



# ST PAUL THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

11 February, 2015

Term 1 Week 3

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## Contact us

### School

St Paul the Apostle School  
44 Buckleys Road  
Winston Hills NSW 2153  
Tel 9639 2555 Fax 9686 2212  
Email:  
winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

### Parish

St Paul the Apostle Parish  
40 Buckleys Road  
Winston Hills NSW 2153  
Tel 9639 6516 Fax 9686 1727  
Email:  
office@stpaultheapostleparish.org

## Principal's Message



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul's,

Friday February 13 at 9.10am is a very important celebration for us here at St Paul's. It is the **beginning of the year mass** and presentation and blessing of our student leadership team. It is an opportunity to come together around the table of the Lord to celebrate Eucharist as a community of Christ. I urge you all to come along if you are able.

Our school leaders read our new **School Prayer** at assembly last Friday. They were instrumental in formulating the prayer after a draft version provided by Mrs Standing. The leaders felt it was important to include our five school values of faith, leadership, commitment, empathy and integrity. It was also important to them to maintain our connection to our origins through our school motto - **Victory through Faith**. Congratulations to our leaders and I share it with you now.

### *Heavenly Father*

*At St Paul's we pray that you watch over us in all we do and say. Help us to live our values of empathy, leadership, commitment, integrity and faithfulness. Guide us to be victors through faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen*

Over the past two weeks, I have asked the staff to complete some homework and answer the question: what "makes a good principal"? What are the qualities you look for in a principal? The staff has been responding in very creative ways. My next step is to ask for some feedback against the criteria they have set. I am wondering if you too would like to respond to the question? You can either email me your suggestions or send them into the office. The teachers have also been asking the children: "**what makes a good teacher?**" Here are some of the Year 2 responses:

- |                     |                 |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| * Caring            | * Happy         | * Kind                  |
| * Cool              | * Loving        | * Helps me with my work |
| * Awesome           | * Smiles        | * Helps us to learn     |
| * Takes care of you | * Keeps us safe | * Is understanding      |

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Liturgical Events

*Unless otherwise stated Mass will commence at 9:10am*

Week 1 – No Mass

Week 2 – No Mass

Week 3 - Opening School Mass

Week 4 – Ash Wednesday – Whole School Mass 12:00

Friday – Welcoming Ceremony

Week 5 – No Mass

Week 6 – Stage 1 Mass (Yrs 1 & 2)

Week 7 – Whole School Mass

Week 8 – Stage 2 Mass (Yrs 3 & 4)

Week 9 – Early Stage 1 Mass (Kindy)

Week 10 – Stage 3 Mass to be held on Sunday 29 March (Yrs 5 & 6) 9:30am

### General Events

13 February – OPENING SCHOOL MASS

14 February – ST VALENTINE DAY

17 February – SHROVE TUESDAY

18 February – ASH WEDNESDAY  
FIRST COMMUNION PARENT TALK

19 February – SCHOOL PHOTOS

20 February – WELCOMING CEREMONY

## SPORT DAYS TERM 1

KINDY – Monday & Thursday

YEAR 1 – Monday & Thursday

YEAR 2 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 3 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 4 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 5 – Monday & Wednesday

YEAR 6 – Monday & Thursday

Thank you for sending your children back to school looking splendid in their **school uniform**. Most families have honoured the school uniform policy by dressing the children in 'mostly white' sports shoes and I thank you for complying. I have spoken to some students who have different coloured shoes and I request that you observe the policy as quickly as possible. It is also an expectation that all students have a St Paul's school bag. Please contact me if you are experiencing difficulty in this area.

Have a great week.

*Marian Bell*

*Principal*

[mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## RE News



**“Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.”** 1 Corinthians 10:31

Walking through the shops today my attention was caught by the modern take on Valentine's Day - small white teddies holding roses and red hearts. It got me thinking when did the 'Saint' get dropped from this day of sharing our love with the special person in our lives? We may like to take some time this Saturday to remember we are celebrating the '**Feast of St Valentine**'. He was a priest in Rome during the reign of Claudius II. Claudius wanted to recruit unmarried men for his armies. In order for this to occur, he suspended all weddings to encourage single men to join. St Valentine witnessed the anguish of many unmarried couples and performed secret weddings in defiance of the Emperor.

St Valentine's goodness did not stop there, while he was in jail, St Valentine restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Just before he was executed, St Valentine wrote a farewell note to the child and signed it, 'From your Valentine', which is why we sign our cards in the same manner today.

St Valentine was beheaded on 14 February, 269AD and buried on the Flaminian Way. Archaeologists have unearthed a catacomb and an ancient church dedicated in his name. He is the **Patron Saint of engaged couples, happy marriages, love and lovers**.

**Pope Francis** constantly calls Catholics to be **joyful**. The Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life encourages us to use the joyfulness of the feast of St Valentine to **promote and affirm our commitment to our marriage** by experiencing fun together.

May you find some time in your busy life to spend some time with your loved ones celebrating St Valentine day.

## Assembly Term 1, 2015

Assembly – Fridays 2:30pm

Week 1 – No Assembly  
Week 2 – Whole School  
Week 3 – No Assembly  
Week 4 – Whole School - Year 6  
Week 5 – No Assembly  
Week 6 – Whole School – Year 5  
Week 7 – No Assembly  
Week 8 – Whole School – Year 2  
Week 9 – Mini Vinnies  
Week 10 – No Assembly

## Uniform Shop Trading Hours

Thursday 2:30 – 4:00pm  
Saturday 3:30 – 5:00pm

For all uniform enquiries  
please contact Elle on

0421 216 414 or

elle@ozfashions.com.au

## Library Borrowing Term 1

Kindy – Tuesday  
Year 1 – Tuesday  
Year 2G – Tuesday  
Year 2N – Thursday  
Year 3 – Thursday  
Year 4 – Tuesday  
Year 5 – Friday  
Year 6 – Thursday

Please ensure your child  
brings their library bag on  
their Class Library day.

Our 'Prayer Book' is in our school office foyer. You are encouraged to enter the details of anyone you would like us to include in our prayers.

If you would like to share how your family celebrated St Valentine's day or how you live your faith please contact me at [lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au)

This week our 'Student Reflections' comes from Year Five. They are currently exploring the call of baptised Christians to live as Jesus teaches in loving service of others through their participation in the unit – 'Living the Message of Jesus'. Their reflections on decisions and choices can be found below.

God Bless,

*Leanda Standing*

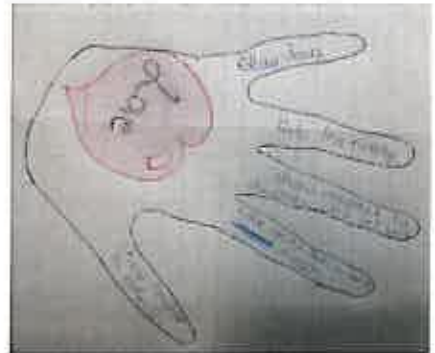
*Religious Education Coordinator*

[lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## Student Reflections

### Stage 3 - Year 5 Reflections on Religion

In class we have learnt to live the message of Jesus at school and home. While we were learning we also have been explaining the definition of choice and decisions. We have also been learning about good and bad choices. During one of the lessons we discussed Micah 6:8. He wrote about the importance of doing what is just, showing constant love and living in humble fellowship with God. We recorded five ways we can live his message in our life.



By Claudia Ters.

## Curriculum Corner

### Goal Setting Meetings

A reminder that this year at St Paul's we **will not** be holding the parent information sessions and the ten minute chats as we have in past years.

Instead we will invite all families to make an appointment to meet with their child/children's teacher for 15 minutes in Week 5 and 6. This will be an opportunity for you to meet the teacher, share any information you have about your child and most importantly work with your child and their teacher to set some learning goals for the year.

More information about this will come out in a separate note early next week. In the meantime you should have received a note with any important information about their class and procedures for the year. **PLEASE NOTE: If there are any urgent issues that you need to discuss with your child's teacher before these meetings please contact the office to make an appointment.**

## Bell Times

Block 1: 8:55 – 11:00

Recess: 11:00 – 11:30

Block 2: 11:30 – 1:00

Lunch: 1:00 – 1:45

Block 3: 1:45 – 3:15

## School Prayer

Heavenly Father  
At St Paul's we pray that  
you watch over us in all  
we do and say. Help us  
to live our values of  
empathy, leadership,  
commitment, integrity  
and faithfulness. Guide  
us to be victors through  
faith. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## Our Vision Statement

Reach new heights  
through a  
community  
celebrating faith,  
life and learning.

## Forensics Workshop

On Friday 6 February, primary classes participated in a Forensics Workshop where we contributed in a real life crime scene set up. We had to examine the crime scene to uncover the mysterious story of a missing boy.

Firstly we met our forensics visitor, she taught us how to recognise different animals paw print since she studied animals. She also told us how to recognise different leaves and how to use a UV light. After that we all went off to solve the mystery of the missing boy 'Josh'. In the end we cleverly solved the mystery. Josh had run away with his fluffy pet koala and was hiding in a haunted house. At the end of this well solved mystery – the genius' in the primary classes were all feeling very excited because we had such a great time and really sad that our adventure was over.



Written by Daniel Gonzalez and Georgia Hill

## Forensics Fun

## Mystery solved!



## Library News

It is a joy to welcome every child back into the library for 2015. This year is proving to be jam packed with great literature and fun activities. The following classes will visit the library each **Tuesday** to borrow: Kindergarten, Year One, Year 2G and Year 4. The following classes will visit the library each **Thursday** to borrow: Year 3 and 2N. Year 5 and 6 will borrow each **Friday**. Please ensure that library books inside **library bags** are returned to school each week.

Please remember  
some of our  
children have food  
allergies, we are a  
**NUT FREE** school.  
Help us keep our  
children safe

The Premier's Reading Challenge opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. User names and passwords will be sent home prior to this date. All St Paul's children are strongly encouraged to participate in the challenge. More details will follow.

The Sydney Writers festival is on 18 May. 60 children from years 3 – 6 can attend. This library excursion costs approximately \$30. More details will follow.

Library helpers are always welcome. If you can spare any time, please see Mrs Taylor (Teacher Librarian) or Mrs Nobili (Library Assistant).



## Happy Birthday



To those children celebrating  
their birthdays between 11 and  
18 February -

*Siobhan Cassin, Sophia Fenech, Chanel Elias, Joel Irving, Josip & Filip Kuyundzija, Cooper Provan, Benjamin Smith, Austin Borg, Tienna Brennan, Brock Prideaux, Tamara Christie, Oliver Drover, Rachel Agus, Emilie West, Oliver Cartwright, Mikkel Fares*

## Awards

### Student of the Week

Student of the Week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across all Key Learning Areas

KI	Johanna Dwyer
KP	Samuel Moubarak
1G	Ava Silveri
1L	Saskia Bradbery
2G	George Jasser
2N	Sanjana Ghandi
3L	Ben Osborne
3V	Will Casey
4J	James Stewart
4P	Chloe Pearson
5S	Samantha Ellis
5ST	Claudia Farren
6L	Toby Mifsud
6M	Joel Irving

### St Paul's Award

St Paul's Award is given to the child who demonstrates our five school values – Faith, Commitment, Leadership, Integrity and Empathy in their interactions with others

KI	Ashleigh Donovan
KP	Amelia Mangione
1G	Frederick Mouawad
1L	Declan Abela
2G	Sienna Flaviano
2N	Connor Culnane
3L	Shianne Massoud
3V	Liam Zelmanowski
4J	Johnny Al-Ekhityar
4P	Aarushi Handoo
5S	Eden Boisse
5ST	Elijah Uy
6L	Taylah Pearson
6M	Amelia Caruana

## Important Information

### Opening School Mass

Our **Opening School Mass** will be held on **Friday 13 February at 9:10am**. Our new School Leaders for 2015 will receive their badges - everyone is welcome.

### Family Information Card

Thank you to all the families who completed and returned the blue Family Information card sent out earlier this year. There are still several not yet returned and we would appreciate these being back by this **Friday 13 February**.

Thank you.

### School Fees

Families should have received their accounts for Term 1, 2015. Unless undertaking a Fee Payment Plan arrangement the fees are due by Friday March 6. If at any time you wish to discuss the fees or need further clarification please contact Gail Caruana on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday on 9639 2555 or email [gcaruana@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gcaruana@parra.catholic.edu.au).

The excursion to Canberra for our Year 6 children is also billed in Term 1 although not taking place until Term 2.

Thank you for your co-operation.

### School Photos

School Photos will take place on **Thursday 19 February, 2015**. **Please remember that your child/children should wear their full summer school uniform**. If it is your child's sport day they may bring their joggers to change into on the day for sport. Photo Envelopes will be sent home by the end of the week. If you require a family photo, envelopes will be available on request from the school office.

**Please note – Family photos will be taken throughout the school day and not before school as in previous years.**

### School Uniform

Just a reminder that the following items are a compulsory part of our school uniform - mostly **WHITE** sports shoes, school sports socks and the St Paul's brown school bag.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

## Child Protection

It is a Parramatta Diocesan requirement that parents who volunteer at school must complete the CEO Online Child Protection Module. This training is available online at <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au> and **MUST** be completed every two years.

Please see the following information about the new working with children check.

### Working with Children Check

A Working with Children Check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work. [The Check is free for volunteers.](#)

Anyone who works face-to-face with children must have a Working with Children Check (WWCC) clearance, unless they qualify for an exemption. It does not matter whether they are paid, volunteering or self-employed. This includes tutors, sporting coaches and music teachers.

There are a number of exemptions from the new Working with Children Check. Two of these apply to parent volunteers:

- 1) If you volunteer for a school activity and you are a parent or close relative of a student at the school, you do not need a Working with Children Check. However, your child must be a part of the activity that you are volunteering for.
- 2) Outside of school, if you volunteer for a program, team or other activity that includes your child or that your child usually participates in, you do not need a Working with Children Check (except where the work is part of a formal mentoring program or involves intimate personal care of children with a disability).

### How to apply

To apply for a Working with Children Check, you must first fill in an online application form, and then present proof of your identity at a NSW motor registry or NSW Council Agency.

#### STEP 1: Fill in an online application form

- Go to [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au) and fill in the online application form. If you do not have access to the internet, please call (02) 9286 7219 for assistance.
- Please make sure the details you provide are EXACTLY THE SAME as the details on your identity documents.
- **Ensure you select the correct category: VOLUNTEER WORKER. The \$80 fee for paid workers is not refundable if you are a volunteer and you choose 'paid worker' by mistake.**
- Once you have submitted the form, you will receive an application number that looks like this: APP1234567.

**STEP 2: Present proof of your identity**

- Go to a NSW motor registry or NSW Council Agency that offers RMS services.
- You will need your application number and proof of your identity. You must have both of these items for your application to proceed.

**Receiving your results**

You will receive your outcome and Working with Children Check number by email (or post if you do not have an email address).

You will then need to provide your employer (school) with your WWC number, surname and date of birth.

If you have a question about the new Check, you can also contact Mrs Kasia Mulukin in the Child Protection Office at the CEO on 9840 5674 or email [kmulukin@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kmulukin@parra.catholic.edu.au)

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**ANNUAL SCHOOL CONSENT FORMS**

Consent to use student images and works is now an annual procedure as legislated by the Commonwealth Government under the Privacy Act (2014).

Today you will receive two consent forms, one for the use of student images and one relating to the receipt and sale of raffle tickets. Both forms need to be completed and returned to the school office within 7 days. This information will then be kept on a database for the current school year.

As part of the regulations it is specified that if a parent/guardian changes their consent, it will not be retrospective, e.g. already published photos and works do not need to be removed from websites etc., although if safety concerns are notified to the school all reasonable efforts will be made to remove the published information.

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**UPDATE TO STUDENT ATTENDANCE INFORMATION - 6 FEBRUARY, 2015**

**New changes to attendance 2015**

Since last week's newsletter we have received amended information regarding Student Attendance. The following outlines the changes that have been implemented as a result of the changes to the *Education Act 1990* regarding attendance. These changes take effect immediately. Exemption from attendance no longer applies to travel and holidays, both domestically and internationally.



## New requirements for student absence and travel

1-9 days absence: Parents **must** notify the school principal by mail or email (written).

10-100 days absence: Parents must complete and submit the [Application for Extended Leave form \(A1\)](#) prior to commencing leave – Forms are available from the school office or on the website. If approved the Principal issues a [Certificate of Extended Leave \(C1\)](#). If the principal declines this application (ie, is not within the best interest of the child to take leave and be absent from school), a letter notifying parents that the application has been declined will be sent out.

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## Parent and Friends News

### Parent Helpers Wanted

On 17 February Stage 3 will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday by cooking and eating pancakes. We are looking for some parents to help us prepare and cook the pancakes. If you are available on Tuesday morning and would like to help please contact the Stage 3 (Year 5 & Year 6) teachers.

It would be beneficial if you could also bring an electric frying pan, egg flip and spray on oil.

We look forward to sharing some time together and really appreciate your help.

Stage Three Teachers

Mr Andrew Lehmann, Miss Vicki Magro, Mrs Lisa Spencer, Mrs Leanda Standing.

### HELP!! Parent Knowledge required

Stage Three are currently investigating 'It's Electrifying' and are looking for parents who would like to share their knowledge of electricity, circuits or how batteries work. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge with the Year 5 or 6 please contact one of the teachers on the following email addresses: [vmagro@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:vmagro@parra.catholic.edu.au) or [alehmann@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:alehmann@parra.catholic.edu.au) or [lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au) or [ispencer@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ispencer@parra.catholic.edu.au)

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance.

Stage Three Teachers

Mr Andrew Lehmann, Miss Vicki Magro, Mrs Lisa Spencer, Mrs Leanda Standing.

### Reading Books

Thank you to all the parents who kindly responded to the plea for help covering our new reading books. Just when you thought it was safe to put that contact away another three boxes of books have arrived!!



Before we can send these books home we need to have them covered and stamped so if you can please help out with this we would be very grateful. Books and contact can be collected from the school office.

Many thanks  
Jane Misek  
Assistant Principal  
[jmisk@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jmisk@parra.catholic.edu.au)



We are seeking names for the garden club and the new look newsletter.

If you have any ideas - please let the office know by phone, email ([winstenhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstenhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)) or note left in the office tub. Entries close on **Friday, February 13.**

## Community News

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The next Session of CCSS Solo Parent Services Bereavement Support Program for those whose spouse or long term partner has died is on **Tuesday 17 February**, from 10.00am – 12.00pm **Venue:** 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. **Topic:** *“Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief.”* **Registration:** Eileen or Rita Ph. 99330205 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au) Cost \$5.00. See Flyer on Parish Notice Board

### YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services monthly Bereavement Support Group for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children will be held on the third Tuesday of each month. Next gathering: **Tuesday 17 February**. Time: 7pm – 9pm **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Cost: 5.00. **Registration:** Eileen or Rita Ph. 9933 0205 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au) Flyer on Notice Board



**The Cyber Safety Lady, Leonie Smith is joining the PRC for the Term 1 Meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**  
*Venue: Diocesan Assembly Centre  
Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown*



How can I reduce the risk that my child will share unsafe content?

*With so much scattered information online and in print, staying up to date with all the latest apps and social media trends can be difficult - it's a digital minefield!*

*Leonie Smith's "Raising Responsible Digital Citizens" presentation is both entertaining and informative and a great opportunity to hear Leonie share simple, practical advice for privacy, security and online safety.*

How can I supervise my child online without spying?

How can I reduce the potential for cyber bullying?

What should I do if my child gets in trouble online?

"Kik", "Yik Yak", "Snapchat", AskFM" – what are all these apps and what apps are safe?

**Play Rugby League with the Winston Hills**  
**Mighty Hawks**  
*Parramatta Convents Junior Rugby League*

**From Under 6's to Under 11's**  
**Boys and Girls welcome -**

- *Must be christened Catholic as the competition in the Parramatta Catholic Convents.*
- *All games are played on a Sunday morning in a safe, fun environment.*

**REGISTER online now**  
[winstonhillshawks.sportingpulse.net](http://winstonhillshawks.sportingpulse.net)  
Or come down to John Curtin Reserve Winston Hills  
Saturday February 14th from 10am - 3pm  
**FUNDAY - Games, BBQ and meet others from the club**



**Catherine McAuley Westmead**

## **Enrolments for Year 7 2016**

**Closing Date for Year 7 2016 Applications 1<sup>st</sup> Round Offers is  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

There will be an Open Morning specifically for Year 7 2016 enrolments on:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**9.15 – 11am**

This morning will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

The school will also be holding an Open Afternoon/Evening on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March from 4.00 – 6.30pm. This will provide another opportunity to tour the school with classrooms open and school tours running throughout this time. Following the Open event from 7.00 – 8.00pm there will be a Year 7 2016 Enrolment Information Evening presented by the Leadership Team. This will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting.

Any questions concerning the Open Afternoon/Evening or the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening can be answered by phoning School Reception. Car parking for any of these school events will be available via Gate 3 off Darcy Road, Westmead.

## **Oakhill College Enrolments 2016 Enrolments for Year 7 2016**

Applications for enrolment into **Year 7 2016** will close on **Friday, 20 February, 2015**. Parents who wish to apply for enrolment of their sons in Year 7 at Oakhill College in **2016**, and who have not yet submitted an Application for Enrolment, are requested to contact the Registrar before the closing dates on 9899 2288 or [registrar@oakhill.nsw.edu.au](mailto:registrar@oakhill.nsw.edu.au)

## **OLMC Parramatta Open Day**

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2015 Open Day on Sunday, March 1 from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Principal's welcome at 10:00am and 12:00 noon.

Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

To reserve your place or obtain further information visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phone 9683 3300



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

# Open Day

Discover what a Mercy Education can do for your daughter  
at the OLMC Parramatta Open Day on

**Sunday March 1, 2015 10am – 2pm**

Principal's Welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

***A Mercy Education is treasured for life***

[www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)



MERCY

COMPASSION

JUSTICE

DIGNITY

EXCELLENCE

HOSPITALITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE