



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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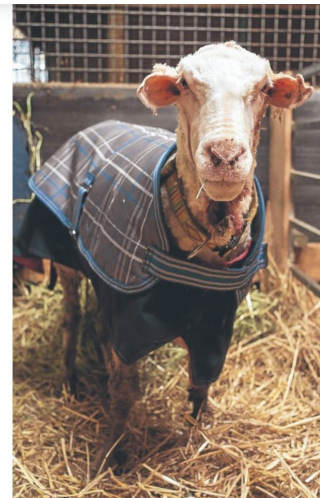


PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

I'm sure that many of you in the past week have been captivated by the story of the merino ram, dubbed Baarack by his rescuers. Baarack was discovered wandering alone in the Victorian countryside with an extraordinarily overgrown wool coat, and was promptly **shorn** to save his life.

It is unknown how long Baarack was roaming far from home but by the state of his fleece, it would seem several years. Imagine what the farmer did when Baarack first went missing? They would have searched for him, far and wide. They would have worried for him, hoping that he wasn't injured or attacked by predators. Imagine how they would have celebrated if they found Baarack.



This story of Baarack reminds me of this Sunday's gospel reading. It is a story we all know very well, The Parable of the Lost Son. I'm sure you can retell it in detail. Each new reading brings new understanding. This story is not one that celebrates a poor choice over a good choice, nor, does it favour one son over the other. Both sons had their own failings.

The one who left with his fortune and chose to live a life of indulgence and poor choices. Soon coming to realise that this can only last a short while and lead to an empty life. He also realised the gift of a loving father and family that he left behind and the value it truly holds. So he returns to his father in humility and appreciation.

The son who remained at home cared for his family and supported his father's works. In his jealousy of his brother's return he comes to realise that his failing is one of complacency. Taking for granted the wonderful things already present in our life.

At times we are all guilty of the failings of both of these sons, indulging a bit too much and taking for granted the gifts in our life. As we continue our Lenten journey, let's reflect on how we can bring balance to our lives and acknowledge the gifts of our family and our God in our life.

Olimpia Pirovic
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 6

Thu: Morning Workout with Mr Jones **8:15am SHARP**
Friday: AFL Clinics Yr4-6

Week 7

Mon: Second Hand Uniform Shop OPEN 8:45am-9:10am Assembly
 Stage 3 Mass
Tue: 3pm-4pm Senior Band
7pm Parent Info Zoom: NAPLAN
Thur: 3pm-4pm Junior Band
Fri: 4pm-5pm Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents

NOTES HOME

Friday

- Premier's Reading Challenge K-6
- **Last Week**
- School Fees 2021
- Band Program Reminders (band only)
- Diocesan School Fees note
- High School Enrolments (Yr5 & 6 only)
- Gala Days (Yr3, 4, 5 & 6)

MERIT AWARDS

KB	Violette • Ujwal	4B	Ryan • Jeremiel
KG	Nicholas • Aaraav	4G	Olivia • Kiara
1B	Emma • Ilia	5B	Alanah • Amelia
1G	Vishvassha • Cooper	5G	Alessandra • Ojas
2B	Candace • Abeer	6B	Sebastian • Dominic
2G	Maliyah • Isabel	6G	Maroun • Sowjanya
3B	Alissa • Thomas	P.E	Kyla • Paul
3G	Anabel • Paul	C.A	Asaeli • Charlise

CONGRATULATIONS

Recently it was announced that Mrs Haddad and her husband are expecting the birth of their first child in the middle of the year. This is a very exciting time for their family and we wish them all the very best.

We are also delighted to share the news of the births of daughters for both Mrs Zahrooni and Mrs Khattar since the start of the school year. Mrs Zahrooni recently visited us with the lovely Anastasia and we look forward to a visit from Mrs Khattar and her daughter Annalise. It is very special for a school community to be able to share the joy and excitement of new life.

STUDENT ILLNESS - COVID RESTRICTIONS STILL APPLY

Thank you to the parents who are following the protocols that were advised during 2020 of managing student illness. We understand that some children may suffer from seasonal hay fever or allergies and these symptoms can present as covid symptoms. If this is the case for your child, parents are asked to obtain a clearance letter from their doctor for their child to attend school.

Currently,

- No student is to attend school if they are unwell. This includes a runny nose or sore throat.
- Students who are absent from school with flu like symptoms, or, who have been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms **must have a COVID-19 test**
- Students are not able to return to school **until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free**
- **A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school** before a student can come back to school. The test results can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate
- These same protocols apply to school staff.

We also understand these processes may be frustrating, however in order to protect the health and safety of all we are required to follow them. Thank you for being respectful to school staff who call to ask for a child to be collected.

KINDERGARTEN 2022 ENROLMENTS

The 2022 Kindergarten enrolment period has commenced with the first enrolment packs already being collected. Prospective parents can collect enrolment information from the office, with all completed documentation returned by **THURSDAY 1 APRIL**.



Due to current restrictions we will be holding three Open Afternoons for families to attend. **These are scheduled for 12th and 26th March and 7th May 2020, beginning at 4pm**

OLMC PAVING WORKING BEE



We are in search of skilled family members who could support us in paving an area underneath the school.

Date: 27 March

Time: 9am-2pm

Any amount of volunteered time would be appreciated. If you're skilled and happy to coordinate this project, please leave your details at the school office.

NAPLAN 2021

In preparation for the online 'National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy' [NAPLAN], parents of Year 3 and Year 5 students are invited to attend a parent information session on **Tuesday, 9th March at 7pm via ZOOM**. This session will provide parents with information about the NAPLAN Online process and how to best help your child prepare for NAPLAN.

Meeting ID: 948 4610 6051

Password: 298065

WINTER UNIFORMS

Families are encouraged to organise winter uniforms for their child(ren) as early as possible. We are still unable to provide try-on sizes at school but a size guide is attached to this newsletter. All orders for uniforms should be placed using the Qkr app by 4pm on a Tuesday so that delivery can take place on a Thursday. The last day for ordering this term will be Tuesday 30 March. Students must wear their winter uniform from the beginning of Term 2.

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, please see the parish website olmcwenty.org.au. For all sacramental enquiries, please email paola.olmc@gmail.com.

A CHANGE IS COMING TO ABSENCES & MORE!!!!

Over the next few weeks, parents will be receiving information regarding 'Parent Compass Portal'. The Parent Compass Portal will facilitate effective communication between home and school and streamline a range of processes, making it more convenient for our families and staff. Every family will be required to access this portal, with parents being able to review their child/ren's attendance, provide explanations for periods of absence and update family contact details. A letter will soon be sent via email to all enrolled families with your login details for Compass. We will let you know when this occurs so that you can keep an eye out in your inbox, spam and junk mail.



PRC 2021

The 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) began this week and we are again encouraging all students to participate! Students will receive their PRC online login details on Friday for you to begin updating your child's reading record. For our parents with children in K, 1 or 2, your child's reading log is updated by Mrs Anderiesz from the books they experience with their class over the course of the challenge period.



PROJECT OF COMPASSION

OLMC is taking part in Project Compassion, with the aim of helping to empower vulnerable communities with hope, by providing financial assistance to those in great need. Our aim, in participating in Project Compassion is to help shape a better future for these communities and their families. This year our goal is to raise money to provide schools in the Solomon Islands with chickens. Every \$5 raised will be the cost of one chicken. Our goal is to reach 200 chickens by the end of this term. **HELP US REACH THIS GOAL!**



JUNIOR AND SENIOR BANDS

Next week our Junior and Senior Bands begin their after school Band Lessons. These lessons are the opportunity for the children to put the skills they are learning in their instrument lessons into practise while playing with other people. The Band Lesson time is from 3:00-4:00pm, with the Senior Band on Tuesday and the Junior Band on Wednesday. Siblings of band children can not remain at school and need to be collected at the normal time. Parents are asked to return promptly at 4:00pm to collect the children from the playground.

P&F NEWS

Second Hand Uniform

A reminder that if you are looking for uniform items for your child that our Second Hand uniform shop is open every Monday morning 8:45- 9:10. Please remember that this service is cash only and try to bring smaller money with you. If you have items that you no longer need, please send them freshly laundered to the school office in a bag marked Second Hand Uniform. Thank you for your support.



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.

Catholic Schools Week

Celebrating 200 years of Catholic education

2021 Catholic Schools Week celebrations will take place from 1-7 March and will announce the start of the official enrolment period. The theme for 2021 is '**Celebrating 200 years of Catholic education**'. In week 4, the official launch of the national celebration of 200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia took place with a pre-recorded virtual event on Thursday 18 February. You can watch the video [here](#).

Faith in the future

Over 200 years, Catholic schools have educated millions of Australian students.

Celebrating 200 years of Catholic education in Australia, is a moment of both celebration and reflection about what has been, and what can be in the future. In a world that can appear increasingly secular and hostile to the Church and its teachings, Catholic schools offer an encounter with the Gospel truth that is both traditional and contemporary and that celebrates the love of learning and the joy of a truly Christian life.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate the bicentenary of Australia's first Catholic school through a continued commitment to growing opportunities of Catholic education for all. This milestone will provide the opportunity to learn from one another, inviting the voices, curiosity, and creativity of our students, teachers and parents to celebrate the gifts of faith and learning. In owning the history of Catholic schools in Australia, we recognise the hurts of the past. We acknowledge the victims of abuse and injustice and continue to support them in healing together.

The contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. Today, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta builds on this legacy through leading, transforming learning and teaching and through outreach. Above all, we celebrate all that unites us, and we commit to a hope that defines us, in living out God's love for one another.

Celebrating
200
years
1820-2020
OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA