



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 4

Week 8

2014

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisparc.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 9682 1244

Dear Families of St Oliver's,

This time of the school year is best described as hectic. Teachers are busy finishing off their 2014 school program, writing end of year reports, completing assessment tasks, recording data about student achievement and preparing for end of year events such as the Christmas celebration and graduation. At the same time they are thinking about and planning for 2015. This occurs all within the back drop of Christmas, where they are busy getting gifts organised, planning their annual vacation, deciding who is visiting who and dealing with some of the intense heat and humidity that occurs during the summer season.

Tradespeople will tell you that they dislike this season. Everybody wants their job started and completed before Christmas. Their phones ring constantly from frustrated clients who wonder why they haven't arrived as promised. I am sure that whatever industry you belong to that you too feel under additional pressure at this time of year.

As we enter the season of Advent this weekend, in preparation for the most joyous season of Christmas, I encourage you to pray for wisdom. For the wisdom to focus on that which is important, rather than the urgent; for courage in the busyness of your days and weeks leading up to Christmas to slow down and avoid the rush. This may mean saying no to the odd commitment or two. And above all, at this time, to be fully present to the moment rather than wishing it might soon be all over, so life can get back to normal. Please be kind to yourself and each other at this time.

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone,
Principal

Dates to Remember!

Friday 28th November
Subway Meal Deal

Friday 5th December – 6:30pm
Christmas Concert

Wednesday 10th December – 2pm
Farewell Afternoon Tea for Tania

Friday 12th December - 9:15am
Thanksgiving Mass and Parent
Helper Morning Tea

Monday 15th December
Year 6 Day Out

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

Farewell Afternoon Tea for Tania – Wednesday, 10 December!

For many years Tania Freesanges has been a wonderful volunteer and supporter of our school. Tania has volunteered thousands of hours of her own time to support the school in many ways. Tania has ensured that our canteen has remained open and provided quality food for the children. Over the upcoming holiday break Tania and her family are moving out of the area and her son Noah will be attending one of our other systemic schools. To acknowledge and thank Tania for her dedication and commitment to the school we are having an afternoon tea on Wednesday, 10 December at 2pm in the hall. All parents and friends are most welcome to join us to say thanks to Tania!

Thanksgiving Mass and Parent Helper Morning Tea

We warmly invite everyone to attend and celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass on Friday, 12 December at 9:15am. We have many fond memories of this year and it is important to acknowledge and give thanks for all the grace God has given us. The Thanksgiving Mass will be followed by the 'Thank You' morning tea for parent helpers.



Catherine McAuley Year 7 2016 Enrolment

A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools was introduced in October 2014 which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese. The key change in the new policy is the removal of the concept of 'feeder' parishes and schools.

In light of these recent changes it means the letter sent to all primary school parents of Year 5 girls concerning enrolment at Catherine McAuley for Year 7 2016 is now incorrect. That letter referred to feeder schools and advised that Catherine McAuley would not need to interview applicants from feeder schools who apply for a place at Catherine McAuley.

Please be advised that given the new Enrolment Policy and given the great demand for places at Catherine McAuley all applicants will continue to be interviewed as was past practice.

A reminder that applications for Year 7 2016 must be submitted by the closing date of Friday 27th March 2015 to be considered for first round offers. Offers of admission will be made during Term 2.

A Year 7 2016 Enrolment Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 17th March 2015 after the Catherine McAuley Open Afternoon/Evening which will now take place from 4.00 – 6.30pm.

Please contact Catherine McAuley School Reception if you have any further questions regarding enrolment on 9849 9100 or visit our school website www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

School Reports

The children's school reports will be sent home on Wednesday, 10 December. Should you wish to discuss the report with your child's class teacher please contact the office to make an appointment.

Active After School Sports

We have recently been advised that the government funding for the Active After School Sports program has ceased. Therefore the program will not run in 2015. A new program, *Sporting Schools*, will commence in term three next year. Details of this program will be distributed as the information comes to hand.

Christmas Raffle Wrapping – Wednesday 3rd December

Come along to the hall at 9am or 1:30pm if you can help – many hands make light work!

Long Service Leave

As we approach the end of the term Mrs Mifsud is taking well deserved long service leave. Mrs Mifsud will be away for the last three weeks of the term.

Christmas Concert

Don't forget the Christmas Concert is on Friday, 5 December at 6:30pm. Please ensure your raffle tickets are returned by the start of the concert. Extra raffle tickets will be available to be purchased on the evening.



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Gospel Mt 25:31-46 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’

Reflection

This is the last day of the Liturgical Year A. Next week, it will be the start of the Liturgical Year B with the first Sunday of Advent.

In this reading Jesus summarizes for us what we need to do. Whenever we serve the poor, the sick, the homeless etc, we are serving God. Conversely, whenever we turn our backs on those people we are turning our back on God. We have a choice to take action. This reading brings awareness that our actions can bring consequences. Of course God loves us unconditionally but it requires of us a responsibility. Last week we were asked to use our God given gifts for others. We can use our gifts to evangelise (that means to live like Jesus so others too are inspired to live like Jesus). On the last day of the Church’s year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true commitment to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but the quiet transformative work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live. When we do this we honour and praise a king who is a shepherd and a servant. God and Jesus shatter the stereotype of a king high above all people by asking us to serve the poorest of the poor. This is when we reach out to those in need at this time.



The Gospel in Action

How could we respond to the need of people in our community? Who are the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked and imprisoned? What action can make a difference in our community? Imagine a world in which the hungry are fed, the thirsty have enough to drink, the stranger is welcomed, the naked are clothed and the imprisoned are comforted. What would such a world be like?

Prayer

Loving God, we pray for our needs and those of all humanity. Help us to recognise the needs of those who are hungry, those who are lonely and those who are sick. Help us to see Jesus in everyone we meet and to live like Jesus to everyone we meet. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mrs Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator

Help your child conquer self-consciousness

Michael Grose

Self-consciousness can make school concerts and end of year events daunting for some students. Here are some ideas to help.

Self-consciousness can be awful. It's the feeling you get that everyone is looking at you.

Self-consciousness can come and go.

Often eldest boys when in early primary school are extremely shy and self-conscious. It can make them do silly things. Then self-consciousness revisits later in early adolescence for many boys.

Early teen girls often suffer from it, particularly if they are early or late maturers.

Some kids just hate to do anything in public for fear of being noticed and perhaps laughed at. They think, quite wrongly, that everyone is looking at them. The truth of the matter is that most people aren't looking at them. If they are performing in a school concert most adults have eyes only for their children. They won't really take too much notice of any other children, unless of course, they fluff their lines badly or muck-up big time.

However logical you may be self-consciousness can still hold many kids back. Here are some ideas to help your child or young person conquer self-consciousness:

1. **Help them prepare for public performance.** They can practise a talk or even rehearse an opening line to help them break the ice in social situations. Practice leads to competence, which often alleviates self-consciousness.
2. **Use baby steps in social situations.** If they feel uncomfortable meeting a whole bunch of new people, then they can just meet one new friend at a party, rather than try to meet too many people, which can be overwhelming.
3. **Practise strong self-talk.** Self-conscious kids often have atrocious self-talk. They say everyone is watching them enter a room, when the reality is quite different. Help them develop some realistic and more assertive messages about themselves. "It will be fun going on stage at the concert with my friends" is far more helpful than "Everyone will be staring at me" or "What if I muck up?".
4. **Catch kids being brave.** What you focus on expands so make sure you highlight kids being brave and overcoming possibly embarrassing situations. Also, let them know that even though they may have stumbled or fluffed a line or two the room didn't cave in. It wasn't so bad.
5. **Breathe in, breathe out.** Some children and young people can be so debilitated by their self-consciousness that they work themselves into a frenzy with worry. Deep breathing where they count to 3 breathing in, but count to 6 when breathing out will help kids regain calm, control and hopefully perspective.

Self-consciousness is something that many adults suffer from too, so these ideas may hold true for you.

It may not be something we can completely eradicate but it is something we all can learn to control so it doesn't stop us, or our kids, doing what we want to do.