

FAMILY FUN DAY

FRIDAY 24TH MAY

CHILDREN TO WEAR THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM WITH A BLUE ACCESSORY

Dear Parents & Friends

Do You Believe in Miracles?

What do you think about miracles? Are you a believer? Apart from surviving parenthood and still being of sound mind, do you think that extraordinary things might happen which have no apparent rational explanation? What do you think of this occurrence?

In May 1917, three Portuguese children, Lucia Santos and Jacinta and Francesco Marteo, aged ten, eight and seven, claimed to have seen a Lady from Heaven who spoke to them about mankind's need to change its approach to living. They said that a miracle would take place on October 13 so that all would believe. They were laughed at and



scolded by their families and when the story began to be talked about more widely, they were arrested and imprisoned by the local mayor. In spite of separating them and threatening them with various forms of punishment, each of the children persisted with the same story.

On October 13 a crowd of 70 000 people from all walks of life and persuasions, gathered to see the miracle which the children had told them to expect around midday. The vast crowd stood in the pouring rain for several hours till, shortly after midday, the clouds parted and they saw the sun turn different colours whilst apparently spinning on its axis. This lasted for about ten minutes. Then, the entire crowd saw the sun plunge towards the earth. They were terrified, as it seemed like the end of the world. When they looked again, the sun was in its accustomed place and though they had been standing in the pouring rain, they were completely dry.

There were hundreds of written testimonies as to what happened, so, was it a miracle? It would seem unlikely that so many thousands of people were simultaneously tricked or took part in a lie or that the detailed historical records, still in existence, were somehow "made up" later on without anyone realising it.



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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish - Fr Brendan - 9623 1962

People of Christian faith recognise that miracles do take place and base their entire belief on a past miracle namely, Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. During His three years of public life, Jesus performed many miracles most of which were miracles of healing. Often associated with these acts of healing were the words, "Your sins are forgiven" or "Go and sin no more". These words would have been considered a blasphemy by the Jewish hierarchy for only God had the authority to forgive sins. Jesus was saying that He had that authority to decide who would enter the Kingdom, no matter what their status in life, provided they believed in Him and tried to live good lives.

So, at Fatima, during the First World War, "the Lady from Heaven" restated Jesus' message to ordinary people: have a good look at your lives, remove the negative behaviours and return to God's way - love God, love your neighbour, love yourself and peace will come not only to you personally, but to the world.

Probably, none of us has had our own personal miracle, but possibly, we have each had an encounter in life, that has made us think more deeply about ourselves. Perhaps we have undergone a healing process that has brought peace into our life, maybe we are more accepting of ourselves, of other people, maybe more aware of God's Spirit within us.

Dear "Lady from Heaven"
in every instance that you have appeared
to people throughout the ages,
you have always called them to your Son.
Help us, now,
to come to Him
with open and willing hearts.
Amen.

Autism Awareness

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition which is characterised by differences in behaviour, social interaction, communication, special interests and sensory processing. These differences can present people on the autism spectrum with challenges in how they interact with their environment.

Some characteristics of autism are common to a greater or lesser extent among many people on the autism spectrum; other characteristics are typical but not necessarily experienced by all people on the autism spectrum. The word 'spectrum' is used to reflect the wide scope of differences in how individual people experience autism and their environment. While some people on the autism spectrum also have an intellectual impairment or disability, many others have average intelligence, while others have above-average intelligence.

Behaviour

People on the autism spectrum may exhibit the following behaviours:

- unusually intense or focused interests, including savant skills
- excellent memory skills
- high level of attention to details, plans, patterns and codes
- either difficulties, or exceptional skills in planning and self-organisation.

Some people on the autism spectrum may behave in certain ways, often in response to the different ways in which they experience their environment. Such behaviours are generally a way to communicate their feelings or to adapt to a situation, or may result from their heightened sensitivity to a sound or something they have seen or felt. Some people on the autism spectrum may use these behaviours as a way to reduce uncertainty and maintain the predictability of their environment.

This can include:

- strict adherence to rules and routines
- repetitive body movements
- repetitive use of objects, such as repeatedly switching lights on and off, or placing objects in a strict order or pattern.

Social interaction

People on the autism spectrum may to a greater or lesser extent be unable to understand and express their needs and emotions, or unable to interpret and understand the needs and emotions of others. This can affect their ability to share interests and activities with other people. Their communication styles and skills can lead to their avoidance of any social interaction and withdrawal into repetitive play and behaviour. For these reasons, people on the autism spectrum may sometimes appear distant and aloof and may have challenges in establishing and maintaining relationships. People on the autism spectrum may also show strong loyalty and commitment to honesty.

Communication

People on the autism spectrum may face communication challenges in one form or another. Many people on the autism spectrum are highly articulate and speak fluently, others may have speech impairments of varying degrees and others are unable to speak at all (non-verbal). Of those who can speak, they can often use language in a limited or non-typical way. People on the autism spectrum may tend to speak their mind and to present and interpret information in 'black and white' concepts. Conversations may involve repeating phrases, asking the same questions over and over, or focussing only on topics that are of interest to them. People on the autism spectrum may either miss or misinterpret non-verbal forms of communication such as facial expressions, hand gestures and other body language.

Sensory processing

People on the autism spectrum may experience non-typical sensory sensitivities and may seek to avoid everyday sounds and textures such as hair dryers, vacuum cleaners and sand. Some people on the autism spectrum may have unusual sensory interests, such as sniffing objects or staring intently at moving objects. These sensitivities and interests can lead to non-typical behaviours, often as means of adapting to and coping with the sensitivity.

What causes autism?

Currently, there is no single known cause of autism, however, recent research has identified strong genetic links. Autism is not caused by an individual's upbringing or their social or economic circumstances. How common is autism? It is estimated that worldwide there are 52 million people on the autism spectrum and research suggests that there is little variation from one region to another in the proportion of the population who are on the autism spectrum.

- * The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that about 1 in 68 children in the United States are identified as being on the autism spectrum.
- * Consistent with the understanding that autism is a lifelong condition, researchers from the United Kingdom have shown that the prevalence of autism in the adult population is similar to that identified in children.
- * The rate of diagnosis in children is higher for males than for females.
- * Over the last two decades the reported prevalence of autism has increased dramatically from its 1995 count of around 1 in 500. Current research suggests that the increased rate of autism diagnosis is due to changes in reporting practices and changes in the diagnostic criteria, which now includes a broader range of diagnostic features.

Symptoms of autism in children

No single indicator necessarily signals autism – usually, a child will present with several indicators from some of the following categories:

- Has inexplicable tantrums
- Has strong interests or attachments
- Has repetitive motor movements such as flapping hands or spinning
- Has difficulty coping with change
- Afraid of some everyday sounds
- Uses peripheral vision to look at objects
- Not responding to his/her name by 12 months
- Responding to certain sounds but ignoring the human voice
- Looks away when you speak to him/her
- Prefers to play alone
- Shows very strong interest in or attachment to a limited number of games or toys

Diagnosis

Autism is diagnosed by developmental paediatricians, psychiatrists and psychologists who are qualified and experienced in assessing people on the autism spectrum. An assessment includes observations, standardised tests or questionnaires, and meeting with the individual, their family and service providers. Information is gathered about the individual's strengths and difficulties, particularly in the areas of social interaction and social communication, sensory processing, and restricted and repetitive interests, activities and behaviours. There is no single behaviour that indicates autism. Autism is usually diagnosed in early childhood, but can be done at any age.

Many of the adults on the autism spectrum who have received a diagnosis after childhood express the relief that the diagnosis provided them in explaining why they had felt the way they did, and enabled them to find the right services, as well as make contact and rewarding social relationships with other people on the autism spectrum.

If you would like an assessment for autism, your GP can refer you to a developmental paediatrician or diagnostic assessment service in your area. Alternatively, you can contact Aspect about information on autism-related services.

Thought for the Week

“Be Faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

-Mother Teresa

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL



JUST A REMINDER THAT WE ARE ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR

KINDERGARTEN 2020.

**IF YOU KNOW OF A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS A CHILD STARTING
SCHOOL NEXT YEAR, PLEASE REMIND THEM TO COLLECT AN ENROLMENT PACK
FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

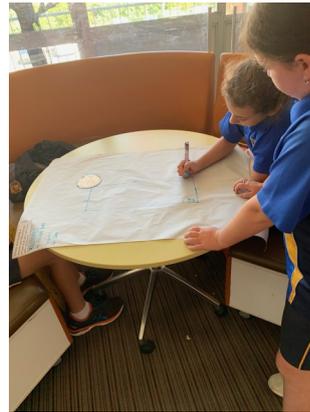


From the Assistant Principal's desk...

Welcome to my desk. In each Newsletter I will provide general information, ideas and tips for parents in all key Learning Areas. If you have a particular question or query or anything you would like more information about, please let me know.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES

At Our Lady of the Rosary we aim to provide our students the opportunity to work in engaging and flexible learning environments. Traditional classrooms, that you as parents, may have experienced in your schooling where each student sat at the same desk all day, taught by one teacher are no longer the preferred practice. We have moved away from the thinking that all students are the same and require the same learning. In an open, flexible classroom we can personalise the learning by creating different learning pathways for each student.



What is a flexible learning space?

A modern flexible learning environment allows for students to be grouped during learning and can change throughout the day, depending on the purpose of the lesson.

Flexible spaces allow for collaborative work, independent work, and small group explorations. The teachers in the space are able to teach the whole class, a small group of students or work one on one with a student. Within our learning spaces we can have up to 3 teachers as well as Teacher assistants all working with different students concurrently.

How do flexible spaces improve learning?

In a flexible space everything is centred around the learning outcomes of the students.

Teachers are able to make connections across skills, across different content areas allowing them to develop a common language. We live in a connected world so it's important when we teach that we allow students to develop their skills in cooperation, problem solving, negotiating and reasoning.

Students are able to be pushed further and provided with extension or support, where necessary.

How does it increase teacher effectiveness?

Partnerships in our lives increase our effectiveness in all areas. In working in shared, flexible spaces teachers learn from each other and get more feedback on their instructional practices. Teachers bring their "A game" daily as they are observed and supported by their peers.

The teachers also feel a sense of collective responsibility for all students' learning. They are constantly in conversation about the students' learning and give each other advice and feedback.

At OLR we are continually updating our resources and our learning spaces to provide the best environment for our students to have the best opportunity to learn.



WHATS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

Wednesday 22nd May

- Primary School Leaders Civic Reception

Friday 24th May

- 9:00 - 9:45am **Family Fun Day** Liturgy
 - 9:45 - 10:45am Family Portraits
 - 10:45 - 11:15am Picnic Morning Tea with children
- Children to bring a gold coin and a blue accessory with their uniform

Friday 31st May

- Infants Athletics Carnival
- P&F Mufti Day - Sports Fever

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthday in the last 2 weeks.

Atak Baak; Amelia McMillan; Krishnan Naicker; Sai Tayi; Deng Lual; Harmony Filitonga-Smith; Ava Ledwidge; Antonio Ianni; Peter Grech; Christian Berrier; Faith Atonio; Scarlett Craig; Josalyn Tooala; Dianna Kelei; Tanisha Sharma; Nyanwut Reec; Abur Ujuangi; Jaylon Chandrapala; Emmanuel Danao; Jacob Bingham; Kapish Panchal; Matilda Horne; Sahejleen Kaur; Auot Akot.



PRINCIPAL'S MORNING TEA

Congratulations to the following children who have earned their 'Speedboat' award and attended the Principal's Morning Tea this morning.

Yasmin Zaatini, Aaliyah Zaatini, Rohit Duranjay, Rajveer Manocha, Natalya Papandreou, Alex Wernhard, Akot Geng, Emmanuel Danao, Jacob Matthews, Gum Ngong, Tristan Pierre, Darrus Tinga, Dylan Beatty, Alic Guot, Tony Mairi, Ethan Schroeder, Loghan Allen, Apaula Gae'e, Jeron Jose, Abraham ker, Jaidyn Matthews, Amelia McMillan, Anthony Chut, Stella Croucher, Jacinta Dib, Ryan Furner, Liam Reece, Josalyn Tooala, Alyssa Wernhard, Shawn Anufe, Gaurika Manocha, Elijah Moelasi, Amelia Kondek, Priyam Saha, Ujuangi Ujuangi,



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION @ Our Lady of the Rosary

From the page of the Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Colleen Fuller

Parish Mass times are listed for you and the family.

You are invited to gather with the believing community for Holy Mass, at one of the many available times.

We are blessed to have so many time choices to attend Mass.

Saturday 6.00pm.

Sunday 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.30pm

Choose a Mass time that is most suitable time for you and your family to attend Sunday Mass.

Attending mass is an integral part of our Christian life as we gather as community to hear the Word of the Lord in holy scripture, be spiritually nourished by the Eucharist to strength and guide us as we go out into the world each week to do God's work and spread the message of the Gospel.

2019 Our Lady of the Rosary School MISSION GOAL:

All students to actively engage with our school motto: 'We Follow Jesus' responding as disciples of Christ.

Sunday Gospel: 26 May 2019 - Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year C

Gospel Jn 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection on the Gospel

The new city of God is built on the foundation of the apostles, but on its gates are inscribed the names of the tribes of Israel. **These names represent the openness to all nations, races, peoples and tongues. The resurrection of Jesus has radically transformed the way we live together and the way we live with God.**

What must we do to be saved? The question put to Jesus centuries ago is still asked today, and the answer is still the same. **We must believe and we must love God and love one another.**

We will be recognised as resurrection people by our active faith and by our unselfish love, not by an exterior mark, regardless of how sacred. This change in requirements for membership does not diminish the rigour of our religious obligations. Rather, it suggests that we may always have to reinterpret the law, for what is appropriate at one time and in one place may be inappropriate in another. With the early Christians, we will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this very delicate process. This is why the departing Jesus assures us that the Spirit will come to us to teach us all things.

The final gift that Jesus promises to give is his own peace, a peace that he has won by overcoming sin and death. This peace issues from the union that Jesus enjoys with God, a union which we are now invited to share.

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FAMILY DAY FRIDAY... Families are invited to join us at school to celebrate and reflect on the importance of FAMILIES in building a stable, peaceful society. On this day we work with **Catholic Education and Catholic Care** to raise funds to support the care of families in need, in our immediate area. ALL students are asked to wear something blue with their school uniform and bring a **GOLD COIN**.

9:00am - 9:30am Whole School liturgy

9:45 - 10:45am Open classrooms where students will be creating a Family Portrait to celebrate their family and to take home afterwards for display.

10:45 - 11:15 am PICNIC MORNING TEA WITH YOUR FAMILY

Friday 24th May, 2019 ... FEAST DAY

of **OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS** - Patroness of Australia

God of all, you give us this beautiful land, Australia, and its people. We pray that under Mary's protection we may live in peace and harmony. Help us to appreciate the richness and diversity of our own nation. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. Amen.



SAUSAGE SIZZLE BUNNINGS Saturday 15th June, 2019

Where: MINCHINBURY

TIME: 7:30 - 4:00pm

Your generous help is needed. We are fundraising for your school: your students.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

PLEASE NOMINATE A TIME-SLOT and ring the school or send a note to let us know at what time you are available to help. Gracious thanks in anticipation of your generosity and willingness to help.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION REMINDERS

TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES

Please be advised that Term 2 School Fees are due on 5th June, 2019. If you are unable to pay fees in full and would like to set up a payment arrangement or you have not received your Term 2 statement, please contact Anne Rando – 88568301



LEAVING STUDENTS

This is just a reminder that a full terms notice must be given if you are intending to leave the school. The CEDP will charge you a 10 week penalty if a full terms notice is not given. There is a form that needs to be filled out that you can collect from the school office. If you fill the form out and your situation changes or you change your mind, please contact the office as soon as possible.



MEDICATION

If your child needs to have medication given to them at school, you need to deliver the medication in its original packaging to the school office and complete a medication form. Students are not to keep medication in their school bags.



Emmaus News



A strong start to the term at Emmaus, with the students of the college having success in both the Mock Trial and Debating. The Mock Trial students did the college community proud during their round 2 trial against Rouse Hill. It was a great performance by both teams, but Emmaus claimed victory 209 to 204. The team had a brilliant performance with majority of the students never having taking part of an active role in past Mock Trials. Special thanks go out to their teacher, Danielle Nevin who has worked tirelessly with the students and Dom Luke, who transported the students to Rouse Hill and gave them a "game face" pep talk. Congratulations to the following students for the victory:

Emily Collins (Year 10)
Rona Aprecio (Year 10)
Zoe Zussa (Year 11)
Emma Claxton (Year 10)
Niamf O'Keefe (Year 10)
Kiara Salinas (Year 10)

Emmaus hosted other schools in the Diocese in interschool debating on last Friday night. Teams are made up of different year groups and allocated a teacher as a mentor. The year 7, 9 and 10 teams were successful in their debates, while the Year 8 and senior team had strong performances but ultimately went down.

Georgetta George of Year 10 received a scholarship from Busan University to study in South Korea. This is an amazing opportunity for her as only 4 students in Australia receive this scholarship. This includes all expenses paid trip to study in Korea this year and visit the cultural landmarks and technology companies that she has learned about in Mr Kyle Jung's Korean elective class.

Diocesan News



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Visiting Residents of Aged Care Facility

Are you interested in visiting an elderly person in a nursing home who has no or very few visitors? This service is organised through Catholic Care. You would visit on average once every two weeks with Catholic Care providing training and other support. After talking with you about your interests, we will match you with a resident in a nursing home within approximately 10km of your home. The visit is entirely within the nursing home - you do not take the person on outings or shopping etc. For more information, contact Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au.

NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook

A new edition of the NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook is now available online. A resource for all parents, carers and teachers proudly brought to you by NSW Police Legacy. Download the latest edition at https://issuu.com/associatedmediagroup/docs/cshb_2019_first-edition_digital_-_u?e=2934354/66556295 and discuss the safety content with your children or students today.

\$100 Creative Kids Vouchers Go Live

As parents begin planning for the year ahead, they can now access Creative Kids vouchers, providing them with \$100 for every school-age child to help cover the cost of enrolment for creative and cultural learning activities. Parents can use one voucher for every school-age child per year to help meet the cost of structured creative and cultural activities, such as music lessons, languages, coding, drama and theatre, photography and graphic design. Minister for Finance, Services and Property Victor Dominello said the NSW Government's Creative Kids program builds on the success of the Active Kids program, which is back this year, helping to reduce the cost of registration for sport and organised physical activity.