Dear Parents, Families & Friends,

We have had a very positive start to the new school year! The children have settled well into their new classes and are pleased to be back at school. As I have moved around to each class it is very clear that we are blessed with outstanding teachers at St Oliver’s. It is great to see the children ‘rolling up their sleeves’ and leaping into learning. My other observation from my first full week is the delightful manners of our students. This is a real credit to the parents! I have had the privilege to meet many of our parents and we had an especially strong turn out at the Coffee’n’Chat this week. This forum is a great opportunity for parents to have a voice and hear first hand the great things that are happening at our school. I would encourage all parents to come along to our next meeting on Monday, 4th March at 9.00am in the hall.

It is a busy week ahead with many events taking place (see over the page for more details). I would particularly like to encourage all members of our community to join Fr Arthur, the staff and the children at the Ash Wednesday Mass. After the Mass will be commissioning our new student leaders. I pray that the Holy Spirit guides these children throughout their leadership journey this year.

Looking ahead there are many wonderful learning opportunities for the children! Please take the time to read each newsletter to stay ‘up to date’ with all the exciting learning opportunities!

“May the spirit of unity and love reign amongst us” Mary MacKillop 1884

Peace and best wishes,

Anthony McElhone
Principal
School News

OVERSEAS TRIPS
If you are planning an overseas trip this year, you will need to speak to Mr McElhone about the length of time you will be away. New requirements are in place for extended leave and paper work needs to be completed.

SHROVE TUESDAY (PANCAKE DAY) 12/02/2013

Shrove Tuesday is the celebration of the last day before Lent begins. It is the day before Ash Wednesday. On this day people needed to eat all the leftover eggs, flour, butter and other foods which they were not allowed to eat during Lent. Pancakes were the obvious way to use up these foods. Next Tuesday we will be selling pancakes at the school canteen before school at 8.30am at 50 cents each.

DISCOVER WHAT A MERCY EDUCATION CAN DO FOR YOUR DAUGHTER
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to its 2013 Open Day on Friday, March 8. Principal’s welcome and College tour at 10.30 am, 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm. Reservations are essential and can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phoning the College Office on 8838 1263.

CATHERINE McAULEY ENROLMENTS WESTMEAD

Enrolments for Year 7 2014 Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year. There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2014 enrolments on:

Tuesday 19th February and Thursday 14th March 2013

GREGORIAN CHANT
The Arcadia Musical Recital series, a special recital of Gregorian Chant featuring the Widely-acclaimed Choir: The Gregorian Schola of Sydney at St Benedict’s Monastery, 121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia on Sunday 24th March 2013, at 2pm. Tickets cost $25.00. Contact johnandcarol@ozemail.com.au or 9419 5838.

JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
St Margaret Mary’s JRLFC Inc, Registrations Day will be held on Sunday 10th & 17th February 2013, at 10am-2pm, at Nemesia St Park, Greystanes. For more information please contact Phil on 0434 543654 or Mel on 0415 159800

St Oliver’s Primary Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 8th February</td>
<td>2.30pm Year 4 Assembly</td>
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<td>5.30pm Welcome BBQ (in the school grounds – weather permitting)</td>
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<td>Monday, 11th February</td>
<td>6.30pm K-2 Parent Information Evening</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 12th February</td>
<td>3:15pm Active After School Sports</td>
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<td>6.30pm Years 3-6 Parent Information Evening</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 13th February</td>
<td>9:00am Ash Wednesday Mass followed by commissioning of Year 6 leaders</td>
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<td>Friday, 15th February</td>
<td>9:00am Mass – Year 4</td>
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<td>Friday, 22nd February</td>
<td>9:00am &amp; 2.00pm Child Protection Session (for those without access to internet) 9.00 Mass – Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th February &amp; 1st March</td>
<td>Stage 3 Camp at Camp Collaroy</td>
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Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”
And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?” He said to them, “Surely you will quote me this proverb, ‘Physician, cure yourself,’ and say, ‘Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.’ And he said, “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

Reflection
Last Sunday, we read that the Lord read a scroll from the prophet Isaiah. When He finished reading it, he immediately identified himself with it: “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” This Sunday, we read how it all ended: “They rose up, drove Jesus out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong.” Not good.
The problem with ‘us’ is that we like and respect people we don’t really know, and we expect it to stay that way (because most of us feel safe that way). But the problem with Jesus is that He wanted people to know Him very well. Well, they didn’t like that; that is, they didn’t like what they saw and heard. Or better yet, they didn’t like being told what God was like. Jesus was “ruining” their “image” of God.

It’s true! The Lord opened the doors of heaven wide open and pulled off the mask of God and did not hide a single thing from us. For the first time in human history, we saw God’s face, hands, feet, heart and mind. And what did we see? We saw Him: Unconditional love. Love for all mankind, even for lepers and sinners. We saw an unconditional invitation to dine with Him. We saw Him speak to all types of people, even women, even adulterous women as well as a Samaritan woman. So what was the problem? All of the above! It was way too much! What truly brought Christ’s popularity to an all time low was the fact that He did not confuse mud with skin. In other words, he didn’t do what people always did back then: hate the sin and the sinner. Nor did He do what so many of us do today: love the sin and the sinner. Rather, he hated the sin and loved the sinner.
God is capable of getting through the thickness and muck of sin and right to the child he formed long ago. To love God requires the same faculties it takes to believe in God. It’s difficult to believe it, to realize it and to live up to it. Jesus was not a crowd-pleaser. He was a truth-teller. He had no agenda except to proclaim God’s Word. He was a prophet who did not go for personal profit. He was not afraid to “rock the boat,” braving rejection, persecution, even execution. In contrast, how many of us would bend and break our creed and code just to get going with our personal selfish agenda?

Prayer
Dear God, may we honor the countless and faceless people who continue to do good through out the world without appreciation. There are so many unknown and unnoticed people who do not blow the trumpet to call attention on themselves, but carry on and continue with good deeds. Amen.

Ash Wednesday
The Lenten season begins already on February 13 with the Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.15 in our Church. All welcome! This is a time when we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” Remember, what is done for others and for God is never wasted. What we have done for ourselves dies with us.
Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
ST OLIVER’S NEWSLETTER
Paper copies of our newsletter are distributed to the eldest child in the family. If you would prefer an email copy please complete the form below. If we already have your correct details there is no need to complete the form again.

ST OLIVER’S WEBSITE
Copies of our newsletter are always available on our website. Photos and school information are also available here. http://www.stoliversharrispark.catholic.edu.au/

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
All children at St Oliver’s School participate in the NSW Premier’s part of the reading programme. The students read books from an level; the younger children may have books read to them. receive a certificate from the Premier. The forms and on-line be operational in mid-March. However, children may start reading great books from the Challenge available in the Library. Parramatta also carry Challenge titles. Please record both titles and authors on paper until the forms are available.

This week all Kindergarten children have borrowed a library book. This book is due back at school next Tuesday. Next week all Kindergarten children will borrow a book that is on the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge. Parents will see that there is a red Challenge sticker on the spine of the book. This is how we identify books that are on the Challenge. Parramatta Library also uses this system of identification. Further information is available at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/index.htm

Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian

VOLUNTEERS
If you would like to help in any way at St Oliver’s and you have contact with the students you will need to complete the Child Protection Training for volunteers. This can be done online and an email will be sent to the school to notify us that you have completed the training. If you do not have access to the internet, computers will be set up in the school hall on Friday, 22nd February from 9.00am – 11.00am and from 2.00pm – 3.00pm. The training is necessary every two years for anyone who helps at the school eg: in the canteen, on excursions, in reading groups and at sports carnivals.
The site is http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp

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EMAILED NEWSLETTER
Please cut and return to the School Office by Tuesday, 12th February.

I would prefer an emailed copy of the St Oliver’s School newsletter.

Name: ________________________________

Student’s Name: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Please PRINT details carefully.