

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School News 'n' Views

School: Ms Keiran Byrnes (Principal)

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Week 8 29th November, 2017

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FUTURE DATES...

Term 4

Tuesday, 5th December

 Christmas Concert and Awards Night from 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Wednesday, 6th December

Reports go home

Thursday, 7th December

Principal's Morning Tea

Friday, 8th December

Parent Thank You
 Morning Tea from
 10.30am – 11.00am

Monday, 11th December

- Primary Swimming Carnival
- Infants Dry land carnival at school

Tuesday, 12th December

- Meet the Teacher 2018
- Assembly at 8.40am

Wednesday, 13th December

End of Year Mass at 9.15am in the church and Year 6 Graduation Year 6 Disco 6-9pm

Friday 15th December LAST SCHOOL DAY FOR 2017

NOTES SENT HOME

- Kinder, Year 1 & 2 incursion – Children Living Safely with Dogs Program
- Kindergarten Parents –
 Cheers & Tears 2018

Dear Families of Our Lady of Lourdes,

Last Sunday we celebrated the conclusion of the Church's liturgical year. It is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God for the many blessings, as a parish and school family, that we have received throughout the course of this past year.

The season of Advent, which commences next weekend, provides a number of opportunities for us to focus and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. I would like to share with you the following reflection.

We await Jesus' coming into the world at Christmas, and are reminded that we live every day waiting for his coming again.

Waiting is not passive. We have been called into a relationship of grace. It is God's gift to us and we are encouraged to turn to God constantly, giving thanks and praise.

We prepare for Jesus' coming by responding to God's call to live as children of the light and to continue God's work in the world. And we are not left alone to live this calling. The Holy Spirit is with us and, by turning to God in prayer, we grow stronger.

In turn, our gifts grow stronger. Called, gifted and responsive – this is our journey to live every day. Madonna Magazine Spring 2014, p 67

As part of our end of year events and celebrations we warmly invite you to the following:

5th December Christmas Concert and Awards Night 6:30pm -8:00pm

8th December Parent Thank You Morning Tea 10:30am -11am

11th December Swimming Carnival

12th December Assembly - We will take the opportunity to farewell 8:40am

Mrs Regan

13th December Year 6 Graduation and End of Year Mass 9:15am

Year 6 Graduation 11:00am

Preparations for the 2018 school year are also well under way and as details are finalised I will communicate these with you. On many occasions I have spoken about how proud we are of the excellent reputation Our Lady of Lourdes has in the wider community and as we draw near to the end of the year collectively we have much to be proud of and thankful for.

God Bless

Keiran Byrnes

Respect Responsibility Readiness to Learn

GOLD AWARDS

Congratulations to week 7 & 8 Gold Award winners:

KindergartenYear 1Year 2Sarayu Arani/Yana PatelTimothy HeenpellageKyra Witjaksono/

Madeleine Zaait

Year 3 **Nysa Sethi/Janet Janet**

Year 4 **Jessie Raad** Year 5 **Tino Kama**

Year 6 **Ashiqca Manandhar/**

CJ Armitage

Congratulations to the children who received Merit Awards at Weeks 6 & 7 Assemblies

Ment	Awards at Weeks 6 & / Assemblies
KW	Ameliyah Talauta, Ethan Santosa
	Johnathan Sant, Avish Pragash,
	Bodhi Shaw
KB	Bianca Fiorenza, Elisha Odur,
	Nathan Smith, Charlotte Sibilant,
	Charlee Sexto, Johnathan Awkar
1W	Isley Williams, Sophia Pearce, Aarav Sharma,
	Sleiman Awkar, Nathan Bayeh
1B	Alisha Sharma, Riley Dobbie,
	Himika Chintapatla, DJ Leota, Leo Culili,
	Ashley Lo, Harmony Cummings-Bron
2W	Mia Lal, Riley Ballment, Dominic Sant,
	Kevin Su, Jesse-James Crane
4W	Jessica Butylewicz, Lily Kwiecien,
	Awien Lual, George Palmiotto,
	Saanvi Vadlamudi, Isaac Villa, Rhys Webster
4B	Sofia Culili, Diya Dsouza, Brianna Faorlin,
	Mary-Rose Mejalli, Erin Poniris, Arnav Sharma
	Alyssa Stenton, Arth Varma
5W	Tino Kama, Sienna-Rose Letufuga,
	Sophie Stancic, Lennox Talauta
5B	Ethan Ballment, Nathan Clark,
	Douglas Leota, Yasin Yagci
6W	Isabella Azzoardi, Ashiqca Manandhar,
	Amelie Sen,
6B	Aaron Dela Rosa, Noah Ebb, Sophie Fahey,
	Hannah Fletcher, Charlise Kenny,
	Chelsea Mejalli, Zahra Nohra, Rebecca Said,
	Seth Whybin

PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

If you wish to receive a receipt when making a payment we ask that you ensure that the school has the correct email address. Receipts will be emailed to parents/caregivers nominated on the enrolment form. If there have been any changes please notify the office so that student records can be updated accordingly. Please also make sure your current Home/Mobile/Business numbers are up to date as well.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL 2018

Term 1 - Week 1 Monday 29th January

Year K - 6 Mathematics Assessment Interviews by appointment

Tuesday 30th January

Year K - 6 Mathematics Assessment Interviews continue by appointment

Wednesday 31st January

Year 1-6 Classes begin for 2018
Kindergarten Mathematics Assessment
Interviews by appointment

Thursday 1st February

Kindergarten - Classes begin for 2018

Please note:

Year K-6 Mathematics Assessment Interviews are to be booked online. See this newsletter for details.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If your child/children will not be returning to Our Lady of Lourdes School in 2018, would you kindly inform the office as soon as possible.



UNIFORMS

Due to our annual uniform stocktake, the uniform shop will be closing for the

remainder of the school year from Thursday 30th November.

Therefore, no uniform orders will be accepted after this date.

The uniform shop will reopen by appointment only on Monday 22nd January, 2018.

To make an appointment go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au code:vhek4. Please contact Aida Almeida if you require any further assistance. Thankyou.



OLOL PARENT GROUP

PARENT GROUP NEWS

As advised in our last newsletter the position of vice president of the Parent Group remained vacant. As we require a vice president for the Parent Group to operate Theresa Sultana has kindly agreed to step up into this role. This means that the position of publicity officer is now vacant. This position would be suitable for someone who finds it difficult to attend the meetings but has reasonable computer skills and would be willing to put together notes for the newsletter, meal deal flyers etc. Support is available to help anyone willing to take on the role. If you feel you could take on this position please contact Mrs Cividin.

- Thankyou to Melinda Sammut for kindly taking on the role of lunchtime sales co-ordinator. Rostering for next year will start shortly. Lunch sales are still on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's currently selling ice blocks for \$1.00 each.
- Christmas concert The Parent Group will be selling drinks before the Christmas Concert for \$1 each softdrink, juice and water available.

TRANSITION DAY – MEET THE TEACHER

Tuesday, 12thDecember the children will be meeting their class teachers and class members for 2018. At this time, class lists will have been finalised and are the result of many meetings, consultation and collaboration.

Transition will occur between 11.00am – 12:30pm and is aimed at removing any anxiety over the holiday break regarding the start of the new school year. Thank you for your ongoing support.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2018

Parents, if you intend travelling overseas or interstate during the Christmas holidays and your child/children will be returning to school late in 2018 due to extended holidays or any other reason, could you please notify the office, in writing, that this will be happening and noting the date your child will be returning for the 2018 school year. This information impacts on the February Census and our funding.



Parent Thank you morning Tea

We will hold our Parent Thank You

morning tea on Friday, 8th December from 10:30 – 11:00 in the school library. This is an opportunity for the staff to say thank you to the parents who have helped in any way throughout the school year. If you have sold ice blocks, covered books for the library, helped with excursions, helped at the athletics, cross country or swimming carnivals, transported students to our gala days or helped around the school in any way then you are warmly invited to attend our morning tea so that the staff can show their appreciation.

Week 10 Assembly

Please note, as mentioned by Ms
Byrnes, our assembly in Week 10 will
be held on Tuesday morning, at the
usual time. This is due to our
swimming carnival on the Monday.
During this assembly we will have a
special presentation to Mrs Regan who
is leaving Our Lady of Lourdes after 20
years to become the Assistant Principal
at Our Lady of the Rosary at St Marys.
All parents are warmly invited to
attend.

Curriculum Conversations Reporting Student Learning K - 6

Next Wednesday 6th December 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)
 - o Religion
 - o English
 - o Mathematics
 - o Human Society and its Environment
 - Science and Technology
 - o 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:

Years 1 – 6 learning reports communicate individual achievement in all areas according to the following scale:

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

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.

Attendance

Our school attendance levels have improved this term as the weather has warmed up and there are less students with winter colds and illness. The following information is our attendance data for the year as at the end of last week. Overall our attendance is 89.8%. We are nearly at our goal of 90% of students at school 90% of the time. Punctual attendance at school in these final weeks of the year are very important as we continue the learning every day for every child.

School Name	≞	School Attendance Level %	
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary Seven Hills		89.8%	
Scholastic Year		Sch Yr Attendance Level %	
K		9 85.9%	
01		9 0.5%	
02		9 5.1%	
03		9 85.2%	
04		9 2.5%	
05		87.2%	
06		9 1.5%	

Did you know Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day just a little bit late doesn't seem much but								
He/she just missing,	That equals	Which is	and over 13 years of schooling that's					
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year					
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year					
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years					
1 hour per day	I day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years					





The Parent Group says Merry Christmas to World Vision

The Parent Group have sponsored a child through World Vision for many years now, however this year we thought we would also help some other families in need, through the World Vision Christmas Gifts Program.

So we have donated items on behalf of each of the children at OLOL!







From Kindergarten

A Piglet

Families can breed pigs for income, and one sow can produce up to 12 piglets per year. They also provide natural fertiliser for vegie gardens.

From Years 1 and 2

A Goat

A dairy goat can provide a family with up to 16 cups of milk a day. It's a great source of calcium for growing bones, and the milk can also be sold for income.

Seeds

Help parents provide nourishment for their children all year round. Seeds that grow rice, carrots, peas and potatoes give growing children vital nutrients.

From Years 3 & 4

A Fish Farm

Fish is an excellent source of protein, vitamins and minerals for growing children. It also provides struggling families with an extra source of income.

A Solar Light

A clean and effective energy solution for families forced to flee their homes due to conflict or disaster. Solar lights help improve the health and wellbeing of survivors.

From Years 5 & 6

Chickens and eggs

Both chickens and eggs help provide children and families with a lasting source of protein to help improve nutrition. They can also help provide families with a source of income

School Books

Learning materials like books mean so much to children with so little. Kids are inspired and learning today, and are more likely to get a job in the future and provide for their families

Pencils

In poor communities, schools struggle to provide students with the most basic of learning tools. With pencils, kids can write and draw their way to a future full of opportunity

Advent

Next Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent is a time when we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Many people celebrate Christmas in different ways on the 25th December but perhaps we need to begin to think about how we can **prepare** ourselves for this celebration.

How are you going to **prepare**? I am sure that there will be extra food at the table, there will be presents for family and friends and there will be work parties. How can you **prepare** yourself spiritually for this special occasion?

Christmas time is a very busy time for many people but there should always be time to pray. It only takes a few moments. Sometimes we feel that we are too busy to do this. I invite you to make some sacred space in your day, especially during Advent. Any place can be a sacred space and it will only take a few moments to share some of your time with Jesus.

You might like to take a few moments to quietly say this prayer before you start each day. Enjoy talking to God and enjoy your day!!!!

Lord, help me to live this day, quietly, easily.

To lean upon your great strength, trustfully, restfully.

To wait for the unfolding of your will, patiently, serenely.

To meet others, peacefully, joyously.

To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously.

St Francis

Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world. The first Sunday of Advent also sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. You will notice that the liturgical cloth and the priest's garments are primarily purple in colour. This indicates a period of preparation to celebrate The Birth of Jesus.

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way for Christian families to keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

The colours of the candles in the Advent wreath are purple, pink and white. One candle is lit each week at mass.

- The first candle (purple) that is lit is sometimes called the Prophecy Candle or the Candle of Hope.
- The second candle (purple) is the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation.
- The third candle (pink) is The Shepherd Candle or the Candle of Joy.
- The fourth candle is The Angel Candle or the Candle of Love.
- The final candle (white) is lit on Christmas Day and is called the Christ Candle.



Out and About



On Thursday November 16th I had the pleasure, along with Mrs Willemse, of accompanying 15 of our Stage 3 students to Seven Hills Plaza to perform the National Anthem at the relaunch of the renovated Woolworths store. The students had to be at the shopping centre by 7:45 am, so a big thank you to all those parents who got up early and transported their children to the centre for the performance.

The students were a credit to our school and both Mrs Willemse and I were very proud, not only of their performance, but of their behaviour. The students were required to stand for at least 20 minutes prior to their performance, at the front of the Woolworths store in full view of the crowd, while a number of speeches were made. Throughout this time they listened attentively, stood proudly and generally served as fantastic ambassadors for our school community. The Woolworths staff complimented us on our performance even giving us a second round of applause. A special thank you to all the parents who came to watch the students sing and to Mrs Willemse for organising the music and the choir. As we draw to the end of another year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have supported the school in anyway throughout the year and encourage you to join us for our thank you morning tea on Friday December 8th at 10:30 in the library. I would also like to take the opportunity to wish all our families a happy and holy Christmas and a safe holiday period. I look forward to working with you again in 2018. Carol Cividin – Assistant Principal

<u>Change to afternoon pick up - Wednesday, 13th</u> <u>December</u>

Advanced notice that due to the hall being set up for the Year 6 graduation disco on the afternoon of the 13th of December for that afternoon only children going home from the carline will be collected from the grass area outside Kindergarten. Thank you in anticipation.



As is our tradition we will once again hold our annual Christmas concert on Tuesday December 5th. This year, due to the playground improvements, the concert will be held in the front car park with the students performing on the grass area immediately in front of the school. Parents are invited to bring along a chair to sit as well as a picnic dinner to share. Parents are welcome to bring picnic rugs as well but be mindful that you will be sitting on a hard surface. Given that the front car park will be utilised for audience seating it is important to note that onsite parking will be extremely limited and parents are encouraged to use street parking on both Grantham Rd and Olive St. The Olive St gate will be opened for the evening. The concert is scheduled to begin at 6:30. Children are asked to be move to their classrooms by 6:15 to allow for organisation prior to the performance.

Christmas Concert Dress Code

All classes have a very specific song that they will be performing and they also have specific clothes that they will be required to wear. Please see the list below that indicates what your child will need to wear. If you have any problems with this, please see your child's class teacher.

Kindergarten: Christmas Clothes - Christmas colours

Year One: Plain white shirts and blue or denim shorts/skirts

Year Two: (Angels + Shepherds)

Angels - white dress or T Shirt and white pants/ denim shorts.

Shepherds - tea towel, brown t shirt, black pants/shorts.

Year Three: Plain white tops, white dresses

Year Four: Black pants/shorts

<u>Girls:</u> Red top <u>Boys</u>: Green top + Christmas caps/deco

<u>Year Five</u>: white shirts, blue or black shorts, bandana or cap, flannel

shirt.

Year Six: Brown/black/white clothes

Tea towel or cloth as a headpiece with rope. Can wear other cloths/cloaks as they are travelling.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL

It is that time of the year again! Advent is an excellent time to put our faith into action by participating in the Christmas appeal for our local

chapter of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. This year we will once again be making class hampers of food items, which will be used by the Society to help those in need in our community. On **Wednesday 13th December**, we will present our hampers to a representative from St Vincent de Paul at our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass. The children in our school have already been given an opportunity to choose what item/s they would like to donate to the cause. Please ensure that these items are brought into school by **Friday December 8** so that we can prepare the hampers for donation.

Student Leaders 2018



This week we began the process of electing our student leaders for 2018. As was the case this year we will have two school leaders, a boy and a girl, in 2018. Ms Byrnes spoke to the students and asked them to write a letter telling her 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. The students were told that their letters would not be judged on spelling or handwriting but on rather on what they wrote. The aim of this exercise was to hear the voice of the student — what they truly believe.

Following the receipt of the letters a shortlist of 8 students was created. 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 the students will be advised as to our two successful candidates and they will be announced and presented with their badges at our Christmas concert and awards night.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ethan Neish who competed in the Australian Titles for karate last weekend and came third in one of his events - Sumo. Ethan also came in the top 10 within the state at a previous event this year - this was in Kata. Well done Ethan.

Carpark

We have once again noticed that some of our carpark users are not following the carpark guidelines. It is important to ensure the safety of our children that carpark rules are observed at all times. In the morning after 8:10 the lower carpark is unavailable for parent parking. A bollard is placed in the centre of the entry to the lower carpark to signify that access is closed. Under NO circumstances should parents enter the carpark through the exit. When the Kiss and Drop zone is in operation in the morning parents are asked to use all of the spaces available. Drivers *must not* overtake cars using the Kiss and Drop zone. In the afternoon the Kiss and Drop zone *is not* in operation. Parents *must* park their car and walk into the hall to collect their children. We ask that all parents observe these rules to ensure student safety.



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

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14th November, 2017

Dear Parents

In 2018 teaching staff will administer the Mathematics Assessment Interview with all our students. This numeracy assessment identifies individual students' and whole grades' Mathematical knowledge and understanding and involves a teacher asking a series of problems within counting, place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. This valuable, comprehensive assessment has been our practice for many years.

The one on one (teacher and student) Mathematics Assessment Interview takes approximately 30-40 minutes to administer. Administering this during learning time can be a complex situation. As a result, to get a start on the administration of these tests, all staff will begin testing on the **first two days** of 2018 (Staff Development Days). We are seeking parents help by offering to bring their child(ren) to school on Monday 29th January 2018 and Tuesday 30th January 2018 for approximately 30-40 minutes. These assessments will take place with the child's grade teacher or learning support teacher in their 2018 learning spaces. The more students we assess the better. It is also an opportunity for your child to get to know their new teacher. Tea and coffee will be available in the library during this time, as it would be expected that parents would remain at school whilst the test is being administered. Alternatively if your child is attending OOSH on these days testing can occur. We will collect and return your child to OOSH.

We will be using the school interviews website to make bookings online as we did for the half yearly Parent/Teacher interviews. We recommend that families with 2 or more children make their bookings early so that all of your children can be interviewed at the same time.

You will need to select your child's grade for 2018. Choose a suitable time with any of the available teachers listed, as all teachers on that list will be working with children in that grade.

On the reverse of this note you will find the information required to make these bookings online. Bookings will open on 14th November, 2017 and close 6th January 2018. We ask that parents log on and make appointments as soon as possible so teachers can organise and finalise timetables.

Please note, all students will be assessed during the first five weeks of Term 1 but the more interviews conducted on these two days the less interruptions to class learning in Term One. This information will be analysed and utilised by class teachers in the teaching and learning of Mathematics.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your anticipated support of this exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Karin Schrader Carol Cividin Keiran Byrnes (Maths Coordinator) (Assistant Principal) (Principal)

Please follow the instructions below to access the booking system for the Mathematics Assessment Interviews for 2018.

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.



Enter THIS school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.









When you click *finish*, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address that you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school via email at OLOLshills@parra.catholic.edu.au