



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9 February 2024

www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley
Principal: Ms. Patrizia Bertani
Parish Mass Times:
English: Saturday 9.00am, 5.30pm, Sunday 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.30pm
Vietnamese: Saturday 7.00pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7.30pm
Chin Hakha/Burmese: 2.30pm
Tongan: Every 1st Sunday 3.00pm
School Phone: 9312 2230
School website: www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady's is a Child Safe School

I give you a new commandment, love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 10 Feb Lunar New Year
Mon 12 Feb 9.00am Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony
Tues 13 Feb Shrove Tuesday
Wed 14 Feb Ash Wednesday
9.00am Mass for Yrs 4-6, 1-3 paraliturgy in their classrooms
Mon 19 Feb School Photos
Tues 20 Feb 5.00-6.30pm Foundation Picnic
Mon Feb 26 9.00am Beginning of School Year Mass
Tues 27 Feb 9.00am Parent Helper Training
Wed 28 Feb-Fri 1 Mar Year 6 Camp
Wed 28 Feb 7.00pm P&F Meeting
Thur 29 Feb 2.15pm Parent Helper Training
Wed 6 Mar 7.00pm Foundation Parent Learning Info Session
Mon 11 Mar Labour Day Public Holiday
Tues 12 Mar Professional Learning Day for Staff (Literacy)
Wed 13 Mar-Fri 22 Mar NAPLAN for Yrs 3 & 5
Wed 20 Mar 7.00pm Reconciliation Parent Evening
Wed 27 Mar 7.00pm PAB Meeting
Thur 28 Mar End of Term 1 at 1.00pm
Mon 15 April Start of Term 2 at 8.35am.

SACRAMENTS

Thurs 6 May 6.30pm Reconciliation for Year 3
Sun 26 May 10.30am Eucharist for Year 4
Fri 2 Aug 7.00pm Confirmation for Year 6

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS - PUPIL FREE DAYS

Tues 12 March Literacy with Deb Sukarna

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Father Peter our Parish Priest visited all classrooms to welcome the students back to school. He was delighted to find all students engaged and focused on their learning. Across all classes it was evident that the students were happy to be back at school. The students in Years 4-6 will be joining Father Peter next week Wednesday 14 at 9.00am for the Ash Wednesday Mass in the church.

Thank you to all parents who have their child/children coming to school in the correct school uniform. There are some children who are wearing the school rain jacket instead of the school jumper. The rain jacket should only be worn outdoors and not in class. If students are cold they are to wear their jumper in class. We require that all students wear the Our Lady's School hats throughout Term 1. Any students not wearing a school hat will be required to sit in the shade. No other hats are permitted to be worn.



Chúc mừng năm mới! or Happy New Lunar Year!

Many families in our community will be welcoming in the Lunar New Year of the Dragon. Over the next few weeks there will be many celebrations occurring in the City of Brimbank and all around Melbourne, Australia and the world. Our Lady's school wishes all our families who will be celebrating a very good beginning to the Year of the Dragon.



OUR TEACHERS

Jesus, when you lived on earth, people called you 'Teacher'.

Our teachers are like you when they teach us about God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, about Mary, about heaven, about angels, about saints, about being good, about sin, about suffering, about death, about praying, about adding up, about spelling, about writing, about computers and lots and lots of other things, Help our teachers as they work hard to teach us, help them when they are tired or worried, give them lots of fun in being teachers.
Please bless our teachers and their families.



BUILDING - IMPORTANT UPDATE

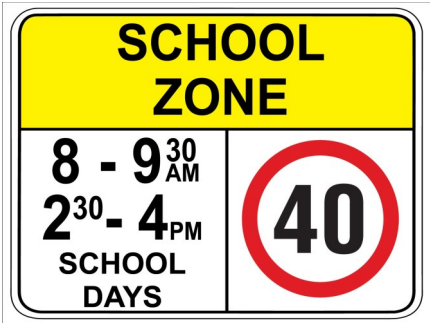
The new building has made much progress and is on schedule to be completed by the 2nd of October this year. The builders have been working hard to prepare the top floor so that the concrete slab can be poured. Next Tuesday has been scheduled for the concrete to be poured. This means that early Tuesday morning beginning at 6.00am there will be many trucks coming in and out of the school so Station Place will be extremely busy with trucks coming and going. All going well the concrete slab should be finished by 12.00pm. I ask all parents to please take this increased activity into account when dropping off students and perhaps consider parking in a different street so as to make sure that no child's safety is compromised. The builders will be supervising the trucks but we also need for you the parents to collaborate by adjusting your usual morning drop off routine so that we decrease the amount of traffic while this operation takes place. We must all work together to ensure that all our children are safe.

We should see the first floor steel structure up by the beginning of March. This is very exciting news indeed as we will be able to get a real sense of the size of the new building once the steel goes up.



OPERATION SCHOOLS BACK

I would also like to alert you that local Police together with members of the Highway Patrol are running an operation to mark the start of the school year. Operation Schools Back will target the safety of students arriving and departing school with the major focus being the enforcement of the 40kmph school zones. Motorists are asked to be vigilant before and after school as there will be increased pedestrian, road and pushbike traffic. Please allow an extra 5 minutes to find a safe and legal park to ensure your children's safety.



A very special invitations to all parents and grandparents

We would like to invite everyone to join the teachers and students at 9.00am on Monday for the Smoking Welcome to Country Ceremony. The Smoking Ceremony will be held on the blue/green grass area and conducted by Uncle Perry Wandin (pictured below) who is a Senior Wurundjeri elder of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of the land on which our school stands today.



Here is some information about the Smoking Ceremony taken from the following website: wurundjeri.com.au

For thousands of years we have employed Smoking Ceremonies to cleanse places and people of bad spirits to promote the wellbeing of our people as well as guests on Country. Contemporary smoking ceremonies may involve a Wurundjeri Elder and / or a younger Wurundjeri community member carrying a portable tarnuk (wooden dish) containing coals and wet leaves around assembled guests. Alternatively, guests may gather around a dedicated smoking site. For full participation, those present will typically be invited to walk through the smoke for an individual cleansing.

I encourage parents and grandparents to join us as it will be an opportunity for our school community to gather together to witness and participate in an indigenous custom dating back thousands of years.

School starting and finishing times

The school gates all open at 8:20am and there will be a staff member supervising in the schoolyard. Classrooms all open at 8:25am and students can enter their classroom and prepare themselves for the day. Classes will begin at 8:35am sharp. School will finish every day at 3:10pm.

I ask all parents to collaborate with the school by making sure their child is at school on time. It is difficult for children when they have to walk into a classroom where the class has already begun. It puts them at a disadvantage. It is also disruptive for the other students in the class as well as the teacher.

Professional Learning Day for Staff

There will be no school for children on Tuesday March 12th as staff will be furthering their knowledge and practice in the Literacy area of Spelling. This day will be facilitated by Deb Sukarna our Literacy Consultant who has been working with the school staff in the area of Literacy for a number of years.

There will be also be no school on Monday 11th March as the school will be closed for the Labour Day Public Holiday.



School Fees

All accounts have been sent home to families via the eldest child. You can pay your school fees and levies with cash, credit card/EFTPOS or by direct debit from a nominated bank account or credit card via the forms with your account or from your Centrelink payments.

Yours sincerely,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



A big Welcome to Our Lady's to all
our Foundation and new families!







FI

Akain - For settling into foundation and being a great communicator by showing kindness to all. It's great having you in our class! *From Miss Seona*

Thomas - For settling into foundation and trying your best in all tasks. You have worked so hard, well done! *From Miss Seona*

FJ

Tyson - For trying his best and helping everyone. We are so glad you are in our class, Tyson. *From Miss Wendy*

Vincent - For showing courage and having a go, even when things are tricky. You should be very proud of your efforts this week, well done! *From Miss Wendy*

1K

Xavier - for having a wonderful start at Our Lady's by consistently displaying Whole Body Listening and respecting your teachers and peers. *From Miss Shai*

Ren - for displaying the Learning Asset of a Self Manager by following instructions and looking around you for clues about what to do. You've had a great to Year 1 start Ren! *From Miss Shai*

1L

Rex O - For having an awesome start to Grade 1 and settling into Our Lady's so well. You have already made some lovely friendships. Well done! *From Miss Scarlett*

Ava M - For having a wonderful start to the year! You have shown courage and respect while settling into Grade 1. Well done! *From Miss Scarlett*

2M

Chloe M - For consistently showing the Gospel value of Service by being so quick to help out whenever it is needed. You have made such a great start to Grade 2! *From Ms Rochelle*

Nathan T - For consistently showing the Gospel value of Respect to everyone in our classroom. You have set such a great example of how to follow our classroom mission! *From Ms Rochelle*

2N

Rose- For living out the Gospel Value of Respect and Courage. You follow the classroom rules and give everything a go. Well done! *From Ms Robles*

Aliyah- For displaying the Gospel Value of Courage by taking initiative to share during class discussions. Well done! *From Ms Robles*

3E

Naing M - For showing maturity and independence as you have settled into Year 3. Well done for making a great start to the year! *From Miss Steph*

Danny M - For making a positive start to Year 3 at Our Lady's. You are doing a great job settling in and making new friends. *From Miss Steph*

3F

Zade S - For being a great self-manager by showing you can make good choices for your learning and remain focused during learning time. A wonderful start to year 3! *From Ms Christine & Mrs Majczak*

Grade 3F - Congratulations to 3F for a fantastic start to the year! We have been impressed by how you have all adapted to your unique learning environment. *From Ms Christine & Mrs Majczak*

4G

Mika - For being a helpful and caring member of 4G and for showing the Our Lady's Gospel value of Service. *From Ms Karen & Ms Granata*

Monique- For making a wonderful start at Our Lady's school by showing respect to teachers and her peers. *From Ms Karen & Ms Granata*

4H

Damien- for your thoughtful and reflective responses to the whole school scripture and image. *From Mr Membrey*

Ijay- for showing the Gospel Value of Courage in your first week at Our Lady's. *From Mr Membrey*



5C

Xavier- For being a great communicator by consistently sharing his ideas during class discussions. Super effort! *From Ms Huyen*

Grace- For displaying very good self-management skills by being organised and using her time effectively. Impressive stuff! *From Ms Huyen*

5D

Lara - For making a great start to the year by showing Our Lady's Gospel value of service both in the playground and in 5D. Keep it up! *From Ms Gurry*

Jay - For starting off the year by being an excellent Communicator and Self-Manager! Well done! *From Ms Gurry*

6A

Grace - For showing initiative and leadership by stepping up and taking responsibility. *From Mr Wickham*

Ayce- For showing initiative and leadership by stepping up and taking responsibility *From Mr Wickham*

6B

Kloe - For a fantastic start to Year 6! Kloe has been actively listening and asking questions, and confidently sharing her group's ideas. Well done! *From Mrs Belinda & Ms McManus*

Ken - For making a great start to Year 6! Ken has demonstrated a positive attitude towards his learning and has willingly shared his ideas with the class. Great effort! *From Mrs Belinda & Ms McManus*



FI: Riley N, Aideen C

FJ: Amanda L, Akain P, Francis T, Henley D

1K: Glory Z, Oliver H, Audrey C, Sean E

1L: Ava M, Vincent B

2M: Hinnaya K, Ryan C, Victoria V, Jeremiah L, Lucas A, Zeb B

2N: Willow T, Maria A, Kitty M

3E: Brian N, Hamish M, Sang Cung C

3F: Van Sui P, Chelsea V, Easton L

4G: Koby B, Jeronimo C

4H: Louise N, Andreas A

5C: Ben M, Kim B, Andi M, Paul Z

5D: Jasmine D, Matthew M, Skylar C

6A: Delilah T

6B: Saiyam S

STAFF: Mrs Mafodda, Dean, Ms Catherine, Greg, Ms Scarlett

Our Lady of The Immaculate Conception Parish Primary School

SchoolPix is coming to photograph on:

Monday, 19 February 2024

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.SCHOOLPIX.COM.AU



Early Bird orders with free delivery to your school close five working days after your last photography session.

A postage fee will apply for orders placed after this date.

Sibling orders must be placed prior to 8am on Monday, 19 February 2024.



Misplaced your order flyer? Please visit www.schoolpix.com.au and use the student search to find your child's unique ID or contact our Customer Care team on 1300 766 055.

Please note: Cash orders will not be accepted

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

**PLEASE BRING YOUR HEALTH
CARE/PENSION CARD ALONG WITH YOUR
COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE.
A COPY OF YOUR ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE /
PENSION CARD IS NEEDED.**

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Australian Girls Choir Open Day

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir (AGC) because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform. School aged girls are invited to come along to our February Open Days to try our fun and inclusive classes and learn more about being part of the AGC! Please visit our website to register to attend our free Open Day: ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

Girls blossom as members of the AGC, both on and off the stage. Your daughter will develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, resilience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our senior performers have shared the stage with a long list of artists including Hugh Jackman, Amy Shark and Kylie Minogue. You may have seen our girls perform for the FIFA Women's World Cup or AFL Grand Final; or on television appearances on Sunrise, Today, Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Domain.

Now accepting 2024 enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Berwick, Box Hill, Caulfield North, Essendon, Glen Waverley, Greensborough, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kew, Mentone, Ringwood and Yarraville.



JOIN US AT OUR FEBRUARY OPEN DAY

Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc or phone 03 9859 6499



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INSIGHTS

happy families. 

Starting the year right

Welcome to **2024**. The holidays are over. School is back. And routines are recommencing. For many families this means:

- extra stress (some kids don't feel excited about heading to kindy/prep/reception or school),
- extra costs (let's face it, uniforms, shoes, and the rest of it all)
- extra challenges (ADHD, dyslexia, other needs, friendship issues, learning difficulties).

Of course, it's not all bad news. Some families are delighted. Holidays create stress because of babysitting challenges, costs for entertainment, and more.

And fortunately, there are tens of thousands of our kids that actually enjoy school and are glad to be back.

As it happens – so are we! Parenting Ideas has been providing helpful parenting advice to parents in early learning centres, primary schools, and high schools around Australia, New Zealand, and the world for over two decades! This year it's no different.

How can we help?

As we dive into **2024** we want to know how we can be most useful to you. Headed up by Dr Justin Coulson, co-host and parenting expert of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance and host of Australia's #1 parenting podcast, Dr Justin Coulson's Happy Families, Justin and a team of experts will be bringing you a range of articles designed to give you the best parenting advice available to help make your family happier.



If there's a major challenge you'd like help with, email us and let us know. Title your email "Parenting Ideas advice" and email schools@happyfamilies.com.au. We're here to help.

For the first Insights article of 2024, we're going to look at how we can get our routines on track at the outset and keep everyone focused on what matters most for making your family function.

Starting the year right

If you're like most parents, you really wanted to start things off well, but it's been a little rocky. Getting back into a routine, being on time, sorting out school lunches... it's a bit tricky. Best laid plans haven't quite been as smooth as you might have liked. To dial in your morning and evening routines, I'm going to suggest a few principles to help.

Get clear on what 'getting it right' actually means.

You might know what you want the morning to look like. But is it clear to you? Can you write it down? Can you put it on the fridge? Can you explain it to your kids and help them to buy into why it matters? Clearly explaining what you want and why is going to be a critical first step.

Set up a system.

Author, James Clear, says that "you do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems." So what does your system look like for making things happen? Can you create a system that will facilitate a smooth morning for every member of the family?

Workshop it.

Setting up a system when you're a parent is pretty easy. But bringing the family along can be trickier. By having a meeting and developing the system with input from your kids, you get to be clear, establish the system, and create buy-in. Ask your children to make suggestions and design the morning based on their ideas. Fashion it with your expert knowledge. And watch the results improve because your children have been part of it. Involvement is a central success pillar when it comes to developing a system that works in any family.

Curate competence.

The real secret to successful routines is helping the kids become self-sufficient. It takes time, but teaching them to toast their bread or crumpets, fry or scramble some egg, or organise their cereal or yogurt, or even blend a smoothie means that there is less friction with your routine. They feel good about doing what needs to be done because they know how to do it. And while it's slow at first, it becomes wonderfully efficient over time.



Support autonomy.

Kids love to have choices. They appreciate being able to make their own decisions. Support them in that while ensuring they know what the guidelines and boundaries are for making things happen well.

Here are the golden rules of a magic morning (from a dad of six who has talked with thousands of parents about getting this right):

1. Your morning begins the night before. Get the prep done for tomorrow at bedtime so uniforms are ready, bags are packed, and library books or sports gear is sorted.
2. Create margin by waking up a little early, and getting the kids up (gently) a little early too. Room to breathe makes everything work better.
3. Create the structure so everyone knows what needs to be done.
4. Keep the kids accountable in a supportive way.

In spite of your best efforts, things will go pear-shaped now and then. When this happens, stay calm (remember: emotions are contagious), don't sweat the small stuff, be flexible for the morning... but get it back on track the next day by having a calm conversation in the evening, reinforcing the system, and working together on making it work.

Whether it's magic mornings or excellent evenings, the process is the same. Work as a team, and watch the magic happen... at least sometimes.



AUTHOR

Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 6 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

Jesus has the power to heal

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Gospel

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

What did Jesus say to the man after he cured him of leprosy? Use the words below to find out!

Say _____ of this to anyone;
but go and _____ yourself to the
_____, then make an offering
at the _____ as Moses
_____, then all will know
you are _____.



temple
show
commanded
nothing
healed
priest

How were people with leprosy treated in Jesus' time?

What are some things we can do for sick people today?