Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday was a special feast day in our church calendar as it was the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We usually refer to it in schools as Mary’s Birthday. Catholic have, as their universal mother, the Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus who truly could claim to be, “the light of the world’. As Jesus had a human and a divine nature which cannot be divided, Mary holds the title of Mother of God.

Most people don’t mind being asked questions of a fanciful nature, because these types of questions are non-threatening and can be a means to entertainment as we go about constructing an answer. We would all like to ponder the possibilities of “What would you do if you won Lotto?” or “If you were Prime Minister, what changes would you make for the benefit of ordinary people?” But how would we ponder if, by some strange means, we were able to fashion our own mother before we were born to her? How would we gift her in mind and body?

Well, in a sense, this is what God did when He chose Mary to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus. When Mary gave her “Yes” answer to Gabriel’s question, she began to carry Jesus in her womb for the nine months of the first Advent, in preparation for the first Christmas. Later in her life, Mary was to be present at another birth, the birth of the Church at the first Pentecost. What's more, in the same manner as each mother who bore each of us is called our mother and not the mother of our body only, so Mary is the Mother of the whole person of Jesus Christ, who is God. What a great gift to be Mother of God and what courage to say “Yes”.

Because we are human, we are aware of our limitations and weaknesses and probably find it hard to believe that we could do much for God. No doubt, when Mary was asked to be Mother of God, she found Gabriel’s message difficult and thought immediately about her limitations. We are only being human if we find it difficult to accept that God could have a plan for us, as He did for Mary, namely, to bring Jesus to others by living His values. Just as Mary took Jesus everywhere she went during her pregnancy, we are invited to take Jesus with us everywhere we go.

Mary’s human life helps her to be a bridge between earth and heaven, helping us all to see what is possible.

- It is possible to be born into a simple life, yet achieve mightily in life.
- It is possible to be uncertain about ourselves, experience fear when opportunities arise and then accept with courage what is offered to us.
- It is possible to persevere through times of sorrow and disappointment and to keep our trust in God.
- It is possible to live our lives in hope, trusting that God’s spirit will be with us in all we do.

All the best for the week ahead and the possibilities it provides.

Mr Steven Jones-Principal
CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: A reminder that we have two practice sessions this Thursday at 3:30pm and at 7:00pm. You can choose which one you and your child will be attending (you can attend both if you really want to!). Families are requested to please arrive for their celebrations half an hour earlier for photography.

All are welcome to celebrate with us on Saturday at 6:00pm and Sunday at 10:30am.

MERIT CERTIFICATES

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zachary, Harish</td>
<td>KB</td>
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<td>Nicolas, Irene</td>
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<td>Georgia, Emmanuel</td>
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<td>Alisha, Michael</td>
<td>6B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly, Lachlan</td>
<td>6G</td>
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RE SPOTLIGHT

Children in Year 4 are very excited as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion over the next two weekends. Year 3 have been discovering the life of Mary, the many times by which we pray to her and the special role she was given by God. All classes are using artwork to develop a deeper understanding of the Scripture passages that are connected to the unit of work they are completing in Religion.

We celebrated as a school and parish community the gift of Fathers with a Mass and breakfast and prayed for Dads/Father figures and all they do for us in our lives.

Teachers are busy planning for Mission Week and Grandparents Day which are early next term. It is an opportunity for us to live our mission statement values of compassion, dignity and justice.

STAFFING

The following staff will be on Long Service Leave at the commencement of next week and some continuing into next term. We welcome the staff in brackets as these staff’s replacements.

- Mrs Jennie Cerniaskas (Mrs Kay Massey-Hale) Week 10 Term 3 & Week 1 Term 4
- Mrs Jennifer Lawrence (Mrs Jacki Janis) Week 10 Term 3
- Mrs Elisa Speranza (Mrs DI Jones) Week 10 Term 3 (from Wednesday) & Week 1 Term 4
- Mrs D’Anne Worsley (Mrs Rita Saad) Week 10 Term 3 & Week 1 Term 4
- Mrs Alyson Hanson (Mrs Aida Almeida) Week 10 Term 3

We wish them all a safe and enjoyable long service leave.

PLANNING DAYS

At the centre of any successful activity is planning. Each term classroom teachers are provided with grade planning days as per their award. Grades are currently in the midst of planning for next term. These days are essential in allowing teachers to meet together to maximise the future learning opportunities for all of our students. During these planning days trained professional relief teachers are employed. We would ask that you remind you children that these teachers are respected and that expectations remain the same.

These planning days are another way that we can support the dedicated and professional staff at OLMC, to provide the best learning and teaching experiences and opportunities for your children.

SUMMER UNIFORM

As the weather is changing students are permitted to wear either full summer or full winter uniform. Students are not to wear a combination of both.

SICK CHILDREN

We continue to have a number of children attending school who are sick. Please be considerate of the wellbeing of others in our community as infections spread rapidly to other children and their teachers. Please keep your children at home until they are fully recovered. Both children and staff are continuing to be reinfected by children attending school when they are sick. Please don’t forget to send in a note with your child when they return to school or notify the school via the Skoolbag app.
SAVE THE DATE! An afternoon with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg 17 Oct 2015 at 2:00pm

St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong

PRC is proud to have been able to secure Dr Michael Carr-Gregg for the benefit of our Diocesan parents and educators in 2015! Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is one of Australia’s Highest Profile psychologists who specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health.

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will be doing his presentation on his latest book: Strictly Parenting - Everything you should know about raising a school-aged child. Book early for this NOT TO BE MISSED free event at prcparraevents@hotmail.com

Contact: PRC President
Email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com

Fathers’ Day Breakfast

Thank you to all the Fathers, Grandfathers, Parents and Caregivers who braved the cold and drizzle to celebrate the gift of Fathers at our annual Fathers’ Day breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many people there and to be able to celebrate the blessing that our fathers are at Mass.

Thanks to all the people who helped to set up, prepare food and clear away. We could not have done it without you all, and we are grateful as always for your support.

Fathers’ Day Raffle

Congratulations to the winners of our fabulous Fathers’ Day raffle prizes! Thank you to everyone who donated to our raffle and made this possible.

TLC Gym three month membership donated by Norma and Mario Touma, won by David
Sullivan’s Cove double cask scotch (700ml) donated by Richard Khoury, won by Stephen
30min Oz Jet Boating ride for 2 adults donated by Jihane Mangano, won by Hannah
Calvin Klein ckin2u eau de toilette 200mL donated by Simon and Sonia Elias, won by Ella
Lavazza Mini Coffee pod machine donated by IGA Wentworthville, won by Devaj
Tiffany Grill master, won by Tomos
$30 voucher at Masters Northmead, won by Damon
A bottle of Gum Creek Estate Chardonnay, won by Simona, Lara, Kimberley and Maya

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.

Grandparents Day

We are celebrating the special gift of grandparents as a school community on Friday 23 October. We will have morning tea and share a story with our grandparents. Please let your Nan, Pop, Grandma, Opa, Nonna, Teta and Jiddo and anyone else know, so that they can keep this day free and join us.
Early Friday morning all Fathers were invited to breakfast to celebrate Father's Day. Thank you to the P & F who provided a wonderful breakfast. The Dads and their children were excited to spend this time together.

After breakfast the community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel joined together in church to celebrate Mass. Together we celebrated our Fathers, Grandfathers and significant men in our lives that are there to support and guide us, just like Joseph did for Jesus. The singing was wonderful and the church was very full.