



Our Lady of the Rosary School

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish
Fr Brendan - 9623 1962

Newsletter

TERM 1 WEEK 2

We Follow Jesus

6TH FEBRUARY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 9th February

- ◆ Celebration of Learning - 2.00pm

Monday 12th February

- ◆ Morning Assembly 8.45am - 9.00am

Tuesday 13th February

- ◆ Shrove Tuesday

Wed. 14th February

- ◆ Ash Wednesday
- ◆ Y5 & Y6 attend Parish Mass - 12:00 noon

Thursday 15th February

- ◆ First Communion Information Night 7:30pm

Friday 16th February

- ◆ Whole School Liturgy at OLR Church 11.30 - 12.30

Monday 19th February

- ◆ Morning Assembly 8.45am - 9.00am

Tuesday 20th February

- ◆ Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival
- ◆ Kindergarten 2018 Information Evening
- ◆ Meet & Greet 3.30-pm - 8.00pm

Wed. 21st February

- ◆ Yr 2 Don Bosco

STAFF

DEVELOPMENT DAY

MONDAY

12TH MARCH 2018

NO CHILDREN ON THIS DAY

FOCUS IS ON

NUMERACY

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends

Expectations for the New Year



Welcome back to an exciting 2018. Welcome back to all of our students, dedicated staff and families. I extend a very warm welcome to the new staff, children and their families and of course the 61 Kindergarten children and to the new families joining Our Lady of the Rosary this year.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year of learning.

As we commence the new school it's a good time to consider what you expect of your children. Having expectations that are high—yet also realistic—is essential for school success. Think of a balloon. If there's no air (like no expectations), it's flat. If you put in too much air (expectations that are too high and impossible to meet), the balloon bursts. Finding the right balance of expectations will stretch children to grow without frustrating them.

Tips for primary school children:

- Help children develop predictable routines around waking up, getting ready for the day, eating nutritious meals, taking care of their bodies, going to bed at a regular time, and getting enough sleep. Children are more likely to be successful when their routines help them thrive.
- Build on your children's interests. They're more likely to meet high expectations when they're doing things they enjoy.
- Talk with your children about the goals you've set and achieved in your life. Explain how you overcame obstacles to meet your goals.
- Expect bumps along the way. Achieving high expectations is not like climbing a ladder where each step is a step up. Expect setbacks and doubts. They're all part of the process. The key is to work through the difficulties along the way.
- Encourage children to grow and develop at their own pace. Don't compare your child to other children. Some are early walkers. Some are late walkers. Both are normal. Follow your child's lead.
- Watch out for pressures that you place on your child because of your preferences rather than your child's needs. For example, not all sports-mad parents are going to have sports-mad children.
- Give young children extra time to practise new things. Expect the process to be bumpy and slow. Be encouraging and don't expect perfection.
- Have high expectations for homework and schoolwork.
- Help children break large, difficult tasks into smaller, more manageable tasks. This is called 'chunking' and can build confidence as they achieve each part.

From the Principal cont'd.....

OUR WORD FOR 2018

Have you made a New Years' resolution? Have you managed to keep it so far? Most people don't. What can work much better is having a guiding word for the year. I suggest **OPTIMISM**.

In a world with all kinds of worries, it can be hard to feel optimistic. But, while it might be the harder way, it is the better one. Pessimism is lazy, it's taking the easy way out. If you only expect the worst, then that is probably what you'll get.

What do we mean by optimism? It means being brave even when things look too hard. It means taking care of yourself, because your future depends on good health. It means making the most of your intelligence and talents. It means trying out new things because there is always the chance of a great discovery. It means always thinking you can do better and things will get better. It means straightening up, throwing back your shoulders, and looking life in the eye.

I became a teacher because I believe education makes life better, makes people better, makes the world better. That's optimism and I am never disappointed because every day I see it happening.

You know, even in 2017, so many good things happened we would be mad not to feel optimistic about the year ahead.

Here are just a few of the world's random achievements of 2017.

The UK smashed just about every record for renewable energy and wind power now generates twice as much energy as coal. **The annual murder rate in the USA dropped** by more than 5% and, in New York, crime rates were the lowest since the 1950's. **More people flew on aeroplanes** than ever before but 2017 was the safest ever with no passenger jet crashes anywhere in the world. **In 2017, natural disasters caused fewer deaths** than almost any year in human history. Brazil will build no more dams in the Amazon River.

140 nations have agreed to begin negotiations on the first ever international treaty to stop over-fishing and protect life in the world's oceans. **In 2017, the LED saved 570 million tons of carbon** (equivalent to closing 162 coal plants), and reduced the global carbon footprint by 1.5%. **Russian engineers built a massive drone** that can lift 180kg, travel at 70kmh and fly for over 8 hours, designed for use in natural disasters. **The World Health organisation launched a new vaccine** that's cheap and effective enough to end cholera, one of the world's greatest killers. **In 2017, the ozone hole shrank** to its smallest size since 1988.

Over 50 million fewer Chinese live below the poverty line than in 2014.

Afghanistan completed the building of 16,000 schools, the literacy rate increased by 5% and the youth literacy rate by 16%.

In 2017, the International Labour Organisation reported that 98 million fewer children were being exploited as cheap labour than in 2000.

Saudi Arabia announced women would no longer need male permission to travel or study and would be given the right to drive on their own.

Global deaths from terrorism dropped by 22% from the peak in 2014.

The homicide rate in Australia dropped to one victim per 100,000 people, the lowest ever recorded.

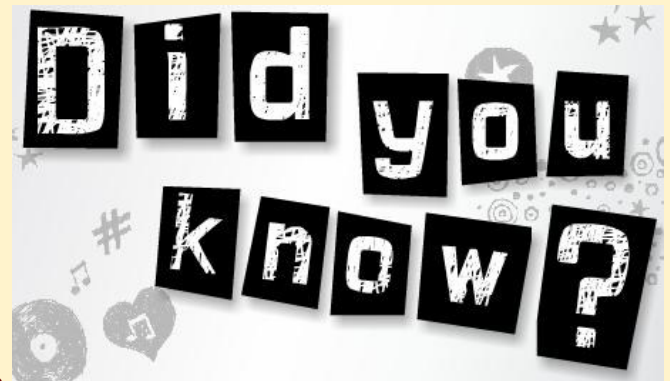
Snow leopards were taken off the endangered list, which they have been on since 1972. The population is now over 10,000.

The robots aren't coming to take our jobs. It's just that the jobs are changing.

If we achieved all that, and much much more, what do you think we can achieve in 2018?

What can you achieve in 2018?

With optimism, the sky is the limit.



Thought for the Week
"Life's most treasured and inspired moments
often come unannounced"

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL





From the Assistant Principal's desk...

Welcome to my desk. In each Newsletter I will provide general information, ideas and tips for parents in either Literacy and Numeracy. If you have a particular question or query in regards to the curriculum let me know and I will be happy to address it.

Thank you...

I would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude for the welcome I have received at Our Lady of the Rosary. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, students and parents during my first few weeks and have gained a positive sense of the wonderful community here at St Marys.

I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you in the coming year and beyond.



Beginning of year testing

The students have settled in well to school this year and the learning is immediate. The teachers have spent considerable time in the break preparing for a great year of learning.

At the beginning of the year some time is spent doing individual testing of students in order for the teachers to gain information, which provides a starting point for each child in their learning.

The **MAI** (Mathematics Assessment Interview) is a one-on-one assessment for every child which allows teachers to assess the child's aptitude with counting, place value multiplication, division, addition and subtraction. These results are analysed and tracked every year to allow the teachers to see growth in each child or if further intervention needs to be provided. Some students may be given the opportunity to be a part of an **EMU** group (Extending Mathematical Understanding), which involves working with a specialist teacher to provide individual or small group assistance in Maths.

All Kindergarten children have engaged in the **Best Start** Literacy and Numeracy Assessment. This is a one-on-one assessment which gives teachers an insight into the child's phonological and phonemic awareness, reading and comprehension. The numeracy element asks the child to count collections, add and subtract numbers and recognise patterns. Again, it is essential that the teachers have this information to give a starting point for each child.

We also provide the **Reading Recovery** program at OLR. Specialist teachers are trained to work individually with students to accelerate their growth in reading and writing. This is a program for Year 1 students only, and they are currently being tested for this program.

All of the above formalised testing that occurs at the beginning of the school year provides only a part of the story for teachers. The teachers are getting to know their students as learners and then design targeted teaching programs in all KLA's to meet the needs of all students. Teachers will continue to assess their students both formally and informally throughout the year and throughout the teaching cycle to always have a plan for the 'where to next' for each child. This differentiated approach is integral to allow for intervention and extension wherever possible.

The students themselves are becoming increasingly more a part of this process as well. They are being taught how to be evaluative and self-reflective learners. Our aim is for all of our students to be able to articulate where they are at in their learning and work with their teacher to create personalised goals that they can work toward.

Kind Regards.... Let us remember that as many hands build a house, so many hearts make this school.

Mrs Julianne Regan
Assistant Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS at OLR

From the page of the Religious Education Coordinator

Parish Mass times are listed for your convenience.

You are invited to join the believing community for Holy Mass at one of the following times.

Saturday 6.00pm. Sunday 7.30am, 9.00am. 10.30am & 5.30pm

We are blessed to have this extensive choice for Week-end Mass times.

Choose a Mass time that is most suitable time for you and the family to attend.

Sunday, 11 Feb 2018: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. **'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.** Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The gospel of the Lord

R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless.

We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it.

However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order.

Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other.

When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God. **In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God.** There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but un-productive or worthless.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS at OLR cont'd.....

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

First Holy Communion Parent Information Evening. Tuesday February 13 OR Thursday February 15 at 7:30pm in the Parish Church.

Please note that the Parish is holding parent meetings next week about the First Eucharist Program for 2018. Are you wanting to enrol your child in the First Holy Communion Program? Please attend one of these meetings to learn what is **planned by the Parish.**

Mrs Colleen Fuller
REC Coordinator

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A healthy baby girl!.....Bethanie Matthews born on January 19th 2018 at 4.41am.

Sister to Jasper - KR, Jemma - 1D, Jacob - 3E, Jaidyn - 4T.

All siblings are very excited and happy!!!

Congratulations!!!!

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the OLR 2017 Parents Association (P&F), we wish you a very warm welcome to another school year at OLR. We especially welcome all the new children and staff members to the school as well as their families. We are sure 2018 will be a very exciting and rewarding year for our children and members of our school community.

The Parents Association is run totally by parent volunteers. We work with our principal and teachers to provide enrichment for our students beyond what is regular curriculum. We organise discos, Don Bosco fun afternoons, meal deals, Mothers Day and Fathers Day stalls, Easter and Christmas raffles, and much more.

With the generous support of the families, Parents Association raised funds which contributed to 200 Chrome Books last year. This year we are working towards new sports equipment for the children to enjoy. In December 2017, with your support we managed to donate \$200 worth of gifts to St Vincents, on top of what the school donates as a whole community. This definitely made a brighter Christmas to families in the community.

We all understand how busy life can be, but if you could spare a little of your time to help, it would be greatly appreciated. If you can join or support Parents Association, kindly email us your contact details to:

olrparentsassociation@gmail.com so you can be added to our volunteer phone tree or join us on [facebook.com/olrstmarysfamiliespage](https://www.facebook.com/olrstmarysfamiliespage)

Upcoming AGM Election/Meeting Date: Monday 5th March 2018

Meeting Time: 7-8pm

Kindest regards,
Pritika Manocha (Co-President)Back (

On behalf of 2017 P&F Committee



DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

Child Safety Handbook

NSW Police Legacy [Child Safety Handbook](#) is now available in digital form. The Handbook provides advice to assist children, parents and teachers on a range of areas related to child safety, including cybersafety, bullying and crossing roads safely.

Over the past five years, many NSW primary schools have received hard copies of the NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook for distribution to their families. Now schools are encouraged to assist in the promotion of this resource to all families. Attached is an article that can be included in your school newsletter or other communications with parents, carers or the broader community. The direct link to the resource is <http://www.childsafetyhub.com.au/>

School Zones Reminder

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the Christmas holiday break at the end of Term 4 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families.

School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, **even pupil free days**.

It is recommended that this advice is provided for the break at the end of Term 4. Most NSW Catholic schools school zones operate as normal until (and include) Tuesday 19 December 2017 and resume on Monday 29 January 2017. Note: even though some schools will elect to have some of these days as pupil free days, **school zones will be in operation on all gazetted school days**, whether students are present or not.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

After five years of work, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has submitted its final report to government and will now come to an end. The Diocese of Parramatta will continue working with police and other relevant authorities to ensure the Catholic Church remains as safe as possible for children and other vulnerable people.

In its submissions, the Royal Commission has released its reports on Case Study 44 relating to the Diocese of Parramatta (this report has not yet been made public) and Case Study 50 relating to Catholic Church in Australia. The Diocese of Parramatta now begins the process of reviewing this material.

The Diocese of Parramatta once again offers its unreserved and deepest apologies to those many people who have suffered because of the child sexual abuse that has occurred in the context of Church ministry. In particular, the Diocese of Parramatta apologises to survivors of abuse and their families for the hurt and suffering this abuse has caused throughout their lives.

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit www.safeguarding.org.au. For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au. For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3419. Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444.

Volunteers for the homeless needed

The Order of Malta requires volunteers to visit 'homeless hotspots' around Parramatta. Volunteer drivers, nurses and paramedics are needed to provide this service to Parramatta's homeless. If you would like to learn more, please email info@smom.org.au



Our Lady of the Rosary

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Website: www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au

Dear Parents,

AFTERNOON PICK-UP

As you know, we are most fortunate to have a parent pick-up service at our school and staff are diligent in their efforts to assist in getting your child quickly and safely to your vehicle.

To ensure the smooth and safe running of this service for families. All drivers are asked to take greater responsibility by following these procedures carefully with CARE and FULLY!

This 'service' is not normal school practice and WILL ONLY CONTINUE if parents and carers cooperate fully.

This afternoon pick up service is ONLY to be used by parents and carers who adhere to all of the following procedures:

LOCAL TRAFFIC

- Cars are not to stop on the school crossing or 'queue up' back onto Saddington St. If there is a queue you need to go around the block or park in the street.
- There is **NO RIGHT TURN into the driveway** from Saddington St.
- There is **NO RIGHT TURN going out of the driveway** into Saddington St.
- Anyone **speaking on a mobile phone**, or driving illegally in any other way, will be asked to park and collect their child.

NAME SIGNS

- You **MUST have a name sign**.
- For large families, a surname is sufficient. e.g. "BROWN FAMILY".
- Please **attach the NAME SIGN to the 'front' of the passenger side sun visor** so it can be flipped down quickly and seen easily. Signs lying flat on the dash board can't be easily seen. Hand held signs are not safe as they take the driver's attention away from the road/driveway.
- Other carers picking up your child **MUST also have a sign**. If they don't, they will need to park.
- You can make your own sign at home as long as the **print is large and easy to read**.
- If you would like a name sign made for you please contact the office on 8856 8301 and also advise how many copies required.

LOADING CHILDREN INTO CARS

- You **MUST NOT** get out of your car.
- Children **MUST** enter your vehicle from the kerbside.
- If you have to load children from the driveway side of your car I am sorry but you will need to park and collect. **It is not safe** for children or adults to be on the driveway side of vehicles.

TIMES

- Children **MUST be collected by 3:15pm.** After this time you will need to park and collect your child from the school office. This is not an after school care service. Some people are arriving up to an hour after school has finished. This is very unfair to teachers and staff who have other work to do and meetings to attend and they have their own families and personal commitments to go home to.

CHILDREN WAITING

- Children are **NOT to eat or play games** while they are waiting.
- If children who do not listen and/or **don't come as soon as their name is called**, those picking them up will be asked to park so that others are not kept waiting.
- Children must take their backpacks off their back before they get to the car so they can get in quickly.
- Please move off as soon as your children are in the car but then ensure they are 'buckled in' before leaving the school driveway.

COURTESY AND RESPECT

- Teachers who are on this duty need to be treated with respect and courtesy and parents must follow their directions. They have a difficult job to do and need everyone's help.
- Please make sure everyone is spoken to politely and respectfully – parents and staff alike.
- Parents must not use the driveway of the units opposite the school as a turning bay; this is not showing respect or courtesy to our neighbours.

If there is a **medical or other reason** why you need to be given other considerations, with after-noon pick up, please write directly to the Principal so a "special permit" can be issued.

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated as we work together to move children away safely and quickly. With everyone's help this service will continue to work well.

Parents who do not follow these procedures will not be able to use this service.

Regards,

Michael Siciliano

Principal