

St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 4

Week 11

2013

Dates to Remember!

18th December - Students Last Day, 29th January 2014 - Year 1-6 return to school, 3rd February 2014 Kindergarten start school

Dear Families of St Oliver's,

Last week the students from Years 4, 5 and 6 voted for School Captains and Sports Captains for 2014. The children from Year 5 prepared and presented their speeches outlining why they thought they were worthy candidates for these leadership positions. I was most impressed with the mature and confident manner the students adopted during the presentations. The speeches were motivating, truthful and at times funny.

The Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students and the staff voted for the Captains and I am delighted to announce that the **School Captains for 2014 are: Arthur Sadek and Rhiannon Costello**

Congratulations to these students and their families. Their leadership badges will be presented at the beginning of the year Mass in 2014.

In the last newsletter we confirmed the class teachers for 2014.

Kindergarten: Mrs Bonserio (Monday-Wednesday & Friday), Mrs Grubisic (Thursday)

Year 1: Ms Tripodi

Year 2: Mrs Jean-Louis

Year 3: Ms Sandersan (Monday-Thursday), Mrs Grubisic (Friday)

Year 4: Mrs Henebery

Year 5: Ms Isaac

Year 6: Mrs Bessounian (Monday-Wednesday), Mrs Spyrou (Thursday-Friday).

We welcome Mrs Henebery and Mrs Grubisic to the St Oliver's community in 2014. Mrs Henebery joins us from St Anthony's Girraween and Mrs Grubisic from Holy Trinity, Granville. I am sure that you will join me in making them feel very welcome. We also welcome back Mrs Spyrou, who is returning after taking maternity leave for Terms 2-4 this year.

Another school year is over and as we look back we have had a very eventful year. We had our Beginning School Mass which welcomed our new year. We had our Bunning's BBQ which was a great community building event. We've also had sports gala days and many fun activities and charity fundraisers which the School Leaders have organised. Whilst all these other activities were going on we were very focused on good teaching and learning and the children have worked extremely hard to achieve their best. They really do need a rest!

We concluded our year with a beautiful End of Year Mass and Awards Ceremony where we were able to congratulate the Year Six students as they leave us here at St Oliver's and start at different high schools next year. The farewell assembly was also a time for the End of Year Awards. The recipients of the 2013 St Oliver's Awards are:

Christian Living Awards

- K Ava Brooks
- 1 Jovan Thapa
- 2 Joshua Thapa
- 3 Eloise Aubert
- 4 Leila Nehme
- 5 Stephanie Vella
- 6 Jonathan Perumal

Academic Awards

- K Xavier Chalise
- 1 Nehal Singhal
- 2 Scarlett Lawler
- 3 Clarissa Koe
- 4 Prisha Singhal
- 5 Tram Nguyen
- 6 Karla Manansala

Achievement Award

- K Karen Fernandes
- 1 Angelina Dewan
- 2 Niesa Kaihau-Weston
- 3 Ria Patel
- 4 Rose Lei
- 5 Avanisha Adhikary
- 6 Josephine Barnor

School Service Award for 2013: Ronan Abood



Congratulations to these students and their families.

This week we also farewell a number of very special people. As you are aware Ms Knezevic, Mr Simpson, Ms Buedo and Mrs Allison (maternity leave) are moving on to the next stage in their life's journey. Each of these special people have had a significant impact on our community. They go with our best wishes and blessings and leave us with wonderful memories of their time with us.

On a personal note I'd like to sincerely thank our community for your wonderful support throughout my first year at St Oliver's. This is a truly amazing school and community and I have thoroughly enjoyed this year and I look forward to an exciting 2014.

I leave you with the following Christmas message and, in doing so wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a safe summer break:

What does Christmas mean to you?

Time with family and friends? Perhaps carols, cards, concerts.

Maybe hectic shopping, parties, and eating too much.

All these and more are part of our modern Christmas. But what about the first Christmas?

Why is the original story—the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels—important?

May I invite you to consider seven reasons why the original Christmas story matters, even to you? You may not agree with all of them, but perhaps they will stimulate your thinking and maybe even kindle some feelings that resonate with that famous story.

The Christmas story is important because: it has endured; it is a story of hope and survival; it is a story of peace and goodwill; it is a story of family; it is a story of humility; it is a story that was foretold; and, it is a story of love.

Peace and best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Mr. Anthony McElhone in blue ink.

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal



SCHOOL NEWS

Principal's Morning Tea

Congratulations to the following children who joined Mr McElhone for the Principal's Morning Tea last Thursday. Aileen, Christina, Veronica, Tsepiso, Scarlett, Joshua, Clarrisa, Aryan, Aishik, Joaquin, Avanisha, Arthur N, Joe and Josephine.



Assistant Principal's Farewell

Dear Families of St Oliver's,

I just wanted to thank you for all of the good times, laughter and stories we have shared with not only each other but with the children.

The children here have such joy in their smiles, love in their hearts and good manners! This is a tribute to your parenting!

As you know I have been at St Oliver's for only three years and I have had such a great learning journey here about the different cultures and the amazing FOOD you have so generously given. Your time and efforts given to our school in any and every way makes St Oliver's so special, just remembering our many discos, Bunnings BBQs and our first ever Bingo night! At every instance you demonstrate that you want the very best for your children and families not just academically but also emotionally and spiritually.

To St Oliver's children, always be true to who you are, trust in God and have faith as this will get you through all the different times you can have in life. Be a lifelong learner, continue to read and stretch your mind.

Although I am leaving, it is not goodbye as you all will be in my heart and in my many fond memories. Thank you for your support, prayers and trust during my time here.

I hope you have a blessed, safe and joyous Christmas!

Yours sincerely,

Ms Knezevic, Ms Crazy K or Crazy K

Christmas Services at St Oliver's Catholic Church

December 24 th – Christmas Eve	December 25 th – Christmas Day
5:30pm – Vigil Mass	Midnight Mass
11:30pm – Carols in Church	8:00am – Mass
	10:00am – Mass



Gospel Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'



As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Reflection

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration. Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!



May you and your families have a blessed and safe Christmas!

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator

Goodbye and good luck to Ms Knezevic, Mr Simpson, Mrs Allison and Ms Buedo.



InfoZone

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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hard working St Oliver's Library and Technology Monitors. Their assistance enables our Library and the technology needs of the school to run smoothly and efficiently.



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to all our many wonderful students who received their Premier's Reading Challenge certificates this week. Special congratulations are due to our GOLD certificate winners Zoe Doumit, Miranda Friscic, Aryan Nomula, Dhoon Patel, Ria Patel, Mayana Sandy, Kuhoo Uppal, Arvin Ratnakumar, Rishabh Tenneti, Tram Nguyen, Tania Sutiono and Jaeden Bowers. Extra special congratulations to Karla Manansala and Jonathan Perumal who were each awarded a PLATINUM Certificate for completing the Premier's Reading Challenge for 7 years – a wonderful reading achievement!



PARRAMATTA LIBRARY

<http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/play/facilities/library>

Parramatta library and its five branch libraries allow members to borrow many books at once. This is great for holiday reading. It is free to join – and there are translation services available.

Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian