

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS Term 4 Week 10 - 12 December 2017

The Principal's Piece - Philip Ledlin

Starry Starry Night ... Carols Night ... What a wonderful evening!

Last Friday was a wonderful gathering of 'community' at Christmas time. The photo below tells a thousand words ... Can you see the Yr1 students singing, 'Follow the Christmas Star'? Can you see them pointing to the Christmas Star? Most of the recent school newsletters have had a strong 'Christmas Star' theme, and I warmly invite everyone to the final liturgy of the year at 10.15am this coming Friday 15 December (in the church) to hear one last message regarding this theme. At this liturgy, I will share with the community an extraordinary story that I'll call, 'The Four Wise Men'.

(Excuse me Mr Ledlin, did you mean 'The Three Wise Men'?)

Thank you so sincerely to the mighty team of parents who co-ordinated the Starry Starry Night extravaganza. This team worked tirelessly before, during and after the event to make sure it was a celebration of all things good about OLD ... Three cheers!

I also thank the staff of OLD for their spirit of enthusiasm and support for the event ... Three cheers!

And finally, I take this opportunity to thank the school staff for their tireless support and dedication throughout all of 2018! ... Four cheers!



COMING EVENTS

December

- Wed 13** Band performing Christmas Carols at Chatswood Westfield.
- Fri 15** Last Day Term 4
- Christmas Liturgy in the Church at 10:15am

January

- Mon 22** Enrolment for Reconciliation opens (please click on the following [link](#) to access information)
- Mon 29** Staff Development Day (no students at school)
- Tues 30** Assessment day for timetabled individuals (1:1)
- Wed 31** Assessment day for timetabled individuals (1:1)

February

- Thur 1** First day of Term 1, 2018 for students Yrs 1-6 ONLY
- Fri 2** First day for Kindy 2018 (Half day only - until 12pm).
- Mon 5** First full day for Kindy 2018 (usual 3pm finish)

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

www.olddb.catholic.edu.au

The Principal's Piece - Cont.

Orientation to new classes

On Thursday 14 December in the afternoon, students will have 'orientation to classes for 2018'. In this session, students will meet their classroom teacher for 2018.

Last school day of 2017:

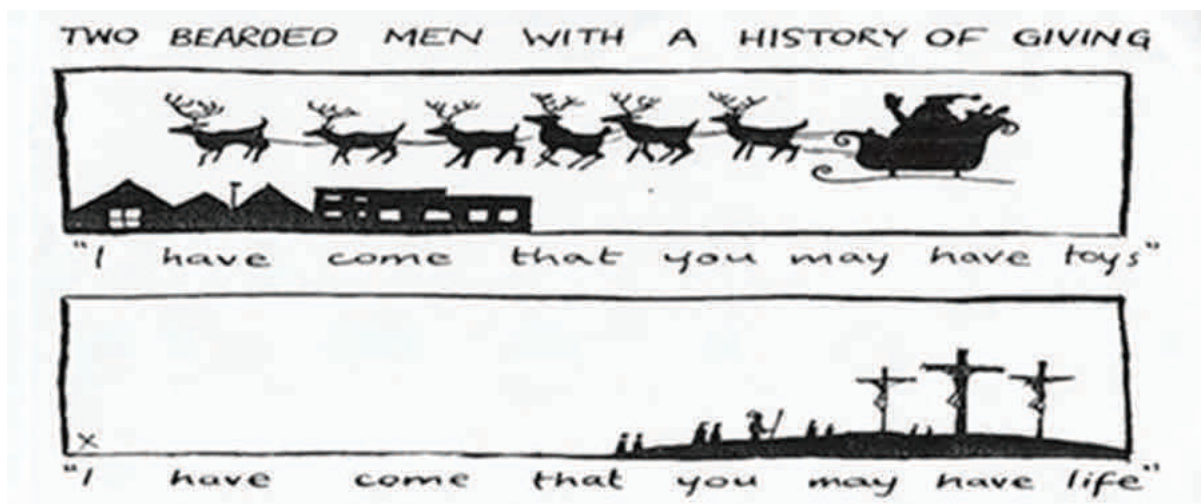
On the last day of the school year, Friday 15/12, students K-6 will celebrate with a whole school liturgy in our church from 10.15am – (Parents are warmly invited).

At this liturgy, we will also have a Y6 leadership handover ceremony - (Please note that the official commissioning of our Y6 2018 leaders is done at the Opening School Mass in early Term 1 next year).

After this 'end of year' liturgy (ie at 10.30am), students are permitted to go home with their parents/guardians if they have WRITTEN PERMISSION – Please provide this ASAP. Students are not permitted to go home with a parent other than their own unless they have WRITTEN PERMISSION. Please ensure permission notes/letters are delivered to your child's teacher ASAP – thank you.

Finally, parents must rest assured that supervision is provided at school up until 3.30pm on Friday 15/12.

I simply love the cartoon below ... It's that time of year when we can so easily get caught up in trappings that take us from the real Christmas message ... I hope and pray that during this Christmas Season we choose to give most of our energy towards The Bearded Man who comes to give us "life"!



And finally; thank you for your support throughout my first year at this beautiful school.

I wish every member of our community a happy, safe and holy Christmas.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - Kirsty Thorpe

Bike safety week

This week Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 will participate in a bike/scooter safety lesson. So far, Year 2 and Kindy students have had fantastic lessons where they practised riding their bikes or scooters in real life situations with traffic lights, zebra crossing and road works. The most important thing they've all learnt is the importance of a helmet!



FREE Second hand furniture

For the next couple of days there will be a collection of second hand furniture under the music room that you are welcome to take. Please come and feel free to take any of the furniture that is there.

Arkoun (thank you) from Cambodia

I wish to thank the OLD school community for supporting my personal endeavours in Cambodia. Throughout the year different classes have made cards for the children, have purchased products from my stall (where 100% of proceeds go back to Cambodia), listened to stories about the history of Cambodia and have been genuinely interested in having chats to me about life in rural Cambodia. I will be spending my Summer holidays over in the village with the children in the Child Rescue Centre and teaching in the local village. I know every single one of the Cambodian children appreciate your generosity, compassion and kindness and they all know they are loved from a school community in a land far away.



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - (Cont.)

2017 – What a brilliant year!

I would personally like to thank everyone for the amazing first year I have had at OLD. The welcoming and friendly community here is a true asset and one I am so grateful to be part of. I wish to thank the students for gifting me their warm smiles, intelligent conversation and witty jokes every day of the year. To the Year 6 students and all other students leaving OLD, I wish you good luck in your future endeavours. You are always welcome to come back and visit your old stomping grounds. To the parents of OLD, I wish to thank you for your support, collaboration and daily greetings and farewells – they really brighten my day. And I wish to send a heartfelt thanks to all the staff at OLD – the staff truly make each day a joy. The community at OLD has a strong shared vision to make each and every one of the students the best person they can possibly be. I am fairly sure we have future entrepreneurs, inventors and explorers in our classrooms. However, I am definitely sure we have children that will flourish to be compassionate, merciful, happy, creative and beautiful people.

I hope your holiday seasons are full of joy, relaxation and special times with your family and friends. Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! I am very much looking forward to seeing you all again in 2018.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Kathy Gray

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. This will be led by our Year 6 students and every class will be singing a song to tell the story of Christmas. 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.



TERM DATES 2018

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
1	<p>Monday 29 January Staff Development Day</p> <p>Tuesday 30 January Assessment day for timetabled individual (1:1) assessments K-6 N.B. small change to description.</p> <p>Wednesday 31 January Assessment day for timetabled individual (1:1) assessments K-6</p> <p>Thursday 1 February First Day of 2018 for students Yrs <u>1-6 ONLY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment day for timetabled individual (1:1) assessments <u>K ONLY</u> <p>Friday 2 February First Day for K2018 – (Half day only - until 12pm)</p> <p>Monday 5 February -First Full Day for K2018 – (Usual 3pm finish to the day)</p>	Friday 13 April
2	Monday 30 April	Friday 6 July
3	Monday 23 July	Friday 28 September
4	Monday 15 October	Wednesday 19 December