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Issue Date 15 December 2023



Important Dates

First Day of School
for Students 2024

Monday 29 January 2024

Our Lady Queen of Peace School acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we work, the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



Term 4 Week 9 2023 Newsletter

Useful Links

Download any of the following documents by clicking on the link.

Playgroup & Occasional Care

- [Occasional Care flyer](#)
- [Playgroup flyer](#)

Parents & Friends Committee

- Email: PNF@olpq.catholic.edu.au

Second-hand Uniform Shop

- [Second hand uniform consignment form](#)

Enrolments

- [Application for Enrolment form](#)

Canteen

- [Canteen menu and price list November 2023](#)



From the Principal



I cannot believe we are at the end of another school year, and that I am at the end of my second year as principal. You may not be aware, but a principal's contract is a 2+5+5 year contract, with a review at each tenure point. A positive appraisal is required to move through to the next tenure point.

I recently completed my 2 year review and I am very excited to be moving to the next stage of my leadership journey at OLQP. Reflecting on my time at OLQP so far, we have achieved significant growth over the last 2 years. This includes student learning, reputation of the school, building community, and school upgrades. I would like to thank staff, students, and families as together we are building the school and creating excellent learning opportunities for our students.



Year 6 Graduation

Over the last couple of weeks, the Year 6 students have been finalising their time at OLQP and preparing for the next chapter ahead – secondary education. I have personally seen each of these students grow in my time as principal and I am proud of what they have achieved.



On Monday night, 11 December 2023, students and families gathered for the Year 6 Graduation Dinner. This was the first time that families were invited to attend the dinner. This change is symbolic of the partnership that the school fosters with families; we have journeyed together alongside your child during these primary years.

I wish each Year 6 student the very best as they move into secondary education. I know that they are well prepared and ready for this next step. No matter how long a student has attended OLQP, they are part of the OLQP family and are always welcome to visit in the future.



Community

Each and every day, there are examples of how strong our community is. This term we had some significant community events: Sports Day, Carols Night, Sports Assembly, Year 6 Graduation, and more.



Despite the poor weather, we had a successful Sports Day and Carols Night. I was amazed at how flexible, supporting, and determined the community has been, turning hurdles into opportunities.

As a community, you have filled my heart with priceless memories, and I hope as a school we have filled your heart. I truly enjoyed Carols Night and am thankful for the Parents and Friends community. On Tuesday, P & F organised an inflatable obstacle course for students to engage with and organised an ice cream for students. We were also blessed to have Father Christmas visit!



Transition

Our Reception students for 2024 had their last transition visit on Friday which was such a positive experience. They very quickly became a part of our community. This was especially demonstrated by their participation in the Carols Night. I look forward to seeing them in the new year.



Whole school transition occurred on Friday 8 December 2023. Each child had the opportunity to be with their 2024 teacher, with their 2024 class, in their 2024 classroom. This transition supports students to feel comfortable and ready for the new school year. Staff spent many hours determining class allocations, and my understanding is that students were happy with the allocations.

Reports

I hope you have had the opportunity to collect your child's report. Though it might be uncommon to collect your child's report from the school, it highlights the fact that reports are written for parents, and it is important that you open and see the report first.



I spent the previous weekend reading each report. It was clear to me the growth that students have experienced as well as how well staff know their students.

Farewell

At the end of every year there tends to be staff movement. As a school we were able to secure many staff on a permanent basis, allowing the school to strengthen staffing consistency.

This year we thank and farewell, Katerina Skoumbros, Gema Sanchez, Anna Aird, Chevelle Prokop, and Ashleigh Haigh. I wish them well moving forward.

I would like to again thank staff, students, and families; together we have achieved amazing things. I wish you and your family a happy and safe Christmas and a good New Year. Term 1 2024 starts on Monday 29 January. I look forward to having a restful and recharging break, and to seeing you in the new year.

Lee Abela

Principal

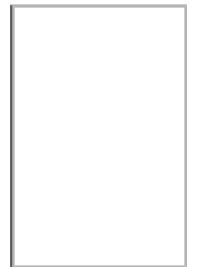


End of Year Mass

On Thursday 7 December 2023, we gathered as a school community for our end of year Mass. This was a special opportunity for us to gather and give thanks for the year that we have had.

It was particularly special for our graduating Year 6 students who facilitated the Mass at our school for the last time as they embark on their high school journey.

We also inducted our School Captains for 2024, Zahlia and Ignacio. I wish the Year 6s all the best for the future.



Advent

We entered the season of Advent at the beginning of Week 8, in which we eagerly awaited the birth of Jesus. Advent is a joyous and hopeful season in the Church and is the beginning of a new liturgical year.



Luke 1: 34-38: *“But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.”*

I hope as you come together with friends and family over the festive season that these times are filled with hope, joy, love and peace. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Marissa Redden

APRIM

End of year Mass



Improved Literacy Results

Leader of Learning – Literacy



In our ongoing commitment to fostering literacy excellence, we are delighted to share the resounding success of our InitialLit program. Not only have the lessons transformed the learning landscape but have also become an agreed practice within our school that promotes consistency and supports the Science of Reading.

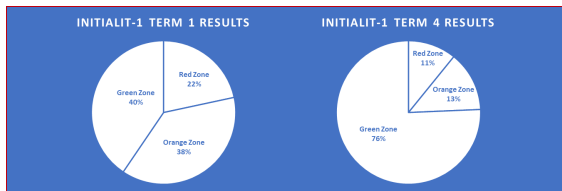


InitialLit Results

InitialLit, designed to instill foundational literacy skills in our young learners, has proven to be a game-changer. Through its structured approach, incorporating phonemic awareness, phonics, and comprehension strategies, students are not merely reading; they are thriving. Teachers have reported increased student engagement, enhanced reading fluency, and a growing enthusiasm for language exploration.

- Students who obtain a score of below 60% are coded **red**. These students require assistance, and supports are put in place such as intervention and adjustments.
- Students who score below 80% are coded **orange**. These students need to be monitored within the classroom and ideally should receive some targeted instruction to cover the areas where there is weakness. There may be just a few areas that need addressing and once these skills are firm, some of these students will be able to keep up with the program.
- Students who score 80% and above are colour-coded **green**. This indicates that they are keeping up with the program. Of course,

all students need careful monitoring throughout the year.



As you can see from the data above ([click on the graph to enlarge](#)), our students have made significant growth over the year in reading. Congratulations to all our learners!

Adriana Pilla

Leader of Learning - Literacy

Specialist update - STEM / Science



The holiday season is well and truly upon us, the joy and excitement of Christmas is filling the air at Our Lady Queen of Peace School.

Our little chefs and STEM engineers have been busy creating memories and spreading festive cheer. In recent STEM activities, our junior primary students had the chance to dive into the world of "design and making" by creating their very own Christmas floats and Christmas tree toppers. They have also tried out their culinary creativity by making and decorating sugar Christmas cookies. Yum!

I wish all of our OLQP community a wonderful and joyful Christmas.

Tamara Brooker

STEM / Science teacher



STEM Biscuit Baking



Specialist update - PE & Sport



Sports Day

Sports Day at our school, held on Thursday 23 November at the Port Adelaide Athletics Club, was an event filled with excitement, camaraderie, and a touch of unpredictability. Despite the inclement weather that forced us to abandon the rest of the events after the morning rotation, we managed to salvage the day by holding the sprints, championship relay and parent/staff relay last Friday at school.

Although the weather did not cooperate fully, it did not dampen the spirits of our students. They displayed immense resilience and adaptability, making the most out of the situation. The sprints and relays were met with great enthusiasm when we reconvened a week later.



The Spirit Cup, which recognises the team that displayed the most enthusiasm, sportsmanship and support for their fellow teammates was awarded to McAuley.

In addition to the Spirit Cup, we also crowned the overall winners of the day with the highly coveted Winners Cup. After intense competition there was a tie. Both Francis and McAuley emerged as 2023 champions.

Sports Day is not just about winning; it is about fostering a sense of community, teamwork and healthy competition. It is a day where students come together, support each other and celebrate their shared love for sports. Despite the challenges we faced, this year's Sports Day was no exception.

I extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the students, staff and parents who contributed to the success of Sports Day. Your dedication, hard work and positive attitude made the event one to remember.



Basketball news

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 Red basketball team, coached by Maranda Salmon, who were undefeated during Semester 2! The team were also declared overall winners in their Division 4 competition for the Semester 2 season.

Netball news

Congratulations to the Year 3/4 netball team, coached by Michelle Pritchard, who were undefeated all year! The team were also overall winners in their Division 1 competition for the Semester 2 season.



Matthew Annetta

PE teacher

Sports Day 2023





Albert Park / Pennington Catholic Parish

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24 December 2023

- **St Mary's Church, Port Adelaide**
Vigil Mass 6pm
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Pennington**
Vigil Mass 7pm
- **Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Albert Park**
Vigil Mass 8.30pm

Christmas Day - Monday 25 December 2023

- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Pennington**
Mass 9am
- **Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Albert Park**
Mass 10.30am

Early Learning @ OLQP!

Early Learning @ OLQP

Occasional Care (3-5 years)

📅 Tuesday (school term time)

🕒 9am - 12noon



Playgroup (0-5 years)

📅 Wednesday (school term time)

🕒 9am - 10.30am

☎ 8279 8800

✉ info@olqp.catholic.edu.au



Connect
—
Learn
—
Grow



Come and join the fun!

- Playgroup is on Wednesdays 9-10.30am.
- Occasional Care is on Tuesdays 9-12pm for children 3-5yrs.

For more information, please access the flyers regarding Playgroup and Occasional Care from the **Useful Links** section at the beginning of this newsletter.



More questions?

- Phone: 8279 8800
- Email: Alison.Ferguson@olqp.catholic.edu.au

Alison Ferguson

Occasional Care and Playgroup Faciliator

Parents and Friends Committee contact details



P & F Committee

Everyone is welcome to join!

Parents, grandparents, staff ...
We look forward to new members joining in on the fun!

Please contact us via our email address or say "Hello!" at our next event!

✉ PNF@olqp.catholic.edu.au

**Connect
Learn
Grow**

QP

Second hand uniform shop



Second hand uniform shop

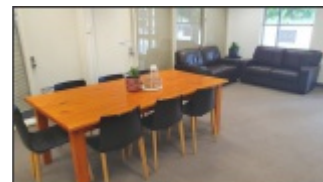
QP

Current opening times:

MONDAY

- 8.40am – 9am
- 2.45pm – 3.10pm

The second hand uniform shop service, facilitated by a dedicated group of parents, supports the community to access quality and affordable second-hand uniforms for their children.



Location:

Located in the P & F Room (near the girls' toilets, adjacent the basketball courts).

Call 8279 8800 if you require more information, or alternatively, you can email the P & F Committee using this email: PNF@olqp.catholic.edu.au.



Louisa Scopacasa

Second hand uniform shop coordinator

P & F Committee

Before & After School Care



New families and permanent bookings:

All new family bookings and permanent bookings need to be made through the OSHC office.

Please contact Jo on **0417 840 700**, or pop into either the OSHC office or front office for an information pack.

Jo Fahey

OSHC Director



Community News



Foam Fest 2024

5k Foam Fest has 22 of some of the best and most exciting obstacles in the world including the worlds largest inflatable waterslide, slip and slides, and mucky mud pits!

Combine these with 2.5 million cubic feet of foam that we pump out at each event and you are destined to have a awesome day!

Organisers guarantee you'll be foamy, muddy and wet by the end of the 5K Foam Fest.

Click on the flyer to enlarge and access more information.



PlayStart Soccer - 2024

PlayStart soccer classes are run by fully trained coaches and all hold Working With Children Checks.

We are still seeing the flow on effects from the Women's World Cup and the great performance of the Matilda's and would love to see some new faces out and about with us on weekends.

Click on the flyer to enlarge and access more information.

Andrew Davidson

PlayStart Soccer

Phone: 0401 410 465

Email: www.playstart.com.au

