Dear Families of Our Lady of Lourdes,

Australia has one of the very best education systems anywhere in the world. Each day, our young people are provided with opportunities to learn more about the world they live in through their experiences in and out of the classroom. Schools teach children about themselves, their relationships with others and about life beyond school. This includes preparing them for the workforce.

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves. When students are not at school, they are missing out on so much. Without the knowledge, the skills or the support that schools are so good at providing, young people can get left behind and find themselves underprepared for a fast-paced and often very challenging world.

In 2017, Our Lady of Lourdes will be lending our support to a campaign called ‘Every Learner, Every Day’, an initiative designed to remind all students and parents why regular school attendance is so important. As part of this campaign, a range of resources and strategies will be made available to help parents, if help is needed. A poster that explains simply the benefits of being at school regularly is included in this communication. I encourage you to think about the ideas suggested on the poster and to speak to your child about these messages. A dedicated website that will provide easy access to support resources will be launched soon.

I appreciate that this is not a matter that may impact on a large number of our families; however, if the ‘Every learner, every day’ campaign can assist even just a few students to be at school more regularly, with all the benefits that come with that, it is a terrific outcome.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important initiative.

God Bless
Keiran Byrnes
GOLD AWARDS
Congratulations to this week’s Gold Award winners:
Year 1  Kara
Year 2  Yo Yo
Year 3  Alby
Year 4  Charlize
Year 5  Christian
Year 6  Tiana

SCHOOL LEADERS 2017
We congratulate the following children who have been elected as our school leaders for 2017. We are sure they will represent our school with pride. Our school leaders will be commissioned as part of our opening school Mass this Friday. All parents are most welcome to attend.

School Captains:  Jessica and Caidyn Joel

Sports Captains:
Red: Chloe and Noah

Blue: Sophie and Jayden

Yellow: Annelise and Daniel

Green: Abbie and James

SRC:
Year 3: Cassandra and Enrique

Year 4: Makayla and Rhys

Year 5: Charlotte and Ezekiel

UNIFORM APPOINTMENTS
Uniform appointment days are Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.
Log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
The code for Term 1 is: q8ane
If you know sizes required you can complete an order form and send it to the office with payment. Orders will hopefully be sent home by the end of the week.

PARISH SCHOOL FEAST DAY
This Sunday February 12th we will be celebrating our Parish/School Feast Day. We are very fortunate to have our Bishop, The Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen, visiting to celebrate Mass with us. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet our new Bishop. Mass commences at 9:30am and is followed by a sausage sizzle, face painting and entertainment. All are welcome. We are still looking for volunteers to help cook and serve the sausage sizzle on the day. If you are able to assist please contact Mrs Cividin. Thank you in anticipation.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
The Diocese of Parramatta is required to appear before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 50. This public hearing is expected to begin on Monday 6 February 2017. For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings/case-studies For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3470. The Child Protection Information Line 1300 661 015 is available for families who would like more information about protocols or support services in Catholic schools run by the Diocese of Parramatta. Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444. The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit www.safeguarding.org.au

STUDENT BANKING
Student banking will be on a Tuesday this year. Kindergarten children have been given an information pack today. Limited packs are available from the school office. If you wish to open an account for your child please contact your local Commonwealth Bank branch.
ABSENCES
Please remember to send a note to explain any absences from school. A phone call to the school office is only necessary if the absence will be for more than two days.

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.

OLOL PARENT GROUP MEETING
Our first Parent Group meeting will be held tonight, Wednesday, 8th February, at 7pm in the school library. We look forward to meeting and welcoming many new mums and dads to our meeting.

CHEERS AND TEARS
Thank you to all those who helped welcome our new families last week at the morning tea.

COMMUNITY NEWS...
CATHERINE MCAULEY MEMORY BOOK
To celebrate the school’s 50th Anniversary a book of memories has been produced and is available for sale. It is full of stories and photos of both staff and students. Cost: $30
To view sample pages and organise purchase: www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

Maths Is Fun
Welcome back to another exciting Year at OLOL. I look forward to sharing some insights into mathematics and how parents can help support their children at home. At OLOL we constantly strive to build a positive Growth Mind Set in our students but what is this???

WHAT IS A GROWTH MINDSET?
We used to think that our intelligence was fixed – meaning we were either smart or we weren’t. Scientists have proven again and again that simply is not true. Our brain acts like a muscle – the more we use it, the stronger (and smarter) our brain becomes.

WHAT DOES A GROWTH MINDSET LOOK LIKE?

- A person with a growth mindset may do these things:
- embrace challenges
- give their best effort
- learn from feedback
- become inspired by other people’s successes
- believe their intelligence can change if they work hard

GROWTH MINDSET _ WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD

1. Talk About It
2. Encourage Failure
3. Praise The Process
4. The Brain Can Grow

In the next Maths Is Fun I will explain in more detail what each of these strategies look like.

I look forward to share some insights with you through 2017.

Karin Schrader
Maths Coordinator
WE WELCOME ‘KINDERGARTEN 2017’ TO THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Kindergarten children have settled into school very well. They have met their buddies and have already started some wonderful learning. In their first few weeks they have been having morning Prayer circle, doing Investigations, learning their sounds and numbers, listening to stories and doing craft. Most importantly, they have been having fun getting to know their teachers and making new friends.