

NEWSLETTER NO. 40 TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th 2015

Generous God,
we give you thanks for all the good things you have given us.
Inspire us in this Advent season to share what we have
so all people may live a full and happy life.
As Christmas approaches,
we look forward joyfully to your coming.
Help us to prepare,
to change our lives to be ready when you come,
and to give what we have
so all people may have peace and comfort in their lives.

Amen.



CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9TH

Each year we spend some time preparing for the celebration of Christmas by putting together a presentation that highlights the important points of the Christmas story. This is an important thing to do as we are bombarded with the secular trappings of the Christmas holiday and sometimes the reason for us celebrating is lost. This presentation is planned for TOMORROW, Wednesday December 9th at 11.15am and will be held in Our Lady's Church. Please feel most welcome to join us.

END OF YEAR MASS

Our End of Year Mass will be held next Tuesday December 15th at 7.00pm – all families are expected to attend this celebration. At this Mass we will thank and bless our Year Six children, farewell our families finishing their primary school journey and give thanks for what our school year has given us.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Our Lady's Parish holds a Mass each Christmas Eve that is a family celebration. Children and families are encouraged to dress up (soldiers, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, villagers etc.) and to be involved in the liturgy. It would be great if we could have an indication if your child will be attending so that we could ask them to undertake a task on the night. Christmas Carols will commence at 6.30pm with Mass at 7.00pm.

WANGARATTA PARISH MASSES

Masses for this weekend are:

| | | |
|------------|----------|----------------------------|
| * Saturday | 6.00 pm | St Patrick's |
| * Sunday | 8.00 am | St Patrick's |
| * Sunday | 9.00 am | Our Lady's |
| * Sunday | 10.00 am | Moyhu |
| * Sunday | 10.30 am | Whitfield (1st Sunday) |
| * Sunday | 10.30 am | St Patrick's |
| * Sunday | 5.00 pm | Latin Mass at St Patrick's |

RETIREMENT OF SR MARY GRIFFITHS

Last week the Victorian leader of the Brigidine Sisters informed our Parish that Sr Mary and Sr Maureen will be retiring at the end of January in 2016. Sr Mary has been an important part of our Parish for many years and has been a strong supporter of Catholic Education and in particular Our Lady's Primary School. I would like to thank Mary for her friendship, leadership and company. At the appropriate time we will formally thank her for all the work she has done for us.

SCHOOL BOARD/P & F END OF YEAR DINNER

Our annual night out will be held THIS Friday December 11th at the Town N Country Tavern (corner Greta Road and Mason Street) at 6.30pm.

Julie needs all RSVP's by tomorrow, Wednesday December 9th so we can confirm our booking.

END OF YEAR REPORT

As part of this newsletter I have attached a summary of the report that was presented to the School Board at our last meeting. It outlines some of our key actions and achievements. It will form the basis for our annual report that is completed early next year once we have our financial data finalised. Our past annual reports are available on the website www3.olwangeratta.catholic.edu.au.

WHOLE SCHOOL EXCURSION – WALK TO MERRIWA PARK

Next Monday December 14th, we plan to have a whole school walk to Merriwa Park to have a play and share lunch together. There will be a sausage or two cooked on the BBQs although we suggest that children can bring a snack to have as well. They will also need to make sure they have a water bottle at school on this day to take with them.

We have tried to break up the last few weeks of the year as we are conscious that being in the hall, as good as the children have been, is a challenge for all of us particularly as the weather heats up.

We plan to leave mid- morning after Recess and walk along the bike track, have a play, have lunch and return early afternoon. The weather will determine if we walk both ways. If it looks like being too hot we will rethink if we go or if we bus some of the way.

The 'Family' permission note was uploaded onto our app last week as a trial. Paper copies have today been sent home with the eldest child in each family who have not used the app to complete the permission note. Completed permission forms must be returned (either via the app or paper version) to the office by this Thursday December 10th 2015.

REPORTS

We plan to issue End of Year written reports next week – the last week of school for 2015. If families require different arrangements for issuing reports please feel free to contact your child's teacher. The report has been the basis of this term's Teacher Advisor meetings.

LOST PROPERTY

There are quite a few items of lost property that have accumulated over the year. They are in a box near the entrance to the hall. Please check to see if anything belongs to your child/children. Anything left unclaimed at the end of next week will be thrown out.

SCHOOL BANKING

Last week was the last day for school banking for this year. It will recommence again in 2016.

END OF 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2015 school year will conclude for students next Thursday December 17th 2015 at 3:10pm.

MAKING JESUS REAL FOCUS

Each week we have a focus for where we can work to have others see Jesus in us. This week the focus is on happiness and what we can do to make others happy.

ASSEMBLY THANK YOU

At our start of week Assembly we take the time to give thanks for a number of actions or efforts members of our community make. Expressing thanks allows us to acknowledge actions that help us and to highlight language and actions that we would like to see happen in the future. They often relate to our expectations from last week or to events that students were involved in. This week we give thanks for:

- To those students who make positive decisions about supporting the learning of other students
- To everyone who acts in ways that keep everyone safe and happy at Our Lady's
- For positive behavior choices when travelling on buses to and from swimming
- To the Bridging Centre students for their positive behaviour when visiting the Splash Park last week

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Our expectations focus for this week is “Treat others the way you would like to be treated”:

Be Ready to Learn: By treating other students as very important community members

Be Responsible: By keeping the learning of ourselves and others students in our thoughts

Be Respectful: Supporting the learning of everyone in the school

Power Play Focus: **Students who behave in positive ways**

Congratulations to Shaylah Allen who was the winner of last week’s Power Play Raffle.

SCHOOL APP

We would like as many families as possible to download our new school app (details of how to do this are further along in the newsletter)– you can access newsletters as well as other information about school events. Please feel free to let us know what you think about the app.

2016 NEWSLETTERS

There are many families yet to let us know how you will receive your newsletter from 2016 onwards.

You need to choose either to use our new app (instructions on how to download this are once again included in today’s newsletter) or have the newsletter emailed to you each week.

NO PAPERS COPIES WILL BE SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS

Please either

- complete the form further along in the newsletter and return it to the office or
- email your response to Julie at jmcmonig@olwangeratta.catholic.edu.au

Mark

NOVEMBER 2015 BOARD REPORT

Our school is committed to developing a safe and supportive learning environment for all. We undertake the development of the whole child, by nurturing a learning community that grows together, where all are engaged, empowered and encouraged to develop a love of life-long learning. We strive to develop the students’ cognitive, emotional, physical and spiritual skills, to enable them to find God in all things and to enable them to live out their vocation in life according to the variety of their gifts.

The next few years are full of promise for our school as we build in the foundations of the past. We feel that we are poised to reap heavily from the learning atmosphere that we have sown. So much of our information tells us that we have in place a solid foundation for greater efforts, results, aspirations and expectations for our children.

The 2015 school year has been an incredibly interesting and challenging one for our community. We spent the first half of the year preparing for the refurbishment of the school, whilst at the time, trying to run as normally as possible. The preparation work done and the eventual move to the building phase is the culmination of many years work and promises to be an exciting time for the community. It will be very interesting to see where we are at this time in 2016.

The following report is a summary of many of the developments that have been undertaken this year and it is presented to the community as a way of both informing and educating about the work that happens at the school. Our actions were mostly concentrated in the first two thirds of the year.

Catholic Identity

As a Catholic School we have actively promoted our faith and practices. This is demonstrated through our comprehensive liturgical program including masses, class based liturgies, prayer at all levels, at community events, support for parish activities and involvement in Sacramental programs and celebrations.

Our motto challenges us to live with “*Strong Minds, Compassionate Hearts*” and this is how we have tried to be this year.

Goals

In 2015 we committed to the following:

- Develop an understanding of new school motto
- Examining the Brigidine story more closely and incorporate new symbols to support this
- Explore different methods with staff prayer
- Including Kinship With the Earth units in Scope and Sequence for 2015 and beyond (link with inquiry)
- Work at completing actions listed in our Fire Carrier Covenant; develop the role of the Fire Carriers
- Revisit ECSIP data and inform new staff
- Continue to link Making Jesus Real with PBIS to enhance relationships and improve social skills

Some of our achievements this year have included:

- Using our school motto “Strong Minds, Compassionate Hearts” as our school theme. Adding it to our visual symbols and exploring the impact that this has on our actions
- Adding a link to the Brigidine heritage of our school through the motto, the addition of significant symbolism and planning the understanding of their selection and usage
- Developing a staff process that links to the Religious Education units being worked on in the respective classrooms
- Links to the Kinship of the Earth program were implemented where available
- The Student fire carriers group was extended and a great involvement in events was established
- Professional learning was undertaken to context the Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Project Data (ECSIP) and to prepare for the next survey cycle in 2016
- Stronger links were established to align our work in Making Jesus Real with the themes and intent of the Positive Behaviours In Schools program
- Continued use of the Source of Life as our core planning document
- Participation in liturgical celebrations that included school Masses, Parish Masses, Assemblies, class Masses, class prayer, prayer at community gatherings, and prayer in classrooms
- Support of Parish sacramental programs and celebrations
- Data was collected through the insight SRC

Thanks must be given to Cathie Walsh for her leadership in the area of Catholic Identity and for her work in supporting our liturgical program.

Learning and Teaching

Our Lady's Wangaratta Vision for Learning:

"Our vision for learning at Our Lady's Primary School is that all involved with the school will have learning at the fore front of our effort and actions. We believe that learning happens best if it is explicit, based on information, relevant, engaging, based on clear expectations and it is the responsibility of everyone."

Our Learning Teaching Goals:

- To explicitly teach through a range of strategies that suit the learning needs of the students
- To know the learning needs of our students and to use this knowledge in designing learning opportunities
- To provide many opportunities for children to work in a variety of learning situations
- To encourage children to be life-long learners
- To develop co-operative learners who will take risks, ask questions, and reflect on their own learning
- To provide opportunities for children to experience success
- To encourage children to make connections in their own learning so that transfer can occur

Goals

In 2015 we committed to the following:

- Whole Staff Professional Learning in line with high expectations focus and oral language across the curriculum
- Development of Leading the Learning role
- Addition to student leadership program in the area of Positive Behaviours leadership and collection of data
- Embed early oral language development, English and Mathematics intervention and support
- Continue to grow our community expectations of positive behavior and increased learning expectations
- Committing to the building staff capacity to lead the learning at Our Lady's
- Use of student learning data to drive our teaching and student learning

Some of our achievements this year have included:

- The implementation of a set of learning benchmarks for learning growth in English and Mathematics for all items on our assessment schedule including a whole staff review process for data
- Further growth in the position of Leading the Learning including involvement in Diocesan projects
- Growth in student commitment to Positive Behaviour
- Preparation for the move into new learning spaces and changes to pedagogy
- Review of the Our Lady's Vision for learning
- Our Professional Learning Team have revised learning data and used that as basis for our planning
- Participated in professional learning related to developing high expectations

I would like to thank Josh Naish for his leadership in this area of school life. Josh's insights, energy and actions in directing our work have been invaluable.

Pastoral Wellbeing

Our Pastoral aims for Our Lady's School community are:

- to foster high quality interpersonal relationships among teachers, students, parents and ancillary staff, a responsibility to be shared by all
- to foster the development of self-discipline and responsibility in students
- to provide Pastoral Care programs to meet the individual needs of students and families so that they value themselves and develop a sense of well-being.
- to provide a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum
- to maintain respect for and sensitivity to diverse cultural values and family structures
- to establish and co-ordinate networks of care utilising school personnel and the wider community
- to establish school structures which are flexible and responsive to the needs of students

Goals

In 2015 we committed to the following:

- Continue the work in promoting Positive Behaviour choices
- To use community connections to promote the aspirational aspect of student learning from families
- To increase community awareness around issues to do with sleeping patterns and nutrition
- Development of referral process internal and external linked with Special Education
- Extending financial reporting to the activities of the parents and friends as a means of opening further discussions around resources
- To continue involving staff in the process and actions around setting plans for development of resources
- Use of CREW connections to develop a sharing of information to inform the canonical administrator

Some of our achievements this year have included:

- Positive survey responses from our students in the area of classroom behaviour
- Improvements in the suitability of food that is being sent to school to support learning
- Professional learning on managing our behaviourally 'most at need' students
- Implementation of new learning plans for special needs children
- Development of the links with support agencies for family and students

Thanks and acknowledgement should go to the whole staff for the way that they support and care for our children. A special mention should go to Sue Ryan for the work that she is doing with our special needs students.

Leadership

“Leadership at Our lady’s is required to help shape the context in which the school operates rather than bring caught up in circumstance. We are called to guide our community to understand the context in which the school operates and together respond to the environment in ways that assist the students flourish”.

Our Lady’s Leadership Policy

Goals

In 2015 we committed to

- Whole Staff Professional Learning in line with high expectations focus and oral language across the curriculum
- Development of Leading the Learning role
- Addition to student leadership program in the area of Positive Behaviours leadership and collection of data

Some of our achievements this year have included:

- The continued growth of the staff leadership roles with particular reference to the position of Learning Leader
- The implementation of a set of learning benchmarks for learning growth in English and Mathematics for all items on our assessment schedule including a whole staff review process for data
- The implementation and expansion of our student leaders model
- Adjustments to our communications process including the adopting of a Communications Policy

Stewardship of Resources:

“The vision for the stewardship of resources in Sandhurst schools flows from a sense of covenant with God, our creator, for care of the earth and its environment. It is about maintaining right relationships between God and God’s people; between people as co-creators and stewards with God; between people, other creatures and the gifts of the world.”

‘All the baptized are called to use their gifts in service of the community; calling on and using those gifts effectively creates an environment where the contributions of all are valued.’

“Charter of Sandhurst School Improvement”

This dimension of school life has consumed a great deal of energy in 2015. In addition to running the school as normal there has been the added task of planning and administrating the full refurbishment of the school has been to source of continual highs and lows as the project has moved from dream to reality.

A challenge with a funding source late in the process has added considerably to the consideration that has been taken to finish the 2015 school year and to shape our budget for 2016. The structure of our budget for the next few years will need to be carefully monitored to help deliver the best result for the school given the significant outlay for the building program.

Goals

In 2015 we committed to:

- Extending financial reporting to the activities of the Parents and Friends as a means of opening further discussions around resources
- To continue involving staff in the process and actions around setting plans for development of resources
- Committing further to planning and forecasting process for budgets and financial planning
- Use of CREW connections to develop a sharing of information to inform the Canonical Administrator

Some of our achievements this year have included:

- Including financial reports as a part of both staff and Parents and Friends meetings
- A comprehensive response process for the informing and gathering responses for school fee commitments
- Monitoring of financial position and projections

A great deal of thanks needs to be given Julie McMonigle for her diligence and management in this area of school life. She constantly works to give the best information that will then help us to make the very best decisions about the use of resources.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to the members of the School Board- Alison Miles, Jackie Creek, Danni Dacre, Jackie Sullivan, Marc Bongers, Annabel Carmody & Julie McMonigle- for your insights, wisdom, leadership and company.

As mentioned previously our school is entering a very exciting and promise filled time and we should all be very enthusiastic about the future.

FOUNDATION (PREP) CENTRE NEWS

We had our whole school Orientation morning today. The Foundies had a chance to visit the Discovery 1/2 classrooms and get to know the teachers in there a little better.

We collected book bags last week and will hold them at school to pass on to the children's Grade One teacher. Please continue reading with your child over the holidays. Hopefully everyone's Santa sack has at least one book in it!

The Foundies have been practicing hard for the Christmas Story presentation with the Discovery 1/2 classes. This performance will be held tomorrow, Wednesday December 9th in Our Lady's Church at 11.15am. It would be fabulous to have all the Foundation families there.

Please remember our End of Year Mass which is on next Tuesday, December 15th at 7.00pm. All students and their families are expected to attend this celebration. The Foundies have an important job with their buddies at the Mass.

It should be another busy and fun week in the Foundies room!

Thanks
Annabel and Netti

2016 NEWSLETTERS

I/We _____ (Family Name) would prefer to receive my/our
newsletter either by (please circle one preference):

- via school app
- via email _____ (email address)

Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Please return your completed form to the office by Friday December 11th 2015.

ALL families are required to respond.

DISCOVERY (ONE/TWO) CENTRE NEWS

Welcome to the second last week of the year. It has absolutely flown by!

Firstly, we would like to thank the students for how well they behaved and represented our school yesterday at our End of Year Excursion. Students were responsible and very respectful of each other, as well as other community members who were at the YMCA while we were using the equipment also. It was great day, despite our swim being cut shorter than planned. We finished the day having a run under the sprinklers at school.

Today, we held Orientation Day. This gave students a chance to work amongst the class group they will be working with next year and also get to know the teachers in their area. It was great to see the Grade 2's move into their new area and to also have the current Grade 1's have a chance at being leaders of the Discovery Centre.

Tomorrow, we are holding our Christmas Star Presentation in Our Lady's Church at 11.15am. We welcome and encourage parents, families and friends to attend and witness the Christmas Story, as told by the students. Many of the students have specific roles, as well as all students singing many songs together. It will be a fantastic event!

Next Monday, we are going on our whole school day out, walking to Merriwa Park and having the opportunity to play together. This is something we did last year and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We expect this day to be another fun day for the students.

In the classroom this week:

Religious Education: This week students will read the Christmas Story and finally get a chance to paint a picture of the Three Kings. This is something we planned for last week however we did not get around to completing this specific task. Students will also discuss the meaning of Christmas (Santa and Presents vs The Nativity Scene). We will create two Christmas cards, one with Santa on the front, and one with a scene from the birth of Jesus.

Inquiry: We will get together with the Foundation students and hold our own Celebration of Learning event. This will give students in the Discovery Centre a chance to showcase the learning they have been involved in this term, as well as give the Foundation students an opportunity to observe some of the learning they will be involved in when they progress into the 1/ 2 area.

Have a great week,
Laura, Josh and Danni

BRIDGING (THREE/FOUR) CENTRE NEWS

Welcome to Week Ten.

We had a great time at the Splash Park on Friday and had perfect weather for it.

Christmas is not far away now and we are beginning to do some fun Christmas activities in the final week.

Today we had our whole school Orientation Day where the children went into the year level they will be next year. We had a great morning with our new Grade Three and Four children for 2016 doing some fun activities and getting to know each other.

The children have been working very hard practicing lines and rehearsing for our Christmas presentation about the Christmas story. The presentation will be held in Our Lady's Church tomorrow at 11.15am. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

Have a great week!

Liz, Cathie, Jenny and Celia

LEADERSHIP (FIVE/SIX) CENTRE NEWS

No news this week.

FUNFAIR NEWS

MAJOR RAFFLE

The eldest child in each family has been sent home with a raffle book for next year's major raffle. Tickets cost \$2-00 each with 20 tickets in each book – a total of \$40-00 to be returned if you sell all the tickets. Tickets and money will be due back to the school office in March 2016 however you can just send your book/money back in anytime once sold. If you can sell extra tickets over the holidays please call in a pick up an additional book/s.

Please Note: each book is individually labelled with your family's name (ticket book number recorded at school) and must be returned, sold or unsold (preferably sold!) when requested next year.

FUNFAIR MEETING – TOMORROW NIGHT

Everyone is encouraged to come along to our FunFair meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday December 9th at 7.00pm in the staffroom. It would be appreciated if those people who have offered to be a stall co-ordinator (or you are interested in taking on one of the stall co-ordinator roles) could attend.

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday | December 8 th | Information Evening for 2016 Foundation Parents 7.00pm |
| Wednesday | December 9 th | Christmas Presentation in Our Lady's Church 11.15am <i>All Welcome</i> 2016 FunFair meeting 7.00pm in staffroom |
| Monday | December 14 th | Whole School Excursion to Merriwa Park |
| Tuesday | December 15 th | End of Year/Graduation Mass 7.00pm <i>All students expected to attend</i> |
| Wednesday | December 16 th | Grade Six 'Big Day Out' 9.30am to 3.00pm F/1/2/5 visit to Splash Park 11.30am to 1.00pm |
| Thursday | December 17 th | Last day for 2015 for students 3.10pm finish |
| Friday | December 18 th | Last day for 2015 for staff |
| Wednesday | January 27 th 2016 | First day Term One 2016 for staff |
| Thursday | January 28 th 2016 | First day of Term One 2016 for students in Years 1 to 6 |
| Friday | January 29 th 2016 | First day of Term One 2016 for Foundation students 9.00am to 1.00pm |
| SATURDAY | MARCH 19TH 2016 | TWILIGHT FUNFAIR 5.00PM TO 9.00PM |

STEER CLOTHING 'ORIENTATION WEEK' SALE (57217773)

Monday December 7th to Saturday December 12th 2015

20% off Schoolwear (excluding knitwear)

School packages are also available:

Package \$200 – then we add 20% to this – Package value \$240. You can then purchase uniforms whenever you choose with your \$240 credit note – there is no expiry date on these.

❖ Please note: Sale prices are not available on lay-by or account sales.

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