

**Dear Parents,**

Week 2 down - already. Congratulations to our kinder students who have settled in well. Congratulations, also, to their parents who are managing the 'separation' so well. Some images and quotes of the week with our kinders...

Mrs Goldsworthy?  
She's the doctor.

## Kinders at Yoga class ....



As Catholics, our mission is to help build a world of justice and love. This is the focus of next Sunday's Gospel. One of the most important roles as parents is to model that behaviour. Children will accept any outcome and consequence as long as it is established as fair. This is something reiterated repeatedly with students and staff. Sometimes, after a holiday break, it is hard for some students to settle back into or to find their place in 'the order of things'. This leads to unnecessary anxiety for them and you, their parents. Please, if you talk about their day with them, discuss and resolve any issues that may have arisen but focus on the positive as there *is* much to celebrate.

***If you have any concern, your child's teacher is the first point of contact. This is appreciated.***

### Reminders

The first is the Parent Information Night (no children). This is a 30 minute briefing on the routines and expectations of your child's new grade and is hosted by his/her teacher. This will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February with Kinder to Y2 commencing at 6.30pm and the Yr 3-6 starting at 7pm. This is an important opportunity to find out the answers to the 'little' day to day things – it is NOT a time to discuss your child with the teacher. It is an expectation that at least one parent will attend this session and will be very helpful to you, especially if it is a grade not experienced previously.



The next important event is the Opening School Year Mass (10am on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the church followed by the induction of the 2014

SRC. Later in the evening of the same day is our Social Night. Each year, the P&F host this casual evening where families are asked to bring along some nibbles and their own drinks. There will be a disco for the students under the

basketball area allowing parents to mingle and get to know each other. We look forward to getting to know you a little better, as well.



### Dates to Remember

- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb: SRC Speeches begin.;
- Parent Information Night – 6.30: Kinder – Yr 2, 7pm- Y3-6
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb: 9am Mass Yr 3; assembly host: Yr 5/6 B
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Feb: Swimming Carnival (primary only)
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Feb: P&F meeting 6.30pm
- Fri 21<sup>st</sup>: 10am Opening Year Mass; 6.30pm Disco for students and social for parents

**NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE: the primary school and Parish Mass is now on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10am instead of Feb 9th**



**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ALONG THE DRIVE THROUGH FROM THE CHURCH TO THE SCHOOL ADMIN IS A NO PARKING AREA FROM 8.15AM TO 9.15AM AND 2.30PM TO 4PM. PLEASE OBSERVE THIS AND AVOID THE EMBARRASSEMNT OF BEING ASKED TO MOVE.**

### **Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Drive Through Pick Up**

This year, OLA will have over 400 students. This means that the morning drop off and afternoon pick up will be an even greater challenge. In the morning with parents rushing off to work, etc, patience is especially needed to be exercised so please allow time for this and remember to keep within the speed limit of **10KPM**. This is a reminder that **KINDERGARTEN PARENTS ONLY** are expected in the drive through **before 3.10pm**. Please do not arrive in the **drive through** before this time if you have any children in any other grades. This includes parents of kinder students with older siblings. In fact, we are suggesting that, if any of your children are in Grades 3 to 6, please arrive around 3.20pm and not before. From the beginning of 2014, anyone arriving out of these times may be asked to exit and return to the back of the queue. Also, please display your name card on the PASSENGER SUNVISOR upon entering the drive through. Please don't wait till you have arrived at the pick-up point as students' names need to be called well before this to ensure a smooth flow. If you don't have a name card, simply make one by writing your surname large and clear in black on white card.

We are very fortunate to have this drive through/pick up facility and, given the numbers of students and cars, the process works very well with everyone's cooperation and patience.



### **Many hands make light work.**

Thank you to Mrs Byrne who assisted the morning traffic flow by acting as a 'lollypop' person. This was a big help and we are appealing to anyone who can give 10 minutes in the morning or the afternoon to control the flow of pedestrians and cars during the 10 minute peak periods. This is only on the school grounds. A high visibility vest will be provided and a 'lollypop'. If you are able to assist, please contact the P&F or the school by email with 'lollypop person' in the subject line. The more people we get, the easier it will be and we can draw up a weekly roster.

### **Book Club**

Next week, Bookclub will be going home to years 1-6. If you wish to place an order for Bookclub, please return your order by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. **Payment can only be made by cheque or as an online payment by credit card.** You must write the receipt number on the Bookclub order form before returning it to school. **No cash can be accepted** for Bookclub.

For those new to 'school life', Bookclub is sent out twice a term. It is not an expectation that books are purchased each or any time. This is just another avenue for you to purchase books for home, often at a good price.

***Please Note: No late orders will be accepted. If your order does come in late, it will be kept in the office until the next order goes in.***

### ***Important:-***

*Just a reminder that we discourage the children from bringing any electronic games, iphones etc, to school. If for any reason your child needs to bring a phone to school, a letter must be supplied to the principal explaining the reason, and also it must be kept in the office during school hours. No phones or electronic games should be in a child's bag, at all, during the day, as they will become very distressed if they are damaged or lost. Thank you for assisting us in this matter.*

## From the Office....

Thank you to all parents for your patience during the first weeks of school. The office desk and phone is often at its busiest at this time of year and so I do appreciate your patience.

Just a few reminders:-

**Notes/money for the Office** - Each morning teachers will ask the children in their class if they have any notes or money. Teachers will keep any information they require and will send any other notes or money to the office via the class note bag. This system allows the office to receive notes and money without parents being required to actually come into the school. It also helps the children develop responsibility for passing on information.

**Change of Details** - It is **critical** that the school has up-to-date contact details for all students at all times. Please ensure that any phone, address or contact details that change are relayed to the office as a matter of urgency. It is most distressing for children and staff if we are unable to contact parents in the case of a child being ill or injured.

**Uniforms** - The uniform shop is open on **Tuesday mornings from 8.15am - 9.30am**. If you need to come in to purchase uniforms, please do so at this time. Otherwise please either phone or email your order through and we will get it ready for easy collection from the office.

**Lost Property** - Any items that are found are placed in the lost property bin behind the office, or returned to the class if there is a name on it. In this regard, could you **PLEASE** ensure that all items, particularly hats, jumpers/jackets are labelled. You would be amazed at how many items we find, even at the beginning of the year with no names. Please check your child's bag regularly and if you find an item that does not belong to them, please return it the following day to the class teacher.

**Sick Bay Clothing** - If your child needs to be changed and spare clothes come home, please wash and return them to the office as soon as possible (even the sock and underwear).

**Visiting the School** - A reminder that during school hours, **ALL** parents, visitors and classroom helpers **MUST** sign in at the front office and collect a Visitors Sticker and then sign out as they leave the school, even if it is at the end of the day.

**Late/Early Leavers** - If your child is late for school or needs to be collected early, you must attend the office and fill out the Late/Early Leavers Slip. If, for some reason your child is out of school for **two hours or more** in any one day, eg arrives at school after 10.45am or is collected before 1pm, there is a new requirement for reporting these partial absences. You are now also required to fill out the book at the front desk and this information will be collated and forwarded to the Department of Education throughout the year.

**School Fees** - All families should have received their school fees by now. **Please Note that the swim program fee is not included on the account at this stage, as well as the year 5/6 Canberra excursion. These two fees will be billed in Term 2 and will need to be paid in addition to the flexible payment plan.** If you have any queries at all about the fees, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Goldsworthy.

**Medication** - If your child needs medication at school, new medication forms will need to be completed and given to Mrs Goldsworthy in the office. Please see me if you need to discuss anything, or you need the forms. No medication is to be kept in your child's school bag.

**Emails** - Please remember to add your child's class to all emails, especially absent notes. With 400 students at the school now, this saves me a lot of time looking up classes.

### **ICAS**

Attached to this newsletter is the form for ICAS competitions. These are voluntary competitions held from term 2 in the areas of Writing, Spelling, English, Computer Studies, Science and Mathematics. Some of the competitions are open to year 2 students this year. All information regarding costs and arrangements are in the attached letter, which needs to be returned with the required money to the office by 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Hey.

Thank you.



# 2014 Creative Arts Expo

On Wednesday August 27th, OLA will take part with 4 other schools in a Creative Arts Festival at Evans Theatre, Penrith. Children will need to audition for this event. They are being asked to express their interest in the performance, through this Google doc. We are asking parents to complete the survey to provide us with their children's experience in performing and dancing.

We welcome all children from OLA to audition. It is not compulsory that children attend a dance school to audition, as all children who are interested are encouraged to audition. We will be choosing 50 students to perform in the Creative Arts festival 2014. As this event is held every 2 – 3 years, if your child is not chosen there will be other opportunities to participate in the future.

The first auditions will be held on Wednesday 12th Feb for students for Years 3-6. Students will be then called back for a second audition on Friday 14th Feb. We will then advertise the dates for auditions Years K-2 in the newsletter. Once all auditions have been completed, children will be notified if they have been successful in the auditions.

If you have trouble viewing or submitting this form, you can fill it out online:

<https://docs.google.com/a/parra.catholic.edu.au/forms/d/1t68eT1RdXRGTwMLvJEoEkOYQn37SPZNI5Z0g216L3s/viewform>

## OLA Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Our Lady of the Angels School will be holding its annual swimming carnival on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014. All children in Years 3-6 are expected to participate in the carnival. A note was emailed yesterday to all children in Years 3-6, can you please complete the permission form and online questionnaire as soon as possible to assist with organisation of the carnival. I have included the Google Doc URL to be completed online about your child's swimming abilities and parent volunteers.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UoZxpCtXJhCUWeIvVsz9ehnnhd5sBbWtGWINuwuwWwk/viewform>

**Please Note:** This year all children are to come to school as normal and they will be travelling to the pool by bus with their class teacher. If you are at the carnival, you will be able to take your children home directly from the pool.

### Attention Year 2 Parents

**In addition, only competent (strong) 50m or 25m swimmers in Year 2 turning 8 in 2014 are invited to participate in the carnival.** Age restrictions apply to some regional competitions and this is open to students who **TURN 8 YEARS or OLDER** between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2014. If your child is turning 8 years old and are eligible to swim in the OLA Swimming Carnival, please download the information/ permission note for the swimming carnival from the school website and send in a completed form.

### **Gala Days for 2014**

If you would like your child (years 3-6) to participate in any gala days in 2014, eg, soccer, netball could you please complete the survey on google docs

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JDZDNDpak1qcxrkLcUkkRtpZNu1Xj3k7HLmUvn9r4/viewform>

## PARENT HELPERS???

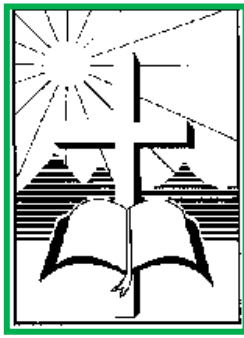
### ***Have you completed your Child Protection for Volunteers Training??***

It has been heartening to see how many of our parents, grandparents, etc, have completed the Child Protection Training in anticipation of helping out at school. Whenever this is done, the school is notified by email and the names added go on a register to which we refer when someone wants to come into the school. The list is growing, thank you.

To avoid disappointment, please make sure you have completed this. The URL is:

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/child-protection-training>

This includes helping at school in areas such as gross motor, lunches, reading groups, etc.



**This Sunday's Gospel Reading**  
**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A**

Gospel Matt 5: 13-16

*Jesus said to his disciples:  
 "You are the salt of the earth.  
 But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?  
 It is no longer good for anything  
 but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

*You are the light of the world.*

*A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.*

*Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to and action for social justice flow from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel.

(Sourced and modified from <http://www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm> )

**Parent Sacred Space.**



In the office foyer, we have a display cabinet of which two shelves are devoted to prayer. This is an invitation to OLA families to 'sponsor' this sacred space. This means that each week, one school family is responsible for decorating this space with some small items of their choice and relevant to them. An example is – Week three - this space is sponsored by the Smith Family and there might be a small posy of flowers, a set of Rosary Beads and maybe the photo of someone for whom the Smith family is seeking prayers. This is the family's choice. There are only two small shelves and nothing elaborate is expected. This is an initiative to bring community prayer to the fore in our school and to make it more personal and meaningful. I or someone else at school will be happy to assist you if needed.

If you are interested in participating, we look forward to receiving an email from you to [ola@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ola@parra.catholic.edu.au) with *Family Prayer Space* in the subject line.

Thank you the Dersch Family who sponsored our  
 Family Prayer Space this week.  
 Next week, Week 3, is the Palmer Burton family.



***First Holy Communion***

All students who made their First Reconciliation last year should have received an email/letter from the Parish regarding First Holy Communion. If you have a student in another grade that you would like them to make this Sacrament this year, please ask the school office for a copy of this letter.



## *From the Classroom of 5/6B & 5/6W*

Stage 3 has had a wonderful start to the school year! In Week 2, we went on an excursion to Minnamurra Falls where we saw the different layers of the rainforest and walked nearly five kilometres to see the beautiful waterfall. We are now ready to begin our Rainforest unit in class.





This week Stage 3 also participated in a leadership and reflection day. We got to know one another better and reinforced leadership skills such as cooperating and trusting each other.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled 2014!



# School Banking



The School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.

## **Taking part in School Banking is easy.**

- If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or contact the School Banking Co-ordinator.
- If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch, no forms to fill in! Remember to take in identification for you and your child (such as drivers license and birth certificate), you will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking on the next business day – it is that easy!
- School Banking packs will be sent home with kindergarten today. If you would like your child to receive a pack from another grade, please email the office and one will be sent home.
- Bank books need to be sent in to school on Wednesdays and will be forwarded home on Thursdays. Banking will commence next week, ie 13<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Social Skills**

Our social skills program begins next week. Each theme goes for a fortnight and is addressed in the classroom and during assemblies. Parents are asked to support the Social Skills program by discussing and reinforcing each fortnightly concept.

The first social skill to be addressed is:

Greeting others.

Look at the person, smile at them and say, “hello”. Remember to use the person’s name if you know it.

## **Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Attached to this newsletter is the form for this year’s Premier’s Reading Challenge. The Premier’s Reading Challenge is a program designed to encourage children to read at home. This is a voluntary program and further details can be found on the attachment. Entries must be submitted to school by 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Mrs Hey



## From the Parish Office...

### First Friday

Today is the First Friday of February. You are invited to celebrate mass tonight at 7pm and participate in adoration, led prayer and benediction. It is a most beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

A plenary indulgence is given to those who spend at least one hour in adoration before the blessed sacrament. A light supper will be provided afterwards.

### OLA Inaugural "Adults v Youth Cricket Twenty/20"

Thank you to all the Dads who came along and joined in the Cricket Match. Congratulations on beating the Young'ns!!

### Sacraments of Initiation Dates to Remember

First Session: Parents only is Thursday, 27 March at 7.30pm

An email will be sent out to parents today with all the information on the upcoming dates and also the options for First Communion dates. Please return these options at your earliest convenience.

If you have a child in Year 4 or above who has done their Reconciliation but not yet made their First Holy Communion, please see Mrs Goldsworthy in the office for an application form.

Confirmation: This is for children in Year 6. This will commence in August 2014. Further information will be provided to you later in the year.

For all Sacramental enquiries, please contact Anthony Saliba, OLA Sacramental Co-Ordinator at [sacramental@ourladyoftheangels.org.au](mailto:sacramental@ourladyoftheangels.org.au)

### Lenten Reflection

As Lent is approaching soon, Fr Warren will be presenting a Lenten Reflection every Wednesday night throughout Lent beginning March 12 at 7.30pm. Please advise the Parish office if you would like to join in.

### Sunday School

There will be Sunday School this Sunday after the 10am Mass. Primary-aged children are invited to come along for games and activities.

### Mass times:

Sat vigil: 5:30pm Sunday: 8:30am, 10am & 5.30pm. Weekdays: Mon -Sat: 9 am Wed - 7pm Novena Mass to St Joseph for special intercessions for the Building of our Church.

Confessions: 9:30 am Sat, OLA Church

Baptisms & weddings: By appointment

Parish Priest: Fr Warren Edwards

Assistant Priest: Fr Joby Kadambattuparambil Ittira

Parish Secretaries: Geraldine Farrugia and Rose Sultana

Sacrament Co-ordinator: Anthony Saliba

Email: [parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au)

[frjoby@ourladyoftheangels.org.au](mailto:frjoby@ourladyoftheangels.org.au)

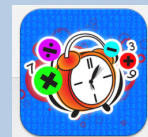
Website: [www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au](http://www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au)

Contact information: O.L.A. Parish Office, 1 Wellgate Avenue, Rouse Hill

Ph: 8883 4063 Fax: 9629 7603

## App of the Week

### Maths Basic Facts App



This app is free.

Maths Basic Facts is an interactive app that helps kids practice and develop their basic maths skills including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Kids can test themselves and race the clock to answer as many questions as they can. This is a simple app designed to develop students quick mental computation.

*Until next week, may God bless and keep you safe.  
Eva La Rocca,  
Principal*

**'Student  
of the Week'  
awards go to:**

Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award	Einstein Award
Kinder B	Sophia Dobaj	Isabella Cauchi	Caitlyn Williams
Kinder G	Sahara Knippler	Joseph Abdallah	James Apap
Kinder W	Anthony Gomez	Mitchell Ross	Lucy Tapley
Year 1B	Drew Sammut	Hayden Lavercombe	Sienna Fallone
Year 1 G	Eva Sultana	Marcus Castellan	Joshua Streater
Year 1W	Levi Stacey	Zachary Nickolls	Bryce McDonald
Year 2 B	Charlotte Zahra	Tamsyn Brown	Kalan Oxspring
Year 2 W	Alisa Adihetty	Jada Scoulou	David Parada
Year 3 B	Nicholas Hallal	Rory McArdle	Trinity Johnston
Year 3 G	Tatum Crook	Amber-Lilly Baker	Parick Bennett
Year 3 W	Jesse Eldred	Tyra Abdallah	Imogen Lynch
Year 4 B	Tiarne McLuskey	Javier Silva	Seronique Taylor
Year 4 W	William Anderson	Kerlyia Brown	Lachlan Monks
Year 5/6 B	Jake Eyles	Bethany Dersch	Jeremy Tjhin
Year 5/6 W	Sebastian Kurcubic	Ashley Graham	Shanyce Gibson

**Congratulations** to these students for great work in class, for showing St Francis qualities or for recognising a mistake as an opportunity for learning. 😊