

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION 1



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS NEWS

Ignite, Innovate & Include in the Spirit of Mercy



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MARCO IANNI PRINCIPAL

It has been a busy and exciting start to the 2026 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 Monday 23 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 2026](#)
[Register here](#)



Enrolling now for 2027

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11 February
5-6pm K-2 info evening
6-7pm 3-6 info evening

Tuesday 17 February
Shrove Tuesday
9am and 2.30pm Grade Parent
Induction Meeting

Monday 23 February 9am
Beginning School Mass and
Commissioning of Leaders

Tuesday 3 March
Open Day for Prospective Families
9-10.30am

Wednesday 4 March
Parent Engagement Meeting
Special guest Brenda Timp to
provide exciting information about
Siena College



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 2026 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 2026 CAPTAINS



2026 Captains - Imogen and Miguel 2026 Vice Captains - Lucia and Logan

Hi my name is Imogen (Immy) and I am the school captain for 2026.
I love looking after younger kids both inside and outside of school as well as making new friends and spending time with my old friends.
I enjoy learning different subjects, especially history, music and sport and I love reading.
I love the OLD school community and am looking forward to being school captain in 2026 and getting to know everyone.

Hi I'm Miguel and I was recently selected as school captain. I love drawing and playing with my friends at school.
I like to compare school captain with a ship captain. A captain of a ship must help hurt people, care for their crew and guide the crew and learn with them.
I think being a school captain is all about helping others, caring for others and learning.
In 2026 I am looking forward to helping others, learning with the rest of the school and setting a good example.

2026 Student Residential Address & Other information Collection

The Australian Government conducts an annual collection of data on Student Residential Addresses and Other Information. Please refer to the attached letter for further information regarding the data collection process.

The Department provides you with contact details if you have any further questions.

If you have changed your address recently, please notify the School Office immediately on old@dbb.catholic.edu.au or phone 726 2118

2026 School Fees

School fee statements for 2026 should be sent out via email to parents next week.

INTRODUCING OUR 2026 SCHOOL LEADERS

2026 SPORTS HOUSE CAPTAINS

CANA - Sports Captains

Mary

Alessia

Lillian

Yuto

GALILEE - Sports Captains

Caleb

Elena

Julian

Gabriella

BETHLEHEM - Sports Captains

Ella

Owen

Caitlyn

Fergus

NAZARETH - Sports Captains

Sophia

Georgia

Sara

Rishabh

2026 ICLT LEADERS

Nina

Jeremy

Siwon

Daniel

Margaux

Elise

Cassius

Arabella

Kento

2026 WELLBEING LEADERS

Ailie

Seoyul

Kathleen

Annamaree

2026 LITERACY LEADERS

Ashleigh

Selina

Amelie

Jasmine

Anna

Michelle

Alexelle

Annabelle

2026 MERCY LEADERS

Grace

Peter

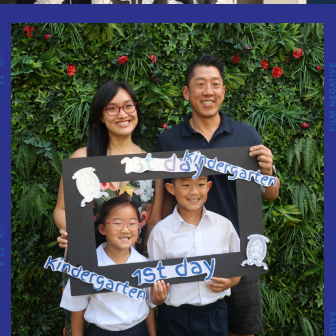
Johnny

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN 2026

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 “

SPORTS NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: CROSS COUNTRY 2026 MONDAY 2 MARCH

The Years 2-6 Cross Country School Trials will be held on Monday 2nd March 2026 (Week 6 Term 1) at Beauchamp Oval. A Compass event will come out next week with more details/information.

It is suggested that students start to train now for the event, to build up stamina and this way they are able to complete the required distances.

8/9-year-olds – 2kms

10-year-olds – 2kms

11-year-olds – 3kms

12-year-olds – 3kms

Kindergarten-Year 1 will do their own running and games at the oval in the afternoon.

Swimming Squad 2026

Congratulations to the students who have made it into this year's Swimming Squad for Zone Trials on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 (Week 6 Term 1) at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. The following students representing our school are:

Candice, Joshua, Sara, Julian, Ciara, Aleena, Jimmy, Olivia, Anna, Logan, Georgia, Yuto, Kento

Further details will be provided on a Compass event next week.



Basketball Rep Trials 2025/26

This Friday 6th February 2026, Isabelle (Year 5) and Annabelle (Year 6), sisters at OLD will be representing the school and participating in the Polding Basketball Trials at Tamworth Regional Sporting Complex.

Both girls along with Selina (Year 6) last year went to the North Shore Basketball Trials at St Leo's Wahroonga. All 3 students did exceptionally well, showcasing their basketball skills in front of other students competing and selectors.

Isabelle and Annabelle made it through to the next stage of trials.

We wish both girls all the best in Tamworth for the trials. The students, staff and parent community of OLD, are right behind you and can't wait to hear all about your trial. Mr.C will be talking to the girls on an OLD TV episode about it.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT OLD FOR 2026

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 2026



Grade Parents Nominations

We are inviting expressions of interest for Grade Parents for 2026. 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 6th February. You will be required to attend a Grade Parent Briefing before commencing your role. Dates for the briefings are planned for Tuesday 17 February at 9.00m or Tuesday 17 February at 2.30pm.

Yours sincerely,
Marco Ianni

Events Committee Nominations

We are inviting expressions of interest for Events Committee Members for 2026. 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.

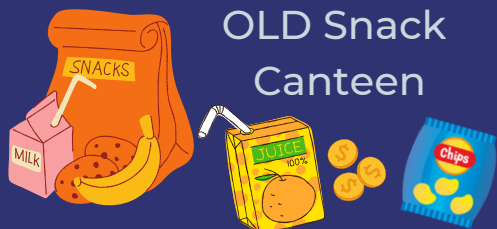
Once formulated I will organise a meeting for us to get together and start planning.

Kind regards
Marco Ianni

Events Committee Nominations for 2026



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 interested in assisting with the canteen please contact the school office
old@dbb.catholic.edu.au

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 please email the school office: old@dbb.catholic.edu.au



PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS - COME AND MEET YOUR TEACHER

On Wednesday 11 February we will be holding our Meet the Teacher - Grade Information Evening. These sessions will be held in the classrooms with K-Year 2 sessions being from 5-6pm and Year 3 - Year 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 11 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.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Staff Development Day

Monday 20 April

Friday 3 July

Staff Development Day

Monday 20 July

Monday 17 August

Staff Development Day

Friday 25 September

Wednesday 16 December

Staff Development Day

Thursday 17 December

Save the Date

Tuesday 15 September
Creative Arts Festival

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.



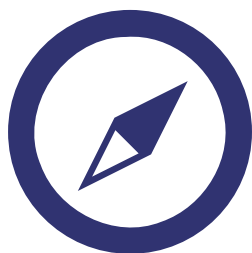


INFO

&



REMINDER



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) 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 Dolours's faith led approach, including an inclusive model of education.



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



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

**Tuesday
3 March
2026**

9am – 10.30am

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

*Ignite,
Innovate,
Include in the Spirit of Mercy*

Marco Ianni, Principal

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School
94A Archer Street,
Chatswood
7256 2118
olddb.catholic.edu.au



[Register here](#)



**EDUCATION
DELIVERED WITH
CARE & COMPASSION**

**BE YOUR
BEST SELF
here**

**SHAPING
TOMORROW
TOGETHER IN FAITH**

Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood



Fundraising
Pastoral Works Broken Bay

LUNAR NEW YEAR

15 February 2026

Sunday - 10:30 AM Mass



YEAR OF THE HORSE



23



First Reconciliation 2026

Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood

Enrolments for preparation and reception of First Reconciliation are now open via our parish website.

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

From our Parish website Home page (link below):

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood>

Click on the "Reconciliation Enrolments" Tile

From here, you will find all the dates and other details of the program. Scroll to the bottom of this page and click "**Enrol Here**" then complete the enrolment form.

For queries about sacraments for your child, contact Angela or Mona at: chatswood.sacraments@bbcatholic.org.au

Enrolments close Tuesday 10 February

Shrove Tuesday



On Tuesday, 17th February, OLD will be celebrating Pancake (Shrove) Tuesday with a fun pancake fundraiser!

Students are invited to bring a \$2.00 donation to receive a pancake with jam or butter, while learning about the meaning of Shrove Tuesday as we prepare for Lent.

What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins. It is traditionally a time to use up simple ingredients like eggs, milk, and flour, often by making pancakes, while taking time to reflect and prepare our hearts for the season of Lent.

What is Lent?

Lent is the 40-day season in the Church calendar leading up to Easter. It is a time when we focus on prayer, doing good for others, and preparing spiritually for Easter.

Thank you for supporting our school community!