Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to 2013!

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 2013.

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 Vivianne Mikhael and Mrs Amanda Cox who have joined our school staff in 2013 and welcome back to Mrs Stefanie Chehade one day per week.

During the holiday the school underwent an incredible transformation with all learning spaces changing resulting in the school now having designated learning spaces for each grade, Kindergarten to Year 6 and a new library/resource centre (Mercy library). Each learning space has been designed to support 21\textsuperscript{st} century learning in an acoustically designed space, with an interactive whiteboard and withdrawal space.

The children expressed their excitement and joy with the new spaces on their return Wednesday. That afternoon many parents took the opportunity to visit the spaces in the afternoon and expressed extremely positive comments. In the coming weeks we will have other opportunities for families to come and have a look. Please feel free to drop in before or after school and have a quick look, the staff are very proud to show off the new spaces.

Naturally this incredible transformation could not have occurred in such a short space of time without the support of many…

- Mrs Sophie Ryan (Director of System Performance Parramatta-Holroyd Network), Mr Bill Togher (Facilities Officer), and Mr John Farrugia (Team Leader Facilities) from the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta for their continuous support to ensure funds were found for this refurbishment.

- Midsons Contruction, especially John Mills (foreman) for completing with the exception of a few minor things, the refurbishment within a month with such professionalism and understanding of the school’s requirements. John has been the neatest and most considerate foreman I have worked with.

- The parents who came in the last week of school to assist with cleaning and moving furniture a wonderful display of community support.

- School staff who worked tirelessly to completely clear the learning spaces prior to the holidays and then on Tuesday completely put the learning spaces back together. They have gone above and beyond to ensure the students commenced Wednesday in their new spaces.

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. 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.

Mr Steven Jones
Principal
**OPENING SCHOOL MASS**

Friday 8 February 2013
10.00am in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Church

The OLMC Community is invited to join in our Eucharistic celebration to mark the start of the new school year.

It is an opportunity to gather as a faith community in the celebration of mass.

At this Mass the school leaders will be inducted and Kindergarten welcomed to the school community. We will also be launching our theme for 2013 – Culture, Learn, Engage and we will bless our special crosses for the learning spaces.

**SCHOOL SUPERVISION**

Our School gates open every morning at 8.30am with Teacher Supervision and at 3.10pm every afternoon, regardless of the weather. The last teaching block of each day finishes at 3.10pm. Dismissal is 3.15pm. Please ensure your children are collected on time. The school gates close at 3.30pm each afternoon. Please ensure that your children are adequately supervised before or after school opening and closing times.

**PHOTO PERMISSION**

From time to time photos are taken of students at school which may be used in the school and Catholic Education office (CEO) publications, the CEO website and school website and newspaper advertisements and articles. If for any reason you do not wish your child’s photo to be included in any of the above, please inform Mr Jones in writing.

**MORNING DROP OFF, NO PARKING ZONES AND AFTERNOON PICK UP**

Children’s safety is EVERYONE’S responsibility. When driving your child to school and dropping off in Bennett Street, please remember that you cannot park in the designated “Drop-Off” zones. Please do not double park or send your child(ren) across the road.

We also request that Parents do not park in driveways when bringing their child/children to school.

**CANTEEN NEWS**

The Canteen will re-open next Wednesday. It is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week.

To order your child’s lunch, please submit a brown paper bag with your child’s name, class and order on the front and amount of the order. Please place money inside. Lunch wallets (available from the canteen) may also be used.

Please ensure lunch is provided for your children on a Monday and Tuesday.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP**

The Second Hand Uniform shop is operated by Mrs Lucita Rajaratnam who is volunteering her services each Monday morning from 8.30am until 9.30am. The Uniform Shop is located opposite the school office entry.

If you have any enquiries about Second Hand Uniforms, you may contact Mrs Rajaratnam on 0425 250 685.

**2013 TERM DATES**

Term 1: Wednesday, 30 January – Friday, 12 April
(Good Friday 29 March – Easter Monday 1 April)

Term 2: Tuesday, 29 April – Friday, 28 June

Term 3: Monday, 15 July – Friday, 20 September

Term 4: Tuesday, 8 Oct – Wednesday, 18 December

Please see the school website for further key dates throughout 2013.

www.olmcwentworthville.catholic.edu.au

**WELCOME BARBECUE**

Families are invited to attend next Friday evening, 8 February at 6:00pm. Please see the invitation that has been sent home with the newsletter today.

**SPORTS DAYS**

Sports Uniform is to be worn on the following days:

Kindergarten to Year 4 Wednesday
Years 5 and 6 Thursday

Please ensure that all children come to school on these days in full sports uniform as per the school handbook including predominantly white laced/velcro sandals appropriate for participating in sporting activities.

**MERCY LIBRARY**

Any parents who may be able to assist with reshelving the library collection are asked to let Miss Olimpia Pirovic know of possible times and days they may be able to help. We would like to get the library up and operating as soon as possible.

**LABELLING OF ALL ITEMS**

Please ensure that all personal items (clothing, lunchboxes, bags, etc) are clearly labeled with your child(ren)’s name.

**CHANGES OF ROUTINE**

From time to time there may be changes to who picks your child(ren) up from school. We would request to assist staff in ensuring the safe collection of all children that you send a letter (or ring the school office if there is a late change) to notify the school of any changes.

**FAMILY INFORMATION**

Have you changed your address, phone numbers – home, work, mobile or emergency contact numbers during the holidays? If so, could you please let the office know as a matter of urgency as we will need to update our contact details to ensure swift contact and communication when needed.
2013 SCHOOL STAFF

Principal: Mr Steven Jones
Assistant Principal: Miss Olimpia Pirovic (Early Stage 1 Leader)
R E Coordinator: Mrs Bernadette Nolan (Stage 3 Leader)
Coordinator: Miss Sara Butler (Stage 1 Leader)
Coordinator: Mrs Jodie Meares (Stage 2 Leader)
Secretarial Staff: Mrs Pam Cooke
Mrs Trish Attwood (Mon-Wed)
Mrs Daniela Cesarini (Wed-Fri)

Early Stage 1:
KB - Miss Rachel Maroun
KG - Mrs Rhonda Sculley

Stage 1:
1B – Mrs Amanda Cox
1G – Mrs Elisa Speranza
2B – Mrs Sandra Carew
2G – Mrs Suzy Kirby

Stage 2:
3B – Miss Ellen Hall
3G – Mrs Jodie Meares/Kay Massey Hale (Tues)
4B – Miss Jennifer Lawrence
4G – Mrs Debbie Wooding

Stage 3:
5B – Miss Vivian Mikhael
5G – Mrs Bernadette Nolan/Mrs Sharon Taylor (Fri & even Thursday)
6B – Mrs Jennie Cerniauskas (Mon-Thurs), Mrs D’Anne Worsley (Fri)
6G – Mrs Hilary Smith

LTST & Librarian: Miss Olimpia Pirovic
Library Assistant: Mrs Alison Peacock (Monday)

Learning Support: Mrs Johra Brackenbury -
Stage 2 & 3
Mrs Kathy Noble – ES1 –
Stage 1 (Mon-Wed)
Miss Sara Butler (Stage 1)

Reading Recovery: Miss Sara Butler (Year 1)

Intensive Reading: Sister Carmelita Cassar rsm (Years 2 & 3)

Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU): Mrs Elisa Speranza (Year 1)

Teacher Assistants: Mrs Barbara Aboud
Mrs Alyson Hanson
Mrs Judi Cundy

Music/Dance/Drama: Mrs Emma Moore (Wed)/Mrs Stefanie Chehade (Thurs)

Physical Education: Miss Fleur Tropea (Wed & Thurs)

Cleaning Staff: Mrs Rosalina Caruana
Golden Touch Cleaning – Sam Plaz Director

Maintenance/Grounds
Gardens: Mr Peter Clark
Mr Milad Dib
Canteen Manager: Freda Nousias

NEW LEARNING SPACES

On Tuesday the teachers were hard at work in their classrooms preparing lovely learning spaces for our children. There was much excitement on Wednesday when the children were welcomed to their new classrooms ready for the year of learning ahead of them. During the day the children went to visit the other classrooms to see the transformation. We had many eager parents visiting the classrooms in the afternoon and their response was positive. Here’s what some of the children had to say about their new spaces:

“I think it’s really good because it has lots of awesomeness. I think it’s really, really awesome.” Logan L. 3G

“Our classrooms look bigger.” Joshua M. 3B

“Our Classes are really good. It’s nice being just with our grade.” Jorja H. 4G

“I feel happy and excited by my new classroom. It makes me feel comfortable.” Zachary K. 6G

“I like being in a grade because I can concentrate better. Everything is organised for us so we can do our work. It’s fun!” Raylene R. 5B

“The new classroom is good. It’s big and has more room to play and learn.” Damon T. 2G

If you haven’t had the chance to visit the classrooms yet you are welcome to come and visit in the afternoons.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28/1 Australia Day Holiday</td>
<td>29/1 Staff Development Day</td>
<td>30/1 Students Years 1 - 6 Return</td>
<td>31/1 Kindergarten commencement</td>
<td>1/2 9:15 – Tea and Tissues morning tea</td>
<td>2/2 3/2</td>
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<td>4/2</td>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>6/2 7:30pm P&amp;F Exec Meeting</td>
<td>7/2</td>
<td>8/2 CENSUS DAY 10am Opening School Year Mass</td>
<td>9/2 10/2</td>
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<td>11/2 Pancake Day 7:30 – 8:30pm Kindergarten Info Night</td>
<td>12/2 Ash Wednesday Year 6 Camp Collaroy 10am Ash Wednesday Mass K-5</td>
<td>13/2 Ash Wednesday Year 6 Camp Collaroy 10am Ash Wednesday Mass K-5</td>
<td>14/2 Year 6 Camp Collaroy</td>
<td>15/2 Year 6 Camp Collaroy</td>
<td>16/2 17/2 1st Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>18/2 Mercy Summit Year 6 Leaders @ St Kevin’s Eastwood 7pm Fete Meeting 7:30pm P&amp;F Meeting &amp; AGM</td>
<td>19/2 Quality Catholic Schools Survey</td>
<td>20/2 Mercy Summit Year 6 Leaders @ St Kevin’s Eastwood 7pm Fete Meeting 7:30pm P&amp;F Meeting &amp; AGM</td>
<td>21/2 Cumberland Swimming Zone @ Parramatta Pool</td>
<td>22/2 9:15am Stage 1 Mass Fete Raffle Tickets sent home</td>
<td>23/2 24/2 2nd Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>25/2 3:30-9pm Meet the teacher and goal setting</td>
<td>26/2</td>
<td>27/2</td>
<td>28/2 Diocesan Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>2/3 3/3 3rd Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>4/3</td>
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<td>6/3</td>
<td>7/3 9:15am Stage 2 Mass Mufti Day - Basket</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>9/3 10/3 4th Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day – Data analysis</td>
<td>Quality Catholic Schools Survey</td>
<td>12/3 Quality Catholic Schools Survey</td>
<td>13/3</td>
<td>14/3 9:15am Catholic Schools Week Mass (K-6) 10:15-11am Open Classrooms</td>
<td>15/3 16/3 17/3 5th Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>QCS Survey</td>
<td>19/3</td>
<td>20/3</td>
<td>21/3</td>
<td>22/3 9:15am Stage 3 Mass</td>
<td>23/3 24/3 Passion Sunday</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Easter Liturgy (tbc)</td>
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<td>Easter Liturgy (tbc)</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>29/3 30/3 Easter Saturday 31/3 Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>OLMC Cross Country</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Stage 3 Touch Gala day@ St Marys</td>
<td>12/4 13/4 14/4</td>
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