



# Our Lady Queen of Peace

## Newsletter – Term 2 Week 10, 2015

### ***PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:***



Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

Our enrolment process for Kinder 2016 is now finished and letters will be sent home before the end of this week. Once again we have had a large number of applications and have applied the Diocesan Enrolment Policy in our decision making process. Readiness for school remains a very important component of the selection criteria. Children whose birthdays fall in the first half of 2011 are often not ready for the structures of school and I have encouraged some families to consider having their children at pre-school for another year. I know this is a very difficult decision but it is in the best interests of the child.

### **An important reminder that Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June is a pupil free Day**

It is with regret that we announce that Mrs Godwin will be leaving us at the end of term. Mrs Godwin has been teaching Year 4 and has held the position of Religious Education Co-ordinator in our school. I take this opportunity to publicly thank her for her work over the course of this year. She will be taking leave until the end of this year and it is important that we respect her privacy in this decision. Mr Mark Aggar will be taking the class for the rest of this year. He comes to us with a great deal of experience in a number of schools in Parramatta Diocese. I know you will join with me in welcoming him to our school.

Mr Knight will be taking up the position of Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator for the rest of this year. This leadership position is very significant and there will be a permanent appointment made at the end of the year by the Catholic Education Office.

Our Sacred Heart Mass was a wonderful event last week. We mark this celebration each year with the presentation of food and/or clothing items that are donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Mr Kuchla, their representative, presented the school with a certificate to acknowledge the donations and he made reference to the fact that the items would be greatly appreciated by those people in our community who are in need of our support. Our thanks to Mrs Godwin and Mr Knight who organised the mass and a special thank you to all the families for their donations.

A very big thank you this week to Mrs Farrugia who raised over \$1000 through the State of Origin doughnut sale. This money will be given to the P&F who will purchase equipment for our playground next term. This was a great effort and will make a big difference to our purchasing power.

Thank you also to the Management and Staff of M&J Chickens. With some encouragement from Mrs Pittam (kindy parent) they have generously donated \$500 towards our equipment.

The details of this company are in our News and Events items on our website. Their support is very much appreciated.

Our last P&F meeting was led by Constable Hatton from Merrylands Police. She spoke to us about cyberbullying and changes to laws governing privacy of information. It was a very compelling talk but unfortunately the evening was not well attended by parents. Our next meeting is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July and we will be discussing our major fundraising event for the year – the walkathon. It would be great to have lots of parents at this meeting as we will need your help on the day to make it a success. We are also interested in anyone who might have contacts to sponsor us for prizes. A note will go home next term so you can respond with your attendance at the P&F meeting.

The following statement has been sent as a reminder to all schools from the Catholic Education Commission regarding school traffic zones:

*School zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days.*

A reminder that Confirmation enrolment forms have been sent home and are available on our website. Please return completed Enrolment Forms at any of the following Mass times: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 6pm or Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 8:30am, 10am or 6pm.

Recently we have received a lot of enquiries about notes, newsletters and uniform information. Our website ([www.olqpgreystanes.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olqpgreystanes.catholic.edu.au)) contains all up to date information on these matters and includes upcoming events and latest news. It would be helpful particularly for our office staff if you could refer to our site for this information. In the same way, it is very time consuming for the office staff to be ringing parents when students leave their hats at home. I have asked them not to do this and I will be speaking to the children about their responsibility in this area.

This week I will be sending home a note regarding attendance. There have been some changes to government legislation in this area and these changes have affected the way in which we mark the roll. One significant change is that we must insist that when children are late for school or are picked up early, that parents **MUST** sign for the child's attendance in the office. If children are consistently late or are way without explanation I am required to report this information to DOCS.

Most of our half yearly interviews are now finished, and I hope you found the experience to be informative. Quality education is a priority for us and it is embedded in a partnership between home and school. The staff of OLQP work very hard to make sure that our students are progressing well.

I hope all our families have a wonderful holiday and manage to keep warm and safe.

Michael Hopley  
Principal

## ***PUPIL FREE DAY***

There will be a pupil-free day on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**, which is last day of Term 2. Please do not send children to school, as there will be no supervision for students on this day.

## ***SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP***

The uniform shop will be closed during the school holidays. They will close on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June and reopen on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

## ***PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS***

Enrolment forms for Preschool will be available from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, between 9.00am and 3.00pm. Please see Preschool staff for an enrolment form. Enrolments will only be open for 1 week. Any enquiries for enrolments made after this week, will be put on the waiting list. Interviews will be held in August.



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