



From the Heart



Newsletter No. 39

3rd December, 2025

COMING UP AT OLSH...

Dec 2025

Thurs 4th	Learning Showcase
Fri 5th	Gym & Swimming
Mon 8th	Advent Liturgy 3pm
Tues 9th	Statewide Transition Day
Thu 11th	Thanksgiving: Graduation Mass 6pm
Fri 12th	Gym & Swimming
Mon 15th	School Mass 9:30am Advent Liturgy 3pm
Tues 16th	Last Day for students! Subway Lunch
Wed 17th	Last day for staff—Pupil Free Day

JAN 2026

Fri 30th Students start Term 1 2026

From the Principal...

Dear Families and Friends of OLSH,

As we come to the last two weeks of the school year, there is so much to celebrate and enjoy together. This time of year, always reminds us of the strength and warmth of our community, and I am deeply grateful for the amazing welcome I received back in Term 2 and your ongoing support.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank you all for your understanding when I was unable to attend camp last week. Our community's kindness meant a great deal to me and my family, and I'm pleased to share that my son is improving. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and thoughts.

We shared some bittersweet news with our community yesterday. After five amazing years as part of our school community, our wonderful Miss Forbes will be moving on to new adventures in Melbourne. Her dedication, care and passion for teaching have left an indelible mark on our students and staff. We will miss Lizzy greatly and send her to the city with every best wish for the future.

We will farewell Miss Lizzy Forbes, Mrs Sandra Price and Mrs

Jannah Donaldson at our end of year celebrations on Thursday 11 December. I know you will all want to thank these valued members of our OLSH community and say goodbye to them all.

On Sunday we began Advent and the new church year, Year A. Advent is a time of joyful anticipation as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It is a season of hope, peace, joy and love, and a time to pause and reflect on the blessings in our lives and the gift of God's presence among us. As a school community, we invite you to join us in embracing this spirit of preparation and gratitude. We had our first Advent Liturgy yesterday – thank you to Ms Nihill and the students for leading us in the liturgy. Thank you to our families and OLSH Associates for joining us. It always makes our liturgies so much more meaningful celebrations when you are all with us.

Our next two Advent Liturgies will be held on Monday 8 December at 3pm and on the second last day of term Monday 15 December at 3pm. These will be held in the Chevi Centre, and we warmly invite everyone to join us.

Thank you for being such an incredible community. These final weeks are a time to reflect, give thanks, and relish the joy of our community, faith, learning and togetherness. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming celebrations.

With peace and blessings,

Lisa Hitchcock

Advent

Loving God,

As we begin this Advent season, open our hearts to Your presence.

Help us to prepare with joy and hope for the coming of Your Son.

May we share kindness, peace and love with all we meet.

Bless our OLSH school community in these final weeks of learning and celebration.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



hope peace joy love

At OLSH we acknowledge and pay respect to the Dja Dja Wurrung people, the original custodians of the land on which our parish school is located. We pay our respects to elders past and present and commit to actively work alongside First Nations People for reconciliation and justice for all.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

W: olshelmore.catholic.edu.au PH: 5432 6254 E: principal@olshelmore.catholic.edu.au

School News

Upcoming Events

Learning Showcase

Thursday, 4 December at 3pm

We invite our families to the Learning Showcase tomorrow. Students and teachers are excited to share their learning, achievements and growth with you all. The seniors will be in the Chevi Centre with Mr Mann ready to share their incredible band! The juniors will share their work in drama at 3:15 in the junior classroom.

Gym and Swim

Friday, 5 December and 12 December

This week is water safety week, and students will need to bring along a spare t-shirt and shorts for their water safety session. Our final session will have an opportunity for our students to have a fun session with the great facilities at Gurri Wanyarra, Bendigo.

Grade 6 Celebration Day

Wednesday, 10 December

Grade 6 students will travel to Bendigo, with their classroom teachers, for a day of fun and celebration to acknowledge the end of their Primary school years at OLSH! Thank you to Ms Nihill and Mrs Hayes for organising such a fun day to celebrate all of their achievements and growth. A permission form has been shared via PAM.

Thanksgiving and Graduation Liturgy

Thursday, 11 December at 6:00 pm-8:00pm Location: OLSH Church at 6:00pm

We invite all families to join us for this occasion as a community of faith and learning to celebrate our graduates, students and the 2025 school year.

Our Grade Five leaders, the Little Chevi's buddies, will warmly welcome the 2026 Foundation students by presenting them with a battery-operated candle. This symbolic gesture represents the passing on of the light of wisdom and faith gained at OLSH.

After the liturgy, join us back at school for dinner and music. Dinner options include Elmore Pizza or BYO dinner—bring something you love and enjoy a relaxed evening together.

Please note: As Fr Caldwell will be away for this celebration, he will celebrate Mass for us on **Monday 16 December at 9:30am** at the OLSH Church.

Last Day of Term – Swimming Fun Day

Tuesday, 16 December 11am-1pm

Tuesday 16 December is the last day for students at OLSH.

We'll celebrate the end of the year with a fun day at the Elmore Pool, including a Subway lunch. Orders for our Subway lunch are now open. It's a great way to finish the year with fun and friendship.

2026 Classes and Staffing

Next year, we're excited to introduce a new approach to our daily learning routine. Each morning will begin with a strong focus on core learning in English and Mathematics, giving students three dedicated hours within their class groups to build essential skills, knowledge and confidence.

In the afternoons from 12:40pm, we'll shift into two learning communities, where students will explore other curriculum areas in a collaborative and engaging environment. This structure is designed to balance deep foundational learning with opportunities for creativity and connection.

- **Juniors (Foundation & Year 1):** Mrs Kim Portwine
- **Middles (Years 2, 3 & 4):** Mrs Jo Webb and Mrs Ellie Hayes
- **Seniors (Years 5 & 6):** Ms Denise Nihill and Mrs Lisa Hitchcock
- **Foundation – Year 2 Learning Community – 14 students**
Year 3 – Year 6 Learning Community – 14 students

Parish Priest: Fr Ashley Caldwell

Principal: Mrs Lisa Hitchcock

Religious Education Leader: Ms Denise Nihill

Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader: Mrs Jo Webb

School Administrative and Finance Officer: Mrs Nerida Murray

Music Program and Band: Mr Matt Mann

Learning Support Officer: Miss Amy Pascoe

Statewide Transition Day – Tuesday 9 December

Next Tuesday, most of our Grade 6 students will be attending their secondary school for the Statewide Transition Day. The students will spend from 9am-1:45pm in their new classes for 2026. This will be a great chance to get to experience their new class and teachers.

Our Little Chevis will join us as well from 9am-2:30pm and will need to bring along their drink bottle, hat, fruit snacks, lunch and another snack for second break.

This will be an important and exciting day to prepare our students for the transition to their next year level!

New School Day Times for 2026

We are making a small adjustment to our daily schedule next year to meet the requirements of our workplace agreement to best utilise teachers' available times for scheduled class times, duties and meetings. We have also worked with Elmore Primary School to

School News

align our end-of-day time. This structure ensures strong learning blocks while giving students time to play, eat and recharge throughout the day. Thank you for your support as we make this positive change for our school community.

New Daily Schedule for 2026:

8:55 am – First Bell

9:00 am – 11:00 am – Learning Block

11:00 am – 11:40 am – Break (25 minutes play, 15 minutes eating)

11:40 am – 1:40 pm – Learning Block

1:40 pm – 2:20 pm – Break (30 minutes play, 10 minutes eating)

2:20 pm – 3:20 pm – Learning Block

PSG Meetings

Thank you to our families for attending our PSG Meetings. These meetings and our learning conversations are purposeful and valuable ways to collaborate to get the best for our students.

School Fees 2025

We thank our families for their ongoing support in meeting school fee commitments. As we approach the end of the year, we kindly ask that all school fee accounts be finalised in the coming weeks. If you would like to discuss your account or require assistance, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with Lisa.

2026 Charity Ball Fundraiser

Please note the Charity Ball will be held on **21 February 2026**. We will once again be looking for volunteers to support this important fundraising opportunity for our school. More information will be shared before the end of the year.

Magnify Sandhurst

Check out the locally produced podcasts for great insights into Magnify Sandhurst and Catholic Education.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School - Elmore

LITTLE CHEVIES FOUNDATION 2026 TRANSITION



- ★ Friday 24 October 9am-11am
- ★ Friday 31 October 9am-11:45am
- ★ Friday 7 November 11am-2pm: Mission Day attend with families
- ★ Friday 14 November 9am-11:45am
- ★ Tuesday 9 December 9am-2:30pm: Statewide Transition Day

All Welcome

Contact us for more information:
03 5432 6254
principal@olshelmore.catholic.edu.au



Catholic Identity

Little Chevies
JOIN US FOR THE
THANKSGIVING
LITURGY AND THE
“HANDING OVER
THE LIGHT
CEREMONY.”

6pm
Thursday 11th
December.
OLSH Church



Advent Invitation

@OLSH



Advent Liturgies Schedule
Tuesday 2 December – 3:00 PM
Monday 8 December – 3:00 PM
Monday 15 December – 3:00 PM

Chevie Centre
All welcome

25 Healthy Christmas Snacks and Party Foods

Adding healthy Christmas cheer to snacks and party foods for kids can be simple and fast. Just the way you plate up raw vegetables or a tray of fruit can elevate ordinary fruits and vegetables. Please see below the link to 25 ideas for healthy holiday themed snacks and party foods



<https://www.superhealthykids.com/25-healthy-christmas-snacks-party-foods/>

With gratitude,


Jo

Child Safeguarding

Volunteering at OLSH – Volunteer Applications

At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. To uphold our commitment to child safety, **ALL Volunteers** are required to review and acknowledge our Child Safe Code of Conduct, Staff & Students Professional Boundaries Policy and Photography & Video Policy and Procedures. Additionally, Volunteers must complete a Volunteer Registration form and successfully complete the CESL School Volunteer Induction before commencing their role as a Volunteer.

We deeply value the contributions of our Volunteers and appreciate your support in maintaining a culture of care and protection. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have already completed their applications and for the valuable contributions you make to OLSH. Together, we can continue to provide a safe and nurturing space for every child to thrive.

For more information regarding volunteering, contact us or click on the link to complete the Volunteer Registration form. [Volunteer Registration Form](#) or scan the QR Code. 

All Volunteers will be asked to:

- Complete a Volunteer Registration form (including personal details, Working with Children Check (WWCC) and 2 personal referees), please inform your referees they will be contacted by the school in relation to your volunteering.
- Once you have completed the Volunteer Registration form and are approved to Volunteer at the school, you will be sent an email with a link to access the required training: (Please note – Completing this induction replaces the previous onsite induction interview)
- CESL School Volunteer Induction; and
- Read and acknowledge the Child Safe Code of Conduct, Staff & Students Professional Boundaries Policy and Photography & Video Policy and Procedures.

All Volunteers will be required to update details at the start of each year and inform the school of any changes to your circumstances or updates to your WWCC. All Volunteers will need to complete the CESL School Volunteer Induction and read and acknowledge all relevant safeguarding policies at the start of each school year even if an existing Volunteer.

All information received regarding volunteering and providing referee details will be maintained in line with CESL Privacy Policy.

Please direct your referees to complete their initial referee check online using the QR Code below.

If you have any questions, or would like support to complete your application, please contact the school.

Volunteer Application



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Elmore is a 

Child Safe School

we are committed to child safety at all levels
As a child, you have the right

- to tell someone if you are unhappy
- to have fun and do activities you enjoy
- to have a say and be heard
- to be provided with information
- to be allowed to be a child and be treated with respect

if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, to feel proud and strong in your own culture

If you do not feel safe, you can talk to one of our Child Safeguarding Officers.

Mrs Lisa Hitchcock
Ms Denise Nihill
Mrs Kim Portwine
Miss Lizzy Forbes

 As a school community we work together to ensure we are child safe and that we empower student voice



Volunteer Referee Check Online Form QR Code



Community News

WEEKLY SWIMMING LESSONS

AT ELMORE POOL THIS SUMMER!

~ From Beginners to Squad Level Classes ~



for more info and
to enrol, scan the QR

or go to

<https://tinyurl.com/ElmoreSwim25-26>



ELMORE BOWLS CLUB

TIME
6.30PM
FOR 7PM

DATES
WED 26th
NOVEMBER
3rd & 10th
DECEMBER

FREE SOCIAL BOWLS NIGHTS

WE'D LOVE TO SEE NEW AND EXPERIENCED BOWLERS

- ✓ Bowls available for you to use
- ✓ Wear flat shoes or try barefoot
- ✓ Sausage sizzle get together after
- ✓ Come and have fun!!!

FOR INFO
KEITH - 0414 851901
IAN - 0493 727582



PLAY SOCCER WITH US IN 2026



Come & join Epsom Football Club! Anyone aged 4yrs+ can play! Whether you're new to soccer or a seasoned player, you'll find a safe, friendly and welcoming environment.

Our Expression of Interest form is now open

Complete our short form (link below or scan QR code) to get early access to all 2026 club info, from our Club Open Day, to registrations and training dates.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5UmDcRuSmd>



Ages 4 yrs & above

Non-competitive teams
from Under 6 to Under 10

No experience
necessary

Competitive teams from
Under 12 to Under 16

Mixed & all-girls
teams available

Youth (16-18yrs), Mens &
Women's teams

Contact secretary@epsomfc.com.au or
juniors@epsomfc.com.au for more information
www.epsomfc.com.au

