Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Well, we have arrived at the end of another school year and this will be the last newsletter for 2016. I don’t know about you, but the years seem to go faster all the time!

Tomorrow we celebrate the closing Mass for the Year at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Church. I invite all our families to be there for this special occasion. After Mass we will have our formal presentation night in the school hall.

In closing, I offer a very heartfelt thanks to our wonderful staff who have worked so hard for our students this year. I continue to be energized by your commitment and willingness to take on the many tasks to give our students the best! I am very appreciative of the work of the School Board, enthusiastically led by Mrs Dimitria Dale (Chair) and her dedicated team. The school board is an important forum for parent participation in our school and it undertakes great works in developing and improving what we offer here at Our Lady of the River School.

Thanks to all our students for your work throughout the year. I know you have done your best and are happy. I encourage you to come back to school renewed after the holidays ready for another year of learning and working towards your goals.

To any other families moving on to new towns and schools I wish you all the best and trust that your time at Our Lady of the River has been rewarding.

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and please take time to ‘be’ as a family away from the ‘hustle and bustle’ of normal school year life. Please engage in the real spirit of Christmas and try to find time to celebrate in a church somewhere. All the best for the New Year and I look forward to meeting up again when school returns on Monday January 30th, 2017.

Ros Oates

School Magazine

The 2016 School Magazine will be available next week. The cost of these is $20 per copy. If you would like a pictorial magazine capturing the memories of OLOR’s 2016 year, please return the reply slip attached to this newsletter. We have ordered extra copies for families who may wish to give a magazine as a Christmas gift this year.

2017 Reminders

Swimming lessons for the students in years, Foundation to Year 4 will be held in Week 1, Term 1, 2017 from Tuesday to Friday at the Berri Swimming pool.

School stationery for the children is given out during the first week of school next year. We supply books that already have a hard plastic cover, saving parents the cost and bother of contact and labels etc. All pens and smaller stationery will be sent home for labelling. Next year, extra supplies will not available. If children use all their allocation or lose equipment they will be required to replace at their own cost. All our stationery can be purchased at Office Everything in Berri. What is given out should last one whole year.
**OLOR Raffle Books**
All Raffle tickets need to be returned to OLOR School by 9th December either sold or unsold. Thank you for your support.

**Christmas Mass Times**
**Christmas Eve:** Barmera 8.00pm, Berri 10.00pm, Loxton 7.00pm, Morgan 6.00pm, and Renmark 6.00pm
**Christmas Day:** Berri 10.00am, Renmark 9.00am

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Channel 7 Brighton Jetty Classic**
**Registration is Now Open** - Sunday 5th February 2017
Here comes summer and with it all the opportunity to get healthy and enjoy the great lifestyle that the warm weather brings. With three months until the Brighton Jetty Classic what a great time to lock it in to your calendar and set yourself the goal. 1500, 400 and 100 metre distances available. Head to Brighton jetty classic.com to register. Kind Regards Luke Cotter

**VACSWIM** Registrations for SA Water’s summer school holiday VACSWIM program are closing fast and families are reminded to book now before it’s too late! More than 13,000 primary school aged children are expected to take part in the summer water safety program at more than 130 pool and beach locations this January. Described as the best value-for-money holiday program with enrolment starting at $30/child, VACSWIM provides children with the opportunity to develop skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures. Enrolments close December 19 (which is very soon!). Don’t miss out, visit [www.vacswim.sa.com.au](http://www.vacswim.sa.com.au) to register your child today!

**Uniforms** Families with their youngest child completing Year 7 and moving on to secondary education, we would appreciate any uniforms not needed to be donated to OLOR school to be distributed second hand. Your support is appreciated.

**The Year 1 Class:**
On Tuesday the Year 2 class helped the Riverland Christmas Appeal sort toys for the families in need throughout the Riverland.