



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14 December 2017

[www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](http://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](http://www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)  
*Our Lady's is a Child Safe School*

*"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" John 10*

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### **Thurs 14 Dec**

Grade 6 Graduation Mass  
6.00pm and Disco 7.15-  
8.30pm

#### **Mon 18 Dec**

Yrs 1-6 Orientation session  
12.00-1.00pm  
Dinner in the Yard 6.00-  
8.00pm

#### **Wed 20 Dec**

End of Year Mass 9.00am  
Final Assembly 2.30pm  
End of term 4 for students at  
3.00pm

#### **Thurs 21 Dec**

Professional Learning for Staff  
(Handover 2018 ) No school  
for the children

#### **2018**

#### **Tues 30 Jan**

School starts for students  
8.45am

Dear Parent,

It is hard to believe that this is my final newsletter for 2017 and as the year draws to a close we give thanks for all its challenges and blessings. We give thanks for all that through the grace of God, we have achieved as a school and parish community.

I would like to particularly express our thanks and gratitude to Father Peter our Parish Priest. Your leadership has made an invaluable contribution to making this year such a successful one for our school. You have guided and supported the staff, children and families of Our Lady's School in their journey of faith, throughout 2017. We thank you for your wisdom, encouragement and guidance and we look forward to working collaboratively under your leadership in 2018. Thank you to the children, staff and parents of Our Lady's School, 2017 has been a wonderful year for our school community. Together, we have achieved much and have worked hard to improve Our Lady's school so that it is a place where each and every child feels valued, supported, safe and eager to learn.

A sincere thank you to the tireless work, time and energy given to the school by all the Parents and Friends Committee who this year have raised \$8300.60 for the school. The money raised is going to be put together with monies raised in previous years to purchase and install a kiln to be used in the Art program.

Special thanks also to the Parent Advisory Board members for their valuable input and insights throughout 2017. You have played a very important role in the life of the school and bring the voice and concerns of the parent community to the meetings. I thank you for sharing your wisdom and great ideas. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I look forward to continuing our good work in 2018. I have greatly appreciated your support.



### *End of School Year and Christmas Prayer*

*Our last class days are a time to thank God for the year. We have all grown in faith. God, Father of us all, thank you for all we have learned this year. We have grown in faith, hope and love of you. Thank you for the friends we have made and the good times we have shared. Be with us as we go forward into the summer. As we get ready to celebrate the holy feast of Christmas, help us to share your love with others. May we always remember that Jesus Christ is the true gist of Christmas. Amen*



**At Our Lady of the Immaculate Parish Primary School we promote the safety, well being and inclusion of all children.**

## CLASS TEACHERS FOR 2018

Mrs Cam Tu Nguyen	Ms Natalie Severino
Ms Karen Everson	Ms Jen Howe
Ms Menica Scarpaci	Mr John Buttigieg
Ms Angelica Rodriguez	Ms Anna-Maria Murphy
Ms Teagan Cullum	Mrs Michelle Drought
Mrs Tanya Majczak	Mrs Jill Rochetich/Ms Glenda Wellington
Mr Tim Wickham	Ms Jessica Steele

We wish our Graduating Class for 2017 a very happy Graduation celebration tonight.

Thank you for being exemplary leaders and excellent role models to all the younger students. We wish you all the very best for your transition into secondary school in 2018 and all your future endeavours.

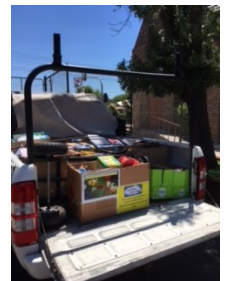
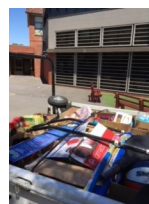


A big thankyou to our school leaders Tommy, Vivian, Nathan, Klarissa, Jenevieve, Tobias, Choeyang, George, Ruby, Joel, Izabella and Oscar. You have demonstrated great leadership in 2017 and inspired many children in our school. Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication. You have all made a positive difference to our school. Well done!



**A MASSIVE  
THANK  
YOU!**

to the children and parents  
of Our Lady's School from  
Sister Jean!



In the pictures you can see all the donations loaded into Steve's truck ready to go to Sister Jean. Sister Jean has asked me to pass onto the Our Lady's school community her deep gratitude for all the toy and toiletry donations. Steve loaded up his truck and delivered the donations to Sister Jean on Tuesday and Sister Jean said it was like a gift from heaven. A gift that will bring many smiles and much happiness to so many families. She wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

*Patrizia Bertani*

**Ms Patrizia Bertani**

**Principal**

[principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)

*May the joy and peace we celebrate at the Saviour's birth fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and may the New Year bring you love and hope.*

*Happy and Safe Holidays to you all!*

# YMCA CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS OSHC PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



For all **Bookings** and **Cancellations**  
please call us directly on **0401 700 401**  
Email us: [ourladyosshc@ymca.org.au](mailto:ourladyosshc@ymca.org.au) For any **Account Information**  
please call our office on: **8371 0500**  
[www.childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au](http://www.childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au)

Week 10 December 11		
DAY	After School Care Activities	Afternoon Tea
<b>Monday</b> Staff: Brad, Hang	<b>Inside:</b> Christmas Art and Craft <b>Outside:</b> Playground and Group Games	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Lamingtons
<b>Tuesday</b> Staff: Brad, Lucette, Hang	<b>Inside:</b> Christmas Art and Craft <b>Outside:</b> Playground & Octopus	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Cake
<b>Wednesday</b> Staff: Brad, Hang, Chelsea	<b>Inside:</b> Christmas Art and Craft <b>Outside:</b> Playground and Kick Ball	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Rice Cakes
<b>Thursday</b> Staff: Brad, Hang, Jennie	<b>Inside:</b> Christmas Art and Craft <b>Outside:</b> Playground & Capture the Flag <b>Homework + Readers</b>	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Cheese and Crackers
<b>Friday</b> Staff: Brad, Jennie	<b>Children's Choice:</b> Games, Activities Inside & Out.	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Variety of Biscuits

Week 11 December 18		
DAY	After School Care Activities	Afternoon Tea
<b>Monday</b> Staff: Brad, Hang	<b>Inside:</b> Children's Choice <b>Outside:</b> Playground and Cricket	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Crackers, Dip & Celery
<b>Tuesday</b> Staff: Brad, Lucette, Hang	<b>Inside:</b> Christmas Hats <b>Outside:</b> Children's Choice	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Rice Cakes
<b>Wednesday</b> Staff: Brad, Hang, Chelsea	<b>Last Day of 2017</b> <b>Inside:</b> Party Games and Prizes <b>Outside:</b> Children's Choice	Seasonal Fruit & Veggies Party Food

*With this being our last newsletter item, may I take this opportunity to thank the families, children and school staff of Our Lady's Primary School for their support of the After School Care program and for the support shown to our team of Educators and myself throughout the year.*

*We wish Our Lady's Primary School all the success with their future After School Care service in 2018 and beyond.*

**Thank You, Brad and Our Lady's OSHC Team**

A variety of seasonal fruit and vegetables are always offered to children for afternoon snack! A variety of arts, crafts, board games, construction, recreational activities, sensory and imaginary play opportunities are available every day for children to choose. Homework & Home Readers Time – Our YMCA staff are there to encourage home readers and homework and most days we set aside a time to encourage this! If you or someone else is picking up your child (children) early from school and they are not attending the after school care, please let OSHC Team know. **Please remember children need to bring their school hat (Broadbrim Hat, Bucket Hat or Legionaries Hat) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> May and sunscreen will need to be applied when playing outside.**

## School Holiday Program

*Families looking for a School Holiday Program for the Summer Holidays, YMCA offers School Holiday Programs in the greater Western and Northern regions, please visit our website [www.childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au](http://www.childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au)*

*For School Holiday Programs closer to our Sunshine/Footscray area provided through alternative providers, please visit the Australian Government website Starting Blocks [www.startingblocks.gov.au/find-child-care/](http://www.startingblocks.gov.au/find-child-care/)*

*There may be certain circumstances where children receive gifts or prizes throughout the year as part of our advertised programs. These occasions would be advertised on our program planners to provide parents/guardians with prior notification. Occasions where children may receive gifts/prizes as advertised are as follows: last day of school terms, end of year celebrations, designated holiday program days, cultural and festive celebration days and during organised program competitions. **Thank You, Brad and Our Lady's OSHC Team***



# LOOK WHO'S MOVING IN



Camp Australia is proud to have partnered with Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and we look forward to seeing you soon in 2018! Stay tuned for more information coming soon.



To find out more about our program, who we are and to register for an account, visit us at [www.campaustalia.com.au](http://www.campaustalia.com.au)





## Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

# Goodbye primary school, hello secondary

The end of primary school is a significant milestone in children's lives. They've spent half their lives in primary school, in many cases in the same school, which is significant.

Developmentally they've come a long way from those skinny little kids who lined up for class on the first day holding a parent's or carer's hand. Now entering puberty, most are taller than their mothers and the only people they'll hold hands with are 'special friends', but not in public. Those displays of affection will come later in the secondary school years.

Changing from primary to secondary brings a mixture of emotions in kids such as excitement, apprehension, pride and, in many cases, sadness about leaving friends and familiar surrounds behind.

Parents often go through the same range of emotions as children at this time so we need to acknowledge those feelings in ourselves, just as we should in our children.

### LOOKING BACK

This is a time for kids to celebrate their achievements; show appreciation to their teachers and enjoy the friendships that they've formed. **Here are three ideas:**

#### 1 Let's celebrate

Primary school graduation ceremonies play an important part in the primary school life, as they mark the end of an era and the start of a new part of their lives. We need to be careful that the meaning doesn't become lost as graduations become increasingly lavish, even to the point where some students are transported to their graduation in a stretch limo. *Keep them simple and keep them close to the school's values.*

#### 2 Show gratitude

As a former teacher I know how much a simple thank you can mean from students at the end of the year. So make sure your kids take the time to thank their final year teacher and as well as seek out to thank other teachers who contributed to their education over their primary school journey. *Gratitude costs nothing but has a great impact.*

#### 3 Enjoy friendships

Encourage your kids to be open and friendly at this time of the year, and steer clear of

cliques and fellow students who want to exclude others from their groups. The end of primary school can be tricky to navigate, particularly when early maturers stick together and ostracise certain classmates. *This is the time for friendly behaviour and inclusiveness.*

### LOOKING AHEAD

When primary school is finished and the holidays are coming to an end it's time to focus on the new experiences of secondary school. Some kids take secondary school in their stride but it is natural to experience some difficulty.

If your eldest is starting, then secondary school will be a relatively new experience for you too. It will take some time for you to adjust to the school's culture and communication methods.

Your attitude as a parent can help your child quickly adjust. **Here are three ideas for you to help kids make a smooth adjustment:**

more on page 2



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.







## ... Goodbye primary school, hello secondary school ...

### 1 Promote friendships

The quicker kids form new friendships the sooner they'll feel comfortable in their secondary school surroundings. Encourage your young person to be open to forming friendships with all sorts of kids; to be accepting of others who may be different to them; to take social risks by joining in activities even though they may feel uncomfortable; and to be friendly, approachable and positive!

### 2 Be ready to listen

Patience and understanding in the early weeks is essential. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it's normal to feel unsure or nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many difficulties they face will be temporary.

### 3 Keep your attitude positive

Confidence is catching so make sure you see this transition time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than an event to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss settling in issues with the appropriate person such as a year level coordinator, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

Michael Grose



# Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

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## Building parent-school partnerships



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.



[parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)

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# Prepare for the Lord Jesus

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B



## Who is John the Baptist?

Indicate whether each answer is either true or false



The cousin of Jesus

☐ True  
☐ False



A pharisee

☐ True  
☐ False



Elijah

☐ True  
☐ False



The son of Elizabeth

☐ True  
☐ False



A preacher

☐ True  
☐ False



The Messiah

☐ True  
☐ False

## Gospel

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



The third Sunday in Advent is called **Gaudete Sunday**; the **Sunday of Joy**! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?