



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
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Term 4, Week 8

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that in 8 school days our 2020 year of learning will come to an end. The busyness of this tail end of the year in the commercial sector, let alone schools and life itself is often frantic. Many parents I speak to often express how busy they are, not surprisingly many children even in these COVID times also talk about how busy they are throughout each week. I encourage you to intentionally make and take opportunities to spend time as a family. It is this special family time that children crave, cherish and remember. Our children grow up so quickly. The early years and indeed precious. Whether it is a walk in the afternoon, a meal together, sharing a book, or just good conversation, time together is important. We should spend time on what is important. What is more important than family?

At this time of year and as we approach the second week of Advent, the reading from (Matthew 25:31-46) contains a powerful message for our children and for all as adults. Christ's teaching through this passage highlights how our faith can be expressed in practical charity to others. It is a simple and accessible message that as parents we can role model for our children in the way we treat others.

".....for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick and go to visit you?' 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'...."

This year we farewell some of our OLA staff and wish them all of God's blessings for the exciting journey that awaits them.

To:-

- Mrs Rita Borg, we say thank you. Her dedication, care for the students and expertise have been very much valued and appreciated. Mrs Borg, who has been part of the OLA team since 2016 in a mix of casual and classroom teacher roles, has decided to temporarily return to the life of casual teaching and take time out to enjoy her family.
- Mrs Lauren Hanrahan who has been working as Kindergarten support this year and has been part of the OLA team for the last four years. We thank Lauren for her gentle nature, love of the children and expertise. Lauren will be returning to casual teaching as she awaits the birth of her beautiful child next year.
- Mr Marco Deberardinis, our outstanding Information Technology trainee. Marco has successfully completed his two year traineeship and has been an amazing asset to our OLA team. His expertise, skills, professionalism, commitment and positive attitude are well beyond his years. We wish Marco all the best for the future and thank him for his contribution to OLA.
- Mrs Kylie Leach, (Yr 4W) who will be returning to casual teaching, Miss Danielle Grace (KB), appointed to St Pauls at Winston Hills and Miss Van Gestel (Kindergarten support) who has been appointed to Holy Cross at Glenwood, we say thank you. They have all been outstanding in their various teaching roles. We are appreciative and grateful for their love of the children, their effectiveness and support.
- Mrs Samantha Sarno who has been in the role of teachers aid for the latter half of this year. Thank you for your work with the children.

We welcome back from maternity leave Mrs Grunsell and Mrs Hodgess for 2021.

Additionally, we welcome to our OLA family for 2021:-

- Mrs Rebecca Cordukes who will undertake a class teacher role as well as a stage co-ordinator responsibilities. Her experience, leadership and expertise will be a wonderful asset to our team.
- Mrs Erin Brady who will join our learning support team part time. Erin has extensive experience in learning support specializing in area of Mathematics.

Finally, a word of thank to Mrs Schroder who has been an efficient and effective member of the school leadership team for the past four years. In 2021 she will reduce her hours as she cares for her aging mother. As a result, she will continue in leading our Learning Support team but will step back from the demands of her co-ordinator role. We sincerely thank her for the wonderful contribution she has made as co-ordinator. Her commitment to the role has been above and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

*Tony Calabria
Principal*

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)



[Jn 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Living the Gospel

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

(LiturgyHelp.com.au, 4-12-2020)



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Each grade has been busy preparing an item to be filmed for our OLA virtual Christmas Concert. Our filming day will be on Tuesday 8th December. We will be having a Christmas Mufti day to get into the spirit of this festive season. Please see below for what we ask each grade to wear on the day. We ask that you do not go out and purchase costumes, we are happy with Christmas colours.

OLA MUFTI DAY – 8TH DECEMBER, 2020

Kindergarten: Boys (shepherds – brown or black shirts/shorts/mufti etc) Girls (white or yellow mufti)

Year 1: Green and gold mufti

Year 2: Red and green mufti or Christmas shirt

Year 3: Black or dark coloured top if possible/mufti

Year 4: Christmas colours

Year 5: Red and green mufti

Year 6: Black and white mufti/Christmas hat/headband

Our virtual Christmas messages/concert will be posted on Facebook, during the last week of school

Faithful Friday on FaceBook



This week is the last week of Faithful Friday on Facebook. Year 6 offers prayer of thanksgiving, for all those who have been part of their journey at OLA. May God's light shine upon them and provide strength, guidance and hope.

The second week of Advent: Pray for Peace

Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to Him in faith.

Lord God, may we show peace and tolerance to all people, who prepare for your coming. Let the truth of your Word lead us all toward your kingdom, for which we long. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen



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.

Dates to Remember

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
Thurs 10th Dec	Meet the Teacher – 1.00pm
Mon 14th Dec	End of Year Liturgy – Students only
Tues 15th Dec	Year 6 End of Year Luncheon Whole School Guard of Honour 2.40pm 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 27 th Jan	Staff
	Thurs 28 th Jan	MAI Assessments
	Fri 29 th Jan	Years 1 – 6 Start School
	27 th – 29 th January Kindy 2021 Assessments (90 min session on any of these days)	
Week 2	Mon 1 st Feb	Kindy Start School
End of Term 1	Thurs 1 st April.	



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

Tues 8th Dec
Hunter Donzow

Wed 9th Dec
Lily Tawadrouse

Sun 13th Dec
Arlo Barry
Jacinta Raad
Ethan Tierney
Mrs Jacqueline Cheadle

Meet Your Teacher for 2021

Children will have an opportunity to meet their new class teacher for 2021 this coming Thursday 10th December.

Are you missing out??
Join our Facebook page.

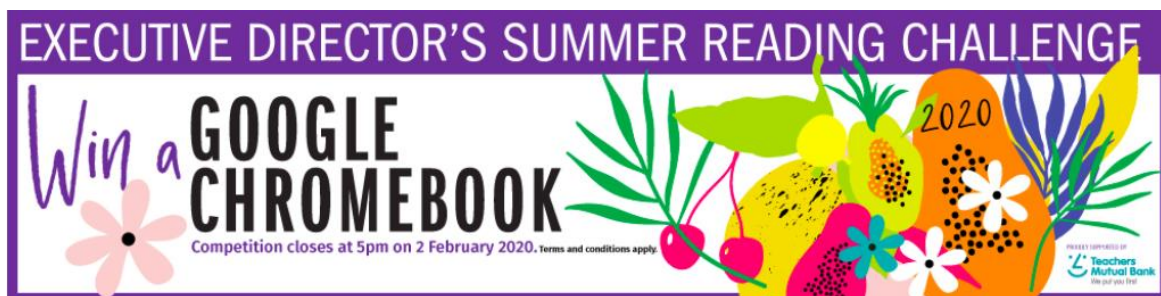
Keep up to date with news from OLA
See what is happening at OLA
Visit our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/OLARouse>
Or Click on the facebook f in the top corner of our school website
Be sure to 'like us'

Coming Home Soon:
MAI Online Booking sheet
Pre-requisite lists for 2021
Information on Motiv8 Sports Fun Day

Water Fun Day – this coming Wednesday
Please see the emails that have been sent home this week.

Literacy News



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).

Spelling Bee Final

This week we had our annual OLA Spelling Bee Final. It was an amazing competition where all finalists did themselves proud. We had a very special guest judge visit our school. Thank you Mrs La Rocca. Our 2020 'Spelling Bee Champion' was James Apap, second place, Ileesha Gunasekera and third, Leah Ocampo. Congratulations to our Infants' finalists: Dylan Jacob Cabunag, Andrea Youssef and Madison Ross. Congratulations to our other Primary finalists: Fionn Galway, Ashely Cabunag, Roko Deur, Steve Wang, Elise Song, Olivia Cutajar, Harrison Ko, Aidan Vilathgamuwa and Janiya De La Cruz. We are very proud of your achievements.

A BIG thank you goes to the staff, parents and of course our students who worked hard in learning a variety of words.

Many thanks to Mrs Hurst for co-ordinating this opportunity.



Thank You

Our thanks to Ms Belinda Cameron (Katherine 1W) and GlenMar Joinery (run by Katherine's uncles Glen and Martin) for donating plywood cutouts to every child in the school that are being used for Christmas craft. Your generosity for the children is very much appreciated.

LAST CALL.....

Readers & Library Books

Please check at home for any overdue books.

Could all readers and all library books please be returned to school early next week. This will allow teachers and librarians to ensure that all resources are ready for next year. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Treats

In these last days 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.

From the Office...

Payments Over the Counter.

The last day for any over the counter payments is this coming Wednesday, 9th December. No receipting at all will take place after Wednesday, as we will then be starting our End of Year Procedures. If you need to pay any school fees after this date, these can be made by bpay, bpoint or cash at the Post Office.

Uniform Shop

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

Medication

All medication that is kept at the school office will be sent home at the end of the year, with paperwork for 2021.



OLA Competitors Only Swimming Carnival

On Monday the 30th November, a range of students from Years 3-6 competed in our school swimming carnival.

The carnival ran smoothly, with a variety of students participating in 50m and 100m races. Many achieved their personal best when swimming in their races.

The age champions are as follows:

Junior Boys: Fionn Galway

Junior Girls: Erica Sommer

11 Years Boys: Lucas Clarke

11 years Girls: Alysha Balangon

Senior Boys: Matthew Kamber

Senior Girls: Chloe Holden

Students who will attend the Zone Swimming Carnival in early 2021 will be notified of their selection in the coming weeks.

I would like to congratulate all the students for their behaviour and participation on the day. The children should feel proud of their personal achievements on the day.

Luke Campbell

Many thanks to Mr Campbell for his outstanding organisation and to the teachers who assisted on the day.

THE LIGHT IN A
Child's eyes
IS ALL IT TAKES
TO MAKE
Christmas
A MAGICAL TIME
OF THE YEAR

Awards

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

Term 4 Week 8		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Frankie Hollands	Emily Godden
KG	Minnie McManus	Aurora Crosato
KW	Roy Shim	Kai Yoo
Year 1 B	Tristan Cappello	Melina Lesar
Year 1 G	Clara Denisenko	Athena Sales
Year 1 W	Ciaran McKeever	Blake Saward
Year 2 B	Alessandro Albertini	Hannah Burgess
Year 2G	Brianna Charlton	Sienna Cutajar
Year 2W	Benjamin Robertson	Asher Vilathgamuwa
Year 3 B	Sebastian Georges	Mirelle Ferdinands
Year 3 G	Isaiah Balangon	Molli Singh
Year 3 W	Felicity Gresser	Divena Sundaram
Year 4 B	Joshua Muscat	Astrid Cabunag
Year 4 G	Jasmine Vella	Taylor Saward
Year 4 W	Gianluca Russo	Sienna Flores
Year 5 B	Grace Labbad	Alexandra Tirador
Year 5G	Ethan Streater	Natalia Zahorsky
Year 5W	Adriano Mancia	Maddison Dyke
Year 6 B	Ireen Yoo	Ayden Stewart
Year 6 G	Sarah McKeever	Caitlyn Williams
Year 6 W	Carine Elias	Joseph Dalla

Tech Tip - Week 8

Have you looked at the apps of your child's device? How often do they use them? Are there some that haven't been used for a long time? Are there videos and photos in the photo reel that can be deleted to free up space? Is there a variety of apps that include creating and making apps? Below are two examples of creating and making apps.

Scratch

Creating:

- Games
- Animations



Ideal for programming your own interactive stories, games and animations. **FREE**

Book Creator

Creating:

- Books
- Original imaginative stories
- Retells
- Informative reports
- Cartoons/comics



Ideal for making all kinds of books, including children's picture books, comic books, photo books, journals and more. **FREE VERSION AVAILABLE**

End of Year Reports

Children will be bringing their Reports home early next week. Please take the time to talk with your child about their many successes. Be sure to ask them what they are most proud of in their learning.

The report you receive is a little different from previous years as the Diocese has provided a new platform to utilise. The platform has a number of options that are being trialled, for example, category headings related to effort and personal traits, the breakup of subject strand descriptions etc. The layout does not have a great deal of flexibility at present, hence the 5-page stapled report. Please keep in mind that there are also elements that are mandated by the government for all school reports in NSW. We will continue to refine this platform in preparation for next year's half yearly reports. Our appreciation and thanks to the dedicated teachers who have spent an amazing of time out of the school day analysing data, results and work samples to prepare individual reports for every child in their care.