



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

21 June 2018

www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley
Principal: Ms. Patrizia Bertani
Parish Mass Times: Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 10:30am & 5:30pm
School Phone: 9312 2230
School website: www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au
Our Lady's is a Child Safe School

God has made us what we are, and in our union with Jesus Christ he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do. Ephesians 2: 10

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 22 June

9.00am Community Class-rooms
Reports go home today

Wed 27 June

3 Way Learning Conversations
3.30-6.00pm
3.00pm Second Hand Uniform Sale

Thur 28 June

3 Way Learning Conversations
8.00am-3.00pm **No school for the children**

Fri 29 June

Last day of term 2 at 3.15pm
Team Colours Day
Family Movie Night 6.30pm
Sun Theatre Yarraville

Mon 16 & Tues 17 July

Staff Conference **No school for the children**

Wed 18 July

Term 3 begins for children

Thurs 26 July

Feast of Saints Anne & Joachim - Grandparents Day

Thurs 2 Aug

7.00pm Reconciliation Parent Night

Wed 8 Aug

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Fri 10 Aug

Parish Movie

Wed 15 Aug

Feast of Assumption

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation (Year 3)

Thurs 6 Sept 7.00pm

Confirmation (Year 6)

Fri 16 November 7.00pm



Dear Parent,

Many of you would know that one of the classrooms (Room M) was flooded with the heavy rain that fell last weekend. The children of 2M have been working comfortably in the Mary MacKillop Library this week. The carpet company sucked out the water, the carpet has also been sanitised and deodorised. The children will be back in the classroom on Friday morning. There may be some odour but this should dissipate over time.

I know that there has been health and safety concerns raised around this issue but I can assure you that there is no mould in that room and that the room is structurally safe. Safety at Our Lady's School is always a top priority and is never compromised. The Junior block building which includes 6 classrooms and the two timber green coloured Year 4 classrooms are targeted to be completely demolished and rebuilt. We are hoping to be able to submit an application for a Building grant to demolish and build new classrooms for Foundation, Year 1, 2 and 4 students. Father Peter and I have been interviewing architects to create a new more detailed masterplan. I will keep you informed about developments in this area. Meanwhile rest assured that the classrooms are safe and are all comfortable, clean learning environments. If you would like further discussion about this issue please email me or make an appointment to see me. I value parent communication.

Special Visitors at Our Lady's School

This week we had some very special visitors from the Western Bulldogs Football club visit to Our Lady's school and run football clinics for our Year 3 students who were very excited and appreciative of the players taking the time to speak to them. The players were impressed by the children's manners and football skills.



Ed Richards (20), Fergus Greene (30), Bradley Lynch (36), Fletcher Roberts (18)

OUR ENVIRONMENT



O God, you made this great world for us, and you ask us to take care of it by keeping our environment clean, safe and healthy for all to live in happily. Help us to remember to do nothing that will harm our rivers, mountains, trees, flora and fauna, and the air we breathe. Help us not to spoil our environment by littering it with rubbish or letting chemicals pollute the air. Help us to keep our world, your world, beautiful. Amen



Excursion to CERES Environment Park

Year 1

The focus was on raising students awareness of their environment and the sustainable practices that can be put into place to look after our environment.

The Year 1 students participated in some exciting hands on learning experiences as you can see in the photos.

They explored the Merri creek environment, played recycling games where they had to classify materials, made their own paper and explored the creatures that live in gardens.

Let us all join Year 1 students and make a commitment to looking after our precious environment.



EXCITING SPORTS NEWS



The Our Lady's school T-Ball, Football and Mixed Netball teams have all finished on top of the Sunshine District league ladder. They will now all move on to play teams in the Footscray District finals.

The T-Ball ,Mixed Netball and Football teams will play next term on the 20th of July.

AMAZING ARTWORK AT OUR LADY'S

The Year 5 students are beginning to make their butterflies for the bronze garden sculpture which they have designed and which will be placed into the school garden.



Yours sincerely,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



We are very excited to announce that we will be celebrating our first Grandparents & Special Friends Day at Our Lady's School.

We warmly welcome grandparents to come and spend some time with their grandchild/children. We recognise that some grandparents may be interstate, overseas or may have passed away, so we extend the invitation to 'special friends' who play an important part in your child's life.

When: Thursday 26th July (Feast day of Jesus' grandparents - St Anne & St Joachim)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Liturgy in Our Lady's Hall followed by classrooms visits and concluding with morning tea back in the hall .



More information will be sent home soon, as well as an RSVP to allow us to gain an indication of how many people may be attending.

Book Now!

Bookings are now open!
Please note:
Bookings must be made 7 days
prior to the School Closure Day



When:

28th June
16th July
17th July

School Closure Day Programs!

Please come and join us at our Camp Australia School Closure Day Program for non-stop fun with friends, including outdoor group games, sport, art & craft and much more!!!

Time: 8:00am to 6:00pm **Where:** The After School Care Room at Our Lady's School

What to bring: Morning Tea and Lunch. Breakfast and Afternoon Tea will be provided!

Fees: \$69.00 per child minus CCB/CCR benefits

Please visit our website www.campaustralia.com.au or contact our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 to register your child for the School Closure Day program.

Please Note: 18 Minimum bookings are required to operate the School Closure Day Program, so please book in as soon as you can. You will be notified 7 days prior to the School Closure Day if the session is no longer running.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

The P&F are holding a Second Hand Uniform sale next WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE at 3.00pm outside the Canteen. All welcome to come and have a look and make a purchase.

If you have any donations for the Sale, please bring them into the Office by Tuesday so they can be passed on to the P&F Committee.



P&F MOVIE NIGHT NEWS

Thank you to all the families that purchased their tickets for next Friday night's *Family Movie Night*.

At the theatre the Parents and Friends Committee will hand out vouchers for your **tickets** and any **popcorn and drink combos** that you have purchased, so keep an eye out for them on the night to collect your vouchers.



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BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR

E-MAGINATION

Winter Holiday Club

More Excursions, New technology,
Ozobots, Circuitry Classes, Art & Craft,
Giant Games... Something for everyone.
BOOK NOW.



CODEBOTS

Today we'll learn the logic behind coding with the help of a miniature robot. By drawing lines and instructions we'll make the robot do some amazing things. Soon you'll see how simple it is to do coding yourself.

At the end of the day you'll take home a Codebots certificate.



COLD WEATHER CRAFTS

It's cold outside, but we'll keep kids warm with winter crafts. By making snow globes and candles, kids will turn the winter into something worth celebrating.

At the end of the day you'll get to take home your snow globe and candle creations to use at home.

GO JOIN THE CIRCUITS

Circuits are at the heart of electronics we use everyday. But how do they work? Through a range of fun exercises we will find out!

At the end of the day you'll take home an activity book so you can learn more about circuits.



THE BIG PLAY

Today is going to be BIG - literally. On this special day we'll be playing oversized editions of our favourite games, such as Jenga and Connect 4. There will also be other classics to play, including Twister, Limbo, Dominoes, and Hopscotch. We'll be set for oversized fun no matter how the weather is!

At the end of the day you'll get to take home a mini Rubix Cube Keyring so you can keep gaming on the go.



**CAMP
AUSTRALIA**

Something for every child.

campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

insights

The language of Independence-building

by Michael Grose



Independence-building is vitally important for parents. It's the pathway to children's competency, confidence and creativity, and the short cut to resilience and real learning.

Families always develop shared language around the values that have strong meaning for them. If resilience is a shared value then there invariably will be a strong set of words and phrases about resilience factors such coping, flexibility and perseverance.

Similarly, the values of independence and self-sufficiency are reflected in a family's proprietary language. In fact, it's through shared language that culture exists. If you are looking to building a culture of independence in your family then creating your proprietary language around independence is a great way to start.

These following twelve examples of independence-building language, and the principles behind them, will help you create your own family's language.

1. "Never regularly do for a child the things a child can do for him or herself" – Goal: Independence

This is perhaps the original parenting-for-independence manifesto, and it's a philosophy that guides many teachers and parents today. In effect, this sentence means that wherever possible – we give children the skills and competencies to look after themselves physically and emotionally. It requires a great deal of patience, time and courage from parents and teachers as the sentence is easier to say than to put into practice. But it's a worthy guiding principle that leads to self-sufficiency in children, and ultimately redundancy as parents.

2. "Is this something you can do?" – Goal: Self-help

Independence takes many forms but perhaps the most common is the development of self-help skills. The confidence, pride and, for most, sheer pleasure that kids doing the simple things for themselves such a toddler tying his shoelaces or a child making her own lunch is immeasurable. Yet it is so easily denied by well-meaning parents and adults who see it as their job to do everything for children. Independence begins at home with the development of self-help skills.

3. "Have you checked the help roster today?" – Goal: Contribution

A great way to develop a sense of independence is to give kids opportunities to help out at home. There is no need to overburden children with jobs, but a sensible allocation of chores according to their age and study requirements is not only a great help to you, but fantastic training for them. It also builds accountability and a work ethic, both highly valued characteristics for continuing success at school and later in life.

4. *"Which of these two would you prefer?"* – Goal: Decision-making



Parents as wise leaders need to call the shots on how the family life is conducted, including health and welfare issues such as appropriate bed and bath times. Some things are not up for negotiation. But there are areas where parents can rightfully hand autonomy to children and say, 'It's your call!' Choice of clothes, how they keep their bedroom, what they eat and who they play with are the types of decisions they can make. Naturally, this is age-related and you do need to have some influence on their choices.

5. *"How can you make this happen?"* – Goal: Problem-solving

Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve. If you keep solving them, they'll keep bringing them. A problem-solving approach relies on asking good questions, which can be challenging if you are used to solving your child's problems. The first question when a child brings you a problem should be: 'Can you handle this on your own?' Next should be, 'What do you want me to do to help you solve the problem?' These questions are not meant to deter children from coming to you; rather, to encourage and teach them to start working through their own concerns themselves.

6. *"We rely on you to do this."* – Goal: Reliability

Reliability is closely connected to responsibility and other aspects of independence. Every child over the age of five, at the eldest, should do something that someone else relies on whether it's looking after a pet, clearing the meal table or emptying the garbage on a regular basis. Having others rely on you has its challenges and can be a learning curve. They'll inevitably forget to put the rubbish bins out on garbage night, meaning your bin will be overflowing for the next week. They'll need to be reminded about feeding the pet or clearing the table. Kids inevitably won't get things right, but that doesn't mean we should stop giving them responsibilities.

7. *"What can you learn for next time?"* – Goal: Self-sufficiency

Learning from mistakes is part of the independence-building process for children. Often adult impatience or unwillingness to put up with errors prevents us from giving kids the chance to do things for themselves or take real responsibilities. If independence is to be a major part of your family's culture then it's imperative that we help kids learn from their mistakes whether social, behavioural or just messing up while helping out at home.

8. *"How do you feel about this?"* – Goal: Emotional intelligence



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An often over-looked aspect of independence is the ability to self-manage your emotional state. Emotional self-management starts with the recognition of how you feel about a particular event or action and then labelling that feeling. If possible prompt to identify their emotions before they act on them. You can also revisit events and ask children about the feelings that may have led to a certain behaviour such as hurting or yelling at a sibling.

9. "When you muck up, you make up." – Goal: Accountability

Kids of all ages will make mistakes. In fact, mucking up is part of the learning process. But kids will just repeat their mistakes unless they experience the consequences of their decisions. The use of behavioural consequences is a way of teaching children to take greater responsibility for their lives and to learn to make smarter choices.

10. "How will you fix this?" – Goal: Restoring relationships

Independent kids are usually socially-smart kids who don't operate in a bubble. They know that their behaviour impacts on others they are mindful of the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of others. They also make amends or restore relationships when their behaviour impacts negatively on others. Relationship restoration is a lifelong skill and involves the following: swallowing your pride, making up, giving something back, not holding a grudge and moving on.

11. "You need to do what's right, not what's easy." – Goal: Integrity

A sense of integrity is important for a child's independence because it's the basis of reasoned and socially focused self-control and self-management. The job of parents is to move their children from 'Me' to 'We'. Integrity is the great socialising agent for a child. They may get by without courage, endurance and grit but they won't get far socially without integrity.

12. "Let's find a way to make this happen." – Goal: Positive risk-taking

One of the ways to develop independence is to work with them to build their skills and abilities to safely navigate an ever-broadening environment outside of the relative safe confines of their home. Ideas include adults and kids doing things together such as catching public transport until they are ready to go it alone or with friends; and giving kids smaller freedoms that lead to bigger liberties such as allowing a young child to walk part of the way to school on their own and then extending the distance as they get more experience and feel more confident.

Independence-building is vitally important for parents. It's the pathway to children's competency, confidence and creativity, and the short cut to resilience and real learning. We've gradually retreated from this approach over recent generations much to our children's detriment. It's time to help kids reclaim their independence. Getting our language right is a good place to start as family change always begins with shared language.



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Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spooned Generation: How to raise independent children*. Michael regularly appears in the media throughout Australia in programs including *The Project*, *The Today Show* and *ABC radio*.

His name is John

The Nativity of St John the Baptist



Who was John the Baptist?

Answer the following statements True or False

He was Jesus' cousin

He was born six years before Jesus

His father, Zechariah, had lost the ability to speak

He lived in the desert wilderness

He was baptised by Jesus

Gospel Lk 1:57-66. 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Draw a picture of John the Baptist from one of the following bible stories...



The Proclamation of John the Baptist

John preaches in the wilderness

Matthew 3:1-12

The Baptism of Jesus

John Baptises Jesus in the Jordan River

Mark 1:7-11