Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017 school year!

What an incredible start to the year it has been, extreme weather conditions 40 degrees one day and torrential rain the next, whilst welcoming our new Kindergarten students and Year 6 going on camp for three days.

Thank you to everyone for all that you have done to ensure the children have returned refreshed, enthusiastic, dressed immaculately and ready to learn in 2017.

A special and warm welcome…

- To all our new families and students, we hope you feel welcomed and part of this wonderful school learning community.
- To our Kindergarten students who have come to “big school” with great excitement, enthusiasm and anticipation.
- To Miss Elise Thomas (Year 6), Miss Abigail Magtanong (Kindergarten), Mrs Kimberley Pearn (Year 6), Miss Jasmine Oberman (IT Assistant) and Mrs Leanne Readman (School Counsellor) who have joined our school staff in 2017.

And a welcome back…

- To our wonderful staff who have spent many hours planning and preparing during the holidays, including Mrs Suzy Kirby, Mrs Sandra Carew and Mrs Rachael Hakim who have returned.
- To our returning families who continue to trust and support our school community.

A special thank you to all families who brought their child(ren) into school the Friday before school commenced for the Mathematics Assessment Interviews. This day commenced our goal of interviewing individually every child in the school as quickly as possible. Sorry to those families who couldn’t be accommodated, the response was once again absolutely overwhelming and shows your support and commitment to your children’s education. Current discussions amongst staff, indicate some incredible growth to date. I look forward to sharing the results with you once they have been completed and analysed.

We pray for God’s blessing on each of these people and for all our community for the year ahead.

We look forward to catching up with many of you during the upcoming weeks. Everyone is invited to join our school community this Friday at 10:30am for our opening school mass where we will welcome our new Kindergarten students and commission our school leaders. It will be our first opportunity to celebrate Mass as a school community with Father Dennis, our new Parish Priest.

As always if you are unsure of something or have any concerns, please ask a member of staff who will be only to willing to assist you.

May the year ahead bring you many blessings.

8 February 2017

Term 1

Week 3

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful
Every one is welcome to join in our opening Mass this Friday at 10:30am. As well as asking God’s blessing on our academic year we also welcome new children, parents and staff into our community. Year 6 leaders and SRC members will also be receiving their badges and commissioned in their new role.

The Children have all returned to school and are beginning to look at units focussed on Lent. Lent, as always begins on Ash Wednesday which this year is celebrated on the 1st March. We are in Year A of the Church’s cycle of liturgical years.

On Wednesday 22 February at 2:30pm there will be a tour of our parish Church for any interested parents. It is an opportunity for you to discover our Church a little more and share your learnings with your children. If any parents interested could meet in the playground at 2:30pm.

During the school holidays, the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta informed the school that Mrs Leanne Readman would be our school counsellor in 2017. I am sure you join with me in welcoming Leanne to OLMC. Leanne will be at OLMC every Monday and Wednesday. We thank Mrs Laura Rowell for her support during the past year. Leanne and Laura met last week to handover information. Leanne will be meeting with students and contacting parents during the upcoming weeks.

Don’t forget to send in your child’s entries to either the “Guest Travel Reporters Challenge” and or the “Graphic Designers Challenge for the Parish/School Fete”. All entries for the Principal’s Holiday Challenge are to be returned by Wednesday 16 February.

Last week (Wednesday to Friday) our Year 6 students went on camp at The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy. There were many wonderful opportunities and experiences for our Year 6 students. The centre and instructors only had words of compliments for the manner in which they represented themselves, their families and the school during the three days. Thank you to Mrs Pearn, Miss Thomas, Miss Pirovic, Father Martinho and Mr Nicholas Jones for accompanying them.

Attention Year 5 2017 - Early date claimer for Year 6 2018 – Camp Collaroy will be the 7 – 9 February 2018 (please note this is the second week of school in 2018).
Labelling of all Items

Please ensure that all personal items (clothing, lunchboxes, bags, etc) are clearly labeled with your child(ren)'s name. Each year there are numerous items of clothing, especially hats and jackets that have no names or identification in lost property.

Canteen

Munch Canteens, our new school canteen operators for 2017 are now open 5 days a week from 8:30am for breakfast and for recess and lunch. Lunch orders can be placed either using the traditional method of writing your order on a paper lunch bag, enclosing the appropriate money for payment, or by ordering online via www.munchexpress.com.au. A copy of the Term 1 menu and online ordering instructions has been sent home and can also be found on Skoolbag and on the School Website.

School Fees

The 2017 School fees accounts will be sent by mail to all families over the next week by the head office of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. There will be information regarding payment methods and due dates for payment. Please contact Maree Murphy in the school office if you require any further information. A detailed explanation of all fees will be sent home with your child next week.

Student Banking

Student banking takes place at OLMC every Tuesday. All children are invited to participate by having a Commonwealth Bank savings account. Accounts can be opened at any branch or online. More information is available from the school office.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who will represent our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival at Parramatta Pool on Tuesday 14/2/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>4G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya</td>
<td>6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damon</td>
<td>6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>5G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nishan</td>
<td>4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>6B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>5G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasemin</td>
<td>3B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachelle</td>
<td>6G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia</td>
<td>5B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents and Friends

Welcome Back!
The P&F would like to welcome all our families, new and existing, to a new year of great learning at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wentworthville.

Prayers to Begin a School Year
God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P&F Tea and Tissues for Kindy Parents
Thanks to everyone who came to the Tea and Tissues last Wednesday after drop off.

It was great to see so many parents excited AND emotional about the new year and the learning adventures awaiting their children at our school.

A huge thanks to all the parents who coordinated and helped with the morning tea, it’s your support that makes our gatherings so memorable.

P&F Welcome Back BBQ this Friday
The P&F will be holding its annual welcome back BBQ on Friday 10 February at 6pm. All families are welcome to join us on the back playground (entry via Smith Street). If you still have not completed the RSVP note sent home with the children, you can still send it in by this Thursday morning.

We are aware that extremely hot weather is predicted for this Friday. If plans for the BBQ change as a result, we will update you via Skoolbag ASAP.

Next P&F Meeting
This term’s P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 February at 7pm in the Mercy Library. We encourage as many people as possible to attend the meeting. You don’t need to be a part of the P&F committee or have a role to attend the meeting and contribute in a positive way to our school.

The P&F team and parents meet with Mr Jones and Miss Pirovic once a term to discuss, plan and action important events as well as fundraising activities for school. A note and meeting agenda will be sent home today; we look forward to seeing you all there. If you are unable to attend but would like to add an item for discussion to the agenda, please email olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention it to P&F meeting. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Second hand uniform shop
Starting from Monday 13 February, the second hand uniform shop, will be open the following times:
- Mondays from 8:45am to 9:30am
- Fridays from 8:45am to 9:15am

We will also communicate via Skoolbag to let you know when the shop will be open on any additional days.

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.

Parents Representative Council (PRC)

Free Seminar for parents, Raising Responsible Digital Citizens
By Leonie Smith ‘The Cyber Safety Lady’.
Please refer to the flyer attached to the digital newsletter.
This year we have made a change with our fruit break time and it has become **Fruit and Friend Break**.

**Fruit and Friend Break** happens at 10 o'clock in each classroom. During this time the children pair up with a different person each day to eat their fruit or veggie snack and have a chat. The children and teachers have created a list of questions and topics for their discussion. This is a great chance for the children to practise their talking and listening skills while getting to know all the members of their class. During our conversation we make eye contact with the person we are speaking to. At the end of the conversation we thank our friend for the chat.

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Mr Jones announced some exciting news to the children today. He told them that we have been given some money to spend on improving our playground. He wants the children's ideas about how we can make our playground look beautiful and what we could add to make playtime active, fun and imaginative.

We invite all families to have a discussion about how we could improve our playground. You might talk about some of the playgrounds and public parks that you have visited. What have you seen in these places that you think might be a good addition to our school playground?

Mr Jones will be telling the children next week how he wants them to share their ideas with him. We look forward to hearing what you come up with!