Dear Parents and children,

Welcome back everyone. I hope every parent had the opportunity to enjoy some additional time with their children over the Easter break.

Thank you to all of the families who supported the Easter raffle last term and congratulations to all of the winners. The raffle was a great success and once again a great deal of credit goes to our Parent Association members who organised the raffle and prepared all of the Easter Baskets.

Many thanks to the Juniors for their presentation last term of the Easter story. At this Wednesday's Assembly our Preps will continue our Easter celebrations with the story of Christ’s Resurrection.

As we move into the cooler months of the year our Assemblies will only occur at 9.00 on Wednesday mornings weather permitting. As a rule of thumb if the temperature is below 10 degrees at 8.00 a.m. or if the synthetic grass in our yard is damp we move our Assembly to 11.30 on the same day (once again weather permitting). I appreciate this is method is not exact science but if you wish to know if our assembly will be going ahead on any Wednesday morning feel free to ring the school from 8.15 on that day.

As you would be aware through our newsletter the school is participating in a school review this year. The review is a component of the School Improvement Framework, a process undertaken by all Catholic schools across a four year cycle. This review is conducted by an independent external reviewer who has been appointed by the Catholic Education Office.

Our external school reviewer, Anonda LeMessurier will be visiting our school over the next two weeks. Anonda will be visiting all classrooms and she will be meeting with representative groups from across our school community. Following her visits Anonda will present a report to the school that will assist us to formalise our next 4 year School Improvement Plan.

Our prep enrolments for 2014 opened this week. Please advise any families who have kinder children commencing school next year that the enrolment forms are available from the office over the next few weeks. The Prep Interviews for 2014 positions commence on Monday 13, May.

Regards

Alan S.
This **Wednesday 17 April**, the prep students will be leading assembly. They will be focusing on the resurrection in their prayer.

There is a faith development and information evening for the parents of the grade three students receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation this year. The meeting is on **Monday 22 April at 7:00**, in the large multi-purpose room. The meeting is for the parents only.

This Friday 19 April Middle S will be attending Mass at 10:00. Parents are welcome to attend and sit with their child.

**Trish Segrave**  Religious Education Coordinator

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**INQUIRY LEARNING**

**This term our throughline for Inquiry learning is Earth and Space Sciences. All students will be examining a different aspect of this concept from prep to six.**

The preps will be looking at daily and seasonal in the environment, including the weather, and how these changes effect everyday life. They will explore how we modify our behavior and dress for different conditions and how weather changes might affect animals such as pets and animals that hibernate or migratory animals.

The juniors focus will be observable changes that occur in the sky and on the landscape. The children will record short and longer term patterns of events that occur on Earth and in the sky, such as the appearance of the moon and stars at night, the weather and the seasons.

The middle students will explore how the Earth’s rotation on its axis causes regular changes, including night and day. They will recognize the sun is a source of light and investigate sundials and how they work. The will describe timescales for the rotation of the Earth and model the relative sizes and movement of the sun, Earth and moon.

The seniors will investigate how the Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star (the sun). They will identify the planets of the solar system and comparing how long they take to orbit the sun and model the relative size of and distance between Earth, other planets in the solar system and the sun. They will also recognize the role of the sun as a provider of energy for the Earth.

The units of study in Earth and Space Sciences are sequential from prep to six. I’m sure you’ll enjoy the ‘spacey’ conversations that will be coming home this term.
**SENIORS**

**Welcome back to Term 2!**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Over the next two weeks we will complete our unit, ‘A Time of God’s Generosity,’ with the focus being on Jesus’ ultimate sign of love and generosity in the giving of his life.

**WRITING:** This week we continue to look at persuasive writing, with our focus being on formulating strong arguments with supportive evidence.

**READING:** We will finish reading, ‘The Cay,’ by Theodore Taylor this week, which the students have very much enjoyed. We will continue with our independent reading routine and conferences.

**MATHS:** The focus this week is on addition and subtraction. The students will learn to apply various mental strategies and alternatives to solving algorithms, other than the pen and paper method.

**INQUIRY:** We will introduce our new inquiry topic, ‘Earth’s place in space.’ We will conduct a pre-assessment to find out what the students already know and dispel some common myths relating to the Earth’s surface.

**Just a reminder...**

- Begin preparing for camp in Week 3. A final note will come home next week.

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**MIDDLES**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Our unit is called ‘Forgiveness and Healing’. We are beginning preparations for the Year Three students who will be making their First Reconciliation. We will begin this week by looking at what we know about forgiveness and healing.

**WRITING:** This week we will start with a seed from our holidays. We are then moving into Persuasive Writing. Students will be asked to give their opinions on different topics, backing them up with evidence.

**READING:** We will begin our new serial novel The Magician’s Elephant by Kate DiCamillo. We will make some predictions about the text through the three levels of thinking.

**SPELLING:** This week students will work through a Language Conventions NAPLAN practice test. We will work through the test, correcting as we go.

**MATHS:** Our focus for Maths is addition. Students will complete a pre-assessment and then will begin work on addition strategies and adding two digit number including carrying.

**INQUIRY:** Our Inquiry Unit is ‘To the Moon and Back’. We will complete a pre-assessment about what the students know about the Earth and the Moon.

**Just a reminder...** We need two packets of tissues from each child so the students need to bring them in as soon as possible. Year Three parents of students who are making their First Confession, just a reminder that the Parent Meeting will be in the Multi-Purpose Room on Monday the 22nd of April at 7pm.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the current Middles Homework
Welcome back to all of the children in the Juniors and their families. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break!

**RELIGION:** In Religion, we will begin our new unit ‘Easter’. We will be exploring the resurrection of Jesus beginning with the discovery of the empty tomb by the women on Easter Sunday.

**READING:** This week during reading sessions we will continue to engage the children in shared reading practices with a continued focus on how punctuation helps the reader make sense of what they are reading and aids the appropriate use of expression. Some of the books in this 4 week rotation will also help us to identify the structure and features of information texts.

**WRITING:** The children will complete the publication of their recounts and then continue with their individual writing pieces using story starter cards, the class seed box and writer’s notebook to help generate ideas.

**SPELLING:** We will be continuing to look at onset and rime patterns by building a class word list with the sound *in* (thin, bin) and involving the children in a variety of activities to help reinforce the spelling and meaning of the words generated by the class.

**MATHS:** This week we will be using a variety of concrete materials to make and record addition stories. We will also begin to identify, name and use common terms to describe features of simple 2D shapes and objects.

**INQUIRY:** We will be continuing with our Inquiry unit ‘Cultures Galore’ for a few weeks this term. The children will continue to collect and record information relating to the various aspects of the culture of their chosen country.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the current Junior Homework

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**PREPS**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The children will continue to practise their Easter song ‘New Life’ which they will be performing at Wednesday’s assembly. We will also be talking about the resurrection of Jesus.

**WRITING:** The children will be sharing and writing about their experiences throughout the school holidays.

**READING:** The children will continue their Jolly Phonics letter sounds. This week’s letters are: y, x and v. The children will also be introduced to vowel pair oo. They will also be revising and blending the letters learnt so far.

**MATHS:** In Maths will be revising 2D shapes and exploring the numbers 6 and 7.

**INQUIRY:** We will be talking about weather and the different types of clothes we wear when it’s hot and cold.
This week I am turning my page blue to raise awareness of Autism. April is Autism Awareness month. Many of you would have seen the Sydney Opera House turn blue on April the 2nd. Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person’s lifetime. People with ASD have problems with social and communication skills. Many people with ASD also have unusual ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to sensations. It is part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). In most cases its causes are unknown. Today, 1 in 110 individuals is diagnosed with autism. Autism is a diagnosis that is not widely understood. Google ‘autismawareness.com.au’ to learn more about it.

Michael Grose Insight
This week I have attached an insight titled ‘Raising Kids with a Disability’, this is an interesting read for all families.

ICAS
Entries for ICAS assessments need to be in by this Thursday. If you have misplaced your entry form please come and see me. Anyone wishing to pay by cheque please make it payable to St Oliver Plunkett Primary School.

Libby Sheedy
Wellbeing Coordinator

The St Oliver’s Parish brings the Blessed Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the parishioners’ home for one week, so that families may say the Rosary together. The Rosary is an important prayer that Our Lady herself requested be recited daily. Our Lady said this to the three little children in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. I would like to encourage young families to welcome Our Lady into their homes and into their hearts and to teach their children how important it is to pray the Rosary.

Please ring me if you would like to be part of this wonderful prayer to Our Holy Mother. I will deliver and collect Our Lady’s Blessed Statue, so you don’t have to worry about anything, other than saying the Rosary. If you want to know more and would like to be part of this prayerful group .........please ring me on 9350 5777 (during office hours) or on 0419 388 211 anytime.

Thank you. Mimi Tamburrino
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 office staff know as soon as possible or alternatively return the slip that was sent home.

SUNSMART POLICY
All children are encouraged to wear their SCHOOL HAT during recess and lunch times, as well as during physical education/sport lessons.

LOST PROPERTY
The lost property is located in a cupboard outside the Sick Bay. If your child is missing any items of clothing we would encourage you to check this area. To ensure there is not such a collection of lost property in the future, please ensure your child’s clothing is clearly labeled.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
In the last week of term one the children attempted to line the running track with the coins donated to the Project Compassion boxes. Amazingly the children placed the money three times around the track. Thank you to the children and parents who very generously donated money. We were able to raise $1600. This is a fantastic amount and will be used to help provide better resources and cleaner living conditions for the people in Bolivia where Caritas has a strong presence. A special thank you to the senior students of the Student Representative Council who helped organise the event.

Trish Segrave           Student Leadership Coordinator

CANTEEN   Diane Tabone   0423 596 221

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<td>Thursday 18 April</td>
<td>Liz Dobson Silvana Ciccarone</td>
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<td>Friday 19 April</td>
<td>Lisa Blaney Franca James Marita Pascoe</td>
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<td>Monday 22 April</td>
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PLEASE NOTE: Mon 25th March is the last day for canteen this term, the canteen will re-open for Term 2 on Thursday 18th April
School Banking has arrived at St Oliver Plunkett School!

School Banking at St Oliver Plunkett School!
St Oliver’s School Banking days are Tuesdays. We currently have 148 bankers—well done students
Term 2 Competition….The Dollarmites have found treasure on Savings Adventure Island and they want to share it. One lucky banker will get the opportunity to go on a $5000 adventure holiday with their family whilst also winning $5000 for their school. There are also some fantastic adventure kit runners up prizes as well. All you need to do is make three or more deposits through your school during Term 2 and you are automatically entered into the competition. Each student that enters gives both them and St Oliver’s a greater chance of winning, so make sure you get saving!

Businesses of the week
Businesses on our website this week are Polo Pizza, RAV Auction Group, RCL Consultant, Revive, Rocky’s Concreting and Rainbow Bubbles Face Painting. For information on the businesses please check out the school website or refer to the St Oliver’s Business Directory

Preloved Uniform Program
A donation basket is located in the school office foyer. All donations need to be clean and have no rips/tears. Preloved uniform will be available for purchase on the last Wednesday of term 1 alternatively if you need something earlier please contact Georgie 0405435770

Cadbury Chocolates
All unsold chocolates and money were due back last term. It is very important to finalise this fundraiser. For further queries please contact Diana Capuana on 0419 331 966

Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea
We would like to thank the Arena family from O’Heas Bakery for their wonderful generosity of the yummy Hot Cross Buns that were enjoyed at the Easter Morning Tea at the end of term 1.

St Oliver’s Business Directory
Application forms for our 2nd Edition of the St Oliver’s Business Directory 2013/2014. Existing advertisers would have already received their renewal forms. Applications for this edition close on April 30th. For further information please contact bd@sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au or you can download the application form from the school website

FETE NEWS- Date to book on the calendar……Sunday October 27th 2013.

St Oliver’s Business Directory
Application forms for our 2nd Edition of the St Oliver’s Business Directory 2013/2014. Existing advertisers would have already received their renewal forms. Applications for this edition close on April 30th. For further information please contact bd@sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au or click HERE to download a registration form.

FETE NEWS
Date to book on the calendar……Sunday October 27th 2013.

Click HERE to find out how to be a sponsor and advertise at our ‘Funtastic’ school fete.

Thank you
Parent Association
PREP ENROLMENTS 2014

PREP ENROLMENTS
Will be opened from 15 April, 2013

OPEN DAY
Tuesday 23 April 2013
9.00am to 12.00pm

Enrolment application forms may be collected from the school office between 9.00am and 3.00pm

Completed forms need to be returned to the school by Wednesday 8 May 2013 with a non refundable enrolment fee of $20.00

Interviews for prospective families will commence on Monday 13 May.

When enrolling your child please provide both original and photocopies of your child’s birth, baptism and immunization certificate along with an original copy of your rates notice and a utility bill.
Raising Kids with a Disability

Parents with children with special needs often comment on the level of misunderstanding there is about their child’s condition.

No one would claim that parenting is easy, but when you have a child with a disability, there is a whole new level of challenge involved. There are different issues with special needs kids depending on the kind of disability and their age, however there are also some issues common to all disabilities.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, it is estimated that 1 in 12 Australian children have some kind of disability. Around half of this amount – that is 1 in 24, have a profound disability that affects their ability to engage in day-to-day activities. Almost all children of school age with a disability are attending school (97 per cent) and of that number 89 per cent attend mainstream schools with the rest attending special schools.

Such statistics and the educational policy of integration highlight how important understanding of the issues around childhood disabilities is for not only the parents and teachers of children with special needs, but for the community as a whole.

What is a Disability?
Disability or special needs is an umbrella term that is used to refer to a whole range of conditions. These conditions may present themselves as: medical conditions – serious allergies, heart defect, dwarfism, diabetes, cerebral palsy and so on; behaviour issues – ADHD, ADD etc.; developmental issues – autism, Asperger’s spectrum disorder, Down syndrome and so on; learning issues – such as dyslexia, central auditory processing disorder or mental health issues – anxiety, depression. Different disabilities involve differing degrees of assistance and support. Depending on their individual condition, children with disabilities can fit anywhere on the spectrum between highly functioning to in need of a lot of support to fulfill basic needs.

What’s going on with your child?
Parents with children with special needs often comment on the level of misunderstanding there is about their child’s condition. Unfortunately, many people simply do not understand your child’s disability and when you are faced with ignorant comments or stares it can be hard to stay calm.

Communicating well with the school
Developing an open and communicative relationship with teachers is a key element to helping your child feel happy and learn effectively at school. There is sometimes a tension between the parent and the teacher of a child with special needs. This tension can arise when the parent perceives ignorance or indifference on the teacher’s part and from the teacher’s perspective there can be a feeling that the parent is over-protective. If such a tension arises, then no one involved wins, least of all your child.

To avoid such a situation, it is important to foster a strong, communicative relationship with the teacher.

Teachers want the best for their students, but they may not have had experience with your child’s particular condition before and may feel a little overwhelmed or conversely, not fully realise the seriousness of the condition. In contrast, parents of a Special Needs child can be so tightly wound from negative experiences that they can be a little defensive. Recognise that you are both on the same side and foster a positive relationship, so your child has the best opportunity for school success.

In order to successfully foster a strong relationship with the school, it is important that you meet with your child’s teachers at the beginning of the year. Consider providing the teacher with an informative book that they can read at their leisure. Use the time with the teacher in the interview to explain what techniques of managing their condition work for you, or have worked with other teachers in the past. In most cases, children with a disability will have an individual education plan (IEP) drawn up by the school – so parent input is essential to making this plan work. Make sure you keep lines of communication open through emails or notes in the school diary.

Avoid feeling guilty
It’s common for parents of a special needs child to feel guilty if there are other children in the family as they tend to receive less attention. Children generally learn to adapt to the needs of the special situation they are in. From my experience they generally become very nurturing, caring adults. It helps if they link up with other children in a similar situation through sibling workshops, camps and activities that are often organised by disability groups.

Relieve the constant stress
Parenting a disabled child usually involves a great deal of patience and can be very time-consuming. It’s important then to resist the temptation to do everything for a disabled child. By allowing them to have some level of independence we also increase their self-esteem as well as lightening parental load.

If you have a child with a disability it’s important to take time out for yourself too. You cannot be a good parent if you are exhausted and stressed – both you and your child will benefit from you taking a little “me” time every now and again. It helps then to use your support mechanisms such as family and friends who will fill the gap while you take a break. Often couples relationships suffer when there is a child with a disability in the family. That’s why it’s important that you spend some time as a couple away from the children. Sole parents have a greater need to spend time alone to recharge the batteries. Respite services play an important role in giving parents in all situations a break.

Parenting children with disabilities is undoubtedly the toughest parenting job there is. They need all the genuine help there is. For them the notion of ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ takes on a whole new meaning.
OSHC NEWS

Camp Australia has opened a before care program which will run daily from 7:00-8:45am. The program includes breakfast, games, active sports and crafts feel free to ask me about it. OSHC has a new Mob. Number. Please call 0431 722 459. thanks

REMINDEERS

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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www.campaustralia.com.au