Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, Forestville

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

2015
GENERAL INFORMATION

School Address: 11 Currie Road, Forestville 2087

School Phone No: (02) 9972 7311
School Fax No: (02) 9453 2751
Web Address: www.dbb.org.au/schools/olgcforestville

Principal: Mrs Meredith Tomkins

E-mail: olgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Assistant Principal: Miss Marta Chylewska

Religious Education
Co-ordinator: Mr Steven Foresto

Parish Priest: Fr Jose Philip

Presbytery Phone: (02) 9451 5097

School Hours: 8:55 am to 3:15 pm

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>8.55am – 11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>11.00am – 11.30am</td>
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<td>Mid-Morning</td>
<td>11.30am – 1.00pm</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1.00pm – 1:45pm</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>1:45pm – 3.15pm</td>
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Who are we?
OLGC is a Catholic primary school. We have served families in the Forest area since 1962. We cater for girls and boys aged from 5 -12. This year we have three Kindergarten classes, two Year One classes, three Year Two classes, two Year Three classes, two Year Four classes, one Year Five class and one Year Six class. We have grown steadily in the past eight years. We are part of a system of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay and a member school of the Peninsula Learning Community of Catholic Schools. We strive to provide an excellent Catholic education within a challenging and stimulating environment, which supports parents in their task as the primary educators of their child.

Where are we?
We are located at 11 Currie Road, Forestville. The school is in a quiet area but close to a major transport artery, Warringah Road. The suburb is ten minutes from Manly Beach and ten minutes from Chatswood. We are on the edge of Garigal National Park and 5 minutes walk from Forestville shopping centre.

What do we offer?
- Well qualified teaching staff dedicated to teaching and learning.
- An acknowledged, consistent approach to teaching and learning.
- Preference of consideration when enrolling your child into a Catholic high school in Year Seven.
- A contemporary, Diocesan based Religious Education curriculum.
- Board of Studies accredited curriculum subject to rigorous accountability procedures just completed, easily achieved and well acknowledged.
- Access to information technology for each child.
- Our children sit for National Testing in Years 3 and 5 in Writing, Spelling, Literacy and Numeracy and participate in University Testing Competitions
- Gifted and Talented programs, learning support programs
- New facilities – classrooms, library, administration, canteen.
- On site before and after school care.
- A supportive and active parent community.
- Specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Library, Special Needs and Drama.
- Extra curricula activities – Chess, Keyboard Club, Guitar Lessons, Lunch Club, Public Speaking, Band Program and Band Instrumental lessons.
- A strong relationship with our Parish community.
- Spacious grounds including a natural bush area.
- Inclusive reporting processes on pupil progress.
How is OLGC different to a State Government School?
Religious Education is taught two and a half hours per week in each class. Our Catholic traditions, rituals and Catholic values are embedded into our daily school life. We espouse a particular view of the world and life – Jesus Christ as God, creator and guide; Sacraments as a means of growing closer in our relationship with Jesus; a belief that we are part of a larger family (Church) to which each of us is called to contribute; recognition in the sacredness of each person and the importance of dignity; gathering regularly to celebrate our faith together; a belief that none of us is perfect but that we are in relationship with a loving God who forgives us and challenges to be the best we can; value for our Catholic traditions and culture. Support, care and positive relationships are at the heart of our school.

Jesus is within each of us, light and life. Our school motto is therefore “Let Your Light Shine”

What is the Peninsula Community of Catholic Schools?
The Peninsula Learning Community of Catholic Schools (PLCCS) forms part of a unique and innovative education system within the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay.

The PLCCS offer a range of educational, pastoral and co-curricular initiatives which link our students in a meaningful and dynamic partnership.

What is the Enrolment Process?
Complete an ‘Application for Enrolment Form’. These are available from our school website or the school office. Contact our administration officer, Natali Calci on (02) 9972 7311 to arrange to receive a form.

Forms, along with all required original documentation and a $77 enrolment fee per family, must be presented to the school by the end of May, 2015 for enrolment in 2016.

Once applications are processed, parents new to the school will be invited to the school to discuss their application.

The Enrolment Committee makes offers for placement by the end of July. An explanation of enrolment criteria is presented in your application package.

A series of visit mornings will be organised for the children accepting an offer of enrolment. Each child will be asked to come to school on two mornings. These mornings allow the children to experience the school environment and they allow us to see the children within their class group.
Transition mornings will be offered for the full class group in November followed by one evening for parents.

Each year the school offers an opportunity for prospective parents to come along and view the school in action. Children are welcome to attend and our Year Six students assist with activities for them so that they can leave the day feeling that school is a welcoming, happy place.

**Student Management Policy**
At Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, we believe that each of us must respect the dignity, rights and fundamental freedom of individual students, which is in accordance with the Diocesan Schools Board Policy on the Pastoral Care of Students. We have developed a Student Management Policy which is part of a consistent and positive approach to student management.

The school follows the Diocesan Anti-Bullying Policy. There is no place for corporal punishment at this school.

**Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**
PBL is a whole school approach to behaviour management that adopts proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviours to create a positive school environment. It also provides a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviour.

At OLGC this school wide programme is grounded in ensuring every child has the opportunity to learn. The values embedded in developing safe responsible learners have been unpacked and through a series of prepared lessons these are explicitly taught and practised.

Children are expected to respect the feelings, and property of others. We aim to assist children to grow in responsibility for their own actions and to be able to accept the consequences when their behaviour is contrary to the rules of the school.

The OLGC School Rules are as follows –

"At OLGC we let our light shine by being Responsible, Respectful, Safe Learners".
THE CURRICULUM

There are seven Key Learning Areas –

1. Religious Education
2. English
3. Mathematics
4. Science and Technology
5. Human Society and Its Environment
6. Creative and Practical Arts (includes, Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts).
7. Personal Development, Health & Physical Education

Religious Education
Religious Education is taught daily in each class. We want our children to enter a loving relationship with Jesus. They learn that Jesus knows them, loves them and is always with them as a loving, forgiving person. The syllabus does emphasise Catholic doctrine. The school uses Diocesan modules of study, which have been prepared by teachers and religious education experts in our Diocese. The Bishop has approved all the Broken Bay Religious Education Syllabus.

It is important to realise that Religious Education is for life. We look to give expression to our faith within our daily lives. A Religious Dimension is identified for each Key Learning Area.

Enquiry Learning
This methodology is used in our school to allow children time to explore and investigate their learning and make sense of their world. This is contexturalised in the integrated curriculum. Children are taught to think, to reason and to value their learning.

English
English consists of three major areas – Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening. This Key Learning Area involves learning to read widely with understanding and enjoyment. It seeks to teach children to spell accurately and write paying attention to grammatical conventions. It assists children to learn listening and communicating skills and apply them in realistic situations. The children learn to critically assess a variety of texts and aspects of the media.

The school emphasises the development of strong literacy skills in each stage of schooling and it is a major focus in the early years. The progress of each child is carefully monitored and strategies employed to provide intervention when needed.
Mathematics
This involves learning skills for life through the areas of Number, Space and Geometry, Patterns and Algebra, Data, Measurement and Working Mathematically. Children learn to think Mathematically. They learn and are explicitly taught skills in Number Facts, Computation, Problem Solving and Reasoning. Each teacher uses open-ended challenges and a variety of concrete materials, calculators and computers to assist each child to learn.

Science and Technology
This area provides children with opportunities to develop skills and attitudes that will help them to adjust to our rapidly changing society. The emphasis in Science today is on investigating, designing, making and evaluating. Children are encouraged to work with a number of different materials and tools in a variety of problem-solving situations. They learn about natural and man-made environments and use these as a context for study.

Human Society and Its Environment
This area is concerned with the study of people, their history, their varying cultures and environments. Particular attention is focussed on our own country with its multicultural society. Teachers use an inquiry approach and look to integrate ideas and develop skills for life.

Creative Arts
This area includes Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance. Lessons provide opportunities for creative expression and experimentation with a variety of media and material integrated across the curriculum. Music program is taught by a special teacher and includes singing, percussion, movement and music appreciation.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
This Key Learning Area involves learning to develop an active, healthy lifestyle; developing skills in inter-personal relationships; positive values, attitudes and beliefs; participating in regular physical activity.

Our Sport program includes Fundamental Skills K–2, Netball, Mod-League, AFL, Soccer, Eagle Tag and other options are available. A specialist P.E. teacher is employed.

Computer Education
Computers are available in each classroom. The school is networked and the children are permitted supervised access to the Internet. The teachers are well aware of the importance of developing skills, which allow each child to effectively use a computer for a variety of applications. The computers are seen as a tool for learning to be used across the curriculum. Each child has access to a class web page. These resources are accessed with a username and password and can be seen using an Internet connected computer from home.
In addition to this, our library also has a computer network, which allows the children supervised access to library resources, the Internet and basic applications. The school website can be access at the following address:

www.dbb.org.au/schools/olgcforestville

Learning Support
Children with Special Needs are well catered for at OLGCP with specialised programs provided for children experiencing learning difficulties and children in need of enrichment or extension. We aim to provide appropriate education for all children. The school has a special needs teacher and assistants.

Gifted and Talented Education
All children are involved in enquiry learning which is contextualised in a series of integrated units for children K – 6. Tasks are open ended and provide challenges for all children in accordance with their ability range.
OLGC implements a range of programs for children in this area. Children can involve themselves in a range of activities such as chess, band, debating, keyboard, sports (representative pathway is accessible), languages and competitions. Within classrooms teachers provide programs which allow children to be extended within their units of study and through the teaching and learning processes used. OLGCP is a member of the Catholic Community of Schools Project.

The project provides opportunities for children demonstrating competence in the area of Mathematics to work with children of similar ability from other schools and with local Catholic high schools. Children involved in the program complete extension work which is marked and reported on as part of their learning program. A special online program for children in Kindergarten to Year Four called ‘Come on Kids’ is offered in each class twice per week to children meeting the criteria for participation.

In addition to these strategies, the school offers full or partial acceleration for students after consultation involving parents, teachers and students.

Keyboard Club
The Keyboard Club runs before school from 8:00 a.m. in the school hall and caters for children from K-6. Parents can contact Colin Woodward on 9972 2311 for more information.
Lunch Club
Lunch Club is held Tuesday and Thursday at lunch time. The aim of the club is to use fun activities to encourage social interaction.

Before and After School Care
Centacare provide OLGC with a Before and After School Care service for all families here at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School.

Operating hours are –
Before School Care: 7:00am-8:45am
After School Care: 3:15pm-6:00pm

Before School Care provides the children with breakfast while After School Care provides a selection of fruit and an afternoon tea snack. During school holidays a Vacation Care service runs from 7:30am-6:00pm daily. For further details on our service please contact Centacare directly on 0400 787 186.

House Teams
There are four Houses – Bass (Green), Dampier (Blue), Flinders (Yellow) and Tasman (Red). Children from each family remain in the same House from Kindergarten onwards.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The Association helps the school achieve its annual goals and is vital in building strong community support for the school amongst parents. General meetings of the association are held each term. P & F letters are sent to parents at regular intervals. Dates for meetings are included in the newsletter.

Parents are requested to participate in committee activities by the P&F or the school. These may be for special projects or for ongoing programs. Information about this type of involvement can be found in the school newsletter.

Parents can also volunteer to assist at the school in many ways. Class Parent Helpers volunteer each year to support the teachers in each class and to assist in creating supportive relationships amongst the parents within each class.
SCHOOL FEES – 2015

Following is an explanation of fees for 2015. School fee accounts have three components which are outlined below. The first instalment is due by 24 February, the second instalment by 4 May and the third instalment by 27 July 2015.

1. Tuition Fee:
   Tuition Fees for 2015 are:-
   
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$1,522.50 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$1,218.00 per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$761.25 per year</td>
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<td>4th</td>
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   Tuition Fees do not apply for 4th and subsequent children. For 2016 every family needs to complete the Family Registration Form even when the family has only one child attending the school. This form is to be handed into the school office. If you have not handed in this form, kindly come to the school office to collect another one.

2. Diocesan School Building Levy:
   This fee is charged to families with a child or children attending Catholic Systemic Schools. The fee is to be paid at the school of the eldest child. For 2015 the fee is $880.00 per family.

3. School Education Fee:
   This fee assists in covering costs associated with the delivery of the school curriculum. For 2015 the fee will be $831.00 per child. This cost includes the following:
   
   - Excursions and incursions
   - Sport levies and general sport expenses
   - Curriculum resources
   - Cleaning of the school and associated grounds maintenance
   - Security

   The Year 6 camp fee will be on the initial account sent home for 2016. Additional accounts will go home for Year 6 polo shirts and fees associated with Band and Choir.

   Fees may be paid in full or by instalment but should be paid by the due date. Fees for the year 2015 are to be paid in full by 15 November 2015. Fees may be paid by cheque, cash, credit card (Visa and Mastercard only), Eftpos, BPay and Direct Debit.

   A family experiencing genuine hardship with fee payment should contact the school Principal.
Relationships with High Schools
OLGC is an enthusiastic member of the Catholic Community of Schools. The following schools are supportive of receiving enrolment applications from students from OLGC for high school:

Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood
St Paul’s Catholic College, Manly
Marist College, North Sydney
Brigidine College, St Ives
Mercy College, Chatswood
Stella Maris College, Manly
St Pius X College, Chatswood
St Augustines College, Brookvale

Enrolment at Monte S’ant Angelo, Loretto Kirribili, St Aloysius and Riverview College needs to be applied for in accordance with the policies of the schools.

We look forward to you being involved in our school.
Our School Song – “Let Your Light Shine”
Music by Andrew Chinn Words by Andrew Chinn
and the School Community of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Forestville

Our School Song was created in 2006 after consultation with children, staff, parents and parishioners. It reflects who we are and what we value.

1. God has called us all to walk in the light
To look inside our heart for the light of Christ
To be all we can be, to shine with our life
To let our light shine

Let your light shine
Shine for everyone
Let your light shine
Hope for all the world

Hope for all the world

2. Jesus said that we are the light of the world
We must be the light, to shine evermore
Light up the darkness, reach out to all
To let their light shine

Walk in the light
Walk in the truth
Christ is the light
Christ is the truth

3. With the Spirit in our hearts, we are hands of hope
That reach out with light, that reach out with love
One in the Spirit, one with our God
We let Christ’s light shine

4. Built out of love and the strength of our faith
Gifted by creation in our own holy place
Guided by Our Lady to Jesus our life
We let our light shine!