

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

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back to school for 2018. How delightful it is to see all the students, glowing from a good holiday and enthusiastic to learn. The staff began the year as we always do, with Mass. I would like to thank Fr Warren for coming in at 8am on Monday, his day off work. The readings of the day were a little heavy with a focus on demons and demonic behaviour. We can take from it that it is our role, parents and educators, to teach those in our care the Christian way to greet and treat all those we encounter, to show others the face of our loving God through our own words and actions.

I would like to acknowledge staff that spent days at school during the holidays preparing for their students. Welcome, officially, to two new staff members – Mrs Sullivan (KB) who comes with years of experience and expertise, especially in the area of learning in the early years, and Miss Digwood who joins the Year 5 team, an enthusiastic and talented teacher, still early in her teaching career. They join our excellent staff at OLA and I am confident will contribute further to an already highly professional and dedicated team.

Special welcome to all the new students and their families, especially the Kinder students who started yesterday. OLA welcomed 85 kinder students this year, a far cry from the original 19 in 2009. Balloons lined the way that welcomed these little boys and girls in sea of smiling and teary faces, the tears mostly from their parents. Thank you to the P&F for organising 'tea and tissues' which was very well received.



*Kinder students above are Benjamin Robertson and Anne-Marie Blazey, the youngest siblings of two of our first 19 students. A throng of parents and grandparents (right)*



**Welcome to big school**



## Dates to Remember

**Week 2:** Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Census day; 2.40pm Primary Assembly – 6B

**Week 3:**

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup>** Ash Wednesday Mass 9am-Whole school

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup>:**

BBQ Social commencing at 5.30pm- 7pm (refer to newsletter for details);

6pm info session on PBS4L

6.30pm: Parent information session Kinder – Year 2

7pm: Parent information session Year 3- Year 6

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup>:** 9am Opening Year Mass followed by SRC Commissioning Ceremony;

2.40pm: Infants Assembly - 2B

**Changes to the calendar:** 2019 Kinder Enrolment Information Night is now on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Dancefever Interschool Challenge (Yrs 3-6) is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

## Gospel Reflection Sunday 4th February (5th Sunday of Ordinary Time)



### ***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk 1:29-39)***

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straight away. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

## Gospel Reflection

The Gospel of Mark offers hope in the face of human afflictions, as Jesus heals sick people and expels demons. Proclaiming the Gospel in word and action exhausts the body and spirit, so Jesus retreats to spend time in prayer. In doing so, he finds new vigour and strength to continue his mission of proclaiming the Good News.

### ***Applying the Gospel to our own lives***

In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this. It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead.

Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead. Take time each day to pray. Prayer can be simple, it is a time where we are still and silent. Take time to think of people who need your prayers, think of people you can lean on in times of despair, discouragement and hopelessness.

H = those we can go to help us when we are in trouble.

O = those who are open to us when we need to talk.

P = those we can pray with and share our faith.

E = those who encourage us and support us to keep going.



With some 40 million men, women and children trapped in slavery globally, we are now living in a world in which more people are trapped and traded than were bought and sold during the entire Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Of these enslaved millions, one quarter are kids. We can all contribute to ending slavery and Catholic schools

have a central role to play. Pope Francis is calling all of us to join to end slavery and in Australia this campaign is being coordinated by the Anti-Slavery Taskforce in Sydney.

The Council of Catholic School Parents supports the campaign and we encourage your school to get on board. On 8 February 2018, join Pope Francis and Catholics the world over to commemorate *St Bakhita's Day*, the patron saint for victims of slavery. Please join us in prayer for the eradication of modern slavery and human trafficking.

If you have any enquiries contact CCSP Executive Director Linda

McNeil [linda.mcneil@ccsp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:linda.mcneil@ccsp.catholic.edu.au) or

Katherine Moloney, Director of Research and Executive Officer, Anti-Slavery Taskforce, at [katherine.moloney@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:katherine.moloney@sydneycatholic.org)

## Parent Information Night /BBQ Social Evening

Each year in Week 3, the school holds an information evening for parents with their children's class teacher. We also have a separate evening for a social meet and greet. This year we are combining the two events. As Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and Friday is in Lent, this will be held on

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February.**

\*BBQ will be served from 5.30pm-7pm

\*6pm Mrs Schroder will be providing a brief information session (optional) on PBS4L – Positive Behaviour for Learning. This will be held in the library  
The grade information sessions will be in your child's learning space.

\*Kinder to Year 2 will run from 6.30 – 6.55pm

\*Year 3- Year 6 will run from 7-7.30pm.

If you have two sessions at the same time, our advice is to attend that of the oldest child as you have already experienced the younger. Please remember that this is a brief and general information session and not a time to ask teachers about your child.

The sessions are for parents, not for children. Children are welcome to play on the oval under teacher supervision while you attend the information sessions.

We hope that you find the BBQ a convenience as well as an opportunity to have a chat with other parents and teachers.

For catering purpose, all **BBQ meals need to be purchased in advance, with a token provided for each meal to be presented on the night.**



This is a sausage on a roll + a bottle of water = \$2 (onions for adults if you're quick)

**There will be no sales on the night, only those pre-ordered.**

**Please refer to the letter your child received today. Complete the tear off the slip below and return it to school with the correct money. All orders to be in by next Friday, 9th February.**

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**Little things make your child resilient and independent...**

\*Like being at school on time

\*Like not carrying their bag for them

\*Letting them pack their own bag

\*Like not making exceptions for them -they want to be like everyone else

This seminar might be of interest to some...

<https://www.maggiedent.com/raising-children-who-shine/>

## REMINDER:

### Acceptable Hair Styles for Boys.

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."*

This includes boys' long hair in pony tails. Thank you to all those who have noted this expectation.



## Coles Sports for Schools

Please support OLA in the Coles Sports for schools program. Here are the details:

- \* For every \$10 spent at Coles, customers will receive 1 Sports for Schools voucher.
- \* The vouchers need to be placed in the collection bin located in the school office.
- \* Every voucher received by the school will go towards our overall tally. We will then be able to order sports equipment that our school needs to the value of the vouchers.
- \* Program commences 7th February - April 3rd.

Make sure that you encourage family and friends to help OLA reach our target.

Mr Steve Cauchi  
Assistant Principal

### School Fees

The CEO will be sending out the school fees in the next two weeks and the term 1 fees are due and payable on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, unless you are opting to pay by the flexible payment plan. 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 next, 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.

### Book Club

Year 1-6 will receive bookclub today. Due date is next Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Please remember all payments are to be made online. NO CASH can be accepted at school. Please do not feel obliged to buy anything from bookclub, it is optional and purely an opportunity to grab a bargain sometimes.

## SPORT @ OLA

### Swimming Carnival 2018

Next week, all students who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall in all 100m/50m races will receive their ribbons. Students who broke record on the day will not receive their ribbons until the Swimming Carnival Presentation at the Primary Assembly in Week 2 at 2.30.

### 2018 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials Expression of Interests close THIS Friday 2nd February for ALL TEAM Sports;

AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Football (Soccer), Netball, Rugby League 11 Years, Rugby League Opens, Rugby Union, Softball, Touch Football. Please go to the website to complete registrations. Please only register once per sport using the link below by choosing the sport that you are nominating your child for and upon pressing the submit button a reply email should be received to confirm the nomination. Schools will be notified in approx 10 days after the closing date of nominations. <http://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au/rep-selections>

### February

9th February- Primary Assembly and Swimming Carnival presentation (Record breakers, Age Champions, winning House and winner of the Spirit Cup.)

19th February-Hills Zone swimming Carnival

23rd February-Diocesan Swimming Carnival



# From the classroom of 5B

Year 5 has begun the 2018 school year with excitement and anticipation. This term in History, Year 5 will be exploring 'Australian colonies' and to introduce the unit we began the term with a 'Colonial Day'. We participated in activities to build our knowledge of people in history who shaped Australia. We completed our first piece of writing for the year, a letter which used persuasive language asking to be pardoned for our crimes. We all enjoyed our day, especially being able to dress up in our colonial costumes and discuss what we will be learning about this term.

## Convict letter written by Bella Molano

January 5th, 1842

Dear Governor Phillip,

I am writing this letter to ask you to pardon me. As you may already know my name is Jane Robertson and I am a convict who was on the ship called Rajah. The crime I have committed is theft; I stole 2 loaves of bread from a wealthy family.

I am very and truly sorry for committing my crime. My family is very poor and we really needed the food. I have a family of 5 and my parents really struggle to look after us. I have been on in jail for a year now, and I have learnt how to knit clothes, and I am very good at it. Maybe if I can be let free I can knit clothes for your soldiers and their families. For what I have been through so far, I will not steal food or do any crime again.

I will work hard for my family and make money so I do not have to steal from wealthy families. So, please Governor Phillip, please let me be pardoned.

Kind regards,  
Jane Robertson.



## 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.



### **PBS4L - Positive Behaviour Support for Learning**

*Our Lady of the Angels school has implemented a framework called PBS4L. The framework establishes common expectations for all - teachers, parents and students - treating all with respect.*

*PBS4L follows our school rules:*

- Respect for self*
- Respect for others*
- Respect for environment*

*The purpose of the framework is:*

- o to reduce behavioural problems in a proactive way and therefore increase time for instruction and learning*
- o to help all students feel connected to the whole school community*
- o to increase wellbeing*
- o to reduce absenteeism*
- o to create a positive school climate*
- o to maximise learning*

*Teachers have created lessons to teach the children the behaviour expectations in all settings across the school.*

*If you would like to know more about our PBS4L framework, there will be an information session at 6pm on Thursday, February 15. All welcome.*

*Jan Schroder  
PBS4L Coordinator*



# P&F NEWS



A special thank you to the Year 1 families 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!



## SPECIAL TREATS

Great news! 50 cent Special Treats will return **NEXT** Friday!

A huge thanks to all of the parent helpers who have volunteered their time to assist this term. 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. At this stage there is an overwhelming supply of sizes 4 and 6. 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.

## P&F GENERAL MEETING

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

**WEDNESDAY February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**7.00pm Constable Rob Patterson 'Cyber Safety'**



\*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](mailto: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*

Congratulations to the Colosimo family of the arrival of a new baby boy, a brother for John Paul, Sal and Olivia. We look forward to meeting him very soon.



Also Congratulations and welcome to Valentina Mangano, a sister for Sophia Mangano- in Year 1. We look forward to meeting this little one soon,



Congratulations to Lauren Eyles who made the unselfish decision to have her beautiful hair cut off and donated to raise money for 'Hair for Heart'. Well done. Lauren. 😊



### From the Parish Office...

**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

## Uniform Shop

The OLA Uniform Shop is open on Mondays from 8.20am – 9.30am

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.

**Every day matters!** The cumulative effect of absenteeism can have a significant impact on learning, social and emotional wellbeing.

Please note the change that, soon, the roll will be taken on the line at 8.50am, the official start of school. It is important that your child is at school on time to avoid a history of partial absences.

If your child is absent...	That equates to...	Which is...	And over their school life from Kinder to year 12 that is...
1 day per fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks a year	Almost 1 and a half years of school
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks a year	Over 2 and a half years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks a year	Over 5 years of school

*Until next week, God bless and stay safe. Eva La Rocca, Principal*