



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

This Sunday marks the fourth Sunday of Lent. The Gospel reading this week tells the story of the miracle of Jesus healing the Blind Man. When Jesus saw the blind man, he spat on the ground to make a paste and then rubbed it over the man's eyes. Jesus then sent the man to the Pool of Siloam, a ritual bath, where he washed himself to find that his sight had been restored.

The man was then taken to the Pharisees who, being blinded by the laws of the Jewish rituals, failed to see Jesus as God, but saw him as a sinner because he had broken the laws of the Sabbath. The blind man in contrast saw the truth very clearly and rebuked the Pharisees because they failed to see the truth of Jesus before their very own eyes. The blind man, despite his physical blindness, was open to Jesus' actions and an encounter with Truth himself.



We all have blind spots in our thinking - an inner Pharisee - obscuring our understanding of the truth and of reality. Instead the truth we are capable of knowing is replaced with partial truths, because it would be uncomfortable to acknowledge the whole truth about ourselves, our mistakes or our circumstances. So we hide away from these truths and ignore the things we may need to address. When we do this we miss the opportunity to know the great truth of God's love for us and His desire to heal and to help us love God and all his people.

In reflecting on this miracle, I think of how the past few weeks with the fear of the Covid-19 virus has caused some people to become blind to their neighbours. In the panic to stockpile products, we are forgetting to reach out to others in need. In the anxiety of protecting ourselves, people have become blind to the vulnerable.

Let us consider:

In what ways have I been blind like the Pharisees?

How can I be open to Jesus so as to see the love and light of God more clearly?

Olimpia Pirovic

Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful



When I was on pilgrimage, I was able to visit The Pool of Siloam which was a sacred Christian site. The exact location of the original pool as it existed during the time of Jesus remained a mystery until June 2004 when excavations revealed it near the City of David outside the walls of present day Jerusalem.

UPCOMING DATES

Week 8

Wed: 3:15pm-4:15pm AFL Clinic

Thu: **No Morning Workout**

Fri: **MUFTI - Gold Coin Donation**

National Day Against Bullying

2:30pm Our Project of Compassion 10c

Mission Trail count

Week 9

Naplan Practice Test Yrs 3 & 5

Mon: 9am Assembly- No parent attendance

Wed: Kindy Open Morning - **Cancelled**

Thu: 8:15am Morning Workout

Bennett St Gates - 8:15am SHARP

Fri: 2:45pm Kindy Easter Hat Parade- No parent attendance

NOTES HOME

Today

- Home Readiness Survey-**Return By Tomorrow**

Last Monday

- COVID-19 CEDP Letter
- COVID-19 Principal Letter

Last Friday

- Communication for Band Parents

OUR PROJECT OF COMPASSION - WEEK 8

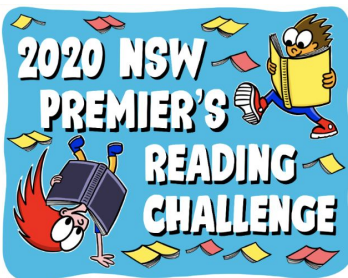
MONDAY 16 - FRIDAY 20 - Grades collect as many 10c coins as possible. On Friday we will line them up to see which Grade makes the longest trail.

FRIDAY 20 - MUFTI for a gold coin donation

MERIT AWARDS

KB	Sri Harika ▪ Lachlan	4B	Aiden ▪ Annabelle
KG	Karthik ▪ Thea	4G	Michael ▪ Makanaka
1B	Ava ▪ Agastya	5B	Deng ▪ Gabriella
1G	Amelie ▪ Hayden	5G	Alessandra ▪ Zien
2B	Aliyah ▪ Alessandro	6B	Marcus ▪ Sylvana
2G	Benjamin ▪ Liam	6G	Noah ▪ Celeste
3B	Neeti ▪ Soleil	CA	Jesse - 3B ▪ Ethan - 3B Dennis - 3B ▪ Valli - 3B
3G	Alanna ▪ Liya	PE	No awards presented.

PRC 2020



The 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) has begun and we are again encouraging all students to participate! Today children will bring home their PRC online login details for you to begin updating your child's reading record. Children in Kindy to Year 2 will read or experience 30 books from the challenge list with their class over the course of the challenge period. The Kindy to Year 2 teachers will record the books read and Mrs Anderiesz will add these books to student records.

Children in Year 3 to Year 6 are required to independently read 20 books from the challenge list. The books in our library are labelled with stickers to make it easy to identify books that are on the challenge list. Click on the link to find information related to privacy

at the [PRC Website](#). All student reading logs must be finalised before August 28. Please direct any questions you may have to Mrs Anderiesz.

KINDERGARTEN 2021

The 2021 Kindergarten enrolment period commenced on the 2 March. With enrolment packs, for prospective families, already being returned and interviews organised. With our Open Mornings being postponed until further notice, we endeavour to allow families to experience a tour of our school and learning spaces via other interactive modes. We are currently developing video alternatives to provide prospective families with a sense of what learning at OLMC is like. Stay tuned for further information.

Thank you for your patience.



CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19

To ensure the safety of our school community, we are required to follow the directions of NSW Health and the advice from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. On Monday afternoon we received further advice of measures we are required to put in place. Currently, these measures include:

- No external providers are permitted to enter the school site - eg: AFL, author visits
- Any event that will draw community members into the school will be cancelled - eg: assemblies, open days, school community celebrations
- Our students will not attend excursions, even within the local community.
- If there is an in-school event, no parent helpers or spectators will be allowed.

Events that have been postponed until further notice:

- AFL Clinics
- Year 1 Excursion
- Year 3 and Year 4 Author Talks
- Open Days
- All Diocesan Sport Days up until 15 June 2020 - including Gala Days and Trials

Events that will be modified to operate without parent helpers or spectators

- Assembly
- Kindy Easter Hat Parade
- OLMC Cross Country
- Parent God Day Walks
- Lenten Prayer Group

Events that will be cancelled

- Mayor's Morning Tea with student leaders

School Closure

As of today schools are remaining open. Our school staff and system are preparing for the possible closure of schools. Until the decision to close schools is made we will continue to operate as normal. There is a great deal of speculation and discussion which is creating anxiety amongst our local and wider community. Advice is received by schools on a daily and sometimes hourly basis. We will act on the advice accordingly and communicate to parents when there are changes. Our primary focus is always on the wellbeing of the children, keeping them calm with routines that are as normal as possible while reflective of the safe practices we need to use. We would ask our parent community to be mindful of each other and be measured in our conversations in order to not create further anxiety or distress. We appreciate the patience of parents as we navigate this unusual time together.

SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS

All Term 1 school fees payments were due by today, 18 March. Please ensure your payment has been made or your FPP is in place and the first payment has been made. Please contact Maree Murphy in the school office should you have any queries regarding your account.

NOTICE FROM COMMBANK SCHOOL BANKING

Due to the rapidly developing situation with coronavirus, School Banking has been temporarily paused from **20 March 2020** until the start of **Term 2**. Please don't bring your deposit book with your weekly banking into school and we will notify you when banking will recommence.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

All parents of children from Year 3 onwards are invited to discern the sacraments for their children. Our *parish-based, family-centred, school-supported* process is designed to support parents live, grow and share their faith with their children. For more information about the program or eligibility for the program, please see the parish website olmcwenty.org.au. **Enrolments for Confirmation are due 3rd April.**

WINTER UNIFORMS

Families are encouraged to fit winter uniforms for their child(ren) as soon as possible, before or after school in the office. Parents must attend with their child, bookings are not required. All orders for uniforms should be placed using the Qkr app by 4pm on a Wednesday so that delivery can take place on a Thursday. The last day for ordering this term will be Wednesday, 8 April. Students will be wearing their winter uniform from the beginning of Term 2.

P&F NEWS



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

