Dear Parents/Careers,

Welcome to another great year of learning at St Ollie’s. I hope you and the family have enjoyed a wonderful break. The Blinkhoff’s enjoyed some quality beach time at Caloundra and even ventured out for our first ever camping trip as a family of 7. We made it two nights at Rainbow Beach over New Years before escaping back to the safety of home before the storms hit! But a great break was enjoyed by all – a few games attending the Big Bash topped off a great holiday! Anyone heading to the finals tonight? I might see you there - GO HEAT!!!

But it was back to school yesterday (Tuesday) for all Year 1-6 students and half of our new Preppies, the other half starting this morning. Tuesday was an extremely smooth start to the school year, and my thanks to each of you for ensuring your children were well prepared and looking forward to their first day of school. It was a bit of a tricky start for us last week with an electrical storm knocking out our power, phone lines and internet for the best part of last week. My thanks to our amazing Finance Secretary Cheryl Spethman who has coordinated the recovery effort for us to be able to start the school year with most of our services being restored. We were finally able to send out an email on Monday informing parents of the slight change to the start and finish times at the school and my thanks for your understanding with this.

We warmly welcomed back staff officially last Wednesday. Although it must be said, most teachers were in and out quite regularly over the break setting up their classrooms. We also welcomed a number of new staff. In 2017, we have welcomed: Danielle Baker (Prep), Amy Warrilow (Year 1), Kaitlyn Peddie (Year 1), Mike Burnett (Year 3), Kylie Tippins (Year 5), Angela Jendra-Smith (Primary Learning Leader), Vanessa Patterson (Literacy Support), Janette Lewis (School Based Speech Pathologist), Monique McClafferty (Support Teacher: Inclusive Education) and Naomi Astill (Receptionist). I am sure you will welcome all our new staff members with the gracious open arms that the St Ollie’s community is famous for!

Staff have enjoyed a great start to the year with our Professional Learning days. Staff have engaged with the symbolism around our new logo and vision, and our major professional learning goal of implementing a whole school approach to the teaching of reading. This is an exciting development, and with the whole staff on board, provides a great opportunity to embed best practice with the explicit teaching of literacy across each year level. We look forward to engaging parents in this process as well, especially continuing to highlight the importance of reading at home!
And finally from me in this first newsletter of 2017, Wednesday 1st February will mark an important date in the history of our great school. On this evening we will officially launch our new logo, our vision/mission statements, house groups, website and other bits and pieces. Our Executive Director, Pam Betts, will join us, along with other members of the senior BCE leadership team, politicians and local principals. This evening will also serve as our 2017 Parent Information Evening and it is our hope that a representative from each family will be able to attend. Keep an eye out for the flyer contained as part of the newsletter.

The other development this year will be the newsletter now come out every fortnight. The traditional method of communication from schools has always been the newsletter, but with our suite of communication tools (including website, bulk email, Blink SMS, relaunch of Parent Portal, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) there are a multitude of other methods the school uses to communicate with home and our wider community. For Term 1, keep an eye out for the newsletter in Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Thank you to all for a great start to the school year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Parent Information Evening on February 1st.

Cheers, Paul

From the APA

As Paul has mentioned, Wednesday 1st February is a very important date for St Ollie’s, and an evening I am very much looking forward to! Next Wednesday, our school staff have the pleasure of sharing with families the exciting curriculum goals of our school, and the learning and teaching focus of reading, which we hope will become a re-energised culture for all of our students and their families. In our next school newsletter, I look forward to sharing specifics around our curriculum focus for all students, and the consistency of learning and teaching throughout the school. 2017 is going to be a fantastic year!

Below you will find some information regarding processes or protocols at St Ollie’s that all families need to be aware of:

ICLT User Agreements

Please check your students’ bags on Friday for information regarding ICLT use within the school, and student and family responsibilities. This form will need to be signed and returned to school, prior to student use of ICLT resources.

Late and Absent Students

As is policy in all schools, parents must inform the school office if their child is absent from school. Rolls are marked each morning, with absent student lists being checked by our office staff each morning at 9am. If you have not informed the office of your child being absent, an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone, requesting that you contact the school. Please ensure that you respond to this SMS message, by contacting the school immediately. This process is essential in ensuring we are managing student care, with regards to student safety and protection.

If your child is late to school, arriving after the 8.35am bell, please ensure they report to the office for a late slip before moving to class. This will ensure they are recorded on the roll, avoiding the school needing to contact parents.

Pick-up Zone Car Name Labels

By Friday this week, all families will receive their Pick-up Zone Car Name Label. This label MUST be placed on your car’s sun visor, to assist in making Pick-up Zone run smoothly, quickly and efficiently. If you require more than one label, please contact the office, and a second label will be ordered for your family.
Parent Volunteers

Brisbane Catholic Education have created a revised policy for all volunteers within schools. This policy has been revised to ensure Student Protection and Volunteer Code of Conduct is shared with all individuals that have contact with our students. Protection of our students is of extreme importance.

We will share with our community over the next week, this new policy, and what it will mean for parents who help out in classrooms or other school events.

Congratulations students (and parents) for a great start to the school year. I have loved hearing Christmas Holiday stories, and hearing how excited your children are being ‘one year bigger’.

Take care,

Kate

From the APRE

Welcome back to all families for the beginning of the 2017 school year. I hope that you have had a peaceful time over Christmas and that you were able to take time to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord and the beginning of another year. Mrs Sally Hyde has extended her maternity leave and I am thrilled to be able to continue my role here at St Ollies for another 6 months.

Generally, my role encompasses two main foci which is directly linked to the Religious Education of the school. The first is the Teaching of Religious Education and assisting teachers with the teaching and learning opportunities in the classroom. The second component is the development of the Religious Life of the School which includes our religious celebrations and development of our charism. I am looking forward to working with the community this year and if you have any queries please email me on Sonny.Smith@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Friday Parish Mass

Every Friday morning we roster two of our classes to attend the Parish Mass. It is important that as we strengthen our commitment to being a Welcoming Community and developing a Strong Faith that these opportunities are embraced by our community.

This Friday, 30th January, will be celebrated by the students from Year 6A and Year 3A and next week, 3rd February, will be attended by 6B and 3B. All members of the community are welcome to attend and celebrate with the community.

Welcome Liturgy and Year 6 Commissioning

We will be celebrating the beginning of school and the Year 6 Commissioning on Monday 6th February. This is another tremendous opportunity to gather as a community and focus on the presence of God in our school and the year ahead.

School Sponsored Mass

Another opportunity for our community to celebrate together is our Term School Sponsored Masses. We will be trying something different this year with Term 1 and Term 4 being Saturday evening Masses with Term 2 and Term 3 staying in our usual Sunday morning position. Please mark down Saturday evening on the 4th March as the first opportunity for this gathering. A message will be forwarded over the coming weeks with more details.

Sonny Smith

Live Jesus in Your Hearts. Forever.
From the PLL

Dear Families,

What a lovely experience it was to greet the eager and smiling faces of St Ollie’s students as we begin the new school year. I’m sure there were feelings of nervous excitement, especially in Prep, so I would like to particularly express a warm welcome to the new families within our community.

My name is Angela Jendra-Smith and I am thrilled to join the St Oliver Plunkett community as the Primary Learning Leader (PLL). My journey thus far has been a teacher, Pastoral Program Leader and Curriculum Leader at St Augustine’s, a large P-12 College in Springfield. I am so looking forward to spreading my wings and working collaboratively to create excellent teaching and learning opportunities for all students at St Ollie’s.

It is my hope that together, with the dedicated teachers and supportive parents of this welcoming community, we can continue to foster a love of learning within our students and inspire them to achieve their full potential. And, in the words of Nano Nagle, “from small acorns, do mighty oaks grow.” Wishing you and your families every success this year.

Angela Jendra-Smith

P & F News

The P&F Committee welcomes all families back to St Ollie’s for 2017, and in particular our new families to the school. We wish you all a fulfilling and happy year.

Thank you Richard!
We would like to extend our sincere thanks to former P&F Treasurer Richard Humphreys, who stepped down from the position at the end of the year after serving for many years. Richard has been a wealth of knowledge and an integral part of the P&F Committee. Best of luck in your new ventures beyond St Ollie’s, Richard, Tammy and family.

P&F Meeting - Tuesday 7 February, 7pm
Our first meeting of the year will be Tuesday 7 February in the staff room starting at 7pm. All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend our monthly meetings (first Tuesday night of each month except during school holidays). The meetings are a great opportunity to hear what’s happening in the school and have your say.

P&F EVENTS - TERM 1

Welcome BBQ - Sunday, 12 February, 3-6pm: The P&F extends a warm invitation to new and existing families to attend a relaxed BBQ in the school grounds. It’s an opportunity to meet other families and/or catch up with friends. Sausage sizzle and drinks (including bar) will be available.

Trivia Night - Friday 17 March 7pm: A "Heroes and Villains" trivia night for parents (and friends) will be held on St Patrick’s Day night in the quadrangle. A fun night for all who attend, with great prizes on offer. Tables of 8. Fancy dress is optional (but definitely encouraged!). Special prize for best dressed.

Save the Date: A reminder that this is our fete year, with the fete to be held on Saturday 21 October.

If you would like to be included on the St Ollie’s P&F email list for, all updates on meetings and activities, please email us at stolliespandf@gmail.com
Tuckshop
Tuckshop will resume next week on Monday and Thursday. Tuckshop menus are available on the school website [www.stoliverplunkett.qld.edu.au](http://www.stoliverplunkett.qld.edu.au). All tuckshop orders are through FlexiSchools. To set up an account go to flexischools.com.au and follow the directions. Registration is easy! For parents who already have an account please remember to change your child’s/children’s year level and class!

If there are any parents who would like to help at tuckshop please leave your contact details at the office.

**MUFFIN OF THE WEEK** is triple chocolate.

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE** begins Tuesday 31 January for second break. Sausage, bread and sauce is $1.50. Payment can be sent to the class teacher.

Sports News

The Lytton District Swimming Trials will be held on Friday 10 February at Moreton Bay College. The Trials will begin at 9:30am SHARP. Swimmers must meet the qualifying times to be eligible. See Mrs Weule before 2nd Feb if interested in attending this meet.

Music News
Mrs Moes will be again offering private piano tuition at school. Lessons cost $13.50 for a 15 minutes individual lesson for $17.00 for a 20 minute lesson which may be suitable for more advanced students. If parents would like to enrol their children or would like further information please leave your contact details at the office.

Speech and Drama
For 14 years Let’s Talk Kids has been running a Speech and Drama program at St Ollies in the Parish Centre, after school on a Tuesday. This class is open from prep to year 6. Students are divided into age appropriate classes and taught communication and performing art skills by qualified speech teachers. This year all children who attend lessons take part in performing in their own show at the Imperial Theatre in Wynnum in December. There are limited spots for this class that starts in week 2. Tuesday the 31st of January. Prep students are collected from their classroom and taken to the parish centre. Class finishes at 4.15pm.

For more information or to enrol online – [www.ltkspeechanddrama.com.au](http://www.ltkspeechanddrama.com.au) or call 3821 5755.
Invitation

St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School
Cannon Hill

You are invited to celebrate the launch of the new St Oliver Plunkett School logo and Parent Information Evening

Launch of the new logo
Wednesday 1 February
6.30pm - 7.15pm
St Oliver Plunkett Church

Parent Information Sessions
(in classrooms)
7.30pm - 8.00pm Session One
8.10pm - 8.40pm Session Two