



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

1 Wellgate Ave Kellyville 2155
Phone: 8814 5989 Fax: 8814 5716
Email: ola@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website www.olarousehill.catholic.edu.au



Week 6 Term 1

3rd March, 2016

"Blessed are the merciful, for mercy they will find".

Dear Parents,

This is a 'mini' newsletter due to the short week and no awards.

At Mass this morning, the Gospel spoke about the importance of staying strong together in our faith and, in this way, not allowing evil into our midst. It is through weakness that the cracks develop and the devil – in the form of greed, resentment, jealousy, hatred, anger, etc – enters our world.

So often I reflect on the wonderful qualities of this school community and the way in which we work together for the spiritual, educational and emotional wellbeing and development of *all* members, not only the students. The presence of those who try to wear you down is inevitable. These people are unhappy and gain satisfaction from bringing others into their misery – which is basically a lack of God in their lives.

Be aware and recognise these situations. Pray for the ethical fortitude to say, "I hear you but you need to tell someone who can help you. I love you and will pray for you."



Today is a Staff Development Day and a pupil free day. The teaching staff will be engaged in Professional Learning in the area of Literacy, specifically writing. This is in support of our 2016 Action Plan in Literacy - *All students' writing will reflect an increased and richer vocabulary measured by a minimum growth of two clusters in K-2 and one cluster in 3-6*. This is building on the previous year's Action plan which also had a focus on writing. Thank you to Mrs Hurst, Literacy Coordinator, for planning and facilitating the day.

Thank you to the 111 parents who have so far participated in the online school survey. This provides us with valuable data and gives us direction in delivering our RE 2016 Action Plan - *For students to develop a higher consciousness of the presence of God in all aspects of their life evidenced through a survey and lived response*. We hope to promote and include all members of the community in the delivery of this plan. There is still time to do the survey which closes next Friday.

In Numeracy there is a focus on Stage 3, particularly in extending the students in their Mathematical thinking. A number of programs and strategies have been implemented to address this goal such as Maths Club, Maths Olympiad and extra support in class time for enrichment and challenging tasks.

Enrichment programs.

Over the past two years, Mrs Schroder has implemented and facilitated Boys' Shed program which has had positive impact on the learning and confidence building for those involved.

This year, Mrs Schroder has been employed an extra day to oversee the implementation of enrichment programs for some students in Years 4-6 that have either been selected or invited to apply if interested. A couple of these are debating (which we hope to have at a competition level with neighbouring schools later in the year) and Tournament of the Minds. This is yet another example of OLA's extracurricular activities catering to the diverse interests of the students.

Dates to Remember

Week 7: Catholic Schools Week

Mon 7th -Tues 8th Mar: Year 5 overnight Bathurst Camp; Thursday: community reading afternoon at 2.15pm; Friday: whole school writing task.

Week 8: Thurs 17th Mar: OLA Cross Country; Friday 18th: St Patrick's Fun Day- green mufti- bring a gold coin for Project Compassion;



...if your boss had this many notes representing the times his employees were late for work, what would he say?

This wad of notes represents the students who have been late for school or collected early, in less than one week! School is the training ground for establishing good habits for future adults. Please teach your children the importance of being punctual and reliable. It is worth noting that the CEDP,

in alignment with the Department, is having a much focused drive on students' absence and lack of punctuality. Partial absences are recoded on your child's mid and end of year report. It is not a good impression when a prospective high school sees 57 partial absences.

Traffic

Thank you to the parents who have modified their pick up and drop off times in the interest of alleviating traffic jams in the morning and afternoon.

Yesterday I was contacted by the Hills Council to inform me that they, in conjunction with the local police, are considering imposing a **'NO RIGHT TURN' into the school car park.** We can appreciate that this presents a considerable imposition to around 95% of us. I asked them to reconsider as I am working with the community to find a resolution. Because students inevitably arrive at the pick up zone at different time, PLEASE note the following advised pick up times.

- 3pm: 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

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.

The PLAY GYM gates are opened before school every morning. However, the school students know and have learned that this is not a play area in the morning. Please note that this also applies to toddlers. Establishing clear parameters and exercising discipline and self-control is good practice for your little ones in preparing for 'big school'. Thanks for your cooperation.

School Fees

I have been advised by the CEO that the school fees have been sent out. The due date for payment of the fees has been extended to **18th March 2016**. If you wish to take up the option of the flexible payment plan, these forms need to be back at the CEO by Monday 14th March 2016. If you have any queries at all about the fees, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Goldsworthy

Book Club

A new book club brochure went home this week. The return date is next Friday 11th March. Please remember NO CASH can be accepted. Preferred payment method is online at <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent.aspx> with the Loop system, otherwise you can forward a cheque to school and this will be forwarded on to Scholastic. For any discrepancies with the last order, we hope to have these rectified in the next week.

Banking

Please remember to send your bank books to school on Wednesday and they will be returned on Thursday. Thank you

Literacy News

Reading Afternoon

Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of reading out on the playground with their child. Our first will be next **Thursday 10th March at 2:15pm** during 'Catholic Schools Week'. Students and their families are invited to bring in their favourite book to read. Please note the change of date and time

Reading is Cool!

As part of our drive to raise the image of 'reading is cool', particularly among boys, we are seeking pictures of dads, or any males, reading a book.

This means one picture of dad/granddad/friend/ etc reading a picture book. If possible, a really good idea is a shot of the person in work dress - ie a policeman in uniform reading.

Thank you to these great role models!



You can even read in the pool!!

Reading at home

Beginning readers need to know that what they are doing is right so they can keep doing it. We can tell them with simple, specific praises. When your child is pointing to each word as he/she reads say, "I like how you're pointing to the words. That's just what good readers do."

When your child looks at the pictures to help figure out what a new word is say, "I like how you're looking at the pictures to help figure out that new word." By specific praise, you're helping your child develop good reading habits. This will help him/her become a stronger reader

Lisa Hurst
Literacy Coordinator

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

On Friday 26th February, Jesse Eldred represented not only OLA but the Hills Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. Jesse swam with lots of determination and pride. He entered in 5 events and placed in four of those events. At the end of the day, Jesse received the 11 Year Boys Runner-Up trophy, for his outstanding effort throughout the day.

Jesse will now represent the Parramatta Mackillop team at the NSWPCS swimming trials at the end of this month.



Mackillop trials

On Tuesday we had five students represent OLA to trial for girls and boys football Mackillop teams. The competition was extremely tough and our students played really well. Out of the five, two students were chosen to attend the second round of trials in Canberra. We wish Montana and Ella S the best of luck in the next round of the trials.

This Friday we also have three OLA students representing OLA in Mackillop teams and trials. We wish Tyler and Brock C all the best at the softball trials in Sydney and Claudia Coombes, who will be heading down to Wollongong to represent the Parramatta Diocese in the Mackillop team for tennis.

We are extremely proud of all our students!
Mrs Byrne

This Sunday's Gospel

5th Sunday of Lent-Gospel, Luke 18:9-14



He spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being upright and despised everyone else.

'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like everyone else, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again justified; the other did not. For everyone who raises himself up will be humbled, but anyone who humbles himself will be raised up.'

Reflection

A parable is a story told by Jesus to leave a message behind in our minds. A moral idea that can help us in our own faith journey and the way we treat others. Jesus told this parable to silence the murmuring Pharisees and teachers of law. The pretentious, like the wealthy will find it difficult to enter the Kingdom of God. We find that the 'sinner' in the parable, is inside the Kingdom while the 'holy one' is outside. It is jealousy, spite and anger that will block our hearts and minds to the Lord. It is the importance of repenting, being forgiven and forgiving others that guides us to enter the Kingdom of God. (God's Word-2016 Daily Reflections).

Community prayer box

Each morning our School Captains leave out a red letterbox for any special intentions our community would like us to pray for. Throughout Lent prayer is a way we can speak to God. We can ask for help, thanksgiving and prayers for those in our community who need our help. If you have a special intention please send it into school and have your child post it in the red letterbox. Each Monday at assembly we will dedicate our prayer to those in the community who need our prayers.

World Youth Day Raffle Tickets

If you have any WYD Raffle tickets at home, please return them on Monday, sold or unsold, as they need to be returned on Monday afternoon. Thank you

Project Compassion Boxes

Please remember that one way you can contribute and help others suffering from poverty during the Lent season is by contributing to your project compassion box. Please return all boxes by the Holy Thursday on the 24th March.

WRAPPED WITH LOVE

A few years ago, OLA participated in the Outreach program 'Wrapped with love'. Wrapped with love organises blankets to be distributed to the poor and homeless. As a community, we would like to be able to contribute to 'Wrapped with love' by creating blankets made with love.

How you can help:

- *Knit a square/s
- *Donate knitting needles
- *Donate 8 ply wool
- * Sew the squares together to make the blankets.



If you would like more information or patterns on the blankets, please go to:-

<http://www.wrapwithlove.org/knitting-patterns/>

This term there will be a lunch time knitting club where our senior students will be learning how to knit and creating squares. The more squares we get, the more blankets we can make and contribute to the foundation.

If any parent or grandparent is available on Tuesday lunchtime to help teach the students to knit, we would love to hear from you.

**Mrs Katrina Byrne
Acting Religious Education Coordinator**

OLA Boot Camp Challenge!



In the next few terms, we would like to give the whole school the opportunity to participate in Boot Camp.

Thank you to Mrs Byrne and Ms Grima who, supported by other teachers, run boot camp each week. Their generosity of time and self has made an enormous difference to these students.

Imagine if we could fill the grass area with students and adults, everyone participating in a short fitness session!

This is an invitation to all students and their parents to join in a ‘one off’ Boot Camp session this term on **Tuesday the 22nd March, at 8am**. (Due to the anticipated numbers on the day, there will be no breakfast provided for the students and they will need to pack an extra piece of fruit/popper and water for the morning.)



We are hoping this will build community spirit, as well as a fun fitness activity. We will also use this opportunity to raise money for WYD 2016. If you are willing and able to join us on the 22nd please bring a gold coin donation to support the WYD pilgrimage. We hope to invite the newspapers, so a great number of participants would make the grass a fantastic fitness display!

Miss Grima will act as the ‘personal trainer’ and promises to show mercy – after all, it is the Year of Mercy’ ;-)

P&F NEWS

PARISH BALL



Would you like to dress up and go out for a fun night with friends?

Join us at the Parish Ball on Saturday April 2nd, Castle Hill RSL. Tickets \$75. You can join our tables of school parents or book one of your own. With or without a partner... Contact us via FB or email or pop in to the Parish Office. Hope to see you there ☺

****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!**

Our Lady of the Angels P&F Association



FROM THE CLASSROOM...5G

On Tuesday 1st March, all Stage 3 children were invited to go and visit St Mark's Catholic High School. The students were greeted by the principal, Dr Webster, and shown around by some very enthusiastic Year 8 'Tour Guides'. We got to see so many things but one of the highlights was watching a 3D printer make a plastic ring. During morning tea, Dr Webster challenged some of the children in a game of handball. Olivia reminded Dr Webster that it was her birthday, so we all sang to her and gave her lots of birthday claps! We had a great time and the Stage 3 children were a credit to OLA. Several staff member from St Mark's commented on how wonderfully behaved they all were. We hope you enjoy some of the photos we took on the day. Mrs Zivic



St Mark's College

2016 OPEN DAY - SECONDARY WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH

Tours commence at 4.00 pm, 4.30 pm and 5.00 pm. Our College Principal, Dr Peter Webster, will give an address followed by student led tours of our learning spaces and facilities. All welcome!

From the Parish Office...

Sacraments of Initiation

First Communion For those Children who have completed their Reconciliation in 2016 First Communion will take place in June 2016. The first Parent-only session will be held on **Thursday, 19 May at 7.30pm.**

If you have a child in Year 3 or an older grade who has completed their Reconciliation and is not registered for First Communion, we ask that you contact the parish office for further information.

Bingo

You are invited to come along to our Bingo Night on Saturday, 12 March after the 5.30pm Mass. If you are interested, just email me back and I will add your name to the list. Cost is \$10 for 3 books. BYO: nibblies & drink.

Parish Ball

On Saturday, 2 April, the Parish will be holding a Ball at the Castle Hill RSL Club. Tickets are now on sale for \$75-. Please contact the parish office for further information.

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday: normal mass times

Solemn entrance at the 10am Mass

Holy Thursday: Evening Mass of the Last Supper 7.30pm
Adoration will be available till night prayer at 10pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am
Confessions available after the stations
The Passion Liturgy 3pm

Easter Vigil: Saturday evening 7pm

Easter Sunday: 8.30am, 10am and 5.30pm

After Mass, there will be a special morning tea and Easter eggs from the Easter Bunny!

Please bring a plate to share for morning tea!!

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

Assistant Priest: Fr John Rizzo

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



What people say about our wonderful school...

"All the extra time and efforts put in by you both and the other teachers, is greatly appreciated. Our children are so blessed to have such dedicated teachers who are willing to give a lot of their own time to ensure our children can be involved in a variety of experiences."
(name provided)

Until next week, God bless and stay safe.

Eva La Rocca, Principal

St John Paul II Catholic College

Formerly Terra Sancta College



OPEN AFTERNOON-EVENING

MONDAY 14TH MARCH

4PM to 8PM – SCHOFIELDS CAMPUS

CALL 9208 7200 or find us on Facebook



MARIAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING – TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2016

Marian Catholic College extends an invitation to prospective students and their families, to attend our annual Open Evening. This year there will be **two repeated** sessions to showcase the students and the learning experiences offered by the College. The session times will be run at **4:00 pm and 6:00pm**

Each session will commence in the Shared Hall, where the Principal and students will provide information about school life at Marian Catholic College.

Each information session will be followed by Guided Tours of the school. Visitors will be able to take part in the activities that will be showcased at the various tour stops.**NOTE: Each** session will follow **exactly** the same format, so please come to the session time that best suits you.