



# St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 4

Week 2

2016

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisparc.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 9682 1244

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Attendance: Every Day Counts

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn.

I implore all parents/carers to carefully consider all circumstances when deciding if your son/daughter is absent from school. In cases of severe medical conditions, one has no choice. In particular, I would ask parents to, when possible to organise overseas trips during school holidays. We have had students take excessively long periods of time away during school and this can have significant impact on a child's learning.

## Key Facts About School Attendance

- Attendance affects academic achievement. Every day of attendance contributes towards a child's learning and enhances academic achievement
- Attendance has a strong relationship with student outcomes as measured by NAPLAN scores. Each percentage point increase in attendance is related to higher student outcomes by an average of 2-3 NAPLAN scale score points in numeracy, reading, spelling, writing and grammar & punctuation
- Absence from school is associated with academic achievement in the current year as well as future years
- If children do not attend school regularly they miss out on the chance to build a good attendance habit
- Being absent for one day of school each fortnight (2 days a month) adds up to missing more than a year of learning over 10 years. This is called school absenteeism
- Sporadic absences affect academic achievement as much as consecutive days
- School attendance patterns are established early in Kindergarten and Year 1

We are aiming to keep our attendance rate above 90%.

St Oliver's attendance rate for Week 1 of Term 4 was 92%.

Peace and best wishes

Ms Barbara Young  
Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### October

- 21st Parish Mass – Stage 2 @ 9:15
- 24th Canteen reopens for recess only – **every Monday**
- 25th Kindergarten 2017 Transition continues
- 26th Basketball Gala Day- Stage 2 and Stage 3
- 28th Mission Mass – Whole School @ 9:15 - Parents welcome
  - Busking afternoon 2pm - 3pm Parents welcome.

### November

- 1st Kindergarten 2017 Transition continues
- 4th **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY NO SCHOOL**
- 8th Kindergarten 2017 Transition continues
- 11th School Disco & food stall

### December

- 5th – 15th Swimming Program @ SOPAC
- 8th St Oliver's Christmas Concert @ 6pm
- 16th Graduation/Thanks Giving, Liturgy and Awards – more information to follow

## Thursday assembly prayer – Mary, Kindergarten

Dear God,  
Thank you for my school.  
Thank you for my lovely friends and teachers.  
Thank you for my family.  
Please help me be a great sister and a great friend. Amen



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Sacrament of Initiation** - Please find below the dates for the upcoming preparation sessions for Penance:

Introductory Session: Tuesday 25th October, 7:30 pm - Parent session  
Sacrament of Penance 1: Tuesday 8th November, 7:30 pm - Parent session  
Sacrament of Penance 2: Tuesday 22nd November, 7:30 pm - Parent session  
Sacrament of Penance 3: Saturday 3rd December, 4.30pm - Parent and Children Session

*(Please note that preparation is completed in conjunction with St Patrick's Cathedral Parish and that all sessions of preparation are held in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall.)* For more information contact: Meg Gale via email: [sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au)

### **Back to McAuley Day** – Sunday, 6th November 2016

All past students, staff, parents and friends of Catherine McAuley, Westmead are invited to return to school to celebrate their 50th anniversary. For more information contact the school reception on 9849 9100 or email [mcauleywestmead@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mcauleywestmead@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### **From the Diocese - A Night in the South Pacific: Saturday, 29 October 2016**

Put on your most colourful dress or shirt for an evening in the South Pacific. Tickets: \$35 or \$30 conc. Includes finger food on arrival, two-course buffet, live band, island dancers, photo booth and entertainment for the kids, lucky door prizes for the best island dress and much more. Starts 7pm in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall & Cloister, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. Tickets available after Mass or tel (02) 8839 8400. All proceeds for St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**Early arrivals at school** - Teacher supervision begins at **8:30 am every morning**. Parents and carers are reminded that children should not be dropped off at school prior to this time. Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC) is available at our school for children who need care before school. The contact number is 0427 665 715.

### **Fundraising - Olympathon**

Towards the end of last term we ran our very first Olympathon. The afternoon was organised and run by our Year 6 St Oliver's Olympathon Committee. The afternoon was about developing leadership skills in our Year 6 children and building cooperative skills in all of the children.

A very big thank you to all the families who sponsored their children for this event. We raised \$2,500. The money will go towards the purchase of new technology for the children to use in their learning.

**ICAS Mathematics Competition** – Congratulations to the following children on their achievements.

<b>High Distinction</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Merit</b>
Nehal Yr 5	Xavier Yr 3	Angelina Yr 4	Sia Yr 3
		Ishani Yr 4	Rohit Yr 3
		Jyotirmay Yr 5	Charisse Yr 4
			Philemon Yr 5
			Aryan Yr 6

**Staff Development Day** – Friday, 4th November 2016. Staff will be in an all-day meeting. There will be no school on this day.

**Save the date** – St Oliver’s School Disco – Friday, 11 November 2016. More information to follow.

**All Welcome to our Busking Afternoon – Friday, 28th October 2016 from 2pm.**

**Christmas Raffle 2016** – Christmas is fast approaching. We would like to run a raffle and the end of the term. We would appreciate any donations to make the raffle a great success. You can bring donations into the office at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your continued support.

**Canteen News** - A couple of our parents have generously volunteered to open the canteen for recess every Monday. Starting next **Monday, 24th October 2016**. A note went home yesterday asking for volunteers to help serve our children. Please return the note as soon as possible . Your continued support is very much appreciated.

**PRC Meeting** - Term 4, 2016 General Meeting – Monday, 14 November 2016: Topic Future Directions/Where we're heading in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Meeting will be held at Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian St, Blacktown. For more information visit <http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au>

## RE NEWS

### **DIOCESAN FAMILY SUNDAY** **Sunday 23rd October 2016**

Family: An Oasis of Mercy

“When a family is welcoming and reaches out to others, especially the poor and the neglected, it is a symbol, witness and participant in the Church’s motherhood. Social love, as a reflection of the Trinity, is what truly unifies the spiritual meaning of the family and its mission to others.”

3 tips from Mother Theresa to try in our families

1. Peace begins with a smile. Smile 5 times a day at someone you don’t really want to smile at. Do it for peace.
2. Be courteous and delicate, even when provoked by someone.
3. If you judge people you have no time to love them.

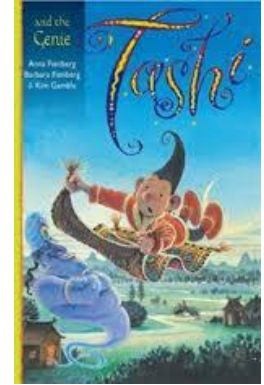
(Amoris Laetitia, 324)

**Staff Development Day**  
**Friday, 4th November 2016**  
**NO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY**

# InfoZone

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

## POPULAR SERIES BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



Series books can stimulate an interest in reading. Do not be concerned if these books are re-read over a period of time. Eventually all children will move on to other books with renewed enthusiasm..

## INK CARTRIDGES



Due to a printer being replaced we have some ink cartridges that we can no longer use. They suit HP CP2020DN. We are offering them to parents at 50% of their cost price. Please contact the Library if you are interested.

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The 2016 Premier's Reading Challenge certificates will not be available until later in the term.

## DELANY DEBATING



Congratulations to our Year 5 Debating Team who performed so well, only losing one debate - to the eventual winners! The students' skills and confidence developed over the period of the competition and their standard of debating was outstanding. Well done Scarlett, Leyot, Nehal and Chairperson Jonas.

*Mrs Lesley Quinn*  
*Teacher Librarian*