

# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary NEWSLETTER



16 March 2016

Term 1

Week 8

## School Contact Details

School Principal: Mr Steven Jones  
9631 8442  
OLMCWenty@parra.catholic.edu.au  
www.olmcwentworthville.catholic.edu.au

## Parish Contact Details

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Cahill OCarm  
9631 8302  
ocarms@tpg.com.au  
www.olmcwenty.org.au

## UPCOMING DATES

### TERM 1

#### Week 8

Thursday 17/3

St Patrick's Day

Year 4 Excursion—Blue Mountains

Friday 18/3

11:30am-2:30pm God Day for  
parents in Parish Hall

#### Week 9

Thursday 24/3

Holy Thursday

Mufti Day for Project Compassion

Friday 25/3

GOOD FRIDAY (School closed)

Sunday 27/3

EASTER SUNDAY

#### Week 10

Monday 28/3

EASTER MONDAY (School closed)

Tuesday 29/3

9:00am Easter Liturgy

### NOTES SENT HOME LAST

#### FRIDAY

- P&F Portrait Fundraiser Note

### NOTES SENT HOME TODAY

- Year 1 Excursion Note
- Year 3 Lent & Easter Program

Dear Parents

Easter is the most significant event of the Christian calendar. It is a period of intense sorrow for Christians, brought about by the death of Christ on the cross (Good Friday) but also of great spiritual happiness through the miracle of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday).

As Lent ends, Holy Week begins with Palm (or Passion) Sunday. It is on Palm Sunday that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey and the people of the city laid palm fronds on the road, they joyfully cried out to him,

**“Hosanna; Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”.**

Only days later, Jesus found himself mocked and beaten, scorned by the very same people who previously had shouted his praise. As parents and adults, we no doubt have moments when we're on the receiving end of high praises, and, at other times, feel beaten down by criticism and blame.

Holy Week comprises of the seven days before Easter. The last three days of Holy Week link Lent and Easter and they are called the Triduum (meaning three days): Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil begins the new season of Easter on Holy Saturday night.

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey, let us not forget that God made a great promise to all of us by raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is a triumph over death. It also holds the message that love is stronger than hate and hope is stronger than despair.

*As we enter Holy Week with Jesus, let us remember:*

- ◆ *the poor and the broken*
- ◆ *the humiliated and the marginalised*
- ◆ *those who suffer the abuse of others*
- ◆ *those who never use rank to force their will*

This Friday all grades and almost 50 parents in the school will spend the day reflecting on a selected scripture passage related to the Easter story and the message it conveys to them. They will individually and or collectively create a piece of artwork or a reflection to display their personal and or collective response to this scripture passage. Next Wednesday afternoon all parents and parishioners are welcome to join us on a sacred walk throughout the school from 2:30pm.

I look forward to praying with children, parents and staff during this most significant week in our Church's season.

Mr Steven Jones  
Principal



## Holy Week

## CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who has handed in their enrolment form, along with a copy of their child's Baptism certificate and payment.

**CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT FORMS ARE DUE NOW!!!!**

If you know of someone who was enquiring please let them know that they need to get their form in ASAP. **First Eucharist** celebrations for Sunday 16 October 2016 and **First Reconciliation** date Wednesday 15 June are just about full; so if these dates are important to you please send your forms in now. Enrolment forms can be collected from the Parish Centre, the school and parish offices, or by visiting our website: [www.olmcwenty.org.au](http://www.olmcwenty.org.au)

*Paola Yevenes-Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish*

## SPOTLIGHT ON R.E.

All classes are busily preparing for God Day on Friday. The purpose of God Day is for each grade to focus on one event of Holy Week and Easter. The children's work will form the focus for our Holy Week Prayer Walk. This year parents are also participating in God Day and preparing one of the stations on Friday.



The Parish Sacramental program is preparing to get under way. Children in:

**Year 3** will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year, **Year 4** will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist and **Year 5** will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please make sure your enrolment forms are completed and returned to the Parish Office.

### PROJECT COMPASSION

We are raising money for farmers to plant and grow crops for their villages. There are only 2 weeks left for us to reach our target of \$1000!!!

The lunch time discos are proving very popular. Thank you to every one for your gold coin donations.

### MUFTI DAY NEXT THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2016

To support our project compassion goal of raising \$1200 we will be holding a mufti day for a gold coin donation next Thursday.

### STUDENT WORKBOOKS SENT HOME THIS FRIDAY

This Friday students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will bring home their student workbooks for parents to view. Please ensure that all books are returned on Monday so students can continue their work at school.

### SR CATHERINE MADDOCK

Sr Catherine Maddock, the founding Principal of Christ the King North Rocks will be leaving the parish and returning to Ireland on 30 June. A mass of thanksgiving in her honour for over four decades of service to the CTK community and Catholic Education in the Diocese, will be celebrated on Sunday 19 June at 10am followed by morning tea. Those of you who have know Sr Catherine over this time are asked to join us for this very special celebration.

## MERIT CERTIFICATES

NAME	CLASS
Akshayaa, Siddh Lucas, Annabelle	KB KG
Kruti, Eva Tony, Sai	1B 1G
Grace, Sylvana Serena, Sai	2B 2G
Annabelle, Matilda Christian, Aurelia	3B 3G
Shuban, Elizabeth Faith, Zac	4B 4G
Chanelle, Emmanuel Elijah, Angelina	5B 5G
Louis, Ann Maria Clarissa, Panshul	6B 6G

## QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey.

The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

Between 21 March and 1 April 2016 all staff and all Year 5 & 6 students (and in 2016 Year 3 and 4 students will complete a modified survey), and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

This year we will again be able to get even more information about the link between student wellbeing and learning outcomes. To do this we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. The survey will still remain confidential and individual survey responses will not be accessible by the school or the Catholic Education Office.

An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential. Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement. This will definitely help us in working with all students to improve their learning. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact Steven Jones.

As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Steven Jones.

## CHILD PROTECTION



To assist throughout the school (excursions, carnivals, classroom, etc) all parents are required to attend a **Child Protection briefing**. The next Child Protection briefing will be

this upcoming Monday 21 March at 9:20am in the Library after morning assembly. Please note, this briefing is only for parents who have not attended before or within a two year period.

In addition to attending this briefing, just a reminder that it is a Diocesan system requirement that child protection training be completed by all volunteers commencing work in our school (assisting at carnivals, on excursions...) and revisited every second year for existing volunteers. This must be done even if you have completed child protection checks in other work/volunteer locations. This module must be completed every two years. If you are unsure as to whether your status is current or not, please ask at the school office or email the school.

An online training module for use by volunteers is available to ensure this requirement is met. Please note this module cannot be completed on an ipad. Follow the steps below to complete the module.

### To use the module:

1. <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>
2. Open the module by clicking the Start the module link under For Volunteers.
3. Read through the presentation.
4. Complete and submit quiz questions. This will take approximately 45 minutes (maximum), most likely less time.
5. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing your name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school you intend to volunteer at.
6. A notification of your successful completion of the module

## UNIFORM FITTINGS

Additional appointments have been made available on Wednesday mornings with Mrs Cundy to fit the new Winter uniforms. Orders that are placed will be filled within seven days. We advise parents to follow the advice of Mrs Cundy, who is expert in fitting the children's uniforms. We ask parents to be mindful of the limited time for fittings in order to accommodate all parents, if you are unable to make your appointment please contact the office in order to make the time available to others. You can make your appointments online by visiting the website: [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au). Use the code **u8fwk** to make your appointment.

## NETBALL NEWS



As of last week, training commenced for all our teams. If your child is unable to attend please let your team manager know. If for any unforeseen circumstances due to weather or cancellations, your team manager will let you know. Please also make sure that all players remain in the netball line of an afternoon as it is a busy time of day. Girls are to wait to be collected from either their coach/manager/parent. This Saturday there may or may not be a trial game for our juniors. Further details will be sent out via text once confirmed. Remember game 1 starts on Saturday 2 April. Please be sure to order uniforms if required.

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS

### Clean Up Our School Success

If you have noticed cleaner garden beds, an absence of weeds and tidier surrounds, it's thanks to the wonderful support from everyone who came to *Clean up our School* day last Saturday.

Our families braved the sun and the heat to work very hard and complete the following wish list for the clean-up day:

- Parish Hall: Cleaned and packed loose items, organised cupboards and cleaned out fridge
- Year 1 Garden Club veggie beds: Cleaned garden beds and cleared out the weeds for the club to start planting again
- Parish carpark on Garfield Street: Cleaned area and cleared weeds around the whole area
- Front playground garden beds: Cleared weeds and organised the vegetable gardens
- Demountable rooms: Cleaned up the space and organised open shelving in the music room for students to store and access instruments and stands more efficiently

We are so very grateful for everyone's enthusiasm and help, without you we couldn't have done it.

### 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](mailto:olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au) and attention to the P&F.

### Tiny Tots Playgroup

Tiny Tots Playgroup is on this Friday from 9:15am but will finish a little bit earlier to allow for the God Day activities for parents in the Parish Hall.

Playgroup is a fun way for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers in our community to meet every week, get to know each other as they grow and spend some time playing and making craft.

This is also great for the parents of course, providing an opportunity to meet socially with other parents in the community and school.

Playgroup is on Fridays during the school term from 9:15am in the Parish Hall (Smith St playground, on the school grounds). The cost is \$2 per session or \$20 per term. Tea/coffee, bikkies and a chat are provided for the adults! Children need to bring their own, nut-free morning tea from home.

# OPEN MORNING

Last week we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. The children and teachers opened up their classrooms for parents and family members to visit. Our visitors got to observe some of the lessons the children participate in each day. There was an opportunity for the children to take their personal visitor on a tour of their classroom and share the great work they have been doing at school. Our family members were also invited to join us in the celebration of the Eucharist.



# WORKING BEE

The OLMC Parents and Friends Association held a working bee to coincide with 'Clean Up Australia Day' last Saturday. We had a large turn out of parents and children who came to help tidy up our school. You will have noticed that all the garden beds on the back playground were cleaned and weeded, our hall, music room and demountable classroom were cleaned up and re-organised among many other jobs. We are very thankful for the efforts of our P&F and all those big and small who attended on Saturday.

