

DECEMBER 2025 EDITION 20



# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS NEWS

Ignite, Innovate & Include in the Spirit of Mercy



## Upcoming Events

Tuesday 27 & Wednesday 28 January  
Staff Development Days

Thursday 29 January  
Term 1 commences Yr 1 - Yr 6  
SoKS for Kindergarten 2026

Friday 30 January  
Term 1 commences for  
Kindergarten students

Tuesday 3 March  
Open Day  
9am - 10.30am

Thursday 2 April  
Term 1 concludes - all students

Friday 3 April  
Good Friday

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL MARCO IANNI



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~ Romans 15:13

As we approach the end of 2025 I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff for their efforts in what has been a remarkable year. As a community we have risen to the challenges of 2025 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, Mrs Clouston as Assistant Principal, Miss Brown REC and Co-ordinators Miss Ferrero and Mrs Montgomery for their tireless work 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 the class of 2025, you have led the school with enthusiasm and integrity. May the foundations from OLD stand by you as you move into this new 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 Miss Gallagher we thank her for her service at OLD and look forward to welcoming

Ms Wright to the team in 2026.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to an even better 2026.

Enrolling now for 2026  
and beyond





# FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2025



This week we said a fond farewell to our graduating class of 2025. It has been a year filled with new challenges and wonderful opportunities. You have led the school with enthusiasm and integrity during 2025. May the foundations from OLD stand by you as you move into the next chapter of your schooling journey.



What an incredible surprise to end the term! Our Year 6 students were thrilled to receive a heartfelt gift from Mercy Catholic College. The amazing Year 8 students created personalised prayer cards filled with warm congratulations, thoughtful advice, and best wishes as our Year 6 graduates prepare for their exciting journey into High School. A huge thank you to Mercy Catholic College for such a beautiful gesture of kindness and encouragement—it truly made this milestone even more special!







The creations presented by Year 6 in this years Junk Kouture parade were nothing short of outstanding.

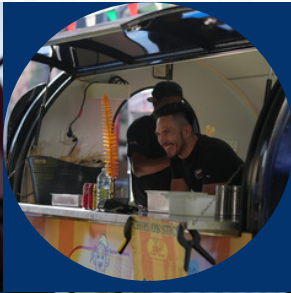
Students were challenged to design, create and model couture created from 100% recycled products. Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) as a guide, students designed, made and presented outstanding couture while also educating our school community on environmental and social awareness.





# Christmas FESTA

What a way to finish the 2025 school year with our Christmas FESTA. Thank you to all our volunteers who, in conjunction with our OLD staff, put in many hours of behind the scenes work to make this event possible. Thank you to all those who were able to assist on the night and lastly thank you to our wonderful community for joining us as we celebrated





A decorative border surrounds the page, featuring various books in different colors (blue, pink, orange, green), pink flowers, and a wooden library sign with the word 'LIBRARY' in yellow letters.

## LIBRARY

### **Library Wrap-Up 2025**

What a fantastic year in the Library we have had in 2025. Some highlights include our annual Book Week parade and events, our Scholastic Book Fair weeks and of course our Premier's Reading Challenge.

This year we had so many children successfully complete the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge – how exciting!

Some fun facts:

- 443 946 students took part in the challenge this year across 2 637 schools.
- Out of these students, 340 175 were successful in completing the challenge.
- Students read a total of 9 568 600 books.
- The most read book was.... The Truck Cat! 99 676 students added this book to their list.

Some of our students were also acknowledged with continuous years of participation. Please see the table for information on how this works below:

Year of completing the challenge	Certificate awarded
1st year	Challenge completion certificate
4th year	Gold certificate
Seventh year	Platinum certificate

Students who continue participating all the way until Year 9 and 10 are eligible for a PRC medal! Keep on reading OLD Students.

Well done to all our PRC completion certificate recipients. What a thrill to acknowledge your efforts this year in Reading.

#### ***A special thanks***

Every year I send out as a very special SHOUT OUT! And thank you to our incredible parent volunteers. Kristha, Meg and the entire team of extremely hardworking parents ensure our Library is clean, organised and that all books are ready and available for our students each week. Thank you thank you thank you. Your work can be laborious, repetitive and tedious, but it makes our Library the special place that it is. Enjoy a well earned volunteer rest!

Special thank you also to the Year 6 Literacy Leaders who spent many lunch times assisting me with shelving books. They have been excellent role models for their peers and for all the younger students in the school. Your dedication to your role did not go unnoticed.

Ms Carlton



# Song Club spreading Christmas cheer

Thank you Mrs Hoy and our Song Club students who visited the Dougherty centre during the final weeks of the term to spread some Christmas cheer. Engaging with our senior citizens as they joined together singing Christmas Carols.



## Student Spotlight



Thank you Lindsay and Eva for sharing your recent experience of singing with the Australian Girls Choir at the Opera House recently. What an experience!



I have some really exciting news to share! During the September school holidays, I entered a festive flag drawing competition from Willoughby Council. I drew a festive picture from my grandparents' house in India and used it as my inspiration.

A few months later, I forgot all about it until my mum told me some amazing news, I was one of the 40 winners out of 500 people! It was the best moment ever to see my artwork up at the Westfield entrance. Then on Saturday 6th December I got to attend the Willoughby fair where the Mayor presented me with a certificate. I was so excited to have met the Mayor in person it felt so special and I was very proud of myself. Everyone clapped for the winners at the festa, and my parents and teachers were really proud of me too. This has been one of the best moments in my life.



Congratulations on this wonderful achievement Tegan, we will all be heading to Westfield so we can see your flag.





## Year 5-8 CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP

Fun, food and faith - a place to make new friends  
and grow your relationship with Jesus

2ND AND 4TH  
SUNDAYS OF THE  
MONTH DURING  
SCHOOL TERM

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS PARISH  
MEETING ROOMS  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
AFTER THE 5:30 PM YOUTH MASS

*Next session - 14<sup>th</sup> December*

Parents, please contact us to join our mailing list and stay updated!

MAIL

SIENNA.KLARICA@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU

INSTAGRAM

FOUNDATION\_YOUTH\_MINISTRY



## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

14  
Dec

### 7:30PM CAROLS AT THE CONCOURSE

Join us on the steps of the Chatswood Concourse for a joyful night of carols with churches from across Willoughby City!

Saturday

19  
Dec

### 7PM ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament together with the Second Rite of Reconciliation. A chance to clear your heart and spend time with Jesus.

Thursday

22  
Dec

### 9AM SANTA JOINING US AT MASS

Santa is paying us a special visit where he will join us for Mass and stay around a little bit afterwards to say hello!



Sunday

24  
Dec

### NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Celebrate the birth of Our Lord by joining us at Mass at 5:30pm Children's Mass, 8pm, or 12am Midnight Mass.

Tuesday

25  
Dec

### NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Celebrate the birth of Our Lord by joining us at Mass at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am.

Wednesday



## UNIFORM

As we prepare for the year ahead, our Second-Hand Uniform Shop is seeking donations to ensure we can continue supporting families in our school community. If you have any gently used uniform items you no longer need, we would greatly appreciate them!

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Please drop donations at the school office. We are accepting: white long- and short-sleeve uniform shirts, navy sports shirts, jackets, hats, bags, navy trousers, navy shorts, sports shorts and pants, and navy culottes. Thank you for helping us keep this valuable service running!





WILLOUGHBY CITY  
**LIBRARY**

## What's on at Willoughby City Library

Summer school holidays 2025/26



**Summer Reading Challenge:**  
Summer of fun facts (0-16 years). Soak up as many interesting and random facts as you can these holidays! Win prizes and improve your reading.



**Library book tasting:** Find your next read (7 to 12 years). Don't know what to read next? Come to Chatswood Library and sample from our delicious 'menu' of exciting stories. You might just find your next favourite book.



**Robotics for beginners** (6-9 years) with easy-to-use Edison robots at West Chatswood and Artamon Libraries.



**Sunny and Penny's Energy Saver Show** (4-7 years) at Chatswood and Northbridge Libraries.

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

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



Our Lady of Dolours

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**DECEMBER**

**Sunday 14TH** **CAROLS AT THE CONCOURSE 7PM**

**Sunday 21ST** **SANTA VISIT 9AM**  
**MASS AT CHURCH**

**Wednesday 24TH** **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**MASSES 5:30PM, 8PM, 12 MIDNIGHT**

Enquiries, please contact  
02 9410 9000 or  
[chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Our Lady OF DOLOURS**

**CatholicCare**  
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

**Dec/Jan Vacation Care NOW AVAILABLE**

**BOOK NOW**

Enrolments are now open for CatholicCare's December 2025/January 2026 Vacation Care Program.

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

Our Vacation Care programs offer a variety of activities tailored to children of different ages, interests, and abilities. We also organise local excursions to further enrich the experience.

We provide a stimulating and enjoyable environment, with activities designed to engage the children's strengths and interests, while also offering time for rest and leisure.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via email or contact the OSHC Coordinator at your school.

**YOUTH LEARN TO SAIL**  
**LANE COVE 12FT SAILING SKIFF CLUB**

Lane Cove 12ft Sailing Skiff Club runs Learn to Sail courses in the Spring and Summer school holidays. Courses are suitable for kids & teens with little or no sailing experience.

#### Upcoming Dates:

Mon 15th Dec - Fri 19 Dec, 2025

Mon 19th Jan - Fri 23rd Jan, 2026

Courses are held on the quiet waters of Lane Cove River

Club Sabot and ILCA training dinghies used

Run by Australian Sailing qualified instructors

Includes Club membership and use of the Club's training boats for 6 months.

Complimentary weekly coaching sessions for 8 weeks following the course (Transition To Racing).



[www.lc12ftssc.org.au/learn-to-sail](http://www.lc12ftssc.org.au/learn-to-sail)

Stuart St, Longueville NSW 2066