



Our Lady of the Rosary  
Catholic Primary School, Wyoming

## Newsletter

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### Sunday Gospel Account

"Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Luke 9: 51 – 62. This Sunday's Gospel is quite possibly fundamental in what is being asked of us, especially in today's world with the rise of secularism. Essentially, Jesus tells his followers and the would-be followers of the day that he/she will have to give up the life they are living in order to follow him. Does this mean wives leave their husbands? Does it mean give up all earthly possessions? The way I interpret this Gospel account is that Jesus really wants you to give up sinful ways. The basic message is that you cannot have two masters. God wants people to use their talents to live good lives. But he also wants his people to not be a slave to money and all manner of riches and cravings if it means taking the eye off him. Easy to say but far harder to do!

### New Classrooms

We now have the Occupancy Certificate to move into the new building. Most of the classes will move into their new rooms by this Friday. There is still some work to be done with extending and lining the awning, as well as some fixing up of minor items. Please feel free to go into the new building if you have not already done so, either before or after school, and have a look around.

### First Communion

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday. This is a life-giving sacrament that should be followed up with second, third and so on communions. It is my constant hope that parents who take the time to get their child to prepare and then receive the eucharist, do so with a view to keep taking him or her back to receive Christ at the weekend masses. Please try and make the effort to get to mass, if not every week at least once a month so that the children grow in their faith and not just from what they learn at school.

### New Phonics Test, NAPLAN, Singapore and School Education in General

For those amongst us that have never worked in a school or have never been a teacher it is so easy to listen to the news and the common theme is that schools must do better. I can show you the same news from 50 years ago and it is the same. Our politicians and anyone with an opinion on schools all seem to have a magic silver bullet to fix every school and every child. There is an underlying belief that all children can learn, which no one would argue with, but mixed in with this is also a belief that every child can reach the same level of achievement. If this was true, then why have we never ever achieved this in any school system at any time throughout the world? Quite simply not every child can learn at the same rate as others because of a whole host of variables. IQ, household dynamics, cultural background, social and emotional issues, student aptitude and attitude and so on can all account for student achievement.

Governments of the past 20 years have been determined to test children repeatedly with the belief that if we test more then somewhere in amongst it all they will improve. To learn that the state government is introducing a new Year 1 phonics test is not surprising, but certainly very energy sapping. I can certainly understand the case for it if there are schools who do not teach phonics as part of a balanced literacy program, but what about schools like ours who already have a very good handle on phonics and already use phonics assessments as part of a bigger assessment picture in literacy? This is just another layer of testing that takes away from core teaching. Another layer of bureaucracy to tell us what we already know.

NAPLAN results of which I can honestly say over time we have performed well is often used as a blunt tool to embarrass schools to do better. On every measure as a school for both Year 3 and 5 we are either above or on par with the state mean and in some areas way above the mean. The area of relative weakness in 2018 was in Year 5 spelling which we still did well at but not when compared to our other literacy and numeracy scores. And yet as strange as this may sound, I was most pleased with this result more than any other because in that cohort we had no less than 12 students with dyslexia or dyslexia like identified issues. The work by the teachers to get that result was outstanding, but when you throw the result up against other high achieving schools it is not as convincing. Simple comparisons and league tables never show the true picture.

I visited Singapore on a fact-finding mission sponsored by our Commonwealth Government. Along with 13 other Principals from around Australia we went into schools, the Ministry of Education, Universities and spoke to teachers, Principals, professors and the Education Minister. What is happening in Singapore is a model we should adopt in Australia; they leave us for dead on almost every measure and approach. Trust me when I say anything education related coming out of countries like Finland and Singapore, we should take notice. Read the latest from Singapore: <https://citinewsroom.com/2018/10/singapore-abolishes-school-exam-rankings-says-learning-is-not-competition/>

### Please Keep in Your Prayers

At present in our school community we have two parents fighting a major diagnosis and we also have a sibling of one of our students facing a similar fate. Please keep them and all in our local community suffering from some illness in your daily petitions to God.

God Bless

Frank Cohen – Principal

Thought for the Week

*"What is the use of living if not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who live in it after we are gone."*

Sir Winston Churchill



## The Feast of the Sacred Heart

On Friday we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We focus on the love of Jesus for all of us. He is the source and centre of love and was made man and lived as a man on Earth to teach us how to love others and His Father in Heaven. The heart of Jesus is so full of love that He shares his love and life with everyone. Jesus loves us and the Sacred Heart shows us how we should love.



O God, you have revealed your love for us through the compassionate and forgiving heart of Christ.  
Strengthen in us the desire to live with full hearted commitment to your mission.  
We ask this prayer through the Sacred Heart and the Spirit of Wisdom. Amen

**Congratulations to all our First Holy Communion candidates. It was a lovely celebration of Sacrament within our Catholic Faith... A Sacrament that offers itself to us every Sunday. We are blessed!**



Social Justice  
(Every Little Bit Helps)



Congratulations to the Mini Vinnies who are organising, promoting and collecting donations for our St Vincent DePaul Winter Appeal!  
Another great job OLR!

Click on the image to read, learn and experience **Walking the Way**. It is a school-based initiative in the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, designed to encourage parents in the sacred task of accompanying their children on their journey with God.



Interested in a Winter Walk? I can personally highly recommend the Winter Walkabout...

July 4: Central Coast Indigenous Sites

Winter walkabout through stunning national parkland on the Central Coast, known for its hiking trails and Aboriginal engravings. We will have an Aboriginal educator as a guide, and our Catholic reflections will be inspired by the land and Australia's first peoples.

Meet 9.30am, 4 July, at Girrakool Picnic Area.

Flexible departure time: 2pm.

The day includes guided walk and reflection, sausage sizzle lunch and time for individual quiet time in a bush setting.

Enquiries and RSVP: [jo.spek@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jo.spek@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

*A Gem of Pope Francis.....*

*"The Eucharist prepares us for a place in eternity, because it is the Bread of Heaven. @Pontifex"*

Dates for your Diary				
Week	Date	Celebration	Place	Time
9	25-Jun	Year 3 Mass	Church	9:15 AM

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – Maria Kennedy

### OLR RULE OF THE WEEK



Assistant Principal Award  
Our Personal Best Live Justly  
Respect All  
Congratulations to:

Hudson J	2B
Harry E	2B
Macey P	2B
Aimee Filan	3/4
Liezl Pearce	3/4

## DIARY DATES

M-Th	June 24 - 28	Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri	June 28	Soccer Gala Day – Years 5 & 6
Wed	July 3	Wear Silly Socks Day
Wed	July 3	Storytime for Preschoolers 9-9.30
Fri	July 5	Last Day of Term
Mon	July 22	Students Return
Wed	August 7	Learning Together Playgroup 9-10.30

## MINI VINNIES – Mary Knox



### Mini Vinnies Winter Appeal 2019

The **OLR Mini Vinnies group** is supporting the **St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal** this year. St Vincent de Paul has asked for assistance with making **individual food assistance packs** that can be given to those who seek help. Instead of giving a gold coin donation, we are asking for students to bring in any of the following items:

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - “Wear silly socks” day – New socks in a range of sizes for men and women.**

Mini Vinnies will also be having a **raffle for hand knitted beanies**, beautifully made by **Margaret Smith**, the Grandmother of Jonty and Oscar Woolford. Raffle tickets are 50c each and will be sold until the last Wednesday of the term.

The Mini Vinnies group would like to add to the wonderful fundraising efforts of Year 6 this term for the Winter Appeal, and a cheque and the items collected will be presented to representatives of St Vincent de Paul at the school Assembly on Wednesday in week 10.

The theme of this year’s winter appeal is **“The Pain in Poverty”**, with the focus on the impact of poverty on older Australians. Poverty often comes with the added burden of loneliness and social isolation when you can’t afford to go out. Hopefully, the individual food assistance packs will brighten the day of people who receive them and realise others care for them and they are not alone. Thanking you all so much for the continued assistance for the works of the Mini Vinnies group.



SHOW YOUR CHILDREN HOW MANY ORANGES IT TAKES TO MAKE A ONE CUP OF JUICE.

- Squeeze 3 - 4 oranges when they are in season.
- Look at the fibre and pith that is thrown away.
- When we eat an orange, we eat all this, and it fills us up.
- When we drink juice, there is no fibre to fill us up - that is why it is easy and quick to drink so much juice.
- It is better to eat the whole fruit.



Could you eat 4 oranges at once?



## CANTEEN NEWS – Stacey Tamblyn

Fri June 28 Remy F / Nancy G  
Mon July 1 Sue G  
Wed July 3 Remy F / Marg S

Tap [here](#) for 2019 Canteen Menu

## NO PARKING RULE

Council has recently reviewed wording on the “No Parking” support signage for school fence areas.

The wording on the new signs has been changed to reflect the meaning of “No Parking”. Below is an image of the new signs

### THESE SIGNS MEAN YOU MAY STOP HERE TO DROP OFF / PICK UP



**BUT YOU MUST**

- stop for up to 2 minutes only
- stay within 3 metres of vehicle

Kids look to you to keep them safe – please park legally in school zones  
**HEAVY FINES and DEMERIT POINTS APPLY**



Any time and for any reason

1800 55 1800

[www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au)



## LIBRARY – Louise Foyel

When the classes move to the new building the Library will be holding a working bee to put the library back into its former state.  
Date to be advised.



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**Storytime for pre-schoolers** on Wednesday July 3 9-9.30am in the library. This will continue monthly.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Polding Under 11s Rugby League

Last week I represented Polding at the State Championships at Charlestown. Our team won 3 games and narrowly lost 3 games. We came 7<sup>th</sup> position out of 12 teams. I played dummy half, centre, wing and five-eighth. I really enjoyed playing with my team mates who were from lots of different areas in NSW. I scored our team’s last try which was a great way to finish the championship. By Harrison R in 5 Gold.





