



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 36

12th November, 2021
Term 4, Week 6

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

I am extremely proud of the children and the way they have resumed their learning after such a long time away from the routines and structure of school. Children thrive on confidence and self-esteem and with so much happening in the world it is essential to continue to encourage them in all they do. The following extract from Michael Grose gives us food for thought particularly when comparing Encouragement vs Praise.

PRAISE LESS, ENCOURAGE MORE

Teaching Kids to Keep Trying is more Beneficial to Them than Easy Praise

Encouragement is the key to promoting a sense of self-esteem and a strong sense of self. A confident child is one who takes on different challenges and opens themselves up to many different experiences in life, and that sort of confidence requires a great deal of courage. That's what makes encouragement important.

Encouragement is different from praise. Praise is like fast food: there's not a lot of nourishment in it. Encouragement is like a good healthy diet: it's very nourishing. We, as parents, need to be aware of the difference between praise and encouragement, and be heavy on encouragement and light on the use of praise, which focuses more on results.

Value Kids as They Are

The notion of encouragement is about giving kids heart, but if we look at the difference between the two, praise is more results focused.

"You did really well in that test"; "You played a fantastic game", "You are the best" are examples of praise. They focus on winning the game and a job well done. There's nothing wrong with telling kids they've done well, but it needs to be balanced with encouragement.

Encouragement focuses more on a child's effort, the improvement, their contribution or the enjoyment gained from an activity rather than the results. Competitive kids and perfectionists benefit from a diet high on encouragement and light on praise as they don't have to strive to please their parents.

Encouragement and positive expectations go hand in hand. Encouraging parents expect kids to succeed, not necessarily straight away, and not necessarily with ease. They also value kids as they are, not for who they are going to be.

Keep an eye on next week's newsletter for the six phases Grose suggest we use more to balance encouragement and praise.

Family Week

This coming week is once again OLA 'Family Week'. Feedback for Family Week held in Week 7 of each term has been extremely positive. Family Week will see the children have a break from formal home learning (although we ask that every child still reads each night) to spend time with you as a family, or helping you for the family. You may choose an activity that you can do as a family each day with your child. Examples in the past have included playing a board game, sitting and sharing stories, cooking a meal together, feeding the pet, playing cards, helping put away laundry, setting the table, reading mum or dad a book, washing the car, gardening, writing mum and dad a thank you note, spending time in prayer/saying the rosary, going for a family walk, etc. Family Week is aimed at freeing children up to assist and/or spend time with those who love them most, their greatest heroes, you their parents and family.

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

Tony Calabria
Principal

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Sunday 14th November 2021

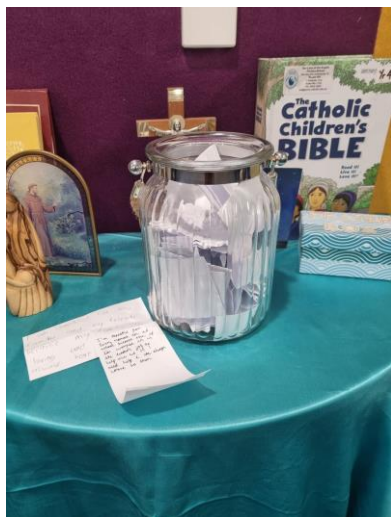


Gospel Reflection (Mark 13:24-32)

Whilst the community who were the intended audience of the Gospel of Mark were expecting the return of Jesus and the end times to occur during their lifetimes, nearly two thousand years later we realise that wasn't the case. Today, as in Mark's time, many people approach the future and change with fear and apprehension. As Christian people we are called to be optimistic and hopeful as we approach the future. We know that God is good, that God loves us unconditionally and that God has a dream for us. That is the simple basis of Christian hope.

Things we are grateful for

YEAR FOUR



Remembrance Day 11th Day of the 11th Month at the 11th Hour



KINDERGARTEN 2022 STUDENTS

REMAINING TRANSITION PROGRAM ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Today our 2022 Kindergarten children joined us in small groups for their first orientation session. We loved having you visit us and we can't wait to see you all again next week!

Thursday 18th November- Students with surname **A-D and M-R** 9.00am – 10.30am
Students with surname **E-L and S-Z** 11.45am – 1.15pm

Wednesday 24th November All Students 9.00am – 12.00noon
(Children will need to bring recess, a drink and hat)

Please inform the school if your child is unable to attend any of their sessions.



START OF SCHOOL DATES FOR 2022

Week 1 Fri 28th January Staff Return & MAI Assessments Yrs 1 – 6 (pre-booked)

Week 2 Mon 31st January MAI Assessments Yrs 1 – 6 (pre-booked)

Tues 1st February Yrs 1 – 6 First Day of School

31/1 – 2/2/22

Kindy 2022 Assessments

(One 90min session on any of these days) (pre-booked)

Thurs 3rd February Kindergarten First Day of school

Last School Day of Term 1 for students

Thursday 7th April

Staff Development Pupil Free Day

Friday 8th April

Easter Sunday

17th April

Competitor Swimming Carnival (Students Only)

We have received information from CEDP that schools can proceed with organising a Swimming event. This event needs to comply with Covid guidelines established by the NSW Department of Education and CEDP.

Given the many challenges still present, we will be holding a Swimming Carnival for **competitive swimmers only** on Tuesday 7th December (Week 10) at Oasis Aquatic & Leisure Centre, South Windsor for students in Years 2 – 5, plus students who turn 8 in 2022 from Year 1. **This Competitor Carnival is only for students who are competent in swimming 50m and wish to be considered for Zone representation.** The Zone Carnival will be held in February 2022.

An email was sent home today to parents of students in Years 1 – 5 with the Google Form link attached. This will also include transport arrangement and parent attendance regulations. **If you wish for your child to compete, please complete the link.**

If your child is NOT going to compete at the carnival, they will stay at school and their learning will continue as normal.

Reports

As forecast recent school newsletters, the End of Year Semester 2 reports will have a different focus from previous years. This is due to the extended period of remote learning and minimal time back at school.

As you can appreciate, the majority of learning for Semester 2 was undertaken remotely. The reality has been that students engaged in this learning at a variety of levels and more importantly with a variety of support and guidance from parents. It has been extremely difficult to ascertain what each child has been able to achieve independently, as work being submitted in remote learning may have had multiple drafts and varying levels of parental support.

Although students are able to undertake assessments since being back at school, reports need to be written, checked and finalised within a certain timeframe to be ready for distribution.

The Department of Education has granted permission for all schools to modify their reports due to Covid and that an A-E achievement level is not required. A large number of Catholic Primary Schools in the Hills cluster have liaised and designed a modified report that focuses on:-

- Outlining the learning areas that were focused on.
- Indicating a level of engagement during the 13 weeks of online learning.
- A teacher comment in Literacy.
- A teacher comment in Numeracy.
- A general comment.
- Attendance data.

Thank you for your support and understanding. The regular A-E report will return in Semester 1 2022.

Assessment Strategies

Teachers employ a variety of assessment strategies. One of the initial strategies is by Observation. Teachers are able to gauge the children's levels of understandings through observation of their practices and behaviours when undertaking a task. Checklists and anecdotal records help in the recording of these observations. Anecdotal records are a more informal form of assessment where the teacher takes observational notes on a student's achievements, beliefs, attitudes and skills as they are engaged in a task. Questioning is another form of assessment and can be either written or oral. Higher order questions indicate not only facts retained by the student but also if the student is able to apply the known facts. Open ended questioning allows for more than one answer to a problem and involves thinking beyond facts or skills. Another assessment strategy widely used by teachers is Testing. *Diagnostic tests* assess specific concepts through written or oral questioning. They are used to diagnose areas of difficulty so that suitable teaching can take place. *Performance Base Testing* involves a practical test where the teacher assesses the student as they are involved in an activity. *Pen and paper tests* are used to assess skills and facts recently taught and are designed to assess a variety of outcomes. *Multiple choice tests* are generally included in more formal tests such as the NAPLAN test completed by the Years 3 and 5 students. *Problem solving* requires the student to reach a solution to a problem without the need to use a normal procedure or algorithm. Finally, teachers often ask the students to self reflect on their learning by recording their thoughts and experiences. This and other forms of self evaluation help the teacher to understand how a child feels about their learning and any difficulties they may be experiencing.

Literacy News

READ.....READ.....READ

READ TO SUCCEED!

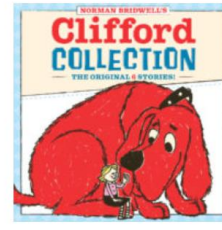
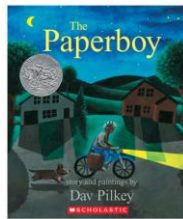
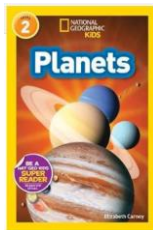


Christmas isn't far away and books make one of the best gifts for children. Not only do they introduce children to new worlds and language, but the act of giving books shows just how much you value literacy and learning!

Here are three things to consider when you're selecting books as gifts this Christmas season:

Choose series to set your child up for deeper, long-term engagement:

1. Series are great for avid and striving readers alike. Readers who are drawn to the characters and events of the first book will want to read more.
2. Look for nonfiction and biographical books to build topical knowledge — and opinions: Readers whose interests have developed and who are forming opinions may be interested in biographies or non fiction titles that discuss historical characters and their contributions.
3. Read-alouds create time for bonding all year-round (not just in the holidays): The benefits of reading aloud with your child are plentiful and proven. Introducing concepts like the ABCs and counting or integrating rhyme and repetition, which help with fluency and spelling, are a cornerstone of reading development.



Are you Still Regularly Late?

School begins at 8.50am sharp. Thank you to the parents who ensure their children are at school on time. Students who are late miss important announcements and, more significantly, vital learning in the classroom. Additionally, late children disturb the learning of others and are very self-conscious of entering after everyone else. Surprisingly, the children blame mum or dad not being ready whilst mum or dad tend to say it's the children.

We have been having a little bit of a grace period as traffic settles however from Monday if your child is arriving at school after 8.50am, you are required to accompany them to the office to be signed in.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

Summer
READING
challenge

WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30 each.

THE MORE BOOKS YOU READ, THE MORE CHANCES YOU HAVE TO WIN.

Enter online
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

CE CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Competition opens on 1 November 2021 and closes at 5pm on 25 February 2022. Terms and Conditions apply.

Artist of the Week:

We have some wonderful artworks on display this week, created by the talented artists across the school. Congratulations to the following artists:-

Kinder: Ariella Brown

Year 1: Victoria Zakharova

Year 2: Andre Youssef

Year 3: Xavier Desira

Year 4: Felicity Gresser

Year 5: Zali Adams

Year 6: Zoey Chown



Canteen

Our canteen will resume from next Monday, 15th November for **online orders** only. Please remember to email the office as early as you can – marked 'attention canteen' if you have placed an order and your child is going to be away.



Last Day of School for Term 4

The last day of school for students for 2021 is **Wednesday, 15th December 2021.**

2022 school travel applications are now open

Please see the information attached to this newsletter for school bus travel for 2022. Please apply or re-apply for your child's opal card now to ensure that you have a valid card for next year.

Are you missing out?? Join our Facebook page.

Take a look and see the amazing learning and happenings at OLA

<https://www.facebook.com/OLARouseHill> Or Click on the facebook f in the top corner of our school website

Be sure to 'like us'

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

Mon 15th Nov

Olivia Hartz
Mila Annamalay-Sanchez
Mrs Jo Hall

Fri 19th Nov

Keenan McGrath

Sat 20th Nov

Mya Bassili
Niamh Sweeney
Mia Snook
Alegra Shaw
Aidan McGrady

Tues 16th Nov

Ryan Salac
Caleb Atkins
William Lewis
Mrs Samantha Zivic
Mrs Lyndelle Batten

Thurs 18th Nov

Lucas Rapa
Ethan Mihalic
Felicity Gresser

If your child needs a change of clothes at school from sick bay, due to a little accident, etc, could you please ensure that the items are washed and returned to school as soon as possible. We do mark our clothing with 'OLA Spare' on the tags for ease of identification.

LOST PROPERTY PLEASE LABEL, LABEL, LABEL...

We have an extraordinary amount of clothing in the lost property tub, many of which are not labelled, or the writing is now illegible.

If your child has lost a jumper/jacket, please ask them to check the tub next week and take it if it has no name on it and it is the correct size. All unclaimed items will soon be sent to the P&F to go in their next sale.

By the same token, if your child brings something home accidentally with the wrong name on it, please return it to school so that it can be given to the correct child.

Pedestrian Safety

Tips for pedestrians before you cross the road:

- Look before you cross. Just because someone else decides to cross, doesn't mean it's safe for you.
- Never assume that an approaching vehicle can see you, or will stop for you- wait until all vehicles have stopped before you step off the kerb.
- Cross only at designated pedestrian crossings.
- Avoid crossing between parked cars or at the front or back of buses and large vehicles.
- Don't be distracted by your phone and remove headphones before crossing roads.
- Always look out before you step out.
- Plan ahead so you're not rushing to catch the bus/train/tram.
- Wear bright, light coloured clothing at night or in reduced visibility conditions.



We Can Bounce Back

We are all capable of developing skills and strategies to 'Bounce Back' and build resilience. Over the next two weeks students will identify important steps that can be taken to resolve conflict.

When faced with conflict, students at OLA are encouraged to...

1. Calm down by taking a deep breath, taking a break or thinking of something calming
2. Take turns speaking using 'I' statements
3. Agree on a solution

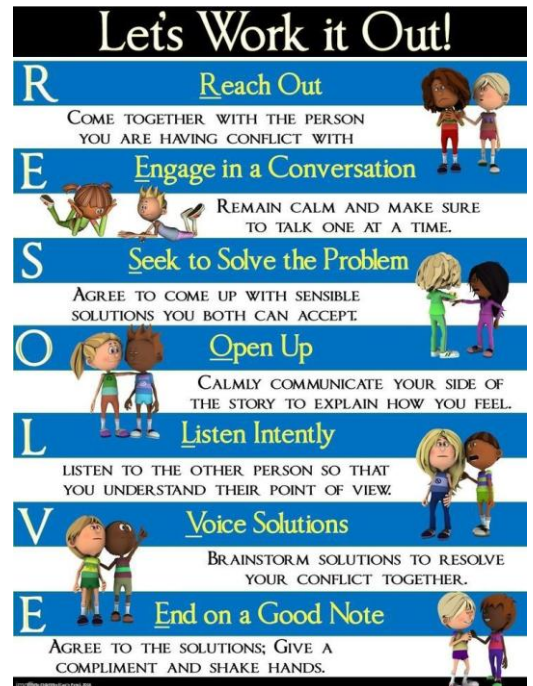
What are 'I' statements?

'I' statements allow children to name what happened, state how it made them feel and identify what they would like to happen next.

Example: 'When you took my pencil, I felt upset because it is my favourite pencil, so I would like it if you asked me before you used my pencil.'

We ask that you continue this conversation at home to identify the strategies that work best for your child/ren. You may like to discuss the strategies that can be used at home and the different strategies that can be used at school.

You may like to watch this catchy music clip together. [The Playground Craze - BounceBack Video on Youtube.](#)



TRANSFORMING LEARNING



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

9 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In the past days, there has been some misinformation circulating online suggesting that planning was underway for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations of students at school.

I want to be clear that this is not the case. There are no plans for schools to arrange mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for students.

I hope that you find this clarification helpful.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta



Award recipients from this week will be published in next week's newsletter.

Second-Hand Uniform

The P&F are anticipating having a second-hand uniform sale towards the end of November. If you have any uniform at home that you would like to donate, please send clean and saleable items through to the office.

Join The Band

Dear Parents,

Enrolments are now open to students who wish to join the school band in 2022. See below for a basic overview of the program.

Band Program Structure

Rehearsal: students work together in a full band setting, generally before or after school (30-60min each week)

Tuition: students work in small groups at school to learn new skills, usually on the same day as rehearsal (30min each week)

Students attend both **rehearsal** and **tuition** (weekly) at school.

Regular **practise** at home (3-4 times a week) is essential.

Band Program Costs

Tuition Fees: small group tuition and band rehearsal costs \$195 (plus a \$10 resource levy) per term. Individual tuition costs extra and is not available at all schools.

Instrument: students require their own instrument. TSA sells quality new instruments or offers 'rent-to-buy' starting at \$43 per month.

Accessories: students are provided with a workbook on enrolment but may require other accessories, generally less than \$50 per year.

For information on how to enrol use the QR code or website below.

You will also find helpful advice on ***how to help your child select an instrument*** as well as more detailed information about the school band program.



www.teachingservices.com.au/EOI

Best wishes to all Year 12 students sitting their HSC exams at this time.

