



# Our Lady Queen of Peace

## Newsletter – Term 1 Week 10, 2016

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



**Enrolling Now for Kindergarten 2017**

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

Happy Easter to all our families.

I hope you all had the opportunity to celebrate Easter with your friends and loved ones. It is certainly a time to join together in harmony and renew ourselves in the understanding of the resurrection. It is a time, also, to consider our place in the world and the ways in which we recognise the Holy Spirit working for peace in troubled times. This is a thought to share with your children as we move into the season of Pentecost.

I'd like to thank the teachers and students who organized and participated in the recent Holy Week liturgies. Many parents commented on the reverence and thoughtfulness that characterized these events. A special mention to Mr Knight, Mrs Mangraviti and Mr Aggar who made these celebrations so meaningful.

Since our recent problems with the Kiss and Ride area we have made some changes to the process. The most significant concern is that the line of cars continues to move through the area. Extra teachers have been placed on duty to make sure that children get into their cars quickly. If your child's name is called and they do not attend, you will need to move off from the area and either park or rejoin the queue. The movement of traffic over the last two weeks has greatly improved. In wet weather parents who come into the school for pick up can go directly to the classroom, after the bell, to pick up their children.

Two weeks ago a survey was sent home to parents with some topics for discussion. It came as a suggestion from the P&F and it was very helpful in gathering information about our school. There were 163 responses, which allowed for detailed information that could be corroborated. A summary of the results and suggestions for improvement are on the following pages.

### **P&F NEWS**

The P&F have been very active and have established some initiatives for our school. A flyer has been sent home today with details about the P&F Facebook Page (OLQP Primary School Greystanes P & F NSW). The page is used to communicate ideas and upcoming events that the P&F have organised. It will not be used for advertising in any other areas.

The first P&F Information evening will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Library. Nicole Hunt from Holroyd Council and a Police Officer from Merrylands Police Department will speak to us about 'Keeping Kids Safe'. More information will follow on the P&F Facebook page, including information about other exciting sessions later in the year.

The P&F School Community Business Directory will be established over the next few weeks. Families who own or manage a business will be able to submit their information and it will be published in the online directory (on the school website). Criteria for inclusion will be forwarded in a separate document over the next few days, with a reference about how to apply. A donation of \$50 for the 2016 year will enable families to include a business card and some details relating to their business. This is an excellent fundraising activity that will also help families in our community.

Our current assessment data is showing great improvement in our children's overall reading ability. Reading should be done each night with the aim of developing a real love of books. Talking about books and about what has been read will help develop comprehension, which is the most important part of reading.

Have a great week

**Michael Hopley**  
Principal

### 2016 Survey Results

Thank you to the 163 families who responded to our recent survey. The information gathered has been very helpful for school improvement. I'd like to thank Mrs Simonetto for her input in developing the questions. Below is a summary of the results from the 4 questions, including ideas on how issues will be addressed.

#### *1. Communication*

Overall parents were very satisfied with the school's methods of communication.

- Several parents suggested that while alerts using the Skoolbag app were effective, the app itself often didn't open or messages were not delivered on time. This will be addressed with the Skoolbag Company. It needs to be clarified that the SMS alerts are only sent for important messages. It is felt that we don't want parents to be overloaded with lots of information through SMS.
- The school website was generally well received but some comments were made about it being hard to navigate. A "new look" website will be released in Term 2 and it will be easier to locate information. It will include a Parent Calendar that will be updated regularly and parents will be able to send email enquiries to the office, the Principal, the Assistant Principal, class teacher, school fee enquiry, enrolment enquiry or a general enquiry.
- The newsletter was generally rated well. There has been a deliberate attempt to not overload the newsletter with information and a reference was made to highlighting upcoming events (dates). This will be included in newsletters from next month.
- Some concerns were raised that notes did not go home or were sent home too late. A number of parents asked that more notice be given when parents are asked to attend a school event so they can apply for time off work. These issues will be addressed with the teaching staff.
- Email messages for parents making enquiries will be included in the new website. Once again the school only generates emails to those who have subscribed to the website and only for significant alerts.
- The Kindergarten Facebook Page was very well received. It is used to showcase the work and activity of the students in Kindergarten. We are investigating the possibility of creating pages in other grades but it requires a great deal of extra time on the part of the teachers to maintain it effectively and securely.

## *2. OLQP School Business Directory*

Many parents were interested in the idea of a School Business Directory. This would provide a list of businesses owned or managed by parents in our community. There will be a small cost involved in advertising and this will form part of the P&F fundraising work.

## *3. School Services*

Parents were happy with the services provided by the school.

- A number of comments were made about the good quality of the school uniforms and excellent service provided by the uniform shop. There were some concerns about particular items of uniform, particularly the sports shorts and a number of requests were made regarding online purchasing. Order forms can currently be downloaded from our website and given to the office. The uniform shop is currently open on Thursday and Saturday mornings and requests were made to have it open more often. These questions and issues will be raised with the manager. Some parents asked about the provision of second hand uniforms. This has been made possible through a Facebook page established by our parents: OLQP Primary School Uniforms - Pre Loved.
- There were many positive references to how well the canteen is managed and the service it provides. Online ordering was also suggested and Mrs Farrugia is currently investigating this possibility.
- The work of our secretaries in the school office was acknowledged for their patience and attention to the children.

## *4. Information Nights*

The information nights were well received as an initiative of the P&F. Suggestions offered included information on road safety around the school, anxiety with children including emotional and social development, helping children cope with bullying, the benefits of open learning, boys/girls education, the use of social media, how subjects are taught differently today, homework issues, extra-curricula activities, how to support learning generally and how assessment is organised. The P&F have already discussed information nights to be organised for this year and some of these topics will be addressed.

## **CANTEEN NEWS**

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to all the Kindergarten mothers for offering up their time to sell ice blocks to the Kindy children this term. To all mums who helped in the canteen this term, the roster for next term is now available on the Canteen Website. I am still looking for volunteers so if you could spare any time, please don't be shy. I always welcome new faces, any help is appreciated.

The Canteen will be closed **Friday the 8th of April** for stocktake and cleaning. There will be nothing sold on this day, please ensure your child has recess and lunch on this day. Birthday bucket orders for this term must be in by this Friday 1st April, no orders will be accepted next week.

I hope all families enjoy the holiday break!

*Kim Farrugia*

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7pm Thump Boxing Bootcamp (Pemulwuy)		7:15pm Bootcamp (Greystanes)	7:15pm Bootcamp (Pemulwuy)	

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