

**PLEASE REMEMBER SCHOOL SUPERVISION
BEGINS AT 8:15 EVERY MORNING**

Dear Parents and Friends .

Ash Wednesday

Tomorrow we gather on Ash Wednesday at OLR in prayer to begin the forty days of lent during which we prepare for the new life of Easter. The ashes we receive tomorrow remind us to follow Jesus in word and action during lent and throughout all our lives.



Let us Pray

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting.

O Jesus, you place on my forehead the sign of your saving Cross:
"Turn from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

How can I turn from sin unless I turn to you?

You speak, you raise your hand, you touch my mind and call my name,
"Turn to the Lord your God again."

These days of your favour leave a blessing as you pass
on me and all your people.

Turn to us, Lord God, and we shall turn to you.

Amen

REPENTANCE

Today, tolerance is the "in-word" and anything that implies that we may have to consider making some serious changes to our lifestyle, is hardly likely to be a popular idea. However, there seems to be a place for repentance somewhere in life for, when the very old lady was asked why she had suddenly taken up Bible Studies, she replied, "I'm studying for my finals."

To decide that you have been wrong in supposing that you could manage your whole life and be your own god, is no easy matter. But, in essence, repentance is to think about something later on and have a reversal about it, to have a change of mind.



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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish - Fr Brendan - 9623 1962

The returning Prodigal Son does not earn his father's love by his repentance. Love has never been absent from his father's heart; only he could not experience it in a far away country. Repentance is not the means whereby we earn God's forgiveness and love; these are there all the time. Repentance is the means by which we receive them. It is going home.



Jesus declared that the purpose of His coming was to call "sinners to repentance". Luke 5:32. When we sin, we "miss the mark" in life. When we repent, we turn to God and ask Him to help us to aim better. Repentance is a lifestyle, a process by which a person, who is away from God, recognises that situation and goes back to God. Instead of ignoring God, we turn around and choose to give Him His rightful place in our life. "To repent is to adopt God's viewpoint in place of our own. It is the most joyful thing in the world because, when you have done it, you have adopted the viewpoint of truth itself and are in fellowship with God."

William Temple. Archbishop of Canterbury.

Maybe, when we hear that a class of children is preparing for First Reconciliation, we might take a look at ourselves and ask, "Do I really love God? Do I actually love myself? Do I show love for my neighbour? Am I a peacemaker? Do I treat other people as I wish to be treated? Am I a forgiving person? OR Am I a bit of a 'Prodigal' and in need of going home?"

**God, our Father,
what a great story Your Son, Jesus, gave us.
Help us to take advantage of the gift of Your limitless love for us.
Help us to make the decision to come home.
Amen.**

OLR Parents and Friends Association

I wish to acknowledge and thank the 2018 OLR Parent & Friends members who gave of their valuable time and skills to work for the school community by organising enjoyable activities for the children and raising much needed funds.

I am very pleased to announce the 2019 P&F Executive Committee:

- President Ms Kaylene Fonua
- Vice President Ms Jennifer Goulding
- Secretary Ms Olivia Kirk
- Treasurer Mr Shane Goulding
- Social team Ms Marieliene Pierre & Mr Deng Athum
- PRC Ms Olivia Kirk

Thought for the Week

*"Everybody is a genius.
But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree,
it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."
Albert Einstein*

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL





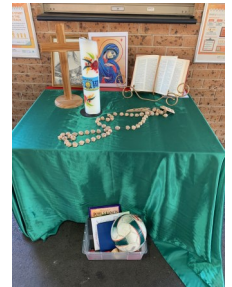
From the Assistant Principal's desk...

Welcome to my desk. In each Newsletter I will provide general information, ideas and tips for parents in all key Learning Areas. If you have a particular question or query or anything you would like more information about, please let me know.

2019 Catholic Schools Week (CSW) celebrations take place from 3-9 March. Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual event and involves the communities of all 590 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools across the State. CSW provides an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what is done every day in our schools and invite the community in to experience teaching and learning at its best.

At OLR we began our Catholic Schools Week Celebrations with a Liturgy as this is the core of what we do.

The students participated with reverence in hearing the messages of the Readings and the Gospel. The core message was of 'love'. We are challenged every day in how we can love others as oneself.



It was wonderful to see so many parents join us for the morning.

They were able to witness the wonderful learning taking place in all classrooms. There was writing, challenging maths tasks, creative thinking in reading as well as the use of coding with technology.



The picnic morning tea was a wonderful way for us to celebrate community and it was beautiful to see the parents spending time with their children and their friends.

The afternoon saw the children move into their Peer Support Groups. These are vertically streamed groups where the children have an opportunity to interact with peers from all grades as well as different teachers.

The theme of the discussion and learning was Our Lady of Guadalupe who appeared to a young boy in Mexico. As you are aware Miss Beckhaus and Mr Eid travelled to Panama earlier this year for World Youth day and shared this story with the students. This story teaches us that even though people may not always believe in us, we need to be like Juan Diego who always had hope and trust in Mary.

We are grateful every day, that as teachers we are able to contribute to the Catholic Education of our students and shaping our students to be 'Disciples of Christ' who show love and care for others.

WHATS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

Wednesday 6th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ash WednesdayProspective 2020 Kindy Parent Tours
Friday 8th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 4 attend Parish MassYear 2 go to Don BoscoCelebration of Learning at 2pm
Tuesday 12th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 6 Reconciliation
Wednesday 13th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 6 go to Don BoscoYear 5 attend Graffiti Talk
Thursday 14th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 5 Reconciliation
Friday 15th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (No Students to attend school this day)
Tuesday 19th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">St Joseph Feast Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthday in the last 2 weeks.

Deng Aleu; Dau Aleu; Tyler Davies; Nijel Senathirajah; Tyler Spencer; Ethan Schroeder; Jasari Pita; Gabriella Dababneh; Amel Ker; Savannah Mizzi; Aguer Aguer; Renee Filoialij; Mehwish Viridi; Mathieus Acuna

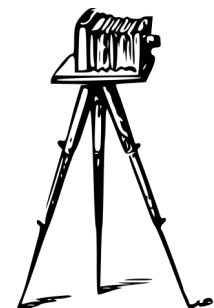


SCHOOL FEES UPDATE

We have been advised by head office Parramatta that school fee statements should be sent out this week. We thank you for your patience and understanding during these technical issue delays.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

The 2019 school photos will be taken on Tuesday 26th March 2019. Order envelopes will be sent home to all families this week. If you would like to order your photo package online, simply go to www.advancedlife.com.au and order your package using our unique code JV9 BYY 4DP. Both online and cash orders are due by Monday 25th March 2019. Sibling photo order envelopes are available at the school office.



2020 SCHOOL ENROLMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT OFFICE

**Please let your family and friends know to
come into the school office and collect an
enrolment pack**

LIFTED LIVE CONCERT STAGE THREE

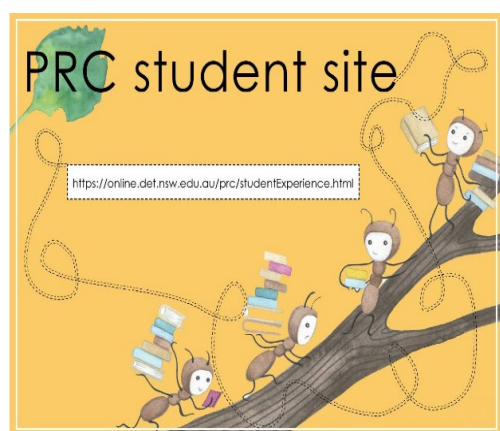
Our school attended Lifted live on Thursday 21st of February 2019. The whole of Year 5 along with the mission team went and represented OLR. The concert was held at Penrith Panthers. We sang, laughed, danced and enjoyed the concert. Our day started with a warm greeting from Catholic Youth Parramatta followed by the Acknowledgment of country as well as prayers. Fr Rob Galea then appeared and introduced himself to us. We sang and danced with him, he also gave us great advice for our futures. All of the schools competed against each other in a game where we had to finish the lyrics. We then had lunch and chatted with our friends. After lunch we could ask Fr Rob Galea questions. The concert finished off with a few songs and a prayer. I would definitely say Lifted Live Jnr was an experience of a lifetime!



From the Library...

The 2019 Premier's Reading Challenge commenced on Monday 4 March and will finish Friday 30 August, 2019. Grades K - 2 will complete the challenge in class, with teachers reading books from the great range of PRC books we have in our school library. Students in grades 3 - 6 who wish to participate in the challenge can come to the school office for a personal reading log sheet and record the books they read, then return it to the office. Alternatively, students can go to the website shown below to add books they have read to their personal reading log online. Students will need to see me for their username and password.

Rebecca Weston
Library Administrator



The PRC student site is available again this year! Students can search for books to read, add books to their reading logs, and track their progress throughout the challenge. The website is currently being updated and will be available for students when the challenge opens on March 4. You can find the site at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html/> and there is a [useful help video available](#) to demonstrate how the site works.

Parents Association News

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the OLR 2019 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 2019 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, Mothers Day and Fathers Day stalls, Easter and Christmas raffles, and much more. All money raised is donated to the school.

I would like to announce our P&F committee for 2019,

2019 Committee

President: Kayleen Fonua

Vice President: Jennifer Goulding

Secretary: Olivia Kirk

Treasurer: Shane Goulding

Social: Marieline Pierre

I would also like to thank the previous P&F members that have now left,

Marian Peters

Kaelene Montgomery

Raelene Perez

We look forward to what 2019 brings.

Next Meeting Date: Monday 25th March 2019

Meeting Time: 7-8pm

If you would like to be a parent volunteer for Discos etc please email us at olrpassociation@outlook.com so you can be added to our volunteer phone tree or join us on [facebook.com/olrstmarysfamiliespage](https://www.facebook.com/olrstmarysfamiliespage)

Kindest regards,

2019 P&F Committee

Emmaus News

Week 6 - Term 1

House Spirit is High for the Inter-House Cup

On Friday 15th February the College held their annual swimming carnival. The day was filled with house spirit, broken records and smiling faces, as the four Houses of Emmaus, Jordan, Tabor, Cana and Mamre competed for the top spot on the leader board and bragging rights as Swimming Carnival Champions. In recent history, Jordan have dominated the sporting carnivals and are current Inter-House Champions and as a result, students of Jordan were rewarded with a day out at the end of 2018 to Wet 'n' Wild.

But history has changed with Tabor taking the top spot of the swimming carnival. They were not necessarily the fastest or competitive house, but students of the house participated with the attitude "every little bit helps". They cheered the loudest, attended novelty events and had a go at competitive races. That can-do attitude and supporting your house, allowed Tabor to get the win.

The competition continues at the College with the Inter-House Cup as the houses compete in Volleyball every Friday, to gain those vital house points. The culture around the Houses is changing as more opportunities for students to earn points inside and outside of Emmaus.



A MESSAGE FROM BUSWAYS REGARDING OPAL CARDS

An important requirement of School Opal is the need for students to Tap On and Tap Off when they travel to and from school.

Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services.

If students don't Tap on and Tap off, services may be cancelled or reduced due to the lack of recorded patronage. With this in mind, we again ask for your assistance in reminding your students that tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card. This in turn helps us ensure we are able to provide the appropriate level of service to your students.

To assist the schools, Busways is developing a campaign to further promote and encourage the use of School Opal. We will also continue to conduct boarding checks on School Opal cards over the coming months. Students without an Opal Card will be given a brochure to take home identifying how they can get an Opal Card.

Please support Busways staff with afternoon boardings and checks to ensure minimal delays to bus departure times and demonstrate a united front to students on bus travel and Opal Card use.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Please direct all School Opal Card and bus timetable inquiries to 131500.

For school bus service issues contact infoline@busways.com.au or your local Busways depot.

