



Innovative Learning In A
Changing World

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School News 'n' Views

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Term 4

Week 9

7th December, 2016

FUTURE DATES...

DECEMBER

Monday 12th

Primary Swimming
Carnival

Infants water fun day

Tuesday 13th

Christmas concert
and Awards night

Wednesday 14th

2:15pm Year 1
Liturgy

Thursday 15th

9:15am End of year
Mass

NOTES SENT HOME

MONDAY

- 2017 Cheers and Tears Morning Tea
- Outstanding library books

NOTES SENT HOME TODAY

- Year 1 Liturgy
- Year 6 graduation

Respect
Responsibility
Readiness to
Learn

Dear Parents,

On Monday I had the pleasure of speaking to our Year 5 students about student leadership at Our Lady of Lourdes. I told them that as they move into Year 6 they are all leaders – role models for our younger students – but that from among them we would choose two students to be our elected school leaders for 2017.

This year we have changed the process slightly. After I spoke to the students I asked them to write me a letter to tell me what was special about our school, why they wanted to be a leader at our school and what qualities they possessed that would make them a good leader. The students were then given time to write their letter. I told the students that I wasn't going to be judging their letters on spelling or handwriting but on rather what they wrote in the letter. I wanted the letter to be from the students – their voice – from their heart. I have to say that it was a privilege to read them. I am often proud to be a member of the leadership team at our school. Reading these letters was one of those times.



The letters talked about our Catholic values, they talked about the pride the children felt in our school and the privilege they would feel should they be selected to be a leader. They were very moving and showed a great deal of maturity. I then had the difficult task, along with Mrs Regan, of shortlisting down to a group of ten, five boys and five girls. Any one of these boys or girls would be worthy leaders and there were many others that could not be shortlisted who would also have been worthy candidates.

Today our shortlisted candidates read their letters to the Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 students who then voted for the candidate they thought was the best. Over the remainder of this week all staff will have an opportunity to vote. Next Tuesday I will advise the students as to our two successful candidates and they will be announced and presented with their badges at our Christmas concert and awards night.

I am sure the two students elected will serve Our Lady of Lourdes with pride just as Gabrielle and Harry have done this year. I look forward to sharing with you the news of our 2017 leaders next week.

Kind regards,

Carol Cividin

Acting Principal

GOLD AWARDS

Congratulations to this week's Gold Award winners:

Kindergarten	William Oakes
Year 1	Arham Batra
Year 2	Jacob Sammut
Year 3	Florenca Wanandy
Year 4	Ezekiel Viray
Year 5	Chelsea Mejalli
Year 6	Sophia Dingli



MS BYRNES MEETING OUR COMMUNITY

Next Tuesday at our Christmas concert and awards ceremony Ms Keiran Byrnes, our new Principal, will join us. This will be an opportunity for the parent community to be introduced to Ms Byrnes prior to her taking up her position in 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to *Darshleen Kaur* in 6W who is a prize winner in the Blacktown City Council 2016 Sister Cities Writing Contest. Darshleen will be presented with her prize tomorrow evening at a special ceremony at the Blacktown Civic Centre.

Well done Darshleen.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A reminder that the children need to be at their classrooms by 6:15pm next Tuesday, 13th December.



Parents will need to bring their own chairs or blankets and we ask families to bring a picnic to share. In the event of wet weather the Christmas Concert will be cancelled and the awards will be presented at the end of year school Mass.

AWARDS

Congratulations to the children who received Merit Awards last Friday:

KB	Billy Douglas, Cooper Burns, Leo Culilli, Ashley Lo
KW	Harmony Cummings-Bron, Riley Dobbie, George Safiti
1B	Cameron Fahey, Venya Domaraju, Isabella Fiorenza, Jacqueline Yates, Jasmine Davis
1W	Kyra Witjaksono, Ekam Bhullar, Arham Batra
2B	Isabella Dela Cruz, Chelsea Kataria, Jacob Sammut
2W	Wyatt Hornyak, Erika Naing, Cassandra Laus, Ben Clark
3B	Arnav Sharma
3W	Arth Varma, Erin Poniris, Nicholas Wang
4B	Arzaan Netto, Fletcher Kendall, Mikayla Galea, Hayden Hall
4W	Petar Siljeg, Jhamahl Purcell, Declan Lania, Kondaliza Azrag, Sophie Stancic, James Thompson, Christian Milicevic, Youssef Tannous
5B	Noah Ebb, Isabella Azzopardi, Seth Whybin, Chloe Anderson
5W	Shehan Fernando, Alicia Galea, Rustom Kavarana, Grace Palmiotto
6B	Taliah Scanlan, Sasha Lewis
6W	Sofia Falzon, Andreas Klaudiou, Alessandra Gallardo

THANK YOU

Thank you to the wonderful ladies and gentlemen and children who assisted the Parish setting up for our annual thank you BBQ for all our Volunteers in the hall on Friday afternoon.

It made my job so much easier and I really appreciated all your assistance.

Regards Debra Price

Kindergarten	Christmas themed outfit green/red and yellow
Year 1	Mary and Joseph like outfits. E.g. Robes, gowns, headscarves with rope, sandals.
Year 2	Yellow/gold and white
Year 3	White shirt/ denim bottoms and tea towel with silver tinsel
Year 4	Blue and white with silver tinsel
Year 5	Green, red or white Christmas shirt and shorts (any colour).
Year 6	Black or Christmas t-shirt, Santa hat/baseball cap, sunglasses. Tinsel for wrists.

Commencement of Term 1, 2017

Any families who will not be returning to school on Tuesday, 31st January 2017 are asked to send a letter to the school office stating your child's last day at school in 2016 and the date they will return in 2017. This is an audit requirement. Thank you.

MAI JANUARY

The code needed to book a math interview in January is **mw2d4**.

NO CASH

Due to audit requirements the school will be unable to accept cash and cheque payments on Thursday or Friday of next week. However we will still be accepting Eftpos payments. Thank you for your assistance.

CATS THE MUSICAL

My name is Chloe Apps and I am in Year 5. In August this year I auditioned for the Musical, Cats. Out of roughly 240 people 90 were selected. I was very excited when I found out that I was one of them. I have been rehearsing every Sunday for 3 hours. My cast will do 5 out of the 16 shows, and are included in the finale show. Packemin Productions have done 8 musicals including Mary Poppins and Annie. If you enjoy musicals you should come along to the Concourse in Chatswood in January. I am sure it will be a big hit!

Chloe Apps

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

This year we are again making class hampers of food items, which will be used to help those in need in our community. On Thursday, 15th December at our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass we will present our hampers. Thank you in anticipation for your support of this appeal.



UNIFORM APPOINTMENTS

We will be unable to process orders received after tomorrow, Thursday, 8th December. Thank you for your cooperation.

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Code to enter for January appointments is **vxcxg**.



PARENT GROUP NEWS...

SLICE DRIVE

The Slice Drive will be coming home this Friday, 9 December. If anyone is available to help sort and deliver to the classrooms on this day, please watch the OLOL PG Facebook page for a time. The more hands makes the job easier.

The News in RE



We are now halfway through Advent- that special time of the year when we carry out those traditions that prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of Jesus. In Year 4, the children have been participating in a meaningful activity focused on the journey by Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

We are very familiar with the story of the first Christmas but how often do we stop and reflect on the realities that faced Mary and Joseph? The distance of the journey would have been just over 100 kilometres and could possibly have taken up to one week. Add to this the mode of transport (a donkey) and the winter cold, and their trip would have been an extremely uncomfortable one. It is also possible that Mary and Joseph were not the only people travelling at that time. Narrow roads might have been congested with entire families walking and different animals pulling carts of all shapes and sizes.

With this in mind, Year 4 have been exploring the notion that people on a journey over several days would need somewhere to stay each night (be it at a friend's house, camping, hotel etc.) The children are given the opportunity to play host to Mary and Joseph (and the donkey!) for one night offering them love and mercy as they make their way to Bethlehem. The children are very excited to host Mary, Joseph and the donkey and are encouraged to organise a special place for them in their homes for the night symbolising our need, especially through Advent, to make room for Jesus in our lives, homes and communities.

I hope that this second week of Advent and the remaining weeks of Advent can be a time of love and mercy for each one of you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Henry and all the members of the Our Lady of Lourdes community for a wonderful year and for all the support that has been given to me. I would like to wish you all peace and joy this Christmas and a very happy new year.

Amanda Bentley REC

~ Curriculum Conversations ~

Reporting Student Learning K - 6

This Friday you will receive your child's report for Semester 2. These reports are only one way of gaining information about your child and their academic progress. We encourage you to also look through your child's workbooks and work samples that will be sent home in the last week of school.

The report communicates information about your child's learning

- for all seven Key Learning Areas (KLAs)
 - Religion
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Human Society and its Environment
 - Science and Technology
 - Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
 - Creative Arts
- using a scale of achievement.



What is a Scale of Achievement?

Kindergarten learning reports communicate individual achievement in all areas according to the following scale:

Working Towards ES1	Beginning ES1	Middle ES1	Late ES1	Working Beyond ES1
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Years 1 – 6 learning reports communicate individual achievement in all areas according to the following scale:

E	D	C	B	A
Elementary Achievement	Basic Achievement	Sound Achievement	High Achievement	Excellent Achievement
Number of students achieving an E	Number of students achieving a D	Number of students achieving a C	Number of students achieving a B	Number of students achieving an A

Your child's effort for each area is reported using a three-point scale:

- **Improvement Required**
- **Satisfactory**
- **Commendable**

The number of students achieving at various levels is determined:

- by the year group's achievements
- it is not by a mathematical formula

For Years 1 to 6 the number of students achieving at each level E - A is stated on your child's report for each key learning area.

Comments

In the Semester 2 Report a comment section has been included for Religion, English and Mathematics as well as a general comment. In the Key Learning areas of Religion, English and Mathematics the comments take the form of dot points. The first set of dot points relate to what the student is able to do and the next set of dot points give suggestions as to the next step for the student in relation to the Key Learning Area.

The general comment at the end of the report gives the teacher an opportunity to comment on the work habits and social aspects of each child.

As throughout the year, parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's performance. Should you wish to have a meeting with your child's teacher, please contact the office or your child's teacher to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.