Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Last Friday night we experienced a great community gathering, our parish and school fete.

This special event reminds us of the blessings this community bestows on its members; an authentic experience of community, of witnessing to faith and mission, relationships and a dedication to quality learning.

By 3:00 pm on Friday 11th March 2011 the preparation was completed, the weather was perfect, the volunteers were willing and able, and the crowd arrived. The rides delighted our students, ex-students and their friends and our parents, grandparents and visitors appreciated a quiet coffee at the canteen, a meal from the variety of different cultural foods or a gift from the basket stall.

Of course, an event like this requires a team of volunteers prepared to give much time, expertise and energy. As a community we are indebted to a wonderful group of parents for their dedication to achieving a successful fete.

In particular, I would like to thank, on behalf of Mt Carmel community, Suzanne and Mark Stanton, JoAnne and Jon Caine and Joe Zeidan for their sheer hard work and commitment. A core group of parents and parishioners supported this team on the Thursday night with setting up, coordinating and/or helping on stalls during the fete, setting down and cleaning on Friday night until midnight and then back again on Saturday morning to complete the work.

Finally I would like to thank the staff for their involvement and all of our parents for attending the fete, donating prizes, selling raffle tickets and listening to your children when they ‘demanded’ arm bands for the rides.

It is indeed a privilege to be a part of Our Lady of Mount Carmel school and parish community.

God Bless

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal
Yesterday we celebrated St Patrick's Day with a beautiful liturgy in Mt Carmel church and by wearing an item of green clothing. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and a significant person in the story of the Australian Catholic Church. Our Catholic values and identity have their origin in Ireland with the Irish religious who came to minister to and set up schools for the poor and marginalised Australians. The excellent Catholic education provided in Australia today is due to the dedication and hardship endured by these courageous men and women of faith. At Mt Carmel our foundations may be traced back to 1888 when nine Sisters of Mercy arrived from Kilkenny in Ireland to begin their mission in Parramatta. In 1922 the Mercy mission began in Wentworthville and continues today with the presence of Sister Carmelita in our school. The Catholic church in Australia from the early Irish foundations has been enriched with the arrival of Catholics from other countries, Italy, Philippines, Lebanon, Poland, India and Spain to name a few.

Daily Prayer
May our Lenten journey lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus, and to witness to his life with courage and hope.... God in your mercy.... Hear our prayer.

Teaching and Learning
OPEN MORNING: EARLY STAGE ONE & STAGE ONE

On Thursday 24th March Early Stage One and Stage One parents are invited to visit the learning spaces from 9:30am to observe student learning during Literacy. This will be preceded by a Parent Session in the Parish Hall at 9.00am to discuss and be informed about how teachers facilitate the learning for the students in our new environment and structure.

(Please note change of times)

FETE
Congratulations to the fete committee, parents, parishioners, staff and students on a successful community fete last Friday 11 March 2011. The amount raised will be announced at the Fete Review Meeting. It is expected that the fete profit will enable the school to install artificial turf on the grass area. The hard work and support of everyone towards the fete contributes financially to the school and, more importantly, towards the building of our community. On Wednesday 6 April at 7:00 pm in the Parish Centre there will be a Fete Review Meeting to celebrate our success, thank our workers and evaluate to improve for the next Fete in 2013.

Our Mission
ST PATRICK’S DAY—THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2011

Teaching and Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angelina Koulouris</td>
<td>Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)</td>
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<td>Jacob Trinidad</td>
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<td>Daniel Olatunji</td>
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<td>Ishrat Singh</td>
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<td>David Nehme</td>
<td>Stage 1 (Years 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<td>Kasey Salvo</td>
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<td>Anaya Rajaratnam</td>
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<td>Natalia Wills</td>
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<td>Alexandra Boustany</td>
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<td>Monica Lawlach</td>
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<td>Rachel Ben</td>
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<td>Johnny Khoury</td>
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<td>Adriana Sahyoun</td>
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<td>Jesse Asare</td>
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<td>Eliana Saba</td>
<td>Stage 2 (Years 3 &amp; 4)</td>
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<td>Ellison Jabbour</td>
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<td>Brendan Maroun</td>
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<td>Annaliesa Cowan</td>
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<td>Tyrone Kingsley</td>
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<td>Nancy Maldigiri</td>
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<td>Isaac Tannous</td>
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<td>Hanna Elton</td>
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<td>Joe Salloum</td>
<td>Stage 3 (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
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<td>Nina Stewart</td>
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<td>Samiksha Chouta</td>
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<td>Sean Brazier</td>
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<td>Eryle Ebuenga</td>
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<td>Charles Borja</td>
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<td>Matthew Tassone</td>
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<td>Shalene Lal</td>
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<td>Alison Nehme</td>
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<td>Alexandra Cotton</td>
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<td>Liam Henshaw</td>
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SOCIAL SUPPORT
At lunch time, some children enjoy drawing and colouring. These works of art, can consume a large amount of paper. We would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted paper that would be suitable for our upcoming Picassos!

Thank You
Mrs K Noble
Learning Support

Outlook column: Make your vote count this state election

The New South Wales state election is fast approaching and many political commentators believe a landslide victory for the Coalition is inevitable.

In this political climate, it would be easy to become complacent about where we direct our vote. However, every vote is critical, and we need to remain thoughtful about who to vote for, and what this means, particularly for Catholic schooling.

While the Labor and Liberal parties have not released all of their education policies, the NSW Greens’ education policy, if implemented, poses a serious threat to the existence of Catholic schools.

(continued on last page........)
During this term in COG’s, we have been learning about Government and how it works. There are three different levels of government; local, state, and federal. We have also been learning about voting and we had the chance to vote about ‘What sport we should play on sport day’. The choices that we had were basketball, netball, footy, OZ tag, T-Ball, cricket, ball games and soccer. We made our own ballot box like the ones that our parents use when they vote in elections. We also had to fill out our ballot paper. We had to put the numbers 1-8 in the order that we preferred. When the votes were completed, we had to put our ballot paper in the ballot box. Our teachers selected a group of students to count up the votes. The ballot papers that were not filled in correctly were counted as a donkey vote. Out of the 8 sports, the 5 sports with the most votes were OZ tag, soccer, netball, ball games and basketball. We did this because we wanted to experience how our parents vote in elections and how we should fill out a ballot paper.

-Jonathan Fernandes and Alexandra Dela Cruz (3SK)
OLMC NETBALL CLUB – 2011
SEASON TRAINING DAYS

Training is 3.30 to 4.30pm as follows –
Inters & U12’s - Wednesday
U10’s Gold & Aqua - Thursday
Rising Stars - Monday
NetSetGo - Tuesday

If your child is interested in playing Netball please phone Margaret Nolan on 0405 509 253.

Outlook column: Make your vote count this state election

Continued from Page 1…..

In essence, it seeks to:
End the present funding arrangement for Catholic schools and reduce funding to 2003 levels;
Deny families the right, currently protected by Commonwealth and State law, to choose a school which is conducted in accordance with explicit Catholic values and goals;
Prevent Catholic schools from employing staff who are willing to support the Catholic ethos of the school, or to give enrolment priority to Catholic families; and
Restrict the School Student transport scheme to subsidise transport only to a child’s nearest public school.

This would mean:
Grants for Catholic systemic schools would be reduced instantly and severely -
Primary Schools grants would be reduced by 85.9% (from $1809 to $256 per student)
Secondary Schools grants would be reduced by 65.3% (from $2389 to $838 per student);
School fees would need to be significantly increased to account for this shortfall;
The reduction in funding could result in staffing cuts and increased class sizes;
Catholic school students would not be able to access the transport subsidy scheme and families would need to pay for school buses or trains;
Parental choice of schooling would be severely limited; and Catholic schools would find it increasingly difficult to be Catholic in their mission and ethos.

I would encourage you to read the NSW Green’s education policy (http://nsw.greens.org.au/policies/education) and to give it full consideration, when you vote on 26 March.

Greg Whitby
Executive Director of Schools-Diocese of Parramatta

NOTES HOME THIS WEEK
1. Year 6 Camp Notes
2. Year 6 Polo Sports Shirts Order form
3. Parent/Teacher Interviews times form
4. Expression of Interest for Literacy/Numeracy Volunteers
5. Children’s Sacramental Program notes for Stage 2
(These were handed out last week)

DIARY DATES 2011

Week 9
Monday 21: Stage 3B & 3L Stage Parliament Excursion
Tuesday 22: School Cross Country
Thursday 24: 9.15am ES1/S1 Open Morning & Parent Session
Stage 3H & 3J State Parliament Excursion
Friday 25: Stage 3S & 3K State Parliament Excursion

Week 10
Monday 28: Stage 1 Incursion (Mobile mini-beasts)
NSW Swimming
Tuesday 29: NSW Swimming
Stage 2B & 2V Cumberland State Forest excursion
Wednesday 30: 3.30-5.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews
3.30-7.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews

April
Week 11
Monday 4: Year 6 Camp
Stage 2M & 2C Cumberland State Forest excursion
Tuesday 5: Year 6 Camp
Wednesday 6: Stage 2B & 2V Cumberland State Forest excursion
Friday 8: Last Day of Term 1
Sunday 10: Fr Paul Sireh Installation as Parish Priest

Term 2 begins on Wednesday 27th April 2011

Week 1
Wednesday 27: SCHOOL RESUMES
2.30pm Anzac Liturgy

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

Week 3
Monday 9: WINTER UNIFORM
Tuesday 10: Yrs 3/5 National Testing: Writing
Wednesday 11: Yrs 3/5 National Testing: Reading
Thursday 12: Yrs 3/5 National Testing: Numeracy
Friday 13: Yrs 3/5 National Testing: Catch-up

Week 4
Wednesday 18: 7.00pm P&F Meeting
Sunday 22: Ascension of the Lord

Week 5
Monday 23: 9.00am Mary Help Of Christians Liturgy
Wednesday 25: School Photos
Friday 27: STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

June
Week 6
Thursday 2: Ascension Thursday
Friday 3: NSW Cross Country

Week 7
Monday 6: Reconciliation
Tuesday 7: Reconciliation
Wednesday 8: ICAS Science Competition

Week 8
Monday 13: QUEENS BIRTHDAY

Week 9
Tuesday 21: 3.30-5.00pm Interviews
Wednesday 22: 3.30-7.30pm Interviews

Week 10
Wednesday 29: Athletics Carnival

July
Friday 1: SCHOOL CLOSES TERM 2

OLMC NETBALL CLUB – 2011
SEASON TRAINING DAYS

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