



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

1 Wellgate Ave Kellyville 2155

Phone: 8808 7300

Email: ola@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website <http://www.olarousehill.catholic.edu.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLARouseHill>

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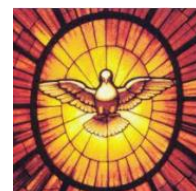
26th November, 2021
Term 4, Week 8

Dear Parents

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Next Wednesday and Thursday evenings, our year 6 students will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. We ask our OLA community to keep them in our prayers.

We will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us as we face the many pressures and challenges in life. The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us all to respond to God in our daily life and enable us to remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus.



Resilience

Each day our children grow and learn. They are on an exciting journey that is yet to unfold. Fostering resilience in our children is essential for their success in life.

Resilience is:-

- The capacity to cope and feel competent
- The ability to accept life's disappointments and bounce back from hard times.
- A generally positive attitude to life
- A mixture of attitude, skills, abilities and character.

Some are born with a more resilient spirit, others have resilience fostered by early childhood experiences.

What does a resilient child look like?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| - Healthy thinking habits | - Bounces back from adversity |
| - Realistic/detective thinking | - Has empathy for others |
| - Helpful thinking | - Moves forward & doesn't dwell on what has happened |
| - Being optimistic/positive attitude | |
| - Independent and resourceful | |
| - Good problem-solvers | |
| - Able to mix well with others. | |

Children need the freedom to:-

- Grow up free from having to please their parents all the time (hopefully they will want to please you because of shared values).
- Be free to make their own mistakes (making mistakes is how we learn)
- Be free to feel discomfort and learn from life's disappointments.

"Prepare our children for the path, not the path for our children"

Theme of the Week

"Always be Prepared"

Our theme this week is related to the special time of Advent which begins this Sunday as we begin our preparations for the coming of Christ at the special time of Christmas. This theme also reinforces in children the need to be well prepared in their everyday life, from having their school learning materials to being able to plan ahead for events, etc, as opposed to last minute panic and parent rescues. A lot can be learnt from the old says of: **"In failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."**

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

Tony Calabria
Principal

NEWSLETTER



We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'. From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.



ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving us
these four weeks to prepare to celebrate
the birth of your Son.

We are so thankful for all the people
that help us along this path we're traveling
to welcome Jesus.

God, bless our family and prepare our home
and hearts to welcome your Son,
Jesus Christ, into the world.

AMEN.



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CHRISTMAS ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER APPEAL

Helping make a Difference in the Lives of Others.

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. Below is a list of items we would like each grade to donate. St Vincent de Paul will collect items on 14th December. Please send donations in before **Friday 10th December**.

Kindergarten – Bon Bons, Christmas serviettes, confectionary, chips

Year 1 – Pancake mix, cereal, muesli bars, sweet and savoury biscuits

Year 2 – Christmas pudding, custard, Christmas cake, fruit mince pies, jelly

Year 3 – Milo, hot chocolate, tea, coffee, long life milk, soft drink, cordial

Year 4 – Tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, jam, honey, vegemite

Stage 3 – Dignity packs (deodorant, soap/body wash, face washes, hand cream, toothbrush/paste, shower gel, tissues, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, toothbrush/soap holders)



Sacrament of Confirmation

Please keep in your prayers the following students who will receive their Sacrament of Confirmation: Mya B, Alysha B, Zoey C, Julie B, Abbey H, Maddison D, Willow J, Grace L, Ebony L, Paige M, Chloe H, Orlaith M, Mackenzie M, Sophia I, Gabi R, Madison S, Claire S, Alexandra T, Isabella S, Francesca T, Danielle V, Natalia Z, Maia V, Oliver D, Jake B, Lucious C, Maddix L, Charlie M, Logan C, Dylan H, Kobe C, Lachlan H, Zachary O, Matthew K, Solomon S, Ethan S, Aiden M, Luke S, Russell R, Maxim S, Jayden E, Hugo V, Cameron M. Georgia D, Olivia R, Harrison K, Cassandra H, Aidan A

Fri 3rd Dec	Year 6 Motiv8 Day
Tues 7th Dec	Competitors Only Swimming Trials – Hawkesbury Oasis Centre
Wed 8th Dec	Last day of trading for Uniform Shop
Fri 10th Dec	Last day for receiving any cash over the counter for fees etc Water Fun Day (Whole School)
Mon 13th Dec	End of Year Outdoor Mass (students only) Term 4 Principal Awards & Morning Tea
Tues 14th Dec	Year 6 End of Year Luncheon Year 6 Guard of Honour 2.30pm (Year 6 parents are welcome to gather near the office, due to Covid, at approx. 2.50pm and will be instructed to also form a guard of Honour which the year 6 will pass through. Year 6 Graduation Mass 6.00pm
Wed 15th Dec	Last Day of School for Students



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
	Thursday	7th April	Last School Day of Term 1 for students
	Friday	8th April	Staff Development Pupil Free Day
		17th April	Easter Sunday

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.

Swimming Trials

Thank you to the parents who have nominated their children to participate in the competitor only swimming trials at Hawkesbury Oasis Swim Centre on Tuesday 7th December. **Nominations have now closed.** Further information regarding the organisational aspects of the carnival will be forthcoming next week to the parents of participating students.

Technology

Preparing students for life in the digital world is extremely important. OLA strives to develop digitally literate citizens who understand not only how to use technology effectively, but also know how the technology they use works.

If you are considering purchasing a device for your child to use at school next year, an email has been sent home today with information which may assist you.

Congratulations to our winning Premier's Reading Challenge class



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The students in 2G will enjoy a 'Pizza lunch' as their prize next Friday!
Well done to all our students who participated.
At OLA we read to succeed!



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



Parents and carers who read aloud with children in a secure, safe and comfortable context motivate their children to read. Parents' perceptions, values, attitudes, and expectations play an important role in influencing their children's attitudes toward reading, and subsequent literacy development. When children share a book with someone who makes them feel special, the attitude that reading is pleasurable is transferred to other reading encounters.

1. **Relationship Building:** At the core of reading is a relationship and it is the bond between children and parents that is enhanced through reading together. It only takes ten minutes a day to build this relationship.
2. **Children's Reading Improves:** The research is conclusive: When parents successfully support their children's literacy learning from an early age, everyone benefits. When teachers and parents work together to support children's reading and academic success, learning outcomes for all children improve.
3. **Children read more:** Students who read with their parents are better prepared for school. They begin school with knowledge of book language and familiarity with concepts of print. They understand how books work and have many more exposures to text types and vocabulary.
4. **Children's self-esteem improves:** Knowing someone cares enough to take time out of a busy schedule to give you undivided attention around a book makes a significant difference to how students perceive themselves as learners and readers. When parents show an interest in their children's learning, children respond positively
5. **Reading unites families through shared stories:** When a family reads together, stories form a common ground for communicating. Stories bind families and help students make sense of where they fit in the world

Second-Hand Uniform

As we only have a short time left at school, the P&F will hold a second hand uniform sale on Friday 28th January. More information to follow regarding the time.

LAST CALL.....

Readers & Library Books

Please check at home for any overdue books.

A reminder that next week (Week 9) is the last week of borrowing and all readers will need to be returned in Week 10.



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

Sun 28th Nov
Amalia Gergely-Hollai

Tues 30th Nov
Ella Ciantar
Brandon Ciantar
Alissar El Khoury

Wed 1st Dec
Dylan Halwani
Gabriella Dinos

Wed 1st Dec
Cooper Ross
Grace Maddaford
Kate McKeever
Ciaran McKeever

Fri 3rd Dec
Madeleine Bonavita
Jack Maher
Jeremiah Mataia

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.

2022 Diocesan Team Sport Trials
 Please find attached to this newsletter information regarding the 2022 Diocesan Sport Trials.



Congratulations to our 2021 Maths Games and Maths Olympiad Teams.

The Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads (APSMO) is a not-for-profit organisation that coordinates Mathematics programs and competitions for students.

The overall aim being to encourage students to develop important mathematical problem solving skills.

This year, OLA had 3 teams participate in the programs offered by APSMO.

1. A **Maths Olympiad** Team consisting of 26 Students from Year 5 and 6, facilitated by Mrs Schroder.
2. A **Maths Games** Team of 25 students from Years 5 and 6, facilitated by Mrs Brady.
3. A **Maths Games** Team of 27 students from Years 3 and 4, facilitated by Mrs Lopez.

Students were selected at the beginning of the school year for Maths Games / Maths Olympiad teams based on a specific assessment task and results in other school assessments. Teams are reviewed at the beginning of each year. We met each Tuesday afternoon throughout the year and worked on various tasks that helped to develop a range of problem solving strategies. At designated points across the year the students 'put their talent to the test', competing against other schools and students across Australia and New Zealand via five official contests.

We are very proud of the effort, persistence, mathematical skills, teamwork, reasoning and communication these students have demonstrated and developed throughout the year.

In the coming weeks, each student will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation in Maths Games/ Olympiad in 2021. Selected students will also receive additional awards.

We look forward to sharing these names with you next week.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are in the process of filming our OLA virtual Christmas Concert entitled "The Nazareth Evening News". Each grade has been busy preparing an item to be filmed for our OLA virtual Christmas Concert. Please see below for the assigned day each grade will be filmed and what to wear. Please use what you have at home, do not feel the need to purchase items etc but rather beg, borrow or be creative. Many thanks for your support.

OLA CHRISTMAS MUFTI DAY DATES:

Date	Grade	What to wear on the day
Tues 30/11	Kindergarten	Black or brown top with sports shorts and shoes. (School to provide donkey ears)
Wed 1/12	Year 1	White t-shirt or shirt with sport shorts or dress. Angel themed accessories.
Wed 8/12	Year 2	White t-shirt or shirt with sport shorts or dress. Angel themed accessories
Thurs 2/12	Year 3	White t-shirt or shirt with sport shorts or dress. Angel themed accessories.
Thurs 9/12	Year 4	White t-shirt or shirt with sport shorts or dress. Angel themed accessories.
Wed 8/12	Year 5	White t-shirt or shirt with sport shorts or dress. Angel themed accessories.
Tues 30/11	Year 6	Shepherd like outfit

Our virtual Christmas concert will be posted on Facebook, during the last week of school.

"Hay" Can you Help?

To complete our props for the concert, we are seeking to borrow a few hay bales. If you are able to assist, please contact the school office via email ola@parra.catholic.edu.au. Many thanks.

Water Fun Day – Friday 10th December
Please see the email that was sent home this week.

WANTED!!

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

Before lockdown, there was a large amount of library books loaned out to OLA students. We are pleased that the students had plenty of opportunities for reading during this period and most of these books have been returned. However, our records show that there are still a lot of books that have not been returned and are missing from the library.

OLA library books and readers have a barcode on the back cover and stamps inside on the front and back pages of every book.



We ask for ALL students to assist with this mystery and undergo a search for library books at home, on and behind all bookshelves, beds, lounges, inside wardrobes and drawers etc. We would greatly appreciate if all books and readers that are found are returned as soon as possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

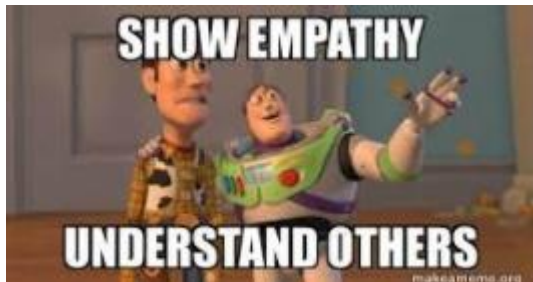
We Can Bounce Back

During the next two weeks, students at OLA will be exploring the themes of empathy and forgiveness. Empathy is the ability to step into the shoes of another person, aiming to understand their feelings and point of view, and to use that understanding to guide our actions.

Empathy is really important for how we get along with people. Whether you can be a good friend or be successful with a team of others depends on being able to understand how other people might see a situation and how they are feeling. It helps you know how your actions affect others, what actions you need to take to be a good friend or teammate, and it helps you understand more about the people and the world around you. Forgiveness is when an individual voluntarily chooses to let go of feelings and thoughts of resentment, bitterness, anger, and the need for vengeance and retribution toward someone who we believe has wronged us, including ourselves. Developing empathy is a necessary step in forgiveness. Like adults, kids sometimes feel wronged by others. Through retaliation, kids may feel like they are merely responding to the situation, however, they may be less accepted and more rejected by other kids, and have fewer or lower-quality friendships. On the other hand, choosing to forgive can de-escalate a cycle of conflict and preserve a valuable friendship.

We ask that you continue this conversation at home to identify the need to ask for forgiveness and also to forgive others so that we are able to move forward from situations that we hold on to. Developing resilience and the capacity to 'Bounce Back' from situations at times, requires the forgiveness of others and/or ourselves.

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



Over this week we had the opportunity to celebrate Mass in cohorts. We thank Fr Omar for his presence with us.

If I ever go missing, please follow my kids. They can find me, no matter where I try to hide.



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'

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.

Congratulations to the students who received awards this week:-

Term 4 Week 8		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Eden Gresser	Remy Buda
KG	Michelle Wilianto	Xander Liceralde
KW	Liam Dyke	Owen Millers
Year 1 B	Sienna Mataia	Mya Mitrovich
Year 1 G	Mila Annamalay-Sanchez	Cooper Cameron
Year 1 W	Roy Shim	Jack Lenane
Year 2 B	Matisse Slms	Avery Grace
Year 2G	Caleb Tan	Valentina Buda
Year 2W	Nevaeh Macquet-Maurel	Preston Georges
Year 3 B	Ruby Masters	Locke Singh
Year 3 G	Harrison Dolahenty	Brayden Zhu
Year 3 W	Daniella Spiteri	James Boje
Year 4 B	Levi Cauchi	Elizabeth McKee
Year 4 G	Fionn Galway	Ilana McGrath
Year 4 W	Felicity Gresser	Lucas Richardson
Year 5 B	Ruby Martin	Taylor Saward
Year 5G	Rose Montgomery	William Harvey
Year 5W	Olivia Vella	Tomas Mallari
Year 6 B	Zachary Ormsby	Maxim Stankiewicz
Year 6 G	Malachi Rangan	Willow Johnston
Year 6 W	Aiden McGrady	Cailee Graham

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following children who have been selected as 'Artists of the Week'. Their work is currently on display outside the library.

- K Andy Dumesny
- Y1 Evelyn McKee
- Y2 Charlize Fresta
- Y3 Emily Gomes
- Y4 Ryan Salac
- Y5 Ethan Mihalic
- Y6 Jayden Ennor
- Y6 Solomon Soane

