

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS IN BRIEF Term 4 Week 7 - 21 November 2017

The Principal's Piece - Philip Ledlin

Dear Parents,

***What would you do
if Jesus came to Manly tomorrow?***

Move Bob Fulton to Inside Centre

(Graffiti written under the sign)

When I was a very young lad, the above sign was displayed outside a church in the Sydney suburb of Manly. A clever graffiti artist attacked the sign and had a bit of fun with the question. (Bob Fulton was the illustrious International Rugby League Footballer who coached and played for Australia ... His very successful local club team was "Manly". Fulton mostly played in the important playmaking position "Five Eighth" ... For those unfamiliar with the game of Rugby League, the Inside Centre receives the ball from the playmaking position 'Five Eighth'!

So, what would you do if Jesus came to OLD tomorrow? It gets us thinking, doesn't it! ... and ... the question reminds us that Jesus has indeed promised to 'come again'!

I recall my brother saying to me one time, "Philip, I hope Jesus doesn't 'come again' tomorrow because I'm not ready!" ... I hasten to add that he later told me about some serious mischief and wrongdoing that he was involved in. Clearly, my brother's conscience was well formed and he knew the importance of 'getting ready for Jesus' coming'.

Are you sometimes like me at Mass and forget to *really* pray the words, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again"?

We are fast approaching the season of Advent and this is often referred to as an important time to 'prepare for the coming of Jesus'.

Wishing you abundant blessings as we move closer to Advent ... Can you believe there's 12 sleeps until the first Sunday of Advent!

Farewell for Fr Paul – Sunday 26/11:

Fr Paul will be farewelled at a Parish-wide function to be held in Harrington Hall on Sunday 26 November 12-3pm - (Please note that the Parish Assembly that was set for the same date has been deferred until our new parish priest, Fr Jim, arrives).

Would you like to perform an 'item'/song at Fr Paul's farewell?

If you would like to perform at Fr Paul's farewell, please send a note to the school office marked "For Philip Ledlin" by tomorrow – (Wednesday 3pm) - I'll see what I can do to slot you into the agenda ☺

COMING EVENTS

November

- Wed 22** OLD School Band Demonstration 2:15pm
- Mon 27** Yr 6 Graduation Liturgy at 10:00am in the Church.
- Yr 6 Graduation Dinner
- Tues 28** Broken Bay Primary Sports Awards

December

- Fri 1** "Thank You Morning Tea" for parent/friend helpers 8:45am
- Wed 6** OLD School Swimming Carnival
- OLD's Vision & School Improvement Plan Meeting 5:30pm
- Band Concert 6pm
- Fri 8** OLD Christmas Evening 5:30pm
- Tues 12** Christmas Mufti & Raffle
- Wed 13** Band performing Christmas Carols at Chatswood Westfield.
- Fri 15** Last Day Term 4
- Christmas Liturgy in the Church at 10:15am

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

www.olddbb.catholic.edu.au

The Principal's Piece - Cont.

PARISH FAREWELL TO FATHER PAUL

Everyone is invited to attend a special function of gratitude and thanks for our dear friend Fr Paul in Harrington Hall on

Sunday 26 Nov 12-3 pm

Hot & cold finger food/drinks; sweets & treats

Music provided by guest musicians from the Parish

If you would like to donate money towards food and/or a Parish gift that will be presented at the function, please either use the coloured envelopes on the pews and drop them in baskets during the collection at mass or leave the donation with the Parish Office.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day or set up the Hall, please email Ditas at hnaguit@yahoo.com

Names for our Colour Houses at OLD:

An important goal of this year's School Improvement Plan has been to investigate ways to build on important aspects of our Mercy tradition and charism. So far this year, we have:

- introduced Mercy charisms specific for every grade at OLD
- studied Catherine McAuley (foundress of the Mercy order) in all classes K-6
- installed signage on the front wall facing Archer St stating, "Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School"
- kept the Mercy charism at the forefront of our recent School Vision and School Improvement Planning 2018-2020
- surveyed the staff and community asking if they would like to return to using the former OLD Mercy crest in favour of the present crest that was introduced 4 years ago
- worked with CSO, Fr Paul, Staff and Students to determine colour house names for our OLD colour houses (I particularly thank Fr Paul for assisting us to determine what colour went with the new colour house names. It is worth noting that Fr Paul is somewhat an expert on 'The Holy Land':
 - ◆ **Nazareth** – Gold/Yellow House – For the golden years of Mary's young son's boyhood.
 - ◆ **Bethlehem** – Blue House – For the baby boy Jesus, Mary's son.
 - ◆ **Cana** – Red House – Wine at the Wedding in Cana (We celebrate with red wine at Mass)
 - ◆ **Galilee** – Green House – Green for fertile green hills and vegetation of Galilee where Mary lived

How did we manage to finalise/determine the colour house names?

- Our Lady of Dolours is Our Lady of Sorrows, and her sorrows happened in places on Earth on her journey through her life. The realisation that we are all on a journey to Christ supports important reasons for the banner names ... We at OLD are ultimately called to follow the journey example of Mary
- The important naming process of colour houses is something the students (particularly S3) have benefited from over the past months as we've moved to and fro between many patrons saints and numerous other possibilities. Kathy Gray (REC) and I let the students have an important say in the process within the parameters we had to manage coming from Staff, CSO and our Parish.
- Our colour names are important when chanting at school sporting events, but their ultimate purpose is to inspire us about who we are, where we come from and what we as a school stand for as we journey together.

Finally, I thank Mrs Kathy Gray and Year 6 2017 for championing this historic process.

Results from 2 important parent surveys ... P+F Fundraising Levy and School Crest

Parents and Friends will recall 2 important surveys that the school issued recently regarding:

1. P+F Fundraising Levy Proposal (parent/guardian survey only)
2. Should we return to using the former OLD Mercy School Crest in place of the present crest that OLD has used for 4 years? (parent/guardian and staff survey) ... (NB students were also considered within a separate survey too)

The Principal's Piece - Cont.

The results are as follows:

1. The P+F 'fundraising levy' can't go ahead with the % of support we have. Therefore, we'll have to rely on fundraising strategies as per 2017 going forward. I'm sure we can turn this into a positive considering our 'community engagement' vision
2. The former OLD crest (ie the traditional crest up until 4 years ago) is considerably preferred, and we will therefore move forward with gradual change into 2018 and beyond.

Below is a photo from the front of our school. You will notice the 2 crests in the one photo. The crest on the left will now be officially adopted for OLD School. I assure parents that they do not need to replace any school uniforms. We will simply transition over time back to the traditional crest.



Meeting: School Vision and our School Improvement Plan 2018-2020 – 6.12.17 5.30pm

On Wednesday 6 December 5.30pm, Parents and Friends are invited to an information and discussion meeting regarding OLD's Vision and School Improvement Plan 2018-2020 - School Library.

Parents who attended the recent P+F AGM will recall that I tabled quite a few Vision/School Improvement Plan matters that evening. At this up and coming meeting, I will simply be able to put forward more detail and 'open the floor' for conversation.

NB THIS 5.30PM MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE 30 MINS BEFORE THE BAND PERFORMANCE EVENING THAT COMMENCES AT 6PM

Making a Difference in the Spirit of Mercy

Grace Arena (Yr4) is making a difference and fundraising for The Cancer Council NSW.

Grace will also be donating her hair to The Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation Inc. to help make wigs for people who don't have their own hair.

She has set herself a goal to raise \$500.00.

If you'd like to donate, please visit Grace's fundraising page:

<https://makingadifference.gofundraise.com.au/page/JanelleArena>

All donations to this site are sent directly to Cancer Council NSW and you'll get a receipt automatically via email. Thank you everyone!

(Final note from PL: This is the second time Grace has grown a whopping pony-tail of hair to donate to The Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation Inc ... Pretty amazing eh!)

Congratulations to our Senior Choir:

Last week, our Senior Choir performed at the annual K-Mart Christmas Wishing Tree opening in The Chase. They are pictured below with Mrs Donna Hoy (Choir leader) at the rear - (and you can see Mayor Gail on the far left). Put simply, the singing was nothing short of sensational!



Congratulations Julian and Dominic Lee:

Congratulations to both Julian and Dominic Lee. They both achieved first place in the Little Athletics State Championships in the relay event for their age group! This is rather remarkable!

Well done indeed!

(Julian and Dominic are pictured with Mr Peter Hamill, Director of Schools, who visited OLD this week)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - Kirsty Thorpe

Tell Them From Me Survey

Over the next couple of weeks, students, staff and parents will receive information about completing a survey. This survey is from an external source and will provide extremely useful information on the school and its community. This important survey will inform the school about how students best learn and this information will be invaluable in strategic planning for the future. The survey and further information will be sent to parents in an email in the coming days.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Kathy Gray

Graduation Liturgy

The Year 6 Graduation Liturgy will be held on Monday November 27th at 10 am, followed by their celebration Graduation Dinner on that same evening. All families are welcome to attend the Liturgy and help send off our wonderful Year 6 students in style!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - (cont.)

Christmas Liturgy

On the last day of school, Friday December 15, the students will participate in a Christmas Liturgy in the Church at 10:15 am. It will be a wonderful way to end the year together and celebrate the Christmas journey. Sadly, we will also be fare welling Fr Paul. We hope you can make it to this celebration as a sign of support for our amazing school community and parish priest.

Year 5 and 6 Market Day and Social Justice at Christmas Time

On November 30th Year 5 and 6 will be holding a market day at school. We are doing this as a part of our financial literacy learning journey that we have been involved in with Mercy College throughout the year. The students have to keep a track of their profit, expenses and revenue. We are inviting your students to bring along some money on the day so that the community can participate in the market. The market will also stay open for half an hour after school so that the parent community can also participate in the market. Money raised will pay off the expenses, 50% of the profits will go to Cana Communities and any extra will go toward purchases that will benefit our Year 5 and 6 students at school (eg. go toward the Yr 6 shirts for 2018).

We have invited Cana Communities to set up a stall. They will be selling Christmas Cakes, jams, olive oil and other fresh produce made from the produce from their farms. Please click on the following [link](#) see the Cana brochure if you would like to pre – order.

A message from Julie (Cana Communities):

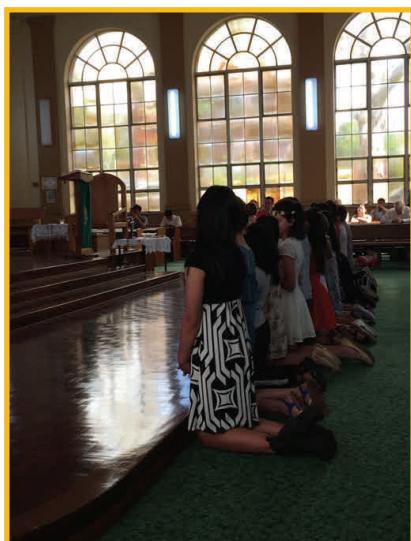
I have attached our Enterprise catalogue and I wondered if you would consider buying your Christmas gifts for your staff, friends or family from us. The products have been well reviewed and I think it's time we were active about buying from charities and sharing the word that people need an opportunity if they are going to create long term change. The enterprise is run by volunteers so all the income can be spent on wages for our most vulnerable people.

I know you are all very generous but should you be looking for staff presents or know companies who may be interested in supporting us please share the catalogue.

Thank you Julie.

Year 5 Parish Mass

Thank you to the many Year 5 students who attended the Mass on Sunday. It was lovely Mass dedicated to including these students. Fr Paul made the children feel very blessed!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - (cont.)

Advent

Advent begins on Sunday December 3rd this year. At our school assembly on the Wednesday the 29th of December, the school community will start getting into the spirit of Advent with the presentation of a special gift to the school from the Beram family. I wonder if you can guess what it is???

Year 6 PARISH Class Mass & Graduation - Sunday 3rd December

As Year 6 comes to the end of their time in primary school, THE PARISH would like to acknowledge this milestone with a graduation ceremony within the 5:30pm Youth Mass on Sunday the 3rd of December. During this mass, each Year 6 student will be presented with a small gift. Those who have attended Catholic Scripture at our local state schools will also receive a Special Religious Education Certificate.

After Mass, the celebration will continue with an evening of fun, food and games from 6:30pm to 8pm with the Acclaim Youth Group. All Year 6 children are warmly invited. Please RSVP for catering purposes to:

CCDchildrensministry@chatswoodparish.org.au



Library Link – Term 4

Reminder for End of Year Returning Books

Thank you to all students who promptly return their books each week. I would ask that everyone have all their books back by the end of **Week 8**.

In preparation for stocktake, there will be no more borrowing after Week 8. Some students still have books that are quite overdue. I will send a note home with your child with the name of the book. If you could have a book hunt at home it would be most appreciated. I will also check the Library for any lost books.

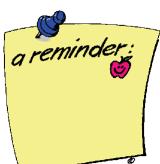
Stocktake

At this time of the year we are preparing to do a stocktake of the Library. If you are free anytime in Week 10 (Monday- Wednesday) I would love some help. Please either drop me a note or pop into the Library anytime.

I am most appreciative of the mothers who come each week and help in the Library. Your help is invaluable!

Louise Murphy

Teacher/Librarian.



School Fees

All school fees should now be finalised.

Thank you to the families that paid their account on time. This has certainly made it easier for the school to stick to our budget and pay our accounts when due.