Dear Parents/Carers

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. In the Gospel, the disciples are invited to take to heart the great vision of a discipleship of all nations, and to let that vision shape their mission. With the departure of Jesus, they are invited to take a lot of people to heart. We know from experience that it is not enough to take Jesus to heart. When Christ comes to dwell in our heart, He never comes alone. He comes complete with entourage and baggage:

He brings his love,
His values and His hopes;
He brings His dreams and expectations;
He brings His disciples and friends and hangers-on;
He brings the poor and the blind and the crippled;
He brings the outcast and the stranger.

Christ never comes alone. Like the innkeepers of the world, we might be tempted to put out the “no vacancy” or “full” sign, to tell Jesus that we have no room in our heart for all He has to offer. One thing is certain; we cannot take Him in and leave the rest (poor, blind, crippled, downtrodden...) outside.

Long before His Ascension, Jesus took a lot of people to heart. He suffered and was continuously questioned for His passionate love of others. He challenged the “status quo”. He paid a price for taking so many people to heart. But He treasured them, in all their pettiness and lopsided resolve, with all their thin aspirations and crazy ambitions, with all their private preoccupations and hidden fears.

Just like Jesus, as parents, we accept our children with their baggage, dreams and expectations. There is never a “no vacancy” or “full” sign when our children turn to us in times of need. We treasure all their pettiness, crazy ambitions, hidden fears.

The challenge of Jesus is to open our hearts to show His love to all kinds of people, not just our own sons and daughters, but other sons and daughters, who are different but just as important. Something we can all aspire to at Our Lady of Mount Carmel both within and outside the school gates.

Regards
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Thank you to all the parents who have returned their enrolment form for the First Holy Communion program. If you are still yet to submit your form, please be advised that Sunday 9 September 10:30 mass has reached its maximum and we can no longer accept any more children; however there are still many more masses available and I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with the mass times printed at the front of the form.

The First Reconciliation workshops have begun nicely. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers while they begin to prepare for this most healing sacrament.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Just a reminder that Friday 8th June will be a Staff Development Day.

PARENTS & FRIENDS MEETING—SURVEY INPUT

Thank you to the many parents who shared their insights regarding Our Lady of Mount Carmel at last Tuesday evening’s Parents and Friends meeting. Your feedback and thoughts are appreciated and will assist the school community developing a strategic direction forward to ensure that our students are supported with their learning.

COMMUNICATION

From the beginning of next week all notes sent from school will only be sent on Wednesdays and Fridays. All school notes will be on yellow paper and Parents and Friends notes on green. By sending home notes only on these days it will assist parents in knowing when to check their child(ren)’s bags. In the coming weeks we will also be updating the school website and investigating other avenues to communicate with parents. Should you wish for communication to be included or sent home in any form it must be at the school office or electronically sent by Monday (3pm) for Wednesday and Thursday (12pm) for Friday. On the rare occasion there may be an exception for pressing circumstances to deviate from this procedure. Please remember, all notes sent home are listed on the front page of the newsletter each week to assist parents in ensuring they received all the notes.

MORNING DROP OFF, NO PARKING ZONES AND AFTERNOON PICK UP

When driving your child to school and dropping off in Bennett Street, please remember that you cannot park in the designated “Drop-Off” zones. Do not stop your car in these zones and leave it or stay parked for a length of time as other parents are waiting to use the same area to drop off their child/children. Parking in the “drop-off” zone poses a risk to children as parents are double parking and becoming irate. You may also risk a fine by the Parking Officers who regularly patrol the school.

In the afternoons it can get quite chaotic in Bennett Street as Parents try to park as close as possible to the school gates to collect their children. We ask that parents be particularly mindful of children who might be crossing the road and also we must request that parents do not double park under any circumstances. This poses a risk to other drivers and to our children. Remember there is always parking available in adjacent streets.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Woolworths Earn & Learn 2012

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program is designed to assist schools in obtaining valuable teaching resources—simply by doing your grocery shopping at a Woolworths supermarket. From Wednesday 9 May 2012, you can collect Earn & Learn stickers when you shop at Woolworths. There’ll be one sticker for every $10.00 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the stickers onto the sticker card which your child has brought home with the newsletter.

When the card is full it can be dropped into the sticker collection box here at the school office. Your child can also collect a new card from the office.

Our target is 50,000 points!

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to select from over 7,000 valuable school resources including maths & science equipment, arts and crafts material, sports gear and lots more.

For further information go to: woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

DEMOLITION OF ROOM

This Saturday the “fish bowl room” (room in the undercroft) will be demolished.

MERIT CERTIFICATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Devin Senevirathna</td>
<td>Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Saad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemma Farah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Moussa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Donohoe</td>
<td>Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maanasa Akula</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duang Majak</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Ang</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jade Javier</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Olatunji</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Royel Stowers-Tong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Elton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praveena Navaratnam</td>
<td>Stage 2 (Years 3 &amp; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abhidi Pradhan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane Rajaratnam</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella Saad</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Farah</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominic Haddad</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison Cotton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ante Mihajjevic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annamarie Subramaniam</td>
<td>Stage 3 (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brayden Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Hudson</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Roveena Rodrigues</td>
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<td>Brayden Nohra</td>
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<td>Akon Kual</td>
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<td>Annaliesa Cowan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Alderton</td>
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STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

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**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB COORDINATOR**

We are seeking 2 parent volunteers to coordinate Scholastic Book Club for the school. This would involve the following duties:

- Distribute order forms to classes
- Collate orders into classes and count money as orders come in
- Keep a record of children’s names and payment
- Enter the orders online to Scholastic
- Distribute the books, etc when they arrive back at school to the students
- Balance the money and orders

Please contact Daniela at the school office for more information if you are interested in assisting.

**SOCCER GALA DAY**

Good luck to our Stage 3 boys who are competing at next Tuesday’s Soccer gala day at Anne Aquilina Reserve Mount Druitt. Thanks to Mr David Younis (PE teacher) for preparing and attending next week and to all the parents who are assisting with transport to and from this event. We are sure that they will represent the school with pride and enjoy the day.

**OLMC NETBALL CLUB 2012 SEASON**

Playing times for Round 7 on Saturday 19th May are as follows -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Versus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11’s (OLMC1)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Holroyd Hotshos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9’s (OLMC2)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Holroyd Hotshos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8’s (OLMC3)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Regents Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Set Go (OLMC4)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Playing times for Round 7 on Saturday 19th May are as follows -

Please be at the courts 30mins before your timeslot to warm-up with your team. The PANA web address is [www.panansw.netball.asn.au](http://www.panansw.netball.asn.au) For enquiries please phone Margaret Nolan on 0405 509 253.

Catherine McAuley Westmead
School Open Morning

9.15 – 11am

Thursday 24th May 2012

If you missed out on our Open Day or would like to come back and see the school on a normal school day please take this opportunity to come along to our School Open Morning. Tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome. School tours will leave from Mercy Square at 9.15am. Car parking is available after 9am on site via Gate 3 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital) in our bus bay area.

Morning tea will be served following the school tour.

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

**P&F NEWS**

**Mothers’ Day Raffle Winners**

The winners of the Mothers’ Day Raffle are as follows:

1st Prize: (Nutrimetics): Timothy Ang 1N
2nd Prize: (Chocolate Fountain): Brianna Dasey 3K
3rd Prize: (Deep Sea Pack): Mariah Sahyoun 2S
4th Prize: (Champagne): Celine Essey 2B
5th Prize: (Champagne): Taylor Kelly 3C
6th Prize: (Wine): Erin Bortoluzzi 3K
7th Prize: Pamper Pack: Joanne Cooke 2W
8th Prize: Bracelet: Samiksha Chouta 3C
9th Prize: Large Box “Favourites”: Aayush Sharma 3C
10th Prize: Lindt: Dominic Istephan 3C
11th Prize: Small Box “Favourites”: Mark Hadchiti 1C
12th Prize: Small Box “Favourites”: Michael Montoya 3N
13th Prize: Nutrimetics Shower Gel: Tanya Khattar 2S
14th Prize: Fragrance Reeds: Johnny Khoury 2L
15th Prize: Fragrance Reeds: Jacob Saab 3K
16th Prize: Vase: Kiara Sakr 1W

Mothers’ Day Raffle

Thank you to all the parents who donated prizes for the Mother’s Day Raffle. We are extremely grateful. The children were very pleased with their prizes. Congratulations to all the winners. The first prize of a $200 Nutrimetics Gift Basket was kindly donated by Caz Learmonth.

Thanks to the efforts of all the Mum’s and Lincoln De Tar’s Grandmother who came to help at our stall we were able to raise $2,420.00 and provide the children with lots of lovely gifts for their mums. A special thanks to Suzanne Stanton and Lanette Achmar for arranging everything.

General Meeting

It was wonderful to see so many people at the General Meeting on Tuesday evening. It was wonderful to see many new faces. Thank you for your support.

Entertainment Book

The 2012/2013 Entertainment Book is available for purchase through the school office. For $65 you will receive over $15,000 worth of offers from a fantastic variety of restaurants, arts, attractions and much more. A percentage of each sale goes to the school. To order please bring your money to the school office in an envelope marked Entertainment Book Order.

Welcome BBQ

It has long been a tradition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel to take time to introduce new families at the beginning of the year with a welcome BBQ. We felt it was only appropriate to do the same for Mr Jones and Miss Pirovic. We ask you to keep Friday 1st June marked in your diary. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

Danielle Gardner
President Parents and Friends Association
Camp for Year 6—What a day full of activities like abseiling, rock climbing, long ropes and building catapults all in 2 days. Unfortunately it only lasts 2 days. The people at the camp were Christian followers. They were nice, had patience with us when we went psycho at the activities. The best part for the boys was at night. At I think 3.00am I woke up the sound of boys opening and crunching chip packets. I could not sleep, but it was also fun.

Michael Montoya

Year 6 was so excited to go to camp. Year 6 did lots of exciting fun things such as abseiling, building catapults, rockclimbing and long rope challenges. At camp there was a tennis court, a Swimming pool, trampoline, “Chill-out” room, Basketball court and a huge grass area. During our free time, we played lots of games and enjoyed playing with our friends. Lots of people faced their fears and accomplished new things. The staff were great and so was the food. Lots of people bought lollies and everyone ate them at night.

The camp was very clean, not so much when we left. Camp was the best experience ever!

Annamarie Subramaniam

Camp was so awesome. We had so much fun and we wished we could have stayed longer. We got put into groups and did heaps of cool activities! The people at camp were very nice and helped us through most of the activities. Our cabins were very clean when we got there, but when we left, not so much. We got to get to know other people more! The best part was in the cabin talking to all your friends and eating some lollies. It was the best experience of our lives!

Alexandra Dela Cruz