



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Catholic Primary School • Darra

OLSH *news*

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TERM 1 WEEK 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Friends of the OLSH School Community,

Welcome back for 2017; a year that offers many opportunities for us all. It is always a privilege to be present at OLSH on the first morning of the school year and slowly listen as the area goes from being silent, to a dull roar and finally the crescendo that means school is back for another year. There is the sound of the sheer joy of friends welcoming one another and there are also many wanting to share their holiday stories. This sharing of joy and story occurs from children and adults alike.

I reached a significant parental moment shortly before school finished and it was highlighted over the holidays. My eldest child received her driver's learner permit and, with that, the requests about wanting to drive have begun!

When I think about driving, it is something I have been doing now for nearly thirty years. I do it most days. Apart from a couple of photos of my car that I have been sent, and the time a sheep ran in front of me at Chinchilla 15 years ago, I have not had too many incidents. It should be quite easy to pass on these skills to my offspring.

However, after the first few lessons as 'Instructor Dad', I discovered three things: The first is that I know what the handle on the passenger side of the car is designed for! Secondly, no matter how hard I push on the floor, there is no brake on the passenger side! Finally, while driving a car appears to be an instinctive skill for me, sometimes, it can be difficult, in certain situations, to accurately articulate this to another person!!!

Therefore, it was time to employ a driving school. After seeking recommendations from other people and speaking to the instructor myself, my wife and I made the decision to trust the driving school and pay for my daughter to have some lessons. We felt this was a necessary step to develop her skill set in what is an important life skill. It also acknowledges that this skill comes with great responsibility.

Therefore, she recently had a couple of lessons and there has been a huge difference. The experienced instructor was able to articulate more clearly, had the necessary tools (dual controls) and due to the different relationship, was able to encourage and challenge. The new skills and confidence gained were clearly evident when we went for another drive recently. It was a sound investment and we will continue to invest in these lessons.

Attending school is something that every Australian experiences, so as parents we all draw on our own reflections and opinions when we consider schools. My experience with the driving instructor made me reflect on the great trust that people place in us every year. It also made me realise what a great privilege it is, to, each day, watch children develop and increase their learning and develop important and necessary life skills, thanks to the expertise and talents of the many fine people who work at OLSH.

I hope that 2017 is an enriching and enjoyable year for us all. OLSH is a great school and will get even better in 2017.

Remember, God loves each and every member of the OLSH school community unconditionally.

John



WELCOME

Once again welcome back to 2017 – another exciting year for OLSH School. We especially welcome all of our new families and staff. Your special gifts will enrich us all.

STAFF NEWS

We welcome new staff to OLSH for 2017,

Stephanie Williams	Prep White
Emma Coops	Year 3W
Trish Cattell	Year 5B

We hope they find their time at OLSH personally and professionally rewarding.

The following changes occurred with staffing over the break.

Jacqui Jollife-Martin will not be returning to OLSH in 2017. Viv Coates will now teach Year 1R Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Melissa Evans will teach the class on Thursday and Friday.

Janette Macgregor accepted a position at Stuartholme in the days before Christmas. Fiona Rice, this week, has accepted the position of LOTE teacher (French). These lessons will commence shortly.

Sr Sue Walpole will be undertaking a sabbatical for Term 1, 2 and 3 in 2017. This was a decision made by the leadership of the Presentation Sister Congregation (the Religious Order to which Sr Sue belongs). Sr Sue will spend some time in Sydney and the Holy Land and will return from the commencement of Term 4. As this decision was only finalised over the holiday break, Sr Sue wished the whole of the OLSH community a great 2017 and looks forward to sharing her stories of the Holy Land when she returns.

ASSEMBLY

Assembly will continue to be held on Thursday. However, it will now be held after afternoon tea. The first assembly will be held next Thursday, February 2.

SPORTS UNIFORM

For Year 1 → 5 in 2017, the Sports Uniform is to be worn on Monday and Wednesday. Children wear the formal school uniform (blue uniform) on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Year 6 will continue to wear the sports uniform on Wednesday and Friday.

COMMUNICATION

One of the most effective and important means of communication between school and home is the school weekly newsletter. The newsletter is distributed every second Thursday. The first two editions will be sent home with the eldest child. From the third edition (Week 5) of this term the newsletter will be distributed by email. Please ensure that the school has your correct email address. For those families who do not have email please request a hard copy from the office.

We are also sending home any other notes about excursions/meeting etc. on Thursdays as well. Please ask your child every Thursday for any notes etc.

PARENT /TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Each year a parent/teacher information session is held. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and also clarify expectations for the year. During this session, information is shared with regards to policies and communication. There is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions. This year's session will be held Tuesday, February 7, commencing at 6:15 pm with the Principal's Address. During this address, I will be introducing the Parent Portal and will explain in detail the Building Program for this year.

Sessions with teachers will commence at 6:30 p.m. in the classrooms and will last approximately 30 minutes. Please note that these sessions are for Year 1→6 only, as the Prep session was held late last year.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2017 School Calendar is being distributed today. Thanks to Melissa Diaz for her work in completing this project. Every attempt has been made to include all the dates for the school year in the calendar. As these had to be submitted late last year, there may be some changes during the year. If there are any changes, they will be included on the Parent Portal (all dates will be on the parent portal by the end of the week). It is our hope that families find this calendar very beneficial.

FACEBOOK

The OLSH Facebook page is a great way of communicating between home and school. If you wish to be part of this page, please send a friend request to Olsh Darra.

Please note that we are only accepting current parents and current staff. If you have requested to be part of this page and have not been accepted, please contact the office. We are checking all requests and if a name does not match our school enrolment records, we are not accepting them. If you have requested to join and have not been accepted, please contact the office.

The aim of our school Facebook page is to promote positive messages about our school and also inform the school community about events occurring (e.g. excursions, morning teas etc.).

WELCOME BARBEQUE

The welcome barbeque will be held next Saturday, February 4, commencing at 6.00pm. It will be held in the undercover area. There will be no charge for this barbeque. It is hoped that this will encourage more people to attend. This is an opportunity for families to gather etc. Sporting equipment will be put out for children to play with until it gets dark. I look forward to welcoming many families to this event.

Thank you to those people who have volunteered to assist. However, we still need more people to help. If you can help please let the office know or approach someone at the barbeque on the night.

VOLUNTEER MEETING

At OLSH we are very grateful for the people that volunteer to assist in so many ways at our school. This maybe in our tuckshop, uniform shop or reading in the classroom. Recent changes to system policies and procedures mean that all volunteers are required to be informed of a Volunteers' Code and Register, as well as some student protection procedures. Therefore, I am requesting all volunteers to attend a short meeting in the school hall on Wednesday, February 8 at 2pm . If you are still keen to volunteer and are unable to be at this meeting, please let me know so that I can forward information to you. Please note that the volunteer information has been updated this year, therefore it is important that al volunteers attend these sessions.

PARENT PORTAL <https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/olsh>

Our school has a Parent Portal which provides information about various information in the school. This includes newsletters, updated school calendars, facilities to update family information and also email absenteeism etc. This portal assists with communication between school and home. All new families received an email with information about their login and password details this week. If you have not received this information or having difficulty logging on, please contact the school.

The parent portal has been updated this year.

It also includes all homework and children's Report Cards.

TUCKSHOP

This is a reminder about changes to how the Tuckshop will be run in 2017, in particular, the days offered.

From Week 2, the Tuckshop will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. That is there will be **no tuckshop on Monday and Tuesday.** We will review the hours and days at the end of Term 1.

GETTING STARTED VOUCHERS

Approximately four years ago, the State Government introduced a scheme to assist families with fees for children joining sporting clubs. To access this funding, the application for these vouchers needed to be signed by referral agents. Initially, teachers and the Principal were referral agents. Over the past few rounds, the referral agents have changed to Principals only and no longer to teachers.

It should be pointed out that the first time we were aware of these programs was when we saw the application forms! The only criteria that we were given to sign these forms were that we knew the child for more than twelve months, they were not immediate family or that our own children were not part of these sporting clubs. The final criteria was that we believed that the children would benefit from being part of a sporting club. As I believe that any child benefits from playing organised team sports, I signed every form that I was presented with if the child was a current student of OLSH. I also signed a number for past students of OLSH as well.

Late last year I was personally audited and asked to justify all the children that I had referred in the previous round. (There were also a few other Principals that were audited.) Due to the number of children, this was a lengthy process for me, and, put simply, I argued for each that they would benefit from playing organised sport and that I wanted to encourage this.

I write the above to give some context for the situation with the current round.

The criteria for referral agents for the next round has changed. The first criteria we have to answer is that will the family be disadvantaged if they do not have the voucher, and, in fact, the child may not be able to participate. Further advice has been sought and BCE are recommending to have a process in place to verify this financial need. At the very least, if people want the vouchers signed, they will need to make an appointment to see me and explain the financial difficulty.

I know that the changes in procedures for these vouchers will disappoint people. I have no doubt that local sporting clubs will continue to promote these vouchers and other referral agents may not ask for the same information that I am now seeking. However, I hope people understand my position.

CAR PARKING-DROP OFF ZONES

This is a reminder that the area on Darra Station Rd outside the front of the school is a 2 minute passenger drop off and collection zone only. The area at the back of the school on Scotts Rd is also a drop off zone. Please ensure that you do not park in this area. Police do regular patrols of the Darra school precinct.

In the morning, people coming into the drop off zone are asked to simply stop, kiss their child goodbye, have the children get out of the car and then move on. This should take approximately sixty seconds. We are asking no one to stop for any longer than this or park. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR.** We are going to try and move cars on as quickly as possible.

In the afternoon, people pull up in the loading zone. We will call for your child a maximum of three times. Your child should put their bag in the car and hop in. You then drive off. If your child is not there after three calls, you will be asked to move on and re-join the queue at the rear. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR.**

To assist with Drop off zones in 2017, we have introduced the following initiatives.

1. All families today have been provided with two copies of their family name to be displayed on their car at pick up time. It is hoped that this will assist with staff on duties in these areas and to have children moving as quickly as possible.

2. We have erected two signs at the start and end of each zone with clear directions for how these zones work. Please follow these signs

Thank you for your assistance.

P & F NEWS

The 2017 P & F Executive that was elected at the AGM late last year.

- President** David Gall
- Vice President** Cybele Koning
- Secretary** Aimee Tia
- Treasurer** Adrian Gearing

The first P & F meeting for 2017 will be held MONDAY, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The main item on the agenda is the 2017 School Fete that will be held on Sunday, May 21.



STUDENT PROTECTION AT OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Your children and their safety and wellbeing are our priority. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School is committed to the protection of all our students from harm and abuse. There have been some recent changes to legislation in relation to reporting of student protection matters by schools.

Reporting of Concerns – At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, any concerns or reasonable suspicions we have about a student’s safety and wellbeing or the behaviour of a staff member or volunteer which a student considers to be inappropriate, will continue to be managed in accordance with Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes. All our staff recently undertook training on their reporting responsibilities. A link to the Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes can be found on our school website or they can be accessed on Brisbane Catholic Education’s public website www.bne.catholic.edu.au

Under the ‘Students and Parents’ tab select ‘Student Protection’ from the drop down menu and click on the relevant button.

Complaints Procedure - Brisbane Catholic Education has published a *Complaints Procedure for Non-Compliance with BCE Student Protection Processes*. A link to the Complaints Procedure can be found on our school website. Parents or students may make a complaint via the *Record of Complaint about Non-compliance with Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes* which can be accessed on Brisbane Catholic Education’s public website www.bne.catholic.edu.au Under the ‘Students and Parents’ tab select ‘Student Protection’ from the drop down menu and click on the relevant button.

We take all complaints very seriously and will handle them in accordance with the *Complaints Procedure for Non-Compliance with BCE Student Protection Processes*. Should you require information or assistance regarding the procedures you may contact the school or the Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Team on 3033 7409.

Family and Child Connect Services - The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, has now established Family and Child Connect services to provide support to families. Please make contact with the school if you feel your family may benefit from contact with a Family and Child Connect Service or a local support service.

Concerns or Further Information - Parents and students should talk to the Student Protection Contact, the Class Teacher or the Principal if there are any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of any student or concerns about the behaviour of a staff member or volunteer. We take all reports seriously and will handle them in accordance with our Student Protection Processes.

This year we have updated our student protection contacts. If children feel unsafe they can contact Trish Chandra (School Psychologist), Libby Banks (Assistant Principal) or myself (Principal). If you have any questions or concerns about any matter or require further information about student protection, you can also contact one of the three people named above. .

**BE A HERO
WHEN IT COMES TO
YOUR SAFETY**

SPEAK UP!
BE SMART ONLINE
BE ALERT
RECOGNISE WHEN YOU FEEL UNSAFE
HAVE A PLAN

RECOGNISE REACT REPORT
You should always feel safe and be safe at home, at school, online and in the community.

If you're feeling unsafe, talk to
 Mr O'Connor Mrs Banks Mrs Chandra

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Who do I speak to if I feel unsafe?

Mr O'Connor Mrs Banks Mrs Chandra

Every face has a place at OLSH

This year our staff and students are focusing on scripture from Matthew 5: 13-16. Our theme is, 'Let your light shine!'. Each of us is made in the image of God and have our own unique gifts to share with others. When we share these gifts we are letting others know about the goodness of God. On Monday morning, all staff gathered in prayer to reflect on our theme for the year. We prayed over the following points:

- *Would we approach life differently if every morning we personally heard Christ's invitation to 'let your light shine'?*
- *What does it mean for us today to be the light of the world?*
- *What does it mean to be light for others?*

Some ways that we can be light to others is when we:

- *embrace the loveliness and nobility of our own being*
- *trust our own goodness*
- *believe in our own worth*
- *smile hello to another*
- *remember*
- *take time to notice*
- *speak a word of encouragement*
- *listen*
- *trust and expect*
- *speak truth in love*
- *laugh*
- *are present*

Each class will create an expression of our scripture theme and these will be displayed at our Opening Mass on Monday, 30th January at 10am. You are more than welcome to attend.

We are very much looking forward to seeing each child (and teacher's) light shine throughout this year! Blessings for the coming week.

Kate

Sacramental Programme

If there are any children who have not registered for the upcoming sacramental programme can they please ring the parish office promptly to enrol.

The first meeting for the upcoming programme is on Tuesday, 28 February. 10am at Darra Church and 7pm at Jindalee Church.

Sunday School Programme

The Parish is looking for teachers for the Sunday School Programme which takes place from 9am -10:15 each Sunday in school terms. All lessons and materials are provided with good support. Teachers can choose how often they are on the roster.

Due to a few retirements teachers are needed to join the Religious Instruction programme at Middle Park State School on a Wednesday. The lessons would be a half an hour long and in the middle session of the day from 11:45 am - 1:15pm. All lessons and materials will be supplied.

