



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19 March 2020

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

'So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the Glory of God' Cor 10:31

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 16-Fri 20 Mar

Catholic Education Week

Fri 20 Mar

2.40pm Assembly including Easter Raffle

Mon 23-Fri 27 Mar

Cultural Diversity Week

Thurs 26 March

Open Day. POSTPONED

Fri 27 March

End of Term 1 at 3.15pm

Tues 14 April

Start of Term 2 at 8.45am

Wed 15—Wed 22

Dental Van at Our Lady's

Sat 25 April

ANZAC Day

Tues 5 May

7.00pm Eucharist Parent Meeting

SACRAMENTS

Eucharist

Sunday 17th May

Sunday 24th May

Reconciliation

Wednesday 22nd July

Confirmation

Friday 20th November

Dear Parent,

I am writing to you to reassure you that the staff have been working very hard to make sure that in the event of a school closure your child will have access to continuous learning opportunities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dedicated staff for all the work they have been and are doing to ensure that we are fully prepared for a school closure.

We are fortunate to have the Seesaw app already in place to communicate with parents about their child's learning. In the event of a school closure the Seesaw app will be the main form of communication between school and families. It is our goal to keep connected with all students and parents so that learning continues. We have arranged for a diversity of learning opportunities both on and off line. It is important that we keep these varied. I ask for parents' collaboration in this matter. Staff will be sharing what their usual day in the classroom looks like for you to follow if you wish. The staff are preparing the students by going over the learning tasks and sharing their expectations with the students so that they are aware and know what has been put into place for their learning to continue.

I would like to also inform you of further measures that the school will take as of tomorrow to ensure we are doing all we can to continue to meet challenges, during this difficult time of adjustment for everyone.

I ask all students to bring their water bottles as they will not be drinking from the school taps. Students will have many opportunities to fill their water bottles as needed. The school will provide any child who does not have a water bottle with one.

Restricting people who come to our school to only the essential persons. This includes the suspension of the Music Bus lessons until further notice. The Music Bus will get in contact with families to communicate alternative arrangements. They are currently working on this and you will soon receive information from them about how to proceed from now on.

Parents to move quickly in and out of the school before and after school and not to enter the classroom.

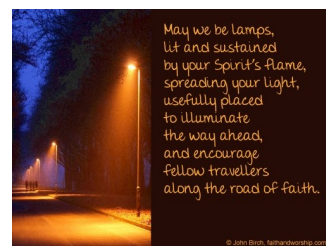
Also no children on the adventure playground either before or after school. Continue to communicate with your child's teacher or staff via email.

Continued reinforcing of best hygiene practice from school and home, as shared in previous correspondence.

Reinforcing social distancing and talking about the importance of this with the students and also by rearranging the seating in classrooms and adding outdoor and larger spaces for use F-6.

The Bishops of Victoria have communicated that all masses and liturgies across the Melbourne, Sale, Ballarat and Sandhurst Dioceses have been suspended until further notice. You can continue to participate in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures or participating in a Mass online - (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

Not all of these initiatives reflect our normal practice. Our Lady's is a school which is hospitable to all but as you can understand we are responding to unprecedented challenges. The children's wellbeing is at the forefront of our minds and I thank both the parents and the staff for your understanding and cooperation. I know that staying cohesive and working together will ensure that we are doing the very best we can for each other and our community. Please don't hesitate to ring or email me if you have any concerns.



PRAYER FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

On March 17 we celebrate Saint Patrick.

This saint travelled all over Ireland teaching people.



God of all people, this week we celebrate Saint Patrick and all he means to us. Saint Patrick told the people of Ireland about the Trinity: father, Son and Holy Spirit. Saint Patrick baptised people and built churches. Saint Patrick shared his faith with others so they would know you. Saint Patrick told the people of Ireland the good news of your love. Help us to be like Saint Patrick and share the good news of Jesus Christ with others in our world. Amen



Our Lady's School community - A School that welcomes everyone

Our Lady's Primary School has a long 100 year tradition of welcoming people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds into our community.

This has been a very integral part of our school identity ever since its very beginning 100 years ago. We are a truly multicultural school and we consciously reach out and embrace the diversity of our community. Our most recent new arrivals have been the Burmese community. They have enriched our school with their presence.

For many of our Burmese families they have come from places of conflict or great challenges and are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of our community.

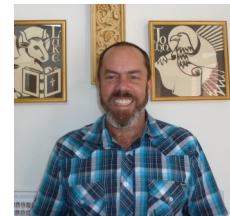
To support their transition into a new country Our Lady's has asked the new families what they would like as well as partnered with Brimbank Council and VICSEG to look at ways we can support them. This year we have been able to offer English classes for all of term one and hopefully in term 2 to help our new families learn skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. This has been made possible thanks to a partnership with VICSEG. As a result we have received funding for an English teacher and childcare to run a weekly session for our Burmese community in Mariana Hall (next door to school) on Thursdays (from 9.00-12.00pm).

These have been well attended and helped us bring the community together to increase their sense of connection to the school and the spirit that is embraced and led by Our Ladies as a Catholic Community.

Thanks to all of the people who have helped make this happen and the community that continues to join us in learning.



A big thank you to Greg Woolford pictured below who is our Family School Partnerships Convenor and has led this important initiative in our school. This initiative is one of many that Our Lady's school implements to make our school a more inclusive community.



EASTER RAFFLE

Thankyou to all the families who have purchased their Easter Raffle tickets. They will be available for \$1 on our QKR app until 10.00am tomorrow Friday 20 March.



The Raffle will be drawn and prizes given out at our Assembly from Ms Bertani's office TOMORROW!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for the Parents and Friends for 2020 has been postponed until further notice



Yours sincerely,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani
Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

RE NEWS

For the past few weeks, all students have been involved in recreating a Station of the Cross in a modern, contemporary way. To recontextualize each event means that students have put thought into what may be representative of the Station in our current time. These representations will be hung on classroom windows to be reflected upon, by the school community.

Next week, week 9, all students will be involved in praying the Stations of the Cross to commemorate Jesus' last days on Earth. During this mini-pilgrimage, we move from station to station, (window to window) recalling and meditating on specific events from the day of His condemnation.

This will be done by each class group at various times during next week.



PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations,
As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,

May our fasting strengthen our
commitment to live in solidarity,
Our almsgiving be an act of justice,
And our prayers anchor us in love
and compassion.

Awaken our hearts and minds that
we may be one human family

As we all go further together.

We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA
End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity
LENT.CARITAS.ORG.AU

SCHOOL PIX - SCHOOL PHOTOS

What wonderful smiles we saw on Monday for our School Photos!

If your child was absent on Monday, Schoolpix offer retake days at their offices in Hallam during the school holidays.

Parents can call Customer Service on 1300 765 055 to book a time.

Please note that group photographs cannot be re-taken therefore your child's name will consequently appear in the absent line.





OUR LADY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

32 Station Place
Sunshine Victoria 3020

Telephone: (03) 9312 2230
Facsimile: (03) 9312 2313

ABN 82 500 307 649



March 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

Kind regards,

Patrizia Bertani
Principal





The Music Bus brings music to your school

The Music Bus is the teacher, instruments, curriculum and classroom (the bus!), all in one complete package; and it's now rocking at your school.

Tuition in Keyboard, Ukulele, Singing, Drums, Guitar and Rock Band.



Guitar

Keyboard

Drums

Ukulele

Singing

Rockband

only \$20 per week (\$22 for Drums)

The Music Bus offers modern and rock-style courses, using well-known songs backing tracks, games, awards and much more to truly engage with students.

"It's so great being at school. They're learning something new each week and the rapport the teacher has with the kids is wonderful."

Sarah, Parent, NSW

**BOOK
NOW!**

**phone 1300 168 742 or
visit www.themusicbus.com.au**

Limited space available so be sure not to miss out.

INSIGHTS

Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus pandemic



If you're like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That's only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days.

International travel bans, cancellation of sporting and cultural events, shopping frenzies and talk of school closures continue to dominate the airwaves. Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and may soon become part of our daily lives.

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and children healthy and safe is our main concern, it's also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

Build on what your children know

Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about corona virus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know.

Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like "What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you're not sure about?" Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

Check your own thoughts and feelings

Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they'll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, "You've got to wash your hands or you'll get infected," you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn't heighten your child's anxieties.

Stay informed

It's difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However you need to educate yourself about the virus itself, including how it's transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current federal government corona virus information media campaign.

parenting*ideas

Answer questions truthfully

It's important that parents and teachers answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time. If their sport or hobby has been temporarily cancelled empathise with their concerns, while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.

Initiate positive action

One way to reduce anxiety and allay children's fears is to involve them in planning and preparation for their personal and group safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene, greeting people with an elbow tap and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control, that is so important for their wellbeing.

Find refuge in rituals

Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change. Consider reconstituting favoured family rituals at this time if they have lapsed due to lack of time, or lifestyle frenzy.

Look outwards

In difficult times there is a tendency to look inwards, which is a natural protective strategy. The alternative is to establish a sense of connection and community spirit by focusing on generosity and togetherness. Help children see past their own needs and look for ways to assist others whether it's shopping for an elderly neighbour, helping a younger sibling occupy themselves, or planning an indoor movie night for the whole family.

The Coronavirus presents many practical challenges to parents and other important adults in the lives of kids. Staying calm, keeping informed, and adjusting our own habits are just some of the challenges we face. However a significant challenge is one of personal leadership. That is, during these difficult times we need to be civil to each other, look out for each other and be mindful of the common good in everything we do. In this, we can all take a significant lead.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.



LENT Jesus heals the blind man

4th Sunday of Lent, Year A



Draw the story of Jesus healing the blind man



Jesus smears mud on the eyes of a man who was born blind.



The blind man washes in Siloam pool and is able to see.



The man is happy now he can see.
Many people could not believe what had happened.

Gospel Jn 9:1.6-12.35-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. Jesus spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Help the blind man find Siloam Pool

