



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It has been such a delight to welcome the children back to a new school year. We also welcome our new staff members Mrs Lauren Anderiesz, Mrs Rita Haddad, Mrs Katherine Zahrooni, Mrs Hilda Adams and Mrs Rita Saad. The beginning of a new year is always one full of promise and hope. The transition to a new class can also create some anxiety which soon fades as the children become more comfortable and settled into new routines.

As a parent this time of the year can be challenging and emotional. One of the greatest challenges can be sending your child off to school be it for the first day or for their thousandth day. You are entrusting your child to their class teacher and hoping that they will care for your child just as you do. When you drop your child off at the gate each morning, your thoughts are in part informed by your own experience of school. Sometimes this can lead to feeling anxious about the experience your child will have. Be mindful that your anxieties don't become your child's anxieties too.

Our personal experiences of school will not be the same as our children's. Our child's experience of school, for the most part, will be a positive one, however, there will be times of disappointment, anger, frustration and sadness. There will be times of success and failure along with moments where they may make a big mistake with how they interact with their classmates. However, the thing that will remain constant is the support of you as parents and your child's teachers in ensuring your child learns the skills to navigate all these varied moments in the knowledge that we can always work through our challenges and mistakes to make things right and have a fresh start.

At school we are educating your son or daughter for their future, not for your past. As parents, we need to consider what this means to us and how this impacts on our actions.

In order for a school to be successful, it relies on the partnership between the school and parents to nurture and develop the whole child. At OLMC we consider all our staff as teachers, and we look forward to working with your children to help them achieve their goals and be the best person they can be.

***God of Wisdom and might,
we praise your for the wonder of our being, for mind body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers.
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;
Give wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding,
Give peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.***

Olimpia Potarc
Acting Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 2

Tue: 7pm Kindy Info Night

Wed: Yr6 Camp (Collaroy)

Thu: Yr6 Camp (Collaroy)

Fri: Yr6 Camp (Collaroy), School Census

Week 3

Wed: Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival

Fri: 10am Opening School Mass,

5:30pm Welcome to School Picnic

NOTES HOME

Wednesday, 30 January

- Diocese Trials Expression of Interest Yrs 5 & 6
- Ice block Permission - Yr 2

Friday, 1 February

- Fete Newsletter

Monday, 4 February

- Kindergarten News

Today

- Fete Pack
- P&F Welcome Back Dinner Invitation

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE OPENING SCHOOL MASS AND COMMISSIONING OF OUR 2019 SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

FRIDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2019

10:00AM - 11:00AM

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

If you feel your child is ready... The first sentence in the parish sacramental form for children invites the parents to discern their child's readiness to begin formally preparing to receive and celebrate the sacraments. In the Diocese of Parramatta, there is no maximum age that a person may begin this process, but there is a minimum. This is not meant to inconvenience parents, but to give the child some time to gradually increase their spirit of faith within a Christian community. Enrolment forms are available now from the school and parish offices, parish centre, SRE teachers, and parish website (www.olmcwenty.org.au). Forms can be returned in person to the parish office or via email to paola.olmc@gmail.com.

2019 STUDENT LEADERS

On Monday the students in Year 3 to Year 6 elected their colour house leaders for 2019. We had 25 children nominate for the role and they each presented a brief speech to their colour house.

Congratulations to the successful candidates:

Gilroy (Blue) - Violet and David
McAuley (Gold) - Madeline and Christian
Elijah (Red) - Matilda and Peter
MacKillop (Green) - Elizabeth and Adam



PE LESSONS AND SPORT DAYS

In each grade the children wear their sport uniform on the day they have Physical Education lessons and their Sport Lesson. There will be occasions where these days may change due to timetable changes. When this occurs parents will be notified with a note, through the newsletter or with the skoolbag app. The following schedule indicates the days students in each grade should wear their sport uniforms.

Kindergarten	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 1	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 2	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 3	Thursday and Friday

Year 4	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday and Friday
Year 6Blue	Tuesday and Friday
Year 6Gold	Tuesday and Thursday



SKOOLBAG

At OLMC our main communication channels to parents are:

- Weekly Newsletter
- Skoolbag App
- School Website

Each Wednesday our newsletter is emailed to our parents and distributed via the channels stated above.

Don't forget to make sure that you have the Skoolbag app on your phone. You can use the app to receive notifications and inform the school of your child's absences or change of details.

SCHOOL CENSUS DAY

The 2019 February School Census will take place on Monday 18 February. To assist in the smooth and accurate completion of the School Census, please ensure that all letters of absence for Monday and any other days are sent to school via a note, email or Skoolbag with the following information...

- child's name
- date(s) absent
- reason explaining absence

This is a legal requirement.

LABELLING ALL ITEMS

Please ensure that all personal items (clothing, lunchboxes, bags, etc.) are clearly labelled with your child(ren)'s name. Each year there are numerous items of clothing, especially hats and jackets that have no names or identification in lost property. Already there are various items, including new jumpers in lost property with NO NAME on them.

NO NAME = difficulty to find the OWNER

P&F NEWS

Welcome Back to School!!

Welcome to the fantastic year of learning that is 2019! We hope you are feeling refreshed and eager to do your best this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Year Six students who left for camp today, and for their teachers looking after them for the next three days. We look forward to seeing you all back on Friday afternoon and hearing about your amazing experiences.

*God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being;
for our mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow.
Give them wisdom and knowledge as they search for understanding.
Give them peace in their hearts and a zeal for learning.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Welcome Picnic - We warmly invite every member of our school community to grab their picnic rugs and chairs and come along on Friday 15 February to celebrate the new school year at our Annual Welcome Family Picnic from 5:30 – 8:30pm. Please see the flyer that came home for extra details and RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/h8SIJ1T8y3DI6y1x2> by Wednesday 13 February.

Save the Date - The next Parents and Friends meeting will be held Tuesday, 19 February at 7:00pm. The agenda will come out shortly. If you have anything you would like to discuss please feel welcome to attend the meeting or place the matter in writing and send it Attention: Paula Epenian, President, through the school office or email olmcpandf@gmail.com.



Fete News - The fete will soon be here. Friday, 22nd March is only 44 days away!!!! Make sure to put up your calendar that was sent home this week, and highlight fete day, so you don't miss out on the fun and excitement. Take some time over to consider how you can become involved in making our fete great! We are urgently seeking people to help by becoming a stall coordinator. We have many exciting stalls for the fete such as the Trash 'n' Treasure, Cakes, Dunk Tank, Face Painting and Chocolate Toss. Coordinate your own, or work with a friend. It is a fun and easy way to become more involved in the major fundraiser for our school and Parish. Training, equipment and support will be provided. For more information email olmcfete@gmail.com. We are asking everyone from our community to get behind our fete and volunteer an hour of their time. To ensure you get the stall and time that best suit you visit <http://signup.com/go/ecdturf> and sign up today!

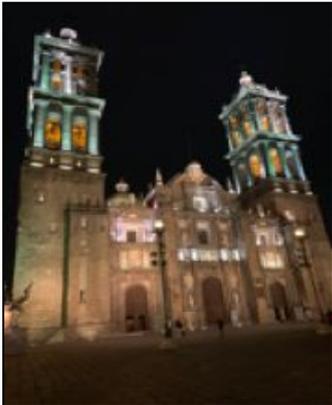
Raffle tickets came home this week with amazing prizes to be won for only \$2 a ticket! We also have prizes for the families that sell the most raffle tickets as well as weekly prizes for sending your tickets in before **15 March**. Make sure to buy some tickets and get selling your book of tickets to be in the running for these fabulous prizes. If you would like more raffle tickets in addition to the ones sent home this week, please see the school office.

This column is compiled by P&F Communications. If you have any queries or wish to contribute, please email olmcpandf@gmail.com and attention it to P&F Communications.

WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA 2019



It is difficult to summarise all the wonderful things I experienced during the two and a half weeks I spent on the other side of the world. It stills feel like a dream and there are no words that could capture how amazing this journey has been. Thank you again for all the support and prayers. I am looking forward to sharing all my encounters with you. For now, here are my top 5 moments of World Youth Day, and what it taught me about being a teacher in a Catholic school.



1. Catedral de Puebla

During our stay in Mexico we visited many beautiful churches with interesting architectures and designs. From the lavish gold interiors to the small chapels within, there were a variety of things to admire and behold! Inside of Catedral de Puebla is a magnificent painting of Mary. As I sat in the pews pondering on this image and praying, I realised that I was really in Mexico! Like Mary, I said **YES** to God's call. In the same way I have been called to be a teacher, our children have been called to know Christ and His love. Everyday we respond to our call. Everyday we say **YES!** As a Carmelite school, we must imitate Mary and be open to saying yes whenever God calls.



2. Hermanas Misioneras de la Caridad

The generous Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity devote their life in serving the poorest of the poor as Mother Teresa did. We anticipated that our visit to their "nursing home" would be confronting and emotional as we were told that its residents were abandoned and disabled elderly. Whilst this was accurate, we also found that they were incredibly happy, grateful and charitable! We came to offer service and time but were rewarded with much more in return. With very little possessions and difficulty in movement, this joyous place reminded me that we have many blessings. Just as we pause for a moment to pray the Angelus, we must take time to say thanks.



3. Pyramid of the Sun

What a glorious view of God's creations from atop a pyramid! Unfortunately I did not make it to the top (I am terrified of heights!), but I managed to get up two thirds. On my way down, I went into panic mode. I don't remember much of what happened next but I know that God had sent three people to help me – one to hold my hand, another to pray for me and another to encourage me as I made my way. Before I knew it, I was back on solid ground! I later found these people were teachers too! This moment reminded me that my job is not merely to teach, but to also hold a child's hand, to pray for them and to guide and encourage as they make their way through school.



4. Fiat Night

This amazing night was filled with catechesis and testimonies in Panama with other English-speaking pilgrims and presenters. One thing I took away from this evening was something shared by Bishop Rob Barron on our identity and mission as Catholics. Giving the examples of Abram becoming Abraham, Simon becoming Peter and Saul becoming Paul, he shared that when God calls us, he gives us a name. Our names are a sign of our belonging to God and it becomes who we are. With our name comes a responsibility to respond to God's call, a responsibility to live out our mission. As a teacher, I am reminded of my mission every time I hear "Miss Magtanong".



5. Sitting on the stage with the Pope for Adoration!

What an experience it was to be sitting so close to the Holy Father, Pope Francis! Even more amazing and miraculous was to be able to encounter Jesus in adoration amongst thousands of pilgrims. The moment the consecrated host was revealed, there was silence, wonder and awe. This was the "World Youth Day" moment. This encounter with Christ was the most incredible experience I have ever received – to be filled with so much joy and love and to feel the Spirit's presence. This is why I teach. So that children may know of His love, mercy and compassion, and so that they may experience it, and in turn, become Christ's face in the world.

