Dear Parents/Carers, especially Mothers

“I’d like to be an ideal mother, but I’m too busy raising my children.” Author unknown.

Even though this might be the situation for you, make sure that on Mothers’ Day you are not too busy to take time to rejoice in yourself, because:

“Happy Mothers’ Day means more than have a happy day.
Within these words lie lots of things we never get to say.
It means, I love you, first of all, then thanks for all you do.
It means you mean a lot to me and that I honour you.” Nicholas Jordan.

For many years now, psychologists have been saying that the bonding of a baby with its mother in the first few minutes of life is vital for the stability of the newborn child. The mother-infant bond is an intense relationship of unparalleled human affection. It is the foundation of the child’s emotional and physical survival. No wonder the saying: “Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short time but their hearts forever”.

There are many ways to answer the question, “What is Motherhood?” and one of those ways might be that Motherhood means sharing in the creative power of God. Conceiving, carrying and giving birth to a human being, is as close as any person can get to the act of creation. This is the beginning of Motherhood but it is far from the end. Motherhood is also about nurturing, sacrificing, loving and, ultimately, letting go.

Jesus’ mother, Mary, experienced all the above and had the added drama of losing her son for three days. Eventually, she and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple having a discussion with a group of Rabbis (a scripture story our Kindergarten children were talking about yesterday). When Mary rebuked Jesus for “treating us this way”, Jesus informed her that the Temple was the first place she should have looked: “Did you not know that I must be about the things of my Father?”

Poor Mary! Besides being embarrassed for Joseph, she probably found it hard to accept that Jesus was growing up with a mind of his own and his own sense of how his Father was leading him. Mary was caught up in the tension of fulfilling the daily responsibilities of her role of mother and parenting the Son of God. All mothers are caught up in the world of tension as they try to be all things to their children.

This Sunday is an opportunity for us to express our gratitude and thanks for all that mothers do.

Mary, Mother of God
And spiritual Mother of us all,
May all mothers who seek your help,
Experience your unfailing protection,
Lead all mothers and their children
To your Son, Jesus.

HAPPY MOTHERS’ DAY!
HAPPY GRANDMOTHERS’ DAY!

Mr Steven Jones
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful
CHILDBREN’S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Confirmation: With workshops finishing up this week, we would like to give all our Group Leaders a big thank you! Thanks also to the families who attended—we hope you are enjoying the process.

First Reconciliation: A reminder that enrolment forms are due this Friday 8 May 2015 and that the Parent Information Evening is on Monday 18 May at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

First Holy Communion: Thank you to all the families who have enrolled their children. Please remember that if you would still like to enrol, Sunday 13 September is now closed.

Please keep in your prayer Mrs Rhonda Sculley and her family. Rhonda’s mother passed away at the end of last week.

Eternal rest grant unto her O’Lord
Let perpetual light
Shine on her.
May she rest in peace
Amen

CHILDREN’S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

TERM ONE SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS

During term one our major social justice focus was our efforts for Project Compassion particularly raising money to help supply water in villages in Niger. We were also approached by Caritas Australia to donate through Project Compassion to villages in Vanuatu devastated by Cyclone Pam and also by the Catholic Education in Rockhampton for assistance after Cyclone Marcia which caused havoc in local schools and destroyed resources as well as schools and classrooms.

The total amount raised was $2233. As a result of these calls for help two thirds of the total money raised will be forwarded to Project Compassion to help in Niger and Vanuatu and one third will be forwarded to the Diocese of Rockhampton.

CHANGES TO PE AND MUSIC LESSONS

Due to NAPLAN the following years have a change in the PE and Music lessons for next week only.

Year 5 – Wednesday
Year 1 – Thursday

Years 5 and 1 are to ensure they wear their sports uniform on the appropriate day.

STAGE 3 GIRLS SOCCER GALA POSTPONED

Tomorrow (Thursday 7 May) Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day has been postponed due to the ground remaining closed following the recent wet weather. A new date is yet to be finalised.

MERIT CERTIFICATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azhric, Sai</td>
<td>KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella, Thabeesh</td>
<td>KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lachlan, Sean</td>
<td>1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth, Simona</td>
<td>1G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charbel, Nhial</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cristian, Matilda</td>
<td>2G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel, Faith</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuban, Maddison</td>
<td>3G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalia, Emilie</td>
<td>4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane, Alannah</td>
<td>4G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to teacher absences there are no merits for this week.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus, Lara</td>
<td>5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lachlan, Leticia</td>
<td>5G</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>6B</td>
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NAPLAN

NAPLAN – Next week all students in Year 3 and Year 5 will complete the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in all schools across Australia. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Tuesday 12th May
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
Writing

Wednesday 13th May
Reading

Thursday 14th May
Numeracy

Friday 15th May

A ‘catch up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

At Our Lady of Mount Carmel the NAPLAN Tests for Year 3 and Year 5 will take place in their Learning Space between 9:00am and 11:30am over these three days.

We would request that all families are at school promptly ready to start school on these days (as is the expectation outlined everyday) so there are minimal interruptions for the students.

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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SUPPORTING VANUATU

We have all witnessed the devastation as a result of ‘Cyclone Pam’ in Vanuatu. One of our families in the school has been able to organise a container to transport goods to the poorest in Vanuatu. If you have any children’s toys and/or adult clothing, shoes, thongs, children’s books, cotton blankets and/or basic cooking utensils that are in good condition and no longer required that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the school office by Wednesday 13th May. These will be transported directly to Vanuatu and distributed to those in need.

OLMC NETBALL

Playing times for Round 6 Saturday 9 May, 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Versus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLMC 1 (12s)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Holroyd Hot-shots 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC 2 (11s)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>OLMC 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC 3 (10s)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>OLMC 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Set Go</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember hair must be tied back, nails need to be clipped and no jewellery is permitted. This week is our clubs ground & canteen duties between 8:30am - 12pm. Parents are asked to volunteer atleast 30 minutes of their time to help. Please let your team manager know if you are able to help on the day. We understand that playing times are earlier this year, we ask that you please make every effort to be at the courts no later than 30 minutes before your game to warm-up with your team. Your cooperation is much appreciated. For enquiries please phone Paula Epenian 0406 515 782 or Alycia Koulouris 0414 513 448.

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

When we got off the bus to Eastern Creek raceway on 5 May 2015, we felt nervous and excited at the same time.

Some people thought they’d never be able to finish the whole course, they had to run 2 or 3km all the way around the race track. They ran over pebbles, mud, grass, concrete and around bends! All 38 students represented our school with pride. We experienced a hard race and many students achieved their personal best result!

Congratulations to all the students. Thanks also to Mrs Meares, Mr Jones and Miss Lawrence as well as all the parents who helped out.

By Emily K. & Jacinta A.

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Happy Mothers’ Day From All Of Us

On behalf of the P&F, we would like to wish all our mums and grandmums a wonderful day this Sunday.

Dear Lord,

We are blessed with a loving mother, as You were. Help us to remember to honor and care for our mothers as they have cared for us since the beginning of our lives. We cherish our mother as you have cherished our blessed Mary. Please keep us close in your loving embrace and protect us always. Amen

Mothers’ Day Stall And Raffle

Our annual P&F Mother’s day stall took place today in the parish hall. A huge thank you to all the parent helpers who gave up their time to help out, in particular to Sonia Farah and Joanne Sakr for coordinating the gifts and the stall.

We are sure all the mums are going to be pleasantly surprised on Sunday morning. Also, please don’t forget to send back all the raffle tickets – sold with money or unsold – by Thursday afternoon at the latest. We will be drawing the raffle and contacting the winners on Friday. Raffle tickets are 50 cents each and the prizes are listed below: please note that a prize was omitted from the original list.

TLC Gym voucher valued at $270
Hair curler valued at $180
Hair dryer valued at $180
Tupperware baking with kids set valued at $60
Make up voucher valued at $50
Two piece vase set
Food hamper valued at $50
Pottery hamper
5 x food hamper

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 and look forward to seeing as many people as possible there. Light refreshments will be served.

FAMILIES MATTER! Parish Forum

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Wentworthville Parish Council will host a forum for all parishioners on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 7pm in the Nanthex. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This is a great opportunity for all of us to come and share our thoughts and ideas on supporting family life in the context of our parish. How can we bring our vision to life?

“Families have an indispensable mission in society. It is in the family that children are trained in sound values, high ideals, and genuine concern for others. But like all God's gifts, the family can also be disfigured and destroyed. It needs our support.” - Pope Francis

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.
What I Would Do For You

Jayne Sena

I would do just about anything you’d ask.  
For there’s nothing I wouldn’t do, there’s no such task.

I would walk without my shoes to the end of the Earth,  
I would give up anything I had to, to teach you self-worth.

I would hold your hand every minute of every day,  
But I won’t because I know you need to find your own way.

I would surely bear the heartache of your first love that’s real,  
Even though I can’t, I will naturally feel as you feel.

I would sell my soul if it would keep you happy forever,  
I would give my right arm to keep us forever together.

I would run a hundred miles up-hill in the rain,  
Just to guarantee that you will never feel pain.

I would laugh with you even if I was sad,  
I will give you a smile even if I’m mad.

I can only accept your mistakes with a grin on my face,  
I will guide you in correcting them, but at your own pace.

I will guide you through life, as this world can get quite wild.  
Just don’t ever forget that you will always be my child.