

# St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 4

Week 5

2013

Dear Families of St Oliver's,

Last Friday we gathered as a community at our school disco. All the proceeds from the disco will be donated to the Diocese of Parramatta Bush Fire Appeal. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, many children, families and teachers from our diocese suffered great loss as a result of the recent bushfires. I can proudly inform you that we raised almost \$1000. In comparison to other many larger schools this is an outstanding achievement and characterises the generosity that exists in our community! Thank you for your support!

It is with great excitement that I share with you that **Mrs Natalie Mifsud** has been appointed as the new Assistant Principal at St Oliver's. Mrs Mifsud will commence her new appointment at the beginning of next year.

Mrs Mifsud comes to St Oliver's with a great passion for teaching and learning. She has worked at a number of schools across the Diocese of Parramatta, in a variety of roles, including class teacher, new arrivals teacher, Religious Education Coordinator, Reading Recovery Teacher and Literacy Lead Teacher. Mrs Mifsud is currently working at Mother Teresa Primary School at Westmead as the Literacy Lead Teacher/Reading Recovery Teacher.

Mrs Mifsud has a close connection to St Oliver's as it was the place where she began her teaching career over 20 years ago.

I am sure you will join me in making Mrs Mifsud welcome!

Peace and blessings,



Mr Anthony McElhone  
Principal

## Dates to Remember!

15<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 2 Assembly – 2.30pm

22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Year 6 Fundraising Day

29<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 5 Assembly – 2.30pm

6<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Concert -6pm

13<sup>th</sup> December  
Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass – 9.15am  
Parent Helper Brunch – 10.30am  
Year 6 Farewell Assembly – 2pm

16<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 6 Social Evening – 6-8.30pm

17<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 6 Day Out

18<sup>th</sup> December  
Students Last Day



## **SCHOOL NEWS**

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### **Coffee and Chat**

Please come along on Monday 11 November after morning 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.

### **Contact Information**

From time to time the school may need to contact you for any number of reasons i.e. your child is ill, or to send you important information. Any change of contact information for your family/child is very important for the school to know. It may be a change of address, contact phone numbers or updated medical details for your child. If you believe St Oliver's may have out dated contact information for your family/child please contact the office with your new details as soon as possible, thank you! A Change of Details form has been placed on the school website.

### **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, 6 December.

### **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 explain the absences of their children from school promptly. 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 procedures schools need to take regarding attendance and we need to be vigilant with 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.

### **Oli's Café - Canteen News**

Due to an insufficient number of volunteers the canteen is only open on Wednesdays this term. We can look at going back to two days a week if we have more volunteers. If you are able to assist please contact the office.

### **OLMC – Open Day**

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta will be welcoming future Mercy Girls starting Year 7 in 2014 to Orientation day on Friday November 15.

The College is now enrolling for 2014 and 2015.

Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or contact the Registrar 8838 1222 to discuss how your daughter can be a Mercy Girl.

**Gospel** Lk 19:1-10 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

## The Son of Man came to seek and to find that which was lost.

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'



### **Reflection**

It is important to really listen and understand the Gospel readings. The scriptures speak personally to us even if we have heard the scripture before. Sometimes we hear certain words or phrases in the Scriptures that speak to us at that moment in time. It may speak to us of love, healing, gentleness. It may warn us or give us power. Zacchaeus was a Tax collector and was not well liked in his community. He put himself at risk by climbing up a tree. Do you put yourself at risk in the faith of the Gospel? Do you own it? How wealthy are you? Or does it own you? Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see Jesus for the crowd was in his way. The crowd is always taller than us. Each one of us is short of something. It could be looks, height, talent, intelligence. How do we handle our deficiency? Zacchaeus climbed up a tree. He was a tax collector and earned a living in a dishonest way. Do I work honestly? You may have all the things you need in life but are not fulfilled. You feel you are missing something. You may be up the creek without a paddle and it may be through your own fault. Jesus is there to help you in the times of trouble and will come and find you. Perhaps the others complained about Zacchaeus saying look at him "what does he think he is doing?" Are you a complainer or judging others? Lord thank you for showing me what to do. Help me not to judge others, complain about others. Zacchaeus accepted who he was and who Jesus was. He had to make the effort by climbing up a tree. We need to make the effort too. What is the next step in our life? What is God asking of me? What must I do or stop doing? Mercy is above all of God's works. Mercy itself is then a continuation of the creational relationship, God continues to initiate, wants and desires of us. This is God's plan for us!

### **Prayer**

Lord, lover of life, You whose imperishable spirit is in all. You discover our needs, fulfill our deepest desires. See us in a new way this day that we may grow in love and grace as the persons you *call* us to be. Be welcome in our hearts and lives Lord Jesus. Seek us out. Amen.

### **Confirmation Classes**

Classes started on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and will continue each Wednesday until 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm in the parish hall. **Those who are in Year 5 and 6 who have received the Sacraments Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion/ Confirmation Ceremony will be held at 11.30am on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. All welcome!

*Franca Bonserio,*  
Religious Education Coordinator

