Dear Parents,

Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church.

It was on this day that the friends of Jesus as well as his mother finally understood that they could carry on the work of Jesus without him. They knew this because they had the Holy Spirit with them. The Holy Spirit is the part of God that is with us all the time.

The Holy Spirit inspired the first Christians when they set out on their mission to spread the good news of Jesus to the world and it is the same spirit with us today. The same spirit that inspired Mary MacKillop to educate the poor children of Australia, the same spirit that inspired our first parishioners when they built the church and school fifty years ago. The spirit that is in our school today as we pray the Angelus together, nurture children’s learning, answer the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and work together to build a faith filled joyous community.

I look forward to seeing many of our families at the family fun day on Sunday in the school grounds organised by the parish welcoming committee. Activities begin after Mass and include thong throwing, races and a tasty barbeque.

Regards,

Lesley Studans
GOLD AWARDS
Congratulations to this week’s Gold Award winners:
Kindergarten  Makayla
Year 1        Shany
Year 2        Maria
Year 3        Aaron
Year 4        Geoff
Stage 3C      Lourdes
Stage 3M      Johanna
Mrs Studans   Oliver

MERIT AWARDS
Congratulations to the children who received Merit Awards at last Friday’s Assembly:
KB        Reilly, Jessie, Jake, Dorian
KW        Alysse, Mary-Rose, Jessica, Steven Holbourn
1B        Reuben, Cameron, Tony, Aryan
1W        Riley, Irene, Alexander, Akuc
3B        Liam, Jorjar, George, Amanda
3W        Emma, Cameron, Jayda-Leigh, Dominic
4B        Tyrell, Jacqueline, Elle, Caleb
4W        Alexandria, Oliver, Mickey, Luca, Braeden
3C        Joel, Barbara, George, Rhiannon
3F        Victoria, Leighton, Sophie, Oliver
3M        William, Caitlin, Raymond
3S        Simun, Isaac, Mikayla, Mia, Mikayla

PARISH PLANNED GIVING
The Parish is currently looking to upgrade its facilities many of which are shared or benefit the school and our families. The upgrades include repairs of the carpark, renovation of the parish meeting room and the employment of a youth worker. The chief income of the parish is through the planned giving envelopes. If you would like to know more about how you can help through planned giving please contact the Parish office on 96222920.

Our EARN AND LEARN token count is 11,175.

LATENESS
Many children are arriving after the morning bell on a regular basis and missing valuable lessons. Part absences are noted on the class roll which is retained by the school as an official record of absences. It would be appreciated if routine dental and doctor appointments, etc, could be made outside of school hours. Due to our concern for the children’s learning if a child is frequently late, parents will be contacted by a member of the school executive.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
All children must bring their photo envelope next Tuesday. Please note the Group Only product; 8 page A4 booklet for $20 includes individual and group photos. Parents are urged to go online and visit the website for further information www.fotomakers.com.au
Please ensure that students are wearing correct winter school uniform which includes clean shoes, tabs for girls and ties for boys. Girls should have long hair tied back with appropriate ribbons or scrunchies. Only 1 pair of stud or sleeper earrings is permissible for girls.

AFTERNOON SAFETY
The school was contacted by another parent who let us know that their child was approached by a stranger after they got off the bus and who tried to coax the child into a car. After the incident of the previous weekend it is obvious that we need to be vigilant with the safety of our students. One way we keep our students safe is the way that we dismiss the students. We expect parents who pick their children up to pick them up from the waiting line near Year 2 where they are supervised by a teacher. I note that there are some parents who ask their children to walk out the gate and meet them in the carpark or further down Grantham Road. This is an unsafe practice. A teacher will be on the gate from now on and turn children back who are not accompanied by a parent. In the same light parents who double park in the carpark of an afternoon are causing difficulty as they make crossing the carpark with young children very unsafe. If you double park you will be asked to move on and park in Grantham Rd. Children who walk home are asked to wait with either the Olive St bus people or the Grantham Rd bus people and they are accompanied to the gate with a teacher.
ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPERS
This year we will once again be making class hampers of winter food items which will be used by the Society to help those in need. Over the next two weeks the children will come home with a request for a donation of a non-perishable food item for the class hamper. Thank you in anticipation for your support of this appeal.

MEAL DEAL REMINDER
All Athletics Carnival Meal Deal orders must be received by the office before 3:00pm Monday 27th May. Extra sausages in a roll will be for sale at the carnival for parents and friends who are attending the day. Please support this initiative as all proceeds will go towards our Year 6 Graduation fundraising.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY
Tomorrow is “Walk Safely to School Day”. This is an annual event promoted by the Pedestrian Council of Australia. The aim is to encourage parents and carers to walk to school with their children and promote safe pedestrian behaviour as well as encouraging a healthy lifestyle by promoting the benefits of walking rather than driving to school. With recent community events walking with your child to school also ensures their safety. We encourage all parents to participate in this activity with their children and leave the car at home tomorrow and walk to school with their child. More information including a colouring poster and a free app are available at walk.com.au

PARISH NEWS…
CHILDREN’S MASS
Children’s Mass this Sunday at 9:30am. For children who would like to participate, there will be a practice in the church at 3:00pm Friday, 24th May.

AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA
The OLOL playgroup is hosting a “Biggest Morning Tea” for the Cancer Council. This event is to support the ongoing fight to find a cure for cancer, a disease which touches so many. The morning tea will be held on Thursday May 30th in the Parish Hall from 10am – 12pm.
Cost: Coin donation. The morning will include guest speakers and there will be loads of prizes to be won. All parents are warmly invited to attend. A note with more details will be sent home next week. Anyone who is willing to donate a prize to raffle or to use as part of our silent auction please feel free to contact Lynley Webb on 0449761272.

Out and About at OLOL
At last week’s Parent Group meeting parents raised questions about the reward system at our school, particularly the criteria for the Gold Award. As a result I am taking the opportunity this week to outline the thinking/criteria behind our awards so that parents understand the basis on which they are awarded.

A number of years ago our school instituted a Positive Behaviour Support program referred to as PBS. This program aims at providing clear guidelines for students as to expected behaviour as well as encouraging good behaviour and supporting children with challenging behaviour though positive means. Our three major school rules: We care for ourselves, others and the environment, came out of this program as did our “helping hands” reward system. As part of the process the staff discussed the need to recognise those children who are intrinsically motivated to always “do the right thing”. Students who complete their work as asked, are generally attentive in class, are kind and considerate to both peers and adults and are responsible class members. For these students the Gold Award was instituted. From the outset it was identified that not all children would receive a gold award and in the course of the year some children may receive it more than once.

The Gold Award is not designed to be awarded for a piece of good work or for trying hard during a particular activity, it is aimed at rewarding those students who display consistently good behaviour. Last year we trialled awarding the Gold Award to each class each week. As a staff we decided that this detracted from the purpose of the award and so have reverted to the way it was originally structured awarding one Gold Award to each grade each week. The recipient of the Gold Award holds the award for the whole week. It is handed to the next recipient at the following Monday morning assembly.

The students perceive the Gold Award as special and many strive to achieve it. It is one component of our Positive Behaviour Support program and whilst all children may not achieve this award they all benefit from the overall program.

Carol Cividin - Assistant Principal
Year 2's Terrific Transport Trip

On Friday 17th May, Year Two journeyed to the city to experience different forms of transport...

After the train ride, we caught the light rail to Darling Harbour.

First we took a train from Seven Hills to Central Station.

There was a lot of walking ahead of us!

We caught the monorail to the centre of the city – it was exciting to know that we were the last group from OLOL to travel on the monorail before it closes for good!

We had a rest for recess in Darling Harbour.

Thanks to our awesome parent helpers!

We had lunch at Circular Quay before catching the Rivercat to Rydalmere.

And finally we caught the bus home – what an exhausting day!