Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Our Opening and Blessing Ceremony was held on Friday 19 August 2011 to officially open our new $3 million library and refurbished learning spaces funded by the Australian Government as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) Program.

The weather was not in our favour, however we very proud to hold the ceremony in the library/stage one/whole school assemble space and showcase our new learning environment. Our parish priest, Fr Paul Sireh O Carm, welcomed the parish and school community and spoke about the history of the school, starting with humble beginnings in 1920 to a 21st century school facility.

The Vicar General, Monsignor Robert McGuckin VG EV, representing Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, blessed the new library and refurbished spaces, which were officially opened by Danuta Maka, Director of System Performance, representing the Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby.

Monsignor Robert blessed the new and refurbished spaces and reminded students of the strong foundations on which the school is built. ‘The architects and builders have ensured that there are strong foundations for these buildings,’ said Monsignor Robert. ‘Your Catholic education is ensuring you have strong foundations for life.’

Danuta Maka thanked the Australian Government for their investment in education and thanked parents for their ongoing support. ‘Because of the BER, Our Lady of Mount Carmel now has a state of the art library and refurbished classrooms,’ said Danuta. ‘It is a privilege to work in partnership with parents to provide the best possible education for students.’

In a congratulatory letter sent for the occasion, Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, acknowledged the hard work of our school. ‘I extend my gratitude to the staff at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School for constantly meeting the demands that are placed upon you in nurturing your students’ needs,’ the letter read.

In my address I acknowledged the Mercy tradition of Mt Carmel and expressed my gratitude to parents for supporting our mission to provide quality Catholic learning for their children and to the teachers for embracing the opportunities and challenges of the new environments to improve the learning for our students.

As we look to the future we continue with our mission; fostering the dignity of each person, promoting personal responsibility and nurturing an inner spirit of delight in life, learning and faith.

God Bless

Anne Marrins
Principal
**Our Mission**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

A reminder that the Taste Testing and Practice will begin next Thursday at 3:30 in the Parish Centre. Children must be accompanied by their parent/carer at all times. A big THANK YOU to our wonderful Group Leaders for all your time and effort - both children and parents have enjoyed the past four weeks and are now all eager to celebrate.

Thank you, also, to our dedicated friends, family and parishioners for your continued support.

*Paola Yevenes-Pastoral Assistant*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

This week’s gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus’ death and resurrection in Matthew’s gospel.

This week we hear that even though the Apostles regard Jesus as the long awaited Messiah they still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is human in death and divine in resurrection. Peter abruptly disagrees with Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects humanness. It is such an opposite treatment than in the reading last week where Peter was referred to as the rock on which the Church will be built.

We need to remember that the time this Gospel was written, about 75 years after the death of Jesus, Christians were being persecuted for their faith and in some instances put to death. They were literally putting their faith above their life. Jesus’ triumph over death was seen as a sign of great hope and trust. Jesus didn’t make any promises about how easy it would be to follow Him. We need to start being full cream Catholics.

**Teaching and Learning**

**BLESSING AND OPENING CEREMONY**

Our Blessing and Opening Ceremony last Friday was a wonderful community occasion attended by parents, parishioners, staff, students, and special guests; Sr Catherine Ryan rsm, Sisters of Mercy Congregational Leader, Sr Margaret Harrison rsm, last Mercy Principal and Sr Carmelita Cassar rsm, our Sister of Mercy on staff. Other special guests included the State Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee MP; Holroyd Councillor, Pam Colman; and representatives from Thomson Adsett Architects; Taylor Construction and principals from neighbouring Catholic schools. The Vicar General, Most Rev. Peter McCrackin VG EV blessed the new library and refurbished spaces, which were officially opened by Danuta Maka, Director of System Performance.

**Teaching and Learning**

**MERIT CERTIFICATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orlando Lonie, Montana Azar, Mirah Roach, Majok Gat</td>
<td>Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarrod Trueman, Marcus Dore, Marlon Pukerua, Owen Suede, Michael Elias, Oscar Gray, Mark Hadchiti, Michael Radisavljevic</td>
<td>Stage 1 (Years 1 &amp; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Ibrahim, Brianna Dasey, Luis Borg, Nancy Malidgiri, Dominic Istephan, Shane Rajaratnam, Richard Khattar, Madisen Azar,</td>
<td>Stage 2 (Years 3 &amp; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roashni Dosani, Jacob Saab, Angela Khoury, Joe Saliour, Kayli Brackenburg, Sayed Douelhni, John Hajjar, Taylor Kelly, Stephanie Istephan, Shalene Lal, Kayla-Jaye Facaris, Brandon Kelly</td>
<td>Stage 3 (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An event such as this requires extensive preparation. Our thanks are extended to the many staff who assisted; the planning committee of Mrs Eliza Speranza, Miss Mariella Buttigieg, Mrs Bernadette Nolan, Mrs Kristy Healey and Mrs Frances Sullivan for their coordination of a successful community event.

Mr Peter Clark, Groundsman, for moving the furniture out of the new learning space and then returning it again on Monday morning. Mr Clark also managed the parking in the pouring rain.

Mrs Suzy Kirby and the school choir gave up many lunch times to rehearse the songs. An excited group of students delighted in performing for the ceremony.

Mrs Alyson Hanson, Mrs Valerie Gieules, Mrs Barbara Aboud and Mrs Judi Cundy set up, served the afternoon tea and cleaned up after the event.

Thank you to a wonderful Mt Carmel community.

**CUMBERLAND ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

On Monday 22nd August 2011 33 Students represented our School at the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival. All the students tried their best on the day and a great time was had by all. Twenty one students were invited to represent the Cumberland Zone at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival which was held today, Friday 26th August, at the Blacktown Athletics Centre. Congratulations to Julia Achmar, Sean Brazier, Sheehan Das, Austin Eid, Tiarna Eid, Jessie Finch, Zac Finch, Kimberley Imbun, Brandon Kelly, Gabby Mansour, Jack Mansour, Max Mansour, Isioma Mekwunye, Priscilla Midon, Madielyn Nolan, Lachlan Nolan, Raylene Raad, Catherine Raftopoulos, Nathanael Stenning, Jayda Terracciano and Olivia Zeidan.

- **Thank You!!**

A HUGE thank you to Mrs Chehade who undertook the tremendous task of convening the carnival for our zone. Mrs Chehade is to be congratulated for her coordination of a successful Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival and for the time and energy she gave to this task. Mrs Margaret Thornton, Diocesan Sport Coordinator, expressed her thanks to Mrs Chehade and our school team, Miss Lawrence, Mrs Noble, Mrs Aboud and Mrs Brackenbury and our IT Trainee, Mr Kane Reuter (Results Recorder), for a great carnival.
Teaching and Learning

Thank you Mrs Raad, Mrs Raftopoulos, Mr Stenning, Mrs Achmar and Mrs Chebatte who took on Official roles throughout the day. Without your assistance, the day would not have run as smoothly as it did and the children of our school would not have the opportunity that was made possible because of your co-operation. Also, thank you to Mrs Stewart, Mrs Gardner and Mrs Sukumar who, as representatives of the P&F Association, gave up their time to cook the barbecue on the day. All your efforts are much appreciated!

CLASS NEWS 3H & 3J

Making Informed Choices

In Stage 3HJ we are studying a COGs unit called Making Informed Choices. As part of this unit we are learning all about different kinds of governments and how they work. We have looked at how Democracy, Absolute Monarchy, Dictatorships and Communism differ as forms of government and what some of the advantages and disadvantages of living under those governments are.

Here is an example of the characteristics of two kinds of governments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democracy</th>
<th>Dictatorship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Everyone has their say</td>
<td>• No choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Everyone contributes to ruling the area</td>
<td>• No opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 forms of Democracy, direct and indirect</td>
<td>• If you don’t agree you suffer bad consequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct: you make the decisions</td>
<td>• No freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Indirect: the leader makes the decisions on behalf of the area</td>
<td>• Elections are phony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The leader stays in charge for a particular period of time.</td>
<td>• Little or no human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Most countries now have an indirect democracy as their form of government today eg: Australia has an indirect form of democracy</td>
<td>• The dictator normally takes charge for a really long time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The dictator chooses when an election is held</td>
<td>• The dictator seizes power with the help of the military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There are only a few dictators in the world today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By: Jonah, Erin E. and Gabby M. Stage 3HJ

FATHERS’ DAY BREAKFAST & PARISH MASS

Our Fathers, Father-figures & Grandfathers are invited to celebrate the gift of fatherhood with their children/grandchildren at our Fathers’ Day Breakfast on Friday 2nd September 2011 at 8:00am on Our Lady of Mt Carmel Playground (Smith Street) and then to a Fathers’ Day Parish Mass at 9:00am in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church.

Community News

CREATIVE ARTS EXPO

The Creative Arts Expo will take place on Tuesday 13th September at the Bowman Hall, Blacktown.

Tickets are now available for purchase at $10.00 each. Each family is entitled to purchase two tickets in the first round (even if more than one child in the Expo). Closer to the event more tickets may be available in a second round. An order form was sent home yesterday.

Please complete the form and return it to school with the money by Monday 5 September 2011.

Parents and students not involved in the performance, who wish to support this school event and attend the performance, may purchase tickets in the second round.

FATHERS’ DAY STALL

WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST 2011

Remember to give your children some money next Wednesday 31st August to buy Dad and/or Grandad a gift for Fathers’ Day. Gifts will range in price from $1.00 to $10.00. Raffle tickets will be on sale for 20cents each of six for $1.00. Please send your child to school with a plastic bag to put their gift in. If you are able to donate any plastic bags to the stall it would be most appreciated.

If you are able to help out with wrapping gifts or serving on the day of the stall please contact Suzanne Stanton on 0414 802 801. We’ll be setting up in the Parish Hall from 9.00am. Morning tea will be provided and preschoolers are welcome.

SCHOOL FEES

School Fees are now overdue. Thank you to those parents who have paid.

If your account is overdue could you please ensure it is paid promptly.

From the Office

OLMC CHOIR

A huge thankyou to the large number of highly committed Choir members who sang so beautifully at our Opening and Blessing ceremony last Friday.

The children’s enthusiasm and vitality helped to radiate the event.

Mrs Sugy Kirby
Playing times for Round 18 on Saturday 27th August are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Versus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12's (OLMC2)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11's (OLMC3)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10's (OLMC4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Stars (OLMC5)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.15am</td>
<td>Hotshots 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Set Go (OLMC6)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This will be the final game of the season for the Rising Stars, please note your game will start at 11.15am. At the conclusion of the timeslot a short presentation will be made to the Rising Stars players. Please make your way to the Club House after the game.

Margaret Nolan
0405 509 253

Catherine McAuley Westmead
School Open Morning

9.15 – 11am
Tuesday 30th August 2011

Enrolments for Year 7 2013
Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2013. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Don’t miss out - join us on our upcoming school tour and be ahead of everyone else.

This is a great opportunity to 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.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend. Car parking will be available in the school bus bay from 9am onwards. Ask for details when making your booking.

Kind regards,

Jacqui Hamilton
School Development Officer
Catherine McAuley Westmead
2 Darcy Road, Westmead
Ph: 9849 9100 Fax: 9849 9165

Catherine McAuley Westmead
Educating young women for the future

NOTES HOME THIS WEEK
1. Fathers’ Day Breakfast
2. Stage 1 Excursion –Scribbles
3. Fathers’ Day Photo ES1
4. Literacy & Numeracy Week ES1 & S1
5. Creative Arts Expo Costumes Note
6. Creative Arts Expo Tickets

BOOKCLUB
Bookclub order forms were sent home this week and are due back to school no later than next Wednesday 31st August 2011.

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. If sending cash please enclose the correct amount.

Thank you
Mrs D. Cesarini—Office

MINDQUEST 2011
Glenwood HS, Cnr Forman Ave & Glenwood Park Ave
Glenwood 2768
Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 October 2011
9.30am-3.30pm

Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in Chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego, robotics, chemistry and much more.

Contact the school office for a brochure or call Shelagh (02) 4233 2328
Closing date: Last day of term 3, Friday 23 September 2011