

OUR HOLY REDEEMER

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Principal
Frank Dame

Parish Priest
Mark Reynolds

Newsletter No 1
29th January 2021

*"The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill;
the willingness to learn is a choice."*

Brian Herbert

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 ST		ALL PREPS ATTEND
WEDNESDAY, 3 RD		NO PREPS
	6.30PM	PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
THURSDAY, 4 TH		SCHOOL PHOTOS
MONDAY, 8 TH	8.45 AM	ASSEMBLY
TUESDAY, 9 TH		ALL PREPS ATTEND
WEDNESDAY, 10 TH		NO PREPS
THURSDAY, 11 TH		ALL PREPS ATTEND
	1.30PM	PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
MONDAY, 15 TH	8.45 AM	ASSEMBLY/ PREPS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY, 17 TH		ASH WEDNESDAY
		NO PREPS
FRIDAY, 26 TH		P/1/2 PARENT EVENING AT THE CAPELLO'S HOME
SATURDAY, 27 TH		SURREY HILLS MINI MUSIC FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, 28 TH		WORKING BEE # 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

For many people, Australia Day is about celebrating the values, freedoms and pastimes of our country. It's a time for BBQs in the backyard, having a beer with mates and proudly flying the flag. On the surface, Australia Day seems to be about unifying all Australians, and yet ironically, it's a divisive day for some people. So, what's all the fuss about?

You may have heard it said (or even wondered yourself), "Why are Indigenous people making this an issue? After all, isn't Australia Day for all Australians to come together and celebrate?" Others see the critique of Australia Day celebrations as excessive political correctness and governments pandering to the whims of minorities.

It's true, that as Australians, we should be able to come together and celebrate the things about our nation that we're proud of and grateful for. However, celebrating these things on the 26th January can divide us as Australians by marginalising and offending many Indigenous people who see this date as commencing a chain of events that had disastrous consequences for many Indigenous people.

The negative effects of colonisation continue to have very real impact on the lives of many Indigenous Australians in the form of intergenerational trauma, generational poverty, health disparity, disconnection from culture, disappearance of language, family separation, social discrimination and more. Our nation faces many other challenges too – asylum seekers, climate change and inadequate welfare, to name a few. But, as a Nation, we talk about our problems and wrestle publicly with how to fix them. This is a consequence of our duty as citizens to vote and partake in political life, to improve the society in which we live.

On Australia Day, our newest citizens promised to do just that, to do their bit to make this country a better place. The promise made by our new citizens this week, as well as our collective achievements last year to suppress COVID-19*, should serve as a reminder to us all of the duty we will always owe to advance Australia fair.



**Over the past year we have shouldered those responsibilities every time we have stayed at home when unwell, cancelled celebrations, or lined up to have a cotton swab stuck up our nostril. And the Australian government has protected us in return, through managing our borders, securing vaccines and increasing welfare through JobKeeper and JobSeeker supplements.*

Courtesy: Sunday Age editorial

Planning for a New School Year

The school staff officially resumed yesterday, 27 January, although many had returned in previous weeks to prepare their classrooms and plan for the term ahead. Wednesday's staff meeting comprised: a focus on: the term and year ahead; wellbeing practices; a review of our Maths, English and RE Guiding Principles; and an overview of Copyright laws as applied to educational settings. The staff also completed online training in OH&S practices and Child Safety Standards. We took the opportunity to welcome Ms Danielle Busuttill, who is returning from maternity leave, and will be working one day per week in Mrs Lisa Canty's class, and Mrs Lana Nikolic who is taking on the role of Learning Support Officer in the year 1/2 level.

Following three terms, during 2020, where parents could not enter the school grounds, it was refreshing to see so many faces within the school property this morning. I also took the opportunity to visit the

classrooms this morning and found both staff and children brimming with enthusiasm for the new school year ahead. Today we also welcomed Audrey K (1/2MJ) who officially joined the OHR school community. Commencing today and concluding tomorrow, Mrs Naomi Hart, Mrs Tina Hautot and Mrs Michelle Hollow will meet with each of their Prep (Foundation) children in a 1:1 environment where a series of literacy pre-tests are to be administered.

On Monday we officially welcome our Foundation (Prep) students who commence their first day of schooling at OHR: **Emme A, Jann Keilah B, Emily B, Charles C, Daniel C, Aston C, Daniel C, Alexander E, Tully F, Joseph G, Estelle G, Otis H, Yvie H, Mia H, Patrick J, Harrison K, Thomas K, Maxwell L, Darcy M-K, Amelia O, Isaac P, Dilan R, Finley R and Hailey W.**

I encourage every current family to take the opportunity to introduce yourself to any new families and make them feel 'at home' and a part of our vibrant school community.

Mrs Dioguardi

During the January break, Mrs Melissa Dioguardi reluctantly decided to retire as Sustainable Gardening specialist teacher due to family circumstances. Pleasingly, Melissa will still tend to the vegetable gardens on a voluntary basis. Therefore, children will still see her during lunchbreaks on those days when Melissa is around.

Melissa's decision has resulted in Performing Arts being reintroduced at OHR. Mrs Michelle Hollow, who currently teaches part-time in Prep, has enthusiastically accepted and embraced the opportunity to be the new Performing Arts teacher.

2021 Teaching Staff

It gives me great pleasure to provide our staffing arrangements for the 2021 school year:

Prep	<i>Naomi Hart</i>
Prep	<i>Tina Hautot (4 days) / Michelle Hollow (1 day)</i>
Year 1/2	<i>Cara Mitchell (3 days) / Esther Jackson (2 days)</i>
Year 1/2	<i>Mary Dening (4 days) / Nick Byrne (1 day)</i>
Year 3/4	<i>Lisa Canty (4 days) / Danielle Busuttill (1 day)</i>
Year 3/4	<i>Carmel Pettinato (3 days) / Meaghan King (2 days)</i>
Year 5/6	<i>Nicky Dunne (4 days) / Nick Byrne (1 day)</i>
Year 5/6	<i>Bettina Harrison</i>

Staff holding leadership positions in the school include:

Principal:	<i>Frank Dame</i>
Deputy Principal:	<i>Nick Byrne</i>
Business Manager:	<i>Trish Fisher</i>

REL / Learning & Teaching Leader:	<i>Nick Byrne</i>
Mathematics Leader:	<i>Cara Mitchell</i>
Literacy Leader:	<i>Nicky Dunne</i>
Student Wellbeing Leader:	<i>Mary Dening</i>

Learning Diversity / Pastoral Care Worker:	<i>Carmel Pettinato</i>
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Digital Technologies Manager:	<i>Josephine Harrison</i>
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Reading Recovery &LLI:	<i>Karen Arnett</i>
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Specialist Teachers:	<i>Science: Stephanie Axon</i>
	<i>Phys Ed: Jo Golds</i>
	<i>Performing Arts: Michelle Hollow</i>
	<i>Languages (Mandarin): Chao-Ying Li</i>

Library Technician: Leone Gole

Learning Support Officer: Deidre Campbell

Learning Support Officer: Rosha Vincitorio

Learning Support Officer: Lana Nikolic

School Photos are Next Week!

A reminder that school photos will be taken next week on **Thursday 4 February**. The children are required to proudly wear their **full summer uniform** on this day.

Parent Information Evening

On **Wednesday 3 February**, classes will be conducting **Parent Information Sessions** in which teachers will outline the procedures relating specifically to their classroom and, therefore, your child's learning for 2021. The sessions will cover topics such as homework and routines that are specific to your child's class. Sessions will run for 25 minutes. As parents and teachers share joint responsibility for the education of our children, we would expect that at least one parent attend your child's information session. The sessions will be conducted via Google Meet. At 6.30pm all parents are warmly invited to attend a special presentation on **The Importance of Reading with your Children** by Dr Anne Scott from the Australian Catholic University (ACU). As some families have a number of children spread across various levels, the information session times will be staggered throughout the evening:

- 6.30pm: The Importance of Reading with your Children – Dr Anne Scott
- 7.00pm: Prep and 5/6 level
- 7.30pm: 1/2 level
- 8.00pm: 3/4 level

Further information will be sent home tomorrow.

Parent Teacher Conversations

Parent Teacher Conversations will be held on **Thursday 11 February**. The meetings are for 10 minutes duration. The primary purpose of the meeting is to provide parents with the opportunity to share personal knowledge about their child(ren) with their respective 2021 teacher(s). Goal setting will form part of the conference time.

Next week all families will receive instructions for booking the preferred meeting time(s) on-line. Furthermore, each family is requested to take the time to complete the **Getting to Know Your Child** profile that will be sent home next week. Please complete the profile prior to the Parent Teacher Conversations.

Assembly

The first school assembly for the year will be held in the Hall at 8.45am on Monday 8 February. Unfortunately, due to density limits, parents will not be able to attend, however, the assembly can be accessed live via Google Meet or at a later time by accessing the recording.

Child Absences

In order that the safety of all children at OHR is met is met during school hours, it is important that student absences are reported to the school by phone or email prior to 8.45am on the day of absence. All registered schools must record student attendance twice per day and note the reason for each absence. This is necessary to: (a) meet legislative requirements; and (b) discharge the school's duty of care to all students. To this end, and for your child's safety, we ask for your assistance with this important matter. The staff at the school must be able to account for the absence of a child, so please ensure that any emails providing the reason for the absence are sent to Trish (ohradmin@ohrsurreyhills.catholic.edu.au) and the classroom teacher.

Parents will always be contacted when there is an unexplained absence.

Holiday Maintenance

Over the holiday break a number of maintenance tasks were completed, including:

- The replacement of all sub-floors and flooring throughout Prep HT
- The artificial turf received its six monthly maintenance
- Pruning of shrubs and other trees along Barton St and throughout the school property
- All windows were cleaned and carpeted areas steam-cleaned
- All internal spaces received a thorough deep clean.

Our vegetable gardens and orchard garden yielded many crops over the summer.



Specialist Classes

During 2021, the specialist classes of Mandarin and Science will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while Performing Arts will be conducted on Wednesdays. Phys Ed will be taken across Thursdays and Fridays. Phys Ed lessons on Thursdays will involve students in Years 1 - 6, while Fridays will encompass the two Prep classes. All children are to wear their full sports uniform on their respective Phys Ed day. Class teachers will advise of their additional sports day.

Child Safe Standards

Our Holy Redeemer School has developed and actively enforces Child Safety Standards to ensure that every person involved in 'child connected work' is aware of their obligations and responsibilities for ensuring the safety of all children under their care. In accordance with the requirements of the [Victorian Government's Ministerial Order No 870](#), Our Holy Redeemer School maintains a culture of 'no tolerance' to child abuse. To achieve this it has established a holistic Child Safety Strategy. A link to Our Holy Redeemer's Child Safety Standards is located on the School's website. The Standards include the School's Child Safe Policy.

In accordance with Ministerial Order No 870, all parent volunteers are required to complete and return to the School Office signed copies of:

- Volunteer Duty Statement
- Child Safety Code of Conduct

Both documents will be emailed home tomorrow.

- A current *Working With Children Check* needs to be brought to the Office in order that it can be verified and photocopied. **The Card MUST be displayed at all times when volunteering at School in any capacity.**

Upon expiry of the *Working With Children Check*, legislation requires that you obtain a new card and have it verified at the school office.



Classroom Helpers – Working With Children Check

Recent legislation requires all parent helpers, volunteers and workers present a *Working With Children Check*. **Our Holy Redeemer requires every helping parent to display their card when assisting at School, whether helping in the classroom, volunteering in the tuck shop, coaching sporting teams, and when assisting with excursions, sports days, and so on.**

In accordance with the Child Safe Standards, and our Emergency Management Plan, the School staff need to be able to account for the whereabouts of every volunteer and visitor to our School. So whenever you help out, we respectfully ask that you sign in upon arrival, sign out on departure, and display your *Working With Children Card*. Upon signing in, Trish will supply you with a lanyard. Due to the number of entrances to our School, it is important that your attendance is registered at the front desk.

If you need to apply for or renew a *Working With Children Check*, complete the online application on the *Working With Children Check* website: <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>. There is no cost for volunteers. Please apply for a Check to avoid disappointment when you wish to volunteer as a helper in any capacity. *As you can appreciate, it is in the interests of our children's welfare that there be no exceptions to this law.*



Working with
Children Check

Upon successfully obtaining a Check, immediately present your card to Trish at the School Office so that a copy may be kept on file.

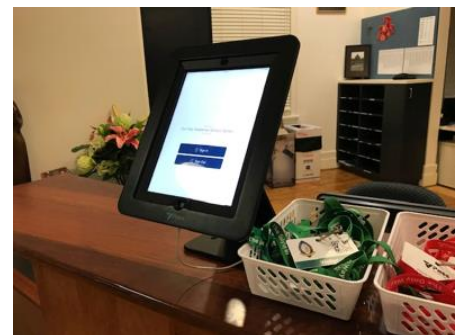
V-Pass

The V-Pass Visitor Management System is an iPad-based system that serves as an electronic sign in / sign out book and late arrivals / early departures book. All visitors to the school must sign in and sign out using this system which can be found at school reception.

The visitor types include: Staff, Visitors, Contractors, Parent Volunteers, Registered Parents, Late Passes, Early Leave Passes, Casual Relief Teachers and Registered Casual Relief Teachers.

Parents who have registered their Working With Children Check number with the school office are classified as Registered Parents.

The sign in process is greatly simplified for those parents.



Sun Smart

Our Holy Redeemer is officially certified as a SunSmart School. All children must wear school hats every day until the end of April. Sun hats are always to be worn to Phys Ed and Sport classes. Your children should be in the habit of applying sunscreen to exposed areas of their skin prior to leaving home in the morning.



Wishing you a great weekend,
Frank Dame

COMMUNITY NEWS



OUR HOLY REDEEMER PRIMARY SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS COMING

Dear Parents,

The official School Photos will be taken by Elite School Photography on Thursday 4th February..

All orders are to be completed online, via the Elite School Photography website.

You can order your Child's School Photos by using the login code ESP202515 and follow the easy to use steps to order. Please ensure all relevant details are filled out correctly.

Family Discount - If you have more than two children attending this School, please list all their First Names and all their Classes and select 2 as the quantity, for the Deluxe and Standard packs. Your third and subsequent Child will receive their packs free of charge, but you must list all your children's names though. This family discount will only apply to the Deluxe & Standard Packs.

If you have any queries regarding School Photos, please contact our friendly staff at ESP directly on (03) 9570 9311

SIMPLE, SMART & SENSIBLY PRICED