Dear Parents and Children,

**School Opening Ceremony**

A reminder that on Friday, March 9 at 9.00 we will have a special school assembly where the Honorable Kelvin Thomson, Member of House of Representatives - Wills, will officially open our school buildings. At the Assembly Father Paul will also bless the school buildings. Following the official opening parents are invited to a morning tea that will be served in the staffroom.

For catering arrangements could you please advise the office staff by note or phone call if you attending this morning tea by Wednesday, 7 March.

**Please note that this week we will not be holding our normal Wednesday assembly.**

**School Board**

Tomorrow evening we will be holding the first meeting of our 2012 School Board. Congratulations to Marco Citino who has accepted the position of Chairperson of our School Board and also to Lisa Barker and Bernie Steinicke who last year were elected as parent representatives. The main aims of the Board, as listed in the Board Constitution, are to support, assist and advise the Parish Priest and the Principal in the efficient management and development of the school. Over the year there will be a number of Board reports in our newsletter.

**Prep Enrolments 2013**

Last Wednesday’s Open Day was a great success and we had a number of current and prospective families visit the school. Many thanks to the senior children who acted as tour guides on the morning. Many of our visiting parents passed on comments about the manners and the knowledge that these children displayed in carrying out their duties.

**Me(a)t and Greet Night**

It was great to see so many dads at last Thursday evenings ‘meat and greet’ night. Many thanks to Mark Cometti, Sebastian Giacchi and all of the Parent Association members and parents who assisted in the organisation and cleaning up at the end of the evening.

**Anaphylaxis Management**

At St Olivers we have a considerable number of children who are presenting with anaphylaxis and have strict management plans associated with this condition. The ripple effect of this is that we also ask you to be considerate of these children when preparing lunch and play-lunch items for your child. Parents and care-givers are being requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts.
(especially peanuts). This includes peanut butter, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts (e.g. cakes and slices). This is especially important in the Junior grades where young children are less able to manage their allergy.

If your child is celebrating a birthday or special occasion and you wish to provide him/her with a treat to share at school the best options are individually wrapped items or lollie bags – excluding chocolates.

The health needs and the safety of our students is of paramount concern whilst they are in our care during the school day. We ask that you be vigilant in sharing this responsibility by respecting the above requests.

Regards

Alan Sweeney
Principal

**Diary Dates 2012**

**March**
8  School Sports Day postponed to 27/4  
9  BER Opening ceremony 9.10  
12  Labour Day Holiday  
13  Preps commence full week  
14  School Photos  
16  Return date for Prep enrolments close – 1st round  
    Confirmation 7pm  
21  Seniors School Camp  
22  Seniors School Camp  
23  Seniors School Camp  
28  School Closure Day- Contemporary Learning  
29  Ride to School day for St. Olivers  
30  Easter Assembly at 9.00am followed by parent  
    Morning tea  
    Term 1 ends - 1pm

**April**
5  Holy Thursday  
6  Good Friday  
7  Easter Saturday  
8  Easter Sunday  
16  Term 2 commences
What’s Happening Around The Levels…

**SENIORS**

**WRITING:** This week we begin Goal Meetings with the students to discuss how they are working towards achieving their writing goals. If the students have achieved their goal they will choose a new goal for the coming weeks.

**READING:** We continue reading, ‘A Ghost in my Suitcase’ this week, making predictions and comparisons to our own lives. The students will continue with reading and responding to their own chosen texts. Our non-fiction text relates to what goes on inside Parliament, and the students will use a comprehension strategy called SQ3R to help them interpret the text.

**SPELLING:** This week we are focussing on the ‘sh’ sound made by the letter combinations – sci, ti, ci and ss.

**MATHS:** Following on from our pre assessment of subtraction last week, we have identified the students’ needs and will be running workshops throughout the week on mental strategies, re-naming and problem solving.

**INQUIRY:** This week we learn about the different forms of government, such as, anarchy, monarchy and democracy. We will also discuss various decisions that affect us and the governing body that makes them.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** We begin to practise for the ceremony of Confirmation this week. We discuss the significance of each element of the rite of Confirmation.

*A few reminders...* You should have received a ‘What to bring list’ and Panadol permission form for camp this week. Another reminder that payment is due by 16th March.

Remember that every Thursday is ‘hand in diary day’ – signed and with reading recorded.

**MIDDLES**

**WRITING:** We will model a persuasive text for the students. We will work through planning, drafting, editing and publishing. Then students will continue independent writing during Writer’s Notebook time.

**READING:** We will continue the ‘The BFG’. The students will continue to focus on the qualities of characters, particularly focusing on the character Sophie from our book. The students will continue to read and respond independently during our Reading Routine.

**SPELLING:** Our sound focus for the week will be the long vowel sound for ‘oo’, in meaning we are looking at adding ‘ed’ to the end of words and then in the visual strategy we will look at words with dg in them.

**MATHS:** This week we are beginning 2D shapes. We will introduce the concepts of symmetry, lines, polygons and angles. We will also look at what makes a shape 2 dimensional.

**INQUIRY:** Our Inquiry Unit is ‘A Fair Go for Everyone’. We will brainstorm all of the rules and laws we know and then classify them under certain headings. We will ensure all students have a firm understanding of the difference between a rule and a law.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** We will begin our new topic ‘Alleluia- He is Risen’. We will look at the students understanding of Lent and Easter and how we can prepare for these times.

**JUNIORS**

This week in the Juniors, we are covering the following:

**RELIGION:** introducing our topic ‘Lent and Holy Week’ by understanding that the period of Lent is forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding on Palm Sunday. The children will identify ways in which Christians give of themselves during Lent through almsgiving, prayer and fasting
**READING:** further developing independent learning and literacy skills through the use of a variety of learning centres and establishing guided reading groups and routines

**WRITING:** continuing to use time connectives to plan and compose a recount with a focus on detailing the events in sequence

**SPELLING:** building word lists with the sound *at* (cat, sat) and continuing to revise the Jolly Phonics songs, actions and sounds

**MATHS:** working together to revise the concept of addition. The children will identify language used to describe addition and create a class poster displaying their understandings (E.g. add, plus, one more)

**INQUIRY:** continuing to build up an understanding about the groups they belong to in our unit ‘Working and Playing Together’. They will begin to reflect and identify what qualities and skills they bring to different groups.

**PREPS**

**WRITING:** We will continue to model seeds for Writer’s Notebook exploring lots of interesting topics and sharing our whole class thinking. The children will continue to work in small groups to develop their writing skills.

**READING:** This week’s Jolly Phonics letters are: ai, j, oa and ie. We will continue our Big Book reading sessions each morning with the focus on reading for meaning.

**MATHS:** In Maths this week we will continue to work on number through the use of number ladders. The children will be introduced to calculators and the language used for directions.

**INQUIRY:** In our Inquiry Unit ‘We Belong to Saint Oliver’s School’ the children will view the school website and discuss members of St. Olivers.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Preps will read the story of ‘The Lost Sheep’.
FAMILY DETAILS UPDATES
For the safety of your children, it is important that we have accurate student & family information, particularly home, work and mobile numbers of both parents and emergency contacts. If there are any changes to any of these phone numbers, please let the girls in the office know as soon as possible.

SUNSMART POLICY
A reminder that all children as part of the school summer uniform children are required to wear their SCHOOL broad brimmed HAT during recess and lunch times, as well as during physical education/sport lessons, during terms one and four. NO HAT, NO PLAY!

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
Applications for EMA have now closed.

SCHOOL SPORTS POSTPONED
As advised in the newsletter last week, due to a number of factors beyond our control we now have to postpone the school sports until Friday, April 27.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
As you would be aware School Photos are being taken on Wednesday 14, March. The children will be required to wear their full summer school uniform on this day.
All students would have received an individual pre-paid envelope which they need to bring with them on the day of the photos. Each student MUST have his/her own completed envelope with them at the time of photography. If you wish to have a family photo taken you can collect an envelope from the office.
Telephone calls to parents will NOT be made on the day to confirm these details.
Mary Kearney Deputy Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Thank you to all the parents and students who attended the senior class mass on Sunday. It was great to see the students involved in so many aspects of the Liturgy. A reminder that the children preparing for Confirmation are required to have their piece of calico cloth and Confirmation card returned by 6 March.
Trish Segrave Religious Education Co-ordinator

STUDENT AWARDS Term 1 Week 6
Congratulations to the following students:
Jesse Capello, Giulia Giacchi, Tianna Romeo, Daniel Bird, Lia Aguilar, Livia Lingenti, Celeste Barravecchio, Giorgia Franzoni, Oscar Hubbard, Oliver Perini, Angelina Mantankis, Jake Pitruzzello, Dominic Mancino, Anelyse Rizza, Samuel Russo, Madeleine Checketts, Aiden Dramis, Ava Steincke, Billy Kalessgoulou, Alice Hurran, Andrew Capuana, Gabriella Luchetti, Alissa Miano, Tea Falcone, Jordan Calli, Eleni Psaras, Frankie Ferraiolo, Saxon Hubbard, Olivia Zuber

NEW CLASSROOM LITERACY HELPERS (PREP TO YEAR TWO):
Many apologies for a change in plans: This workshop will now be held on NEXT Wednesday 14th March (not the 7th as per yesterday’s note).
You are invited to come to the Staffroom to learn about the importance of the initial few weeks at school for your child’s literacy journey, and for an introduction to the Literacy Program at St. Oliver’s. The workshop, which will last about 45 minutes, will begin at 9.00.
Any experienced Classroom Helpers who were not able to attend last week’s workshop are also very welcome. Again, I apologise for the late change and any inconvenience this causes.
Looking forward to seeing you on 14th March,
Barbara Olanda

PARENT ASSOCIATION
Cadbury Chocolates
Last week we began our Cadbury chocolate fundraiser. The box sent home contained 50 chocolates priced at $1 each. All unsold chocolates and money need to be returned to the school by this Friday March 9th.

Ladies Night
Now that the dads have had a get together, it’s the mum’s turn. Book the date Saturday 29th April in your calendars. We have a special night organized for our mums—look out in future newsletters for more information.
Easter Raffle
With Easter not too far off we will be organizing the Easter raffle soon. Please see attached flyer for more information

School Banking has arrived at St Oliver Plunkett School!

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is here!
St Oliver's School Banking days are **Tuesdays**

Yesterday a flyer was sent home explaining that Olympia from the commonwealth bank is making herself available to parents who have any questions regarding this program. Olympia will be available before and after school on Wednesday 21st.

**“Meat” & Greet**
The Parent Association ’Meat’ & Great BBQ Night held last Thursday was a huge success. Over 70 dads attended the evening held outside in the north yard. Despite the occasional shower everyone was in great spirits, mingling with familiar faces they’d seen in the yard at drop-off or pick-up, but not had the opportunity to stop and chat with. There were old friends and former St. Oliver students reunited, muso’s planning jamming sessions, business opportunities explored and new friendships forged. Had it not been a school night, we would have had a harder time ushering out the twenty or so guys at 9pm that thought the night ended too soon, many of whom kicked-on to after parties at various nearby homes.
The feedback on the night and to date has been fantastic. The talk in the yard the next day between new friends was all about the night and anticipation for the next event. Suggestions are already flooding in, including sportsmans night and tenpin bowling.

On behalf of the Parent Association I would like to thank the local businesses that generously donated to the event including **Plumbforce** for the door prize and **Pascoe Vale Fruit on Gaffney** for the bread. Thanks also to Mario's Meats & Politini Wines for supporting the event. Please get behind our local businesses that play an important role in our school community.

Thank you Alan Sweeney for not just supporting the night, but for allowing us to hold the event in the school grounds and working tirelessly behind the BBQ. A very big thank you to Georgie M and Diana C for their assistance. Thanks to Angelina K, Georgie M and Diana C for making the salads. Thanks to Sebastian Giacchi for being my wingman, Michael S for his help with setting up and to the other volunteers who helped on the night. Last, but certainly not least thank you for attending and making it such an enjoyable evening.

Mark Cometti
Thank you

Parent Association

MORELAND CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Holiday Program will operate from Monday 2 April 2012 – Friday 13 April 2012. There are 6 venues 8am to 6pm available. For further information contact 9240 2427 or visit the web site at [www.moreland.vic.gov.au](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au)

Enrolments are now open. Applications are available at the school office and must be in at the council no later than 5pm on Friday 9th March 2012.

**Canteen**  Diane Tabone on 0423596221

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**Please note new prices**

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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8th March</td>
<td>Liz Dobson &amp; Maria Gennaccaro</td>
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<td>Friday 9th March</td>
<td>Lina Pitruzzello &amp; Tina Baltatzis  ** Extra helper required please**</td>
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<td>Monday 12th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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Help our school win $350-$1000 of sports gear!
Reminder to families to hop online and register to for the Active families challenge
Register online at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1800 463 684, and remember to include our school's name when you register.

New South Wales University - ICAS Assessments
The ICAS competitions are on again this year and children from years 3 to 6 are welcome to enter as many competitions as they wish. There are six subject areas that are covered. The Computer Skills paper is the first one and entries need to be in by April 20th. The cost of this assessment is $7.70 Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics will follow. Keep an eye on the newsletter for closing dates for enrolments for these assessments.
Please place your child's name, class, subject area and amount paid on the envelope and the children can place these in their office bag.
For more information on these assessments please log onto http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/etc/icas/australia

National Ride to School day falls on Friday the 23rd of March. As our seniors will be on camp we will celebrate this day on Thursday 29th March. So get your wheels ready. Pump up those tyres, we are looking forward to lots of bikes and scooters arriving at school on this day.

Community Support Program
Thankyou to the families who have let me know they would like to help our school families in this way. A note has gone home letting families know what week you could prepare a meal. If there are other families wanting to help please just let me know in writing so I can pop you on my list for term two.

Libby Sheedy  Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Easter Raffle

Soon we will be asking for Donations of Easter Eggs for our Easter Raffle. Each class will have their own Easter Baskets to win and every student will go into the draw to win one of two hampers donated by Cadbury.

**Tickets are 50c each or $5.00 a full book**
Tickets are due back Thursday 29th March and the raffle will be drawn at the school assembly on **Friday 30th March 2012**
After the assembly the Parent Association in conjunction with O’Heas Bakery we will be holding a hot cross bun morning tea for parents in the portable. Thank you to the Arena family at O’Heas Bakery for the delicious donation.

Thanks once again for your support and good luck!!
The Parent Association.
OSHC NEWS
Camp Australia has opened a before care program which will run daily from 7:30-8:45am. The program includes breakfast, games, active sports and crafts feel free to ask me about it. OSHC has a new Mob. Number. Please call 0452 247 952.

thanks

WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK
This week we have a Colouring in comp, With a prize to be given On Friday 😊

REMINDERS
How to get started before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin www.campaustralia.com.au

Once registered you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online.

Save on Care You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coloring comp</td>
<td>Tracing/more Comp time</td>
<td>Monster making</td>
<td>Making Bugs</td>
<td>Head Bands</td>
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www.campaustralia.com.au