



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

This coming Sunday marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in our church and the commencement of **Advent**. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which means 'coming'. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world, which is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas.

The two great feasts of Christianity - the Nativity and Easter - are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God becoming human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world. We are called to prepare our mind and our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

Our Gospel readings this liturgical year come from the Gospel of Mark. This gospel was one of the earliest, written around the year 70 CE. These were years of conflict for the early Christians. The Emperor Nero had begun to persecute Christians in the year 64 and they were considered to be practising a new and superstitious cult. In Palestine things were no better for there had been a Jewish uprising against Rome in 66 that led to the destruction of Jerusalem. Mark's community was under threat and beside all these external factors, Jesus had not returned to them as they were expecting. For forty years they had kept faith but as time passed the waiting became harder.

The Gospel speaks into this situation. ***Be alert. Stay awake. The Master will return.*** There was an expectation that the Messiah would return before the end; Mark also points to the reality that Christians were experiencing; no longer welcome within Judaism because they were saying the Messiah had come in Jesus; being brought to trial before Roman courts for not worshipping Caesar. This was the life and death struggle for Mark's community.

Living now, so many centuries distant from the Gospel events, Mark's words take on a special urgency. Complacency and routine can replace alertness and watchfulness. After such a long time perhaps we run the risk of failing to recognise the Master. Let's ***Be Alert and Stay Awake*** as we await the birth of Jesus.



*God of hope and promise,
be with us throughout this Advent season and draw us ever
closer as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of
your Son,
our Saviour.
Amen*

Olimpia Pirovic
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 7

Thurs: 8:15am Morning Workout- LAST WEEK

Kindergarten Candle Making Experience

Year 5 Leadership Day

Fri: 9:30-10:30am Kindergarten Playgroup

Week 8

Mon: Assembly

2:45pm - 3:10pm Second Hand Uniform Shop OPEN

Wed: Cricket Clinic K-6

Thurs: No Morning Workout for the rest of 2020

**OLMC Sport Fun Day
Friday 4 December**

NOTES HOME

This Week

- Yr 6 Canvas Painting Experience
- Yr 6 Big Games Experience
- Yr 5 Renewable Energy Experience
- OLMC Funday K-6

Last Week

- Kindergarten End of Year Celebration
- Yr 6 Celebration Day

MERIT AWARDS

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| KB | Ethan ▪ Anaishca | 4B | Chimir ▪ Joseph |
| KG | Victoria ▪ John | 4G | Amelia ▪ Logan |
| 1B | Joaquin ▪ Maliyah | 5B | Mishti ▪ Brandon |
| 1G | Abbey ▪ Michael | 5G | Caitlyn ▪ Riona |
| 2B | Eli ▪ Kian | 6B | Serena ▪ Markos |
| 2G | Arkyn ▪ Sean | 6G | Myra ▪ Celine |
| 3B | Matthew ▪ Soleil | CA | Amelia ▪ Claudia |
| 3G | Elyssa ▪ Anthony | PE | Kingston ▪ Manav |

STAR CARD REWARDS

Gold Awards: ▪ Greta

Opal Awards: ▪ Catherine ▪ Paul ▪ Jad

Platinum Awards: ▪ Sameet ▪ Bhakti ▪ Logan ▪ Hannah

Principal's Awards: ▪ Chanel ▪ Charlotte

Diamond Awards: ▪ Luke ▪ Chris ▪ Olivia ▪ Vishvassha ▪ Ilia ▪ Ruhi ▪ David ▪ Sara ▪ Bryson



MRS WOODING'S FAREWELL

To help us farewell Mrs Wooding from our school community we are asking for memories from former students, parents or grandparents to share with us. You might like to write your memories or film a short video message (in landscape) and send them to Miss Pirovic. We will use these to help us compile something special for Mrs Wooding as a lasting memory of her time at OLMC.

PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

OnLine Training offers free short courses for parents on a variety of topics. These include ADHD for Parents, ASD for Parents, Learning Theory and Working Partnerships with Parents. For parents who are interested refer to the information sheets attached with this week's newsletter email or use the following [link](#).

STUDENT DATA VALIDATION

Families were recently sent an email from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta regarding validating your information. If you have not yet responded to this email, please do so as soon as possible. This helps ensure that we have correct information.

ARE YOU LEAVING AT THE END OF 2020?

As we are currently planning for 2021 classes, it is important that you advise the school if your child will not be returning next year. This allows us to offer places to families on our school waiting list and enable them to join our OLMC community. We require written notification and forms can be obtained from the school office.

STUDENT BANKING

The last day for student banking will be Tuesday, 1st December 2020.

Student banking will not continue next year.

STAR CARD AWARDS

The last day for children to submit their star card awards will be on Friday December 4. The final Principal's morning tea will be on December 11.



LIBRARY NEWS

This week is the final week for student borrowing. During the next week we would ask all parents to help their children search at home for any stray library or class reading books allocated to your child. The teachers will contact parents if there are any outstanding guided reading books. Each child is allocated a numbered copy to make tracking the books easier. These readers are a part of a set and if they are not returned this makes the sets unusable for reading instruction.

MORNING WORKOUT

This Thursday will be the last morning workout for 2020. We would like to sincerely thank Mr Jones for devoting his time for the health and wellbeing of our students, whilst also providing extra curricular opportunities. Morning workout will recommence in 2021.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We all know the importance of reading and how a great book can spark the imagination. These summer holidays, our students are invited to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge and are encouraged to read, read, read! To enter the challenge, students can read anything they like, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it! The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of thirty runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website. Entries open on 23 November 2020 and close at 5pm on 1 February 2021. Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Win a **GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK**
Competition closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



GIVING TREE

OLMC is committed to making Christmas a time to renew hope.

This year we are inviting families who are able to make a difference in two ways. You can support someone directly in our school community by participating in our **Giving Tree** or you can support our **OLMC Chapter St Vincent dePaul Appeal** with donations of money or gift cards.

Giving Tree

1. Our giving tree will be located in the Office foyer from Monday 30th November.
2. Come to the office and select a numbered gift tag from the Christmas Giving Tree. The tag will indicate the gender and age of the person receiving the gift.
3. Purchase a gift that is appropriate for the individual on the tag
4. Wrap the gift and **attach the numbered gift tag** (this will help us get the gift to the right person)
5. Place under our giving tree in the office by **Friday 11 December**.

OLMC St Vincent DePaul Appeal

- Gift cards can be sent to the office in an envelope.
- Cash donations can be made via the office in an envelope or children can contribute to their class mission boxes.



P&F NEWS

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Today is the last day to grab a bargain in our Second Hand Uniform shop from 2:45 - 3:00pm! A great opportunity to grab some items in the next size for your child who is guaranteed to grow over the holidays! Please note that this service is **CASH ONLY**.

If you have any old uniforms still in good condition they can be donated to the second hand uniform shop via the school office. Just place them, washed and clean, into a bag labelled 2nd Hand Uniform.

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



