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Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 37

19th November, 2021
Term 4, Week 7

Dear Parents

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Due to Covid restrictions once again this year, a number of end of year events will need to be modified. Our end of year Mass in the church will not be able to take place. As a result, we will be holding an outdoor prayer liturgy for students only on Monday 13th December at 10.00am. We will record this event and post it on our Facebook page. This prayer liturgy will be an opportunity to celebrate the amazing year that we have had and to give thanks to our Lord for all his blessings. We will also take this opportunity to farewell our Year 6 students and acknowledge the wonderful partnership between home and school of our OLA Christ-centered community that has achieved so much this year, particularly given the lockdown period.

Our annual Christ concert will be replaced with a virtual celebration focusing on the joyous events of Christmas. This will be recorded and also posted in the last week of school as we celebrate the coming of Christ. Keep an eye out for further details.

The Year 6 students will participate in a Motiv8 Day on Friday 3rd December and the Year 6 Graduation will take place on **Tuesday 14th December at 6.00pm**. They will also have a special luncheon at school and a guard of honour on the Tuesday.

The children have been incredible this year and their learning has continued from strength to strength. By popular demand, we have once again organised two massive blowup water slippy slides for the children to enjoy on **Friday 10th December**. The children will be rostered in grade groups for this wet and wild experience (details to follow).

Thank you for the positive feedback re, the first half of the article in last week's newsletter on Praise Less, Encourage More. The following is the final part entitled Six Phrases to Use'.

Six Phrases to Use

1. **"You do a good job of...."**
Encourage children when they least expect it. Even a comment about something seemingly small and insignificant can make a child feel good about him or herself.
2. **"You've improved in...."**
Children will generally continue to try if they can see improvement in any activity they put their minds to. Sometimes they just don't know they are getting better and they need someone to tell them.
3. **"I like you, but I don't like your behaviour."**
Love the sinner, hate the sin is the principle here. When dealing with children, whose behaviour can test you, it is best to separate the deed from the doer, the act from the actor.
4. **"So you made a mistake. What can you learn from it?"**
Don't overreact when kids don't get the perfect score or make mistakes. As any golfer knows, mistakes are part of learning.
5. **"You'd like me to think you can't do it, but I know you can."**
Sometimes it's hard to know whether to push a child or let them avoid a situation or activity. If in doubt, err on the side of challenging kids rather than letting them avoid an activity that will benefit them. Kids so often surprise themselves and exceed their own expectations, so they can benefit from a little nudge from their parents.
6. **"I'm sure you can do it. Don't give up."** Resilient kids learn that there is a link between success and effort, and they may not achieve straight away. Push your kids to hang in there when times get tough. Persistence is a great lesson for any child to learn. Think about how many of these you use already and which strategies you would like to find out more about. Effective parents do the basics well. Encouragement is a basic parenting skill that can have an enormous impact on kids and one that we can all learn more about.

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

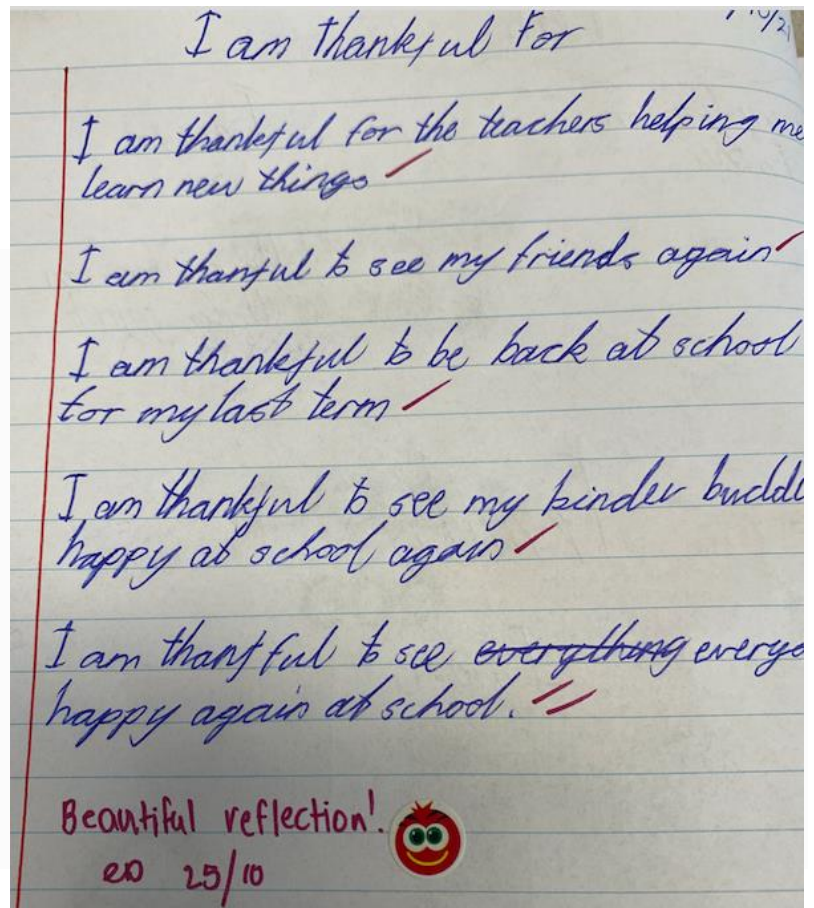
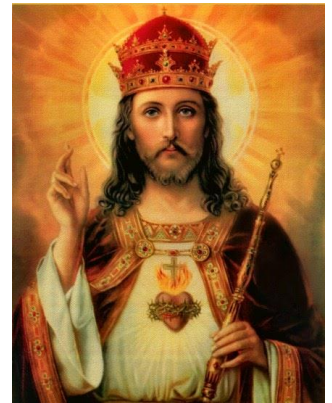
Tony Calabria
Principal

NEWSLETTER

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Year B) Sunday 21st November 2021 'Feast of Christ King'
Gospel Reflection (John 18:33-37)



This weekend marks the end of the liturgical year. Next weekend we celebrate the first week of Advent, when we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was a threat. Claiming kingship was claiming authority and power that would inevitably lead to challenging the authority and power of Rome and, more directly, its representative in Palestine – Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to today's feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority. When we think back to Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status – the first – in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king? The confusion about what it means to be a king that is captured in this interaction between Jesus and Pilate is the same confusion that we saw among the disciples as they came to terms with exactly what it means to be the Messiah.



CHRISTMAS ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER APPEAL

Advent starts on the 28th of November.

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. We will post in next week's newsletter, items each grade will be asked to send in for the hampers to help those who are less fortunate

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

Staff Development Pupil Free Day

Easter Sunday

Thursday 7th April

Friday 8th April

17th April

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.

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 this week 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 by this coming Tuesday, 23rd November.***

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

KINDERGARTEN 2022 STUDENTS

REMAINING TRANSITION PROGRAM ORIENTATION SESSIONS

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

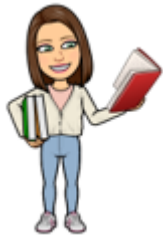
Wednesday 24th November

9.00am – 12.00noon All Students

(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.





Literacy News

READ.....READ.....READ READ TO SUCCEED!

READ.....READ.....READ.....READ TO SUCCEED!
 “Children are made readers on the laps of their parents”
 - Emilie Buchwald



Many parents have heard their child’s teacher talk about ‘comprehension’. Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what has been read.

Here are some parent friendly tips to help your child ‘comprehend’ what they are reading:

1. **Read, read, read:** Reading aloud and taking turns means that you can get through a book more quickly. Reading the first few chapters of a novel to your child often captures their interest and then they can read on their own. Reading a variety of books also adds to their vocabulary. Model reading as an adult.
2. **Build links to the text:** Try to make links between the text and something in his own life. As questions such as: “Does character y remind you of....?” “Remember when we also did that, just like the x character?” “How is this book similar to....?”
3. **Try to guess what will happen next...:** Use the information that you have read so far to guess what might happen next. What clues can your child use to imagine where the story might lead?
4. **Ask questions to help clarify:** Don’t just use this strategy whilst reading books. Ask your child questions when you’re watching a favourite tv show or movie together. This is a good habit to develop (as they won’t associate questioning with only reading books!).

Canteen

As communicated in last week’s newsletter, the canteen has resumed for **online orders** only. Please remember to email the office as early as possible – marked ‘attention canteen’ if you have placed an order and your child is going to be away

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.

Last Day of School for Term 4

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



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

Sun 21st Nov

Archer Adams
Remy Buda
Marcus Medjumurac

Tues 23rd Nov

Joshua Basile
Max Suarez
Sienna Ng

Wed 24th Nov

Lily Naim

Thurs 25th Nov

Logan Cleary
Sammy Ewer

Fri 26th Nov

Sophia Iori
Eva Naim

Sat 27th Nov

Gabi Ribeiro
Cassie Graham
Charlize Abboud
Olivia Macario

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

CATHOLIC EDUCATION
 DIOCESE OF Parramatta

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

Helping Make a Difference in the Lives of Those Less Fortunate

Kianah Lesar in Year 1 is raising money by cutting her long hair to make a wig for children with cancer. If you would like to support this worthy cause, please click on the link below.
<https://fundraise.kidswithcancer.org.au/s/1389/1392/3>

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’

ONLINE CYBER SAFETY

As you are well aware, the use of technology and online communication is increasingly a component of our lives and in particular in our children's social interactions. In today's climate it is more important than ever before to have open conversations with our children about the appropriate use of online forums and chat groups.

This week, as part of our online safety curriculum we had our Local Area Police School Liaison Officer, Constable Ethan West attend OLA. He delivered a presentation to year 5 students regarding appropriate online behaviour and consequences of inappropriate use of these technologies.

Constable West strongly suggested that you remind your child/ren of online etiquette and consequences of engaging in unsafe or inappropriate behaviour. As a parent you should be aware of your child's online activities at all times and certainly limit their screen time and unrestricted internet access. Once a comment or image is shared it is there forever. Apps and social media have age guidelines for a reason - to keep our children safe. For helpful information you may like to use the government website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>.

Protecting Digital Footprints

It is important to carefully consider what you share online. Your digital footprint or digital reputation is created by all the things you say and do online, as well as what others share about you. The people or organisations you follow on social media, and the things you post, share, like and comment on, all form part of your digital footprint. If you share an image or post something, it could become part of their digital footprint. What you post will shape how you are perceived by others, now and into the future. Remember, once something is shared online it can be very difficult to remove and can be easily and quickly shared. Images and words can be misinterpreted or altered as they are shared online.

Tips to protect your digital reputation

Privacy settings – set your social media profiles to private so that only your family and friends have access to your photos and posts.

Protect personal information – think carefully before you share photos or post personal information about yourself or your family.

Stop and think before you share, like, follow or comment on something – consider whether you would want this image or information to be shown if someone searches online for you.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Grandparents%20booklet.pdf>

Christmas Treats

In these last weeks 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.

Student Leaders for 2022

Year 5 parents received an email on Tuesday 2nd November outlining the process for the selection of School Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains for 2022. Congratulations to the students who have progressed into the next round of voting and will be presenting speeches for the position of 2022 School Captains. These speeches will be held this Monday 22nd November. Speeches for Sports Captains will be presented on Thursday 25th November.



Birthday Treats – Reminder

We kindly ask that you refrain from sending any birthday treats of any kind, edible or not, 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.

We Can Bounce Back

Students at OLA have been learning about using 'I' statements. These statements are encouraged to be used to express what has happened and how it made them feel. It also allows the child to suggest a possible resolution. Mastering an 'I' statement can take time. It is important that opportunities are given to children to practise using these statements in a variety of situations.

How can I construct an 'I' statement?

'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.'

Example: When you kicked the ball away from the game, I felt angry because it disrupted the game. I would like it if you played the game according to the rules.

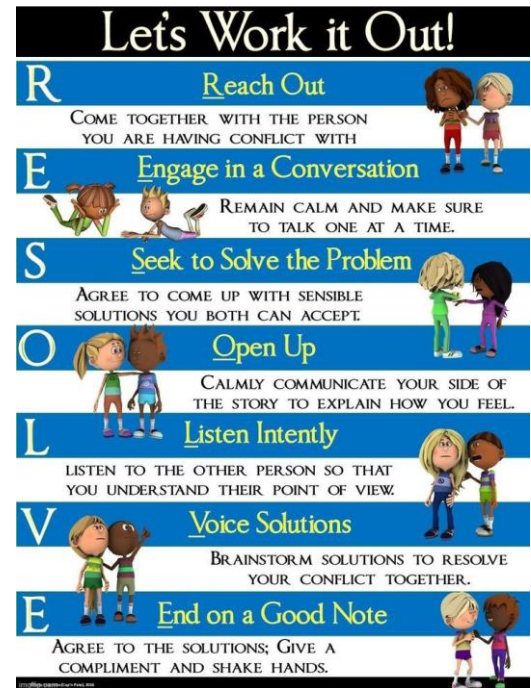
Example: When you choose the game that we play everyday, I feel frustrated because I would like to play something different. I would like it if we could take turns choosing the game.

We are all capable of developing skills and strategies to 'Bounce Back' and build resilience. 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

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.](#)



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.

Please note: Teaching Services final parent information session (zoom) will be held on **Monday 22nd November at 7.00pm**

<https://teachingservices.com.au/parent-information-webinar/>

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PO Box 87 Kenthurst NSW 2155
Unit 31 / 286-287 New Line Rd Dural NSW 2158
office hours Monday - Friday 9am - 4:30pm
phone (02) 9651 7333 fax (02) 9651 7133
email info@teachingservices.com.au

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.

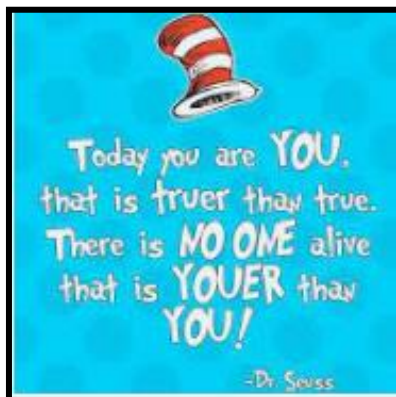
Accessories: students are provided with a workbook on enrolment but may require other accessories, generally less than \$50 per year.

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

Congratulations to the students who received awards last week:-



Term 4 Week 6		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Addison Lawler	Andy Dumsney
KG	Kirra Tierney	Amy Tawadrouse
KW	Samuel Cauchi	Ashton Riley
Year 1 B	Artie Singh	Emily Dalton
Year 1 G	Myra Shokeen	Miguel Rivera
Year 1 W	Millyana Pelaez	Luis Flores
Year 2 B	Brae Aldaba	Cooper Foley
Year 2G	Evelyn Lynch	Elisheba Mathew
Year 2W	Ella Macdonald	Tristan Cappello
Year 3 B	Sofia Krkac	Cooper Roberts
Year 3 G	Charlotte Holden	Damien Pendlebury
Year 3 W	Alissar El Khoury	Annie Blazey
Year 4 B	Erica Sommer	Luke Scanes
Year 4 G	Juliana Wassef	Noah Falzon
Year 4 W	Luca Signorelli	Phoenix Rich
Year 5 B	Ashlee Charlton	Axel Pace
Year 5G	Isaac Rapa	Blaize McDonald
Year 5W	Ashlee Charlton	Axel Pace
Year 6 B	Solomon Sloane	Maddix Laborte
Year 6 G	Francesca Topic	Paige Mitrovich
Year 6 W	Dylan Halwani	Meliya Boyd

And for those who received awards this week:-

Term 4 Week 7		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Keenan McGrath	Archer Adams
KG	Nash Cleary	Liam Parame
KW	Gabriella Dinos	Leo Rosser
Year 1 B	Benjamin Nicholls	Ari Vilathgamuwa
Year 1 G	Ava Zhu	Isla Vella
Year 1 W	Evelyn McKee	Gabriel Palacio Rosero
Year 2 B	Giuliana Barbara	Oliver Jagar
Year 2G	Arlo Barry	Lily Tawadrouse
Year 2W	Amelia Makdessi	Johanna Torre Islas
Year 3 B	Alana Apap	Lachlan Newman
Year 3 G	Olivia Blackman	Lucas Capco
Year 3 W	Flynn Richardson	Madeleine Teo
Year 4 B	Sophia Mangano	Ethan Zachariah
Year 4 G	Cooper Ross	Serenity Naim
Year 4 W	Giacomo Crosato	Kyra Heaney
Year 5 B	Ethan Billyard	Steven Wang
Year 5G	Paityn Ng	Elyssa Marsden
Year 5W	Chloe Carey	Hridaya Ghangurde
Year 6 B	Leah Daniel	Oliver Davidson
Year 6 G	Jayden Ennor	Abbey Hollier
Year 6 W	Russell Rochaix	Sophia Iori

