



Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

We Are Community

*We are called to:  
Act justly  
Love tenderly  
Walk humbly with our  
God  
(Micah)*

Week 2 - Term 1  
4 February 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students,

*'Be the change you want to see in the world.'*

Mahatma Gandhi

## Principal's Reflection

I feel it is important each year to set the scene for our focus for educating your children. There's no doubt that the best outcomes for children happen when teachers and students work together to support children's learning. The following are some ways you can work in partnership with your child's teacher to maximize your child's chances of success in school,

### ***Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve.***

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

### ***Support your teacher's expectations and activities at home.***

One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

### ***Skill children to work with others.***

Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to children, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help children with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

### ***Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.***

Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when parents and teachers work together in the best interests of their child.

### ***Participate fully in class and school activities.***

There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. If you want your child to improve their learning then take an interest in it, attend school functions, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

We encourage families to continue to let us know if there are any questions, queries or concerns as they occur in order to build this partnership. Conversation with key stakeholders is the best way for this to happen where clarifications can be made and shared understanding reached. We hope to continue to strengthen this covenant next Tuesday 11 February at our Information Night and the following Tuesday 18 February at our meet 'n' greet conversations with parents, teachers and students.

As a school community (students, parents and staff), we have a shared responsibility to work together to build the vital links children need for learning. As we begin our journey into the 2020 school year we look forward to working with you to help build a successful and vibrant school community.

## Welcome

It was exciting to see the excitement and enthusiasm along with the smiling faces back at school last week. We look forward to a progressive, inclusive and productive 2020 school year.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all new parents and students as well as all existing parents and students. It is with excitement that we welcome our 34 new Foundation/Prep students who have started their journey here at Our Lady of the Pines last Thursday. The excitement, nervousness and challenge that the new school brings to not only these Foundation/Preps but also their families is something we are all looking forward to.

I would like to welcome back our staff. All parents would have received a letter during the school holidays indicating our staff and their roles. Also all students would have received a welcome letter in the latter half of their holidays from their current teachers. We especially welcome Miss Veronica Mamone (Junior Teacher), Miss Sarah Cosma (Middle Teacher), Miss Jessica De Luca (Senior Teacher), Mr Peter Lehman (PE Teacher), Mr Adrian Ferris (Office and Learning Support Officer) as well as staff who are returning from maternity leave, Mrs Mel Whittle (Junior Teacher) and Mrs Amalia De Fazio (Senior Teacher).

I would like to welcome the following new students to our school: Aslan Sarvi (Junior), Declan Tan (Junior), Lucas Shi (Junior), William De Spain (Middle), Zara Lock-Limbrick (Middle) and Sydney De Spain (Senior).

### **Staff Leave**

We currently have Mrs Anne Jenkins on sick leave for this term. This may extend further depending on the information we will be provided during Term 1 on Mrs Jenkins.

Mrs Noreen Forsyth is on Long Service Leave for Term 1 and 2 and we will have Mrs Ida Stella in the office as well as Mr Adrian Ferris over the course of the school week.

### **Fr Jerald Cecil Mariadas welcome**

Our Parish Priest Fr Jerald wishes to express his welcome to all families and students. He is excited at the various activities planned for the year and is looking forward to seeing as many families that can make a Parish Mass on Sundays at 9.30am or Saturdays at 5.00pm at Our Lady of the Pines Parish Church.

### **Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Primary School Vision**

*We are called to:*

*Act justly*

*Love tenderly*

*Walk humbly with our God*

### **Coronavirus Updates**

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus we will update families on advice we are given as well as developing precautions we need to take as a school and community. These updates are coming on a very regular basis at the moment. We will provide these updates through Flexibuzz and a hard copy to keep you informed.

### **Head Lice**

We have had a case of head lice in the school. Please check your children.

### **School Bell Times**

The first bell is at 8.40am, where music will be played over the school PA system. This is when teachers will be in their classrooms and doors of the school are opened. We ask that you are aware of these starting times when teachers take responsibility for your child. The next bell will sound at 8.50am for classes to commence with meditation in each class. All parents will need to leave classes. The following is the times for lunch, recess and end of the day:

<b>8.40am</b>	Music for entering school and classrooms open
<b>8.50am</b>	Start of school day - Meditation for all classes
<b>8.55am</b>	Start of Session 1
<b>10.55am</b>	1st Bell - Lunch - Eating Time
<b>11.05am</b>	2nd Bell - Lunch - Play Time
<b>11.45am</b>	Session 2 Begins
<b>1.50pm</b>	1st Bell - Afternoon - Eating Time
<b>2.00pm</b>	2nd Bell - Afternoon - Play Time
<b>2.20pm</b>	Session 3 begins
<b>3.20pm</b>	End of school day

## **FlexiBuzz**

It is important that all parents download the FlexiBuzz app as well as update the relevant boxes to receive notifications. We will be utilising this form of communication more often during the year. We will be introducing a calendar and notifications to parents of upcoming events through the app as well.

## **Newsletters**

In 2020 we will be sending out newsletters on a fortnightly basis. This will be every even week on a Tuesday afternoon during the term. We will be utilising Flexibuzz more often this year to communicate and provide information to parents on a more regular basis.

## **General Assemblies - Fortnightly on a Monday afternoon**

Our general assemblies will be held each fortnight on Monday afternoon. These assemblies will be advertised in advance you are invited and encouraged to attend. They will be held in the Church from 2.20pm and will last for approximately 30 minutes. (Assemblies will cover the following and will allow our school to have whole school focus starting each week:)

The Agenda is as follows:

- Hello to all students, staff and parents
- School prayer
- Singing happy birthday to any students who had birthdays in the previous week
- General school information for the week
- Thanking any students or staff for various activities or successes they have been involved in
- At times a school wide challenge to work on for the week e.g. cleanliness of the School, improved work ethic, focus on manners and behaviours.
- School Awards every couple of weeks
- National Anthem

## **Healthy Living Friday including Fitness Friday**

This year we are introducing a school initiative for healthy living.

This will happen each Friday where all students are to wear their new sports top. At this stage there has been some delay with the suppliers. Over the coming weeks these will be delivered to the uniform shop at school. In the meantime those students who do not have a new sports top can wear their old one on Fridays.

With the completion of our new oval last year we will be utilising this as part of our healthy living Friday. We will participate as a whole school, what we have titled '*Fitness Friday*'. This involves all the students running or walking on the oval on a Friday fortnight afternoon from 2.20pm for approximately 10-15 minutes.

## **Hot temperatures**

We are very mindful that there is possibility for hot temperatures during Term One. In times of extreme temperatures students will be kept in air conditioned rooms during play times, if it is deemed too hot to head outside. During Term One all students are required to wear school hats. If students are heading outside they will need to wear sunscreen and will be encouraged to drink regularly.

## **During School Times**

During school time and this is particularly important at the end of the day we ask parents to wait in the playground areas when coming to pick up your children. The children particularly younger students can be easily distracted with a number of parents looking in their classrooms, which can become very distracting for the class and teachers.

## **Attendance**

If your child is unable to attend school please contact the Office, fill in the Flexibuzz absentee form or email their teachers to notify us prior to 8.30am. This helps with the duty of care we uphold for your children.

## **Late arrivals or early finishing**

If your child is late arriving to school you will need to bring them to the office and, sign them in so that they can receive a late pass and head to class. It is important for you to sign your child in as school has already

begun for all students. If you need to pick your child up during the day you will need to head to the office to sign them out and they will leave from the office area.

### **Meeting Teachers**

We look forward to continuing to foster open communication between school and home and look forward to a successful year for your children. Please remember that teachers are responsible for children once the bell has been rung. We ask that parents not approach teachers to discuss concerns during class time, as they are busy teaching their respective classes.

If you need to meet with a teacher, they are only too happy to make an appointment with you outside of class time to address your queries. Staff have meetings and Professional Learning on Tuesdays as well as some Professional Development meetings on Wednesdays. If you have a concern of a more general nature please feel free to contact the School Office to make a time to see myself.

### **Communication**

At Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Primary School we have a desire and responsibility to ensure that our school environment is a happy, welcoming and inclusive one where everyone can feel accepted and valued. Communication with parents will be through a number of avenues including the Newsletter which will be sent through FlexiBuzz, placed on our website and in some cases sent home to students on a Tuesday afternoon.

Various letters that will be sent home to parents indicating what is happening at school, particularly with regards to incursions and excursions. Any forms that need to be returned to school **will be placed on yellow paper (this indicates you need to sign and send this form back to school by the required date)**.

Emails are another form of communication between the school and parents. All staff check their emails regularly and will act on information you provide. Please be patient with teachers as they regularly read emails to have an understanding of what is happening, and will respond to you within 48 hours. Also we encourage you to discuss anything that is needed in person with staff members as well.

At times in any normal community there will be concerns raised. Firstly as a Teacher and Principal, we cannot clarify, manage or resolve a concern unless we are made aware of it. Secondly resolution can only be met when we respect the dignity of all people involved in the concern.

To ensure we maintain our happy, welcoming and inclusive environment, I ask parents to voice any concerns with their child's class teacher/s, in an appropriate manner as well as myself if needed, so that we can reach mutual benefit.

### **Forms to send back to school – Yellow Paper**

As mentioned above any forms that need to be returned to the school for permission slips will be sent home on yellow paper. This means that any forms that need to be sent back to school will be sent by teachers or the office on yellow paper. **This alerts parents and students that these needed to be signed by parents and brought back to school prior to the return date.** If these return slips are not returned then your child will be unable to attend the activity. We hope this helps parents somewhat in the communication of information from the school.

### **Newsletter, Email and FlexiBuzz**

It is important that we are able to provide you with communication from school on various aspects and activities. Could you please ensure that we have your latest email address to forward newsletters and other important information to you. It is also important that you are on FlexiBuzz which enables us to send reminders and updates. **FlexiBuzz allows parents to send absent notes to school when students are away. Information regarding this app has been sent home to parents last week as well as updated for existing FlexiBuzz users.**

### **Before school drop offs and After school pick ups**

If parents are dropping students off or picking up students in the car drop off zone, could they be patient for the safety of all. If students being dropped off could please exit the car by the Church and around at the drop off point. In being picked up at the end of the day, students will be supervised by duty teachers and picked up when the car is in the pickup point.

### **Specialist Classes**

Our Specialist classes for this year will be on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Each class will have one session per week of each specialist class listed below:

- Physical Education
- Visual Arts
- Italian
- Performing Arts
- Science

### **Library**

Each week each class will attend the library where each students will return and borrow books. It is important that each student has a well labelled library bag for their library times.

### **Uniform**

All students are to be in summer uniform, which includes black school shoes. We need to take great pride in our uniform and this means that all students need to be in the appropriate uniform at all times. **All students require a school hat for this term** and will need it all times when outside of the classroom in play or class time. There will be times during the week for PE days that children will need to wear their sports uniform, as well as Fridays as part of our Healthy Living Friday's.

At the end of last year we introduced our new sports uniform top. All students will receive a new sports top from the school. If you would like more you will need to purchase these. As mentioned previously, the supplier has been unable to deliver the new tops for students at the start of the school year. We are hoping this will happen in the coming weeks. The 2020 school year is a transition year with the sports top. Students can wear either the new or old top.

If you have any queries over uniforms please do not hesitate to contact the office. We take great pride in our uniform and it is an expectation that all students abide by the correct uniform at all times. If for any reason your son or daughter is unable to wear part of the school uniform for that day could you please send a note to their class teacher regarding this.

### **OLOP Interschool sport program**

A letter will be sent home to our Senior students regarding OLOP's interschool sport program over the coming week. This program will run on Thursday mornings from 9.00am - 11.00am. Students will train at 8.00am on these days at schools prior to heading out for the Inter School Sports Program. We are in need of parent volunteers to help coach and support some of our sporting teams in this program. If you could possibly help out could you let the office know and contact Julie Carrick, Peter Lehman or one of our Senior Teachers.

### **School Captains and Student Leadership**

Yesterday we held our speeches for those students who nominated for School Captain in 2020. It was fantastic to listen to these speeches. They were of an excellent standard and shows that we have a strong culture of students who have clear vision on what we stand for as a school and the student voice in consultation with the school for the coming year.

### **The processes for School Leadership positions are the following:**

<b>Monday 3 February</b>	School Captain Speeches
<b>Wednesday 5 February</b>	Year 6 leadership position speeches
<b>Thursday 6 February</b>	Parents of School Captain and Vice Captains are informed
<b>Friday 7 February</b>	8.50am assembly at Fitness Friday line up area - where School Captains, Vice Captains and Year 6 leaders will be announced to the school. Parents are invited to attend
<b>Friday 7 February</b>	Parents and leaders will receive communication through Flexibuzz

**Tuesday 11 February** SRC Representatives will be elected and parents are informed

**Wednesday 12 February** 8.50am assembly at Fitness Friday line up area where SRC Representative will be announced to the school. Parents are invited to attend

**Wednesday 12 February** FlexiBuzz to all parents of the SRC Representatives

**Monday 2 March** Assembly at 2.20pm for presentation of all leadership badges. Parents are invited to attend

**Icy Pole Wednesday - Each Wednesday at lunch time**

Each Wednesday at lunch time students will be able to purchase various items from outside the Community Hub area (old staffroom). The prices for these items are:

Dixie Cups	\$2
Billabongs	\$2
Chips	\$2
Lemonade Icy Poles	\$1.50
Zooper Doopers	\$0.50

Thank you to the parents in advance who volunteer their time to run this on Wednesdays.

**School Welcome BBQ (Bushfire Relief Fundraiser) and Information Night - Tuesday 11 February**

To begin the year, we would like to engage our parents and student community by providing information and gathering further information for our 2020 school year. As was sent to all families during the holiday period, we will be welcoming our school community and holding an information night for all students and parents next Tuesday 11 February. This date has changed from the original information sent to parents in the school holidays due to reasons outside our control.

The idea is to combine our sense of community with a welcome BBQ for all families, parents and students on Thursday. Following the welcome BBQ, parents are invited to attend a short information session in the church, conducted by myself, outlining the excellent education opportunities provided at OLOP, structures for the 2020 school year as well as various aspects of the school. During this time, students will have the opportunity to play on the basketball courts and oval whilst supervised by members of our staff.

Following the short information session for parents, we will hold the first of **two** short information sessions for parents and students together in the various levels. This will enable the teachers to outline and inform you on what is happening in each level and the structures involved. The reason for two sessions is to cater for those parents who have students across multiple levels. You are most welcome to attend the second session if you have already attended the previous session.

The following is the timetable for the evening:

<b>5.30pm- 6.00pm</b>	Welcome BBQ. All families, parents and students on basketball court
<b>6.05pm - 6.30pm</b>	Parent session-overall school with students in the playground supervised
<b>6.45pm - 7.10pm</b>	Session 1 in various levels-Foundation/Junior, Middle and Senior
<b>7.15pm - 7.45pm</b>	Session 2 in various levels-Foundation/Junior, Middle and Senior

The welcome BBQ is a fundraiser for the Bushfire relief. Parents and students will be asked to make a donation on the night.

**Commissioning Mass/Prep and All School welcome Mass with Parish – Sunday 16 February**

On Sunday 16 February, we will be holding our commissioning Mass for our staff as well as welcoming all our students and in particular or Prep families as part of the normal Sunday Mass time at Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church starting at 9.30am. The Parish will provide a welcome BBQ for all attending on this day. **I take this opportunity of encouraging and inviting all families to celebrate Mass this Sunday.**



**School Swimming Carnival - Monday 17 February**

Our whole school swimming carnival will be held on Monday 17 February. Further details will be sent out to all families in the coming week.

**School Finishing Time 1.00pm - Tuesday 18 February**

With our parent/teacher/child meet 'n' greet on next Tuesday 18 February, **all students will finish at 1.00pm on this day.**

**Parent / Teacher / Child Meet 'n' Greet – Tuesday 18 February**

An email with information regarding the parent / teacher / Meet 'n' Greet conferences will be sent home in the coming week. Please remember that we book our times online with the portal open for bookings on Tuesday 11 February. The conferences will be held from 1.00pm on Tuesday 18 February and are a great opportunity for you to meet the teacher and discuss with your child, the learning goals for the year.

**No class for Foundation/Preps - Wednesday 5, 12, 19 February**

Over the following Wednesdays, (5, 12 and 19 February), Foundation/Prep testing will occur.

I look forward to an exciting and fulfilling year both educationally for your children as well as the continued development and fostering of relationships with parents and our whole school community.

I wish everyone an enjoyable week and God Bless

Yours faithfully,

**Mr Brendan Keeling**  
**Principal**

***"We are Community"***

## Term 1 – 2020 – CALENDAR

Wednesday	Feb 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Preps – Testing Day</li> <li>• <b>ICY POLES AND CHIPS DAY</b></li> </ul>
Friday	Feb 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness Friday All Students in Sports uniform</li> </ul>
Monday	Feb 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assembly @ 2:20 pm</li> </ul>
Tuesday	Feb 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Welcome Back BBQ (Bushfire Relief Fundraiser) and Information Night</li> </ul>
Wednesday	Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Preps – Testing Day</li> </ul>
Sunday	Feb 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prep/6, Staff , Commissioning &amp; Parish Mass @ 9:30 am Followed by a BBQ</li> </ul>
Monday	Feb 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School Swimming Carnival</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday	Feb 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Teacher Meet 'n' Greet School finishes @ 1:00pm</li> </ul>
Wednesday	Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Preps – Testing Day</li> </ul>
Monday	Feb 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>District Swimming Carnival</b></li> <li>• Assembly 2:20pm</li> </ul>
Tuesday	Feb 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shrove Tuesday</b></li> <li>• Open Morning 9:30am – 10:45 am</li> </ul>
Wednesday	Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preps At School</li> <li>• <b>Whole School opening and Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:00 am in Church</b></li> </ul>
Monday	Mar 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assembly @ 2.20pm for presentation of all leadership badges.</li> </ul>



## GENERAL NOTICES – SCHOOL

### Disclaimer:

Our Lady of the Pines provides advertisements within this newsletter as a service to the school community. Our Lady of the Pines is not responsible for, and expressly disclaims all liability for damages of any kind arising out of use, reference to, or reliance on any information contained in the newsletter. While the information contained in this document is periodically updated, no guarantee is given that the information provided is correct, complete, and up to date.

### FIRST SCHOOL BANKING DAY FOR THE YEAR WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY



### Weekly Newsletter

Our school newsletter is sent to parents via email and Flexibuzz on Tuesday of each week. Our newsletter is also available via email to any other interested person or group. Please email [newsletter@olopdonvale.catholic.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@olopdonvale.catholic.edu.au) to request a weekly copy or to UNSUBSCRIBE.

**Deadline for newsletter articles is**

**1:00pm Monday.**

### SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

– (New uniform items) Our school uniform shop is opened twice each week:

**TUESDAY MORNINGS: 8:30 to 9:30am and  
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 3:00 to 4:00pm**

**Contact: Vera Scala 0400 896 390**

### STUDENT ABSENCES



Please note that it is very important, and a legal requirement, that all student absences are to be reported on our Flexibuzz app, **before 9:30am** on the day of absence.

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The second-hand uniform shop is located in the Grade 1 community area.

#### Opening hours:

**Tuesdays 8.45 am – 9.30 am**

**Thursdays 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm**

**(Ina)**

Cash or cheques only. Cheques are payable to Our Lady of the Pines P&F.

Donations of second hand items in good condition are always needed, however if they could be laundered before being sent to school, it would be very much appreciated.

For further information please Contact Alisha via the office.

### ICY POLES & CHIPS DAY –

**Wednesday 5 February**

**Price List:**

#### ICE CREAM & ICY POLES

Zooper Doopers - **.50 cents**

Lemonade Icy Poles - **\$1.50**

Billabong Chocolate & Rainbow - **\$2**

Dixie Cups Chocolate,  
Strawberry and Vanilla - **\$2**

#### CHIPS

Grain Waves - **\$2**

Red Rock Deli Sea Salt, Vinegar &  
Honey Soy - **\$2**



# REFLECTION



Dear Lord,

Use my eyes to **see** new friends.

Open my ears to **listen** to my teacher.

Open my mind to **learn** new things.

Let my heart **remember** you are always near  
when I am afraid.

Help me to **love** others like you do.

I want to **shine** your light so bright in my school.



Amen



Billanook students have a quiet **confidence**. They are **resilient** in the face of challenge and **assured** through a belief in self, with **respect** for others and an **acceptance** of difference.

Supported by a strong College community, they are caring and compassionate, ready to take initiative and ably equipped with the skills to do so.

Applications are invited from likeminded students who will commence Year 7 in 2021.

Apply now at [www.billanook.vic.edu.au](http://www.billanook.vic.edu.au)

### **Billanook College TOURS – Term 1, 2020**

Saturday Morning College Tour and Scholarship Testing  
School At Work Tour

Saturday 22 February  
Thursday 19 March

To book at tour please go to <http://www.billanook.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/>  
Or call 9724 1179.

### **OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE**



**Term 1 tour dates for Our Lady of Sion College.**

**Talk and Tour Morning:** Friday 21 February 2020, beginning at 9.30 am  
**College Open Day:** Tuesday 17 March 2020, 2.30 pm – 6.30 pm





MARCELLIN COLLEGE  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
March 18 | 2.30-5.30pm | 160 Bulleen Road Bulleen  
Principal's Address | 2.30, 3.30 & 4.30

