Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Welcome to the New School Year!

I hope that all members of our school community return happy and eager to resume old friendships and be introduced to new ones.

In a sense, our school has a double staff; the staff that performs within the school and that very important “staff” that performs within the home. Your Child’s education can be greatly enhanced by your involvement at home, in particular, but also through involvement in school activities.

It is parents’ enthusiasm, support and involvement that will inspire children to do their best. Children frequently adopt attitudes and opinions held by the adults they look up to; and enthusiasm for learning is no exception. If children sense that parents consider their education to be a high priority, they are likely to view it in a more positive manner themselves.

When the Gospels described Jesus’ Baptism, they told how the heavens opened and God’s voice was heard to say, “This is the blessed one in whom I take delight”. It seems that for the rest of His life, Jesus was always in some way conscious of His Father’s words. His actions were always positive and supportive of others and His words were always gentle, encouraging and forgiving.

As we all teach in Jesus’ name, we all have Him as a wonderful example from whom to draw inspiration and confidence as we, the staff at school and the “staff” at home, work together to create the best possible learning environment for all the students in our school.

Once again, “Welcome everyone, to the New School Year!”

Peace and Best Wishes

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal
Our Mission

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
Friday 17th February 2012
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.

Our New Early Stage One will be welcomed as well as new staff members and the School Leaders for 2012 will be commissioned with their badges.

GOSPEL REFLECTION-12/02/2012

In Biblical times any disease or disability was seen as the person being possessed by evil or in great sin. So as not to pass on this possession or disease they were outcast from society. In the Jewish religion if you came into contact with anyone suffering from a disease or illness you were unclean and unable to attend the Temple until you had undergone a seven day purification ritual.

It was also unusual for a leper to approach another person. What great faith he must have had in Jesus to risk being punished more than he already was. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus’ ability and good will: ‘if you want to, you can cure me’. Jesus’ reaction is one of equally strong emotion—he is so moved by this man’s plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man in everyday life.

Jesus reacted in a fully human way. How do we react to the homeless person we pass on the street? Do we avert our eyes not to see? Do we pretend he is not there?

How can we be like Jesus with those we meet who we consider to be less fortunate than ourselves?

Teaching and Learning

FRUIT, VEG & WATER BREAK

As part of our Health Promoting School Program students are encouraged to eat fruit and vegetables and drink water during the 9-11am learning session. All students are asked to bring a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable and water to have at this time. Research into the brain and learning confirms the importance of oxygen and hydration for the effective functioning of the brain through diet, exercise and drinking plenty of water.

As most children eat breakfast at 8:00am or earlier this break assists their concentration, their wellbeing and that of their peers and teachers through a deliberate focus on the school rule of respect and personal grooming including the wearing of the school uniform. As teachers and parents this is a significant aspect of our students’ growth and development. The teachers and staff request your support by assisting your children to talk about how they demonstrate respect for self, others and property, wear the correct uniform with pride and maintain a well groomed appearance. The uniform guidelines include information about the correct uniform, the wearing of jewellery and acceptable hairstyles.

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. 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.

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

During the summer holidays the Smith Street and Garfield Street corner of our playground was upgraded with the installation of artificial turf. This new area provides a shaded and passive space for students to sit away from others students who are playing active games. The Parents and Friends Association donated a $10,000 bonus to the school last year enabling this upgrade. This was in addition to the $16,000 from the School and Parish Fete held last year that we put towards the upgrade of our large grass area. The students have demonstrated their approval of these areas as they are popular locations for recess and lunch breaks.

ANAPHYLAXIS-(LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIC REACTION)

Our school has students who have been assessed as being at risk of Anaphylaxis. This is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect bite). Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Common allergens are foods such as nuts, shellfish, milk or egg, insect bites, medications or latex. Children who are highly allergic to any of these allergens are at risk if exposed. As a community we need to have procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of all students. Your support is requested by not supplying your children with peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, whole nuts and nut pieces or nut products. As another precaution we need to inform you that we are unable to celebrate birthdays with cake or other food in the classrooms. However teachers will continue to acknowledge each child’s birthday in a special way.

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 Mrs Marrins in writing.

2012 STUDENT FOCUS

This year we are leading the students to consider their personal well being and that of their peers and teachers through a deliberate focus on the school rule of respect and personal grooming including the wearing of the school uniform. As teachers and parents this is a significant aspect of our students’ growth and development. The teachers and staff request your support by assisting your children to talk about how they demonstrate respect for self, others and property, wear the correct uniform with pride and maintain a well groomed appearance. The uniform guidelines include information about the correct uniform, the wearing of jewellery and acceptable hairstyles.

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Some News from Stage 3S

We have had a busy and exciting start to our new school year. We have already begun to learn about lots of new things and some of the Year Six students have been lucky enough to spend some time with our new kindergarten buddies.

We would like to share with you some of the things we have been learning about in Maths. We have been working on place value and have been looking at the Roman numeral system.

Did you know that the system uses only 7 different symbols but we use 10 in our Hindu-Arabic system?

Here are the symbols that are used; I V X L C D M

We have learnt how to combine these symbols to make any number.

E.g. 2012 is written as MMXII

We have even completed some algorithms using the Roman numeral system. See if you can figure this one out:

LX + DXII = ? If you have any trouble ask a 3S person, they will be able to help you.

We are looking forward to developing our own number system next. Maybe we can share it with you in our next newsletter item.

Community News

SCHOOL BANKING

Any parents who would like their child/children to participate in the school banking program may open an account with the Commonwealth Bank or can collect from the office a “School Banking Starter Kit”.

For existing account holders, banking commences on Tuesday 14 February 2012 with deposit books being returned by Thursday of the same week. This will apply each week during the school term.

SCHOOL FEES

School Fees have been posted out. If you have not received your statement by 20 February 2012 please contact the office.

PARKING-MORNING DROP-OFF ZONE

When driving your child to school and dropping off in Bennett Street, please remember that you cannot park in the designated “Drop-Off” zones.

If you park there and walk your child into the school grounds, you may risk a fine by the Parking Officers who patrol our school.

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

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.olmcwentworthville.catholic.edu.au

Our school website is a good way for parents to retrieve the weekly school newsletters as well as other general information regarding school events. School notes which your children may have been given during the week can be accessed via the site.

♦ To access “Notes” sent home go to “Parents” then select “School Notes”.
♦ To access the School Newsletters go to “News & Events” and select “Newsletters”.

WELCOME BBQ FOR NEW & EARLY STAGE 1 PARENTS—FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY AT 6.00PM

The P&F will host a Welcome BBQ for Early Stage One parents and new parents to our school on Friday 17 February at 6.00pm in the school grounds. As always we are looking for volunteers to help with the preparation, BBQ and clean up. If you are able to assist, please come along and help us welcome our new families to the OLMC Community. For enquiries please phone Danielle Gardner on 0414 607 180.
OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH PLAYGROUP

Playgroup has commenced for 2012. All families are very welcome to come along with their toddlers/ preschool children for some social activities/craft and fun. Playgroup takes place every Friday in the Parish Hall unless otherwise specified. The hours are from 9.00am until 11.30am.

Playgroup will not be on next Friday 17 February 2012.

Please contact Mrs Therese Touma on 0434 285 105 for more information.

BOOKCLUB

Bookclub order forms were sent home this week and are due back to school no later than next Wednesday 15 February 2012. Parents need to fill out the order forms with their child’s name and class at the top. It is preferable for payment to be made with credit card or cheque, however cash may be used but please enclose the correct amount.

Thank you
Mrs D. Cesarini—Office

EASY IDEAS FOR HEALTHY SNACKS

Children are often hungry between meals. Eating snacks that are nutritious, as well as satisfying, goes a long way towards better health. The following snack ideas will help you provide your children with healthier choices.

♦ Pikelets (add mashed banana)
♦ Homemade air-popped popcorn
♦ Yoghurt
♦ Wholemeal crackers with cheese
♦ Fruit muffin/English muffin with spread
♦ Rice cakes with tomato and cheese
♦ Toasted sandwiches-try baked beans
♦ Vegetable or pumpkin soup
♦ Fruit smoothie-try milk, a small banana or kiwifruit, vanilla and cinnamon
♦ Raw vegetables like carrots & capsicum sticks with dip

OLMC NETBALL CLUB 2012 SEASON

OLMC Netball Club is now taking registrations for the 2012 season. Our Club belongs to the Parramatta and Auburn Netball Association (PANA). We play each Saturday morning at the NSW Netball courts at Auburn. This year’s competition commences on 24th March. Training is held for one hour, one afternoon per week at the school court. For further information please contact Margaret Nolan on 0405 509 253.

INTERESTED IN PLAYING CLUB NETBALL?
The Parramatta and Auburn Netball Association (PANA) will be holding a “Come & Try” Day on Saturday 11th Feb 2012 from 8.30am - 10.30am at Wyatt Park, 1 Percy St, Auburn.

• New & old players of all ages are welcome
• Play a game or join a training session

Check the web site for more details www.panansw.netball.asn.au

DIARY DATES 2012

TERM 1

FEBRUARY 2012

Week 2
Tuesday 7  6.30pm-7.30pm Stage 1 Parent Information
Thursday 9  7.00pm-8.00pm Stage 2 Parent Information
Friday 10  7.30pm-8.30pm Stage 3 Parent Information
Swimming Carnival for Stages 2 and 3 (Years 3-6) only

Week 3
Monday 13  3.15-4.15pm Chess
Tuesday 14  P&F Executive Meeting
Friday 17  10.00am Opening School Mass
6.00pm Welcome BBQ-New & Kinder Parents

Week 4
Monday 20  3.15-4.15pm Chess
Wednesday 22  Ash Wednesday
Thursay 23  Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival Parramatta Pool
Friday 24  9.00am Stage 3 Mass

Week 5
Monday 27  3.15-4.15pm Chess
Wednesday 29  Diocesan Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt

MARCH

Friday 2  Diocesan Swimming Carnival—Mt Druitt

Week 6
Monday 5  3.15-4.15pm Chess
Friday 9  Stage 1 Mass

Week 7
Monday 12  3.15-4.15pm Chess

Week 8
Monday 19  3.15-4.15pm Chess
Friday 23  Stage 2 Mass

Week 9
Monday 26  3.15-4.15pm Chess

APRIL

Week 10
Monday 2  3.30-5.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 3  3.30-7.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews