



Innovative Learning In A  
Changing World

# Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School News 'n' Views

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Term 1

Week 5

22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017

## FUTURE DATES...

### FEBRUARY

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Family Mass

### MARCH

**Wednesday 1st**

9:15am Ash

Wednesday Mass

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8:40am Parents as  
Educators

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>**

2018 Enrolments  
commence

**NO NOTES SENT  
HOME MONDAY**

**NO NOTES SENT  
HOME TODAY**

Respect  
Responsibility  
Readiness to  
Learn

*Dear Families of Our Lady of Lourdes,*

*In this initial period at Our Lady of Lourdes I have been impressed by the spirit that is evident within the school, the pride the children demonstrate in their school and the commitment of staff as they work with parents to improve all aspects of each child's learning. Be assured of the continued commitment of the Our Lady of Lourdes staff to the Vision, Mission and Beliefs of the school.*

*Our Vision for OLOL is to be a Christ-centred community involved in an active partnership of education where our mission is to provide children with a strong spiritual and educational foundation on which to develop and build their lives.*

*We believe that:*

- *the Catholic faith provides the basis for a meaningful partnership of parish, school and family*
- *values of honesty, respect, love, openness and care are the basis for our growth as a community*
- *parents are the prime educators and share responsibility for their child's learning*
- *education is a lifelong process involving teachers, parents and children*
- *children should be encouraged to reach their personal best*
- *each child has individual educational needs which must be addressed*
- *clear, open communication is essential to our partnership*



*Meet the Teacher conferences that were held this week are just a part of this commitment to the joint responsibility for the education of our children. As part of the learning process, ongoing conversations between home and school are essential to ensure each child reaches his/her potential. At all times, an appointment can be made with the school staff to discuss any concerns you may have.*

*God Bless  
Keiran Byrnes*

## GOLD AWARDS

Congratulations to this week's Gold

Award winners:

Kindergarten	<b>Tahlia</b>
Year 1	<b>Ben</b>
Year 2	<b>Dominic</b>
Year 3	<b>Lily</b>
Year 4	<b>Rhys</b>
Year 5	<b>Charlotte</b>
Year 6	<b>Alex</b>



## YEAR 3 FAMILY MASS SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

The families of Year 3 will lead the Family Mass on this Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February at 9:30 a.m. Year 3 are also responsible for providing morning tea for the Parish after Mass. Please send any donations (packaged cakes or biscuits) to the classroom. Everyone, especially families are welcome to come and celebrate the Eucharist together.



## LIBRARY HELP

I am seeking parental assistance in the Library. I am looking for parents help in two ways. Firstly I am looking for parents who may be able to give up an hour of their day to put books that have been borrowed back on the shelf. This does not have to be a regular commitment but any time that could be spared would be appreciated. This may be either the morning or the afternoon. This requires the completion of the Parents as Educators either this year or last year. Secondly I am looking for volunteers to cover books. All materials are provided and training is also available if necessary. This a great way to help for those who may find it difficult to help in the school due to caring for small children or work commitments. If you are able to assist could you please complete the form below and return it to the office marked:

Attention: Mrs Cividin.  
Thank you in anticipation.

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### Library Help

- I am able to cover books at home
- I am able to assist with shelving books in the library. I have completed the *Parents as Educators* course including the online component last year or this year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHICKENPOX OUTBREAK

Please be advised that we have had a confirmed case of chicken pox in Year 4 and a suspected case in Year 3. Please see a doctor if you suspect that your child may have chickenpox. If a child is diagnosed with chickenpox they must be excluded from school for at least 5 days from the presentation of the rash and until all the blisters have dried (whichever is the longer). Parents are asked to get a letter from their child's doctor to confirm that they are able to return to school. Thank you for your cooperation.



## TERM 1 ASSEMBLIES

There will be two Friday assemblies this term. The first, hosted by Early Stage One and Stage One, will be on March 17<sup>th</sup>. *Please note this assembly will be at 8:45 on Friday morning rather than Friday afternoon.* The second assembly will be hosted by Stage 2 and will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the regular time of 2:00pm. Stage 3 will host an assembly early in Term 2.

## PHONE AND INTERNET OUTAGE

On Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Catholic Education Office will be upgrading Fibre Cable links within the school. This will result in the school internet and phone system being down from 9:00am on the day. This will mean that EFTPOS payments will not be possible. The school phone number will be diverted to a mobile service but parents are asked to refrain from phoning the school on the day unless absolutely necessary to ensure that communication lines remain clear. Thank you in anticipation.



## SCHOOL PHOTOS

GS Imaging 9672 7400 - All queries

### STUDENT BANKING REWARDS

The procedure for ordering rewards with school banking has changed for 2017.

You will no longer receive any tokens, when you are almost eligible for student rewards a coupon will be placed in your deposit wallet. Please select your reward and it will be ordered and sent home.



### JUMPER FITTINGS

Jumper orders close this Friday. No orders can be accepted after this date until next year.



### SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 School Fees have now been issued and mailed to your home/billing address. School Fees are due by Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. If you have not received your statement please contact our school office on 9622 7216.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm  
(Closed from 10:40am to 11:00am)

All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. Payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPay, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

### LOLO PARENT GROUP

“The Cybersafety Lady”

**Raising Responsible Digital**

**Citizens** hosted by PRC (Parent

Representative Council) Parramatta

Monday, 27 February @ 6.30pm for 7pm

start at Gilroy Catholic College (Marie Street, Castle Hill). Register online



### 2018 NAGLE COLLEGE ENROLMENTS

Nagle College will be holding their Open Afternoon/Evening for Year 7, 2018 on Tuesday 14th March from 3.30 pm until 7.30 pm. Enrolment packages will be available on the afternoon and tours of the school will be conducted. Prospective parents and students are warmly invited to attend.

# Out and About



It was great to see so many parents at last night's "Meet the Teacher" interviews. Feedback from staff indicates that this was once again a positive experience allowing them to gain a valuable insight into their students. The partnership between home and school is vital to the success of the child.

Tonight is another opportunity to strengthen that partnership at the first of our Parents as Educators courses commencing at 6:30pm in the library. As our more experienced parents would be aware it is a requirement at Our Lady of Lourdes, that any parent wishing to help in the school in any way, complete the Parents as Educators course every two years. This course outlines the school and diocesan expectations for parents who are assisting within the school. If you are wishing to help in the classroom, assist on an excursion, sell iceblocks or serve on the Mothers' or Fathers' Day stall you *must* complete the course bi-annually. While the child protection component of the course remains relatively unchanged the course is updated every two years so that parents do not have to listen to repeated content. This year information will be provided about Investigations and Project Based Learning at our school. Many parents have already responded indicating their intention of attending. If you have not replied but wish to attend please feel free to come to the library tonight. A repeat course will be offered on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, once again in the library, commencing at 8:40am.

This year Catholic Schools Week falls in the week of the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. As has been our tradition for a number of years we will celebrate the week with open classrooms followed by a Mass on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition we will hold an open morning on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> to showcase Kindergarten at OLOL to prospective 2018 students. If you know anyone who has a child starting Kindergarten in 2018 please let them know of this opportunity to come and have a closer look at all we have to offer at Our Lady of Lourdes.

**Carol Cividin**  
**Assistant Principal**

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Saturday February 11 marked the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. As a community we celebrated a Mass with Bishop Vincent and Father Henry and then continued the communal celebrations with the parish afterwards.

**Who is Our Lady of Lourdes?**

**Our school is named after Our Lady of Lourdes and so we have a very special connection with Bernadette Soubirous.**

**Who was Bernadette Soubirous? Do you know her story?**

Bernadette was born in Lourdes in France on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 1844. She suffered from asthma and was often sick. She lived with her family who were very poor. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 1858, when she was about fourteen, Bernadette was gathering firewood with her sister and her friend. Bernadette and her friends came to a cave or grotto near a flowing river. Her friends played and gathered wood but Bernadette stood very still, her eyes wide with wonder. Bernadette saw a beautiful lady dressed in blue and white. The Lady smiled at Bernadette who knelt down and began to say the Rosary. Her friends called to her but Bernadette did not hear, she could only look at the beautiful lady. The beautiful lady who appeared to Bernadette above a rosebush in the grotto was God's Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. She appeared to Bernadette eighteen times and spoke with her. She told Bernadette that she should pray for sinners and do penance. The Lady also told her to have a chapel built there in her honor.



**Many people did not believe Bernadette when she spoke of her vision. She had to suffer a lot but Bernadette trusted that God would protect her. She was teased when she humbly admitted that she had seen a beautiful "girl" in the grotto. She lovingly accepted a pile of scorn from her family and friends because she knew that her vision was the truth.**

One day Our Lady told Bernadette to dig in the mud. As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when people began to use this water. The Lady asked that a church be built at the grotto and that people come and pray at this special place. Bernadette took this message to the priests in the area.

When Bernadette was older, she became a sister. She was always very humble and did not want to be praised. She did not want to receive special treatment just because she had actually seen the Blessed Virgin.

Although her own health was poor, she helped care for the sick and elderly sisters. She died in 1879 at the age of thirty-six. Her last words were: "Holy Mary, pray for me, a poor sinner."

**Through this humble girl named Bernadette, Mary called sinners to repent their sins and began within the Church a greater enthusiasm for prayer and charity, especially service to the sick and poor. Today Lourdes is a special place where many people go to pray. The spring that was dug by St Bernadette still flows there and there is a beautiful Church on the site. There have been many reports of people being healed or cured after drinking or washing in the water at Lourdes.**

St Bernadette listened carefully and put her trust in the Lord and His Mother. Imagine the number of people we could help if we do the same? We could more closely imitate St Bernadette by way of our prayer, charity and service to the sick and poor. We see St Bernadette as a source of strength and inspiration and pray to Our Lady of Lourdes for healing, strength and guidance.



**Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!**