

Dear Parents,

The Opening School Mass this morning was a lovely celebration of our Christ Centred community. Our Appreciation to Fr Carlos for celebrating such a beautiful mass and for his blessings upon the year ahead. Thank you to Mrs Byrne, our Religious Education Co-ordinator (REC) for her dedication in co-ordinating our celebrations and to the OLA staff for their efforts in making the morning so special. Congratulations to our Year 6 Student Leaders who were also commissions at this Mass.



Working in Partnership

Appreciation and thanks to you, our wonderful parents, for your attendance at the parent/teacher meet and greet. It was wonderful to see the teachers and parents working in true partnership with the children as the priority. Thank you to our dedicated staff for giving so generously of their time to meet with you. Kindergarten meet and greet will take place this coming week.

Getting to Know your Child

At OLA, assessment of the children's learning plays an important role in ensuring that teaching is matched to the child's learning needs. When assessing, the teachers collect, analyse and record information about the children's progress in their learning. While assessment occurs across all grades throughout the year, we place a particular focus on the early years of their formal schooling.

Over the first few weeks of this term, teachers have been assessing the children's literacy and numeracy abilities. Kindergarten & Year 1 children also complete the Literacy Early Years Assessment (EYA). These assessments allow the teachers to individually assess each child, learn about how they think, and to find out what they know and can do in literacy and numeracy. The information gathered from these assessments assists the children's teachers to plan learning experiences that best support the children's abilities and needs. So that the children's growth in their learning can be measured and monitored, many of these assessments will be administered again at the end of the school year.

Ash Wednesday Mass

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. During this Liturgical season of the Church, children and adults may sometimes ask the question: "What is Ash Wednesday?" The ashes used are made by burning the remains of the palms blessed on the Palm Sunday of the previous year. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). They also remind us of our conversion of our lives during this season of renewal. During Lent, the Church asks us to contemplate ongoing conversion. To achieve conversion, the Church proposes the practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

It is the focal point of the church's liturgical year. It occurs forty days before Good Friday. We are reminded to be faithful to the Gospels. Believing in the Gospels helps us to walk with Jesus. We can be guided along this journey by such Gospel values as Love, Hope, Trust, Service, Forgiveness, Peace, Respect, Acceptance, Compassion and Justice.

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



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Mk 1:40-45

Gospel Reflection

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

Living the Gospel-Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

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 will receive a project compassion box next week.



This week each family received a Project Compassion Box. We ask for your kind donations over Lent to reach out to others in need. Please send back boxes by Wednesday 24th March, 2021.

First Reconciliation

18th February, 2021 at 6.30pm: Parent session for students in Years 3-6 who have not received their First Reconciliation. Please contact parish office if you have not submitted enrolment forms or for more information.



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

Sun 14th Feb

Cooper Cameron
Melina Lesar

Wed 17th Feb

Jordan Mabhena
Russell Rochaix
Emily Godden

Mon 15th Feb

Zavier Dabit
Oliver Coughlan
Jasmine Fedele

Fri 19th Feb

Aidan Gomes
Milena Grech
Mia Pennati

Tues 16th Feb

Marcel Dalla
Olivia Medjumurac
Ethnan Mathew
Liam O'Connor

Sat 20th Feb

Adrian Farrugia
Jenon James

School Census Day - Friday 19th February PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE

Friday 19th 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 19th 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.

Ash Wednesday Mass

The children will attend and open air Mass to receive Ashes on Wednesday 17th February. This will be for the students only.

Please note that the ashes will be sprinkled on the head not marked on the forehead due to Covid regulations as directed by the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta.

Term Calendar

A school calendar has not been published at this point due to the ever-changing Covid regulations around parent attendance etc.

We ask that you keep an eye on the upcoming events in the weekly newsletter along with information emails sent home.

Class Parent Representatives

Although at this stage, due to Covid, this role will be minimal, we would still like to have this network in place.

If you are interested in supporting the class teacher by being a class parent, could you please email the school office, being sure to include your child's name and class.

Our appreciation and thanks for your support in this area.

Dates to Remember

Week 4:

Tues 16th Feb Shove Tuesday
Wed 17th Feb Ash Wednesday – Project Compassion
Fri 19th Feb Census Day
Zone Swimming Carnival

Week 5:

Wed 24th Feb P&F AGM Meeting 7.00pm

Week 6:

Thurs 4th Mar Kindergarten 2022 Open Day
9.00am – 10.30am

Congratulations to our Kindergarten students who are all walking into school independently each morning. We are extremely proud of how responsible and grown up they are.

Student Representative Council

Following on from last week's newsletter, please note the following change -

The SRC members for Semester 1, 2021 will be announced next Tuesday, 18th February. Unfortunately, there has been a delay due to COVID-19 with our SRC badges. The SRC will of course be active immediately but the presentation of the badge ceremony has now been rescheduled to Thursday 25th February at 9.00am. Parents of the elected SRC are welcome to attend on this day.



OLA Zone Swimming Carnival

Best wishes to all our Zone Swimming Team competitors who will represent OLA on **Friday 19th February** at Mt Druitt Pools.

Advice from the organisers are that the venue has an area designated for spectators. Similar to any venue when capacity is reached, in accordance with Covid regulations, no other people are admitted. It is therefore recommended, where possible, that one parent per family attends the carnival.

Congratulations to Ruby Masters who is also representing OLA at the Zone Swimming Carnival (apologies as her name was omitted last week).

Canteen

The canteen is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for online sales only. Please download the Flexischools App to place your orders by 7.15am. Please see the flyer attached to the newsletter.

Literacy News

Helping Your Child with Spelling:

Children can find writing a real challenge. They need encouragement, support and praise for their efforts. You can best support your child by:

encouraging them to write on every possible occasion, praising their efforts and, importantly, letting them see you writing whenever possible;

playing word games with them, for example, I spy, Scrabble, Boggle and Find the Word puzzles;

pointing to interesting or new words as you read to your child (without interrupting the flow of the story);

composing emails together.



Source: www.dewarenne.org.uk/documents/download/5430

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) aims to encourage a love of **reading** for leisure and pleasure in students, and enables students to experience quality literature. The **challenge** encourages students to **read**, to **read** more and **read** more widely.



The 2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge will be launched on 1st March this year. Further information can be found on the [PRC website](#).

Lisa Hurst, Literacy Coordinator

Keeping our Children Safe

Reminder: For the safety of all in our community, please park '**Rear to Kerb**' and use the designated crossings in the car park (ie, not trample across the gardens).

Disabled Parking Space

Please only use these spaces if you are the holder of a disability parking scheme permit. This must be displayed on your windscreen.

Thank you for your co-operation in supporting members of our community.

P&F Annual General Meeting Wednesday 24th February, 7.00pm All Welcome

This meeting will be held at the school with Covid regulations in place (if you have had any flu like symptoms or have a temperature etc, we ask that you do not attend).

As part of the Constitution, all leadership positions will be vacated, and new committee members are being sought. The OLA P&F meets once a term. The primary objective of this body is to build community. We look forward to seeing many people come along.

Please email the school as soon as possible if you would like to stand for any of the positions of:-

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- PRC Representative

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

healthdirect

How to avoid infection or spreading the virus



Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds



Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth



Cover your mouth or nose when coughing or sneezing



Use only disposable tissues, and dispose of them immediately after use



Avoid close contact with anyone showing respiratory symptoms



Monitor travel advice on Smarttraveller smartraveller.gov.au



Stay at home when you are sick

The Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) – What Now?

Over the past two weeks, every child will have undertaken a Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI). This has been a valuable opportunity for teachers to individually assess the thinking and attitude of each child towards numeracy. Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta have been conducting the MAI for several years now. It is conducted at the beginning of each school year and data is analysed at an individual, class, grade, school and system level.

Why do the MAI?

Children's lives are enriched through interactions with their family, friends and environments. Through these encounters, they construct and learn number concepts and skills. Before beginning school, children know names of many numbers, can recite some sequences of number names and attach a numerical value to small collections of items. (Gervasoni & Perry, 2015). Many children have acquired a degree of number sense that allows them to solve intuitively the problems they encounter as part of their daily living and learning. However, like all learning, this is not the case for all children.

In order for teachers to maximize the mathematics learning for all children there are several factors that come into play....

1. What does the student already know?

2. What are the next steps?

3. What learning experiences will best enable the student to achieve those next steps?

4. What are some possible difficulties or 'hurdles' that may prevent student progression.

This is where the MAI comes into play. The MAI outlines a reference framework of growth points, (milestones or major stepping-stones) across four number domains of counting, place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. It maps out a likely course of children's mathematical learning and it provides the teacher with the opportunity to identify what the student has already mastered and subsequently plan suitable learning opportunities that will maximize growth. After analyzing student responses in a MAI, teachers are able to determine growth points, monitor growth and student progression, identify mathematically vulnerable students and plan learning experiences that will most effectively enable children to reach the next growth points in their mathematical learning.

If you have any further queries around the Maths Assessment Interview, or how to assist your child in numeracy, please contact the office.

Mr Stephen Cauchi,
Assistant Principal

Do you Have the Information you Need?

Thank you to the many parents who contact the teachers, the office, Mr Cauchi or Mr Calabria directly with questions, concerns, feedback, issues and more importantly to seek clarification. Society is such that information is often misconstrued or acts like 'chinese whispers'. Common sense should always prevail. Today's sensationalistic media does not help with the dissemination of accurate information. It is always paramount that if you are unsure that you speak to the people that know and have the correct information.

To that end, please always send any emails to ola@parra.catholic.edu.au and these will be forwarded to your child's teacher, Mr Calabria or Mr Cauchi. Please DO NOT send any emails to your child's teacher directly.

Year 4 Science Day

This week, Year Four participated in a Science and Team Building Day. Students participated in hands-on science experiments focusing on changing matter by adding heat. This was our Entry Event to our Project Based Learning unit for Science. We made coins dance, melted ice and saw how adding cold and hot water created convection currents. Also, we participated in some team building activities that focused on communication skills and working as a team. It was a great day enjoyed by both students and teachers.



Are you Receiving Emails?

As information & various notes are emailed from the school, please ensure that we have your correct/preferred email address on our system. We are hopeful that by next week we will have the problems with our emails rectified.

KINDERGARTEN 2022 ENROLMENT INFORMATION SESSION AND SCHOOL TOUR

Thursday, 4th March

9.00am – 10.30am

Please note this daytime slot is new.

Please pass this information onto family, friends, neighbours etc who may be interested in enrolling their child in our great school.

Please email the office to register your attendance.

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.

Submitting an Item for our Newsletter

If you would like to submit an item for approval to be printed in the OLA Newsletter, eg a child's achievement, birth of a baby, prayers requested etc, we ask that you email your item to the school by 12 noon on Thursday of the week you would like your item printed. As you can appreciate, children often inform us of achievements, events etc, however, we ask that these be advised in writing by a parent as children often miss important details. We thank you for your assistance.

Have you Returned your Medication Forms and Action Plan?

*Thank you to those parents who have returned the medication forms and action plans if your child has medication stored or administered at school due to anaphylaxis, allergies or asthma. If you have not updated your paperwork, could you please do so **as a matter of importance**. If you require forms to be resent, please contact the school office.*

*It is essential that these forms and action plans are updated annually by your child's doctor so that our records are accurate and reflect the needs of each individual child. **As noted, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child's medication remains current, ie not expired.** Please note this in a diary or on your phone.*

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Theme of the Week "Support Each Other"

Our theme this week highlights the importance of supporting others in life. This support can come in many forms from a kind word to being there to help and encourage others. The children's support of each other's attempts and achievements is always a pleasure to behold. In our community we encourage supporting each other at all times.

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'

Congratulations to the Valdez family (Kayla Yr 1) on the recent birth of her baby brother,
Kyle Anthony Valdez
Welcome to the OLA community.



Chocolate comes
from cocoa,
which is a tree.
that makes
it a plant...
so chocolate
is a salad.



Parent Library

OLA has a collection of fantastic books available for parents to borrow. Parents may borrow up to 2 books per time. We ask that books are returned after a 2 week period. These books contain helpful tips and strategies as well as relevant information related to many aspects of Parenting. Attached below is a list of these books.

If you are interested in borrowing any of these books, please email the office and we will arrange for the book to be sent home with your child or collected from the office.

Title	Author
Parenting for Peace	Marcy Axness, PHD
Raising Boys	Steve Biddulph
Raising Girls	Steve Biddulph
The complete secrets of Happy Children	Steve Biddulph
Raising Happiness	Christine Carter
Building Children's Resilience	Maggie Dent
Nurturing Kids hearts and souls	Maggie Dent
Real Kids in an Unreal World	Maggie Dent
Saving our Children from our chaotic world	Maggie Dent
Positive Parenting	Rebecca Eanes
How to Talk So Kids will Listen	Adele Faber
Happy Kids	Cathy Glass
Parent Effectiveness Training	Dr Thomas Gordon
Great Ideas for (Tired) Parents	Michael Grose
The Reading Bug	Paul Jennings
The Out-of-Sync Child	Carol Stock Kranowitz
The Out-of-Sync Child has Fun	Carol Stock Kranowitz
He'll be Ok	Celia Lashlie
A Handbook for Happy Families	Dr John Irvine
Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids	Dr Laura Markham
Raising Girls	Gisela Preuschoff
Mindful Parenting	Kristen Race, PHD
Helping your Anxious Child	Ronald M Rapee, PHD....
All you need is Love	Shelja Sen
Parenting	Kathy Walker
Ready, Set, Go?	Kathy Walker
What's the hurry?	Kathy Walker
Anxious Kids Anxious Parents	Reid Wilson PHD Lynn Lyons
Getting your child from No to Yes	Jerry Wyckoff Barbara C. Unell





We invite you to our
OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021
4PM & 6PM

Enrolments for Year 7, 2022
close on Friday 19 March, 2021.

marianenrolment@parra.catholic.edu.au

Bookings are essential as spaces are limited for our Open Evening information sessions and guided College tours.
REGISTER VIA THE COLLEGE WEBSITE: www.mariankenthurst.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/Open-Evening

Santa Sophia Catholic College Open Day

Wednesday, 3rd March.

Further details in next week's newsletter.

Oakhill College Open Day –

Sunday, 7th March 10am – 2pm.

Please telephone the school office for more details. 9899 2288

Mount St Benedict Open Day –

Sunday, 7th March 10am – 2pm.

Please telephone the school office for more details. 9980 0444

From the Parish Office...

Sacraments

We are about to commence the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). This is for children in Year 3 or older. If you have not yet completed the Enrolment Form, please collect one from the Church foyer over the weekend. Registrations Close on Monday, 8 February and emails will go out from there with all the information you will need. For any further information call the parish office.

Our Doors are Open

Covid Restrictions are forever changing. Masses have resumed to some normality, however, Places of Worship still require their visitors to wear masks. If you walk into the church, please remember to have your mask with you and please also remember that you will need to register via the QR code provided. Bookings are also required for weekend masses and this can be done via <https://www.trybooking.com/BKNKM>

The Parish Mass schedule is:

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30 pm

Sunday 8.30 am, 10.00 am and 5.30 pm

Altar Serving at Mass

Students who have received their First Communion are invited to come along to our Altar Servers course. Saturdays 13th, 20th and 27th February at 4pm. If you have not yet registered, please just arrive 15 minutes earlier to complete the paperwork.

*Our Lady of the Angels Parish
Ph: 8883 4063*

Student Awards

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

Term 1 Week 3		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Addison Lawler	Archer Adams
KG	Ariella Brown	Michelle Wilianto
KW	Daniel Orlando	Azalia Sales
Year 1 B	Ashton Ko	Alina Youssef
Year 1 G	Stella Mancia	Abhijna Sundaram
Year 1 W	Maya Arvind	Mia Penatti
Year 2 B	Gianni Mangano	Isabella Deur
Year 2G	Eva-Grace Naim	Kate McKeever
Year 2W	Brodie Taylor	Olivia Falzon
Year 3 B	Cooper Keating	Sienna Cutajar
Year 3 G	Xavier Younes	Amelia Dalla
Year 3 W	Xavier Desira	Micah Kenyon
Year 4 B	William Mallard	Zara Buchanan
Year 4 G	Tayah Youssef	Caleb Xuereb
Year 4 W	Molli Singh	Giacomo Crosato
Year 5 B	Luci Salib	Justin Gauci
Year 5G	Astrid Cabunag	Blaize McDonald
Year 5W	Ava-Rosemarie Martin	Tomas Mallari
Year 6 B	Danielle Vella	Zoey Chown
Year 6 G	Malenna Graczyk	Logan Cleary
Year 6 W	Hugo Vozzo	Lachlan Heaney

Attached to this Newsletter:-
- Flexischool Flyer