

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS NEWS

Ignite, Innovate & Include in the Spirit of Mercy



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### MARCO IANNI PRINCIPAL

As we approach the end of 2023 I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff for all their efforts in what has been a remarkable year. As a community we have risen to the challenges of 2023 and continued to Ignite, Innovate and Include in our Mercy tradition with enthusiasm and compassion with our faith at the heart of what we do.

I would especially like to thank the leadership team, Kelly Clouston as Assistant Principal, Camilla Brown and Olivia Smith as REC for their tireless work in assisting in keeping our wonderful school running to provide the quality education that we do and the office staff for their tireless support for the school as a whole. I would also like to thank Fr David Ranson and his team for being the heart of our wonderful community.

Congratulations to our class of 2023, you have lead the school with enthusiasm and integrity. May the foundations from OLD stand by you as you move into this next chapter. We wish you all every success as your primary school journey comes to an end and your high school journey begins.

As we farewell staff that are leaving us we thank them for their years of service and look forward to welcoming our new staff in 2024.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and merry Christmas and look forward to an even better 2024.



Enrolling now for 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 30 January - Staff Development Day

Wednesday 31 January - Term 1 commences Year 1 - Year 6

Wednesday 31 January & Thursday 1 February - Kindergarten Best Start

Friday 2 February - First day Kindergarten

Friday 29 March - Good Friday

Monday 1 April - Easter Monday



# ADVENT

*Advent*  
*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



There are many times in our lives when we prepare for something special. We take time to make sure that everything is ready. Soon, our families will be getting ready for Christmas. But it is most important that we get ourselves ready in another way. We prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus on Christmas day. We do this during a time called Advent, which means 'coming'.

We thank our Year 5 students for leading us in our Advent Liturgy. Each week we gathered together at our school assembly to celebrate each week of Advent. Thank you to the families that were able to join us at assembly and celebrate the joyful waiting for the coming of Jesus this Advent!



*Advent*  
*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



An Advent Prayer  
God of light and hope,  
look upon us in love,  
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus  
that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.  
Protect us during this week  
and keep us watchful in prayer  
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who is the light of the world,  
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.



*Advent*  
*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



# Year 2 visit the Rocks

Year 2 finished the term with a wonderful excursion to the Rocks where Aboriginal education guides took the students on a journey through local Aboriginal culture and heritage. Students had the opportunity to explore the difference between their own personal and family histories and those of the Gadigal people.



## Student leaders for 2024

Congratulations to our newly appointed school leaders for 2024.

Captains: Mathew Lee

Rachel Liu

Vice Captains: Curtis Liu

Isabella Rojas-Alali

# End of 2023

## Staff Farewells

Thank you to our staff and students for making our staff farewells this week so very special. While it is sad to see these valuable members of the OLD family moving on, their next adventures and stages in life will be very exciting. From moving out of Sydney, to securing roles closer to home enabling greater family time, to new challenging environments. We thank Mr Rowland, Mrs Cook, Mrs Sargent, Mrs McKittrick, Miss Baynie and Mrs Tygh for all they have given to OLD, you will be missed but we look forward to hearing about your new successes and lifestyle changes.



CLASS OF 2023

# Year 6 Graduation

CLASS OF 2023

The end of term and the year has seen us celebrate and farewell our student leaders, our class of 2023. Thank you to both staff, parish and wonderful parent volunteers for helping organise our year 6 graduation liturgy, dinner celebration and Luna Park fun day. Our current year 6 students have lead by example during 2023 and we wish them all the very best as they continue their educational journey into high school.



# OLD Swimming Carnival



Last Monday saw us hold the annual OLD Swimming Carnival. The sun shone brightly on our students ensuring a fabulous day was had by all. There was fierce competition, unrivalled sportsmanship and overall just a wonderful day filled with fun and support. Thank you to our amazing sports co-ordinators for organising a flawless day, our volunteers for helping make the event run so smoothly and our students for supporting each other throughout the day. Congratulations to the overall winners Nazareth and the 2023 spirit cup winners Galilee.



## INFANTS SPLASH DAY



While the swimming carnival was in action our Infants students were having their own fun in the sun enjoying their annual 'splash day' with lots of fun and water activities.





**BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE**

[www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/vacation-care](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/vacation-care)

*CatholicCare*  
Diocese of Broken Bay

Vacation Care program for December & January now available  
CatholicCare's Vacation Care service at our school offers a wide range of activities catering to children of differing ages and interests. We also head out and about on a range of fun local excursions each holiday period. We provide a stimulating and enjoyable environment and activities which harness the children's interests and strengths whilst respecting their need for leisure.

See the latest program here [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/vacation-care](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/vacation-care). Get in quick, programs filling fast! We hope to see your children there!