Dear Parents

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT. The theme for CSW 2016 is ‘I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.’ which aligns with the Church’s mission to support refugees and asylum seekers at this a time in our world where vast numbers of people are fleeing war and poverty.

The theme also ties in with the global Catholic Church celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which focuses on pardon, strength and love. Pope Francis sees the Year of Mercy as an opportunity for forgiveness and reconciliation, and is calling on all Catholic communities to extend mercy to those in need, particularly refugees.

We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to offering children in our schools the opportunity to follow Jesus as a member of the Catholic school. Catholic schools are places of welcome and evangelisation. They focus on the message of Jesus within and beyond our communities and provide the best educational opportunities for the children in our care.

Catholic Schools Week is also about forging and strengthening relationships between everyone who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing our activities and actions.

Our school has a supportive community of teachers, support staff, parents, carers, P&F, clergy and parishioners who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

Lord Jesus, you came among us as teacher, to reveal to us the Father’s endless love and mercy.

Our Catholic schools continue to give witness to your compassion and wisdom.

Seeking always to ensure that we are all welcome no matter who we are.

May our Catholic schools continue to be places of belonging and sources of hope and enthusiasm for our young people and their families.

May the work of our Catholic school always be guided by the inspiration of your Spirit.

This Friday we have the opportunity to celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Eucharist as a Catholic community at 10:30am. Prior to mass we are opening our classrooms for students to share their learning and learning spaces.

Best wishes for all as we continue our Lenten journey.

Mr Steven Jones-Principal
CHILDREN’S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Thank you to all the parents who have enrolled their children in the programs for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. All enrolment forms for the sacrament of Confirmation are due by Friday 18 March 2016. For further information regarding any of these sacraments, please phone Paola on 0414 947 799 or email paola.olmc@gmail.com

Paola Yevenes-OLMC Parish

PROJECT COMPASSION

During Lent we raise funds for those people not as fortunate as we are. Children have been very generous with their efforts, helping to buy plants and soil for farmers in Vietnam.

Each class adds a flower pot to our pinboard for every $20 they contribute.

Which class will raise the most?

Next week there will be lunch time discos for a GOLD COIN DONATION to help our fund raising efforts.

TUESDAY DISCO FOR YEARS 2-4
WEDNESDAY DISCO FOR KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR 5
THURSDAY DISCO FOR YEARS 1 AND 6

GOD DAY

A reminder to parents who are participating in God Day......could you please bring some scissors with you. Cardboard, paint, clay, glue and other supplies are provided.

KINDERGARTEN 2017 ENROLMENTS

Kindergarten 2017 Enrolments opened this week from Tuesday 8 March. Please let family and friends know that packs can be collected between 8:30am and 3:30pm from the school office. There are three open days organised for prospective 2017 Kindergarten parents –

10 March (Thursday) – 9:30-10:30am
6 April (Wednesday) – 9:30-10:30am
3 May (Tuesday) – 9:30-10:30am

A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools was introduced in 2015 which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese.

Where places are limited, priority will be given in order to:

- Catholic children who live in the local parish
- Catholic children from other parishes
- Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (e.g. siblings)
- Orthodox children
- Children from other Christian faiths
- Children of non-Christian faith

THE MERIT CERTIFICATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel, Kaushal</td>
<td>KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Riya</td>
<td>KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea, Isabella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhakti, Charline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disha, Peter</td>
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<td>Adam, Francine</td>
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<td>Amelia, Ashlee</td>
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<td>6B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lara, Manyaa</td>
<td>6G</td>
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

To celebrate Catholic Schools Week we will be having various events throughout the week.

Thursday – School Tour for Prospective 2017 Kindergarten families
Friday – 9:30am Open Classrooms followed by 10:30am Catholic Schools Week Mass

HOW YOUR PARKING HABITS MAY AFFECT OUR STUDENTS

Below is a note from one of our students, explaining how bad parking habits impact on her and her family:

Dear Parents

My mum has very bad knees and is usually in a lot of pain. Every time my Mum picks me up, she always parks far away from the school because people with no disability parking permits park in the “Disabled Parking” spot in front of the school.

I request you not to park there so that my Mum’s knees don’t hurt her anymore.

Thank you

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN

Due to a delay in delivery of the Earn & Learn products won by our school, the Store Manager of Woolworths at Greystanes was unable to attend our assembly on Monday.

We will advise parents at a later date when the presentation will be made.
PARENTS AND FRIENDS

NETBALL NEWS

The Netball teams have begun training this week. There are five teams this year. The girls who train on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon line up beside the Kindergarten line to wait for their coaches. The teams will train on their designated afternoon until September; there is no training during the holidays. If you would like information about playing netball for the OLMC Netball Club please contact Pauline Epenian on 0406 515 782. Good luck to all the teams playing this year.

LIBRARY NEWS

The children at our school are great readers and are borrowing lots of books. Thanks to all the parents helping the children to return their books on the correct day.

We are in the process of finalising the log in accounts for new children to our school to be able to access their Premier’s Reading Challenge reading log. If your child remembers their login details from last year they should still be able to access their account. Keep track of what your child is reading so this can be added to the online record. Look out for books that have the special Premier’s Reading Challenge sticker.

To complete the challenge, children in Kindergarten to Year 2 read or have read to them 30 books. The children in Year 3 to Year 6 independently read 20 Books. For each level five books may be free choice with the remainder needing to be books from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list for each grade level.

ADDITIONAL PE LESSONS

Over the term each grade has additional PE lessons with Mr Jones and Drama lessons with Mrs Taylor. One these days the children will be required to wear their sport uniform in addition to their normal sport uniform days. The dates are as follow:

- 15 March – Kindergarten
- 22 March – Year 1
- 29 March – Year 2
- 5 April – Year 3

WINTER UNIFORM FITTINGS

Starting next week parents will be able to make appointments with Mrs Cundy to fit the new Winter uniforms on Monday or Thursday mornings. Orders that are placed will be filled within seven days. We advise parents to follow the advise of Mrs Cundy, who is expert in fitting the children’s uniforms.

You can make your appointments online by visiting the website: www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Use the code u8fwk to make your appointment.

P&F is in the process of coordinating its annual Mothers’ Day raffle so we are calling on any businesses or families able to contribute prizes.

This could be anything from store vouchers or vouchers for a service such as massage/facial or hairdressing to products such as pamper packs, appliances and accessories/jewellery.

If you can help or if you need more information, please contact Sonia Farah on 0431 692 960 or Joanne Sakr 0418 623 867.

Next P&F Social Gathering

The P&F is organising a social event on a Friday night early in term two and we thought we would ask parents for ideas. We usually hold a twilight, outdoor movie night on the top playground but any suggestions are welcome. If you have any ideas please send them in to the P&F via email at olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention to the P&F.

Tiny Tots Playgroup

Tiny Tots Playgroup is back on this Friday from 9:15am.

The playgroup is a fun way for babies, toddlers and preschoolers in our community to meet every week, get to know each other and spend some time playing and making craft.

This is also great for the parents of course, providing an opportunity to meet socially with other parents in the community and school.

Playgroup is on Fridays during the school term from at 9:15am in the Parish Hall (Smith St playground, on the school grounds). The cost is $2 per session or $20 per term. Tea/coffee, bikkies and a chat are provided for the adults! Children need to bring their own, nut-free morning tea from home.

This column is compiled by P&F Communications. If you have any queries or wish to contribute, please email olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention it to P&F Communications.
Mathematics is often an area that many parents feel least confident about helping their children with. As a society it is socially acceptable to say that you are not good at Maths but you would never say you couldn’t read. The first way parents can help their children is by being confident even if you don’t feel it. Show them how that even if you don’t know an answer you will try to work it out. Show your children how you try to work out the daily Mathematical problems you encounter.

At school our emphasis is on developing the children’s understanding of key mathematical concepts. When calculating we work to develop the children’s mental computation skills and thorough understanding before introducing vertical algorithms. The children need to be able to flexibly break up numbers and explain their strategies to solve a problem mentally before using algorithms. Below are some of the key strategies we use to teach addition and subtraction to the children.

**BEGINNING STRATEGIES**

**Counting All** - This is when we combine the quantity of groups and count how many altogether.

**Counting On** - This is when we count on from one of the numbers being added. EG: 3+6 > 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10. We want the children to count on from the larger number as it is more efficient. We talk ‘Think Big, Count Small.’

**Count Back or Count Up To** - These strategies are mostly used when subtracting. We either count back the number being subtracted or count up to the larger number from the smaller to find the difference between the numbers being subtracted. When using these strategies we keep track of how many we have counted back or up to to find the answer. Children often use their fingers to track this. The children need to make a judgement about which is the most efficient strategy to use.

EG: 12 - 4
- count back 4 from 12 > 8
- count up to 12 from 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 = 8

**BASIC STRATEGIES**

**Known Facts** - Knowledge of basic facts like numbers that add together to make 10 or small combinations help the children solve problems.

**Doubles Facts** - Automatically knowing the answer to doubles EG: 2+2=4, 6+6=12

**Commutativity** - This is when we turn around the order of numbers in addition problems to count on from the larger number. EG: 4+25 > swap it around to 25+4.

**DERIVED STRATEGIES**

**Near Doubles Facts** - Identifying number combinations that are almost a double fact. EG: 6+7 is almost the same as 7+7 or 6+6, knowing these facts help to find the answer

**Adding 9** - Knowing that when adding or subtracting 9 is almost like adding or subtracting 10. We are often able to add 10 very easily and applying this knowledge.

**100 Facts and Other Known Facts** - Knowing combinations of various facts also help in being able to quickly find a mental solution.

**OTHER STRATEGIES**

There are other strategies that we use to help the children find their answers quickly, particularly when working with larger numbers. Some of these are the **Jump Strategy, Split Strategy and Compensation Strategy**. You can see these strategies explained below.

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**Addition - Jump Strategy**

49 + 33

- Start with larger number
- Add tens first
- Add ones

49 + 33 = 82

**Subtraction - Split Strategy**

82 - 49

- Split the second number into tens and ones
- Subtract tens
- Subtract ones

82 - 49 = 33

**Addition - Split Strategy**

49 + 33

- Split tens and ones
- Add tens
- Add ones

70 + 12 = 82

**Subtraction - Jump Strategy**

82 - 49

- Start of the problem, end of the number line
- Subtract tens
- Subtract ones

82 - 49 = 33

Visit our YouTube channel for short films on processes we teach. Search OLMC Wentry in YouTube to find our channel.

**Compensation Strategy**

One number is rounded to simplify the calculation then the answer is adjusted to compensate for the original change.

53 + 39 _ think 52+40 - 1 then subtract the extra 1 added to 39 at the start. So 52+40 - 1 = 91

Maths Dictionaries are a great source of explanations of strategies and mathematical terms. The website School A to Z is also a NSW based parent resource that is helpful.