



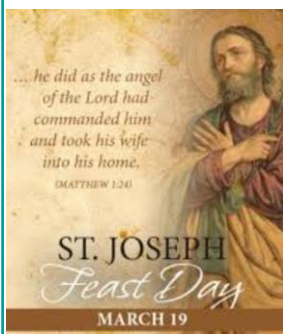
Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 8

19th March, 2021
Term 1, Week 8

Dear Parents,



Although we had to cancel our outdoor mass today due to weather, the children participated in a memorable celebration for the Feast of St Joseph in their learning spaces. After visiting each class today, Fr Carlos and Fr Omar spoke highly of the childrens' reverence, knowledge and faith. Given the current Covid restrictions, we look forward to beginning to visit the church again for parish mass as a grade. Parents are most welcome to join us. Please see this newsletter for further information.

Thank you for your generosity on St Joseph's Day. As a community, we raised just over \$1,150 for Project Compassion. This outreach to those less fortunate is indeed appreciated.

The children have had a lovely week of faith, fun and learning as we celebrated Catholic Schools Week, St Patrick's Day and St Joseph's Day. The red, white and green on St Joseph's Day looked fantastic as did the green accessories for St Patrick's Day. We ask for St Patrick's and St Joseph's blessings upon our OLA community.

*May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And, until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His Hand*

A Gaelic Blessing



During this time of Lent 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 and Farewell

I would like to acknowledge and thank our school cleaner, Joe Azzopardi, who after 12 years of ensuring our learning spaces, bathrooms and administration always look good has decided to finish up at OLA. Our appreciation to Joe and his family for his dedication to his important role in our school community. His positive attitude and gentleness have been very much valued by everyone. We wish him all the best for the future.

Principal Awards

Our Principal's Award ceremony will be held on Friday 26th March at 9.00am followed by the Principal's morning tea at first break. Parents will be advised prior and will be welcome to attend the presentation ceremony. Each term teachers nominate one student from their class who has consistently applied themselves academically, demonstrated a Christ-like attitude towards others in living out our St Francis charism and, overall, a fine role model for all at OLA School.

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

*Tony Calabria
Principal*

NEWSLETTER



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

[John 12:20-33](#)

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

Gospel Focus-New Love

Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN MARCH

HOLY WEEK: This year, as part of our Holy Week celebrations, we will be attending **The Shrine of the Holy Innocents at Kellyville** on Monday the 29th March 2021. Parents are welcome to attend this time of reflection with their child. Please complete and return the note sent home today by Wednesday 24th March.



First Reconciliation (Year 3): Please keep in your prayer our OLA students preparing for their sacrament of First Reconciliation. They will celebrate their First Reconciliation on 27th March.

WEDNESDAY 24th March-HARMONY DAY. Students are to wear their sports shirt and a white t-shirt to mark **Harmony Day**. Our theme this year, as a school, is Peaceful Mind, Peaceful Thoughts, Peaceful Actions and Peaceful Heart.

FRIDAY 26th March- PALM SUNDAY LITURGY: Kindergarten will lead the school in a Palm Sunday prayer (including the Principal's Awards) on Friday at 9.00am. All Welcome

PARISH MASS RETURNS: As COVID restrictions have eased, students will be returning to the 9.00am Parish Mass over the next two weeks in the lead up to Holy Week. Please join us as we return back to Mass. Each grade will go back on the following days:

Kindergarten and Year Six: Tuesday 30th March

Year 1 and Year 5: Wednesday 31st March

Year 2: Thursday 25th March

Year 3: Friday 26th March

Year 4: Friday 26th March

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Year 2 students will complete their Reconciliation program in Term 4.



Religion Focus in the Classroom

In Year 5, students have been looking at organisations that support the human dignity of people. Students have been learning that all humans are made in the image and likeness of God. (Photo)

Also, this week, each grade held a Year of Saint Joseph prayer liturgy in their classroom. Students learnt that he was an ordinary workman who was tender and loving, obedient, accepting and courageous. (Photos)

Lenten Home Focus

Harmony Day is about everyone belonging. As a family, discuss ways in the words and actions we show others encourages inclusivity and harmony to those around us.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you for your generous donations. Could all boxes please be sent back by Wednesday 24th March 2021.





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

Sun 21st Mar

Ryan Scanes
Grace Muscat

Tues 23rd Mar

Zoe Bell
Alexandra Tirador
Chloe Tischler

Wed 24th Mar

Sophia Ali

Fri 26th Mar

Levi Cauchi
Rohan Pillai
Arella Sales
Miss Madison Hogan

NAPLAN Practice Test

All schools participating in the NAPLAN Online in 2021 are expected to take part in a practice test during this coming week.

The Practice test is a trial-run and preparation for NAPLAN Online and will provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions they will experience.

The practice tests include an omnibus test (combination of Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy questions) and a Writing test, both approximately 40 minutes in length. All students in Years 5, 7 and 9 are expected to complete both tests. Year 3 students will only participate in the omnibus test.

A reminder that all students in Years 3 and 5 will need headphones.

Sibling Enrolment for 2022

We are receiving many applications for Kindergarten 2022.

If you have a sibling to commence in 2022 and you have NOT notified us and received an enrolment pack, 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 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PLEASE RETURN ALL APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND BY 1ST APRIL AT THE LATEST

STUDY LADDER: Study Ladder is an online platform used within the classroom and for Home Learning. This is a FREE resource. Please note that online sales may pop up; you are not required to purchase any upgrades that may be offered.

Dates to Remember

Week 9:

Mon 22nd Mar Year 2 Science Incursion
Wed 24th Mar Harmony Day
Thurs 25th Mar Year 1 History Day
Fri 26th Mar Palm Sunday Prayer Assembly (Kindy) and Principal's Awards 9.00am
All Welcome

Week 10:

Mon 29th Mar K-6 Visiting The Shrine, Kellyville
All Welcome
Thurs 1st Apr Holy Thursday
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Week 1:

Mon 19th Apr First Day of Term 2
Thurs 22nd Apr Kindergarten Excursion
Fri 23rd Apr School Photos

Week 2:

Mon 26th Apr Anzac Day Prayer

Term 2 Staff Development Day – Friday 11th June
Last day of Term 2 – Friday 25th June

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.

Google Forms/Permission Slips

Always keep an eye out as some permission slips are sent as google forms 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.

P&F Second Hand Uniform Sale

Thank you to Anna Farrugia, Rosalba Valensise and Kate Fava for giving up their time to support our families with the Second Hand Uniform Stall. Orders will be filled and sent home with the students early next week.

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.

Literacy News

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>

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. **At OLA we would love 100% of our students to participate in this year's challenge.**

Further information can be found on the [PRC website](#).

If your child has participated before, please use the same login. Please contact Mrs Hunt or Mrs Wagner if you need help with your child's login.

Challenge Level	Number of books needed to complete the Challenge	Minimum number of PRC books for your Challenge	Maximum number of personal choice books	PRC booklist selection
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9



Dance Fever Challenge is Back!!!!

The **OPTIONAL** Dance Fever Challenge evening for those in Years 3-6 will be held on Wednesday 31st March. Thank you to the many parents who have registered their child. Please note that there will be NO bus this year. We ask that parents transport their child or we suggest car-pooling with another family.

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.*



Uniform Shop

WINTER UNIFORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM MONDAY 22ND MARCH 2021

For those new to school life, the students do not wear their winter uniform until about week 3 of Term 2, depending on the weather. Advice will be given in the newsletter early in Term 2 as to the date that the change over will take place.

Uniform orders can be left at the office, through the note-bag, via email or over the phone at any time throughout the week, and they will be **filled on Mondays and Wednesdays**.

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.



TECH TIPS

Online Safety Basics

Here are three key strategies to help you and your children safely navigate the digital world.

1. Be engaged, open and supportive

- Get involved. Share online time with your children as part of family life.
- Ask about their online experiences, who they are talking to and whether they are having any issues.
- Always reassure your child they can talk to you about their online experience.

2. Set some rules

- Set age-appropriate rules for devices and online access, with consequences for breaking them.
- Allow your child to have some input as this will help them understand the risks.
- Consider creating a family tech agreement
- Consider making some 'rules for parents' too — and stick to them! Model behaviour that you would like to see.

3. Get to know your device and its features

- Get to know the devices you and your children use and set them up for privacy and online safety.
 - Take advantage of parental controls to monitor and control screen time and access to content in ways appropriate to your child's age and experience.
- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

School Fees

Instalment 1 school fees are now **due and payable**. Thank you to those families who have already paid their fees or set up a payment plan through bpoint or bpay.

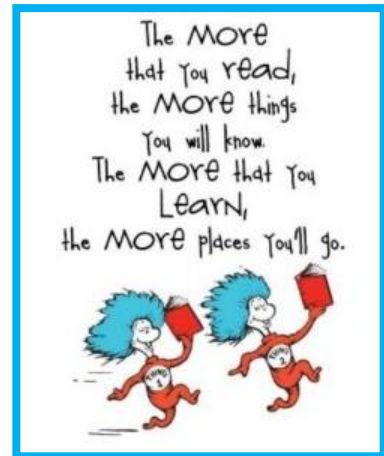
If you have not received your school fees in the mail or if you have any queries about the fees, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Goldsworthy.

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'



Following on from last week, our Year 6 students undertook an activity about 'Why they love OLA'. Below are more writing examples that illustrate why OLA is so special.

I love OLA I have been here my whole life and I have loved every second of it. It is an amazing school and I'm a proud member of it. I love being a member of OLA and I love how our school has an amazing reputation. I enjoy spending time with the buddies year sixes get. I love sending time with the wonderful people in my grade and I enjoy playing on our amazing playground. There are so many fun activities throughout our playground such as, snakes and ladders (in the gazebo on our oval), skipping ropes, hoola-hoops, basketball and netball, handball, hop scotch etc. There are many more fun activities to do, but there are many calmer activities and clubs the people of OLA can participate in. At OLA we have many academical teams to be apart of including Maths Olympiad and Math Games. Therefore I'm a proud member of the OLA community and love the reputation our school has. Keira

I like being at OLA because of many reasons. My top 3 are the opportunities for sport and academics, the open and modern learning spaces and welcoming teachers. The sport is very good here because we can go to nationals with it from our swimming, athletics and cross country. We also do many gala days. Additionally, our learning spaces are modern, kid friendly and positive to be in. It is really helpful to learn and brightens up your day. Finally, the teachers are very kind, understanding and supportive of students, it makes students feel comfortable and welcome.
Matthew

*I think OLA is the best school in Australia. It is a great school with excellent facilities, knowledgeable teachers and trusting friends. The first reason why I love OLA is that I have great friends and teachers. My friends are trustworthy and caring. The teachers are also great with effective teaching and also encouragement. Finally, the facilities are great. There are so many televisions that my eyes are covered with them. The school grounds are colourful and bright like a circus. I really love OLA.
Cameron*

Student Awards

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

Term 1 Week 8		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Noah Hartz	Eden Gresser
KG	Annabelle Delaney	Nash Cleary
KW	Eleora Kerollos	Gabriella Dinos
Year 1 B	Arella Bautista	Benjamin Nicholls
Year 1 G	Miguel Rivera	Sophia Gobran
Year 1 W	Gabriel Palacio-Rosero	Roy Shim
Year 2 B	Asher Davidson	Nicholas Smith
Year 2 G	Rey Gupta	Sofia Montgomery
Year 2W	Preston Georges	Ella Macdonald
Year 3 B	Ruby Masters	Antonio Dinos
Year 3 G	Esther McDonald	Harrison Dolahenty
Year 3 W	Annie Blazey	Vienna Gergely-Hollai
Year 4 B	Samantha Rivera Collazos	Aaron Phelps
Year 4 G	Sebastian Georges	Sean McKeever
Year 4 W	Juliana Aguilar	Xavier Dabit
Year 5 B	Nathan Murphy	Mia Lesar
Year 5G	Trinity Manago	Jordan Nobleza
Year 5W	Calla Zhu	Marcel Dalla
Year 6 B	Mihir Rajbhandari	Leah Daniel
Year 6 G	Francesca Topic	Adriano Mancia
Year 6 W	Lucas Cleland	Dylan Halwani



Holy Week at Our Lady of the Angels

Palm Sunday Vigil (27/3) ~ 5.30 pm

Palm Sunday (28/3) ~ 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 11.30 am & 5.30 pm

*Holy Thursday (1/4) ~ 7.00 pm ~ Evening Mass of the Last Supper
with Night Prayer and Adoration until 10.00 pm*

Good Friday (2/4) ~ 10.00 am ~ Stations of the Cross

Good Friday (2/4) ~ 3.00 pm ~ The Passion Liturgy

Easter Vigil (3/4) ~ 7.00 pm ~ Saturday

Easter Sunday (4/4) ~ 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 11.30 am & 5.30 pm

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Confessions

Good Friday ~ 10.00 am onwards

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Booking is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BPGYI>



Please see attached to this newsletters the OLA Parish Mission flyer. The Mission will take place from Wednesday 24th March