

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary NEWSLETTER



2 March 2016

Term 1

Week 6

School Contact Details

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Parish Contact Details

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UPCOMING DATES

TERM 1

Week 6

Friday 4/03

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Uniform Fitting Day

Week 7

Monday 7/03

Catholic Schools Week

Term 1 School fees due

Tuesday 8/03

2017 Kindergarten Enrolments
commence

NOTES SENT HOME LAST

FRIDAY

- Year 4 Excursion
- Hillsbus Amended Timetable

NOTES SENT HOME TODAY

- God Day Invitation Note

Dear Parents

Being a parent is a wonderful privilege but it is also very challenging, sometimes scary and, on occasion, puzzling. When Mary and Joseph found their twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple after three days of anxious searching, Mary was unable to restrain herself and said to Jesus, "Son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." (Luke 2:48) Mary's statement showed that she was not always able to understand the conduct of her child. Here is some comfort for us, as we witness the growing-up conduct of our own children. Parenting can be an emotional journey.

Recent studies tell us that parents spend as little as 2-5 minutes a day in meaningful conversation with their teenagers. Telling our children to clean their room, go to bed, get up, brush their teeth and go to school don't count as meaningful conversation. 2-5 minutes a day, no matter how meaningful, is simply not enough to compete with the multitude and variety of influences being presented to our children. We need to spend a meaningful amount of time with our children so we can get to know what's going on in their lives, what they are thinking and what are the outside influences that are forming their moral and ethical values.

Spending time raising responsible children who are happy, self-disciplined and able to think for themselves is a worthwhile goal. Finding out how we can help our children towards that end is our job and responsibility as parents. Our children rely on us to bring a mature adult perspective to our parenting and to be their main influence.

In this Sunday's gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-34) we hear the parable of the prodigal son. When the story begins, the two sons have not yet led lives they could call their own. They are part of a close-knit family. Suddenly this life is interrupted by one of the sons wanting to seek his independence and break away from the close-knit family, revolts from conformity in search of a different life. After a while the 'good life' becomes very unsatisfactory and I'm sure with a great deal of self-reflection and trepidation the son returns home to be welcomed back with a warm and joyous embrace from his father.



Just like the father, we as parents need to let our children 'spread their wings' and be ready to catch them should they fall. They will not fall all the time but just knowing we are there to support can often be just enough. To be able to feel confident and comfortable to do so, we as parents need to spend quality time with our children.

Enjoy the time this week with your children.

Mr Steven Jones

Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

**WORLD YOUTH DAY
KRAKOW JULY 2016**

Johra Brackenbury has been selected as one of the teachers/parishioners to attend this huge event with the students travelling as part of the Parramatta Diocese contingent.

On their way to Krakow they will be spending time in the Philippines helping to build a school for a parish that was destroyed by cyclones about 18 months ago.

I am sure Johra will return with many experiences and stories to share with our community.

We congratulate Johra on her selection and our thoughts and prayers go with her. As a school community we will be holding a fundraising event to support Johra early next term.

SPOTLIGHT ON RE

Classes are now preparing for Easter the greatest feast in our Church year. In week eight children will be involved in God Day and our Easter reflection.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK will be celebrated between the 7-13 March. There will be a whole school Mass on Friday 11 March at 10.30am. The theme this year is "I BELONG... YOU BELONG... WE BELONG."

Sacramental preparation has begun in the Parish. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is received in Year 3, First Communion is celebrated in Year 4 and Confirmation is celebrated in Year 5. Please make sure you have your enrolment forms to return to the Parish Office.

KINDERGARTEN 2017 ENROLMENTS

Kindergarten 2017 Enrolments open next week from Tuesday 8 March. Please let family and friends know that packs can be collected between 8:30am and 3:30pm from the school office. **There are three open days organised for prospective 2017 Kindergarten parents –**

10 March (Thursday) – 9:30-10:30am

6 April (Wednesday) – 9:30-10:30am

3 May (Tuesday) – 9:30-10:30am

A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools was introduced in 2015 which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese.

Where places are limited, priority will be given in order to:

- Catholic children who live in the local parish
- Catholic children from other parishes
- Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (e.g. siblings)
- Orthodox children
- Children from other Christian faiths
- Children of non-Christian faith

MERIT CERTIFICATES

| NAME | CLASS |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Estelle, Navya Lachlan, Taliah | KB KG |
| Emma, Mia Marten, Jasmine | 1B 1G |
| Aiden, Sophia Yasemin, Catherine | 2B 2G |
| Aaron, Zara Daniel, Jessica | 3B 3G |
| Christopher, Mary Matthew, Georgia | 4B 4G |
| Maya, Luca I Aiza, Alannah | 5B 5G |
| Mary, Samir Denver, Monica | 6B 6G |

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2016

Just a reminder that this Friday 4 March is a pupil free day. On this day staff will be analysing the numeracy, literacy and observation data that they have gathered through various assessments and observations over the past six weeks.

MEET THE TEACHER

Thank you to parents for providing staff with further insights into your child(ren)'s learning. These meetings are an extremely important opportunity for all, as we strongly believe that education begins with and is centred on relationships, and that a positive relationship between parents and teachers will have a significant impact on the learning of the children whose care we share. Thank you to the teachers for taking the time to meet with each individual family to listen and develop that important relationship between home and school. If you have not yet made an appointment to meet with your child's teacher, please ring the school office to make an appointment time.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This year Catholic Schools Week will be held next week from 6 –12 March. The theme for 2016 is "**I belong. You belong. We belong.**" To celebrate Catholic Schools Week this year we will be celebrating with a Eucharistic celebration on Friday 12 March at 10:30am. Prior to mass at 9:30am there will be an opportunity for parents to visit their child's learning space.

CONSENT-RAFFLE TICKETS AND USE OF STUDENT IMAGES

If you wish to change consent for raffle tickets to be sent home or for the use of students' image and/or works, please notify the school in writing or request a new consent form.

NSW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Rebecca (50 metres freestyle) placed 4th and our junior girls relay team (Amirah, Emily, Claudia, Rebecca) placed 3rd in their race. They will represent Parramatta Diocese (56 schools) at the upcoming NSW Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival. The team had a great day.



SPORTS DAYS-YEAR 5 GOLD ONLY

Please note, from next week, Year 5 Gold are to wear their sports uniform on Monday and Thursday

SPECIAL UNIFORM FITTING DAY

Mrs Cundy will be available on Friday 4 March to take additional Winter Uniform fitting appointments. Please ring the school office on 9631 8442 to book a time for Friday only.

If you would like to book another time for Winter uniform fittings you can do so using the School Interviews website. The code for these appointments is "u8fwk". These appointment times are available for Monday and Thursday mornings.

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those parents who have already put their 2016 school fees arrangements into place. Term 1 school fees are due for payment by Monday 7 March. Parents who are paying by instalments will need to commence payment by that date and parents who are paying their fees per term will need to finalise this Term's account also by Monday 7 March. Please contact Maree Murphy in the school office should you have any further queries regarding your school fees account.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Clean Up Our School 12 March

Clean up our School day is now scheduled for Saturday 12 March.

On that day we will be holding a clean-up day from 9am to 3pm on the school grounds. This is our annual scheduled working bee and coincides with Clean up Australia Day each year to ensure our school and Parish remain clean and presentable.

Please save the date in your calendars, a note will be sent home shortly with more information.

Call For Donations: Mothers' Day Raffle

The P&F is in the process of coordinating its annual Mothers' Day raffle so we are calling on any businesses or families able to contribute prizes. This could be anything from store vouchers or vouchers for a service such as massage/facial or hairdressing to products such as pamper packs, appliances and accessories/jewellery.

If you can help or if you need more information, please contact Sonia Farah on 0431 692 960 or Joanne Sakr 0418 623 867.

Next P&F Social Gathering

The P&F is organising a social event on a Friday night early in term two and we thought we would ask parents for ideas. We usually hold a twilight, outdoor movie night on the top playground but any suggestions are welcome. If you have any ideas please send them in to the P&F via email at olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention to the P&F.

Tiny Tots Playgroup

There will be no playgroup this Friday 04 March due to the staff development day. Playgroup will resume next Friday 11 March at 9:15am in the Parish Hall.

This column is compiled by P&F Communications. If you have any queries or wish to contribute, please email olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention it to P&F Communications.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Second Hand Uniform Price List is as follows:

Summer Dress: \$5, Winter Tunic \$5, Girl's Winter Blouse \$1, Girl's Long Pants: \$2.50

Boys Shirt: \$1, Boy's Trousers: \$2.50, Boy's Shorts: \$1.50

EARN & LEARN

At next Monday's assembly, Mr Rocky Barbeyto, Store Manager of Woolworths, Greystanes will be presenting our school with a participation certificate for being one of the most successful "Earn & Learn" schools to take part in the competition last year. He will also be presenting our school with a box of apples.

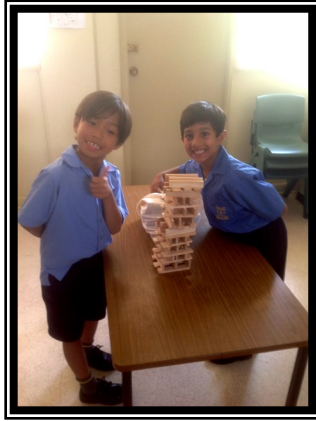
HILLSBUS-AMENDMENT TO BUS TIMETABLE

Hillsbus amended the school bus timetable effective from this Monday 29 February 2016. Children who use this service were given a new timetable on Friday. Extra copies are available from the office if you require a copy. or you may visit the Hillsbus website: www.cdcbus.com.au or call 02 8999

YEAR 2 TEAM BUILDING INCURSION

15 FEBRUARY

Year 2 participated in a Team Building Incursion at school. The focus was on working as a team or with a partner, being encouraging, having resilience and trying our best all the time to help.



- Activites were :
1. Tower Building
 2. Blindfold Maze-Lilypad
 3. Partner Balance
 4. Spider Web

QUOTES:

"I learned that if someone is doing something hard when you use team building its much better"- Sean

"3 or 2 is better than one-if you're alone and you need help, 2 hands are better than 1-Celeste

"I learned that if you work together as a team its better"-Yasemine

"I liked doing the Lily Pad when you had to cover your eyes because my partner Clara helped me by saying North, South, East or West"-Noah

"I liked the Spider Web because we worked as a team and no-one lost any lives"-Lucas

"I learned I should share and be kind."-Emily

"I learned that I had to cooperate in a team"-Damon

"I liked the balance blocks, you might be wobbly but your partner helped you not to fall"-Simona

