



Our Lady Queen of Peace

Newsletter – Term 1 Week 2, 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:



Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Christmas is always a great time to connect with family and with our faith. 2016 will certainly be a year of change, as we welcome a number of new teachers to our staff and welcome especially our new Kindy families and other families new to our community.

The task that we have as parents and teachers cannot be underestimated. Last year we had great success in developing our literacy and numeracy skills across the school, but there is still work to be done. Our Leadership Team, along with all our teachers, have high expectations for our children in terms of their learning. This includes their creativity and social development. We acknowledge that our greatest successes occur when we encourage and nurture this development; when we inspire our children by making learning exciting and enjoyable. There are many other aspects that make a big difference to learning – being at school on time, consistent attendance, school readiness and organisation. The partnership that we establish between parents and teachers is central to this work and must be grounded in trust.

Yesterday I sent home a letter outlining some of the expectations for school readiness and safety. It is great to see all the children in their school uniforms and we do insist on standard haircuts. **A significant safety consideration is our dismissal procedure and I have asked that parents do not wait near the Braeside Road entrance to the school.** This causes a great deal of congestion, so please use the gate near the Year 5 classrooms. It is also very important that children do not arrive at school too early and wait outside the gates. The gates will not be open until 8.15am and supervision will begin at 8.25am.

At the end of last year some significant work was done on our playgrounds. Unfortunately the materials that were used were not satisfactory and so more work has been carried out on levelling areas A and B. Rain also delayed this process and so it has carried on and will hopefully be completed by the end of first term. Area C has also been damaged during the construction of a new cola. This work will also continue over the course of Term 1. Our two new playground areas have been prepared and we are looking at constructing some sails to give some shade to the areas in the future.

Our Opening School Mass will be held on Thursday 18th February at 10.15am. At this Mass we will be presenting our new staff members and school leaders to the community. It is a time for all of us to ask God to be with us and bless all our endeavours in 2016. All parents are welcome to attend.

The Parents and Friends Committee will be holding their first meeting on **Tuesday 23rd February at 7.30pm in the school library.** This is a great opportunity for parents to be involved in the life of the school. The staff car park will be open for the evening and I look forward to lots of parents attending.

You may be aware that Pope Francis has declared a Year of Mercy for 2016. OLQP was started by the Sisters of Mercy in 1957, and we have maintained the Mercy Charism in our Parish. The Pope opened one of the Holy Doors of the Vatican as a symbol of renewal and a celebration of God's grace and mercy.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
And you have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
(prayer of Pope Francis 2015).*

Happy New Year everyone. I hope 2016 is a great year for us all.

Michael Hopley
Principal

Canteen News

Welcome back to all the Canteen Volunteers for 2016. Term 1's Roster is now available on the Canteen Website. It is very thin in places so we are still looking for lots of helpers. To keep the Canteen operating we rely on parents, so please, if you have any time available, even if it's just an hour, pop up and see Kim. Help is always welcomed.

We regret to advise that, due to supplier increases, a review of the current Canteen Menu pricing has been undertaken (increases are minimal). The Menu for 2016 is now available on the Canteen Website (olqpgreystanescanteen.com) and is effective immediately.

Also, a Lent Menu is available and will come into effect on Ash Wednesday (10th February) and every Friday during Lent. Please note that **no MEAT** products will be sold on Fridays during lent.

Kindergarten orders will start from Week 4, Monday 15th February 2016. A Meal Deal will go home to start them off. **Please do not order from the Canteen until this date.** A separate helper note will go home asking for volunteers to sell 1/2 Quelch ice-blocks for 50c at lunchtime. This can only be available with the support of the Kindergarten parents, and will commence from Monday 15th as well.

Play Rugby League with OLQP Bulldogs

Boys and girls aged from Under 6s to Under 11s who are interested in playing rugby league in a safe and family friendly environment, are encouraged to come down and play for their local club. New Registrations are Sunday 7th & 14th February at Roberta Street Park from 10am to 12pm. Existing players can register online at www.olqpbulldogs.com. Spots are limited, so please ensure to register early. Contact Trevor Bragg (President) on 0407 966 786 for more information.



St Pauls Open Day Invitation

St Pauls Catholic College, Greystanes invites you to our OPEN DAY:

Sunday March 13th from 11.30am-2.30pm.

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Open Day
Sunday
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10am-2pm

OLMC Parramatta Open Day

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Reservations can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300 to obtain further information.

Safety Around Schools

A Road Safety message from Holroyd City Council

As a new school year begins, it is important to keep road safety on the top of your mind.

School Zones can get very busy during drop off and pick up times, it is important for parents and children to remember to take extra care when travelling to and from school.

Here are some tips to keep your children safe.

Pedestrian Safety



STOP

Always hold hands with younger children.

LOOK

Look both ways for oncoming traffic before crossing the road.

LISTEN

Always use a pedestrian crossing where possible.

THINK

Never call your child across the road, wait for them on the school side.

Parking Safety

Always obey the parking signs eg. No Stopping, No Parking and Bus Zone

Don't park and block driveways

Don't Double Park when picking up or dropping off

Never park on the nature strip or across a footpath

Never park on or near a pedestrian crossing



Bike Safety

Children must **ALWAYS** wear a correctly fitted helmet.

TIP: The helmet should fit low on the forehead so that 2 fingers fit between the helmet and the eyebrows.



Bicycles should be maintained regularly to ensure they are in good working condition.

Children under 12 years old should ride on the footpath.

Bus Safety



Meet your child at the bus stop, **NEVER** on the opposite side of the road.

Wait until the bus has driven away before crossing the road.

Teach your child to stand back from the kerb and away from the traffic.

Remind your child if the bus has seatbelts, they must buckle up.

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