



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Catholic Primary School

"Under Your Protection"



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No. 13 12th May 2010 (Week 4 Term 2)

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 9.15am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 6.00 pm

Weekday Masses OLHC Church

Thursday 7.00 am (Convent)

Tuesday & Friday 12.15 pm

Wednesday 9.15am

From the Principal

Year 4 Class Mass

This morning Year 4 celebrated Mass together with Fr. Colin and several parents. The theme of the liturgy was prayer and the need for each of us to pray. Fr. Colin reinforced, in his homily, that the greatest prayer that Catholics share together is participating in the Mass.



Many thanks to Mrs. Bridgefoot and the children in Year 4 for a wonderful liturgy.

Mother's Day Liturgy

Last Friday the school community gathered to celebrate Mother's Day. It was great to have so many mums at the liturgy and the children were so enthusiastic in showing how much they love their mums.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making the liturgy so special.

Student Supervision

I would like to remind the school community of the "Student Supervision" policy that exists. **Supervision begins each day at 8:25 am.** Should children arrive at school before 8:25 am, they are required to remain with their parents and stay seated in the amphitheatre until the teacher begins morning duty.

Supervision at the end of the day concludes at 3:20 pm. This is for those children being picked up or travelling on the bus. If the buses are late the teacher

on duty will remain with the children until they are safely supervised onto the bus.

Class Mothers Meeting

A reminder to the class mums that there is a meeting tonight at 7:30pm. in the staffroom.

Parents and Friends General Meeting

Attached to this week's newsletter is a reminder of the Parents and Friends meeting next Tuesday May 18 at 7:30 pm. in the Library. The agenda is also part of the note and so I encourage all families to take the time to attend this very important meeting.

Staff Development Days

The following dates are days set aside for Staff Development Days:

Term 2: Friday June 11 (Friday of the long weekend)

Term 3: Monday August 23rd

Term 4: Thursday December 16 and Friday December 17 (the children finish the academic year on Wednesday December 15)

Reflection:

The Carpenter

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer/contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project."

Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

Kevin Turner
Principal

Diary Dates

Term 2 2010

Week 4

12th May Class Mothers Meeting 7.30pm

Week 5

18th May P & F Meeting 7.30pm
21st May Pentecost Mass 12.15pm

Week 6

25th May OLHC Mass 12.15pm
26th May Dads in the classroom 9 -10am
27th May Year 3 Class Mass 10.15am

Week 8

11th June Staff Development Day

Week 11

1st July OLHC Athletics Carnival

From the AP

Parent Update

2010 National Assessments Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 How will the National Assessment results be reported?



The results from the National Assessment Program will be used for:

- Individual student reports to parents
- School reporting to their communities
- Information for annual school reports
- Information for the *My School* website
- National reporting against national goals



And most importantly to further inform classroom teaching.

NAPLAN 2010

Our Year Three and Five children have been working hard to complete the NAPLAN papers. They started on Tuesday with Language Conventions and Writing, today was the Reading section and finally Numeracy will be completed on Thursday.

It is fantastic to see the way the children have engaged in this process in their stride. I am sure that there were a few nervous, and that is to be expected. My advice is always the same, *read the questions carefully and take a deep breath before you start*. The children's positive and calm demeanor can be partly attributed to their teachers. Miss Ireson and Mrs Dawson with the support of Mrs McVicar have been positive and encouraging in the time leading up to the test. Thank you to Camilla, Tracey & Kim for their professionalism and care of the children.

It is important to keep the testing in perspective. This is a diagnostic instrument that gives a snapshot of each child's ability in the areas that are tested **on that particular day**. The information that is ascertained can give teachers an indication of the child's areas of achievement as well as direction for further development.

National Volunteers Week

This week is National Volunteers Week and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the families at Our Lady Help of Christians who volunteer so generously here. There are so many people in our community who volunteer throughout the school. There are people who help in various ways in the classrooms, in the Canteen, in the Library, in the Clothing Pool. There are people who drive children to different sporting events, who cover books, who bake cakes for teachers' birthdays, and of course the army of volunteers who organise and help out at the Markets. The P&F is a group of volunteers, Class Mums and Dads, and the list goes on! We are lucky enough to have parents as well as people such as grandparents and teachers who are very generous with their time and talents and act as volunteers here. All of these people enrich the fabric of our school community.

Catholic schools have a very rich tradition of a culture of volunteering. The system would not be where it is today if it was not for many people, especially parents who spent many hours volunteering in many practical ways. In years gone by, nuns and brothers had a unique knack for bringing

families forward to volunteer. I can remember my mum and dad helping out in different ways throughout my schooling.

Here at Our Lady Help of Christians families and teachers are so generous with their time and talents to enhance our community. On behalf of the community I would like to thank all the volunteers and remind them to never under-estimate their valuable and precious contribution to our school community.

Dads in the Classroom

This term we will resume Dads in the Classroom in Week Six. There are things happening behind the scenes to re-convene the Class Dads role so that we can re-energize the program for 2010.

Everyone is invited to Dads in the Classroom on Wednesday, 26th May from 9am until 10am. The focus for the morning will be writing. Some fantastic masterpieces were written last year and this year we would like to take the works of genius further and give the writing a greater audience!

Come along and be a positive role model for your child and many others! I look forward to seeing YOU on Wednesday, 26th May from 9-10am. Many willing hands make light work and make for an enjoyable and enriched morning. No experience required.

(A note to all the mums could you please keep this date in mind and remind the dad in your family. If dad is unable to come along you are most welcome to join in the fun!)

You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others.

Henry Drummond

Peace,
Louise McDonald
Assistant Principal

OLHC Parents & Friends Association General Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday 18th May, 2010
7.30pm School Library

- President's Report
- Vice President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Principal's Report
- Canteen Update
- Uniform Shop Update
- Class Mothers Update
- Dads in the Classroom Update
- General Business

1. Meeting times – possibility of morning general meetings to provide further opportunity for attendance

2. AGM – catering

3. Epping Twilight Markets – position vacancies - plan for 2010



Children's Mass

Sunday, 16th May, at 10 am

We would love to have some volunteers for *Readings, Offertory & Choir*. Everyone is welcome, and we would love to see as many students as possible attending these very special mornings.

If your child would like to be involved in this Mass, please call Julie on 0402 454 983 or email on da_rinju@lilly.com before Thursday, 13th May.

Please meet at the organ at 9.40 am on Sunday, for practice.

Invitation to Join the Parish Family Group

Family Group consists of families, with a cross section of ages, including some children of the same age—like an extended family. New families are always welcome. We usually get together and share a meal and children of all ages really enjoy these catch ups.

The next gathering is on 29 May at 3pm.

If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Belinda O'Sullivan 9801 5030 or bosul@optusnet.com.au.

MindQuest 2010

Where: Quakers Hill HS
Lalor Rd, Quakers Hill 2763
When: Sat 26th & Sun 27th June
9.30am – 3.30pm

On Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th June 2010, the fifty fourth *MindQuest* program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1 – 6 at Quakers Hill HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, chemistry and much more. Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is \$150.

Quakers Hill HS is easy to get to from most parts of Sydney. Contact Mrs Bridgefoot (Year 4) or call Shelagh Poray 02 4233 2328. Closing date Friday 4th June.

Before and After School Care News

We are very excited to welcome our new OLHC CCA Committee for 2010-11!

President of OOSH – Mike Exton
Secretary – Fiona Varlow
Treasurer – Nick Gangemi
Committee Members – Bruce Astbury, Julie Fitzgerald, Peter Keeley, Karen Quinn and Stella Re

We would like to thank our outgoing President, Bruce Astbury for all of his hard work over the past three years. His contributions have been much appreciated. We would also like to thank our outgoing treasurer Peter Keeley for his effort, and look forward to having both of these outstanding volunteers on the committee over the next year.

Gemma

STARS Alert!

STARS organise games and fun activities at lunchtime on Mondays and Fridays for all children. They are looking for any mums and dads who are willing to make playdough to be used as part of these activities. If you are able to help please see Ms Dalle-Nogare.



Birthday Stars

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthday this week.

Gabby Aston
Madeleine Power

Brendan O'Sullivan



Merit Awards Week 3 Term 2

Kindy	Ryan Cusack
	Daniel Dunn
Year 1	Oscar Kirk
	Jemma Baldwin
Year 2	Henry Yuen
	Laurence Sheehan
Year 3	Marc Agostino
	Tia O'Callaghan
Year 4	Sam Aloisio
	Kate Book
Year 5/6	Luke Cullen
	Rebecca Manning



Community News

Broken Bay Parent Council – presents Kimberley O'Brien Principal Child Psychologist at Quirky Kid Clinic – 'playful approaches to problem solving in the family'. Wednesday 26th May 7.30 – 9.30pm at OLOR Catholic School, Waitara. RSVP by Monday 24th May to Cathie 9847 0340 or parentcouncil@dbb.edu.au

Connect + Communicate – Free seminar Thursday 27th May 7.30pm Pacific Hills Christian School, Dural. Sociologist Mark McCrindle, Psychologist Jen Sahara and Chaplain, School Teacher, Ray Evans will speak on issues concerning young adults.

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2010

Well done Eliza O'Sullivan and Georgia Manning for completing the 2010 challenge. We are focusing on someone who has chosen to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. This week it is Heidi Kirkman in Year 4. Interviewed by Gabi Aston. Photographed by Holly Baldwin.



Have you participated in the challenge before?

Yes

What has been your favourite book this year?

Goosebumps

What genre do you enjoy the most?

Adventure Fiction

Where do you like to read?

In the library

Who is your favourite author?

R.L Stine

Do you prefer reading to someone or being read to by someone?

Reading to someone

What genre would you like to explore further in the future?

Fantasy

Finish the sentence **READING IS....awesome**