Dear Parents & Families,

Thank you to the parents who attended our Parent Helper Refresher Training last Wednesday. As part of their training, all parents completed the new Child Safe Standards process for Volunteers in Schools and will now be able to support our classroom programs. We are very grateful for their ongoing support and look forward to commencing the training of our new helpers in March.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS TRIALS

Selection of our District Athletics Team has commenced in Physical Education lessons and will continue over the next two weeks. Those selected will represent OLW in the District Athletics Competition at Meadowglen Athletics Stadium on Wednesday March 8.

SILVER COIN CHALLENGE

We are just over half way in the Challenge and some of our classes have been doing exceptionally well in collecting 5, 10 & 20c pieces, with one class close to filling the container. The challenge ends next Tuesday, so keep those coins coming in.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Years 1 – 6 will be attending the Parish 10.00am Mass on Ash Wednesday (March 1) to mark the beginning of the Church Season of Lent.

OPEN EVENING

OLW is holding an Open Evening and Guided Tours for prospective and current families on Wednesday, March 15, from 4.00pm - 6.00pm. Our School Captains will be hosting the tours of the school whilst our staff will be available in their learning spaces. Information has been distributed to the local Kinders, but please feel free to let other people know about the evening. A flyer is included in today’s newsletter. We currently have 15 applications for next year and we have a limit of 25, so if your child is 4 year old Kinder, please collect an Enrolment Form as soon as possible as places are limited.

2017 SCHOOL FEES/ LEVY ACCOUNTS / STATEMENTS WERE SENT TO EVERY FAMILY ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY.

Some School Fee statements have bounced back as some families have changed their email address or no longer hold that email account. If you did not receive your statement and have a new email address can you please notify the office as soon as possible.

EDUCATION BOARD

Our Education Board is an important body who support the work of the school and provide advice to the Principal and Parish Priest on school matters. At the end of 2016 one member concluded their time on the Board as their children have now finished primary school. Therefore, we are seeking 1 new member for the Board for a period of tenure of up to 3 years.

If there is more than 1 nomination then this will need to go to a vote of the school community.

To give you some idea of the work and responsibilities of the Board, I have included some information in today’s newsletter. Some of the main purposes and responsibilities of the Board are:

- to act as a forum for discussion on matters concerning education;
- to provide a link between the parish priest, principal, teachers and parishioners in relation to the provision of Catholic education in the parish community;
- to promote community development;
- to promote the Catholic ethos of the school and to support the Religious Education programs;
- to provide advice on school policies when required, to plan for the future of the parish primary school and its ability to accommodate future enrolments.

Some of the key qualities and skills for members of boards are:

- Commitment to Catholic education in the parish and school
o Commitment to the vision and mission of the parish and school
o An understanding of the role of parish priest, principal and board members
o Willingness to ask questions and seek clarification
o Ability to think strategically
o Willingness to support the contributions of other board members
o Capacity to listen in an active and meaningful way
o Willingness to work co-operatively with others
o Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times.

Our Meeting dates for 2017 are:
March 22, May 10, June 14, August 2, September 6, and November 15.

If you are interested in becoming a Board member, please complete the response form attached, and return it to the school office by Friday February 24.

Have a great week!

Kevin Burke

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Students from Year 1 – 6 will also be attending the Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday, March 1st at 10.00am. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and is a very important time in the Church year. All families are most welcome to join us in celebrating this Mass.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

FEBRUARY SILVER COIN CHALLENGE

To start the year off we will be running our Silver Coin Classroom fundraising challenge in the month of February. Bring to school all the 5, 10 and 20 cent pieces you have been saving or collecting.

The class who raises the most money will receive the perpetual trophy and a free hot chip lunch. Many grades have made a great start this year, with one close to full already! Who will be the winning classroom this year?

ICY POLES

Icy poles will be sold during lunchtime on MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS for Term 1. The cost of an icy pole is 50 cents.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking will be every Wednesday during the school term. All bank books and new applications can be sent to the office every Wednesday.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our Lady of the Way school photo day will be on TUESDAY MARCH 14. Full Summer uniform is to be worn.

2017 FAMILY SCHOOL FEES

2017 FAMILY SCHOOL FEE will be:
$1350.00 per family.
The breakdown of the Fee is:
FAMILY FEE $1200.00
REFURBISHMENT $100.00
WORKING BEE $50.00
(Please note that $50.00 will still be refunded if families attend at least one Working Bee during the year.)

STUDENT LEVY FEE

In 2017 the Student Levy per child will be $380.00
The Levy cost covers programs such as the swimming program, excursions, incursions, Phys Ed equipment and Art materials etc.

As always, families are able to pay by direct deposit, credit card, eftpos, cash or cheque. Families who wish to set up a payment plan are most welcome to contact the school office to organise this with Anna. Banking details are listed below for those who wish to use internet banking. Please include your eldest child’s full name as the reference.

School Banking Details:
Bank: National Australia Bank Ltd
BSB: 083 347
Account No: 691378781

If you have any concerns with the school fees or payments, please let the office know so that an appointment can be arranged with the principal.
CSEF - CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURIONS FUND

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is $125 for primary school students.

Please complete the attached application form and return to the office with your concession card no later than February 29th.

OLW 2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
MON 20 SWIMMING
TUE 21 SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM
MON 27 SWIMMING
TUE 28 SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

MARCH
WED 1 ASH WEDNESDAY MASS
MON 6 SWIMMING
TUE 7 SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM
WED 8 DISTRICT ATHLETICS
NEW HELPER TRAINING
MON 13 LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
TUE 14 SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM
WED 15 FIRE CARRIER DAY
MON 20 SWIMMING
TUE 21 SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM
WED 22 NEW HELPER TRAINING
THUR 23 SWIMMING
SUN 26 FIRST EUCHARIST COMMITMENT MASS
TUE 28 SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

LITERACY HELPER TRAINING

NEW PARENT HELPER TRAINING

New Parent Helper Training commences on Wednesday March 8 and continues on Wednesday March 22 from 9.00 – 10.30am. Any parents who would like to assist in the classroom need to attend the two sessions.

If Parents are unable to attend the Refresher or New Parent Training sessions in Term 1, a second round of sessions will be repeated early in term 2 on dates to be advised. Please complete the response form attached to today’s newsletter if you wish to be a Parent Helper in 2017.

Allison Luff (Literacy Leader)

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE ENROLMENT:
The enrolment process is now available through the OLW school website at:


Families can download the My Family Lounge app from the itunes store or google play store and book their children in using the MyLounge app.

The link for the website is:

EDUCATION BOARD NOMINATION

Name: ________________________________
Contact Phone No: ________________________________

I wish to nominate for a position on the Our Lady of the Way Parish Education Board.

Signed: ________________________________
Date: ________________________________
LITERACY NEWS

Professional Development for Staff
This year Our Lady of the Way is further developing our Literacy program by using the skills and expertise of external Literacy Consultants. As a staff we will be focussing on the teaching of comprehension, working in partnership with Literacy Tutors from Melbourne University. The consultants, Martina Tassone and Marian Corsetti, are also running our school closure professional development days this year. You might see Marian Corsetti at OLW on Tuesdays, as she will also be working in the classrooms to model and collaborate best teaching practices in reading.

Take Home Readers Years Prep-2
Students in Year 1 & 2 have already started bringing books home to read as their reader. The Preps will begin this process shortly. Reading at home with your child has many academic and social emotional benefits. We must stress the importance of getting students motivated to read and be engaged in books.

Prep
In Prep this year, take home readers will be brought home on a Monday and returned on the Friday. Children in Prep will bring 5 readers home on a Monday to be returned on Friday. The children need to read each night, it is the practise of reading each night that help students with decoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension strategies. Some students may read 1 book each night, a couple of books each night or the same book each night. To engage students in reading, let the children have the chance to choose the book they want to read. Please do not bring readers back to school to be changed on a day other than Friday. If only 3 books are returned on a Friday, then they will only be allowed to take 3 books home the following week.

Year 1 & 2
In Year 1 & 2, students will have the opportunity to change their readers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Some students will have longer and more detailed books that they may wish to keep for a week. Other students will read the same book each night. Repeated reading of a book is a great opportunity to improve fluency and vocabulary.

Please remember to fill in the reading journal with your child each night and ensure that reading occurs every night for 15 - 20 minutes.

Allison Luff (Literacy Leader), Catherine Laycock, Jessica Penzo and Sylvia Grabek
OUR LADY OF THE WAY
KINGSBURY

School Tours & Open Evening
Wednesday March 15 2017
4.00pm to 6.00pm

Everyone is most welcome to come along and:
- Meet our friendly Staff
- Meet our Student Leaders
- Tour the School and view all Classrooms, Specialist Areas and our grounds.
- Collect an Enrolment Pack
Prep 2018 Information Night

School Tours
THURSDAY APRIL 27 &
THURSDAY MAY 4 @ 9.15AM

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
THURSDAY MAY 11

Thursday March 30 @ 7.00pm
Parish of Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury
Presbytery: 13 Green Ave, Kingsbury, 3083
Parish Priest: Fr Terry Bergin Tel: 9462 1221 School Tel: 9460 6684
Email: terrybergin1@bigpond.com
Parish Website: OLW Kingsbury
Mass Timetable
Saturday – Vigil Mass: 6.00PM
Sunday: 8.00AM and 10.00AM
Weekdays: 10.00AM
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday from 5.15 to 5.45PM
Rosary Monday to Saturday: 9.30AM
Divine Mercy Chaplet After Mass Daily
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday from 9.00 to 9.30AM
Baptisms and Marriages by appointment: Please ring 9462 1221

Entrance Antiphon: Oh Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

Readers for Sunday Mass
19th Feb 6pm E Nguyen 8am M Brown 10am G Haridass
26th Feb 6pm J Conway 8am K McGrath 10am A Fernandez

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
19th Feb 6pm K Zanini 10am N George Swamy
26th Feb 6pm E Gleeson 10am B Hayes

OLW Church Cleaning Roster
25th Feb Professional Cleaners
11th March J McGoone, T McGree, D M Loriega, D I Corsa Me

OLW Sacristy Linen Laundering Roster
19th Feb Joan Fothergill
5th March Lan
15th Feb Church Account $1252.00
Presbytery Account $774.00

Parish Lunch: Wednesday Feb 22nd at “Coopers” Plenty Rd Bundoora. 12.00 noon.

Rose Marie Prosser: During the Lenten season this year Rose Marie will be having discussions with us on how our image of God has changed over the years and how we all have a different life story to tell because we are on our own journey. This is a general guide for the discussion during the month of March. So, on Wednesday the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March 10.45 in the foyer, Rose Marie will be with is once again. All are welcome.
2 February 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse commences in Sydney on 6 February 2017. The hearing is expected to conclude at the end of February.

For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this evil occurred.

Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, 'it is a sin that shames us'.

Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Royal Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue, to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children and vulnerable persons and to respond effectively when allegations of abuse are made.

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to, ‘find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated’.

I join my commitment and that of the Archdiocese to that of Pope Francis to do all that is necessary in the Archdiocese to ensure that there is no repeat of these evil crimes.

Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure the survivors and all those affected by abuse in the Archdiocese and all Catholics of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE