

The

R o s a r y L i n k

Newsletter Of Our Lady Of The Rosary Catholic School, St Marys

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Term 2, Week 6

3rd June, 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

May the Ascension of Our Lord bring joy and hope into our hearts!

*"Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world."*

Primary Athletics Carnival

This was a fantastic school event last Friday. I was highly impressed by the enthusiasm and team spirit shown by all the children! Our sincere thanks to the parents who assisted on the day and to the many other parents, carers and grandparents who came along to support and encourage the children.

We now look forward to our Infants Sports Day here at school on Friday.

Sports Stars

Congratulations to Edwyne Afeaki who has been chosen to represent our Diocese as a member of the MacKillop team at the NSW PSSA League Carnival on 3-5th June.

Congratulations also to Hayley Wilson who has been selected for the Representative Baseball Team. A fine effort indeed!

Good luck Edwyne and Hayley. Play hard! Play fair! Enjoy yourself!

Student Leaders Reception

It was my pleasure last Thursday evening to join Claudia Fava and Isaia Gae'e and their families for the 2014 Primary School Leaders Civic Reception. I noted with interest that the Mayor, Councillor Ross Fowler, spoke about the responsibilities of leadership but also the fun and enjoyment of leadership. It was a wonderful gathering of young student leaders from across the greater Penrith City area. Our future is in good hands.



Reports and Mid-Year Interviews

The teachers have been working together to assess student achievement and progress over the first half of the year. Reports will be sent home in Week 8 and Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held the week commencing Monday 23rd June. These mid-year reports are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's success and learning progress to date, as well as a chance to set new goals for the second half of the year.

'Discipline' at OLR - Part 2

St John Bosco's approach with youth was to handle unacceptable behaviour "without punishment, but with gentle and effective firmness." This is what we strive to do here at OLR.

At the centre of our approach to 'discipline' at OLR are **RESPECT**, **RESPONSIBILITIES** and **RIGHTS**. These ideals and expectations apply to all behaviours and all members of our faith and learning community. We encourage you to regularly talk to your children about what these three concepts look like, in action? What will we see, hear and feel happening?

Parent Surveys

We wish to thank and acknowledge the many families who clearly put a lot of time and thought into responding to two different surveys last term. Thank you for contributing to **a positive future for our faith and learning community**.

Our **Quality Catholic Schools Survey** data shows an improvement in Catholic culture, school climate and parent opinion. The staff and Leadership Team use this data to make informed decisions about school improvement processes. The information we receive helps us to decide what we need to put time and resources into improving. Our own **OLR Parent Survey** also gave us invaluable feedback and has helped to shape our priorities. Although there was not always agreement, and not all points raised are included below, **some clear patterns emerged**.

Positives identified included:

- Dedicated and friendly teachers and staff
- Interactions between teachers and children
- Community spirit
- Building personal responsibility amongst the children
- Skoolbag App (When it works!) and the school website
- New assembly structure to protect learning time
- Discipline - Rights, Respect and Responsibilities
- The dance classes
- Afternoon pick up system
- Technology for the children to learn with
- Moving P & F Meetings to the evening

Questions, challenges and areas for improvement, as named by families, included (in no particular order):

- Assemblies and the awards system. Merit Awards, Gold Awards, Star Awards, etc.
- Academic grades lifted
- Shade areas - over the artificial grass?
- Parents wanting to better understand the purposes and benefits of 'open learning'
- 'Fun learning'
- Online safety/cyber-bullying education
- More sports opportunities
- More time at Mass; whole school Mass and participation in the wider OLR Parish community
- Homework
- More technology for the children to learn with
- Children sometimes being able to play on the real grass
- Afternoon pick up line
- Canteen menu and healthy eating
- Music; talent quests; show-casing the children's creative talents
- Religious Education interwoven across all the Key Learning Areas
- Student supplies being ready at the start of each year
- School hall
- Out of school hours care
- Parent/Teacher Interviews more often
- Transition to High School
- Chess Club
- Communication/ *Skoolbag*/notes on the website
- Clarity of fundraising goals to motivate us!

We will work on these areas over time, but of course we can't work on all of them at once. It will take a deliberate focus and coordinated effort to address the matters raised.

We also need to remember that it is always about building upon what is currently happening - honouring tradition whilst also striving to be better!

Over time we will continue to seek parent feedback through the Quality Catholic Schools Survey as well as asking some questions specific to our school community.

Claim the Date - NEXT P & F Meeting on Monday 16th June, 7-8pm

Our next P & F Meeting will include :

A 'guided tour' of our 'new' Diversity Team (Learning Support Team) learning space and the Professional Learning and Resources space for teachers.

Discussion about priorities for improving learning resources and facilities, in order to set P & F fundraising goals for this year.

Afternoon Pick-up

We want to really thank everyone for your co-operation following the recent letter sent home updating the procedures for this service. It's getting better every day!

We do request that you collect your children by 3:15pm.

Please also note that for safety reasons **children MUST have seat belts fastened** before moving off.

You may have noticed that St Marys Police regularly monitor the area around our school to help ensure the safety of everyone. Fines will be issued to anyone acting illegally.

Why being at school on time is so important!

Children must be at school on time. Late children not only lose prime learning time but they also disrupt the children who have already started their day of learning. ***We urge you to PLEASE get into the habit of aiming to be at school by 8:30am.***

Children arriving after Assembly on Monday and after 8:50am on other days **MUST** come in and sign their child in at the school office.

By working together this is slowly but surely improving. Thanks for your help!

It is hard to believe we are now in June and winter has arrived!

It was marvellous to see all those great smiles for our School Photos on Tuesday!

May God bless you all, as together we follow Jesus.

Yours sincerely,

**Allan Jones
PRINCIPAL**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

'We follow Jesus'.

Weekend Mass Times: **Saturday:** Evening: 6.00pm, **Sunday:** 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am and 5.30pm.

GREET THE GOSPEL & DISCOVER ITS MESSAGE:

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

The Bush Fire of Pentecost

As summer progresses in Australia there is a sense of anticipation, of expectation. It is the bushfire season. Millions of eucalypts breathe their oils which hang as a potent haze over the hills. The prevailing conditions are just right. One spark and all that potential energy would be ignited and fire would sweep through with great intensity.

Those who report the real infernos not only speak of the flames but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The state of the world after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension was much like Australia in summer. There was a great air of expectation – Our Lord had promised that he would send the Holy Spirit.

By Father Michael Tate



Gospel **Jn 20:19-23**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

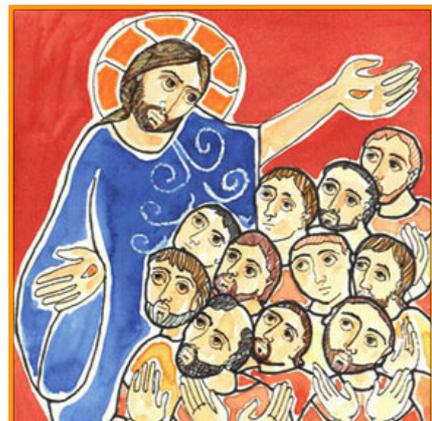
As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven:
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'



The Gospel of the Lord

R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

REGINA CAELI for the 50 days of Easter.

At school, in accordance with the Liturgical Year of the Catholic Church, we will continue praying the Regina Caeli until Pentecost Sunday, 8th June. After this time we will return to praying the Angelus each day.

I include the prayer here so that you may find the time to pray this prayer as a family.

V: Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.

Response: The Son you merited to bear, Alleluia.

V: Has risen as he said, Alleluia.

Response: Pray to God for us, Alleluia.

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

Response: For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray. God of life, you have given joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the prayers of his mother/, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL 16th – 26th June.



How can you help?

Each year, as a school and parish community, we support the St Vincent Winter Appeal by giving money to help those in need; as we have less for ourselves and give from what we have.

During these two weeks, each teacher will have a GIVING CONTAINER in their Learning Space, so that donations may be received.

If you prefer, please send your donation directly to the school office in a sealed envelope. All donations will be graciously received. This money will be gifted to the local St Vincent de Paul Society so that local families in need, may receive our help.

SOUP KITCHEN: As a school staff, we will be making soup at home and selling it in the staffroom for staff lunches at \$5.00 a bowl of soup. All money collected will be donated to St Vincent de Paul.



Canberra Year 5

State and Federal Government

In Term 1, Year 5 and 6 learnt about State and Federal Government as part of our HSIE unit. To assist our learning, we attended an over night excursion to Canberra. We visited the Parliament Education Centre, Testra Tower, the War Memorial, the Australian Institute of Sport, New Parliament House and Questacon.



We have been learning about Persuasive texts in writing. After our excursion we had a debate

"Should primary school children attend overnight excursions?"

The outcome of the debate was overwhelmingly

YES

Some of our reasons for attending an overnight excursion were

- ✓ It teaches children responsibility
- ✓ It's hands on experience through experience and interactive learning
- ✓ To see new places
- ✓ So that students can learn to be independent
- ✓ To prepare students for high school experiences
- ✓ Students get to experience new things and learn with their friends.

What did we learn from our Canberra Excursion?

I learnt that they have a 4 minute speaking time because someone once spoke for 10 hours straight.

Ethan 5C

I learnt that you can only vote once in each election.

Jessica 5S

New Parliament House was built because the Old Parliament House was too small.

Paige 5C

I learn that there are 2, 700 clocks in Parliament House.

Byron 5S

Upcoming Events

JUNE

Week 6

Friday	6	Infants Athletics Carnival Year 4 Parish Mass Celebration of Learning	8.30am-1.00pm 9.15am 2.25pm
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Week 7

Monday	9	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	
Tuesday	10	Assembly Year 4 Reconciliation Fete Meeting	8.45am 11.20am 6.30-7.15pm
Wednesday	11	Infants Athletics Carnival Backup date	
Friday	13	Year 6/Kinder Mass Year 3 Don Bosco Celebration of Learning	9.15am 2.25pm

Week 8

Monday	16	Parents Association Meeting	7.00 -8.00pm
Tuesday	17	Year 5 Reconciliation	
Wednesday	18	Kinder at Don Bosco Reports sent home Parent Literacy Workshop	4-5pm
Thursday	19	Year 6 Reconciliation	11.20am
Friday	20	Year 4 Parish Mass Celebration of Learning: Star Awards	2.25pm



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Saturday 10am - 3pm**

Visit us also at *The Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy,
Penrose Park on the 13th of the month.*

Don't FORGET! Uniform Reminder

Please be aware that by 2015 all students are required to be wearing the new school uniform. Uniform lists are available from the office and all uniforms are available from Lowes at St Marys Village.

Please make sure that you clearly label your children's clothing, so if lost we are able to return it to its rightful owner. Should your child happen

to come home with someone else's jumper/hat etc. by mistake, could you kindly return them to the office to be sent back to the correct student.

We also ask that you label your children's lunchboxes and plastic containers. Any of these items that are placed in lost property with no names will be disposed of each week.

Volunteers needed for second hand Uniform shop

We would like to ask for a couple of parent volunteers to look after lost property and to run our second hand uniform shop. In regards to the lost property, clothing and other items would need to be checked once a week at a convenient time of your choice. Any items you find that are clearly labelled will be returned to the students and all left overs (updated uniforms only) will be available for purchase at the uniform shop.

Please note that we would be more than grateful for any donations of the new school uniform. These will be available to our parents in need for a small cost.



Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

The Stage 3 boys from our school attended the Soccer Gala day at Rooty Hill on Tuesday, 27th May. All the boys competed with a high level of skill and an even higher level of sportsmanship. Six games were played and it's my pleasure to report that our boys went through undefeated and only had two goals scored against them. All the boys had a great day and were a credit to Our Lady of the Rosary.



Primary Athletics Carnival



PARKING SIGN RESTRICTIONS WHICH MAY APPLY AT YOUR CHILDS SCHOOL

NO STOPPING – SCHOOL ZONE

You must not stop on a length of road to which a *No Stopping* sign applies. Where times of operation are shown on the sign, the sign only applies at those times.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$304 (2 demerit points)

NO PARKING – SCHOOL ZONE

You must not stop on a length of road to which a *No Parking* sign applies unless you are dropping off, or picking up, passengers or goods. You must not leave the vehicle unattended (i.e. be more than 3 metres from the closest point of the vehicle) and you must complete the dropping off, or picking up of passengers or goods within 2 minutes after stopping. Where times of operation are shown on the sign, the sign only applies at those times.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$169 (2 demerit points)

BUS ZONE – SCHOOL ZONE

You must not stop or park in a *Bus Zone* unless you are driving a public bus which is actually engaged in taking up or setting down passengers or is stopping for the purpose of a regular passenger service. Where times of operation are shown on the sign, the sign only applies at those times.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$304 (2 demerit points)

OTHER TRAFFIC RULES TO REMEMBER WHEN DRIVING, ESPECIALLY IN THE VICINITY OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

STOPPING NEAR A CHILDREN'S OR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – SCHOOL ZONE

You must not stop or park on a children's or pedestrian crossing (that is not at an intersection), or on the road within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing, unless you stop or park at a place on a length of road, or in an area, to which a parking control sign permitting stopping applies.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$405 2 DEMERIT POINTS

STOPPING ON A CHILDREN'S OR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – SCHOOL ZONE.

If approaching a children's or pedestrian crossing you must drive at a speed at which you can if necessary, stop safely before the crossing. You must stop at the stop line at the crossing if a hand held stop sign is displayed at the crossing or a pedestrian is on or entering the crossing. If you have stopped at the crossing, you must not proceed until there is no person on or entering the crossing.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$405 2 DEMERIT POINTS

DRIVE ACROSS DIVIDING LINES TO DO U-TURN

You must not cross unbroken dividing lines unless you are entering or leaving the road or avoiding an obstruction. This means that you are not permitted to perform a u-turn across unbroken dividing lines.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$304 3 DEMERIT POINTS

PARALLEL PARKING ON A ROAD

If the road is a two-way road, you must position the vehicle parallel, and as near as practicable to the far left side of the road.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$101

GIVING WAY TO BUSES

When driving on a length of road in a built-up area you must give way to a bus in front of you if the bus displays a "Give Way to Buses" sign and the right direction indicator lights of the bus are operating.

CURRENT PENALTY - \$ 304 3 DEMERIT POINTS

SPEEDING OFFENCES – SCHOOL ZONES

EXCEED SPEED LIMIT **10** KM/H AND UNDER – SCHOOL ZONE
CURRENT PENALTY **\$177 2 DEMERIT POINTS**

EXCEED SPEED LIMIT OVER **30** KM/H – SCHOOL ZONE
CURRENT PENALTY **\$1,028 6 DEMERIT POINTS**
+ 3 MONTHS LICENCE SUSPENSION

EXCEED SPEED LIMIT OVER **10** KM/H – SCHOOL ZONE
CURRENT PENALTY **\$319 4 DEMERIT POINTS**

EXCEED SPEED LIMIT OVER **45** KM/H – SCHOOL ZONE
CURRENT PENALTY **\$2,341 7 DEMERIT POINTS**
+ 6 MONTH LICENCE SUSPENSION

EXCEED SPEED LIMIT OVER **20** KM/H – SCHOOL ZONE
CURRENT PENALTY **\$531 5 DEMERIT POINTS**

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE ROAD RULES ARE IN PLACE FOR THE SAFETY OF YOU AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR CHILDREN. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE RULES. POLICE WILL BE ENFORCING THESE, AND ALL OTHER ROAD RULES IN THE AREAS SURROUNDING YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.

Specific legislation can be viewed on the RTA website. This information is an overview only. Please contact The Penrith Highway Patrol if you have any questions regarding this information – Ph. 47 219 485.