



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic
Bennett Street
Wentworthville 2145
Phone: 8832 1100
Email: olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.olmcwentworthville.catholic.edu.au

Parish Contact Details
Parish Priest: Fr Denis Andrew, Phone: 9631 8302
ocarms@tpg.com.au www.olmcwenty.org.au
COOSHC
Teresa Aiteh, Phone: 0409 361 929
coshcolmcwentworthville@parra.catholic.edu.au



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Yesterday and today felt like the first day of the school year as we welcomed back our students. Thursday and Friday will be no different. There were many happy and excited children who were eager to connect with their friends and teachers. Some children and parents were feeling a bit anxious, but those concerns quickly faded as familiar faces were seen and familiar routines were experienced. Our teachers are focused on helping the children settle and feel comfortable giving them a sense of normality.

As you prepare for this week, how you talk about returning to school can help reduce your child's anxiety.

- ★ *Try to be positive and reassure your child.*
- ★ *Tell your child that the teachers are here to help them and we will do all we can to care for them.*
- ★ *Focus on the fact they will see their teacher and some of their classmates.*
- ★ *Let them know that everyone may be feeling a bit nervous, just like on the first day of the school year.*
- ★ *Learning from home has been different. For some children it may have been more relaxed and the children know that returning to school means they may have to work harder. It is going to take a little bit of time to get used to working at school again.*
- ★ *Your children have had your undivided attention as they learn at home. Returning to school means they will need to share the teacher's attention and also draw on their own knowledge and skills.*
- ★ *Remind your child to focus on the things they can control, like the choices they make, the work they do and what they play. Some of the things they may be worried about are things they can't control.*
- ★ *Remind your child that they will be ok.*

Finally, the reminders above also apply to you as parents. We know that you are anxious too! Please remember that the teachers want the same thing for your children as you do. We want your children to feel cared for, happy to come to school and focused on their learning. If you have concerns please contact your child's teacher either by email or phone. We are all in this together and hope your transition to school is a positive one.

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

Olimpia Pirovic
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 3

Thur: Mackillop House students attend (Green)
3:30pm-4pm Library open to families
Fri: McAuley House students attend (Gold)
7:30am-8am Library open to families
12:00pm-3:00pm Open Zoom for parents

Week 4

Mon: Learning Pack drop off & pick up 8am-11am
Tue: Elijah House students attend (Red)
Wed: Gilroy House students attend (Blue)
Thur: Mackillop House students attend (Green)
3:30pm-4pm Library open to families
Fri: McAuley House students attend (Gold)
7:30am-8am Library open to families
12:00pm-3:00pm Open Zoom for parents

COMPLETING LEARNING WHILE AT SCHOOL

When your child is present on their scheduled day at school, you may find that they do not complete all of the day's planned learning. This is because your child is engaging with their teacher for guided reading, writing and mathematics learning. These guided sessions take priority over the day's learning plan as they are specific to individual student needs.

PLANS MOVING FORWARD

Firstly, we would like to sincerely thank our community for coming along with us on this ever changing journey. We know that as parents, you just want what is best for your child, but, we also know how hard that has been to determine with all the conflicting information by the media. The general rule we have continued to express is that unless you hear it from us, it is not accurate for our school. This is true for the following plan. This plan is relevant to our school and has been developed based on advice from CEDP and consideration of our families, teaching staff and local needs in mind.

Week 3 & 4 - Students are scheduled 1 day at school with learning from home packs supplementing additional learning.

Week 5 - Students will be scheduled 2 days at school with learning from home packs supplementing additional learning.

Please note that some families, due their personal circumstances, have already chosen to send their children to school on additional days, the school remains open, everyday, for every child.

From Week 6 - It is expected that all students will return full time, with Learning Packs no longer available to families. However, we know that in our immediate community there are a few families that have a significant amount of risk due various diagnosed illnesses and we intend on catering for them. If you believe you are one of these families and your child is unable to come to school please speak directly with Miss Pirovic.

As with all good plans, it may need to be altered to reflect changing advice provided by the State and Federal Governments.

REMINDERS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Over the last two days our first groups of students returned for their scheduled day at school. It was absolutely amazing to see so many of our students, who we haven't seen for so long. We would like to thank parents for adhering to the procedures we have put in place to ensure everyone's safety. While we continue to see a significant drop in the number of new Covid-19 cases, it is important that we continue to do our part to ensure this continues.

Social Distancing – Drop off and Pick up Procedures Drop off and pick up times need to be reflective of social distancing protocols. It is essential that parents and carers follow the stated requirements to support the safety and wellbeing of all in our community. Staff will be on hand to support parents and children to follow these new protocols, asking those who are not observing social distancing or lingering to move on.

Morning Drop off

-Parents/carers need to be aware of social distancing and personally monitor their own movements to ensure adequate distance at all times.

-Parents/carers will drop the children at the gate. No parent or carers will not be allowed to enter the front playground

Afternoon Pick up

-Pick up will begin at 2:50pm to support a quicker departure

-Parents/carers need to maintain social distance and be particularly aware when entering/exiting the grounds

-Parents/carers must collect their children and leave straight away. This is not a time to socialise

Thank you for your continued support. While this situation continues to force us to take necessary precautions, we do so willingly to support the safety, wellbeing and learning of all.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

While we transition back to 'normal' school attendance, parents have the flexibility of uniform choice. If you don't have Winter uniforms yet the children can continue to wear their summer uniform or sport uniform.

LEARNING PACK PICKUP

Don't forget Monday is our next Learning Pack pick up day between 8:00-11:00am. Please remember to return the previous week's learning pack along with any readers. When your child attends school they **must** bring their learning pack and pencil case to school with them. While your children are working on the Learning From Home Packs, please do not pull apart the booklet pages to complete and glue into their scrap books, this makes it harder for the teachers to mark and keep the learning together.

OPEN ZOOM SESSION FOR PARENTS

On Fridays, Miss Pirovic and Mrs Anderiesz will hold two open ZOOM sessions for the primary purpose of supporting parent queries. No new announcements will be made during these sessions. This is just an opportunity to check-in and receive support.

FRIDAY-12:00pm-1:30pm

Meeting Id: 931 3226 7041 **Password:** 362096

2:15pm-3:00pm

Meeting Id: 948 9643 9101 **Password:** 804460

KINDERGARTEN 2021 - APPLICATIONS CLOSING

The 2021 Kindergarten enrolment period will be closing on **May 15**. Parents are asked to finalise their enrolments by returning their enrollment pack, with all the appropriate documentation before the closing date. Enrolment packs are available from the office. We have created a [virtual tour to allow families to experience our school and learning spaces](#).



OUR PARISH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER

COVID-19 has significantly affected all members of our community, none more so than our Parish. Our Parish is a little different to others in that we are administered by a religious order rather than through the Diocesan office. This means that our parish activities and expenses are only funded through the weekly collections at Mass, without any support from the Diocese. The continued presence of our Carmelite priests in our community and school is dependent on their ability to maintain these financial expenses. Parishioners are still able to make contributions through the electronic weekly planned giving. In the coming weeks you will see content on our school facebook page that has links to Parish based content with a 'Click To Donate' button. Should you be in a position to make a donation refer to the details in the links. For more information on how you can help please contact the Parish Office by phone on 9631 8302 or email olcarms@tpg.com.au

P&F NEWS

WE'RE STILL HERE!

Just like many other jobs, during this time the P&F committee have had to rethink how we operate to support the school and families. Some of our most recent initiatives, such as student bookmarks, the Mother's Day beau-TEA-ful gifts and the raffle, have been supported and organised by our numerous volunteers, working from a distance. If you are interested in being part of this wonderful team, in support of our school, don't hesitate to make contact via the email below.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS FUNDRAISING ARRANGEMENTS SURVEY

Last term before we began learning from home the P&F, school and parish sent a letter to parents seeking feedback about how we fundraise in our community. We are proposing two options:

Option 1

- Biennial OLMC Family Fun Fair with rides, foods and activities for families to enjoy. School and Parish members would be asked to support the planning, organising and running of the event.
- Annual parent contribution of \$18 per child charged on school fee accounts. Concessions will be made for families with 4 or more children at OLMC.
- No other fundraising events

Option 2

- Biennial OLMC Family Fun Fair with rides, foods and activities for families to enjoy. School and Parish members would be asked to support the planning, organising and running of the event.
- School Activity-athon (eg: walk-a-thon, Olymp-a-thon) event where students are sponsored by family and friends for their participation. Parents would be asked to support the school in the running of the event on the day and contribute to the sponsorship of their children.
- No annual parent contribution charged on school fee accounts

Not all families had the opportunity to return their responses. To have your say please complete [this Survey](#).

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.



Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary
Parents and Friends Association

SO FAR IN 2020



