



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
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27th November, 2020
Term 4, Week 7

End of Year Celebrations

Dear Parents

Due to Covid restrictions this year, a number of events will need to be modified. Our end of year Mass in the church will not be able to take place. As a result, we will be holding an outdoor prayer liturgy for students only on **Monday 14th December** at 10.00am. Fr Carlos will lead us in prayer on this special occasion. We will record this event and post it on our Facebook page. This prayer liturgy will be an opportunity to celebrate the amazing year that we have had and to give thanks to our Lord for all his blessings. We will also take this opportunity to farewell our Year 6 students and acknowledge the wonderful partnership between home and school of our OLA Christ Centered community that has achieved so much this year, particularly in the face of such adversity.

Our annual Christmas concert will be replaced with a virtual celebration focusing on Hope and the message of Christmas. This will be recorded and also posted in the last week of school as we celebrate the coming of Christ. Keep an eye out for further details.

Our Year 6 Graduation will take place on **Tuesday 15th December** at 6.30pm with limited numbers. Information regarding this evening was sent home via email to Year 6 parents on Thursday 12th November. The Year 6 students will also have a special luncheon at school and a guard of honour on the Tuesday.

The children have been incredible this year and their learning has continued from strength to strength. To celebrate the year that was 2020, we have organized two special events for the children. On **Wednesday 9th December** we will have two massive blowup water slippery slides for the children to enjoy. The children will be rostered in grade groups for this wet and wild experience. (Details to follow). Finally, to conclude on **Wednesday 16th December**, the last day of school for the children, we will hold our annual Motiv8 day which will see the children participate in a myriad of challenges and fun activities.

The joyous Christmas season is upon us and this Sunday marks the start of Advent.



During the First Week of Advent, we watch and pray, awaiting the Lord's coming. As we enter the Church's new year, the season of Advent reminds us that we can look forward to and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It is a season of so many things: of expectation, reflection, hope and trust. We are constantly in a state of expectation, always in advent, so much so that we can miss the present moment where, inevitably, God will be.

Thank you for your continued support.

It is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

*Tony Calabria
Principal*

Theme of the Week "Always be Prepared"

Our theme this week is related to the special time of Advent which begins this Sunday as we begin our preparations for the coming of Christ at the special time of Christmas. This theme also reinforces in children the need to be well prepared in their everyday life, from having their school learning materials to being able to plan ahead for events, etc, as opposed to last minute panic and parent rescues. A lot can be learnt from the old says of: **"In failing to prepare, you are preparing**

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NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)



Mk 13:33-37

Gospel Reflection

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

Living the Gospel

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. is to live our lives as if the Kingdom is already here.

(LiturgyHelp.com.au, 27-11-2020)



Faithful Friday on FaceBook



Year Two this term have been learning about how their negative an positive choices affect others. Their focus has been how forgiveness help us to become a peacemaker.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation for Year 2 students which is usually prepared for and received in Term 4, has been postponed until Term 1, 2021.

Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who are celebrating their birthday this coming week...

Mon 30th Nov

Brandon Ciantar
Ella Ciantar
Alissar El Khoury
Joshua Muscat

Thurs 3rd Dec

Jack Maher
Jeremiah Mataia
Lily Quinlan

Tues 1st Dec

Dylan Halwani

Sat 5th Dec

Mr Luke Campbell

Wed 2nd Dec

Grace Maddaford
Ciaran McKeever
Kate McKeever
Amelia Raad
Cooper Ross

Sun 6th Dec

Charlotte Holden



Dates to Remember

- Mon 30th Nov** Primary Competitors Swimming Carnival (Only for those students already nominated)
- Wed 2nd Dec** Yrs 3-6 Spelling Bee Finals
- Mon 7th Dec** Last day of trading for Uniform Shop
- Wed 9th Dec** Last day for any receipting of over the counter fees etc.
Students' Fun Day –
Wet and Wild Experience – Details to follow
- Mon 14th Dec** End of Year Liturgy – Students only
- Tues 15th Dec** Year 6 End of Year Luncheon
Year 6 Graduation Mass 6.30pm
- Wed 16th Dec** Motiv8 Fun Day – Details to follow
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Start of School Dates for 2021

- Week 1** Wed 27th Jan Staff
Thurs 28th Jan MAI Assessments
Fri 29th Jan Years 1 – 6 Start School
- 27th – 29th January Kindy 2021 Assessments (90 min session on any of these days)
- Week 2** Mon 1st Feb Kindy Start School
- End of Term 1** Thurs 1st April.

IF YOU'RE FEELING UNWELL

Stay home until your symptoms go away



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath

CHRISTMAS ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER APPEAL

Advent is a time for prayer, forgiveness and almsgiving to prepare for the coming of Christ. This year the OLA community will be collecting items to make up hampers to spread God's love and give people hope. Below is a list of items we would like each grade to donate. St Vincent de Paul will collect items on the 11th December. Please send donations in before the 10th December.



Kindergarten – chips, biscuits, crackers, shortbread

Years 1 & 2 – chocolates, custard, pudding, jelly, canned fruit, decorations

Years 3 & 4 – pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned vegetables, canned fish

Years 5 & 6 – Dignity packs – deodorant, soap, face washes, hand cream, pads, toothbrush, tampons,

shower gel, tissues,

Diapers free and Staff- Dignity packs-deodorant, soap, face washes, hand cream, pads, toothbrush, tampons, shower gel,

End of Year Reports

The End of Year report refers to the second half of the year (ie, first semester of learning, second semester of learning). Each year/semester introduces different concepts, content units and skills etc, which can increase in difficulty from the year before. It is therefore possible that your child's achievement level in a particular Key Learning Area may change. Comparative data for Years 1-6 is included with your child's report as per Diocesan Policy. This style of reporting mandated by the Government involves a great deal of processing before arriving at an achievement level for each Key Learning Area. There are many assessments undertaken, work samples examined, observations made, and needs discussed.

Together the school and you form an important partnership. This partnership supports your children in reaching their potential so that home and school are united in their approach.

Many thanks to our dedicated teachers for always making themselves available to you. Our teachers here at OLA are a truly gifted team of Educators. They themselves are committed learners who strive to provide quality Catholic Education for our students. The role of a teacher is never easy, it is a challenge, but it is without doubt one of the most rewarding careers. Teachers not only work with the children who are our future but are part of the Church's mission in passing on our Gospel values. The commitment, passion and care our teachers and staff bring to their vital role is what helps make our school so great.

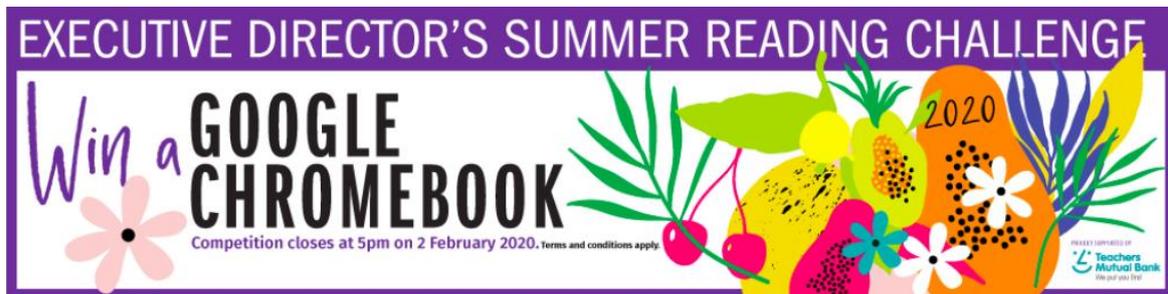
To help put the A-E reporting system into perspective, it may be useful to look at the analogy below using driving experience in an E-A context:-

A	B	C	D	E
Grand Prix racer	Advanced driver training with extra skills	Full drivers licence, like most of us!	A person on "P" plates drives independently but still learning.	A person on "L" plates must always be accompanied by an experienced driver.
				

KINDERGARTEN 2021 STUDENTS TRANSITION PROGRAM ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Today we held our final 2021 Kindergarten orientation. The children were just beautiful and are eager to soon begin their formal schooling at OLA.





These summer holidays, Mr Whitby is again launching his **Summer Reading Challenge** and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.

Taking part in the **Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge** is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell them in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website.

This year Mr Whitby is introducing **Student Reading Ambassadors** for the challenge. The role of the Student Reading Ambassador is to creatively encourage their peers to participate and enter the competition. Schools are then invited to nominate one outstanding Student Reading Ambassador for one of 10 prizes (each prize is a \$30 gift voucher).

Source: PETAA Parent Resource



Dates for diaries

2020 Spelling Bee

Week 8- Years 3-6 Spelling Bee Final on Wed 2nd December.

Are you Still Regularly Late?

School begins at 8.50am sharp. Thank you to the parents who ensure their children are at school on time. Students who are late miss important announcements and, more significantly, vital learning in the classroom. Additionally, late children disturb the learning of others and are very self-conscious of entering after everyone else. Surprisingly, the children blame mum or dad not being ready whilst mum or dad tend to say it's the children.

If your child is arriving at school after 8.50am, please ensure that you accompany them to the office to sign a partial absence slip.

Christmas Treats

In these last weeks of school, children like to carry out the Christmas spirit by sending and receiving Christmas cards with lovely messages of joy and thanks. This is a lovely gesture. As there are a number of children at OLA who have severe allergies we kindly ask that you do not send in any edible treats for the children to give to each other, particularly as is still the case due to COVID. This particularly includes candy canes. We ask this so that our school community remains safe for all of our children. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Uniform Shop

Please note that the uniform shop will **cease trading on Monday 7th December 2020.**

If you know that you need uniform for next year, please send your orders in over the next few weeks so that we can fill them in a timely matter.

Sport socks – we now have sport socks available at the uniform shop (\$5). Please ensure that your child wears the correct white socks, ie above the ankle and NOT anklet socks.

On the odd occasion that your child may be out of school uniform, please send a note in with the child explaining the reason for this.

Readers & Library Books

Please check at home for any overdue books.

Could all readers and all library books please be returned to school by the end of next week (week 8). This will allow teachers and librarians to ensure that all resources are ready for next year. Many thanks for your support.

Congratulations to the Farrugia family (James 2G & Adrian KB) on the birth of their little sister, Zahra



Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards this week:-

Term 4 Week 7		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Aiden Ajay	Kayla Valdez
KG	Selina Fearn	William Lewis
KW	Alexis Kenyon	Emily Dalton
Year 1 B	Charlize Fresta	Scarlett Buchanan
Year 1 G	Benjamin Andrews	Andre Youssef
Year 1 W	Caleb Atkins	Preston Georges
Year 2 B	Alexander Gobran	Xavier Younes
Year 2G	Jack Leahy	Sienna Ng
Year 2W	Ava Phelps	Cooper Keating
Year 3 B	Luke Scanes	Erica Sommer
Year 3 G	Ashley Cabunag	Aaliyah Naidoo
Year 3 W	Ryan Salac	Samantha Ocampo
Year 4 B	Derek Sun	Justin Gauci
Year 4 G	Rose Montgomery	Dylan Bell
Year 4 W	Luka Vaughan	Georgia Sourial
Year 5 B	Logan Cleary	Matthew Kamber
Year 5G	Alysha Balangon	Georgia Dolahenty
Year 5W	Danielle Vella	Malenna Graczyk
Year 6 B	Sophia Dobaj	Riley Annis-Brown
Year 6 G	Harriet Preston	Edward Grech
Year 6 W	Georgia McQuaid	Acacia Sales

Artist of the Week

This week's artists present images of nature, still life and portraiture.

Congratulations to our Artists of the Week:

K Nevenka Topic

Y1 Katherine Cameron

Y2 Harrison Dolahenty

Y3 Olivia Medjumurac

Y4 Blaize McDonald

Y5 Francesca Topic

Y6 Celina Wassef



Mrs Elaine Lombardi

Tech tip - Week 7

Helping your children stay safe while browsing the internet.

Set Rules - Create a standard for your child to know what kind of content they should be looking at/sharing while they are on the internet. Encourage them to use the same behaviour online that they would use in real life.

Encourage your child to browse the web in a shared or visible place at home and explore the internet with them.

Teach- Teach your child how to deal with any inappropriate content or messages they come across using block or mute functions as well as reporting it. If necessary quit the webpage or shut down the device. This also includes teaching your child how to tell a trusted adult.

Remind - Remind your children about the importance of private information staying private online and how private information can be used to identify them.