

*"There where you are, God is". St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*

**Dear Parents,**

Today you will have received your child's end of year report. This includes each child's personal reflection on the last semester. One Kinder teacher was delighted to read the reflection of one of her students which said, 'I can see the face of God around me'.

We have entered into the season of Advent, a time for watching and waiting. Why did the 'Word' become flesh and live among us? God became human, not so that God might be with us but so that we might be with God. In other words, the Incarnation is the starting point of our divinisation – our coming to know and growing and becoming like God. It transformed the history of the world and the personal history in each of us as this sense of knowing God influences all we do – how we think and behave, our world view. For some who are open to it, it gives us the capacity to recognise the extraordinary in the ordinary.



This time of year is a wonderful time of celebration and is extremely busy.

This week, students across the school engaged in the elections for 2018 OLA School Representative Council. I am pleased to announce the following results:

**School Captains:** Gabriella Bond and Thomas Lenane

**School Vice Captains:** Marcus Odd and Olivia Hudson

## Sports House

Francis (Green)

Marian (Blue)

Gabriel (Gold)

Clare (Red)

## Captain

Tamsyn Brown, Cooper Oblea

Alanna Lock, Julian Vargas

Jasmyn Robertson, Nick Kamber

Georgia Domars, Ashton Galea

## Vice Captain

Alicia Dersch, Zac Lesar

Olivia Lincoln, Hudson Galvin

Ayden Strong, Gabriella Muscat

Ella Owen, Jane Whelan

Congratulations to all these successful candidates and to all those who voted. The 2018 SRC, including class SRC members will be sworn in at the Opening Year Mass - 2018 Term 1 Calendar soon to come.

On Wednesday, It was my pleasure to host the **Principal's Award** recipients at morning tea. They were able to tell me why they thought they received the award – working hard, kind to others, doing their best – all good answers. Well done boys and girls. ☺



## Year 6 Graduation

Later that night we held the graduation ceremony for our Year 6 students. This number has grown from seven in 2012 to 72 this year. It was a wonderful evening – a celebration of these children’s years of primary school.

I would like to thank Mrs Lombardi and Mrs Leach, Miss Meyer, Mrs Jurcevic and Mrs Borg for their hard work and preparation for the Mass and the evening’s events; our REC, Mrs Byrne for overseeing the proceedings with much support from the office staff; Mrs Cheadle and the choir for the beautiful music and singing; the year 5 parents for the preparing the supper and to all the OLA staff members for attending after what had been a very long day.



## Push or Pull?

Year 2 students have been learning about the forces of push and pull, gravity and atmospheric pressure. Yesterday they held an expo of their design and make which demonstrated a number of laws of motion. Thanks to very clever teachers, these were able to be viewed on youtube via QR codes.

You can use your device to scan the QR codes below to view two examples from Cameron Muscat, and Lucious Cappello – clever kids and clever teachers. Thanks to the many parents, students and teachers who visited the expo.

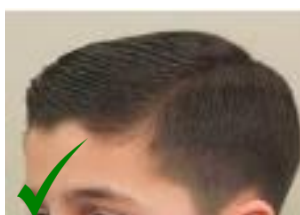


## Acceptable Hair Styles for Boys.

There are some secondary schools that employ a hairdresser on the first day of the school year to ‘correct’ the hair styles of some boys’ who the school deems as inappropriate. We would not consider any such action as we believe we have a relationship of mutual respect and a parent body that, on the whole, observes the rules of the school. This is a condition of the enrolment process. The following is a passage in the parent handbook that refers to this...

*“Hair is to be neat and tidy, off the collar, of consistent natural colour, of gradual even grade and extremes of fashion are to be avoided. Some examples of the styles that are unacceptable include: ridges, undercuts, steps, any excessive shaping with products, and any shaving cuts.”*

Sadly, much of this has been ignored among some parents. This includes boys’ long hair in pony tails. Please take this into consideration in the count down to the start of the new school year in 2018.



**Week 10: Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec**

### **Dates to Remember**

**Meet the Teacher for 2018**

**Last day of trading for Uniform Shop**

**Christmas Carols 6.30pm**

**End of Year Mass 9.00am**

**Motiv8 Fun Day for all students**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2017**

## **Gospel Reflection Term 4 Week 9-First Sunday of Advent-Year B**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk 1:1-8)

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



### ***Reflection***

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the *past*. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the *Holy Spirit*.'

(Liturgyhelp.com Fr Michael Tate 8/12/2017)

## **What's happening in RE @ OLA**

### **CHRISTMAS @ OLA**

This year, OLA will be presenting the Nativity Story and Christmas Carols at our annual Christmas Celebration. The Christmas Story will be presented in the Church starting at 6pm. Children attending will be sitting with their class, so they are able to perform their Christmas Carol. Your child will be notified next week, if they have a specific role in the Nativity play. Students who have a main part in the Nativity story will be supplied with most of their costume for the night.





## Christmas Eve 5.30 pm Children's Mass

*Thank you to all our OLA families who informed us that your family will be attending the Christmas Eve Mass. All students who have roles in the Nativity play have been informed about their role and if they need a costume. Students who have specific roles in the play, will also be presenting the story on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the OLA School Christmas Story. Please arrive at 5.30 on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, so stud*

*Students need to be at the church by 4.30pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, to have a quick practice and dress in their costumes.*

## Literacy News

### Writing Workshop:

Deborah Abela will be leading some writing workshops at the Castle Hill library in the holidays. Please see the link below with all the details:

[Writing Workshop with Deborah Abela - 10 am session](#)

Mrs Lisa Hurst, Literacy Coordinator

### PBS4L

Congratulations to our Archangels this week! Marc Skoljarev, Aria Guglielmi. Alyssia Salib, Malachi Cauchi, Sadie O'Neill, Jessica Bollard, Charlie Cutroni, Tyra Abdallah, Jaeden mensah, Lachlan Hollier, Charlotte Garcia, Jasmyn Robertson, Aidan Attard, Ashley Cummings, Tyrone Lee and Natalie Holopikian.

### IMPORTANT

#### *From the Library.....*

Please use the weekend to check around the house for any school library books or readers.

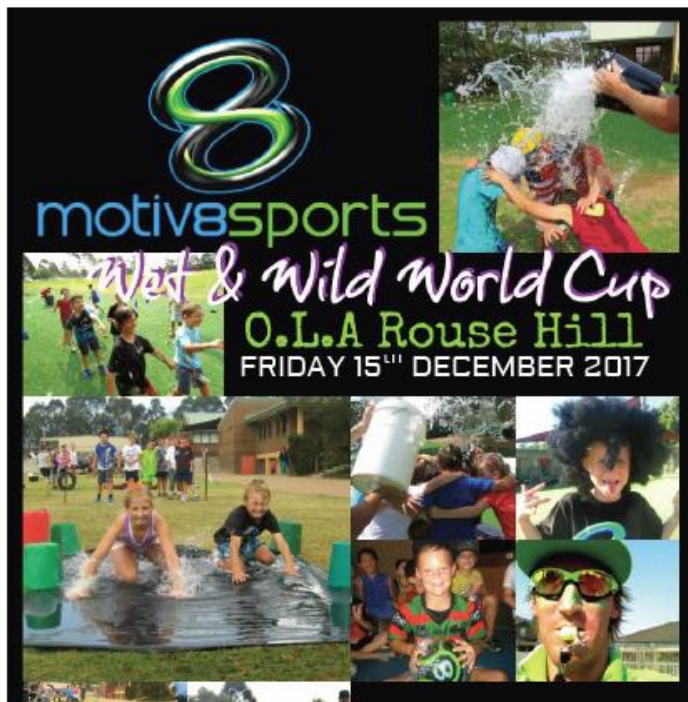
Please return ALL library books and home readers on Monday. There are still a lot of books outstanding and it is very important that our stocktake is as accurate as possible.

### Kid's Shed

How does your garden grow?

The members of Kids' Shed recently installed a watering system to the vegetable patch. There will be lots of produce to harvest soon. Look at the apples growing on the trees planted by the children last year!





## Motiv8Sports Fun Day Wet & Wild World Cup Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Next Friday, all students will be participating in the Motiv8Sports Wet & Wild Fun Day. Last week your child will have received a note, stating which group they were in (Rockers, Punks, Electro's or Hoppers) and suggestions for clothing.

Children **MUST** wear sport shoes, hat and sunscreen. They must also bring a small towel and a change of clothes as they will finish the day **WET**.

This is a great day which the children thoroughly enjoy. It will go ahead regardless of the weather and they will have a lot of fun.

### Swimming Carnival – Years 2 – 5

This is a reminder that the school swimming carnival will be held next Tuesday 12th December.

**Venue:** Hawkesbury Oasis Pool, Cnr Church & Drummond Streets, South Windsor.

**Time:** Carnival will commence at 9.30am and finish at approximately 1.30pm.

**Transport:** All students will be transported to and from the pool by bus. Please be at school by 8.40am.

**Bring:** Towel, hat, sunscreen, recess, lunch, water, goggles.

**Wear:** Swimmers underneath your sport uniform.

Students competing in the 100m Freestyle events will need to be dropped at the pool and marshaling will be at 8.45am for 9am event starting times.

## SPECIAL TREATS

Today was the last day of Special Treats for the year. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have given up their time to come and help out. We have had over 60 keen ladies on the roster this year and in particular we extend a thank you to those who will be leaving us with their Year 6 children. Thank you again and we look forward to Special Treats returning in Term 1 of 2018.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TREATS ROSTER IN TERM 1 2018, PLEASE EMAIL US ASAP AT [olapfc@gmail.com](mailto:olapfc@gmail.com) OR SEND A FACEBOOK PM. THE ROSTER WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.**

Thank you to everyone who has processed their payment and collected their 'Mini Family Photo Sessions' photos from the school office. If you have not done so, please contact Taryn to collect these on Monday. Thank you ☺



## 2017 KINDER PARENTS....

We are asking that the 2017 Kinder families host the 'Tea and Tissues Morning Tea' with the P&F on Thursday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> from 8.45-10am. Please bring a plate and stay for a cuppa to welcome our new 2018 Kinder families on their first day.

Thank you for your help and support in our school parent community. We can be contacted via email [olapfc@gmail.com](mailto:olapfc@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page.



## School Uniform

As the school year is drawing to a close and new uniform will be purchased for next year, please be mindful of the following:-

- **Predominantly WHITE sport shoes should be purchased**, NOT fluoro colours, nor fluoro coloured laces. Please advise your child that this is the school uniform policy.
- Ankle socks are NOT to be worn on sport days. White sport socks that cover the ankle are required.
- Hair is to be neat and tidy, off the collar, of consistent natural colour, of gradual even grade 4 and extremes of fashion are to be avoided. Some examples of the styles that are unacceptable include: ridges, undercuts, steps, any excessive shaping with products, and any shaving cuts. Girls' hair that is longer than shoulder length is to be tied back from the face and eyes. Ribbons, hair clips etc should be school colours (Taken from the OLA Parent Handbook).

## Uniform Shop

The LAST DAY OF TRADING for 2017 will be this coming Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**NO ORDERS WILL BE FILLED AFTER THIS DAY** as our stocktake will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

First day of trading for 2018 is **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00am – 2.00pm**. Please note this date in your diary in case you need to purchase anything before school commences.



## Dates for Term 1 2018

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff return to school Uniform shop will be open from 10.00am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Students Years 1 – 6 return to school
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Kindergarten commence school
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Monday
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	School Photos
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	End of Term 1

*Until next week  
Mrs Eva La Rocca  
Principal*

### ***From the Parish Office...***

**Parish Christmas Party** - Keep free Sunday, 17 December for our Parish Christmas Party. Santa will be visiting. Please let him know if you are attending so that he can remember to bring your child (ages 0-12) a little gift - Please let us know by Sunday, 3rd December.

Food and drinks for sale.

#### **Reconciliation - Year 2**

Congratulations to all the children who are currently doing their First Reconciliation.

#### **Gingerbread House Making**

Please contact the office if you are interested in attending this night. Friday, 8 December at 7.00pm. Various shapes Houses, Nativity Scenes, Star Trees etc. Contact the Parish Office for the prices and bookings.

#### **Schedule of Masses for the week of Christmas**

**4th Sunday:** Saturday, 23rd December at **5.30pm**  
**of Advent:** Sunday, 24th December at **8.30am and 10am**  
\*\*\* no 5.30pm Mass \*\*\*

**Christmas Masses:** Sunday, 24th December at **5.30pm ~ Children's Mass**  
Sunday, 24th December at **12.00am ~ Midnight Mass**  
(Carols commencing at 11.30pm)  
Monday, 25th December at **8.30am, 10am ~ Christmas Day**  
(Please note there will be no afternoon Mass on Christmas Day)

#### **Mass times:**

Sat vigil: 5:30pm **Sunday:** 8:30am, 10am & 5.30pm. **Weekdays:** Mon -Sat: 9 am

#### **Confessions:**

9:30 am Sat

**Baptisms & weddings:** By appointment

**Parish Priest:** Fr Warren Edwards

**Parish Secretaries:** Geraldine Farrugia and Rose Sultana

**Sacrament Co-ordinator:** Christine Leahy

**Email:** parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

**Website:** www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au

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

**Ph:** 8883 4063 **Fax:** 9629 7603