

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**NEWS IN BRIEF Term 1 Week 9 - 28 March 2017**

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the launch of "123 Magic" at OLD (ie the Parent Education programme offered for all parents at the beginning of Term 2). This programme is basically about improving the quality of the relationships we have with our children. As a lead-up to this important programme, I thought it might be interesting to include something 'game-breaking' regarding relationships over a series of up-and-coming school newsletters.

Recently, an OLD parent said to me that my job is largely about 'relationship development'. I have to agree with him but, on reflection, I add that most jobs people do are so much about relationship development. In fact, the most important thing we do in life is developing relationships.

Quite a few years ago, my wife saw me enjoying reading the book, "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" – (Stephen Covey) so she capitalised on the situation and purchased for me Stephen Covey's, "7 Habits of Highly Effective Families". It is suffice to say that this book had a profound effect on my 'relationship development' at home.

I have now been inspired to present the first of Covey's habits of highly effective families in this newsletter. Over the following six newsletters, I will present a brief summary of the other six. I hope and pray that Covey's 'habits' profoundly affect you too!

**Habit # 1 of highly effective families – (summary of 40 pages)**

## **BE PROACTIVE:**

*This is the key habit that unlocks the door to all the other habits. You'll find that people who continually avoid taking responsibility and lack initiative will not be able to fully cultivate the other habits. So, choose your attitude and be proactive in your relationships.*

- *Choose to be a better reflective listener in your home ... to your spouse and to your children*
- *Be proactive and learn to be good at apologising ... Also, be proactive and don't "bottle up" hurt feelings – talk about your feelings with confidence to the person you are concerned about ("YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A VICTIM UNTIL YOU FORGIVE")*
- *"Be loyal to those not present" – Be loyal to family and friends – Be loyal to everyone*
- *Make promises to your family ... Be faithful to your promises!*
- *Treat each problem in the home as an opportunity for family growth*
- *Initiate special celebrations ... Simply putting a candle on the table at dinner-time is "being proactive"*

## **School Photos Tomorrow:**

Don't forget full school uniform, with shiny shoes, for school photos tomorrow – Wednesday 29.3.17.

## COMING EVENTS

### MARCH

**Wed 29** School Photos

### APRIL

**Mon 3** Pre Holy Week Reflection - **CHANGED TO THUR 6 April.**

**Wed 5** Yr 6 Leadership Day @ Monte Sant Angelo

**Easter Raffle Draw (note change in date)**

**Thur 6** Pre Holy Week Reflection - Whole School at 2pm in the Church

**Fri 7** Last Day of Term 1 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Parish)

**Thu 13** Holy Thursday

**Sun 16** Easter Sunday

**Mon 24** Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)

**Tue 25** Anzac Day (Public Holiday)

**Wed 26** Start of Term 2

**Fri 28** Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)

**KEEP CHECKING THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE UNDER 'NEWS & EVENTS - EVENTS FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO DATES**

[www.olddb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olddb.catholic.edu.au)

### **Pre-Holy Week Reflection:**

On Thursday, 6th April, we invite you to attend our Whole School Reflection which will be held at 2pm in the Church.

### **Enrolments for Kindergarten 2018:**

This is an urgent reminder for established / existing families at OLD who have a child ready to commence at OLD in K2018: It is absolutely imperative that you fill out an application form immediately and make an appointment for an enrolment interview.

I am sending out this urgent reminder because I am presently halfway through a good number of prospective enrolments for K2018. It is my intention to try and finalise enrolments for K2018 over the coming 5 weeks.

Thank you.

### **Communication App' for OLD:**

Recently, I have been investigating a "Communication App'" for OLD; ie an App' like "SchoolBag" or "Satchel".

The Catholic Schools Office has strongly advised me not to establish a communication App' right now because they are presently developing diocesan software that will include a Phone Communication App'. I will keep parents informed about the progress of this important and convenient communication tool.

### **ICLT Developments at OLD:**

As outlined at this term's P+F Meeting, OLD is preparing to invest in considerable ICLT hardware for students and professional development for staff. Several developments include:

- In recent weeks, staff have been assessing OLD's needs re ICLT (ie in light of our educational needs and our education direction)
- Catholic Schools Office (CSO) support staff have assisted the School Leadership Team in shaping our direction; particularly re discussions to determine the most suitable ICLT 'purchase possibilities' K-6
- Establishing a long-term (4 year) purchasing vision to ensure 'rollover' and 'updating' is secure and effective. (NB this will ensure a significant outlay is not required again in 4 years' time, or it will ensure accumulated funds are on hand in 4 years)
- Preparations to outlay a significant financial investment in hardware and Professional Development - (NB the significant 2017 investment will draw on the healthy, 'existing' school ICLT fund-pool and not 'inconvenience' families)

All of the above will assist towards providing students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century resources to support:

- Enhanced problem solving opportunities
- Critical and creative thinking opportunities
- A culture of 'challenge'
- A culture that promotes 'innovation'
- Particular focus on 'real-world' issues
- Enhanced collaborative learning

### **Easter Raffle Tickets:**

*Just a reminder, there are still Easter Raffle Tickets available at the school office if anyone requires additional ones.*