home' for the Church in Rome. It is also a celebration of freedom, for this building marks that time in the Church's history when it stepped out from under the shadow of Roman persecution. In 313 the Roman Emperor Constantine declared Christianity a legal religion in the Empire and not long after his Edict of Toleration, this building was given over to Christian worship. It is considered to be the 'mother church' of Rome and is dedicated to John the Baptist and John the Evangelist.

In remembering and celebrating this 'first home', the readings keep our focus on the fact that the church is not a building but a gathering (in Greek, *ekklesia*) of believers. John's Gospel transforms the understanding of where we find God, not in sacred buildings but firstly in the person of Jesus. The Christian community later understood that even though Jesus was no longer physically present God was still dwelling with them, in the community, so Paul spoke of the people as a Temple – a dwelling place of God. So today take to heart Paul's words –

'You are God's building' – *yes you!* 'Didn't you realise,' he says, 'that you are God's Temple?' So really, today we are not celebrating buildings, but the flesh and blood of people down through the centuries, including us, who are God's dwelling place in the world, we are God's Temple. When we act like Jesus in the world we are seen as the body of Christ. We are the Church, the church being the people.



Prayer

Loving God, you called us to be your church. We pray for our needs and the needs of the world. We pray for the Pope and our Bishops, that they will lead the church wisely. We ask that you help us to make your church a place of peace and love. God our Father, we are the living stones that make up your church. Hear the prayers we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator

10 RESEARCHED-BACKED TIPS FOR RAISING HAPPY KIDS - MICHAEL GROSE

Here are 10 research-backed tips for raising what most parents want: happy, successful kids.

1. Birth order matters

Birth order is something parents need to work with. If you disregard the birth order of your children you are overlooking a vital piece of your parenting puzzle. For instance, research has shown that eldest children tend to experience greater mental health problems, particularly anxiety, than children in any other birth position.

2. Positive peers matter

Recent research I was involved in demonstrated that the wellbeing of teenage girls is highly influenced by their peer groups. A positive peer group usually equated with high life satisfaction regardless of what other factors were at play.

3. Parent mental health matters

If you want happy kids then you need to get yourself happy. Parent anxiety and depression is linked to behavioural problems in kids; it also makes our parenting less effective.

4. Sibling relationships matter

Research shows that over the long haul healthy relationships makes kids happier. But how do you go about teaching kids to get on? Start by encouraging children to build small acts of kindness, which builds empathy.

5. Developmental matching matters

A number of studies have shown that much of what is considered 'poor parenting' has more to do with poor developmental matching. Put simply, parents who raise an eleven-year-old like they did their eight-year-old may find that conflict and resistance become their constant companions, and unhappiness accompanies their child.

6. Good parenting matters

Permissive, laissez faire, autocratic or authoritative parenting? The links between authoritative parenting (a mixture of firmness, warmth and family participation) and children's happiness and wellbeing are well drawn.

7. Family dinners matter

Significant research links family strength and children's wellbeing with regular family mealtimes. Importantly, there is a high correlation between teenagers who eat with their family at least five times a week and good mental health.

8. Fun matters

Researchers believe that the dramatic drop in unstructured play time is in part responsible for slowing kids' cognitive and emotional development. Unstructured play helps children learn how to work in groups, to share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, regulate their emotions and behaviour, and speak up for themselves.

9. Helping others matters

The Positive Psychology movement know what they are talking about when they put volunteering at the forefront of an individual's wellbeing. Helping others makes you happy over the long term.

10. Emotional intelligence matters

Emotional intelligence is a skill, not an inborn trait. Kids learn best when they have concrete tools to assist their learning, whether learning to read (*books come in handy*), playing sport (*a ball and some goalposts helps*) or learning to dance (*some suitable music helps*).