Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

The Feast of the Annunciation on 25\textsuperscript{th} March, however celebrated on Monday 26\textsuperscript{th} March this year, can be a time for us to review how we are progressing in our life as a Christian, since we said our “yes” to God in Confirmation.

It was through the angel Gabriel that God began his conversation with Mary, “Hail, Mary, full of grace”. Mary’s response was: “Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.” Luke 1:38

Likewise, with us it is God who begins the conversation and, as with Mary, often in unexpected ways. We are surprised to find ourselves moved by such events as a spectacular sunset, holding a newborn child, an unexpected phone call from a friend. In our emotional responses in particular, we are surprised to experience God’s presence through something outside of ourselves, something we find difficult to describe.

With our “yes” to God’s presence in our lives, we were asked to nurture the word of God within us and bring Christ into the world by our own personal situation. By using our own personal gifts and talents, we are asked to bring Christ into the lives of others.

Being true or faithful to our calling to follow Christ, is no easy matter. It would have been easy for Mary to have run away, either literally or emotionally, but instead she positioned herself before God and declared herself open to God’s unexpected intervention in her life. For us, the challenge is the same: not to run away from our Christian commitment but to stay true and open to God’s conversation with us.

‘Hail Mary full of Grace the Lord is with you. Help us to respond willingly to the Lord within us.’

Amen

Peace and Best Wishes

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal

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.
ST PATRICK’S DAY—SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2012

Last Friday we celebrated St Patrick’s Day with a beautiful liturgy in Mt Carmel church. 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.

HOLY WEEK

The week before Easter is called Holy Week and is the culmination of the season of Lent and a time to remember Jesus suffering, death on the cross and resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. At school we acknowledge this special time in a prayerful and reflective remembrance. Each stage will set up an area in the hall and each home class will have a set time to visit the spaces in the hall to pray and reflect:

- Early Stage One: Palm Sunday
- Stage One: Washing of the Apostles Feet
- Stage Two: The Last Supper
- Stage Three: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Parents are invited to visit the reflection spaces in the hall on Thursday 5th April at 9:00am.

There will be an Easter Liturgy in the church on Wednesday 4th April at 2:30pm and all community members are invited to attend.

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING SURVEY

If you were randomly selected to take part in the Quality Catholic Schooling Survey I encourage you to complete it as soon as possible. If you are completing the survey online it closes this Friday 23rd March 2012. If you are completing the paper copy you received please hand it into the school office no later than Monday 26th March 2012.

It is important that the sixty parents that were selected complete the survey so that we have substantial data to inform our future planning. Your opinion is very important.

ENROLMENTS FOR EARLY STAGE 1 (KINDERGARTEN) 2013

Enrolment forms for Kindergarten 2013 are now available for collection from the school office. The enrolment period closes in May. Forms need to be submitted to the school office by the end of May.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be conducted in Weeks 9 and 10 of Term 1.

Please ensure that your child’s Interview Time Sheet is handed in to their teacher as soon as possible. A confirmation of each family’s interview times will be sent home when your child’s teacher receives the sheet indicating your availability.

This year a Band and Instrumental tuition programme will be available to students in Stage 2 and Stage 3. Lessons will be conducted by Mrs Margaret Ciccarelli from the Music Note.

How the Programme Works:

1. Band Rehearsals: Band rehearsals (large ensemble) are held each week before or after school for 30 minutes.
2. Lessons: Lessons (30 minutes) are timetabled during school time in conjunction with the principal and teachers in small groups of approximately 5 children.

Cost:
- Tuition fees including weekly 30 minute group lesson and weekly band rehearsal $130 per term.
- Children who have private outside tuition may join band only rehearsal $70 per term.
- Instruments can be bought or hired on a rent-to-buy scheme
- Tutor Book approx. $14.95, Music stand (provided)

A note was sent home on 13 March with the above information and asking for interested participants. Each child who returned their note will have been tested today on his/her suitability on whichever instrument they chose to play. If you think your child would like to play an instrument you may collect a form from the office.

THANK YOU TO FAMILIES

Thank you to all our children and their families for making such a generous contribution to our “Goat Fundraising” to supply goats to 20 villages in East Timor. Each goat costs $50.00. A special thank you to Ricky Doueihl (2W) who donated $50.00 of his own money towards purchasing a goat. What a fantastic effort Ricky!!
In ES1 we have been doing lots of counting. We have been learning to count by 1’s, 2’s and 10’s. We have also been counting forwards and backwards! We played a game called Cops and Robbers where both my partner & I have a tower of 10 each. One person rolls the dice & the other person has to give that many cubes. We both have a turn of saying how many cubes we have each. The winner is the first one to get all 20 cubes. We became quick at learning faster ways to count the cubes.

I counted by 2’s to find the total amount (Chanel)

I knew the total amount by looking at the cubes (Joel)

I rolled a 6 to get more cubes (Samuel)

When I rolled the dice my tower got longer (Theresa)

I counted by 1’s to know how many cubes I had (Leah)

I knew I was going to win because my tower was longer than my partners (Maddison)

The P&F Easter Raffle tickets were sent home this week to each family. Tickets are 50 cents each and $5 for a book of 10. Extra tickets can be obtained from the office.

Tickets and money need to be back at school by Monday 2 April. Any unsold tickets need to also be sent back to school please.

The raffle will be drawn at school assembly on Thursday 5 April and winners will be notified by phone.

1st prize
Large plush duck, Cadbury Roses gift pack, 250g Cadbury rabbit, 2x100g Cadbury rabbits, 50g Cadbury Easter egg, 200g Gloria Jean’s dark roast coffee, Dilmah Italian almond tea and two Easter colouring books.

2nd prize
Large plush rabbit, deluxe Easter colouring book, 250g Cadbury rabbit, 100g Cadbury Easter egg and a 160g crispy M&M’s.

3rd prize
Plush rabbit, 170g Cadbury rabbit, 50g Cadbury Easter egg and one Easter colouring book.

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites families to the Year 7 2014 Enrolment Information Evening at 5.00pm on April 2. Tour the College, collect an enrolment pack, attend an information session, meet the Principal and College staff and enjoy a BBQ with the OLMC P&F. Enquiries please contact the Enrolment Officer on 8838 1222 or email enrolment@olmc.nsw.edu.au

If you wish to purchase Second Hand Uniforms this may be done by arranging a time with Mrs Lauren Stenning—Second Hand Uniform Shop Coordinator or by visiting Lauren at the Second Hand Uniform room opposite the school office on Wednesday afternoons. Lauren will accept payment for uniforms at this time and all orders may be collected. Lauren can be contacted on: 0421 557 980.

Swimming is an essential part of life saving skills that are required to be practiced all year round!

10th-13th & 16th-20th April 2012
5 x 1/2 hr lessons
Only $60.00

Also: Come and Join Aqua Play
Help make your children safer in and around the water.
Every Thursday at 11.30am
Only $6.00

Other Dates to Remember: Holiday Swimming Programmes
2-6 & 9-13 July 2012
Round 1 commences this Saturday 24th March. All games will commence a half an hour earlier than usual due to the opening round celebrations. The march past will be held at 12 noon and if you are able to stay to march with your team, it would be a great show of support for our Club. The courts are located at Wyatt Park, 1 Percy Street Auburn. The web address is [www.panansw.netball.asn.au](http://www.panansw.netball.asn.au) Playing times are as follows -

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Versus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11's (OLMC1)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Regents Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9's (OLMC2)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Holroyd Hotshots</td>
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<tr>
<td>8's (OLMC3)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>St Johns 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Set Go (OLMC4)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
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</tbody>
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Please be at the courts 30mins before your timeslot to warm-up with your team. For enquiries please phone Margaret Nolan on 0405 509 253.

### NOTES HOME
1. QCS Survey note
2. Goat Day Fundraiser
3. Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day
4. P&F Easter Raffle Note

### DIARY DATES 2012

#### TERM 1

**MARCH**
- 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

**Thursday 5**
- Friday 6
  - GOOD FRIDAY
- Sunday 7
  - EASTER SUNDAY

#### TERM 2

**Week 1**
- **Monday 23**
  - SCHOOL RESUMES
  - Tuesday 24
  - 2.30pm Anzac Liturgy
  - Wednesday 25
  - ANZAC DAY

**APRIL/MAY**
- Week 2
  - Monday 30
  - 9.00am Catholic Schools Week Liturgy & Assembly
  - Tuesday 1/5
  - Diocesan Cross Country
  - Thursday 3
  - Yr 6 Camp
  - Friday 4
  - Yr 6 Camp

**Week 3**
- **Monday 7**
  - Winter Uniform
  - **Wednesday 9**
  - Mothers’ Day Stall
  - **Friday**
  - 10.00am Mothers’ Day Mass