



Our Lady Queen of Peace

Newsletter – Term 4 Week 11, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:



Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

This is our last newsletter for the year and we have a great deal to celebrate.

As you know we collect a great deal of data about our children's learning. This year we have seen significant growth particularly in the areas of reading and mathematics. I hope to have the opportunity of sharing this with you at a P&F Meeting next year. Congratulations to all our students and teachers on a wonderful result.

One of our goals for the year was to have closer ties to our Parish and we have had some wonderful Children's Masses (10.00am Sunday Masses) across the year. Fr Paul and Fr Suresh have visited our classes and we have had lots of students represent our school at Parish functions. A very special thank you to Fr. Paul and Fr. Suresh for their leadership, their friendship and their guidance throughout the year. A special thank you also to Mr Knight and Mrs Mangraviti for organising a beautiful end-of-year Mass. I would also like to thank them for all their hard work in developing our Religious Education program with teachers.

Congratulations to Miss Hehir who was married last weekend. This was a wonderful occasion for her and her husband and she continues to glow with happiness. She is now Mrs Stevens and we wish her well.

2016 is shaping up to be a very exciting year. We have a number of teachers taking leave and some who are moving to new schools:

Miss Buhagiar, Mrs Parker and Mrs Stevens will be taking leave next year and we wish them well in their pursuits and look forward to having them join us again in 2017. Mrs Matthews is moving to Melbourne next year and Miss Clancy will be travelling overseas and representing us at World Youth Day. Ms Tcherkezian has accepted a new position at Christ the King, North Rocks; Ms Wade will be moving to St Patrick's at Blacktown, Mrs Pullen will be moving to St. Michael's at South Blacktown and Miss Martin will be working at St. Anthony's Giraween for 2016. These teachers have contributed a great deal to our school. They have worked in various capacities as teachers and leaders, and we wish them all well at their new schools.

We welcome our new staff for next year – Mrs Rita Hadadd, Miss Demi Bartolome, Miss Amanda Cassar, Miss Danielle Gomez, Mrs Jennie Meniconi, Miss Jocelyn Westbrook, Mrs Luisa Rullo, Miss Michaela Dolan and Miss Patrizia Bugge. They will be visiting our school on Monday (14th Dec) to meet their students for 2016.

Class teachers for next year are as follows:

Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Karen Lamerton	Katie Basso	Alex Mangraviti	Kym Romanous	Mark Aggar	Sue Dwyer	Vincent Knight
Rachael Gould	Danielle Gomez	Amanda Cassar	Patrizia Bugge	Rita Hadadd	Jane Lavercombe / Marianne Holohan	Cathy Moses
Kimberly Robertson	Kayla Mangion	Lorena Pessotto	Tanya Gore/ Justine Rankin	Jenny Kuchta	Rachel Buhagiar	Marie Anastopoulos /Emily Deahm
Demi Bartolome	Jennie Meniconi	Luisa Rullo	Melinda Gavin	Michaela Dolan	Jocelyn Westbrook	Jan Van der Walle

Mr Knight will remain in the position of Religious Education Co-ordinator next year while Mr Aggar continues to support his wife in her rehabilitation. Mr Aggar will be our year 4 Co-ordinator and will then resume the position of REC in 2017.

Our teachers and teacher assistants continue to give of their very best in caring for and educating our children. I want to thank them for their efforts, their collegiality and their commitment and I hope they have a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved rest.

Our thanks also to our wonderful office administrators – Nicole Buhagiar, Janette and Alana Abi-Arrage and Georgina Elias. The ladies in our office are on constant call for parents, children and teachers and they provide a wonderful service in caring for us all. Tony Merlino, Paul Hossack and Paul Mangion also continue to keep our maintenance programme running and provide us with necessary facilities. Their care and attention allows our school to run efficiently.

I'd like to also thank the P&F for all their hard work this year in providing some great information nights, looking after some of our families in need and for their great fundraising efforts. At our last meeting I was presented with a cheque for \$50,000. That was an amazing effort and a real testament to a supportive community. This money has gone towards a number of building projects. We are still working on our playground with a new company as the current work has not been satisfactory and we hope to rectify this in January. A cola will also be built in January over our netball court; this will give our children another covered area. An extra space for Kindergarten has been completed and we hope to have two new grass areas ready for the beginning of next year.

The Parents and Friends' Committee does great work in our community under the leadership of Mrs Jodi Gerardis, Mrs Anita Meredith and Mrs Dali Pavlek. This year the workload of fundraising was much less than ever before and we were able to concentrate on Parent Information. I would encourage as many parents as possible to attend our P&F meetings as they are a great source of information, a great way to meet people in our community and a great way to be involved in school improvement – we do not expect any significant commitment of time.

A very big “thank you” to all our parents for your participation in all aspects of school life – canteen, library helpers, classroom readers, carnivals, fundraising etc. The success of our school community lies in the cooperation between school and home. I'd also like to thank Mrs Farrugia for the way in which she continues to provide an excellent canteen service with lots of innovative ideas. We hope to see lots of volunteer help again in 2016.

Our Uniform Shop owners also continue to provide a high standard of service as well as providing support for families in need – thank you to Mr Joe and Mrs Elle Arida. Uniform Shop opening times are available on our website.

Next year, the Australia Day Public Holiday will be Tuesday 26th January and teachers will have a staff day on Wednesday 27th January. Part of this day, as well as Thursday 28th, will be used for assessing children for mathematics. Some teachers have also elected to conduct these interviews on Monday, 25th January. A note is going home today inviting parents to book in a time online (bookings open on January 2nd). If these times are not suitable please contact the school to let us know. This is important information that allows teachers to plan for development.

The first full day of school for 2016 will be Friday 29th January.

It is very important that from the beginning of the year, the children are attired in the correct school uniform, including predominantly white sport shoes, ankle length socks, appropriate haircuts and no nail polish. Your attention to this matter helps children understand the importance of work time at school.

Finally, I'd like to thank our wonderful children who remain at the heart of why we are a community. The decisions we make to change, improve or develop our school are all made with our children as the focus. They work hard in their classrooms and they interact so well with each other and with their teachers. I hope all our children experience the essence of peace and love that comes from the celebration of Christmas – a time when families come together and recognise the real presence of God among us.

Have a happy and Holy Christmas.

Michael Hopley
Principal

CANTEEN NEWS

Stock is very low in the canteen. Could you please provide your child with sandwich alternatives for Tuesday. **THE CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR STOCKTAKE AND CLEANING.** Please ensure your child has lunch on this day, as I will not be trading.

GELATO- the last of the gelato will be for sale through the Canteen TUESDAY for \$3. Flavours available are smarty pants, chocolate and bubblegum.

The Canteen would like to thank you all for your hard work and support in 2015 we could not provide all the choices we offer without your help. A Roster for 2016 is now on the Canteen website. If you are available, please help me by filling in the gaps, as your help is always greatly appreciated. A message can be through the *contact us page* of the Canteen Website.

www.olqpgreystanescanteen.com

I look forward to seeing you all back and refreshed in 2016, after a well deserved break and welcome all the new comers to our wonderful Canteen Crew.

Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year!
Kim Farrugia

OLQP UNIFORM SHOP

Attention Kindergarten 2016 Parents – The uniform shop allocates an appointment time for you to purchase your child’s uniform for 2016, and by purchasing early, we can ensure that all students have their uniforms for the commencement of the 2016 school year. To help us allocate a time suitable for you from the dates below:

THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2016 9.00am- 11.00am

The Uniform shop ONLY opens during the School Term, NOT school holidays, unless advised. We recommend appointments, as there will be long delays once students return to the new school year, as the uniform shop is opened for the entire school. We also have Clark school shoes available for sale at very reasonable prices and predominantly white running shoes for sports days. We fit shoes and allow for growth, but are happy to exchange if there is a growth spurt after the holidays.



We all know the importance of reading for literacy development and the impact a prolonged break, like the Christmas holidays, can have on this advancement, particularly for vulnerable readers.

These summer holidays, I will once again be launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it’s a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

How to enter: **It’s simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.**

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

Enter online www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge

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