

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary NEWSLETTER



22 July 2015

Term 3

Week 2

School Contact Details

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Parish Contact Details

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UPCOMING DATES

TERM 3

Week 3

Monday 27/07/15

9:00am Assembly 4G

Tuesday 28/7/15

ICAS English Competition

Wednesday 29/7/15

Maths Olympiad

NOTES SENT HOME LAST FRIDAY

- Year 6 Excursion, Darling Harbour
- Year 2 Excursion, Wentworthville Library

NOTES SENT HOME TODAY

- Year 5 Personal Development Note
- Year 5 Film

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the past two weeks many of you may have watched or heard about the 102nd Tour de France like myself and been in awe of the incredible feats and achievements of the riders. One of the amazing things during these 21 stages over 23 days is the remarkable commitment of each rider to completing the 3,360 km race. Furthermore, the commitment of each respective team member towards their number one rider with little regard to their own result displays tremendous character. They truly honour their commitment to the number one team member, using their skills and talents.

Andrew Mullins in his book, "Parenting for Character", urges us to, "Teach your children to honour commitments, to keep their word, to face up to consequences of the simplest actions, otherwise, when commitments become adult sized, their good intentions may not last the distance. If they lack the necessary habit of commitment, intentions can unravel when life picks away at them."

Being able to honour commitments has a lot to do with having a good strong character and "good character" in our children does not just happen; it is the outcome of the consistent efforts of parents and teachers over many years. Aristotle made the observation that, "Good moral behaviour comes about as the result of habit: we become just by doing just acts, brave by doing brave acts." We are not born with character. Character is a learned behaviour.

When we encourage our children to be the best possible persons they can be, we are encouraging them to strive for excellence, to develop their given gifts, those talents that enable them to become fully the person God means them to be. When we encourage our children to be of strong moral character, we are asking them to exercise the capacity God gave them for goodness and the ability to love other people in a way that reflects God's love – to be of the character of Christ.

*Jesus, we ask to see as You see,
to act as You act,
to love as You love,
to be of Your character.*

By providing loving relationships, being good models, setting high expectations, upholding firm and fair discipline that holds our children accountable to themselves, we provide an environment that supports the development of good character.

Mr Steven Jones
Principal



The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

FAMILY MASS: If you are a child in Year 5 or Year 6, you are invited to participate in a Family Mass at 10:30am on Sunday 16 August. Please return your participation forms ASAP to the Priory.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Thank you to all the families who attended the Information Evening on Monday night. We look forward to seeing you at the Commitment Ceremony on Saturday at 6pm or Sunday at 10:30am. This is not only an important ceremony for the children to commit to their preparation process, but for the parents and community to commit as well. If you have volunteered to host a workgroup, you will soon receive your resources via the school office. If you would like to meet with other hosts to discuss the new resources, come along next Monday 20 July at 9:30am or 7pm for some brief training.

If you would like more information on any of the above please phone Paola on 0414 947 799.

STAFFING UPDATE

Mr Daniel Hinds: Our Lady of Mount Carmel welcomes Mr Daniel Hinds as a new member of our school Learning Support team for the remainder of 2015. Mr Hinds was employed by Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta as a Specialist Teacher - Diverse Learning Needs at the commencement of 2015 and has been working at the High Support Unit at St Patrick's Dundas for the first two terms. Prior to this Mr Hinds worked for the Department of Education in various support roles. Mr Hinds has joined our team to have an opportunity to work in a mainstream primary school and be part of a collaborative staff and Learning Support team reflective of the diocesan learning support policy and practices. Mr Hinds is currently working within the Kindergarten and Year 3 learning spaces for Term 3.

Finance Administrator: Mrs Pam Cooke's position as Financial Administrator has been advertised by CEO and short listing has taken place. This position is a diocesan appointment with the panel consisting of staff from the Catholic Education Office Parramatta and school principal and assistant principal. Once the appointment has been finalised the school community will be informed.

THANK YOU TO PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Thanks to the P&F for providing every student with a set of rosary beads and a drink and chips for morning tea to celebrate our feast day. Also, thank you to all the parents who prepared the morning tea for Mrs Cooke on Friday.

YEAR 6 MASS

The mass for Year 6, scheduled for 31 August 2015 has been changed and will take place at a later date.

READING BOOKS

Please have a look at home for any reading books that children may have not returned. These books are part of a set and may not be able to be used for another reading group if they are not a full set.

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta wants to hear from you

If you or someone close to you has suffered **ANY** abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic group) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us. Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options.

You can contact us on:
 Phone: (02) 9933 0233
 Web: www.parr.catholic.org.au/safeguarding
 Email: safeguarding@parr.catholic.org.au
 Mail: PO BOX 3066 North Parramatta, NSW, 1750

For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact NSW Police on 1800 333 000

MERIT CERTIFICATES

NAME	CLASS
Jasmine, Sai Isabella, Caitlyn	KB KG
Serena, Lara Clara, David	1B 1G
Aurelia, Francesco David, Isabella	2B 2G
Harini, Shuvani Amelia, Kheneth	3B 3G
Joyce, Valele Aradhana, Elijah	4B 4G
Lara, Sebastian, Denver, Nedhal Rafka, Louis	5B 5G
Kumaran, Stephen Isaac, Bradley	6B 6G

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Monday the teachers spent the day at school learning about how they could become better teachers of multiplication and division. We were lucky to have Paul Stenning lead the day for our teachers. He is an educator in our Diocese who works closely with teachers about how they can improve their skills. As a high school Mathematics teacher he shared a different perspective with our teachers. He challenged us think differently about the tasks we ask the children to do to extend their thinking and skills.

Once children have the skills of counting mastered the ability to think in terms of groups has a significant impact on their mathematical learning. This is often the shift that occurs in the transition from Stage 1 in to Stage 2 and Stage 3. Multiplication and division is all about working with groups. You could try the following things to help your child build their understanding of multiplication and division:

- Use the word **EACH**, help you child understand what this word means by practising sharing. Ask them questions like, *how many did each person get?*
- Use the concept of **Times As Many**. Talk about what this means and what it could look like. Some examples are: *Mum has 3 times as many shoes as Dad, The Bulldogs scored twice as many points as Parra. How many lollies would you have if you had 4 times as many as me?*
- Practise learning the times tables. There is a place for knowing times tables by heart but it must come alongside of understanding what they mean. Ask your child to also picture in their mind or tell you what that times table means/looks like; for example, *3x5 looks like 3 groups of 5, it means the same as 3 times as many as 5.*

PHOTOS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

The 2015 School Leaders, SRC & Sports Leaders group photos are available to order at a cost of \$14.00 each. Photos can be viewed, paid for and ordered at the office.

OLMC NETBALL

Playing times for Round 14 **Saturday 25 July 2015**

Team	Court	Time	Versus
OLMC 1 (12s)	4	10:00am	Regents Park 7
OLMC 2 (11s)	5	9:00am	Holroyd Hotshots 11
OLMC 3 (10s)	7	9:00am	Regents Park 9
Net Set Go	4	9:00am	-

For enquiries please phone Paula Epenian on 0406 515 782 or Alycia Koulouris on 0414 513 448.

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION

Last term 44 children from Year 3 to Year 6 participated in the International Science Competition. The test is a challenging test, which requires the children to apply their knowledge of science. Once again our children achieved pleasing results. A **High Distinction** was awarded to Adriel while **Distinctions** were awarded to Panshul and Johnny.

Credits were awarded to Marinelle, Chanel, Mayra, Fabian, Sebastian, Naveena, Marcus, Sarah, Cheyenne, Maya, Rebecca, Georgia, Zac, Shuban and Faustina. **Merits** were awarded to Isaac, Michael and Anthony.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

We had eight children complete the challenge this past week bringing our total complete to 119 children. That's a third of the school. Many of the teachers have been recording the books they have been reading with their class to add to the children's lists. Remember that the closing date for the challenge for our school will be Wednesday **19 August, That's four weeks away!** Congratulations to the following children who completed the challenge in the last week: Mia, Chloe, Violet, Ayden, Panshul, Marcus, Michael and Michael.

PRINCIPAL'S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

Last holidays, I asked the children to complete a portrait of someone who inspires them and read as many pages as they could. Over 123 children created artworks that are worthy of an Archibald Prize and a further 80 children completed a Reading Log! The portrait gallery will open in the library next week. The children will get a chance to look at the artwork with their class, however, the exhibition will be open to parents between 8:45am and 9am and again between 3:15pm and 3:30 next Monday (27/7) and Wednesday (29/7). Their talents will blow you away!

The draw for the winners took place on Tuesday morning at assembly. Each winner received a medallion and a \$20 book club voucher. The overall winner has their name put on the perpetual trophy. Congratulations to the following children:

Kindergarten-Georgia	Year One-Emily
Year Two-Bradley	Year Three-Georgia
Year Four-Elyce	Year Five-Alicia
Year Six-Marinelle	Overall Winner-Sai (KB)



PARENTS & FRIENDS

Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Last Friday we met as a faith community to celebrate Our Lady as the patron of our school. This is always a special celebration of our devotion to Mother Mary and a reminder of Her role in our Salvation. To mark this year's Feast, each student received a special gift Rosary so they may learn to pray it if they don't already do so.

We also said farewell to Mrs Pam Cooke, who will be retiring on Friday after her dedicated service to our School community over the past 28 years. Mrs Cooke has served our school community as a bursar for the last few years, but she has been much more. As first aid officer she has developed an uncanny ability to diagnose Mondayitis and Fridayitis and has put many children at ease about their bumps, scratches and stomach aches. She has carried the history of the school in her heart as only someone who appreciates its importance can, and she has kept our records accurate and our family names spelt correctly because she knows them all by heart.

Mrs Cooke, we wish you all the best for this new chapter in your life and we pray you will always have a fond place in your heart for your time at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Wentworthville.

Thank you to everyone who came along to make both celebrations so special.

Mrs Danielle Gardner-P&F President

Gratitude

A big thank you to Mrs Danielle Gardner for coordinating the morning tea for Mrs Cooke on behalf of our parents and friends community. We are also very grateful for everyone who helped on the day, as well as to Mrs Roslyn Khattar for helping us organise the Rosaries as a special gift to our children on Feast Day. Last but not least we want to thank all the students who helped distribute the drinks and chips treats to each classroom.

P&F Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend the Parents and Friends Meeting on Tuesday 4 August at 7pm in the school library. If you have anything you would like to discuss please come along, or place the matter in writing and send it Attention: Danielle Gardner, P&F President, through the school office.

Tiny Tots Playgroup

Our Parish playgroup, Tiny Tots would love to see some new faces. The group meets every Friday from 9:30am-11:30am in the Parish Hall located on the school grounds. All pre-school aged children and their parents are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet with other families from the Parish and encourage your child to build friendships with other children in our community. Please come along and bring your child/children. Please enquire through the parish or school office.

Shop for Your School

It's back!!! Woolworths Shop For Your School has started today!!! For every \$10 you spend in Woolworths supermarkets you are entitled to one sticker. Place the stickers onto the Woolworths sticker sheets and place them in the box in the school office, so that we can redeem them for resources to help our students learn. In the past we have been able to get some amazing maths resources and this year we hope to be able to do something similar. You can download sticker sheets from woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn or ask for them in store. There are a limited number available in the school office. Please ensure that you write down **My School is: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wentworthville.**

FAREWELL

MRS COOKE



*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand*