



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
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29th January 2021
Term 1, Week 1

Welcome to the 2021 School Year

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to another exciting year of faith, fun and learning. 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 today by the Year 1-6 children. 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 Mrs Rebecca Cordukes as Stage 3 Co-ordinator and Year 5 classroom teacher, Mrs Erin Brady who joins our Learning Support Team, Mrs Melissa Xuereb as Year 5 Executive Release and Mr Sean Huyng our new IT trainee. We also welcome back Mrs Hodgess (Year 1) and Mrs Grunsett (Year 6) who are returning from maternity leave.

We ask for God's blessings over our Christ centred community of new and existing families, staff and religious as we embark on our 12th year of providing a high level of quality Catholic Education for the children, who are our first priority. A rewarding journey into 2021 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 working with you as the first educators of your children to make 2021 a most rewarding year.

This Monday we look forward to our 2021 Kindergarten cohort beginning their formal schooling at OLA. Along with all students, we wish them God's blessings.

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 the following new families from Years 1 - 6 to our school this week:-

Kay Family – Jonathan (1W)
Rivera Family – Miguel (1G)
Palacio Rosero Family – Gabriel (1W)
Shahbazi Family – Ryan (2W)
Ennor Family – Harrison (3B) and Jayden (6G)
James Family – Jenon (4G)
Ramirez Family – Emily (4G)
Carey Family – Chloe (5W)
Daniel Family – Leah (6B)
Snook Family – Mia (6W)

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.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

[Mk 1:21-28](#)

Gospel Reflection

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NEXT MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FEBRUARY

- **Opening School Mass Friday 12th February 9.00am**
- **Ash Wednesday: 17th February (time to be confirmed)**
- **Father Carlos and Fr Omar will commence class visits in each grade.**

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 that you picked up when dropping your child off for assessments no later than **Friday 5th February** so that your valuable input can be utilised to assist your child.

The same form has been attached to this newsletter in case you did not pick one up on your assessment day.



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

Fri 1st Jan

Tayah Youssef
Zoe Wang

Sat 2nd Jan

Mrs Michelina Micallef

Sun 3rd Jan

Keanu Edelinski
Javin Chugh
Georgia Sourial

Mon 4th Jan

Aidan Harvey

Tues 5th Jan

Reyansh Gupta

Thurs 7th Jan

Mackenzie Molloy
Keeley Vaughan
Alysha Balangon

Jayden Ennor

Noah Hartz

Fri 8th Jan

Emily Cook
Sirine Al Latif

Jacob Montgomery

Sat 9th Jan

Samora Noel-Osimen

Nibal Younes

Sun 10th Jan

Jasmine Vella

Mon 11th Jan

Audrey Pedavoli

Xavier Fava

Blake Seward

Tues 12th Jan

Ilana McGrath

Abbey Zahra

Wed 13th Jan

Rose Montgomery

Thurs 14th Jan

Fionn Galway

Fri 15th Jan

Alfonso Santiago
Mrs Vesna Jurcevic

Sat 16th Jan

Myra Batra
Gabby Acluba

Sun 17th Jan

Locke Singh
Venus Mabhena

Mon 18th Jan

Amelia Pendlebury

Wed 20th Jan

Hamish Clarke

Thurs 21st Jan

Aurelia Gresser
Thomas Weldon
Lucas Richardson

Fri 22nd Jan

Evelyn McKeever

Sat 23rd Jan

Mia Lesar

Alexa Nasso

Mrs Tracy Hunt

Mon 25th Jan

Harrison Jones Mrs

Wed 27th Jan

Brianna Charlton

Thurs 28th Jan

Mia Camilleri

Sat 30th Jan

Caleb Xuereb

Sun 31st Jan

Brandon Makdessi

Sean McKeever

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

Mon 1st Feb

Eva Bond

Tues 2nd Feb

Olivia Falzon

Wed 3rd Feb

Isabella Deur

Eleora Kerollos

Kianah Lesar

Thurs 4th Feb

Ashton Riley

Elisheba Mathew

Luis Flores

Fri 5th Feb

Elijah Dabit

Daniel Orlando

Ruby Masters

Sat 6th Feb

Jack Lambert

What's New at OLA

In this coming year there will be a number of changes that we will implement. We ask for your support and patience as we trial some of these.

- **Dance Fever** will be reduced from four terms to two terms. Term 1 will feature dance and Term 3 will feature gymnastics. This will be a cost saving to parents. Through school funding, the children will be having a specialist Physical Education lesson each week. **This will mean that in Term 1 children will be required to wear their sports uniform on a Monday for Dance and then on the day their grade is allocated to have their PE lesson. Please see the table below.**

Sport Uniform Days				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School	Kindergarten Year 5	Year 1 Year 2 Year 6	Year 3 Year 4	

- **School Open Day for 2022.** Our school open day for Kindergarten 2022 will be held on **Thursday 4th March at 9.00am – 10.30am.** Please note this daytime slot is new. Please kindly pass on this information to friends and relatives seeking enrolment at OLA.
- **Canteen** begins this Monday, 1st February and will continue with online sales only utilising the Flexischools App. For those new to OLA, please download the Flexischools App to your phone as all sales must be made through the app. Please note that orders must be placed by 7.15am on the day (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- If you have placed an order and your child is then away, please email the school office before 9.00am to advise that your child will not be at school and to move the order to another day. It is important that you mark the email 'Attention Canteen'.
- Keep an eye out for further new initiatives through the newsletter and via email.

School Census Day - Friday 12th February

Friday 12th 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 12th 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.

Dates to Remember

Week 2:

Mon 1st Feb Kindergarten commence 8.50am
Tues 2nd Feb Year 5 Colonial Day
Fri 5th Feb School Band begins

Week 3:

Fri 12th Feb Opening School Mass 9.00am
 School Census Day

Save the Date

OLA's Opening School Mass and SRC Commissioning for 2021 will be held on Friday 12th February. We are awaiting further announcements regarding COVID regulations as to parents attending etc.

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/OLARouseHill> Or Click on the facebook f in the top corner of our school website

Be sure to 'like us'

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.

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 outside the gates as per last year.
- Kindergarten students in Term 1 will be brought out at 3.00pm. The remainder of the school year they will be brought out at 3.10pm.
- 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

Due to COVID, the Uniform shop is not open for parents to attend. However, 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 Zone Swimming Carnival

The zone swimming carnival will be held on Friday 19th February at Mt Druitt Pools. More information will follow shortly.

Positive Partnerships

Positive Partnerships will be holding online parent/carer autism workshops from 2-24 February.

The first is a 4 week series of 2 hour sessions and the second is a full day workshop. Please see the attached flyers for full details.

These workshops are not region specific and will cater for any NSW parents, grandparents or full time carers.

If you are Please circulate this information to your school community and encourage parents/carers to register via the information in the flyers or on the Positive Partnerships homepage: <https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>

Term dates for 2021 for students

The school year consists of four terms that run over two semesters.

Term 1 – Students commence Friday 29th January
Kindergarten commence Monday 1st February
Term ends on Thursday 1st April

Term 2 - Monday 19th April to Friday 25th June

Term 3 - Monday 12th July to Friday 17th September

Term 4 - Tuesday 5th October to Wednesday 15th December

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.

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 CEDP will be sending out the school fees over the next few weeks. Once you have received the fees, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Goldsworthy if you have any queries at all.

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! In regard to birthday treats that are sometimes sent in, we kindly ask that you refrain from sending anything in during this COVID 19 period. This is to ensure that children are only eating food that is supplied and/or prepared by you at home.

At this current time, we also kindly ask that you **do not** send in non-edible items as birthday treats eg, pencils etc due to COVID 19 as it is always unknown as to who has handled the items from manufacturer to classroom. This restriction is aimed solely at doing everything we can to ensure the safety of your child.

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.

Thank you.

*Congratulations to Hannah Burgess (3W)
on the birth of her new little brother,
Matthew during the holidays.*



Attached to this email:-

- Student Information Form
- Uniform Order Form
- Flyers from Positive Partnerships