



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Catholic Primary School

"Under Your Protection"



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No. 14 19th May 2010 (Week 5 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

Pentecost Sunday

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and energizing them to set about their mission of continuing the ministry of Jesus.



The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.

Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians



On Tuesday May 25 the school community will celebrate together the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians with a Mass at 9:15 am. The celebrant will be Fr. David Ranson and the children are looking forward to acknowledging our patron saint.

All families are welcome to join us at this important liturgy.

Dads in the Classroom

All the teachers and children are excited about the dads visiting us next week for 'Dads in the Classroom'. The focus for this term will be writing and we know that with the dads help we will be able to write some amazing stories.

Reflection

Sometimes and Always

By Jackie Sagner

Sometimes occasionally goes by the rules but mostly does his own thing. He is more worried about being everyone's friend than doing his school work. He gets into trouble a lot but managed to charm his way through it. His parents have gone to school a lot to have parent teacher conferences.

Always is a boy who always goes by the book, never breaks the rules and is never in trouble. He always pleased his family and friends and never let them down. He is usually stressed out and gets headaches and stomach aches from stress.

Always became very ill one day and had to be rushed to the hospital. The doctors were baffled at what could be wrong with him. Many tests were run and in the end they were inconclusive. He was released and went home only to be stressed some more about missing school and possibly letting everyone down if he received a grade less than an A.

Now Sometimes was doing poorly in school and he knew it. He decided that he would just do what he could to get by; he thought "Why should I stress out look what happened to Always."

Well Always was having the same thoughts "Why should I stress and make myself sick, Sometimes gets by ok" and at that time he started missing school and just barely got passing grades.

Their parents decided to sit the boys down and talk to them and tell them that they just need to do their best and that is all that can be asked of them. They do not need to stress and get ill but also do not slack off and get failing grades.

Their parents just wanted them to know that whatever they did they would be proud of them as long as they did their best.

Finally, Sometimes spoke up and said "You mean even if we don't do well all the time that you will still love us and be proud of us??" The parents answered the question, "Yes we will love you, ALWAYS!!!!"

*The moral is,
do your best at whatever you do that is all that can be expected of you and you will turn out just fine your parents will love you no matter what.*

Kevin Turner
Principal

Diary Dates

Term 2 2010

Week 5

18th May

P & F Meeting 7.30pm

21st May

Pentecost Mass 12.15pm

Week 6

25th May

OLHC Mass 9.15am

26th May

Dads in the classroom 9 -10am

27th May

Year 3 Class Mass 10.15am

Week 7

2nd June

Soccer Gala Day

Week 8

11th June

Staff Development Day

Week 11

1st July

OLHC Athletics Carnival

P & F Meeting - Summary

I would like to thank the parents who attended the P&F Meeting last night for their contributions and co-operation in reaching some important decisions. The full meeting minutes will be placed on the school noticeboard and on the website for all families to view however I think it is important we convey the outcome of the Epping Twilight Markets discussion.

A motion was raised and accepted at the meeting whereby **the markets will operate if the following positions are filled by June 30th 2010**. The listed open positions are book-keeper, website co-ordinator, volunteer roster co-ordinator, community BBQ co-ordinator and site coordinator. It is also required that by June 30th an external stall holder manager is appointed as a paid position to conduct the bulk of the work involved in the operation of the markets.

We are very grateful to Barbara Paul (Community BBQ co-ordinator), Kathryn Honor and Guatam Sridhar (roles will depend on where the need is greatest/not filled by others) who have already volunteered their time to fill three of these roles. If you are interested please contact Sandra Tucker (stucker@tpg.com.au) to find out what is involved in each role.

It was agreed by all at the meeting that **if the roles are not filled by the 30th June and an external stall holder manager has not been appointed the markets will not be operating this year**. Other fundraising avenues will be pursued, including a Christmas Fair in place of the markets. The meeting noted that, given the difficulty to recruit and retain quality stall-holders, it may require impossible levels of effort to resurrect regular markets in later years if the school-community subsequently decides the markets are an effective way to improve the resources available to our children. Please consider how you can assist in the operation of the markets and contact Sandra before this deadline is reached.

Thank you again to those who attended
Regards
Jane Morrison

From the AP

Dads in the Classroom

Next week we will resume our Dads in the Classroom program. There will be a meeting this evening at **7.30pm in the Library for the dads**. Everyone is welcome!

Everyone is invited to Dads in the Classroom next 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: if dad is unable to come along you are most welcome to join in the fun! Could you please keep this date in mind and remind the dad in your family.)

Numeracy at Our Lady Help of Christians

In recent weeks we, as teachers, have been participating in a number of Professional Learning sessions to further enhance our skills in the area of Numeracy and being able to meet the needs of your child. We have been working with a highly skilled facilitator from the Catholic Schools Office.

There are so many preconceptions around Mathematics and this is a considerable barrier for many children in the acquisition of maths skills. It is absolutely essential that children have a positive attitude towards Mathematics and parents have a considerable influence on this.

Parents can support their children in learning Mathematics in a number of ways. Just as parents are a critical influence in their child learning to read and write, they are significant influence in their learning in Numeracy.

Tips for parents

- *Get involved - be proactive about your child's numeracy*
- *Be positive - avoid imparting your fear of maths onto your children*
- *Show your child how mathematics applies to real-life situations*

- *Encourage children to take part in activities that use their maths skills like grocery shopping within a budget or measuring materials for craft activities*
- *Get a list or poster of multiplication tables at home*
- *Remain calm when helping with homework - play some classical music in the background if it helps your child and take a break when it gets frustrating for both parent and child*
- *Talk to the teacher to clarify teaching methods if your child says "we don't do it this way in class"*
- *Use maths on the weekend - if you are planning a visit to a number of theme parks, ask your child to work out which is better value for money*

Parents are encouraged to think mathematically. There are many simple ways to help your child and develop their confidence with mathematics. For example, you can increase your child's appreciation of the importance of numeracy by showing them how maths skills apply in daily situations.

It is important to encourage children to think mathematically every day rather than simply focusing on getting the right answer.

Judy Hartnett, Education Officer Mathematics for Brisbane Catholic Education writes that *"By showing children where maths exists in the real world - for example, how many extra sausages to add to the barbecue when there are guests coming for dinner - parents can encourage their children to think mathematically."*

"If parents feel out of touch with how maths is done nowadays, talk to the teacher about current maths teaching practices or ask the child to show them how they work out mathematical problems - this is a great form of learning for both parent and child."

Have a wonderful week and I look forward to seeing lots of dads at the meeting in the Library tonight as well as for Dads in the Classroom on Wednesday, 26th May from 9-10am.

Let us love, since our heart is made for nothing else. - St. Therese

Peace,
Louise McDonald
Assistant Principal

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.

STARS Alert!

Last week the STARS organized the STARS Funday on Friday which was a lot of fun! We did activities such as skipping, hoola hooping, drawing with chalk and we played with playdough. Everyone thought that it was a great success. We will do this every Monday and Friday at lunch time.



If possible can any parents make a batch of playdough for the STARS to put out for Funday activities, it will be very much appreciated by all the children at OLHC.

Next Friday the STARS are having a Baby Guessing Competition of all the teachers. It will cost 50c to have a guess. We hope to raise funds so the STARS can buy more playground equipment.

Lina and Bradley
School Captains

Kindergarten Thanks

The Kindergarten children would like to thank Desiree Abbott and Louise Eymael for the hard work that they have put into providing the two new beautiful bean bags for the Kindergarten classroom.



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 29th May at 3pm. If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Belinda O'Sullivan 9801 5030 or bosul@optusnet.com.au.

Birthday Stars

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



Breanna Hartmann
Jasmine Millen

Jesse Hartmann
Lorenzo Saavedra

Merit Awards Week 4 Term 2

Kindy	Owen Eymael Breanna Hartmann
Year 1	Matthew Eymael Liam Cleary
Year 2	Myah Demasi Faith Zalm
Year 3	Samuel Stephens Georgia Kewin
Year 4	Jessica Prowse Sam Cleary
Year 5/6	Bradley Booby John Gregorio
Music	Sam Cleary



Community News

OLMC Parramatta – Enrolling now for Years 7 & 11 2011. Closing date 29th May. Open morning tour 21st June. July holiday strings program July 15th – 17th invites all primary string musicians of all abilities to attend. Applications close June 11th. For more information call 9683 3300 or olmc@olmc.nsw.edu.au