

Dear Parents and Friends of Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School

## *It's a Miracle*

What do you think about miracles?  
Are you a believer?  
Apart from surviving parenthood and still being of sound mind, do you think that extraordinary things might happen which have no apparent rational explanation?



What do you think of this special occurrence?

In May 1917, three Portuguese children, Lucia Santos and Jacinta and Francesco Marteo, aged ten, eight and seven, claimed to have seen a Lady from Heaven who spoke to them about mankind's need to change its approach to living. They said that a miracle would take place on October 13 so that all would believe.

They were laughed at and scolded by their families and when the story began to be talked about more widely, they were arrested and imprisoned by the local mayor. In spite of separating them and threatening them with various forms of punishment, each of the children persisted with the same story.

On October 13 a crowd of 70 000 people from all walks of life and persuasions, gathered to see the miracle which the children had told them to expect around midday.

The vast crowd stood in the pouring rain for several hours till, shortly after midday, the clouds parted and they saw the sun turn different colours whilst apparently spinning on its axis. This lasted for about ten minutes. Then, the entire crowd saw the sun plunge towards the earth. They were terrified, as it seemed like the end of the world. When they looked again, the sun was in its accustomed place and though they had been standing in the pouring rain, they were completely dry.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY JUNE 11

NO STUDENTS ATTEND ON THIS DAY



Celebrating 140 YEARS  
1880 - 2020

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

There were hundreds of written testimonies as to what happened. So, was it a miracle?

It would seem unlikely that so many thousands of people were simultaneously tricked or took part in a lie or that the detailed historical records, still in existence, were somehow “made up” later on without anyone realising it.

People of Christian faith recognise that miracles do take place and base their entire belief on a past miracle namely, Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead. During His three years of public life, Jesus performed many miracles most of which were miracles of healing. Often associated with these acts of healing were the words, “Your sins are forgiven” or “Go and sin no more”.

These words would have been considered a blasphemy by the Jewish hierarchy for only God had the authority to forgive sins. Jesus was saying that He had that authority to decide who would enter the Kingdom, no matter what their status in life, provided they believed in Him and tried to live good lives.

So, at Fatima, during the First World War, “the Lady from Heaven” restated Jesus’ message to ordinary people: have a good look at your lives, remove the negative behaviours and return to God’s way – love God, love your neighbour, love yourself and peace will come not only to you personally, but to the world.

Some of us may have had our own personal miracle, and we may have had an encounter in life that has made us think more deeply about ourselves. Perhaps we have undergone a healing process that has brought peace into our life, maybe we are more accepting of ourselves, of other people, maybe more aware of God’s Spirit within us.

**Dear  
“Our Lady from Heaven”,  
in every instance that you have appeared  
to people throughout the ages,  
you have always called them to your Son.  
Help us, now,  
to come to Him  
with open and willing hearts.  
Amen.**



## ***Tell Them From Me - Parent Survey***

We are currently inviting students in years 4, 5 & 6, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

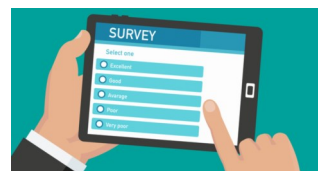
We would like to ask all parents/carers to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning Parent survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback.

The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at Our Lady of the Rosary School, St Marys.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

**<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/gd9vb>**



# BE SAFE RESPONSIBLE LEARNERS

For many children social media is becoming an essential part of their lives. We know that children need to be 13 years of age to register on network sites like facebook, twitter and snapchat, however we find that many parents are allowing their children to register on these networks at a much younger age.

There are appealing aspects about social media, but also many potential dangers and things that you will want your children to avoid. Children can make the incorrect choices when they post something to a social web site and this can lead to problems like cyberbullying or online predators. It's very important for parents to teach their children how to use social media wisely before they register online.



These statistics about teens highlight the dangers of social media:

- 17% of teens say they've been contacted online by someone they didn't know in a way that made them feel scared or uncomfortable
- 30% of teens say they've received online advertising that was inappropriate for their age
- 39% of teens admitted to lying about their age to gain access to websites

## What Parents Can Do

It's important for parents to be aware of what their children are doing online. The key is to stay involved in a way that children clearly understand that you want to make sure they are safe.

Here are some helpful hints to share with your child:

**Be nice.** Mean behaviour is just as unacceptable in the virtual world as it is in the real world. Make it clear that you expect your child to treat others with respect and courtesy, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages about others. And ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others may post.

**Think twice before hitting "enter."** Remind teens that what they post can be used against them. For example, letting the world know that you're off on vacation or posting your home address gives would-be robbers a chance to strike.

**Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule.** Teach children "once it's out there, you can't get it back." They shouldn't share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, parents, future bosses and yes, grandma, to see.

**Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings are important, and to highlight their importance, go through the settings together to make sure your children understand how it's done. Explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft and should never be shared with anyone, not even their best friend.

**Don't "friend" strangers.** "If you don't know them, don't friend them." This is a plain, simple and safe rule of thumb.

## High expectations of self

Parents also can help their children by putting limits on media use. Keep computers in public areas in the house, avoid laptops and smartphones in bedrooms, and set some rules on the use of technology. And don't forget: Setting a good example through your own virtual behaviour can go a long way toward helping your children use social media safely.

## Thought for the Week

*"God's love is best shown to us in times of aridity"*  
Mary MacKillop 1870

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.

## **SEMESTER ONE REPORTS AND MID YEAR CHECK IN**

As a parent/carer/guardian you receive a Learning Report in Semester One and Semester Two. These reports will help you understand how your child is progressing in their learning. Teachers plan, teach, assess and report students' learning using the New South Wales Curriculum. This sets high standards for what should be taught and what students should know and be able to do as they progress through school. Written reports are just one way that we communicate with you about how your child is progressing at school.



### **What is the purpose of a Student Report?**

**At OLR we provide parents and carers with two written reports each year that report on all Key Learning Areas studied by your child. These are based on a five-point achievement scale and identify areas of strength and areas that need further support and development.**

### **How do teachers allocate grades?**

Teachers use a **range of different assessment strategies and tools to gather evidence of student achievement. Based on the evidence, teachers make an on-balance judgement to decide which grade best matches the standard the student has achieved at this point in their learning.**

### **What do the levelled Descriptors mean?**

The students in Years 3-6 will be reported on using the following 5 point scale.

**The following guide describes each descriptor in relation to the achievement standard.**

Grade	Description
<b>Working Deeply</b>	The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.
<b>Working Beyond</b>	The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.
<b>Working At</b>	The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
<b>Working Towards</b>	The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.
<b>Working with Assistance</b>	The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in a few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

The children in Kindergarten will be reported on using a 3 point scale in each KLA.

Learning Achievement			
	Working Beyond	Working At	Working Towards
Overall Learning Achievement		✓	

**Working Towards** indicates the child is demonstrating a *basic understanding in this area at this point in time.*

**Working At** indicates the child is achieving a *sound understanding of what is expected of them at this point of time in their learning.*

**Working Beyond** indicates the child is demonstrating an *excellent understanding of the knowledge and skills expected at this time.*

## **EFFORT SCALE**

Just as importantly as Grade learning indicators... are the **Effort Grades.**

At OLR we encourage all students to be engaged in their learning and to be *self-reflective learners who strive for excellence.* The teacher will place the child on the scale for each KLA allowing you to see how they are tracking in terms of their application toward their learning at this point in time.

	Improvement Needed	Satisfactory	Very Good	Outstanding
Effort			✓	

## **LIGHTHOUSE INDICATORS**

The report also provides information about the child's **social development and their attitude and commitment to learning.** The Lighthouse indicators allow parents to see at a glimpse how the student is tracking in terms of meeting our school expectations of being **SAFE, RESPECTFUL AND A LEARNER.** *Next steps...*

These are important qualities and skills for all children to have in being resilient, collaborative and actively listening in order to follow instructions and expectations.

## **SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT**

Teachers have prepared a comprehensive summary of the student's learning achievements to share with you in person. When you come and meet with the teachers in Weeks 9 and 10 they will discuss and unpack the Report thoroughly with you, as well as giving you further insights into your child's areas of strength and the next steps in their learning.

## **MID-YEAR CHECK IN INTERVIEW**



The interview is very important as together with the teacher and the child present, you will be able to reflect on the child's learning goals and set further goals for the child to work on to improve their learning and achievement.

**We expect all students to be present at the Interview as it is a shared approach where the child will also discuss their learning goals and how they are going.**

**The Reports for Semester One will be sent home to parents on Tuesday 15th June. If you have not booked an interview time please do so by visiting...**

[www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

**Enter the Booking code 2vazf**

**Any parents who do not make a booking will be contacted directly by the class teacher and/or allocated a time to meet.**

## WHATS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

Please remember to check our google parent calendar for all events.

To subscribe to the calendar copy this link to your web browser :

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?  
src=parra.catholic.edu.au\\_2d33313335343931362d3433%  
40resource.calendar.google.com&ctz=Australia%2FSydney](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=parra.catholic.edu.au_2d33313335343931362d3433%40resource.calendar.google.com&ctz=Australia%2FSydney)

Wednesday 9th June	⇒	<b>P&amp;F Sports Fever Mufti Day</b>
Thursday 10th June	⇒ ⇒	<b>INFANTS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - CANCELLED STAR AWARDS @ 2:30pm</b>
Friday 11th June	⇒	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Monday 14th June	⇒	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday 15th June	⇒	<b>Reports go home</b>
Wednesday 16th June - Tuesday 23rd June	⇒	<b>MID-YEAR CHECK-IN INTERVIEWS</b>
Thursday 17th June	⇒	<b>P&amp;F Don Bosco Fundraiser (3:00-4:15pm)</b>

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Sabine Moises, Jennifer Ebsworth, Nyanwut Reec, Taylan Karahasan, Jaylon Chandrapala, Abur Ujuangí, Emmanuel Danao, Amelia El-Khatib, Kapish Panchal, Auot Akot, Musa Dolley, Oliver Drew, Hailey Pehr, Devya Sundarigari, Sophia Busa, Aguek Ajou.



## LIGHTHOUSE AWARDS

### TERM 2 WEEK 6

Kindy	-	Evlyne Anna James
Year 1	-	Emilija Marjanovic
Year 2	-	Miguel Mendoza
Year 3	-	Carmen Harrouz
Year 4	-	Nijel Senathirajah
Year 5	-	Joy Kenyi
Year 6	-	Jennifer Ebsworth



From the desk of the Religious Education Coordinator at  
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School.

**2021 FORMATION GOAL:**

All students to be self-reflective disciples of Jesus, through deep learning from Mark's gospel. (Year B in the church year)

In 2020-2021 we continue to celebrate 140+ years of ongoing commitment to excellence in Catholic Education; at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys and 200+ years of excellence in Catholic Education within Australia.

**MASS TIMES:** The church is open now without the earlier Covid restrictions.

You are invited to participate in prayer, worship and thanksgiving as an intentional faith community.

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am or 6:00pm.

Masses are being held at the MacKillop Centre (old Infant Site) until the Church renovation is complete.



**NEW DRAFT Curriculum - Religious Education : 2021**

Last week, after much consultation with all stake holders, much deliberation and discernment, Bishop Vincent announced the name of the New Draft Curriculum.

It will be titled - 'Living Life to the Full.' John 10:10

The New Draft Curriculum is taught through the 3H Paradigm of HEAD, HEART and HAND as a way of being in the world, living according to the Word of God.

Our individual and collective challenge is to apply these dispositions to the ordinary of each day - they are often called the Success Criteria for life. Our continuing challenge and opportunity is to learn how to use these dispositions in contemplation and prayer each day, to inform our decisions as we learn to live as a true follower of Jesus.

Head (cognition, intelligence)	Heart (affectivity, socio-emotional)	Hands (praxis, discipleship, action)
<p><i>Be Attentive</i></p> <p><i>Be Intelligent</i></p> <p><i>Be Reasonable</i></p> <p><i>Be Responsible</i></p>	<p><i>Be Contemplative</i></p> <p><i>Be Empathetic</i></p> <p><i>Be Humble</i></p> <p><i>Be Loving</i></p>	<p><i>Be Present</i></p> <p><i>Be Active</i></p> <p><i>Be Compassionate</i></p> <p><i>Be Effective</i></p>

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B** Sunday, June 13, 2021

Mark 4:26-34

The reign of God is like a mustard seed.

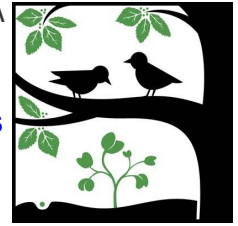
(The mustard seed, one of the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.)

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

## Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds.

- **In the first**, Jesus tells those gathered that this is “**how it is with the kingdom of God.**” A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. **In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering.** However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.



- **The second parable** focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. **Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us.** But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, “**thy kingdom come.**” We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. **All we need is faith.**

This Friday 12th June, in the Church Liturgical Year we remember the

## **Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

which reminds us of God's great love for each of us.

On Saturday we acknowledge the feast of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** (Saturday 13th June).

**Love is at the very centre of Christianity.** Love is the whole message, the whole law. In its essence, love is about being prepared to consider the good of another person before considering your own wants-it is sacrificial, self-giving. Parents understand this love very well.

The deeper we grow in the Catholic and Apostolic faith, the more we realize that the gospel is centred not so much in *our love for God, but in God's love for us.* *The Catholic Church has dedicated the month of June to a devotion that is designed to remind us of the depth of God's passionate love for his creatures: devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

### **FOOD DRIVE TO show our love and SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS THE JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE**

On Friday we begin our 'food donation drive' to share our love with others by providing basic needs for refugees and asylum seekers within our local area. **Can you help?** Please send in one FOOD item to your class teacher.

**This Social Justice initiative will finish on Friday 18th June. All items will be delivered to the Jesuit Refugee Service in Mt Druitt.**

Thank you in anticipation of your generosity. Students will receive more information about this initiative on Thursday.

*God, through Jesus, loved us, and at the same time, an exercise of our own love by which we are related to God and to all humanity.” – Pope Pius XII*



## THE SCHOOL DENTIST IS VISITING OLR

We will be having the Totally Smiles Dental Group visiting the school to provide free dental check-ups for children. These are covered by Medicare Child Dental Benefit Schedule for eligible children aged between 2-17 years.



The dentist will be at our school from **Monday 26 July till Friday 30 July** (Term 3 Week 3), they will also be attending our school and speaking to both students and parents on **Friday 16th July at 2:30pm** at a special assembly. At this assembly they will introduce themselves and speak about healthy eating and oral health.

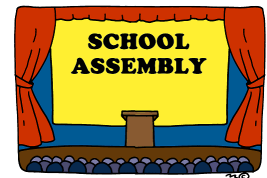
The portable dental clinic is a fully equipped dental clinic with x-rays, sterilisation units, high level infection control protocols.

To book your child's visit in please complete the online consent form by going to <https://mobiledentistry.totallysmiles.com.au/consent-forms/consent-e-form/>.

If you are unable to complete this online, you can collect a paper consent form from the front office.

## TERM 3 ASSEMBLIES

Due to Gymnastics being run on Monday mornings in Term 3 our assemblies will be held on Tuesday mornings.



## Planning on Moving or Leaving OLR

This is a reminder that if you are moving or planning to leave OLR you are required to give the school a full-term notice as detailed in the agreement signed on enrolment at the School.

If this notice is not received, you will be charged by the Catholic Education Office a 10-week penalty fee. This does not apply if you are moving to another Catholic school in the Parramatta Diocese.

## School Fees

Please be advised that Term 2 school fees are now due. If you are on a payment plan then you simply stick with your Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly payments until the end date.

If you would like to set up a payment plan, its not too late. Please contact Anne Rando in the school office. PH-88568301

If you are experiencing financial difficulty and would like to discuss our options for school fee assistance, then again please contact Anne Rando in the school office. PH -88568301

## DON BOSCO FUNDRAISER

The Parents Association is holding a Don Bosco Fundraiser on Thursday 17th June.

Children will be walked up to Don Bosco after school and need to be collected by 4:15pm.

The cost to attend this is \$5.00 per student (or \$10 per family).

A permission note to attend this fun afternoon will be sent home tomorrow.



Dear parents, guardians and carers

**Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)**

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines (2019)*.

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy \(https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy\)](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal \(https://www.nccd.edu.au\)](https://www.nccd.edu.au).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

Kind regards

Principal