



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. 35 TUESDAY DECEMBER 6TH 2022



Lord, prepare our hearts to be pure.
Help us to run away from sinful desires.
Give us the ability to call on You out of a pure heart that seeks after
faith, love and peace.
Keep us from foolishly arguing.
Help us to desire pure hearts as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child.



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FROM THE
Principal



Dear Families,

Firstly, thank you to all families who were able to attend our Christmas Play yesterday. The students were absolutely delighted to perform for you all and worked incredibly hard all term to bring you this masterpiece. A huge thank you to Mrs. Malcolm for coordinating such a beautiful performance and to all the classroom teachers for supporting this. The Christmas Story is very close to our hearts here at Our Lady's School.

As we are in the season of Advent, we are preparing our own hearts for the birth of Jesus. The theme for Advent this week is Peace. This week at school we are encouraging our very tired student community to demonstrate peace and kindness each day. After our big week of swimming last week, we have many students who are benefiting from the theme of peace, preparing their hearts for the birth of Jesus.

Transition Day

Next Tuesday December 13th our whole school will participate in a Transition morning. Students will have the opportunity to complete activities with their teacher for 2023 during this time. Students have already been told what class they are going into next year. If you are unsure what class your child is going into, please reach out to us.

Foundation – Mrs Fran Dayman (Mon-Thur) & Mrs Clare Kirby (Friday)
Grade 1/2BH – Mrs Kate Hutchinson (Mon-Tue) & Mrs Corena Bennett (Wed-Fri)
Grade 1/2NH – Mr Joshua Naish (Mon-Thur) & Mrs Kate Hutchinson (Friday)
Grade 3/4WY – Mrs Cathie Walsh (Mon – Thur) & Mr Greg Young (Friday)
Grade 4/5G – Mrs Liz Grant
Grade 5/6G – Mrs Lynda Griffin

End of Year Mass

Next **Wednesday December 14th at 9.00am** our school community will come together for our End of Year Mass. This is our opportunity as a school to farewell our amazing Grade 6 cohort of students and celebrate our year together. All families are welcome to attend. The Mass will be held in Our Lady's Church. We do have a Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony outside of school hours to accommodate for our working families (see below).

Grade 6 Graduation

Next **Wednesday December 14th at 6.00pm** we will be holding our annual Grade 6 Graduation. This liturgy brings our community together with the sole focus on our Grade 6 leaders. We will be celebrating this liturgy in Our Lady's Church. As part of the ceremony, the Grade 6 students will be reading out a reflection on their time at Our Lady's as they conclude their primary school education. All families are welcome to come along to this event.

End of Term Four

Students last day for 2022 will be next Thursday December 15th -they will finish at the normal time of 3.10pm.

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New timetable

In 2023, we are introducing a new timetable to align ourselves with industrial changes within education. The changes to our bell times will have very little impact on our school community. As a school, we were very mindful of this. Below is the timetable moving forward;

Morning Block 8.55am - 11:00am

1st Break 11:00am - 11:40am (30 minutes play, 10 minutes eating time)

Middle Block 11:40am - 1:40pm

2nd Break 1:40pm - 2:20pm (30 minutes play, 10 minutes eating time)

Afternoon Block 2:20pm - 3:10pm

We are hoping that these changes enable all of our students to be on time each day for school. We found that the bus students were missing out on vital pieces of information and connection to their classes as they were arriving each day after the bell at 8.45am. We are unable to change our bus delivery so changing our daily bell times was the next best thing.

We are also trialing a new approach to our break times next year. We will have two, equal sized breaks where the students will get to play first and then eat. We have found that a lot of our student community need the movement break prior to settling down to eat. We have also found that some students are not eating their food, preferring to go and play. Next year, there will be 10 minutes dedicated to eating at the end of each break. This then helps students transition back into the classroom calmly.

Dates for 2023

Staff return to School Friday January 27th 2023

All students will return to school on Tuesday January 31st 2023

Foundation students will commence school on Tuesday January 31st 2023, attending from 8.55am to 1.00pm on this day. Easing into the school year, Foundation students will have a rest day every Wednesday to commence with, running from Wednesday February 1st up to and including Wednesday March 1st 2023. This allows our students to transition into the school environment while being mindful of the fatigue that comes with starting school.

Blessings,
Cassie

PBIS

As a school, we are beginning to change the way we are approaching our PBIS program. As a staff this year we have been working on tracking and monitoring student data. This data is then used to formulate our PBIS focus each week.

At the moment, we are seeing very different behaviours in our Foundation & Discovery Centres to our Bridging & Leadership Centres. To ensure we are providing our students with what they need, we have adjusted our focus to help our students understand how to be a good friend. Establishing friendship patterns early in life helps every child be successful.

Foundation & Discovery Centres: How to be a good friend and play well with others.

In the Foundation & Discovery Centres, children are learning about how to play safely with others. This includes specific information on how to seek help from a teacher, how to respect those you are playing with by keeping our hands to ourselves and how to walk away if a problem gets too big.

Bridging & Leadership Centres: How to maintain respectful relationships with my peers.

In the Bridging & Leadership Centre, relationships are more sophisticated. The students in this area are learning about the importance of positive body language, respecting our friends even when they are not in the room and how to support a friend when others are not being kind.

What we are trying to do is establish good life long skills with all of our students. We know from life experience that navigating relationships can be tricky but the base work starts now.

We have also begun to introduce classification levels to behaviours. Last week, we introduced the concept of a major behaviour. A major behaviour is something that we have no tolerance for at Our Lady's. The focus behaviour at the moment is physical violence. Our school expectations match society. As a staff behind the scenes, we are working on ensuring we are approaching all behaviours within our community in the same way. Consistency between staff is essential for success.

No PowerPlay Raffle was held last week.

2023 OUT OF HOUR SCHOOL CARE

We are starting to collect information from families as to what day/s they require OHSC for in 2023. If you currently have a permanent OHSC booking for your child/children you will receive a form this week from Melissa to be completed and **returned to us by this Friday December 9th.**

If you do not currently use the service but would like to set up a permanent booking for 2023 please complete the form attached to the newsletter and return to the office asap.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th December 2022

Moyhu	5.00pm
Our Lady's	7.00pm
St Patrick's	9.00pm and 12.00midnight

Christmas Day – Sunday 25th December 2022

St Patrick's	8.00am
Our Lady's	9.00am
St Patrick's	10.30am

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday	December 12 th	Grade 6 Big Day Out to Wodonga
Tuesday	December 13 th	Whole school 2023 transition session 8.45am to 12noon
Wednesday	December 14 th	End of Year School Mass – all classes 9.00am in Our Lady’s Church <i>All Welcome</i> Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony 6.00pm in Our Lady’s Church <i>All Welcome</i>
Thursday	December 15th	Last day Term Four for students 3.10pm finish
Friday	December 16 th	Last day Term Four for staff
Friday	January 27 th 2023	First day Term One 2023 for staff
Monday	January 30th 2023	Pupil Free Day for Students – staff professional development
Tuesday	January 31st 2023	First day Term One 2023 for all students at the new start time of 8.55am 2023 Foundation students attend from 8.55am to 1.00pm
Wednesday	February 1 st 2023	Rest day for Foundation students

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