Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Next week, on Wednesday 9th March, we mark the beginning of the Church season of Lent. Each year the five weeks of Lent provide an opportunity to reflect on our lives and to take stock.

The challenge of Lent is not the ‘giving up’ but the ‘taking on’. Lent is a welcome reminder to clear out the clutter in our life and to make room for a more authentic gospel spirit. It is a time for being honest with ourselves and to do some spiritual and lifestyle housekeeping.

On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we come from the ashes of sin to a merciful God. We are called to give, to pray and to fast - not so as to look good to others or to score points, but simply in response to the God who loved us first and continues to offer steadfast love and mercy.

Just as Advent and Christmas are about presence rather than presents. Lent is about what we do from the heart. Throughout Lent we are encouraged to constantly seek relationship with God through prayerful and reflective actions. We are called not to outward shows of being ‘religious’, but to an inward change of heart.

We are encouraged to devise our own Lenten actions to enable us to grow closer to each other and God in preparation for the great hope of the Resurrection.

God Bless

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal

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**WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK'S NEWSLETTER -**

- Principals Editorial
- **OUR MISSION**
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  - Ash Wednesday
- **TEACHING/LEARNING**
  - Zone Swimming Carnival
  - Merit Certificates
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**Daily Prayer**

Dear God,
I know that every journey
 Begins with a first step.
 Be with me today
 As I take another step
 In my Lenten journey.

I began this journey
 With the sign of ashes
 On my forehead,
 Reminding me
 That this is no ordinary walk.

Today, I move one step nearer
To the promise of your light.
Today, with your help,
I will find new meaning
In the Easter that awaits us all.
Thank you, Lord.
Amen.
Enrolment for First Reconciliation is available for children in Year 3 during 2011.

Enrolment for First Eucharist is available for children who are in Year 4 in 2011.

If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 in 2011 AND they HAVE NOT made reconciliation or Eucharist they may also enrol.

There will be no Confirmation in the parish until 2013 when it is offered to those children in Year 6.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

Enrolment must be lodged at the **PARISH CENTRE** before 8th April.

Parent information Night: Tuesday 3rd May 7.15pm in the Parish Centre

Celebration of First Reconciliation: Monday 6th June OR Tuesday 7th June OR Wednesday 8th June at 7.15pm.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday the Church celebrates Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. This is a period of forty days where we prepare ourselves spiritually for the great feast of Easter.

Our school leaders will be attending Mass as part of the parish community. They will receive ashes on their forehead and at the end of Mass will proceed back to school to distribute ashes to children in all stages. During this distribution of ashes the stages will participate in age appropriate liturgies.

## Teaching and Learning

### ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Last Thursday 24th February, twenty six students were chosen to represent OLMC at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival which was held at Parramatta Pools.

All students swam extremely well and are congratulated on their efforts.

The following students are to be congratulated for making it through to the Diocesan Swimming Carnival today, Friday 4 March 2011.

Daniel Incognito
Ashlee Lennon
Gabrielle Mansour
Alexander Nolan
Madielyn Nolan
Mia O’Reilly
Jacinta Saab

We wish these students the best of luck as they compete at this high level of swimming.

Also a special thanks to all the parents who assisted on the day of the Zone Carnival.

### OPEN MORNING EARLY STAGE ONE AND STAGE ONE

On Thursday 24th March Early Stage One and Stage One parents are invited to visit the learning space from 9:15am to observe student learning during Literacy. This will be followed by a Parent Session in the Parish Hall at 10:00am to discuss and be informed about how teachers facilitate the learning for the students in our new environment and structure.

### EARLY STAGE ONE PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

The teachers are currently completing assessments on all students in Early Stage One. On the afternoon/evening of Monday 14th March and Tuesday 15th March the Parent Teacher Interviews will provide parents with an opportunity to receive feedback from these assessments and other information about each child’s learning.

- Parents will receive a letter early next week to arrange an interview time.

Parent Teacher Interviews for Stages One, Two and Three will be held on Tuesday 29th March and Wednesday 30th March.

Mrs Anne Marrins—Principal
2C and 2M

In Stage 2, we have been learning about Multiplication and Division. We had to solve a problem that had more than one answer.

**Maths Reflection**

Today in Maths we had to solve a problem. I solved this problem by drawing pictures of chairs and making sure they were all in even rows. Then I used times tables, it was a little tricky but lots of fun!

By Jayda Terracciano

Today in Maths we had to solve a problem. I worked with a partner and we used paddle pop sticks. We found out there were 7 different ways to solve the problem.

By Joshua Dib

Today in Maths I found out that there were 8 ways to make 96. I wrote a number sentence, times tables and a picture for each.

By Ramona Maurice

Today in Maths I solved the problem by using my knowledge of times tables and I represented it as a picture.

By Jack Mansour

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**NOTES HOME THIS WEEK**

1. Amusement Rides (armbands) for Fete/Order form
2. Pick-A-Number Bottle Stall Donations for Fete
3. Stage 3 State Parliament Excursion
4. Yr 6 Camp
5. School Calendar
6. Fete Volunteers Needed form

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**P&F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes for the recently held Annual General Meeting / General Meeting held 16th February have been emailed to those parents in attendance. If you would like a copy of the minutes from this meeting they are available through the school office.

The next Parents and Friends executive meeting is Tuesday 15th March.

If you have any enquiries please phone Danielle Gardner on 0414 607 180.

**SCHOOL FETE 2011**

Our School Fete takes place next Friday 11 March 2011 from 3.00pm until 9.00pm.

We look forward to a great night and to seeing you all there!

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**Year 7 Enrolments 2012**

Catherine McAuley Westmead
School Open Morning

9.15 – 11am
Tuesday 15th March 2011

Catherine McAuley Westmead will be holding a School Open Morning for students and their parents interested in enrolling for Year 7 2012. The morning will give you the opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our wonderful students and teachers. As this is a normal school day you will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action.

School tours will leave from School Reception at 9.15am. Car parking is available on site via Gate 3 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital). Morning tea will be served following the school tour.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend.

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**Enrolment Information Evening**

Monday 21st March at 6.30pm
Catherine McAuley Forum

In addition to the School Open Morning there will also be a special Enrolment Information Evening which will give parents the opportunity to hear presentations from the Principal and Leadership Team, Student Support, current Year 7 students and the P & F. Enrolment applications may be handed in on this evening. Tours of the campus can also be undertaken prior to 6.30pm and will begin at 5.30pm. To attend this event please contact School Reception to RSVP. Car parking will be available on site. Ask for details.
## DIARY DATES 2011

### March

#### Week 7
- **Wednesday 9**  
  Ash Wednesday
- **Friday 11**  
  3.00-9.00pm OLMC Community Fete  
  Mufti Day

#### Week 8
- **Monday 14**  
  ES1 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- **Tuesday 15**  
  ES1 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- **Thursday 17**  
  2.30pm St Patricks Day Liturgy
- **Friday 18**  
  Stage 2 Mass

#### Week 9
- **Tuesday 22**  
  School Cross Country
- **Thursday 24**  
  ES1/S1 Open Morning & Parent Session

#### Week 10
- **Monday 28**  
  NSW Swimming
- **Tuesday 29**  
  NSW Swimming
- **Wednesday 30**  
  3.30-5.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews
- **Thursday 31**  
  3.30-7.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews

### April

#### Week 11
- **Monday 4**  
  Year 6 Camp
- **Tuesday 5**  
  Year 6 Camp
- **Friday 8**  
  Last Day of Term 1
- **Sunday 10**  
  Fr Paul Sireh Installation as Parish Priest

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Term 2 begins on Wednesday 27th April 2011

### Term 2

#### April

#### Week 1
- **Wednesday 27**  
  SCHOOL RESUMES  
  9.00am Anzac Liturgy

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### May

#### Week 2
- **Tuesday 3**  
  Diocesan Cross Country  
  Reconciliation Parent Information
- **Wednesday 4**  
  Mothers’ Day Stall  
  7.00pm Parent Education Session
- **Thursday 5**  
  9.00am Parent Education Session
- **Friday 6**  
  10.00am Mothers’ Day Mass & Morning Tea  
  11.30am School Open Morning
- **Sunday 8**  
  Mothers’ Day