



# Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

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**Our Lady's Primary School is a child safe school. All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe.**

## NEWSLETTER NO. 1 THURSDAY JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Yesterday the staff shared the following prayer at our staff meeting as part of our preparation for the coming year:

Lord our God, bless us as we begin this school year together.  
Let our light shine and help us share the love, kindness and compassion of God in our school.

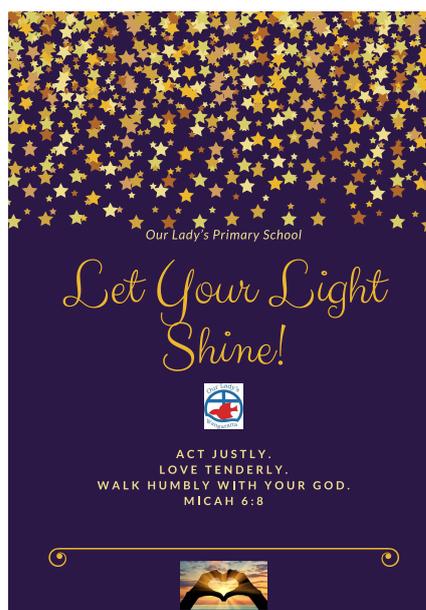
Refresh our souls and renew our spirits as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to.

We welcome those who are new to this community and ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.

Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to this school, and may you guide them to return with open hearts and minds eager to learn.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Our Lady's Primary School is committed to child safety and the inclusion of all children.

## **WELCOME TO 2021**

I trust that all families had a great Christmas season and holiday period and that the children are keen to settle into a new school year. In the past few weeks I have caught up with many of the students and I know that they are all keen to get back to school and to enjoy all that it offers them. The staff have been busy in the last couple of weeks preparing for what we hope is a much more predictable year.

As with each year we have had a number of new families join our school community so to the Beard, Canning, Clarke, Ellis, Fisher, Ford, Fraser, Nicoll, Pigram and Woodrow families I say you are most welcome at Our Lady's school.

## **OUR 2021 SCHOOL THEME**

Each year we adopt a theme for the year that serves as a focal point for staff and students. This year we will be using 'Let Your Light Shine' as our theme. Two pieces of scripture are to be used to anchor the theme:

From Mathew's Gospel

*"You are the light of the world.  
A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.  
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

From Micah we will look at his words

*"Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with you God"* as the part of the way we can let our light shine.

## **COVID ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

As the term starts we will see a few changes from the end of school last year. Care will continue be taken with distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning of high touch surfaces and attending school if unwell.

Visitors are now welcomed to school and in the yard. Families are asked to keep visits to 15 minutes or less. Typically, this would cover times when families drop in before school and when picking up at the end of the day.

If you do need to be in the school for longer than 15 minutes you will need to sign in at the front office prior to entering either the grounds or the classrooms.

One very noticeable effect of visitors being limited in the school was the growth of independence in some of our younger students. Families should consider how they can support their students in how they manage the way they bring themselves into school in the morning as well as getting organised for pick up at the end of the day.

## **SCHOOL HOURS/LATE TO SCHOOL/EARLY LEAVE FROM SCHOOL**

School for all students commences at 8:45am and concludes at 3:10pm. Fruit break is taken about 10:00am and recess at 10:45am until 11:15am. Lunch commences at 1:15pm and finishes at 2:00pm.

If your child arrives at school after 8.45am parents must bring them to the office and sign them in.

If you need to pick your child up during the day for any reason (e.g. appointment, early leave) parents must also come to the office to sign them out.

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## **FOUNDATION STUDENTS**

For today and tomorrow the Foundation students will finish school at 1.00pm.

From next week they will attend Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday for full days.

Wednesdays will be a rest day for Foundation students every week up to the Labour Day long weekend in March.

## **ASSEMBLY**

We have two Assemblies a week. Monday morning at 8:45am focuses on the week coming, our positive behaviour focus and our Making Jesus Real theme. Thursday afternoon at 2:00pm an Assembly is run by one of the classrooms and usually takes the form of a liturgy that centres on the class Religious Education theme, birthdays, the power play raffle and Making Jesus Real awards. Please feel free to join us at these gatherings.

## **HATS**

All students are required to have a school broad brimmed hat here at school during Terms One and Four. Students are required to wear their hat when they are participating in activities outside, including Recess and Lunch. Please make sure you rename your child's hat for this term.

If your child requires a new hat you can only purchase these from our school office at a cost of \$10-00.

Students new to the school this year have been provided with their first hat free of charge.

## **DRINK BOTTLES**

Whilst the drinking taps are available now for student use we did notice that the children managed their hydration well if they had a drink bottle filled with water. The water bottles were available for use both in classrooms and in the yard. This might be an arrangement that families could continue to support.

## **NEWSLETTER/SCHOOL APP**

Our weekly newsletter usually goes out every Tuesday. It is most important that you take the time to read through this each week to see what's happening at school.

For our new families if you have provided your email address on your child's enrolment form the newsletter will be emailed to you.

We do however strongly encourage all families to download our free school app (instructions are further along in the newsletter) as the newsletter is also sent out through the app and you will receive a notification once this is done.

Classroom teachers also post information/photos relevant to their class on the app which are not included in our newsletter so you may find this of interest as well.

## **LEADERSHIP CENTRE MELBOURNE CAMP**

All students in our Leadership Centre will be heading down to Melbourne for this year's camp from Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>. Permission notes/medical form and camp information letter will be sent home with these students next week.

## ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

At Assembly this week our thanks focus was:

- For being a positive family member over the holidays

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOCUS

Our positive behaviour focus this week is '**Being a West person**':

Doing your best: We do our best when we are welcoming, encouraging, saying sorry and are thankful

Helping others succeed: We help others succeed when we are a positive and active participant and by committing to do our best as often as we can

Respecting your school: We show our respect for our school by caring for all equipment, property, uniform and possessions and by following adult directions

Mark

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday	January 29 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Foundation students attend from 8.45am to 1.00pm</u>
Wednesday	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rest day for Foundation students
Wednesday	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rest day for Foundation students
Tuesday	February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday Rest day for Foundation students
Wednesday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Rest day for Foundation students
Wednesday-Friday	February 24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Centre (5/6) Melbourne Camp
Wednesday	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rest day for Foundation students

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Receive school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone



## How to download your **FREE** app

- 1 From your mobile device go to the **App Store (iPhone/iPad)** OR **Google Play (Android)** search for **School Stream** and download the app to your phone
- 2 Make sure you agree to **push notifications**
- 3 Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search **THEN** select your school

For more detailed instructions go to [schoolstream.com.au/download](http://schoolstream.com.au/download)

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