Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term Two. I hope all of you had the opportunity to enjoy the break with family and friends. Our students returned to school on Monday with excitement, noticing three large eggs nestled on the ledge outside the Mercy Library. These eggs have created wonderful conversation, questions, predictions and imagination amongst our school community during the past few days.

This Saturday, Australians across the country pause to remember in a special way, all Australians and New Zealanders who have died in war and served our country. We remember this past history of war, and pray that, in the future, all people will work to make peace, not war. The spirit of Anzac, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

This year in particular we celebrate the 100 year anniversary. In 1915, Australian and New Zealand men some not a lot older than our Year 6 boys, together with British, Indian and French soldiers were sent to fight in the part of Turkey known as the Gallipoli peninsula. It was because of the way those Australians and New Zealanders fought, and the way they faced the hardships and dangers that confronted them, that the initials became a word - ANZAC - which today is respected in both Australia and New Zealand. Their actions forged what has become known as the ANZAC spirit and that spirit has been the driving force behind all Australian servicemen and women ever since - in France, later on in World War II, Korea, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, all of which happened long before many of us were born. It is also present in the operations our service people undertake today. We pause on Saturday to acknowledge all current and former members of our defence forces – the brave men and women who represent our country on a daily basis. No Australian is left untouched when a member of our defence force is killed in action. It is difficult to comprehend the grief associated with the loss at war of a parent, partner, child or sibling, let us also ensure that we remember the families.

As we commence a new term and reflect on this significant event, we need to remind ourselves of how fortunate we are to live in a country where peace and democracy can be taken for granted. Many countries throughout the world continue to suffer from war with death and separation a daily event. May we continue to be Christ like in our words and actions as peacemakers within our own communities.

Peace is quiet.
Peace is no war.
Peace is still.
Peace is clouds floating through the sky.
Peace is a smile between friends.
Peace is a hug from someone who loves you.
Peace is saying sorry.
Peace is a sleeping child.
Peace makes us feel good.
Peace is something we share.

As we remember those who have died so that we may be set free,
Let us all work for peace.

Wishing you all the very best as you work for peace with all those you meet throughout the week.

Mr Steven Jones-Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful
The first of three workshops for Confirmation would have started this week. Confirmation is one of the more trickier sacraments to understand and there are many of us who have been life-long Catholics who still struggle to understand what it does, its effects and why we would need it in today's context. These things are not something that can be explained in an hour or two. We come to this sacrament after a long period—many years, in fact—of sharing experiences, discernment and prayer. These next three weeks of workshops are a small yet significant part of this process.

Please pray for our children and their parents who have committed themselves to opening up their hearts and minds to this experience.

Paola Yevenes-Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

WINTER UNIFORM

Due to the significant change in the weather, all students are permitted to wear either full summer uniform or full winter uniform from tomorrow, Wednesday 22nd April. No child is permitted to wear a combination of summer and winter (e.g. girls - tights with summer dress, boys - long pants with short sleeve shirt and no tie). As of next week all children are to be wearing full winter uniform.

All parents are encouraged to ensure that their children have appropriate rain apparel (e.g. raincoat, rain jacket, umbrella) clearly marked with your child's name.

Please see the school website for winter uniform expectations. The only exception to the above would be any difficulties due to back orders of uniform and no stock. For these situations please discuss with school staff.

All orders must be in by the end of this week as stock is running low. Winter tunics cannot be exchanged so please choose size carefully. There will be sample tunics available at the office to try on if necessary.

FETE EVALUATION & FETE WRAP UP MEETING

Just a reminder for all stall coordinators to please complete and return the Fete evaluation to the school office. The Fete wrap up meeting will be held next Wednesday evening 29 April at 7pm in the Parish Narthex. All coordinators and helpers are encouraged to attend.

PARENT HELPERS

We are hoping to have our classroom parent helpers timetable finalised by the end of this week. To be a parent helper, your child protection needs to be current and you need to have completed the Parents as Educators course. Last term parents who attended the course were sent a letter to indicate their availability. If you did not receive a note and would like to help, please collect a note from the office.

Please return all notes by the end of the week.

TERM FEES

Term One Fees are now overdue. Term Two fees will be sent home next week.

PRINCIPAL’S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

Thank you to all those who sent photos during the holidays, there were some fantastic discoveries of numbers within our environment. Emails and photos can continue to be sent to olmcpincipalchallenge@gmail.com for the remainder of this week. Don't forget to send back your reading log by this Friday to go in Monday’s draw. Below are some samples of photos received:
Mothers’ Day Gift Wrapping Day
With the Mothers’ Day stall approaching, a gift wrapping day has been scheduled for Wednesday 29 April from 9am in the Parish Hall (on the school grounds).
Morning tea will be provided and toddlers are welcome.

Second Hand Uniform Shop
As the school will be beginning the new uniform transition process late this year/early next year, the second hand uniform shop is calling for any uniform donations especially the larger sizes.

This will help parents to cover any shortage in uniforms and enable more families to wait until the new uniforms are launched at the end of the year. If you have any uniforms you no longer use, please send them to the second hand uniform shop via the office.

Fete Stall Holders Notice
As we will be holding a fete wrap up meeting next Wednesday 29 April at 7pm, the fete committee would like to finalise all matters regarding the fete.

As such, could all stall holders please ensure you submit all your expense claim forms and receipts as well as the fete evaluation forms by this Friday to the school office c/o P&F Treasurer.

P&F General Meeting
Our next P&F General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May at 7pm in the school library.

We encourage as many people as possible to attend. A note and meeting agenda will be sent home with students the week before the meeting; we look forward to seeing as many people as possible there.

If you have items for the agenda, please email it to olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au

CCSP Conference – It Takes A Village To Raise A Child
The Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP NSW/ACT) will be holding its 11th Catholic School Parents Conference this year on the weekend of 16 and 17 May at Opal Cove Resort in Coffs Harbour.

This year’s conference, titled It takes a village to raise a child will host various speakers with a wide range of workshops across the two days. Speakers include well known parenting educator Michael Grose, relationship specialist Bruce Sullivan and Fr Elio Capra to name a few.

OLMC P&F is calling for individuals interested in attending the conference and will pay for the full conference attendance fee ($250 including one conference dinner).

If you are interested and able to coordinate your own transport and accommodation please contact Danielle Gardner on 0414 607 180.

More information is available at www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au

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
DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL WE CELEBRATED EASTER WITH "GOD DAY". EACH CLASS CONCENTRATED ON A RELEVANT SCRIPTURE PASSAGE AND CHILDREN DEMONSTRATED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IN ART, PRAYER, MOVIES AND DIORAMAS. PARENTS JOINED IN THEIR OWN REFLECTIVE WALK AND PRAYER EXPERIENCES.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!