Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our Foundation children and their parents who have made a great start to the school year. This week the Foundation children have started full days. Thankfully, the weather has been quite mild given how hot it has been at this time of the year in previous years and children have come to school well rested. The wave goodbye from the line and “See you at 3.30pm!” is working so well and makes Ms. Bernadette and Ms. Caitlin’s work so much easier when parents are not fussing around their children in the hallways causing anxiety. We already have confident and independent Foundation children who know where to hang their bag, and know the morning procedure. Brilliant work Foundation parents!

A couple of years ago Michael Grose, a leading child psychologist, presented a session at our school and something he said really struck a chord with me. He said “The greatest success a parent can have is to make themselves redundant, which consequently allows their child to become independent.”

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

This week the children in Years 1 - 6 attended Ash Wednesday Mass. This marks the beginning of the lead up to the Easter season. Each child in Year 1 - 6 was marked with the sign of ashes on their forehead. Over the next few weeks the children will learn about Lent as being a time of prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving.

SCHOOL DISPLAY PROCEDURES

Following the recent media reports of calls to schools by people who should have better things to do, parents can rest assured that the children and teachers at our school are well rehearsed for a building evacuation or lock down. Last year the school was able to achieve a building evacuation in 3 minutes 30 seconds and a building lockdown at recess/lunch in 4 minutes 42 seconds. That is not a bad effort with close to 300 children.

Acknowledged is the fact that our new Foundation children have not done a DISPLAY as yet, however Ms. Caitlin and Ms. Bernadette and support staff have procedures well under control.

As yet, Our Lady Help of Christians School has not had such a threat, however we are prepared for such an event if it were to occur.

When thinking about our communication processes with parents and how we would communicate such an event... we could make 200 phone calls, which would probably take most of the day... or we now have at our disposal the new school app which allows me to 'push notification' parents who have subscribed to the app in a matter of seconds and keep them updated.

We now have 100 families who have the school app on their phone, however that is only 50% of all school families. Could I ask all parents to urgently consider and download the free school app from the App Store. In the event of a threat to the school, the building will be evacuated, and a push notification will be sent to the school app for parents detailing student collection etc. Simply search for:

2016 - YEAR 6 GRADUATION COMMITTEE

Even though our Year 6 Graduation is on the Friday 9th December, the parents of this year’s Year 6 want to make an early start planning this great event. If you are interested in being on the committee can you please email principal@olbrunswickeast.catholic.edu.au

We will convene a Graduation Committee meeting shortly.

OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MASS

We welcome all parents to our Opening of the School Year Mass at 9.15am on next Tuesday 16th February. As a Catholic School community it is important that we gather to celebrate who we are and pray for God’s assistance in the year ahead. Our new Foundation children will be accompanied to the Mass by their Year 6 ‘Big Buddies’. We look forward to a lovely Mass with Father Michael who will celebrate the Mass and who will announce our School Captains and Vice Captains for 2016.

WELCOME PICNIC – TUESDAY 16TH FEB – 5PM

One of the ways we welcome new families to our school and celebrate old friendships among the parent community is the annual Welcome Picnic. This will be held in the school grounds on Tuesday 16th February from 5pm to 7pm. We are ‘normally’ blessed with a beautiful balmy night where the children are entertained by two jumping castles and some sausages, and the parents are entertained with some BYO refreshments and engaging adult conversation. All teachers will also be present and so it is a great opportunity to catch up with both classroom and specialist teachers in an informal and social atmosphere.

The Parents Association will be selling sausages and drinks through the evening. We look forward to

EVERY CHILD - EVERY CHANCE - EVERY DAY
making this year’s Welcome Picnic the biggest and best yet.

**TERM OVERVIEWS DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK**

One of the ways we communicate the learning that is happening in the classroom is through the distribution of Term Overviews each term. Classroom and Specialist Teachers detail the content that will be covered in each subject area. We have found that this gives parents an insight into the class content so that when parents ask “What did you do at school today?” the regular answer of “Nothing much” “I forgot” or “Stuff” can be replaced by a parent asking a more targeted question such as “How did you go with instruments in music today?” or “Did you start learning about your multiplication facts today?”

The Term Overviews also appear on the school website for future parent reference.

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2016**

The Parents Association is a hard working and dedicated group of parents who meet on a monthly basis. The two main objectives of the Parents Association are:

1. Fundraising
2. Connectedness

The Parents Association have staged many wonderful events over the years raising many thousands of dollars. Things like the two adventure playgrounds, the shade sails on the northern playground, the 125 new Laptop Computers and their trolleys, some of the Interactive Whiteboards on the classrooms are but some of the equipment that the children use in their day at our school.

**Every parent at Our Lady’s School is part of the Parents Association as decreed by its Constitution.**

Each year the Parents Association has its Annual General Meeting (Monday 21st March @ 7pm) where all positions on the Executive come up for nomination. The Executive positions are; President – Vice President – Secretary – Treasurer. We are now calling for nominations for these four positions, the role description of which can be found at [http://www.olbrunswickeast.catholic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/20120912093359880.pdf](http://www.olbrunswickeast.catholic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/20120912093359880.pdf)

All nominations need to be sent to: principal@olbrunswickeast.catholic.edu.au by Friday 18th March 2016.

**SCHOOL DATES**

All known and confirmed school dates are now on the calendar on the school website. If the date is not on the website or on the weekly newsletter calendar then it is not yet confirmed. Dates are only placed on a school calendar when we are 100% sure they are going ahead (not withstanding unforeseen circumstances such as weather and other calamities). Known and confirmed Sacramental dates, parent nights and other school events are now live on the school calendar and in the school newsletter each week.

**SCHOOL WORKING BEE - A TO K FAMILIES SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**

Our first working bee of the year has been scheduled for Saturday 27th February from 9am to midday. We ask that those families whose surnames begin with A to K come to the first working bee, L to Z families to the working bee in Term 4. Obviously if you prefer to come to this working bee you are still most welcome.

**For those families who attend either working bee, $100 is deducted from your School Building Levy/Fees.**

There is much to be done making our school gleam before our Sister School visitors arrive the following day. We look forward to your participation in this important school event.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

One of the great services we offer the children at our school is school banking with the Commonwealth Bank. We have had a dedicated group of parent helpers over the past couple of years who have now moved onto fuller time employment. If you are able to spare 2 hours on a Tuesday morning and would like to help out please contact me at principal@olbrunswickeast.catholic.edu.au

Training will be provided and no past financial experience is necessary. The program provides children with an opportunity to learn how to save, as well as providing the Parents Association with a small rebate out of Commonwealth Bank profits each year.

We would like to start School Banking on Tuesday 16th February providing we have enough parent helpers.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**

The School website has now been updated with a lot of 2016 information. The school website is yet another important communication tool for parents. Under the ‘About Us’ tab the Staff 2016 link details all teacher email addresses (and after photo day their photos). The use of staff email addresses has increased over the years and is now an encouraged way to communicate with your classroom or specialist teacher.

Sacramental dates have now been booked into the website calendar for your perusal.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR – TERM 1 2016**

16th February – Opening of the School Year Mass @9.15
16th February – Welcome Picnic – 5pm to 7pm
17th February – Foundation Interview Day – No School
19th February – Headline Checks – Foundation to Yr 6
19th February – School tour for Prospective Parents @11.30am
24th February – Foundation Interview Day – No School
27th Feb – School Working Bee – A to K families 9-12 noon
29th February – Foundation are now full time.
3rd March – School tour for Prospective Parents @11.30am
3rd March – School Photo Day
6th March – Sister School visitors arrive
13th March – Sister School visitors depart
14th March – Labour Day Public Holiday
15th March – School tour for Prospective Parents @11.30am
18th March – Easter Raffle Drawn
24th March – Term 1 concludes for all students @ 1pm
25th March – Good Friday
27th March – Easter Sunday
11th April – Term 2 commences at 8.55 am

We are really enjoying the start of Term 1 with the children. Let us try to harness the positive energy at our school and push learning, learning, learning.

Philip Cachia
Principal

**EVERY CHILD - EVERY CHANCE - EVERY DAY**
2016 WELCOME BBQ

Tuesday, 16 February
5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year’s Welcome BBQ will be held on Tuesday, 16 February. It is a great opportunity for families to spend time together and get to know each other. There will be a jumping castle for the kids and the Parent Association will run a sausage sizzle and sell drinks/snacks at the Tuckshop as well as have the second hand uniform stall.

We do need approximately 20 volunteers to help with the set up, running and clean up for sausage sizzle and tuckshop and uniform stall. With sufficient numbers, no one should be required for more than 1 hour. This will enable ALL parents a chance to socialise.

If you are able to assist, please complete the form below and return via your child’s class folder by Friday, 12 February or email olhcpa@gmail.com

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Contact #:</th>
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Eldest Child’s Name/Class:

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<tr>
<th>SAUSAGE SIZZLE</th>
<th>TUCKSHOP</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Set-up Sausage Sizzle</strong></td>
<td><strong>Set-up Tuckshop</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuckshop Serving</strong></td>
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* A confirmation email or text will be sent prior to the event
All New Enrolments Get a Free Tennis Racquet!

KIDS CLASSES
Free Trial Lesson!

Smaller courts, lighter racquets and low-compression balls that don’t bounce too high make learning tennis fun and easy for primary school-aged children. This means that kids are able to start rallying and having fun right from their first lesson!

Cost: $9.00 a session

CARDIO TENNIS
Free Trial Lesson!

- High energy workout and burn 300 to 1000 calories
- Drill-based and play-based activities
- Lose weight, get fit and have fun
- Participants wear heart monitors, exercise to music and use low compression balls and a variety of equipment such as agility ladders

Cost: $12.50 a session.

LOCATIONS: Kensington Banks TC Smithfield Rd • North Park TC Flemington Rd
Gladstone Park TC 18 Elmhurst Rd • St Matthews TC 95 William Rd

1300 22 33 86 ACEFUNTENNISSCHOOL.COM
Parent Class Representatives Required

✓ One parent from each class is needed as ‘Class Representative’
✓ The role of Parent Class Representative is to act as ‘liaison officers’ for their individual classes and to attend Parent Association meetings if possible so that the interests of the whole school community are reflected as accurately as possible
✓ They will promote connectedness between the classroom families

Parent representatives are supported by Parent Association and the rest of the class parents. We will be encouraging the parent representatives to build the network between all parents within your class group.

We are now seeking **one parent** as a nomination from **each class** to be their class representative for 2016.

If you would like to be the parent class representative for your class, please email the Parent Association at ohlcpa@gmail.com **by Thursday 11 February** with the following details:

- Name
- Class
- Email
- Phone Number

We appreciate your consideration of this important role.

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**Parents’ Association**

The aim of the Parents’ Association is to:

1. **Build a sense of community and feeling of connectedness within the school by organising social events and activities throughout the year to which all our families are invited.**

2. **Organise various functions throughout the school year in order to raise extra funds for the school. These funds will be directed towards the enhancement of our children’s learning and help to ensure our children have a safe, comfortable and appropriate working environment, offering broad-based curriculum and co-curricular activities.**

Throughout the school year it will be the Association’s aim to achieve a balance between activities which promote social connectedness within the school community and fundraising activities, which promote a diversity and ample opportunities for parents to volunteer their assistance/services at various times of the year.