



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
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20th March, 2020
Term 1, Week 8

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support during this interesting time as the world continues to manage the coronavirus pandemic.

I am extremely proud of our OLA children who have all been making an effort to regularly wash their hands, maintain a distance between each other and cough and sneeze into elbows. I am equally proud of the amazing staff who as always are continuing with the daily teaching and learning and ensuring the children's wellbeing is the priority.

Please find attached a COVID 19 Information Sheet on how to support your child if they are particularly worried about some of the media stories that are being presented etc. My thanks to you as parents for working in partnership with us and taking it one day at a time. Please note if the Government decides to close schools we are well equipped to support your child's learning.

Please continue to read the newsletter and any correspondence so that you are well informed as to the happenings at school which at the moment, of course, are restricted in line with Government directives.

On another note, thank you for your generosity on St Patrick's Day. As a community we raised just over \$750.00 for Project Compassion. This outreach to those less fortunate is indeed appreciated.

During this time of Lent, particularly with the changing landscape, it is important to spend time in prayer, particularly for world health and peace. May Christ's blessings be with you and your family as we follow the path and the rich catholic story to Easter Sunday.

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

Harmony Day

[Peaceful Minds + Peaceful Actions + Peaceful Words = Peaceful Hearts](#)

Today we were united, all wearing white T-shirts to support a world where people feel safe and have a voice. In our classrooms we focused on positive relationships. We feel it is important to promote solving problems peacefully and being aware that our words and actions can hurt others. Jesus teaches us to treat others the way we would like to be treated. We all want to feel safe, be included, be respected and most importantly feel loved.

WE ALL WANT TO LIVE IN OUR WORLD OF HARMONY! (Harmony Day 2020)



OLA Staff making our Peaceful Heart and a sample of students in class today.

MASSES AT OLA

All daily Masses will go ahead as usual with the exception of school classes.

The Bishop has lifted the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass so there is no sin in isolating oneself.

OLA will do Sunday Masses as normal with only under 100 inside the Church. The doors will be open and up to 500 can spill into the school grounds. I ask you to make sensible decisions about your participation and am very grateful our Diocese has made the most sensible directives that I've seen in the world.

*Peace and blessings,
Fr Warren*



Sunday 22nd March

Gospel Reflection

Year A

SUNDAY OF LENT

[John 9:1-41](#)

(Please click on the bible reference to read this Sunday's Gospel)
His face shone like the sun

Gospel Reflection

Stevie Wonder, the famous singer and musician who is blind, once remarked that just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision. What do you think he meant? What do you think we need to learn from him?

Jesus cured a man born blind. That man had more 'vision' than the Pharisees, who could see. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us about spiritual and physical blindness?

What is the most incredible thing you have ever seen: a lunar eclipse? a rainbow? a shooting star? a peacock showing off its feathers? a butterfly on a flower? fireworks? How could you describe this incredible sight to a person who is blind?

What do you think would be the most difficult part of being blind? If you are blind, talk about what the most difficult part is for you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH IN RE

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Each family recently received a Project Compassion Box. We ask for your kind donations over Lent to reach out to others in need. Please send back boxes as soon as possible, preferably next week.



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

(Wednesday 25th March, 2020)

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son.



Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who are celebrating their birthday on.....

Mon 23rd Mar

Zoe Bell
Alexandra Tirador

Thurs 26th Mar

Rohan Pillai
Levi Cauchi
Arella Sales
Mr Marco Deberardinis
Miss Madison Hogan

Tues 24th Mar

Hudson Phillips

Wed 25th Mar

Julia Zammit

Sat 28th Mar

Audrey Summerhays
Abbey Hollier
Raymon Chayban

Mini Franciscans

OLA have a new social justice group. Many students from Years Five and Six give up their lunch time play to participate in our Mini Franciscans activities. The group meets once a week and help to make a difference by finding ways to reach out and pray for the poor and marginalised in society.

Last week the students in the Mini Franciscans, received their badges and took their oath at a morning assembly. We look forward to growing in love and faith as we imitate the values of St. Francis of Assisi.



Rug Reading Afternoon

As we have been communicating throughout the week, Rug Reading scheduled for this Thursday 26th March has now been cancelled.

TERM 2 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Please note that the first day of term 2, Monday 27th April, is a Staff Development Day, which means no school for students on this day. The students will commence term 2 on Tuesday 28th April.

Dates to Remember

Week 9:

- Mon 23rd Mar** Year 1 History Day
Tues 24th Mar 123 Magic Parenting Course 6.30pm – POSTPONED
Wed 25th Mar Feast of the Annunciation
Thurs 26th Mar Rug Reading - CANCELLED

Week 10:

- Fri 3rd Apr** Principal Award Announcements

Week 11:

- Tues 7th Apr** Stations of the Cross – Friary (TBC)
Wed 8th Apr Principal's Morning Tea
Thurs 9th Apr Last Day of Term 1

Literacy News

This year our school's learning goal is: All students will demonstrate growth in comprehension with a specific focus on SURFACE, DEEP AND TRANSFER learning across all KLAs.

Ways to improve reading comprehension at home

Help them decode words by reading aloud

An awareness of the letters and sounds words make and understanding how they blend together to make words and sentences is called decoding. When you read you determine what the words are and whether they make sense in a sentence. The only way to check how your children decode, is to ask them to read aloud. This forces them to go slower, which gives them more time to process what they read, hearing the words as well as seeing the words on the page.

Find the right books

It's important not to set the bar too high. Generally, your child should recognize 90% of the words in the books they read in order to feel comfortable with the reading process. Stopping more often will interrupt the flow and will just confuse him or her as they try to focus on the overall meaning of the story. Obviously, also pick stories that interest them. It could be fairies, adventures, cars or Star Wars. We all prefer to read books about things we are interested in, so let your children do the same.

Source: <https://www.k5learning.com/blog/tips-helping-kids-reading-comprehension>

Technology

Six tips to searching safely

Here are some tips you can use when using search engines to find information online.

- 1. Use child-friendly search engines**
 - Google
 - Google Safe Search for kids
 - Kiddle
- 2. Use safe search settings**
 - Use safe search settings to filter out inappropriate content from search results.
- 3. Protect devices**
 - Ensure computers are installed with security software and is regularly updated to reduce the risk of viruses and other types of malware. Teach your kids not to accept files or open email attachments from people they don't know and trust in real life.
- 4. Bookmark preferred websites**
 - Reduce the risk of kids accessing unsuitable websites by bookmarking preferred sites accessible from their web browser. This way, they can go directly to favourite websites without having to first conduct a search to locate them online.
- 5. Check the website's safety**
 - It's simple to do this: just type in the phrase "is this website safe" into your browser, choose from one of the search results and then enter the website's URL address into the search field.
- 6. Talk about safe searching**
 - Talk to your child about safe searching, as well as the kind of websites they can view. Encourage them to speak to you about anything they find upsetting while playing games, visiting websites or social networking.

Theme of the Week:

"Forgive Others"

How often do adults and children really forgive others or more importantly themselves. Jesus truly teaches us the meaning of forgiveness through His life, death and resurrection. Forgiving others means taking the time to reconcile and rebuild relationships to move forward and not dwell on the past. As a parish school community we should always strive to model forgiveness to those around us.

School Fees

The first instalment of the school fees is now due. Thank you to the families that have paid your fees or set up the FPP. If you need to discuss your fees, or require an extension please contact Mrs Goldsworthy.

Sibling Enrolment for 2021

Thank you to those parents who have indicated that they have a sibling for next year.

Enrolment packs have been sent home to these families.

If you have not yet advised us that you have a sibling due to commence in 2021, can you please email the office and advise us of your child's name, date of birth and the class of the sibling at OLA.

Please complete the enrolment application and submit to the office, together with the required **ORIGINAL** supporting documentation by Friday 4th April.

Please note that we do require to sight 'proof of residence' when you lodge the paperwork (drivers' licence is sufficient).



Congratulations to the following students who received an Archangel award this week:-

Grace Tierney, Georgia Dolahenty, Ilesha Gunasekara, Solomon Sloane

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, ice blocks or other treats** etc.

Easter Eggs at School

As the Easter season and the common sharing of chocolate eggs is approaching, it is important to remember that there are a high number of children at OLA who are severely allergic to nuts, eggs and/or dairy etc. Parents are asked to support us by ensuring that **lollies/chocolates/easter eggs are not brought to school by children**, either for themselves or to share with others.

Thank you for your continued co-operation in making OLA a safe environment for all our children.

Canteen

Please be aware that we are reviewing all products that are sold over the counter to ensure they comply with the NSW Canteen guidelines. This will mean a move away from lollies/chocolate items to ensure we are providing the children with healthy alternatives.

Look out for further information in the coming newsletters.

As communicated Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences will be held in Term 2, closer to report time due to the current COVID 19 directives.



School Banking

Thank you to Mrs Manago & Mrs Eyes who generously give up their time on a Thursday to process the school banking.

Given the current climate, the Commonwealth Bank has directed that there will be no school banking from today, 20th March until the start of term 2. We will advise you early next term when it will resume.

Google Forms/Permission Slips

We are trialling sending google forms home via email instead of paper permission slips. Can you please make sure that you complete the forms as soon as you receive them and make sure that you nominate your child's correct class. If the correct class is not put in the google form, then we cannot find your permission and we will then be chasing you to complete it again.

Celebrating our Talented Students

Term 1 Week 8			
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award	Einstein Award
Year 3 B	Mirelle Ferdinands	Zach Dixon	Brandon Makdessi
Year 3 G	Eli Nobleza	Natalie Vella	Natalia Ponturo
Year 3 W	Tayah Youssef	Noah Falzon	Cooper Ross
Year 4 B	Mia Lesar	Luciana Salib	Harrison Jones
Year 4 G	Zali Adams	Taylor Saward	Patrick Pacella
Year 4 W	Maddison Younes	Lucas Clarke	Elijah Atkins
Year 5 B	Maxim Stankiewicz	Tahnia Arora	Aidan Attard
Year 5G	Maia Villanueva	Alysha Balangon	Giuseppe Venezia
Year 5W	Leona Siason	Dylan Halwani	Solomon Sloan
Year 6 B	Emma Cleary	Katia Lesar	Aidan Vilathgamuwa
Year 6 G	Taylor Cummings	Madison Zahra	Lachlan Connellan
Year 6 W	Sienna Dixon	Lily Quinlan	Jayden Thornton



**Catholic
Schools**
NSW

Official Announcement:

2020 NAPLAN CANCELLED

Education Ministers met today and decided that NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020. The NAPLAN test window was scheduled to be held from 12 to 22 May.