



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Week 2 Term 1

3rd February, 2017

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and I hope you have all had a wonderful holiday. We give thanks for the blessings, and the challenges, God has presented to us that make us closer to Him and our faith stronger.

I trust your children have had a smooth and happy return to school. I particularly wish to welcome all the new members of our school community. In the staff, I welcome again Mr Cauchi, who of course you have already met, Ms Nibal, Miss Bradford, Mr Campbell, Miss Apap, Miss Younes and Mrs Morin. Once again OLA is blessed to have a great team of professionals driving the learning.

We welcome the many students joining classes from Year 1 to Year 6 and, of course, the 2017 Kindergarten students who started 'big school'. Thank you to the P&F who provided 'tea and tissues' for those who needed it.

Congratulations to the Kinder students who have settled in so very well. What a clever and confident group of students! In the interest of the education of your children, we look forward to working in partnership with you, again, for another great year.

Building Report

While many of you might have been disappointed to see that the building work is not yet complete, I believe most, like me, were very impressed with the work to date and how wonderful the grounds look. I appreciate how difficult it is to get tradesman on the tools during the month of January, especially in the extreme heat. I commend the building crew for their enormous effort to get the site into a safe and workable environment for the students.

Very soon it will all be done. I thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

School Absences: Please be aware of the increased focus by Government bodies on student absence. The planning of holidays should be within the school holiday period as much as possible.



Our Lady of the Angels Primary School

AT OUR SCHOOL, WE BELIEVE

Our *faith* in Christ's teaching is at the centre of all we do to nurture each child -spiritually, emotionally, academically and physically in the footsteps of our patrons, Mary, our mother, and St Francis.

All *students* can achieve academic, social and emotional success within a supportive environment that promotes passion, creativity, trust, collaboration and reflection.

Our *staff* is a professional team that embraces the ethical responsibility to deliver the core purpose of our school in a cooperative, collaborative and supportive manner.

The school, as an integral part of the *parish*, strives to enhance faith through Catholic traditions and practices as we seek to further understand God's plan for us.

The relationship between school and *parents* is built on mutual respect, where all stakeholders are valued and listened to through open communication, to reach common goals for the holistic well-being of every student.

*Every student
Every day*

Faith seeking understanding

Please find attached the Term 1 calendar with a few minor changes/additions in **yellow** for your convenience.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Week 3:

Fri 10th Feb 2.40pm - Primary Assembly (in the yellow demountable) +Infants Benediction in the church.

Week 4:

Wed 15th Feb – **Parent Information Evening:**

Kinder – Year 2: 6.30pm-6.55pm;

Year 3-Yr 6: 6.7pm – 7.30pm in the learning spaces

Followed by P&F MEETING AT 7.30PM IN THE STAFF ROOM. ALL WELCOME.

Friday 17th Feb:

- 9am: opening Year Mass and SRC Commissioning Ceremony
- 2.40pm Infants assembly/Primary Benediction
- 6.15pm: OLA Family Social night – Sausage Sizzle (Please refer to P&F segment further in this newsletter.)

Gospel Reflection

Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



Reflection

Today, when we describe a person as being the 'salt of the earth' it's generally meant in a way that says the person is hard working, straight talking and pretty down to earth. It's usually meant as a compliment but sometimes can come across as a bit condescending when used inappropriately. When Jesus tells the disciples that they are salt of the earth and the light of the world he is really saying 'You are to be the salt of the earth; you are to be the light of the world.' It is more of a directive than an affirmation of them.

To be salt of the earth and light of the world means to be the one who puts their hand up and steps forward to speak for, work for and act for those who are the least in this world. To have the potential and resources to be a force for good in the world and not act on it is to be like salt that's used for salting the streets or a lamp that's under a tub.

(<http://liturgyhelp.com.au/>. Greg Sunter 3-2-2017)

Mrs Byrne. REC

A Word of Thanks....

I would just like to say a word of thanks to the wonderful OLA community for the heartfelt warm welcome that I have received as I begin my new role as Assistant Principal. I feel privileged and proud to be part of this community. Throughout the week I have visited all the learning spaces and met the children, each of whom have greeted me with a smile. I look forward to getting to know all the families.

Maths Assessment Interviews....

Over the past week, many of the students have participated in an MAI (Maths Assessment Interview). When conducted, these interviews provide the teacher with valuable information about your child's knowledge and strategies in four main areas of number: Counting, Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. Rather than providing a specific 'score' or 'grade'; the teacher determines a 'Growth Point'; an entry point in which the teacher can then target specific learning tasks to meet the needs of all learners. These growth points are tracked throughout the year, ensuring that all students are accessing the numeracy curriculum at their point of need and therefore making the expected gains. Later in the year, you will be invited to attend a numeracy workshop, where you can learn more about the growth points and the implications for the classroom. Stay tuned....

God Bless

Mr Steve Cauchi

Assistant Principal

School Fees

The CEO will be sending out the school fees towards the end of next week. A separate email will be sent home next week with information regarding the fees.

Banking

Student banking will commence next week. Bank books are to come to school on Wednesday and will go back home on Thursday. Kindergarten students will get an information flyer on school banking today, and for those students in older grades that wish to open a bank account, please let us know in the office and we will send home some information.

ROAD SAFETY & PARKING

ROAD SAFETY Each of us has a responsibility to model and teach children the dangers of walking through a car park, especially not walking behind cars reversing, as drivers cannot always see pedestrians. We have a rear to kerb parking rule in our car park, so the driver has a clear view when leaving. Consider and anticipate the movement of cars and point this out to your child.

Parking/Waiting Options:-

As many of our parents over the past year have found, it is often favourable to park over at Centenary Oval or Bruce Purser Reserve and either walk over to collect your child/ren, or have them meet you there. Often you have left the carpark, before many of our cars are out of our driveway and through the lights.

Another alternative is to approach the school from the netball court end of Wellgate Avenue (going down from Bentley Ave). There is a very large parking area down there adjacent to the bushland which could be used for those parents who choose to attend early and are happy to wait until it is time to move up into the carpark to collect their child/ren. Please consider using one of these options, in the hope that it may alleviate some of the frustrations and stress around pickup time.

Staggered pick-up times.

Because students inevitably arrive at the pickup zone at different times, PLEASE note the following advised pick up times.

- 3pm: ONLY KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN WITH NO SIBLINGS
- 3.10pm: Students Yr 1-3 with no older siblings
- 3.25 pm: This is the preferred time for picking up of students who are in Years 4-6 and their younger siblings, eg a family who has a kinder, a yr 3 and a yr 6 child

PLEASE EXIT BY THE SIDE GATE IN LINE WITH PEDESTRIAN CROSSING. This allows for much easier management of the students waiting in the drive through. We are VERY lucky to have the drive through option. Please observe these requests to avoid being sent back out to the street and onto the end of the queue. Overall, everyone does an excellent job and, together, we effectively clear the bulk of over 550 people in about 20 minutes. Thank you for your cooperation. ☺

PLEASE KEEP TO THE PATHS

We have always encouraged members of the community to keep to the paths. We would like to maintain this practice please and parent modelling is vital. While much of the grass is now synthetic, when walking across, a garden bed is eventually encountered and I have seen parents cutting through the flowers. Respect for our lovely grounds is appreciated.



PLEASE NOTE: NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Uniform Shop

Monday 8.20am – 9.30am

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this week as we have been extremely busy, not only in the uniform shop but also in the office.

Please remember that we have changed the day the shop is open. It is now open on **Monday**. It is located behind the canteen area, opposite the new Year 3 classrooms.

Uniform orders can be left at the office, through the notebag, via email or over the phone at any time throughout the week, and they will be filled on Mondays and Wednesdays. A copy of the uniform order form is attached to this newsletter, or can be found on our website.

Please note that we are unable to supply a hat or any other item first thing in the morning from the office as the uniform shop is not in the admin building.

Skoolbag App

Our Skoolbag app is a way of informing you of upcoming events or cancellation due to the weather, results from carnivals and gala days, giving updates while students are on excursions and other important information about major events within the school.



We have a large portion of the school already using this app.

If you do not have the app it is free to download. To install it, just search for our school name "Our Lady of the Angels Primary Rouse Hill" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

There are many benefits to having this app on your device:

- You may select to receive notification for your child's grade only.
- Absentee notes can be completed on this app.
- Access to newsletters and news events linked directly to our school website.
- Instant notification when excursions are postponed, assemblies cancelled due to bad weather, delays during excursions and other important information.
- Online permission notes in the future.

If you already have this app, it is up to you to update your settings to receive the correct push notifications. To update this click the "More" button on the bottom right of the app, then "Setup Push Notifications". Turn on the Push categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch. You will receive alerts specific to the selected grade and all alerts sent as a whole school.

School Website

Another form of communication at our school is the school website.

<http://www.olarousehill.catholic.edu.au/home> The website is regularly updated with stories of different things that have occurred, upcoming events, the term calendar and access to permission notes. This section can be found in 'News and Events' then 'Parent Notes' or

<http://www.olarousehill.catholic.edu.au/parent-notes>

In Parent Notes you will find an up to date school uniform list, medication notes and leave of exemption forms. Throughout the year, it will be updated as needed with excursion notes, sporting notes and special event notes.



Our School is a Nut Aware School Community

At Our Lady of the Angels School, we have children who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for these children the reaction can be life-threatening. This is called anaphylaxis and can occur in minutes of an exposure to a trigger, in these children's case, nuts.

We see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these children. So as to support our community's effort in this regard, we kindly ask that parents avoid preparing snacks for recess or lunch that include Nutella spread, any peanut butter, nut spreads, snack bars and biscuits that contain nuts. Products having the statement may contain 'traces of nuts' are suitable to bring to school.

We also ask that you **do not** include foods that contain nuts when providing food for special events such as cake days or morning teas.

Literacy News

Handwriting Textbook

This year the students again will receive a handwriting textbook. Students will have weekly handwriting lessons to assist in developing writing fluency and correct letter formation.



Words of the Week

This year our school's literacy goal is for all students to use richer vocabulary and develop skills and strategies to improve learning and memory of spelling words.

Each week students will have a rich word (Tier 2 word) introduced to them. There will be an infants and primary word. The word will be studied and used consistently throughout the week. Outside each space, posters will be displayed for all to see.

Next week's WOW words are:

Infants: superb

Primary: rejuvenate

Dates for Diaries:

Friday 17th February- 'World Read Aloud Day' Just before our Friday Infants assembly & Primary Benediction at 2:20pm, parents are invited to participate in a whole or small group read-aloud with their child/ren.

Thursday 9th March-Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of **'Rug Reading'** out on the playground with their child at **2:30pm** during 'Catholic Schools Week'. Please bring in a rug and a favourite book to read.

Lisa Hurst, Literacy Coordinator

SOME PICS OF KINDER DAY ONE





P&F NEWS

A special thank you to all those who helped with the Kinder 'Tea and Tissues' Morning tea. To all the bakers, those who set up and packed up and even those who came to welcome our new families. We really have a wonderful school community!

Another thank you to the parents who helped us keep the volunteers at the swimming carnival fed and hydrated! To all the parent volunteers, your help is invaluable.



SPECIAL TREATS

Great news! 50cent Special Treats will return on Friday!

A huge thanks to all of the parent helpers who have volunteered their time to assist this term via our FB page. The term 1 roster has been emailed out to those who are on it. The children thoroughly enjoy special treats each Friday. Thank you again for your support.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Many families have expressed interest in purchasing second hand uniform items. Due to overwhelming interest in second hand items we are unable to meet individual requests throughout the term. There will be a sale later in the term and prior notice will be given.

Thank you for all of the donations of second hand uniforms so far. Please continue to send in any **clean** items that you would like to **donate**. These can be handed into the school office in a plastic bag. The team are working hard to prepare items to be able to sell.

*** If you are able to help with sorting or washing any items, please contact us via our Facebook page or email. Your help would be most welcome! ☺

P&F GENERAL MEETING

This meeting is for all parents and friends of our school.

WEDNESDAY February 15th

7.30pm following the 'School Information Night'.

We will hear what the P&F (as part of the parent body) have been up to and what is planned for the year. It is also an opportunity to hear from Mrs La Rocca all the wonderful things that will be happening with our children and school. There is also time to discuss any general business items which can be added to the agenda by submitting them to olapfc@gmail.com no later than Monday February 13th.

*If you have any ideas or are interested in helping out in any way for any of the upcoming events please email olapfc@gmail.com or message via our Facebook page. We look forward to meeting you during the year!

OLA SOCIAL NIGHT!

This year at the 'School Family Social' on Friday February 17th, the P&F will hold a Sausage Sizzle. This will be available for families to pre-order dinner. Please find the note with more information attached to this newsletter. We look forward to an enjoyable night with our 'old' and 'new' families.



MRS HEY'S NEW OFFICE

It seems Mrs Hey will not forget us in a hurry! In her new office hangs with pride the artwork created by the talented Mrs Vilath, the OLA school children, staff and parish staff. Mrs Hey is enjoying her new role as principal of Trinity Primary, Kemps Creek. We hope they appreciate her hard work and dedication as much as we did.

*Our Lady of the Angels
P&F Association*



From the Classroom of 6B

Year 6 have begun the 2017 school year with positive attitudes and high levels of anticipation. We have been discussing our Roles and Responsibilities as the leaders of the school and we are confident that we can deliver this leadership with kindness and respect. We have been studying people and characters in a variety of texts to compare and contrast the leadership qualities that they display.

Our colour house captains and leaders showed exceptional leadership skills and sportsmanship at the Swimming Carnival, encouraging the children to support one another and participate with a sense of fun!



Apologies for all the house keeping reminders. Our full and usual Newsletter returns next week. Until then God bless, have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Eva La Rocca, Principal