Dear Families of St Oliver’s,

Thank you to all of the parents who have supported our Book Fair this week. This opportunity to purchase quality literature for children serves as a reminder that in a technology rich world books are still vital. Personally, the time I spend nearly every night reading with or to my children has set them up for reading success at school. It also provides us with quality time without the interruptions of iPads, television and toys.

An insightful guide for parents when reading to their child is the great Australian author, Mem Fox’s ‘Ten read-aloud commandments’.

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.
2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. **Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.**
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book.
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.
8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.
9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books – make it fun!
10. Please read aloud every day, Mums and Dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

I leave you with this quote "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." *Emilie Buchwald*

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

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**Dates to Remember!**

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<td>11th September</td>
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<td>14th September</td>
<td>Bunning BBQ &amp; Cake Stall Fundraiser</td>
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SCHOOL NEWS

School Fees
Thank you to those families who have finalised their school fees. If you have not done so already, School Fees are now due for payment. Thank you.

Father’s Day BBQ
Father’s, grandfathers and carers, please make sure that you are here at St Oliver’s for our special Father’s Day BBQ on Friday 30th August. This takes place in the school grounds and the teachers will cook the BBQ.
BBQ starts at 7.30am.

Father’s Day Stall Donations
Father’s Day is soon approaching and we are still accepting donations of new items that may be suitable for our Father’s Day stall i.e. Socks, Handkerchiefs, Chocolates, Mugs etc.
The Father’s Day Stall is not possible without your generosity. Thank you for your support.

Coffee and Chat
Coffee and Chat is a time for parents and the Principal to meet and talk. During this time we will share in the communication of the school or a time to seek clarification or ask questions. It is also a time when we discuss what fundraising we will do for the school.

More importantly however, Coffee and Chat is a time to make friends with each other as a school community. This time is an opportunity to meet and talk and welcome new families as well as work together in partnership with Principal and the school.

Our next Coffee n Chat is on Monday, 19 August after morning assembly in the hall. Our main focus will be planning for the Bunnings BBQ, Father’s Day Stall/BBQ and the Mother’s Bingo Night in Term 4.

Catholic Out of School Hours Care Service
As parents and carers may be aware, the lease arrangement between Harris Park Out of School Hours Care Centre Incorporated (HP OOSH) and the Parish expires at the end of 2013 and the site will no longer be available for use in this capacity. Therefore the HP OOSH will cease to offer Out of School Hours Care next year.

Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC) representatives and the School are working together on a COSHC service opening at the school and have liaised with management of the current HP OOSH at St Oliver’s parish site.

COSHC is operated by the Catholic Education Office on behalf of the Diocese and presently operates 15 services across the Diocese.

COSHC is now seeking government approval to open a service on St Oliver’s Primary School site at the start of Term 1 in 2014. New national regulations effective from January 2012 have resulted in much more onerous obligations and ‘red tape’ for Out of School Hours Care services.

Shortly COSHC will undertake a survey through the school to gather information on likely attendance levels for before school care, after school care and vacation care. This information is needed for the licensing application, development application to the local council and to determine staffing and resource levels for the service.

Further information on COSHC enrolments and fees will be provided to families after the survey results have been assessed. COSHC intend holding an Enrolment and Parent/Carer Information session at the school in Term 4 of 2013 in preparation for the opening of a COSHC service in 2014.
RE NEWS

See that you are prepared

Lk 12:35-40 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘See that you are ready for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy are those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

Reflection

Jesus responds to Peter’s questioning the gospel in a roundabout way by speaking about a steward acting either faithfully and with wisdom or alternatively irresponsibly and recklessly. A steward is one who stands in the place of the master during the master’s absence – taking on the duties, responsibilities and authority of the master. That’s exactly what Christian people are called to do: become stewards who act in the place of Jesus as we await his return. While we live in the expectation of the coming of God in the future, we also live now in the presence of God. This means that God is present with us now, as a companion in our lives. It also means that this presence is the context within which our lives unfold. However, until all things are brought to fulfillment, we live in this presence by faith. Faith and hope are intimately joined. As believers we are called to trust in the promises of God, even when what is promised seems impossible.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but less solutions; more medicine, but less health. ‘We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our value; we talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. ‘We've gone to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet our neighbour. We've conquered outer space; not inner space, we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice. We have higher incomes, but lower morale; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

Today's Gospel teaches us that our Christian life should be marked by five characteristics, that we: willingly share with those in need; are ready to act justly; stay alert to the presence of God in the world; guard against those people or things that can rob us of our faith; not abuse others but live in peace. With or without a sense that Jesus is due back at any minute, the Christian life is meant to focus on the essentials. These are the essentials not what the ones that are mentioned above.

Prayer

Father, give me a greater sense of urgency and expectation about the coming of Jesus Christ. I want to be ready and to greet that day with joy and celebration even though I can't know when that day will be. Give me wisdom to invest in eternal things that matter to you. Give me courage to live with purity and holiness as I seek to offer myself to Jesus. In Jesus' name I pray Amen.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary   Feast Day 15th August – A day of Holy Obligation

In the Gospel, Luke 1:39-56, the reading is on both the Visitation and Mary’s “yes” to God. Apart from Jesus himself, Mary is the central figure in Luke’s account of Jesus’ infancy. The narrative highlights the amazing quality and significance of her faith. This is what her cousin Elizabeth says as she responds to Mary’s greeting: ‘Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord’ (1:45). Mary Assumed into heaven because she was full of grace and said “yes” to God.

How often do we say yes to God?

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
Welcome to the Library and Technology section of the St Oliver’s Newsletter

**BOOK WEEK**

Next week is Book Week - a time to celebrate Australian literature and reading. On Thursday we will hold a Book Parade at 2pm.

**BOOK PARADE**

- Children dress up as a favourite book character (not a movie character)
- Children wear their outfits to school and stay in them all day.
- Please do not go to any expense; just use your imagination!
- Parents and friends are invited to enjoy the Parade in the playground.
- In the event of rain the parade will take place inside.

**DELANY CUP**

The first round of the Delany Debating Cup took place this week. St Oliver’s defeated Holy Family debating the topic “That Homework should be Optional”. Congratulations to our team who debated the Affirmative position with confidence using rigorous arguments and clear voices.

1\textsuperscript{st} Speaker – Stephanie Vella; 2\textsuperscript{nd} Speaker – Katrina Perea; 3\textsuperscript{rd} Speaker – Tram Nguyen; Chairperson – Aydin Kilciler

**VOICE OF YOUTH**

Good luck to our 3 representatives at the Voice of Youth Cluster final next Monday, 19\textsuperscript{th} August: Jaeden Bowers, Joseph Maroun and Jonathan Perumal. All Stage 3 will attend, students should wear full school uniform not sports uniform.

**BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to all children and parents who attended our Book Fair this week! All money raised will benefit the children.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

Paper copies of the Student Reading Records should now be at school if you need us to enter the details online for you. All online Reading Records should be completed by 23\textsuperscript{rd} August.

Mrs Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian