



Our Lady Queen of Peace

Newsletter – Term 4 Week 8, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:



Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

I am very pleased to back at school after a wonderful trip to the Holy Land and Rome. The experience of pilgrimage is a life-changing one. To walk in the footsteps of Jesus is very tangible way of understanding the message of the Gospel and I feel very privileged to have been part of this experience with 20 other Principals in our Diocese. The world is full of extremes but the conflict that exists in Israel and Palestine is in complete contrast to the message of hope and love and peace that was so characteristic of Jesus and the Apostles in the early Christian communities. I was also privileged to be part of the huge crowd in St Peter's Square the day after the tragedy in Paris, to pray the Angelus with Pope Francis and listen to his message of peace for the world. Over the next few weeks I am hoping to be able to share some of my experiences with the children to attempt to help them understand their faith a deeper level.



Mt Nebo where Moses led the chosen people



Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem



Lake Galilee

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Garzaniti and Mr Knight for taking on the leadership of the school in my absence. They are both outstanding leaders as are all members of our leadership team. We are very fortunate to have this calibre of leadership in our school.

The staff are busily working on our end of year reports and these will be sent home on Thursday 3rd December. This is a great opportunity to check on your child's progress and acknowledge areas of success and growth. Please remember that a grade of 'C' means that a child is working at an appropriate stage level. More information regarding grades will be included with the report. Please take the time to read this carefully.

As we approach the end of the year I believe it is important to emphasise some of the expectations that we have that make our school safe and help to maintain a high level of organisation. Those parents who use Kiss and Ride, please remember to be patient and display your child's name in the front window of your car. Be very aware of the children's safety and other drivers. If you are entering or leaving the school at dismissal time please use the gate near year 5, not the main gate. Children will be dismissed from Area B, not from the Year 5 classrooms. Haircuts with lines and other designs are not appropriate and running shoes need to be predominantly white. Both of these are proper school uniform expectations that will be maintained. Absenteeism remains a significant factor in children's progress. Please talk to the class teacher if your child is away for any unusual length of time and provide a letter for the absence. If you are not returning to school next year, could you please contact the office as soon as possible.

Some preliminary planning for 2016 includes the first week of school. The staff will meet together on Wednesday 27th January from 8.00am to 12.00pm. We will then be conducting our MAI (Mathematical Assessment Interview) on that day and continuing on Thursday 28th January. School will start for all classes except Kindergarten on Friday 29th January and this will give the teachers an opportunity to meet their children and set some expectations for the year before we begin our first full week of learning on Monday 1st February (kindergarten will start on this date). More information will be sent home soon, confirming these dates and the details for online booking.

Thank for your welcoming
Have a great week.

Michael Hopley

P & F ASSOCIATION NOMINATION MEETING

The AGM meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st December at 7.30pm in the school library and the current P & F committee will stand down to allow new faces join the committee. There are executive positions available: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are also positions as a committee member without a set role. Please come along on the night and join our committee. There is no requirement to take on a role but it's great to have your input and we always have an enjoyable time together.

OLQP UNIFORM SHOP

Attention Kindergarten 2016 Parents – The uniform shop allocates an appointment time for you to purchase your child's uniform for 2016, and by purchasing early, we can ensure that all students have their uniforms for the commencement of the 2016 school year.

To help us allocate a time suitable for you from the dates below:

MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2015 3.00pm-6.00pm
THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2015 9.30am-11.30am
THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2016 9.00am- 11.00am

The Uniform shop ONLY opens during the School Term, NOT school holidays, unless advised. We recommend appointments, as there will be long delays once students return to the new school year, as the uniform shop is opened for the entire school. We also have Clark school shoes available for sale at very reasonable prices and predominantly white running shoes for sports days. We fit shoes and allow for growth, but are happy to exchange if there is a growth spurt after the holidays.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO TRAVEL PASSES- OPAL CARD

The School Opal card has officially launch its new online application for students travelling in the Opal public transport region.

The application can be found at transportnsw.info/school-students

The School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. The School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don't need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card unless they are changing schools, campus, their home address or moving from year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7.

Those students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal card sent to the school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

CANTEEN UPDATE:

Thank you to all Canteen Volunteers for your help 2015, don't forget our night out this Friday 27th November. It's not too late to book your sit. Come see me before Friday.

I am now looking for volunteers for 2016 so I can put a new roster together. Please don't be shy, as this is great way to make new friends. The work is easy and the look on your child's face when you are helping is priceless. Please let me know if you are available and what times. For my existing team of wonderful mums please let me know if you need to make any changes, if you have not done so already.

The last of the Meal Deals went home this week, however I will offer one last Sushi Day on Wednesday December 9.



We all know the importance of reading for literacy development and the impact a prolonged break, like the Christmas holidays, can have on this advancement, particularly for vulnerable readers.

These summer holidays, I will once again be launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

How to enter: It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

Enter online www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge

Entries open on 2 November 2015 and close at 5pm on 5 February 2016.

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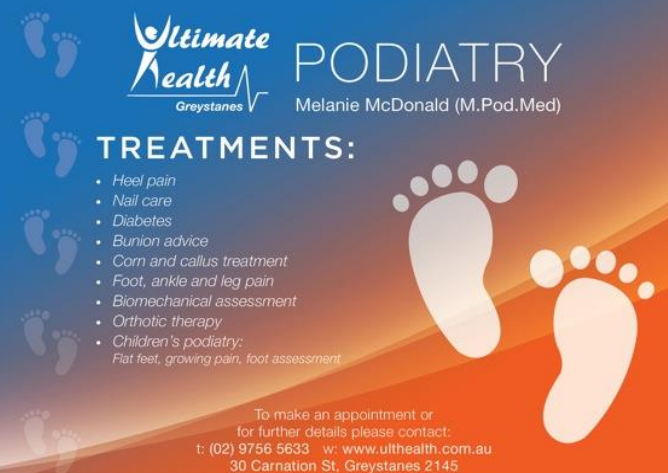


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