



St Oliver's Primary School

Newsletter

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At St Oliver's we are called to unite in service by living out our Mercy Values and striving to be quality learners who contribute positively to our community.

Term 1 Week 10

<http://www.stoliversharrisparke.catholic.edu.au/home>

31st March 2022

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

Friday 1st April

- **Mufti Day** Theme Friday
Dress up as a word or
Mathematical concept

- **Finger Foods Friday**
Parent Welcoming Night
3.30pm - 5.30pm
All welcome

Friday 8th April

- Term 1 concludes

Tuesday 26 April

- Term 2 commences



Dear St Oliver's Parents and Carers,

Keeping the lines of communication between home and school is key to ensuring the best outcomes for students. But what does this communication look like in the digital world of apps, social media, blogs and emails? Family life is evolving with many parents working full time and juggling various commitments. So how do we keep the opportunities for interaction strong and effective?

We are pleased to inform you that commencing Term 2, St Oliver's will be launching the **Compass Parent Portal**. Compass is the Student Information System used by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. At present, the staff are using Compass in various capacities, some of which include, enrolments, attendance, student records, school activities and more.

What does this 'Parent Portal' mean for parents?

Opening the Parent Portal will mean that parents will use Compass as the single source of truth for information between home and school. Where previously information was sent on skoolbag, in hard copy, via websites or email, opening the portal will mean that parents will be able to:

- Access information via the Compass App
- Book Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Explain student absences
- Access School Reports and most importantly,
- Receive important updates, reminders and information

All St Oliver's families will receive further information next week, inviting you to login using the email addresses that you've provided to the school. We encourage you to familiarise yourselves with the platform and its settings in the coming weeks. As we transition to using the Compass Parent portal, please note that other tools, such as Skoolbag will become obsolete over time.

Some families may be familiar with Compass, as many high schools use this tool. We are really excited to be launching the portal and encourage you to ask questions if we can support you in any way.

"Learning is a continuous process. Learn from everything and everyone at any time in life." - Aathi Khera

Warm regards,
Pascale Joseph

Dear Parents & Carers,

Young children require energy to help them grow, develop and reach their full potential. Eating a wide variety of nutritious foods ensures children are getting enough nutrients for optimal health, growth and development. Children should also drink plenty of water and engage in play and physical activity every day. It is very important that our children adopt healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime. Therefore, it is extremely important that when you pack your child's lunchbox you are encouraging a healthy diet. Eating good food improves a child's physical well being and improves their concentration in the classroom.

What to pack in your child's lunchbox?

Your child's lunch box should contain food with high nutritional value. For the lunchbox, foods such as:

- a healthy sandwiches
- a variety of vegetable sticks
- A choice of fruit
- Milk, yoghurt or cheese
- Water



Involve children in grocery shopping and cooking

Involving children in all aspects of eating healthy will help to give them practical skills for the future. For example, get them involved in choosing meals for the week, writing down ingredients, grocery shopping and cooking.



REMINDERS

For the safety of everyone in our community please ensure you are following the rules for Kiss n Go.

- Please have the student's name card ready so that the student can be called quickly. If you don't have a name card please ask the office. They can make one for you.
- Please park only where the cones are set up (No more than 6 cars at one time)
- If there are more than 6 cars already lined up please drive around the block and come back when there is a car space.
- Please wait patiently while the students' names are called and until they get into the cars.
- Please don't pull out in between cars as this is dangerous and puts everyone's safety at risk.
- Wait until the car in front of you has gone to drive away.
- Please don't bypass the cars already parked and park ahead of anyone.
- Please ensure your child has a **raincoat or umbrella** so that they don't get wet on the way to the car.
- Please do not get out of the car or park your car in the Kiss n Go zone to get your child .
- Remember it is our responsibility to care for the safety of everyone.
- Most importantly, please remember to be examples of patience and respect to the students in our care.

Kind regards,
Kareena Starr

Religious Education News

Gospel

[Lk 15:1-3. 11-32](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:



'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Reflection

In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God.

The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God.

The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other. Christ was identified with sin so that we might be identified with God's righteousness. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives.

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Sacrament of Reconciliation

We have a number of students receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Tuesday. Please keep them in your prayers.

PARISH BULLETIN NEWS

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES Tuesday to Friday: 7:00 a.m.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday: Vigil 5:30 p.m. Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS : Tuesday & Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Fourth Week of Lent (Week beginning Monday 28th March)

This week through Project Compassion we learn about Rosalie, who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through Caritas Australia's partners, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and Caritas Bukavu, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

She joined a savings group which helped her with a loan to start her own small business selling second-hand shoes and natural remedies.

"I can eat, dress, maintain my health and help others. My children study and manage to eat twice a day. I have learnt to work hand-in-hand with other members of the community. Really, there is more joy in sharing with others." - Rosalie

Watch a short film about Rosalie's story [here](#).

Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au



Photo: Arlette Bashizi /Caritas Australia

Mrs Jaquelin Dib
Religious Education Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUFTI DAY - Friday 1st April - Come to school dressed as a word or mathematical concept! Bring a Gold coin for the Flood Appeal or donate on Qkr.

FINGER FOODS FRIDAY - (instead of Welcome BBQ) - Friday 1st April 3.30pm - 5.30pm

TERM 1 CONCLUDES - Friday 8th April

Friday 1
April 2022

Theme Friday

Are you a Maths Wiz
or have a way with
words??

Theme Friday - Dress up as
either a word or a
Mathematical concept!!

Gold Coin Donation
for those affected by the floods

The poster features three photos of children in costumes: one as a 'fan', one as 'MOR', and one as 'MATHS'.

ALL FAMILIES
WELCOMED

Finger Foods Friday

FRIDAY 1 APRIL, 3:30 PM

COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISER FOR
THOSE AFFECTED BY
THE FLOODS

FOOD • SPORTS • FUN

COME ALONG AND JOIN US
FOR FOOD, FUN AND
LAUGHTER

3 ON 3 BASKETBALL
COMPETITION
STUDENTS VS. PARENTS

\$1 DRINKS

The poster includes images of various finger foods like burgers, sandwiches, and pastries.

InfoZone

Welcome to the Library and Technology section of the St Oliver's Newsletter!

ABOUT THE CBCA

The Children's Book Council of Australia aims to

- promote quality literature for young Australians;
- support and encourage a wide range of Australian writers and illustrators of children's books
- celebrate contributions to Australian children's literature.

Each year a "Shortlist" of quality literature produced in Australia over the previous 12 months is announced. In August the Book of the Year in each category is awarded. This year's Shortlist has just been announced.

These books are available in most bookshops and libraries.

Younger Readers (Aged 7 - 12 Years)

Dragon Skin by Karen Foxlee

The Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel by Nicki Greenberg

Huda and me by H. Hayek

A Glasshouse of Stars by Shirley Marr

Exit Through the Gift Shop by Maryam Master [ill. Astred Hicks]

Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief by Katrina Nannestad

Early Childhood (Aged 1 - 6 Years)

When the Waterhole Dries Up by Kaye Baillie [ill. Max Hamilton]

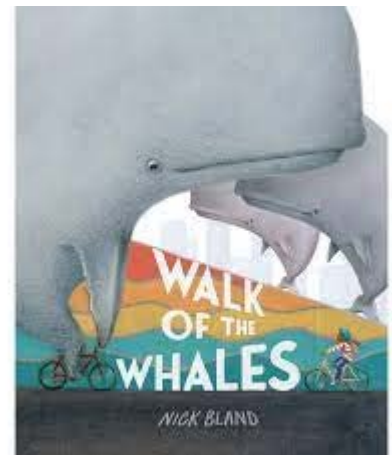
What Do You Call Your Grandma? by Ashleigh Barton [ill. Martina Heiduczek]

Walk of the Whales by Nick Bland

Amira's Suitcase by Vikki Conley [ill. Nicky Johnston]

Jetty Jumping by Andrea Rowe [ill. Hannah Sommerville]

Winston and the Indoor Cat by Leila Rudge



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The school holidays provide a wonderful opportunity to keep reading! Congratulations to those children who have already completed the Challenge - 5 months ahead of the closing date!

All the booklists are available at this link:

[NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2022 : Home](#)

HOLIDAY BORROWING

All children who return their current library books will be able to borrow for the school holidays next week.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to these children who have received a certificate from Greg Whitby, our Executive Director, for completing this Challenge over summer: Alice, Finn, Madhurema, Stefan, Zanita, Jarrod, Keith, Anahera, Terese and Alex.

Mrs Lesley Quinn, Teacher Librarian