



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
Vol. 1 No. 1

31st January 2020
Term 1, Week 1

Welcome to the 2020 School Year

Dear Parents,

First and foremost, thank you for your kind words of welcome and for your well wishes in my role as Principal of OLA (I will add a little about my 35 year journey of catholic education in upcoming newsletters, which for term 1 will be sent home weekly on a Friday by email). I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and your beautiful children over the week. Please take the time to say hello over the many upcoming event.

Together, as a community of students, parents, teachers and parish, we look forward to working in partnership towards providing a high level of quality Catholic Education to our students, developing them spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

I sincerely hope that the holiday period was a treasured time of relaxation, laughter, memories in the making, family and friends.

Congratulations on a wonderful start to the school year by all the children, particularly given the hot weather conditions this week. I have been very proud to see the children quickly settling into their learning and living in harmony with each other.

My sincere thanks to all the staff for beginning the year with such enthusiasm and care in their privileged roles. They are an outstanding team of educators. This year we welcome Miss Zoe Brown as the teacher for 1G.

We ask for God's blessings over our Christ centred community of new and existing families, staff and religious as we embark on our 11th year of providing a high level of quality Catholic Education for the children, who are our first priority. A rewarding journey into 2020 awaits as we aim to develop the whole child and foster their lifelong relationship with Christ. As parents and partners in your child's education I encourage you to work alongside the talented, dedicated and professional staff here at OLA as they provide and facilitate opportunities for your child to grow to their full potential. Your support is appreciated and is an integral part of the success of OLA.

You should be extremely proud of your school, OLA, and its welcoming atmosphere. The way that over 570 children gather together each day is indeed unique and special. I look forward to a great year of faith, fun and learning and working with you as the first educators of your children to make 2020 a most rewarding year.

Congratulations to Mrs Grunsell and her husband Kevin, and Mrs Hodgess and her husband Luke, on the announcement of their exciting news, that they will be expecting new family members towards the middle of the year. We wish them both a healthy pregnancy and Christ's blessings during this special time.

Thank you for your continued support. It is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

Tony Calabria
Principal

Welcome

We would like to welcome 27 new families from years 1 - 6 to our school this week:-

Davidson Family – Asher 1B, Oliver 5W	Macquet-Maurel Family – Nevaeh 1B, Damien 2B	
Mathew Family -Elisheba 1B, Ethnan 4G	Myhre Fox Family – Lauren 2B, Magnus 3G	
Scanes Family – Ryan 1W, Luke 3B	Wang Family – Marcus 1B	
Tan Family – Caleb 1G	Eyres Family – Charlotte 1W	Foley Family – Cooper 1W
Teng Family – Lurich 2G	Spiteri Family – Daniella 2W	Capco Family – Lucas 2W
Batra Family – Skye 3B	Naidoo Family – Aaliyah 3G	Baba Family – Noah 3W
Sleiman Family – Mason 3W	Lee Family – Mia 4B	Song Family – Elise 4B
AdamsFamily – Zali 4G	Ghangurde – Hridaya 4G	Wang Family – Zoe 4W
Boyd Family - Meliya 5B	Chetty – Nidhi 5B	Higham Family – Cassandra 5G
Chugh Family – Javin 5G	Hundal – Ekamveer 5G	Rajbhandari Family – Mihir 5W

We hope that your years here with us at OLA will be richly blessed and that you will make good friends and experience learning that is meaningful, exciting and growth promoting.

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 2nd February Gospel Reflection Presentation of the Lord: Year A



[Lk 2:22-40](#) (Please click on the bible reference to read this Sunday's Gospel)

'Simeon recognises the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah.'

Living the Gospel

This Sunday's Gospel celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Because Simeon and Anna lived lives of prayer and fasting in the Temple, they were filled with the Spirit of God. That is why they were able to identify Jesus as the Saviour even though Jesus was only a baby. To these two holy people, he was recognizable as the Redeemer who had been promised. Simeon described Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

We too are called to recognize Jesus as Lord. Together as a family discuss ways to recognize Jesus as Lord by praying and attending Mass, fasting, and serving others. As a family, decide on one specific sacrifice you can make in order to alleviate the suffering or need of someone you know.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH IN RE

WEEK THREE:

Thursday 13th February: Opening School Mass and SRC Commissioning

WEEK FIVE: Tuesday 25th February: Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 26th February: Ash Wednesday (Whole school parish mass @ 9 am)



Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who celebrated their birthday in JANUARY

Wed 1st

Tayah Youssef
Zoe Wang
Luis Bonney
Aidan Vilathgamuwa

Wed 15th

Alfonso Santiago

Thurs 16th

Myra Batra

Thurs 2nd

Ella Dimech

Fri 17th

Locke Singh
Venus Mabhena
Joseph Abdallah

Fri 3rd

Keanu Edelinski
Javin Chugh
Georgia Sourial

Mon 20th

Hamish Clarke

Sat 4th

Aidan Harvey

Tues 21st

Aurelia Gresser
Maddison Cutland
Thomas Weldon
Lucas Richardson

Sun 5th

Reyansh Gupta

Tues 7th

Mackenzie Molloy
Keeley Vaughan
Alysha Balangon

Wed 22nd

Cohan Sommer
Evelyn McKee

Wed 8th

Emily Cook

Thurs 23rd

Mia Lesar

Thurs 9th

Zara Zivic

Sat 25th

Harrison Jones

Fri 10th

Jasmine Vella

Mon 27th

Brianna Charlton

Sat 11th

Janiya DeLaCruz
Xavier Fava
Blake Saward

Tues 28th

Emma Cleary

Sun 12th

Ilana McGrath
Abbey Zahra

Fri 31st

Brandon Makdessi
Sean McKeever
Mikyla Ghobrial

Mon 13th

Rose Montgomery

Tues 14th

Joshua Robertson
Fionn Galway

Parent Information Night

Each year in Week 3, the school holds an information evening for parents with their children's class teacher. We hope that you can attend so as to enhance the learning of your child by being fully informed of the processes, procedures and content for your child's new grade and stage of learning. Your support and partnership is extremely valued and appreciated.

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.

Supporting and Extending your Child's Learning

Over the next few weeks, the teachers will extensively assess your child so as to get to know their strengths and areas of need. They will also read each child's file and reports so as to get a better perception of their past performance and successes. It is important to have a good understanding of each child's needs before launching into the programming of work, so that it meets these needs.

Please return the Student Information form coming home today no later than **Thursday 6th February**, so that your valuable input can be utilised to assist your child.

Save the Date

OLA's Opening School Mass and SRC Commissioning for 2020 will be on Thursday, 13th February at 9.00am. ALL WELCOME

Dates to Remember

	Week 2:
Mon 3rd Feb	Kindergarten commence 8.50am Tea & Tissues for Kindy Parents
Tues 4th Feb	Swimming Carnival Yrs 3 – 6
Thurs 6th Feb	Yr 6 Leadership Day
Fri 7th Feb	Primary Assembly 2:40pm
	Week 3:
Mon 10th Feb	Yr 2 Excursion to Rouse Hill Farm
Wed 12th Feb	BBQ for Kindy & New Families 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Information Sessions for all Parents 6.30pm – 6.55pm K – Yr 2 7.00pm – 7.30pm Yr 3 – Yr 6
Thurs 13th Feb	Opening School Mass 9.00am SRC Commissioning – All Welcome
Fri 14th Feb	Zone Swimming Carnival Infants Assembly 2:40pm School Census Day

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, parents are requested not to send nuts or foods containing nuts to school with their children.

The following list gives examples of such foods:-

- Peanuts, hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, macadamia nuts
- Peanut butter
- Nutella
- Biscuits and cakes containing nuts
- Snack packs containing nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts, eg Picnics, Mars Bars (almond), Nut Breaks and Fruit & Nut Chocolates
- Marzipan and nougat
- Muesli bars and snack bars containing nuts
- Yoghurt and nut mixer packs
- Confectionery items such as Lolly Gobble Bliss Boms and Rocky Road
- Uncle Toby's yoghurt museli bars

We realise that there may be trace elements of nuts in a variety of other foods. However, if you use the above list as a guide you will be doing your part. Parents can also reinforce with their children that sharing food is not allowed at OLA.

Kindergarten and New Families BBQ Wednesday 12th March

We look forward to gathering with our new families across Years 1 – 6 and all kindergarten families on Wednesday 12th March from 5.30pm – 6.30pm under the COLA. An invitation will go home next week with further information.

School Census Day - Friday 14th February

Friday 14th February is the school census day. All children should attend school on this day and absence should only be if it is absolutely necessary.

If you know that your child will be away on 7th February, please email ola@parra.catholic.edu.au advising the reason for the absence and when they will return.

This is of course a requirement that applies to everyday of the school year, however Census data is directly related to Government funding for our schools and the requirements outlined above are set by the Department of Education. Thank you for your co-operation.

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/volunteers>

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

We strongly encourage all parents to undertake this very quick online process every February every two years. Our suggestion is to do it every even year, ie 2020, 2022 etc

SOME THINGS TO NOTE PLEASE...

- Children are not permitted to play on the primary gym out of official OLA school hours.
- Parents collecting students at the end of the day are asked to wait in the basketball area and keep the area around the stage and infants' gym free of traffic. Teachers will escort all students to the basketball court area.
- Please exit via the gate closest to parish office
- Parents/grandparents using the drive through in the afternoon are reminded to stagger the pick-up times as follows:

If your OLDEST child is in KINDERGARTEN, your pickup time is 3PM.

NO OTHER PARENTS SHOULD BE ARRIVING BEFORE 3.10pm.

If your **oldest** child is in Year 1 or Year 2, please pick up from 3.10pm

If your **oldest** child is in Year 3 or Year 4, please pick up from 3.20pm

If your **oldest** child is in Year 5 or Year 6, please pick up from 3.30pm.

All younger siblings will wait with the oldest sibling, under teacher supervision

- **Parking is limited in and around the school (Rangers have already been spotted during drop-off and pick-up). Please utilise the parking at both ovals across the road and walk into school or meet your children there.**

These requests are in the interest of all students' safety and smooth running of the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

OLA Swimming Carnival

The OLA Swimming Carnival will be held this Tuesday, 4th February for years 3 – 6. All students, except for those competing in the 100m races, are required to come to school as normal and will catch a bus out to Hawkesbury Leisure Centre. Students can leave the carnival at the end of the day with their parents, once they have been signed out. Otherwise they will return to school on the bus for normal afternoon dismissal.

A new permission slip was sent home yesterday with the students. If it has not been returned today, please ensure that it is returned on Monday.

From the Office....

Thank you to all parents for your patience during the first week of school. The office desk and phone is often at its busiest at this time of year and so we 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 come into the school. It also helps the children develop responsibility for passing on information. For those new to school life, if a note says, 'please return to the office' we mean for it to come through the notebag to the office. Thanks

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.

Visiting the School - A reminder that during school hours, other than major events, **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 your child arrives **at 8.50am or later**, you need to come into the office to sign them in. If there is a need to pick up your child early, please **DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE** to ask that your child is ready for when you get here. They will be called only when a parent has arrived to collect them. This is in the interest of minimising work in what is already a very busy office and in reducing the amount of lost learning time for your child. It is also recommended that appointments are made out of school time, wherever possible.

Exemption for Leave Form - If you are taking your child on holidays and they will miss 5 days or more from school, an Exemption for Leave Form **MUST** be completed prior to the leave and sent to the office. A certificate will then be completed and sent home. If notification is given either during or after the leave, then your child's roll will be marked as 'unexplained' leave.

School Fees - The CEO will be sending out the school fees over the two weeks. A note will be sent home next week explaining the fees for this year. This information will also be placed on our website. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

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

Student's Birthday -

Celebrating a birthday is something all children look forward to! If your child wishes to bring a treat to school to share with their friends (**purely optional and not needed**) we kindly ask that you send in cupcakes or donuts. Cupcakes and donuts are preferred as they are easy to hand out and are a treat that all children enjoy. Due to the multitude of allergies present, we ask that you do not send lollies, chocolates or other treats in. Similarly at Easter or Christmas, we ask that you do not send in lollies, chocolates or candy canes.

Please note, although a lovely idea, ice blocks are **NOT** to be sent in as they are not practical as we have limited freezer space. If your child has allergies, you are welcome to send some cakes in a labelled container for your child, which will be kept in the freezer in the staffroom and given out as necessary. Thank you for supporting us as we endeavour to keep all children safe and happy.

School Banking

School banking has now commenced. Please bring the bank books in on Wednesday and they will be returned on Thursday. Banking packs have been sent home with kindergarten today and if any other students in the school would like a pack, please let the office know and we will send one home.

Communications/Emails

We ask for your patience with our emails as we are trying to clean up the email addresses in Google Contacts. Please ensure that we have your current email address. We would also ask parents to download the Skoolbag App as this is also another form of communication that we use. Instructions are on the following page.

Thank you.

Skoolbag App

Our School has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent community. We are asking parents to install our Skoolbag App. 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.



Please ensure that you have updated your settings to receive the correct push notifications. You will receive alerts specific to the selected grade and all alerts sent as a whole school.

Below are installation instructions for the Skoolbag app.

*** SkoolBag App: The homescreen for school life**

- Simple Navigation**
General Tab for "All school" info
- Instant Customisation**
Tiles highlight important information, files and updates
- Easy Navigation**
To Events, Profile & Notifications
- Flexible Branding**
for consistency and presence
- Quick Access**
to Content Groups & eForms
- Post from the app**
for approved admins

SkoolBag

*** SkoolBag App: The Feed & Notifications**

- Discover School**
Product Updates, Guides & Content
- The Feed**
All posts appear chronologically
- Notifications Tab**
Shows history of all "push" notifications received

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.