



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY

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At OLQP we are united by our faith in providing quality Catholic education within a diverse community. We are committed to nurturing a positive environment which values truth, respect and trust

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2019. I hope everyone had a great holiday and a well-deserved rest. I hope the new year is peaceful and fulfilling for us all.

Following are some important points for the beginning of the year and more information about our school is available on our website: www.olqpgreystanes.catholic.edu.au. and this includes the parent calendar with upcoming dates.

Each week we celebrate the success of our students at Our Lady Queen of Peace by presenting awards aligned with our school expectations ***Learn Well, Look After Each Other and Live Responsibly***. As each of the student's successes is equally significant, we will no longer be assigning a cumulative value to these awards. Commencing in 2019, there will be no bronze, silver or gold awards and they will be replaced with a school Merit Award.

All staff are also continuing to reward student behaviour with a 'Lorry' token when they are observed following the school expectations. Students are encouraged to add their Lorry to their grade 'nest'. Once the nest is full, the students vote to choose a reward for their grade.

Below is an anticipated schedule of awards for 2019:

Each Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Stage 1/ Stage 1 • Stage 2 • Stage 3
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We look forward to continuing to celebrate your children's academic and personal achievements as we begin another exciting year at OLQP. As always, we welcome your attendance at assembly held weekly on Monday mornings from 8:55 - 9:15am.

New Building Changes

The School Office is now located on the ground floor of the Year 6 building. The current double gates near the drop off area, will be opened at 8.15am and closed at 9.00am as usual. After 9.00am all visitors entering the school will have to use the gate outside the new office. Visitors will need to sign in at the office and they will be given access to the school. Parents will also need to sign in their child, if they arrive late. Please do not leave your child unattended at the front gate. Parking around the school (particularly Braeside Road) can be difficult and this is certainly the case for most schools and cannot be avoided. Parents may have to park some distance from the school and walk to the office.

The Library has been converted into two, very exciting, learning spaces to house our Year 5 students. The library books have been distributed to various parts of the school and children will still be able to borrow reading books.

These changes will allow for the beginning of the first stage of our building project. The current Year 5 rooms and administration building will be fenced off, demolished and made ready for the construction of 8 learning spaces. More information about the project will be discussed at a parent meeting early in term one.

Goals

Each year the schools in our Diocese establish goals that become a focus for learning across the year. These goals are developed from data that identifies areas of focus. They are written with the staff and are organised under the headings of Religious Education, Literacy and Numeracy. We will unpack these goals across the year and refer to them in our newsletters. For 2019 they are:

- To develop a deep understanding of Mission as a call to action
- To use Purposeful talk to write texts with a clear message
- To justify solutions to a range of mathematical problems

COOL School

In 2019 we would like to invite all parents to participate in the children's learning. One such opportunity is our **Celebration Of Our Learning – COOL School**. To begin this process, we have organised our first event to take place over 2 sessions. The first session will take place between 9.30am -10.30am and the second session will take place between 3.00pm and 6.00pm so that working parents have a chance to attend. At these times your child will lead you through what is happening in the class and show you examples of their learning. Following is a list of our COOL School events:

Monday 4th March (Beginning of Catholic Schools Week - open classes from 9.30am to 10.30am OR 3.00pm to 6.00pm.

Friday 10th May Mother's Day 8.00am to 9.00am – Breakfast and open classes followed by a liturgy.

Week beginning 1st July - Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences.

30th August Father's Day 8.00am to 9.00am - Breakfast and open classes followed by a liturgy.

Mobile Phones

Mobile Phones are not a necessary item and as such should remain at home. If it is necessary for a particular reason, please place a request in writing. In this case the phone will be handed in to the office on arrival at school. Ipods and other devices should not be brought to school.

School uniform and haircuts

School uniform is an important part of school readiness. Please refer to the Parent Handbook and the Uniform Shop list for the correct uniform items to be worn by students. Running shoes that are predominantly white are a necessary part of these requirements. Wrist-bands, nail polish, necklaces and other accessories are not part of the uniform. Standard, even length haircuts are to be maintained. Undercuts are not acceptable. These rules are in place to avoid variations on what should be a collective approach to uniform.

New staff members

At the end of 2018 Ms Alana Abi-Arrage took on a full-time position and Mrs Lisa Isaac will be working one day per week in our office. School Counsellors are employed for a four year period and as such Mrs Angelique Fernandez has taken on a position in another school in our Diocese. Our new school counsellor for 2019 is Mrs Pam Faggella. Welcome to both new members of staff.

Travelling to and from School

Families travelling by car to and from school are aware of the high level of traffic around the school. Your co-operation with using Kiss and Ride correctly is important for the safety of everyone in our school. In the morning, please ensure that your child exits the vehicle on the passenger side and walks directly through the school gates. There will not be a teacher in attendance at the gate in the mornings. Teachers will be on duty in the afternoon for dismissal. Parking can be difficult, and it may be necessary to park some distance from the school if you need to come into the school grounds. Traffic wardens and Police do monitor the area from time to time and heavy fines are given out for parking in driveways, doing a U-turn in the street and other driving infringements. Please be conscious of local residents and **do not park across driveways**. Safety remains our most important consideration.

At no time are parents permitted to park or drop off children in St Paul's/Parish carpark.

Canteen

Canteen Orders are now quick and easy and can be purchased in advance using the Qkr app. Instructions for downloading the app are on our canteen website. Sandwiches only are available as standard lunch orders. Canteen helpers are still very much needed to help prepare lunches in the morning so if you are available please contact the office or contact Kim Farrugia via the Qkr app.

Meeting the teacher

As mentioned with COOL School events, parents will have an opportunity to meet the classroom teacher. If you would like to spend more time discussing your child's progress, please contact the office and make an appointment.

Attendance

Our system of schools adopted a very definite approach to school attendance in 2017. The phrase "Every Learner Every Day" was used to highlight the significance of consistent school attendance and its impact on learning. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please make sure you notify the office and write a note for the teacher. The class roll is a legal document that must be kept by the school. Attendance will be recorded on the half yearly and yearly reports.

Apps for parents to use

Skoolbag is an app that can be downloaded to your phone as a form of communication with the school. It is available from iTunes and Google Play. Just search for OLQP Greystanes and you will see our school crest. We use the app to send important messages to parents and parents can use it to send messages to school. The school newsletter can also be accessed with the app.

Qkr is a Mastercard app that is used for parents to order lunches from the canteen, order school uniforms online and make donations for our fundraising events. For more information see our school canteen website <https://www.olqpgreystanescanteen.com/>.

Facebook was used very successfully last year to feature student achievements. We also advertise Parish events and upcoming school events.

Have a great year.

Yours faithfully

Michael Hopley
Principal