Dear Families of St Oliver’s,

As we approach the end of the term a number of staff are taking well deserved long service leave. Ms Knezevic is away for the last two weeks of this term and the first two weeks of next term. Mrs Jean-Louis is away the last week of this term and the first five weeks of next term and Mrs Quinn is away for the first two weeks of Term 4. We are blessed to have a number of great casual staff, particularly Miss Jacquelin Tatian and Mrs Patricia Moody, who will be covering the teachers during their leave. They are ‘regulars’ here at St Oliver’s and have an excellent knowledge of the children they will be working with. Mrs Bonserio will take on the responsibility of Assistant Principal in Ms Knezevic’s absence.

While we aren’t at the end of term just yet we have much to celebrate, including St Mary of the Cross Liturgy, Feast of the Assumption Mass, Father’s Day Prayer and BBQ, Father’s Day Stall, Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall, Talent Expo, School Photos, Sporting Gala Days (soccer, netball and touch football), Zone and Diocesan Athletics, Book Fair, Book Week Parade, Space Jump Performance, Delany Cup Debating, Voice of Youth Public Speaking, Stage 3 Antarctica incursion, Active After School Sports, Sisters of Mercy visit, Principal’s Morning Tea, Mercy Day, a wedding (Mrs Allison – nee Fisher), an engagement (Miss Tripodi) and babies (Mr Simpson’s son and Christian N’s sister).

This list does not even include the many, many marvellous learning experiences that happen each and every day at St Oliver’s! It is a privilege to work with the students, teachers, parish and parents in planning and preparing these great community events. It is evident that we are part of a vibrant faith and learning community.

Even writing this list I am feeling joyously tired! Our school community works really hard for each other so I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable holiday! Our first day of next term is Tuesday, 8th October.

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal
SCHOOL NEWS

Bunnings BBQ/Cake Stall
It’s not too late to volunteer! Please contact the office on Friday if you can assist. All cakes, slices, muffins, etc for the Cake Stall must be brought into school tomorrow (Friday)! These can be left at the office. If you want your container returned please ensure it is clearly labelled with your name.

Exemption from Attendance at School
It is imperative to obtain paperwork from the school office if your child will be absent from school for a period of more than 3 days (this does not apply if your child is sick) in any one period e.g. family holiday. We would appreciate if this documentation could be returned to school at least 2 weeks prior to the leave being taken. This form must be completed, signed and returned to the school office with copies of relevant travel documentation (if applicable). Approval will then be discerned by the Principal and you will be provided with notification. The relevant application for exemption can be obtained in a hard copy from the school office or online on our school website.

Sickness/Absence notes & Updating Contact Details
There has been a significant amount of sickness throughout the school during the last fortnight. Please ensure that all sickness/absence notes are sent into school promptly on your child’s return. Even if you have made a telephone call to the office, a written note must be provided. As we currently have many children becoming ill, it is imperative that you ensure we have current contact phone numbers.

Change into Summer Uniform
Students are able to transition to summer uniform. During this period the students can elect to wear either the summer or winter uniform, but not a combination of both. The transitional arrangements apply until the start of Term 4. Please ensure that your child complies with all aspects of our school uniform policy.

School Fees/Resource Fee
To align our school with others in the Diocese we will now invoice the Resource Fee at the beginning of the school year. Therefore, the 2014 Resource Fee will be invoiced at the beginning of next year (not in Term 4 of this year).

Catholic Out of Hours School Care (COHSC) – Information and Enrolment Evening
Next year a Catholic Out of Hours School Care (COHSC) service will be opening here at St. Oliver’s. An information and enrolment evening is being held next term on Wednesday, 13th November from 6:30pm. Please place this date in your diary if you are thinking of utilising this valuable service next year. More details will follow next term.

Families not returning to St Oliver’s in 2014
As a requirement of the Board of Studies, we ask that if your family will not be returning to St Oliver’s in 2014, you complete the slip below and return to school as soon as possible (this does not apply to families in Year 6). This process will assist us with accommodating students who are currently on our waiting list.

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STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST OLIVER’S IN 2014
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FAMILY NAME ________________________________________________________________

CHILD’S NAME ___________________________ CLASS _______

CHILD’S NAME ___________________________ CLASS _______

CHILD’S NAME ___________________________ CLASS _______

Reason for leaving _____________________________________________________________

New address (if applicable) ___________________________________________________

Contact number _____________________________________________________________

New school attending _________________________________________________________

Parent’s signature ___________________________________________ Date ____________

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. ‘If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

‘And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, “Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.” Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.’

Reflection
Do you have what it takes to follow Jesus?
In this week’s Gospel Jesus is talking about discipleship. Great crowds were following Jesus to see the miracles he worked and to listen to his words. Jesus was explaining to them that to be true follower of his means more than just listening and watching. It means that being a Christian has to be the most important thing in our lives, even when things become difficult, we need to persevere to accept them willingly, uncomplainingly and even lovingly, just as Jesus carried his cross.

We don’t suddenly find ourselves being followers of Jesus. It has to be a conscious decision. Jesus says that a builder doesn’t begin building without first drawing up the necessary plans and making sure that the money needed is there. At Baptism, we receive our first invitation to follow Jesus and as we grow we accept the invitation to act upon it. As Catholics we have some help along the way. We have the Sacraments, mass, prayers. As we learn more about Jesus, we become better followers. We follow Jesus because he is our only way to God who created us.

How do I show that I am a follower of Jesus?
What are some things I should avoid if I want to be a disciple of Jesus?
How do I put God first in my life?
Do I ask for Jesus’ help to be a better disciple?

Prayer
God of wisdom, we know that you have created us and that we are precious to you. Help us to have the strength and courage to always put you first in our lives. Guide us to make the right choices and to stay away from things that cause us to turn away from you. Thank you for sending us Jesus who has shown how we can be true disciples. Amen.

First Reconciliation
Congratulations to the children who received their First Reconciliation this week. We can always rely on God to forgive us when we are truly sorry. Jesus is always there to guide us in times of trouble but also when we experience good times too!

Thank you to all of you wonderful parents who completed the Religious Education survey. Your assistance with this is very much appreciated!

Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
St Oliver’s Sport Report

Term Three has been a huge term of sport at St Oliver’s. We have had students representing our school at Stage 2 Touch Football, Netball, the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival and then the Diocesan Athletics Carnival.

All students who have been involved in these events have represented St Oliver’s with pride and a wonderful sporting attitude. Many teachers and parents from other schools have commented on the team spirit and determination of our students.

Special mention must be given to the four students who represented our Cumberland Zone at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival. Darren Fernandes (Year 6), Katrina Perea (Year 5), Derek Doffour (Year 3) and Rashid Kabba (Year 2). It is a huge achievement to make it through to this carnival and our students were impressive in their events.

Rashid Kabba from Year 2 has been nicknamed ‘Rashid Bolt’ for his outstanding achievements in the 100m. He broke the Cumberland Zone record for his age group and then went on to the Diocesan carnival where he came first against all 8 year old boys in the Parramatta Diocese. I am sure you will join us in wishing Rashid well as he competes next Tuesday 17th September at the CPS Championships at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre.

Active After School Sport

Just a reminder to all parents and children that the Active After School Sports program for Term Three has now finished. There will be no after school sport in Week 10. Please ensure that you have made alternative arrangements for your children on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. Thank you to the mothers who have provided the delicious fruit for the children to eat on these afternoons.

The program will continue next term, where the children will be given the opportunity to develop their skills in Basketball.

Swimming Program

Notes were sent home to all students on Monday regarding the Intensive Swimming Program in Term 4. This program is a compulsory part of the NSW PDHPE Syllabus and provides your child/children with valuable water safety and lifesaving skills as well as developing their swimming ability. It is an expectation that all students will attend.

The cost of this program is $90 per child and has been included in your Term Three School Fees. Please speak to Ms Fisher if you have any questions or concerns.

Unity in Diversity

St Oliver’s Primary 33 Wigram Street Harris Park 2150 | PO Box 5 Harris Park 2150 tel: 9682 1244 Fax: 9897 3326
Email: stolivers@parra.catholic.edu.au Website: www.stoliversharrispark.catholic.edu.au