Dear Families of St Oliver’s,

Welcome back to the final term for 2013! It seems amazing that we will once again be welcoming our new Kindergarten children for 2014 to the transition program in the coming weeks. I am sure that you will welcome any new families you see in the school grounds in the next few weeks. I know that most children remember their experience at transition and recall funny little incidents that have stayed in their minds throughout their years at school.

Most commonly these memories are about feelings and the way people interacted with them rather than what they actually did. We hope that our new group of Kindergarten students will have many happy memories and meet many new friends. Often for parents, the families they meet when their child starts school will remain friends for life. We are very pleased the families chose St Oliver’s to start this great school learning journey.

At the end of last term we had Stage 3 children from St Finbar’s Primary, Glenbrook, visit our school. It was a great opportunity for our Stage 3 children to connect with peers from the other side of Sydney. The photographs over the page depict the great time had by all the children.

Please continue to keep our Parish Priest, Fr Arthur, in your prayers. His health has improved significantly and he is now recuperating at home.

Peace and best wishes for a wonderful term!

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal
Talent Expo Stars

Making Friends with St Finbar’s
Gospel Lk 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’ The Lord replied, ‘Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would obey you.

‘Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, “Come and have your meal immediately”? Would he not be more likely to say, “Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards”? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, “We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.”’

Reflection
In today’s society, humans have become egocentric where we do things only for self-gratification. Our feelings give us sense of self. Only thinking of feelings leads to a self-centred life which is more about us feeling good. Worrying only about our feelings is a short step to feeling good rather than being good and doing good. We fall into the trap of ‘I will only do something if it makes feel good’. Some people do not attend mass because they say “I get nothing out of it or it’s boring.” They have lost the intellectual grasp and not realising that we are getting used to only how it makes us feel. Some priests have fallen into the trap of making sure that people feel good and provide entertainment for people who attend rather than to evangelise. Attending mass is not about what we get out of it but it is what we do for God. We give Him honour, praise and worship. Some people say that they don’t like a particular hymn; we are not singing the hymns for our enjoyment but to praise and worship God. Some say they don’t like the priest. It doesn’t matter, God loves him. God called him to be a priest. We should always go with God’s choice even if it does not appeal to us.

A mother or a father rarely gets thanked for the relentless work they do for their family. An example is a mother, breastfeeding her baby. Despite great tiredness, the mother performs acts of care and kindness which to an outsider seems really ‘over the top’ and it is very demanding. Imagine if she were to go around shouting: ‘look at me, look at me! I fed my baby. Reward me!’ We would respond ‘Well, you only did your duty. You acted that way towards your baby simply because she is your child. That’s what mothering your child entails. Don’t be ridiculous, looking for some extra pat on the back.’ That was Jesus’ way of thinking about our doing ‘good works’. They are only our duty: the way we are required to act towards other human beings. There is no special ‘reward’ for doing what we are obliged to do anyway. We are obliged to do the right thing by other human beings in doing that sort of duty you and I are becoming the sort of creatures who can love unreservedly. We are developing that capacity, that skill. When God sees this capacity growing in our lives, God sees us, though formed from the earth, manifesting God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory, God directs His loving gaze on each one of us. And that is Heaven!

Prayer
Loving God, we pray that our community of St Oliver’s will always be faithful in carrying out the duties of discipleship. We pray for those whose faith is the size of a mustard seed. Help us to recognise that we are called to be your servants and strengthen our desire to serve you unconditionally. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rosary
During the month of October, we will be praying a decade of the Rosary each day at 2.50 pm. Parents you are warmly invited to pray with your child in the learning spaces.

Thank you,

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
Save the date – Ladies Bingo Night! - Friday 25th October from 7pm – 9pm
Please come and bring a friend or a relative with you to play some bingo! If you do not know how to play then we will show you. It is a fun way to meet other Mums in our school and it is a bargain with great prizes to win! More information to follow next week!

Canteen News
Due to an insufficient number of volunteers the canteen is only open on Wednesdays this term. We can look at going back to two days a week if we have more volunteers. If you are able to assist please contact the office.

Dates to remember this month.
15 October  Breakfast Special!
31 October  Halloween Meal Deal

More information to follow in the coming weeks!

Active After School Sports
The Active After School Sports Program will commence on Tuesday 15th or Thursday 17th October and will continue until Tuesday 26th or Thursday 28th November (Week 8).

Harmony Walk Sunday 27th October 2013
People from across Sydney are encouraged to show their support for a fair and compassionate Australia at the second annual Harmony Walk.

Departing from St Mary’s Cathedral Square in Sydney’s CBD at 2:00pm on Sunday 27th October, the Harmony Walk serves to bring together Australians from diverse national, ethnic and religious backgrounds to help build an inclusive society, and to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring principles of fairness, harmony and respect.

The 1km walk is free and is suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

For more information and to register, go to www.harmonywalk.org.au

Please direct enquiries to Mr Peter Grace, State Co-ordinator – Student Wellbeing on 02 9287 1583 or peter.grace@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au