Dear Parents,

Parent Thanks
As we move into the last weeks of 2015 we would like to thank the many groups of parents who have contributed to making it such a wonderful year for the children at OLR.

At our P&F AGM last week we spent some time reviewing and celebrating the achievements of 2015. Thank you to the Executive members of our Parents & Friends Association. These generous parents meet regularly to discuss the priorities of the school. We thank our 2015 P&F President, David Millar, Vice President, Linda Tysoe, Treasurer, Alison Costelloe, Secretary, Courtney Hollinger, DPC Representative, Katherine Co-Elliott, Fair Co-ordinators, Sarah Manfe and Lisa Manitn, Social Co-ordinators Jackie Harris and Anne Marie Corcoran, Class Parent Co-ordinator, Narelle Robinson and Helen Longney, Grant Co-ordinator. These Executive members have given so generously of their time, planning and coordinating events during the year.

I would like to especially acknowledge several of our P&F Executive members who are stepping down from various roles on the P&F Executive. Linda Tysoe has been Vice President for the past two years, Alison Costelloe has been Treasurer for the past two years, Helen Longney has been our Grants’ Co-ordinator this year and Jackie Harris and Anne Maree Corcoran have been Social Co-ordinators this year. All of these roles are vital to the functioning of the P&F and I thank Linda, Alison, Helen, Jackie and Anne Marie most sincerely for their thoroughness and the professionalism they brought to these roles. A special note of thanks to Anne Marie Corcoran who moves on from OLR as Jamie is in Year 6. Anne Marie has been very involved in the school over many years in various roles on the P&F, one of those people who always puts her hand up to help when needed. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our school.

The P&F President’s report and my report from the AGM will be available on the website tomorrow under Parents and Friends. At our AGM we didn’t fill all of our positions and we are still looking for a Social Co-ordinator. This position could be shared by a couple of people. Please contact me if you would consider being involved in this way. I have listed the new P&F Executive for 2016 for your information and thank these parents for contributing in this way for 2016.

P & F Executive 2016
President – Dave Millar
Vice President – Lisa Manton
Treasurer – Sarah Manfe
Secretary – Courtney Hollinger
Social Co-ordinator – to be filled
Class Contact Co-ordinator – Narelle Robinson
Dioscan Parent Co-ordinator (DPC) representatives – Katherine Co-Elliott and Angela Hiley

Our P&F spend much effort building community throughout the school. We think of events such as the Welcome BBQ for Kindergarten and new families at the beginning of the year, our whole school BBQ in May, our Blokes and Buddies BBQ, morning tea at our Open Day in March, Kinder Orientations in October and November, Mothers’, Fathers’ and Grandparents’ Day celebrations, Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day gift ideas, Trivia Night, Men In The Morning, Discos, involvement in The Dish initiative and Gingerbread House night. Special thanks to all those who have supplied meals through the Support Pantry this year. As we keep the recipients of the meals confidential, they don’t always get to offer their thanks to the cook. Thank you parents for your generosity and care when helping out with this initiative. I thank the various committees who have co-ordinated these events throughout the year.

Our Class Parents do a wonderful job supporting the classes in many ways. We thank all our Class Parents for their efforts and time in helping to build community as they have organised various occasions this year.

Congratulations to Students Celebrating Birthdays This Week

| 5 December | Molly F (5G), Lydia R (6E) & Talen S (2G) |
| 7 December | Brendan C-E (3B) & Chloe R (2G) |
| 8 December | Noel V (4B) |
| 9 December | Ethan S (2G) & Ella W (4B) |

Diary Dates - Term 4

- Family Carols Night @ 6.00pm - St Leo’s Oval.
- Gingerbread House Making @ 6.00pm
- Swimming at Barker College - Kindergarten to Year 4
- Year 5 - Carets St Ives
- The Dish @ 6.00pm
- End of School Mass @ 9.30am - The Cathedral followed by thank you morning tea @ 10.30am in staffroom.
- Year 6 Graduation Liturgy in Cathedral @ 6.00pm followed by supper in TLOCC.
- Year 6 @ Surf Education Manly
- Last day of Term 4, 2015
- First day of Term 1, 2016 for students.
- Swimming Carnival
Throughout the school we have many other volunteers, parent helpers, those working in classrooms assisting with English groups, helping in the canteen, on excursions, covering library books, sorting library shelves and books, walking to Barker swimming, making costumes for our concert, co-ordinating our Book Club, co-ordinating our Banking, transporting, managing and coaching sporting teams and also those who have assisted at our various carnivals and Gala Days. A special thank you to our Cuppa Crew team who are often available to serve morning tea and offer hospitality as the need arises.

At our final P&F meeting for 2015, I accepted a cheque to the school for $70,000 which is a wonderful amount ($40,000 coming from the recent Country Fair). This money will go towards a number of causes in 2016. We are refurbishing the Infants Toilets which are badly in need of improvement, a big undertaking, with the CSO supporting us with 50% of the cost. Additional money will go towards the students learning about programming and coding in IT with outside facilitators, Yoga sessions and additional iPads and literacy resources in classrooms.

Infants Playground
This week we replaced the old damaged shadecloth in the Infants Playground. Our Infant playground refurbishment will take place during our Christmas holidays and we look forward to our exciting new play area for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 in 2016.

Next year at OLOR we will be continuing with the Empowering Mathematics Understandings (EMU) program. This aims to develop and deepen mathematical understandings as we use data to improve our teaching of Mathematics. All students will take part in a formal one-on-one Maths Assessment Interview (MAI) that takes approximately 40 minutes. We have timetabled an Assessment Day on Friday February 19th. This will be a Pupil Free Day with teachers working with individual students throughout the day as they administer the MAI. We will be organising a booking schedule early next term with online bookings similar to parent/teacher interviews. OOSH will be available on the day. More information next term.

Parent Reminder
We welcome parents into our playground in the mornings and afternoons but a gentle reminder that it is not appropriate to approach or discipline other people’s children. If you have a concern please speak to the class teacher, Mrs Cameron or myself.

OLOR Parent Feedback Survey 2015
Thank you to those parents who have already completed the survey. The link will be open until Friday 11 December. We would very much appreciate your feedback. Please click on this link: OLOR Parent Feedback Survey 2015

The Children are Getting Tired!
With swimming this week, we are noticing that the children are getting very tired during school. Some early bedtimes during the weeknights will help get them to the end of term!

Leadership
Our Year 5 students are presently involved in the process of selecting school leaders for 2016. Last week all Year 5 students wrote to me about why they thought they would be a good leader in 2016. I was thrilled with their reflections and look forward to working with the Year 5 cohort leading various teams across the school next year. This week students nominated themselves for key leadership positions with the Year 5 voting for those who would give speeches in the next round. These 14 students will present their speech on Monday 7 December at 9.30am in the Year 5 classrooms. Parents are welcome to attend.

The second round of voting will occur with 8 students selected for key leadership positions in 2016 and they will be announced at the End of Year Mass on Tuesday 15 December at 9.30am in the Cathedral.

Carols Evening
Tomorrow, Friday December 4th, we are looking forward to having a Carols Singalong. Our grades from Kindergarten to Year 4 will lead us in a carol, our Band and Choir will perform and we will join together for some communal singing. Students are asked to come looking festive wearing red, white or green, a Christmas t-shirt or tinsel in their hair. Bring a rug and some snacks and if the weather is good we will gather on St Leo’s bottom oval and get into the spirit of Christmas. It will start at 6.00pm while it is still daylight and the carols should be over by 7.00pm. The basketball courts will be open for parking from 5.00pm.

The Country Fair Convenors will be selling craft and jams left over from the fair. There will be some great Christmas decorations and stocking stuffers on sale.

God bless you and your family.

Jacinta Crowe, Principal.

SCHOOL BANKING HAS FINISHED FOR 2015.
STARTS AGAIN IN WEEK 2, TERM 1, 2016

Library Book Returns
Borrowing books from the library has now finished for 2015. All books need to be returned to the library as soon as possible.

Overdue reminder notices will be sent home with students who still have books outstanding. If you feel that a book has already been returned, please write this on the overdue notice and send this back to the library. We will then check on shelves and in classrooms for the missing book/s. If you have lost a book at home or a book is damaged beyond repair, a donation towards the replacement of the book is requested.

Many thanks. Mrs Sandra Todd - Teacher Librarian

Our Lady of the Rosary

Ants Illawarra Performance
Years 5 & 6

A professionally recorded DVD of the 2015 Ants Illawarra performance is available to purchase.

Family Name: __________________________
Class: __________________________
I would like to order _________ copies of the 2015 Ants Illawarra Musical DVD.

Total Cost: $20.00

Correct Money / Cash Payment Only.

Last Day to Order: Friday 11 December.

Orders received by 11/12/15 will be sent home on the last day of term. Late orders cannot be accepted as there is a $10.00 surcharge for additional DVDs.

DVD Order Form
Have you seen some changes at the entrance to our Cathedral?
It’s nearly the end of the year, and that means we’ve almost arrived at Tuesday 8 December, the start of The Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Last Friday, construction commenced on the exciting Jubilee Year of Mercy entrance to our Cathedral. The photo below shows the new entrance that will be a solemn reminder for all of us to embrace and share God’s merciful grace now and throughout 2016.

Pope Francis announced the special year of grace earlier this year, and he has since said, “It is indeed my wish that The Jubilee Year of Mercy will be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tendereness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective. My thought, first of all, goes to all the faithful who, whether in individual Dioceses or as pilgrims to Rome, will experience the grace of the Jubilee. I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed.”

Mercy in Action … “The Dish” … Next Tuesday 8 December 6pm-7pm
Our Lady of the Rosary School is rostered on for “The Dish” next Tuesday 8 December. “The Dish” is an outreach van ministering to the ‘needy’ in our Hornsby area.
At the beginning of the year, parents were invited to join a roster to assist making meals and/or assist in serving meals at the park above Hornsby Pool. OLOR was only rostered on once per term this year and this is our last ‘shift’ for 2015. Thank you to those who are rostered on for our last shift for 2015. A reminder email will be sent tomorrow with names listed.
Wonderful News: Special thanks go to Linda Tysoe who has generously volunteered to co-ordinate The Dish for OLOR in 2016.

St Vincent de Paul/OLOR Christmas Hamper Drive this week:
Thank you, sincerely, to all families who have contributed so generously to our ‘hamper drive’ this week. The drive has been extended to next Monday 7 December, so it’s not too late to send items in. The note below explains all: