Dear Parents,

Year 3 and Year 5 have had a busy week at school this week as it is NAPLAN testing time. Speaking with our Year 3 and Year 5 parents, especially those new to NAPLAN there is quite a bit of anxiety. Some of this anxiety is picked up on through the media leading to a healthy industry in NAPLAN preparation workbooks and NAPLAN coaching. There are a few misunderstandings about NAPLAN.

- A child is much more than their NAPLAN results. Entry into any school in the Parramatta Diocese is not taken on NAPLAN results. Some schools will ask for NAPLAN results to be brought in at enrolment but this is part of the process of getting to know the learning of the students so that their needs may be met. NAPLAN results are a rough guide only.
- NAPLAN workbooks for sale through supermarkets and newsagents are not like the actual NAPLAN test. In Mathematics for example the real NAPLAN test has more problem solving involved and the NAPLAN workbooks have simplistic samples.
- Schools use the information from NAPLAN as a guide for themselves to see how they are going with the teaching of literacy and numeracy. Individual results are a snapshot of the students learning on the day of NAPLAN. We have much more information about a child’s learning than NAPLAN and this information we use every day to assist us with our teaching.

I am very proud of the way our Year 3 and Year 5 students have strived to do their best on the NAPLAN test and the sensitive way that the teachers have prepared our students for the test.

Finally, I wish to thank our hardworking parent group for the great job they did with the Mothers’ Day stall and breakfast. It was lovely to see so many parents working together for our community. The highlight of course was our beautiful Mothers’ Day Mass organised so capably by Ms Schrader and her Stage 3 team. Father Henry gave up the opportunity to farewell his own mother on her way back to Vietnam so that he could be with us for this important occasion. I hope all mothers and grandmothers had a lovely Mothers’ Day,

Regards,

Lesley Studans
GOLD AWARDS
Congratulations to this week’s Gold Award winners:
Kindergarten  Noah
Year 1          Aliana
Year 2          Noami
Year 3          Jacinta
Year 4          Declan
Stage 3F        Aden
Stage 3S        Angelo
Mrs Studans     Yerko

CHILD SAFETY
By now, many in our community would have heard about a distressing incident in Centro, Seven Hills, on Saturday where one of students was followed by a man and offered money. On speaking with the police they have given me this tip from their facebook page that I would like to share with you. You may wish to tell your children:
‘If someone tries to grab you, yell out, “Go away, I don’t know you”. This lets other people know that you are being approached by someone they don’t know.’  Lesley Studans - Principal

ALICE IN WONDERLAND-
THE MUSICAL
Auditions have finished and the cast has been decided. Our Lady of Lourdes is now on the way to producing this year’s musical. We invite you to join Alice’s madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game! Over the next two terms the cast and crew will spend time learning their script, songs and dances to finally perform in our own professional show. We look forward to seeing the school community work together on this journey.

MAD HATTER DAY
To raise funds for the Term 3 school musical, students are invited to wear their craziest hat on Friday, 24th May.
Students are asked to bring in a gold coin donation. All students will wear their normal Friday uniform. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Our school photo day is Tuesday 28th May. Children are to wear their full winter uniform. This includes tabs for girls and ties for boys. Photo envelopes outlining available packages will be sent home on Monday and must be returned on Photo Day only.

SOCKS
All girls are now permitted to wear long navy socks or navy tights in winter. The uniform shop stocks tights but not long socks at present.

ASSEMBLY MANNERS
We request that all parents respect and consider the students facilitating assemblies by switching off all mobiles, not talking to those around them and ensuring toddlers aren’t too noisy. Furthermore, we would ask that students are not collected between 2:00pm and 2:50pm as collecting students in the audience is disturbing to those presenting. Should you need to collect your child(ren) during this time, when Friday assembly is on, we request that they are collected prior to 2:00pm to ensure no interruptions. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

PARENT GROUP NEWS...
MOTHERS’ DAY
We would like to thank all the lovely mothers who helped with our wrapping day and our very successful Mothers’ Day stall. Your help was very much appreciated.
Thank you Lisa and Margaret

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
The Woolworths Earn and Learn program is well underway. We have already collected 6679 points. Thank you for your support.
**SPRING FAIR NEWS…**

**SPRING FAIR CRAFT STALL**
Our first meeting/craft stall will be held tomorrow, Friday 17th May at 10.00am in the Parish meeting room. We will discuss ideas and meeting times and do some simple preparation work in order to get the craft days underway. Although we had only a few responses, we are hoping that more people will join us. It is a great opportunity to learn new things and meet new people. No experience necessary. Preshoolers welcome. Alison Punch punch123@optusnet.com.au.

Phone - 0419 204 575

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**PARISH NEWS…**

**PARISH FAMILY FUN DAY**
All parishioners are invited to the Parish Family Fun Day after Mass on Sunday, 26th May. We will have lots of fun, games, food, drinks. This will be a fundraiser to raise funds for East Timor. If your family is interested in attending please contact the Parish office – 9622 2920 for catering purposes.

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**CHILDREN MASS**

**SUNDAY 26th MAY (9:30 AM)**
All children interested in participating in the Children’s Choir are invited to attend the following rehearsals:
1. Sunday 19th May at 10:30am (Parish hall)
2. Tuesday 21st May at 1:00pm (Parish hall) during OLOL school lunch time
3. Thursday 23rd May at 1:00pm (Parish hall) during OLOL school lunch time
Children attending lunch time rehearsals, please bring your lunch with you.
Please email Sonia at asjc73@gmail.com.

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**MOVIE AND PIZZA NIGHT**

Students in Year 4 and 5 are invited to a movie and pizza night in the Parish hall at 6:30pm Friday, 24th May. Bring your own cushions or blankets. Please contact the Parish office to confirm your place – 9622 2920.

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**Out and About at OLOL**

In a week when our Year 3 and 5 students completed the NAPLAN exams it is timely to mention the new Australian Curriculum.

Just like NAPLAN the Australian curriculum has been developed by ACARA, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. Like NAPLAN the Australian Curriculum is aimed at all Australian students. It sets out core knowledge, understandings, skills and general capabilities important for all Australian students and makes clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. In NSW the Board of Studies has developed syllabuses to reflect the content of the Australian curriculum. Over the next few years these syllabuses will be implemented in schools, beginning next year with the new English syllabus in 2014 and the new Mathematics syllabus in 2015. The premise underlying the Australian curriculum is to have a curriculum that is the same across the states of Australia so that there is a commonality in relation to what students learn.

From a parent’s point of view the changes will be subtle at first, there are not great differences between the previous English syllabus and the new English syllabus. The changes will become increasingly obvious with the inclusion of the History, Geography and a Civil and Civics courses into the primary course of studies. As mentioned previously this roll out will take place over a number of years and parents will be kept informed at each stage along the way.

On the first day of this term staff spent the day exploring both the Australian Curriculum and the new NSW English and Mathematics syllabuses. We will continue to unpack both these resources in the terms ahead. If parents want any information about either the Australian Curriculum or the NSW Syllabus these may be accessed online at the following websites: www.acara.edu.au and www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au.

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Carol Cividin – Assistant Principal
Curriculum Conversations

On Friday 10th May 2013 OLOL welcomed mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers and other special women in our lives to a special celebration to mark Mother's Day. Our morning began with a special breakfast held in the hall. Mothers were then invited to visit their child's classroom to spend some time reading and sharing a special picture book they enjoyed when they were younger. This special occasion then ended with the whole school gathering in our church to give thanks for our mothers and the endless love, support and encouragement they show us everyday. A big thank you to all parents and teachers who organised the Mother's Day stall, breakfast and mass that helped to make this such a wonderful celebration.