



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Catholic Primary School • Darra

OLSH *news*

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TERM 1 WEEK 3, 2017

Dear Parents and Friends of OLSH School Community,

Recently at a party I witnessed somebody do an impression of former Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. For anyone who lived in Brisbane in the seventies and eighties it was instantly recognisable and quite humorous. If you mention Joh's name to people today you would probably get mixed reaction with half praising him and the other half critical of him.



One of the major events that I remember was in 1985 when there were rolling stoppages of power. From memory, the dispute went for over a fortnight. I am probably showing my age but I can remember the rush to try and cook dinner before the power went off. However, the thing I remember the most was how dark it was when the lights went off at night. It wasn't just the lights in the house, it was the streetlights, the lights in the shops, and there was no glow from the nearest suburbs. I am sure most people from that time remember the darkness plus the scramble to light candles and grab torches. This glow from candles brought comfort every night.

It's very powerful light. When you think about it, for over half the time our earth is in darkness, it is the artificial light, first produced by fire, and more recently in the last hundred and fifty years, by electricity, that allows us to be productive and not afraid of the darkness.



Jesus often spoke of the importance of light and used it as an analogy of how we should live our lives.

'You are the light of the world.'

A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden.

No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

In the same way, your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



The above quote came from Matthew's gospel and was last Sunday's gospel. It was also the gospel that we read at our Opening Mass.

This year at OLSH, our theme is "Let your Light Shine". This year we want to see each and every member of our community; child, staff or community member to let their light shine out. We want to see people use the power of their light inside to produce powerful good in their work or when they interact with one another. We also want to try and let our light bring comfort to those with whom we mix. If we can let our light shine in our own community of OLSH, hopefully we can take it to the world.

God Bless *John*

WELCOME BBQ

It was wonderful to see so many people at our school last Saturday night enjoying themselves. It was pleasing to have conversations with most people. If I didn't say hello I apologise but I really did try. A huge thankyou to everyone who assisted in anyway, whether cooking, serving, setting or cleaning up. It could not have been done without the community working together.

2017 SCHOOL FETE

Our bi-annual School Fete will be held on Sunday, 21 May. Traditionally this has been one of the highlights of Darra and the wider community. It is a wonderful community-building day as well as our major fundraiser for the two years. However, for this day to be successful, a great deal of planning and preparation is required. Our first fete meeting will be held next Monday, 13 th February. Two meetings will be held, one at 8:30 in the morning, and a major one that evening at 7:00pm. If you can help, please try and attend one of these meetings.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP ZONES

Normally, at this time of the year, I am writing about the difficulties we have been experiencing with the pick up zones. Apart from a few issues, i.e still double parking in Scotts Rd, for the start of the year, it has been relatively smooth. While it might be too simplistic, the new signs appear to be working.

So too has been the displaying of the family names on the car windows. This has been a tremendous help to the staff on duty in the afternoon. Thank you to all those people who have placed their new name banners in their cars. It has made a big improvement in the afternoon for those people who have them displayed. The best place is on your sun visor with either blue tac or rubber bands. These banners have been produced following requests from parents and recommendations from Mt Ommaney police and Brisbane City Council. If you have not put yours up yet, can I please request you do so over the weekend. Every family has been given two name banners.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Every year we are required to remind parents of some of the administrative procedures that are in place at our school. In this newsletter I have included:

1. Before and After School Supervision
2. Nut and allergy awareness
3. Medication at school
4. School Fees and Financial Information

I know that many people may have read these before, but it is important every year that we go through these procedures.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

A reminder about before and after supervision at our school.

In the morning, supervision for children does not commence until 8:10 at OLSH. Any children that arrive before this time are not supervised. Any children who arrive before this time are to sit quietly in the courtyard. If your children are at school consistently before this time, Before School Care should be used for families.

Children are supervised at OLSH in the afternoon until 3:20 at the Drop- off/Pick-up Zones. Any children after this time are unsupervised. If work commitments etc. consistently mean that your child is at school constantly after this time, your family should really access After School Care. Children are not to play in the undercover area in the afternoon if they are being collected from the Pick-up Zones. They are to move directly to Scotts Rd or The Secret Garden from their classroom. Thank you for your support.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL – ALLERGY AWARENESS

We have children attending OLSH who suffer from an anaphylactic reaction to peanuts/tree nuts. These reactions can be serious and even life-threatening. The most dangerous symptoms are breathing difficulties or a drop in blood pressure, which can be potentially fatal.

As a school, we need to be aware of these allergies. No food is allowed to be shared between children at lunchtime. Awards of food/sweets will not be given that contain nut ingredients e.g. chocolates. In the classroom, there will be education for students on food allergies and healthy foods. This is incorporated into the school curriculum. Pictures of children with Medical Action Plans are displayed in the staffroom, classrooms and other appropriate areas.

We also ask parents to assist us. This can be done by ensuring that birthday cakes are peanut and nut free. We ask parents not to send peanut butter on sandwiches, or Nutella (to minimize the risk from person to person contact). We also ask you to emphasize the importance of hygiene when eating food at home and at school – washing hands. While we can never entirely enforce or regulate what comes from home in each child's lunch box nor where foods contain traces of nut oil, we hope people will assist in working toward minimizing the risks and looking at alternatives from nut products.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

A reminder of the medication policy and procedures that as a school we must follow. Medications will not be given unless an official form is completed by the parents. These are available from the Office. Only medication, in its original container, prescribed by a doctor with clear instructions from a doctor can be administered. The instructions must be in the form of written instructions from the doctor or a chemist's label.

This medication will be kept in the Office and administered only by the authorised personnel. The sole exception is for those students who need to carry their personal Ventolin inhalers with them at all times. Please note that the school maintains a record of administered medications.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that medication is current (that is not out of date). All Medical Action Plans (e.g. for anaphylaxis, asthma and allergies) should be reviewed every twelve months. The school will not take responsibility for parents who do not have current action plans fully completed.

These procedures are the only way medication will be administered at OLSH.

SCHOOL FEES AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All families should have now received the first school fees account for the year. I wish to point out some administrative issues with people's financial accounts that we often have queries about.

Under privacy legislation only parties that have signed as Account Holders can receive or request information on the financial aspects of an enrolled student (i.e. fee details), and schools can face large penalties for breaches of this legislation.

In simple terms, that means only the person who has signed the enrolment confirmation form and details on the payment details can receive financial details. This includes receiving financial details or balances etc.

This is similar to other organizations that have customer financial records. For example, my own family's Telstra account is in my wife's name and I am unable to access information, add other phones etc.

I understand that this, at times, can cause inconvenience and can cause frustration, but as our school is part of a larger organization, and therefore has legal responsibilities, we have no option but to follow these instructions.

However, there are options that people can follow. To avoid any inconvenience from being refused information, please ensure your account holder details held on file here at school are current. Financial responsibility options are:

Option 1 – Joint and Several Financial Responsibility

Both parties assume equal responsibility for 100% of the account – both are entitled to receive or request

information. Both parties' names will appear on the Fees Statement.

Option 2 – Financial Responsibility

One party assumes 100% responsibility – this person only is entitled to receive or request information.

Option 3 – Split Financial Responsibility

Multiple parties are financially responsible for a portion of the account erg 50% and each party will receive an account for their portion – each party is entitled to receive or request information regarding their account/ portion only.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

A reminder that 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. That is, this newsletter is the last edition of a paper copy of the newsletter for the year.

For those families who do not have email, please request a hard copy from the office.

CLASS CONTACTS

If you do not wish for your email address to be provided to the Class Contact for your child's class, please let the office or Mrs Banks know as soon as possible.



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.

Prior to the commencement of school in January, the whole school staff engaged in a retreat run by Sr Gerardine Doherty, a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Sr Gerardine spoke to us about the charism of Fr Jules Chevalier, the founder of The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Charism refers to a call from God, deep within the heart and an uncontrollable desire to spread the unique message of this call. It's a life changing message given to an individual. Fr Chevalier's message was that God is love. He was driven to tell the world the truth that God loves you unconditionally.

This charism, which is expressed as a spirituality of the heart, is important for our community. It's was and remains today, the driving force behind The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred, the sisters who started our school. Understanding that God is love and the depth of His love is a beautifully simply concept for our students to grasp.

Understanding and embracing our school charism is also part of our 2017 Strategic Plan. In the coming year, we hope to further develop our knowledge of our charism and bring it to life in a practical sense for our community. Stay tuned!

Finally, some of our staff recently attended the Centenary celebrations of The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Corinda. It was uplifting and inspiring to hear of the dedication of these women in educating our local students and ministering to the community. It was particularly meaningful to hear how the sisters served the Darra community by catching the train each day from Corinda to educate children in the Darra church. To this day, they are still serving in this way through the actions of Sister Margaret Mary whom we frequently see visiting the parishioners of Darra. What a blessing she and all the sisters are to our school and community - they are still spreading Fr Jules Chevalier's message of love!

Kate



The **FETE RAFFLE COMMITTEE** would like donations/ contacts of businesses or people who may be able to provide donations for Raffle Prizes.

So as to avoid multiple people approaching the same businesses, please conact Sandra Roe from the committee on - sro12373@bigpond.net.au



DRAMA CLASSES

Held in the Hall from
3:05— 4:20pm on every
Wednesday from 1 February.

Confidence, communication,
interaction and imagination.

Practical presentation and
public speaking skills.

Classes for Prep to Year 6.

**ENROL NOW ONLINE!
LIMITED PLACES**

www.drama.bazilgrumble.com.au

BRING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE !

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France mid year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our High schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. Arriving in June, all the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses ,and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It's fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream.

If you'd like know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au or call 0438 689828.

Bellbowrie "Strikers" Hockey Club

Fun family culture. Supportive learning environment. Development pathways into representative and senior grades.

Players of all ages (from 3 years) welcome.

Junior teams train at Bellbowrie Sport and Rec fields. Games are played at Ipswich hockey grounds each weekend, generally Saturday morning.

FREE Come and Try day, 9am, 11 Feb.

RSVP on website to help ensure enough coaches on the day

For more information visit our website:

www.bellbowrie.ipswichhockey.com

Or Contact us:

Girls-Ladies - Julie 0422 986 848

Boys-Men - Troy 0406 120 033

Email: bhc.strikers@gmail.com

Piano and Keyboard Lessons with Barbara Crellin

If your child wishes to commence piano or keyboard in 2017 please collect an enrolment form from the school office or ring Barbara on 0473 253 337.



STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES

Semester 1, 2017

Bus - Ferry Fare Assistance

- Does your child attend a **school outside the Brisbane City Council** boundary?
- Does your family spend more than **\$33/week*** on fares to and from school (* \$25/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a **publicly available bus** not owned or associated with the school?
- Does your child live more than 3.2km for Primary or 4.8km for Secondary from their school?

Students With Disability

- Does your child have a **verified disability** that requires **transport assistance** to and from school?
- Does your child have a **travel capability rating** of 'semi-independent', 'travel assisted', 'dependent', or 'more dependent'?

What you need to do now:

1. Check eligibility for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport at www.schooltransport.com.au
2. If eligible:
 - a) keep your public transport receipts to lodge a claim
 - b) note in your calendar to lodge a rebate claim in May and October



South West United Hockey Club
Inc.

Free Come and Try Hockey and Free Community BBQ

WHEN: Sunday 26th February, 10am-Midday
WHERE: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School
 115 Darra Station Road, Darra, 4076
(use entrance on Scotts Road)

Playing hockey offers great opportunities

for keeping fit, learning teamwork and commitment, promoting respect and resilience and for teaching responsible participation. All this happens in the midst of friendship and fun!!!

If you'd love to join an inclusive, dynamic

and supportive community then come and talk to us at our fun day to find out how we can support you to play hockey.

PLAY HOCKEY!
 We welcome
 boys and girls
 to play from
ages 5
 upwards

For more details about our club go to
www.southwestunitedhockey.org.au



Hockey is a game for everyone!

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



Making school drop-offs hassle-free

“One common transition challenge occurs at school-drop-off time. Some kids are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.”



There are a number of trouble spots for parents, and they have one thing in common. They all occur around a child’s transition from one activity or place to another.

Transitions from play to dinnertime, television to bedtime or from bed to the breakfast table are common battlefields for parents. Kids want to do one thing, yet family requirements mean that they have to do something else.

A battle can ensue with children dawdling, whining or refusing point blank to budge! Parenting is always hard work at these times.

One common transition challenge occurs at school-drop-off time. Some kids are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.

Children’s tears at drop-off time play at the heart strings of compassionate parents, particularly those who feel guilty about leaving their child. Tantrums are another way children keep parents busy and their complaints about being too tired indicate that perhaps an earlier bedtime is in order.

Usually it’s children in the early years of primary school who present most difficulty at school drop-off times. Essentially these drop-off problems are separation issues that can easily be resolved by supportive teachers and some tough love parenting.

It’s worth remembering that a developmental task for children is to separate from their parents, so that they can benefit from being around other adults. Parents who resist this imperative, allowing their child to cling to them are doing their youngster a disservice.

If dropping kids off at school in the morning is a problem here’s a few ideas that may help. Your aim as a parent is to establish a new pattern of behaviour for your child in the morning, particularly as you approach the school gate or classroom door

1. **Go through the morning and drop-off routine** with your kids. Make sure everyone knows what’s expected. Work out your jobs and those that the kids need to do then stick to this arrangement. For instance, it may be your job

to make school lunches but it’s up to kids to put them in their bags.

2. **Drop kids off, turn around and go:** If you have a child who likes to keep you busy each morning with tears or tantrums then you may have to take the ‘tough love’ approach. Say goodbye using a firm voice, turn around and leave. Don’t look back. Most kids settle down at school within five minutes of being dropped off. Parental lingering only makes matters worse for children and teachers. Teachers are experienced at helping kids settle into the school routine, so allow them to take over.
3. **Reaffirm their efforts later:** If your child begins to go off without tears or tantrums after a long period of difficult departures then make a bit of fuss when you see them later in the day. Don’t go overboard with tangible rewards or bribes. Parental recognition, genuinely given is a huge driver for most kids.
4. **Wean your child off you:** If your normal habit is to drop your child off at the classroom door each morning, try saying goodbye at the school gate every now and then. The aim is to make your child less, rather than more reliant on you.

If problems continue then it’s worth consulting your child’s teacher or welfare coordinator, carefully outlining the issue. Be prepared to be coached on this issue, trusting the approach that your school advises.

Teachers generally have experienced this type of separation anxiety before and understand when it’s within children’s capacities and when they may need extra help to cope. It makes good sense to trust their judgement. From my experience, it’s usually spot on!

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Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Darra

Parents and Friends' Association

Welcome to 2017 and firstly thank you to all the families that came to our welcome barbecue last weekend and special thank you to the staff and parents that assisted in the preparation, cooking, serving and clean up. It was a great turn out.

At the parent information evening I invited parents to participate in the school through the works of the P & F. We are looking for parents to be involved in a variety of groups. We are seeking expressions of interests for those wanting to be involved with the Fete as well as the action teams. The action teams provide an opportunity for parents to be involved in a particular aspect of life at OLSH. The Learning Team is focused on student learning and all things classroom related. The Faith Team is focused on strengthening school catholic identity through parent partnerships. The Partnership Team is focussed on community events and the Resourcing Team is focused on supporting the school through raising funds for the work of the P & F and school. Please use this [link](#) to register your interest in a particular group or the Fete.

There will be Fete meetings on Monday February 13 in the boardroom for interested parents at 8:30am or 7:00pm.

Kind Regards

David Gall

P&F President