



# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS NEWS

Ignite, Innovate & Include in the Spirit of Mercy



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MARCO IANNI PRINCIPAL

It has been a busy and exciting start to the 2025 school year and it has been wonderful to see our students full of enthusiasm as they dive into their learning.

We look forward to welcoming our parents and carers next week to our information evenings where you will have a chance to meet your child's teacher and gain vital information on the year to come. We also welcome our parents and carers to join us on Friday 21 February for our Beginning School Year Liturgy and commissioning of our Year 6 leaders.

Don't forget if you would like to play an active role in the OLD community we are currently looking for volunteers to be part of our grade parent network - there is more information further in the newsletter.



[Open Day 2025](#)  
[Register here](#)



## Upcoming Events

Monday 17 February  
9am - Grade Parent Induction Meeting

Wednesday 19 February  
2.30pm Grade Parent Induction Meeting

Wednesday 19 February  
5-6pm K-2 info evening  
6-7pm 3-6 info evening

Friday 21 February 10.30am  
Beginning School Mass & Commissioning of Leaders

Monday 24 February  
Mercy College visiting Yr 2 - Yr 6 girls

Enrolling now for 2026



# OLD'S SCHOOL VISION

## IGNITE, INNOVATE & INCLUDE IN THE SPIRIT OF MERCY

The beginning of the school year is a perfect time to revisit our School Vision and make a commitment to bringing it to life as best as possible as we commence our 2025 journey together.

Some thoughts to inspire us:



*'Ignite' the students' desires and their imaginations to keenly learn and improve in all aspects of school and community life.*

*'Innovate' where a community of learners are natural problem solvers and creative thinkers.*



*'Include in a spirit of Mercy' where the responsibility for ensuring an inclusive spirit of Mercy flourishes and rests with all staff, students and parents working together in partnership.*





# OLD'S MERCY VALUES

Our school charism is immersed in the Mercy tradition having been founded by the Sisters of Mercy who were active in the school from 1895 to 1989. Guided by our Mercy tradition, every student is invited to learn about our Mercy Values. These Mercy Values help our students to grow as disciples of Jesus, both locally and globally in our community.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are provided multiple opportunities to share their understanding of our Mercy Values with the school community. Every grade learns in detail about one Mercy Value and puts what they have learnt into actions through grade initiatives and events.

These values are:

Kindergarten: *Love*

Year 1: *Forgiveness*

Year 2: *Respect*

Year 3: *Compassion*

Year 4: *Excellence*

Year 5: *Hospitality*

Year 6: *Integrity and Inclusion*





# INTRODUCING OUR 2025 CAPTAINS



## 2025 Captains - Micaela and Noah (middle) 2025 Vice Captains - Lylah and Ranbir

Hi, my name is Micaela and I am this year's school captain. I am very honoured to be given this role and look forward to representing our school in all events and to be a good role model to all the students. As a school captain, my goal is to make sure that every student feels welcomed in our community and inspired to do their best. I will do this by leading by example, making sure everyone is included and I always do my best in school.. I love OLD because we are a kind and loving community and I am really excited to be leading our school as we ignite, innovate and include in the spirit of mercy. Thank you for believing and trusting me. Let's make this a memorable and fantastic year.

Hi, my name is Ranbir and being vice-captain is an incredible honour. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve and represent OLD. As vice-captain my goal is to support the school, promote faith, motivate people and make sure everyone's voice is heard. I believe in the power of team work and want to create an environment where everyone feels included, valued and safe. I will make sure that this year will be unforgettable. let's make it a year where we all shine, support one another and continue to be our best.

Hi, my name is Noah and I am the school captain for 2025. I am excited because I love looking after the school community. Our school motto to 'be our best' really motivates me to really give my all when helping students and teachers. God will be looking over me this year and hopefully he will give me the strength and courage to ignite, innovate and include in the spirit of mercy. I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to be school captain this year. When I was in year 1 and first joined OLD I was really surprised and happy that everyone was so welcoming. I really hope that I can do the same for others. my goals for this year are to give a helping hand to those in need and to assist with all the jobs around our school. I am excited and honoured to be school captain this year and hopefully I will be able to make our school community more fun, safe and responsible.

Hi, my name is Lylah. I'm this years vice-captain. I'm excited for all the helpful things I can do for the school and how I can be a good role model for younger students. OLD is such an open place and personally I love the teachers. It is so fun because I have learnt basically all I need. I love OLD because of how inclusive and friendly everyone is and the fun interactive things we get to do in class. I'm now in year 6 so I can do more jobs around the school and help if anyone needs help and to make sure all school rules are followed. I am so happy to be vice-captain and don't forget to ignite, innovate and include others.



# INTRODUCING OUR 2025 SCHOOL LEADERS

## 2025 SPORTS HOUSE CAPTAINS

CANA - Sports Captains	GALILEE - Sports Captains	BETHLEHEM - Sports Captains	NAZARETH - Sports Captains
Laura	Audrey	Olivia M	Liam B
Maria	Maxwell	Katie	Elisabeth
Hayley	Rafael	Liam S	Evelyn

## 2025 ICLT LEADERS

Lucia	Louis	Kyna	Mirin
Sofia	Tatsumi	Jeremy	

## 2025 WELLBEING LEADERS

Talia	Tobey	Sophie	Hailey	Rosie	Scarlett
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## 2025 LITERACY LEADERS

Louise	Chloe	Ayuna
Caezley	Gianna	Katrina
Anamika	Olivia S	Autumn
Madeline	Malcolm	

# JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Jubilee Year 2025 began on Christmas Eve 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's in Rome, and will conclude on January 6, 2026. Held every 25 years, a jubilee year highlights forgiveness of sin, conversion, and celebrations.

See more with the [Towards 2025 Jubilee video](#)

## WHAT IS JUBILEE?

- Jubilee is celebrated every 25 years in the Catholic Tradition.
  - Jubilees are a year of Pilgrimage, Thanksgiving and Repentance.
  - It is a year for seeking and giving repentance.

One of the most significant features of a Jubilee Year in the Catholic tradition is the Pilgrimage.

Next School Newsletter edition we will talk about the importance of Pilgrimages and how you can take part in your own pilgrimage here in Chatswood!



## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless  
cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

*Francis*



# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT OLD FOR 2025

Are you interested in becoming more involved in the OLD community?, if so volunteering may be for you. We have many wonderful opportunities to volunteer and support the school during the year. You don't need to be able to offer hours, you would be amazed at the positive impact just 30 minutes of your time can make. Below are some of the opportunities currently available or you can contact the school office via email for more information. The students and staff of OLD thank you in advance for your ongoing commitment and support.

**Parents will be required to complete the Parent volunteer form for all volunteering positions.**

## Grade Parent nominations for 2025



### Grade Parents Nominations

We are inviting expressions of interest for Grade Parents for 2025. This is an easy, fun role and a great way to meet everyone in your child's grade.

The Grade Parent's role involves:

- Being a contact person for the Principal, staff and Parent Groups.
- Assist in providing a link between the school and the parish.
- Organise helpers for the classroom when requested by the grade teachers.
- Arrange social gatherings for students and parents to meet up outside of school hours.
- Organise one school-based function e.g. Tea & Tissues, Mothers Day Morning Tea.

If you are interested in this very important role in our school, please fill out the form [here](#) or scan the Qr code by Friday 14th February. You will be required to attend a Grade Parent Briefing before commencing your role. Dates for the briefings are planned for Monday 17 February at 9.00m or Wednesday 19 February at 2.30pm.

Yours sincerely,  
Marco Ianni

### Events Committee Nominations

We are inviting expressions of interest for Events Committee Members for 2025. This is an easy, fun role and a great way to meet other parents across the school community. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the Events Committee, please click [here](#) or scan the Qr code by Friday 14 February.

Once we have nominations back we can start to formulate and appoint a liaison person for each group.

Parents are required to complete the Parent Volunteer form for any of these committees.

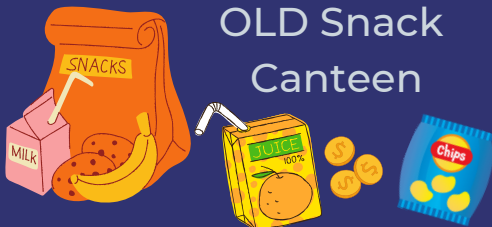
Once formulated I will organise a meeting for us to get together and start planning.

Kind regards  
Marco Ianni

## Events Committee Nominations for 2025



### OLD Snack Canteen



The OLD Snack Canteen is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.15-2pm for students to purchase snacks and drinks.

If you are available to assist please sign up using the below link

[Canteen Volunteers Sign Up](#)

The students thank you for helping to provide this fabulous in school service.



### Library helpers

Could you spare 30-60minutes of your time to assist in our Library. The commitment is small, but the reward is large as it benefits all students across the school. Not only will you be helping with an invaluable service you will also have the opportunity to meet some of our amazing parent community.

For more information and to sign up please

click below:

[Library Helpers](#)

LIBRARY

# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN 2025

The Kindy Team this year are:

Mrs Angelina Femia - teaching Kindy Blue. Mrs Femia is a Mother to two grown up girls and loves spending time with her family. Mrs Femia also loves Zumba - you will always catch her doing the cha cha cha with her students!

Miss Joy Flores - teaching Kindy Gold. Miss Flores loves fishing on the weekends, baking bread and playing soccer.

The teachers have loved getting to know your children so far, all the Kindy students have settled well and are loving learning! They have engaged in play, literacy, numeracy, sport, music, library and a lot of getting to know you games. We can't wait to see how they grow and change over the year.. the best is yet to come!!!!



“ Thank you for the amazing experience you all created for us to welcome the Kindergarten families on our first day of school ”



# PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS - COME AND MEET YOUR TEACHER

On Wednesday 19 February we will be holding our Meet the Teacher - Grade Information Evening. These sessions will be held in the classrooms with K-2 sessions being from 5-6pm and 3-6 sessions being from 6-7pm.

These sessions will give parents a chance to meet their child/ren's teacher, hear about the year to come and to ask any questions they may have.

Handouts will be available to all families on the night.

Earlier this week students brought home a student survey, we ask that these please be completed and returned to classroom teachers by or on

Wednesday 19 February.

Please note the information sessions are for parents only, there will be no supervision on the night and students are not to attend.



## ATTENDANCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Punctuality is a wonderful skill to develop, and we have certainly begun our school year with students arriving on time for school. I have also noticed a greater level of independence from students (as young as kindergarten!). Helping your child to develop organisational skills such as packing and unpacking their own bag and being responsible for their learning tools will set them up with good learning habits for the future.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Miss Molinaro who was recently presented with her Exemplary Teacher Incentive Program Award. Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) is committed and invested in developing the next generation of teachers and we are delighted to have Miss Molinaro as part of the teaching team at OLD.



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BROKEN BAY PARENT CHARTER

Building positive relationships among all stakeholders in a child's education is the cornerstone of nurturing student learning and success. To formalise our commitment to effective communication and mutual respect, Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) has recently launched a Parent Charter, a copy of which is available on the [CSSB website](#). In support of this initiative, we kindly ask parents to be mindful of the following guidelines when communicating with staff at Our Lady of Dolours:

- Stay Informed: Stay informed about your child's progress by attending parent-teacher conferences, reading newsletters, and checking COMPASS.
- Initiate Contact: Don't hesitate to reach out to the appropriate staff member if you have concerns or questions about your child's progress, behaviour, or any other aspect of their education. Initial communications should always be with the appropriate school personnel, e.g., the classroom teacher. If further support is required, please contact school leaders as per the issue resolution process.
- Be Respectful: Approach conversations with staff in a respectful and professional manner, as they are dedicated to helping your child succeed.
- Respect Response Time: Recognise that staff have multiple students and responsibilities. Allow them time to respond to your inquiries and respect their working hours. Staff will usually respond within 48 hours.

Effective communication between parents and school staff is the key to a successful educational journey for your child. When both parties approach interactions with respect, empathy, and a shared commitment to the child's well-being, positive outcomes are more likely to be achieved.

I encourage you to read the Parent Charter document carefully and welcome your feedback. We value your input and are committed to working together to ensure that our schools remain collaborative, safe, and supportive environments.





# CONGRATULATIONS



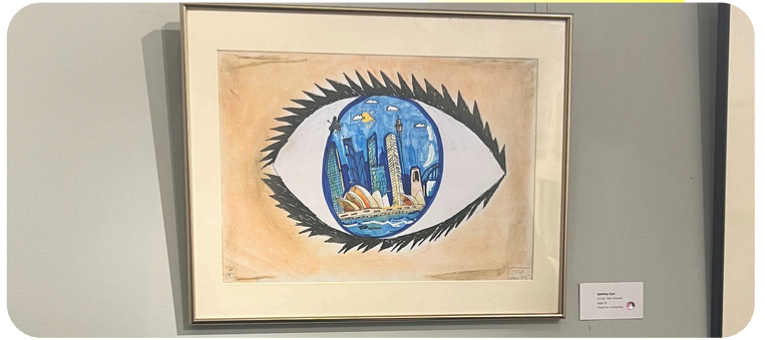
Congratulations to our band conductor Mari and her husband who welcomed their first child, precious Lily Helena was born on (no other than)Christmas day at 2:15pm. Lily was 50cm and 3.2kg. Both Lily and mum are doing well and all are enjoying their time together as a family.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025

<b>Staff Development Day</b>	Monday 28 April	Tuesday 29 April
<b>Staff Development Day</b>	Friday 4 July	Monday 21 July
<b>Staff Development Day</b>	Friday 26 September	Monday 13 October
<b>Staff Development Day</b>	Thursday 18 December	Friday 19 December
<b>Save the Date</b>	Tuesday 23 September Creative Arts Festival	

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Neil in Year 3. His artwork "Sydney Eye" was chosen as one of the finalists for the 5th Welight Student Art exhibition. His work is up on display at the Welight centre in Chatswood and is up for viewing until the 1st of March.



## BASKETBALL & TENNIS NEWS

Last week 3 of our students, Liam Yr 6, Annabelle Yr 5 and Julian Yr 5 headed to Tamworth to represent OLD and Broken Bay at the Polding Basketball and Tennis trials. We are very proud of these students and their achievements.

An extra congratulations to Annabelle who has been selected in the Polding team and will now move to compete in the PSSA at Sutherland in June, the whole of the OLD community wish you well Annabelle.

Here is a little bit about their experience.



From Julian - Polding Tennis

"I went to Tamworth to compete in the Tennis trials for state. The day started well and I won all my games except one. If I had won the last game I would have made it to the next round."

From Annabelle - Polding Basketball

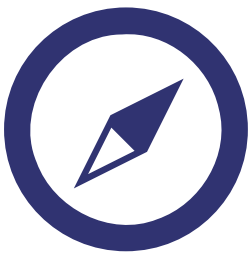
"Last Friday my family and I went to Tamworth for Polding Basketball. When we started we lined up in our association, I was Broken bay. Then we stretched and did dribble warm ups, I felt like I was going to make it. next we did lay-ups and other drills, we got a break then lined up again. I had to get a number on my arm and leg. Then we were playing games, we went up against Newcastle and Lismore. After that we lined up again and they announced the people who will go in to possible and probables. lastly we played a game to make their final decision. the game ended and we all sat down while they decided. They finally came back to announce who got chosen and they picked me, I'm really excited to play as part of the Polding team at Sutherland in July."

From Liam - Polding Basketball

"My experience at the basketball polding trials was amazing. As I walked in I found my team and we instantly began the 'skills and drills section where we did lay ups and 3 vs 3. Then we began the 5 vs 5 games where I was the highest scorer on the 2nd best team in the comp. We won 4 out of our 5 games with 10 minute breaks in between. At the end of the games we stretched then we watched the coaches play a 3 vs 3 to end the trials. All in all it was a great experience and I made a lot of new friends."







COMPASS is the main communication app for the school and where you will note student absences, find school reports and book meetings with teachers. In the case of a full day absence parents must enter their child's absence before 9am. If your child is marked 'not present' by the teacher and you have not entered an absence note you will be sent a notification informing you that your child is not at school. You will need to add the absence as soon as possible. You will also receive an email to remind you to enter the absence reason within 7 days. Remember, every school day is important for your child's social, emotional and academic development.



A reminder that all parents must email teachers via the school email ([old@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:old@dbb.catholic.edu.au)) this gets forwarded to each teacher. A teacher is unable to reply to emails or phone calls during school time, as their main priority is the education of your children and every teacher has a duty of care for their students. If a message is urgent please call the school office for the message to be communicated to the teacher as soon as possible



Safety at OLD regarding Nuts/Nut products & Egg/Egg products

We do have students with anaphylaxis. If your child has or develops any food allergies, please notify the office and your class teacher. It is essential that all teachers involved with your child are aware of your child's needs. No child is allowed to share food and as we are an allergy aware school, any nut-based items such as Nutella, peanut butter etc or whole egg items such as a boiled egg or egg sandwich are not to be packed for your child.



Dropping *forgotten items* at school. In a bid to encourage independence in our students we would ask that you do not drop forgotten items at school unless it is an emergency. Getting items to students once the school day has started interrupts valuable learning time for the student. Instead we encourage you to assist your child/ren to develop a routine in packing their school bags the night before—you will quickly be amazed by how independent and responsible your child becomes.

**Dismissal confirmation & Photo permissions:**

Please remember to complete your dismissal & photo permission forms on COMPASS. If you need assistance, please drop into the school office.



# OPEN DAY



**Our Lady of Dolours  
Catholic Primary  
School**

**Our Open Day is a structured morning that will provide you with an opportunity for meaningful insight into our school.**



Meet our Principal, teachers, students, parents.



Learn about Our Lady of Dolour's faith led approach, including and inclusive model of education.



Visit our classrooms, play area, library, specialised media room, music rooms.



Gain a real sense of the Our Lady of Dolour's community.



**Tuesday  
4 March  
2025**

**9am – 10.30am**

**Come and experience first hand why Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood is a great choice for your children.**

**[Register for open Day here](#)**

**Marco Ianni, Principal**

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School  
94A Archer Street,  
Chatswood  
7256 2118  
[olddb.catholic.edu.au](http://olddb.catholic.edu.au)



*Authentic, professional Catholic education, delivered with care and compassion*



# FREE PARENTING PROGRAMS FROM CATHOLIC CARE

Free parenting programs delivered by CatholicCare during Term 1

Parenting is the most important job that any of us ever have. It is also one of the most challenging and frustrating so we provide a range of parenting programs to help you do the best you can in this critical task. We work with you to build on your strength as a family and help you to create a home environment where children thrive. By gaining important insights and learning new skills parents via our parenting programs, you'll be better equipped to help your children reach their potential.

Kicking off in February CatholicCare have the following programs running - all are free – one is in-person in Brookvale and the others online. School families are welcome to attend (and can share on to their friends/families more widely). Please note these courses are for parents residing in Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Willoughby, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and Northern Beaches suburbs.

Visit [CatholicCare](#) for more information and to register but be quick as spots are limited.



**CatholicCare**  
Diocese of Broken Bay

**TERM 1**

**FREE PARENTING PROGRAMS**

1-2-3 MAGIC  
TUNING INTO TEENS  
CIRCLE OF SECURITY

# Reconciliation enrolments



Enrolments for preparation and reception of First Reconciliation are will **open** via our parish website on **Monday 27 January**

In our parish, children are eligible to enrol for Reconciliation once they have been Baptised and Confirmed and have reached 8 years of age or older.

## To enrol your child

Go the following parish website page:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/liturgv-sacraments/children-s-sacraments/reconciliation>

From this page, you will find all the dates and other details of the program.

Scroll to the bottom of this page and click “Enrol Here” and fill out the enrolment details as required.

For queries about sacraments for your child, please contact Angela or Mona at:

[chatswood.sacraments@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswood.sacraments@bbcatholic.org.au)



# What's on at Willoughby City Library

Term 1 2025



Self Guided Creator Kits (8+ years) available at Chatswood Library, including: Edison Bots, mBots, Makey Makey and Raspberry Pi.



Kids create! (5 -10 years) Monthly crafting sessions at Artarmon, Northbridge and West Chatswood Libraries.



After School Unwind! (5-12 years) now on Thursdays. Join us at Chatswood Library for some unstructured fun with board games, Lego, origami and more.



Primary school homework club (5-12 years) at Chatswood Library. Drop in and get your homework done! Supported by senior students from Mercy College.

Visit our website to register, and for more information on upcoming events.

[libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

