Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

As we come to the end of the school year at Our Lady of Mt Carmel I would like to thank you for your support and involvement during 2011. The special events of the year and the ones to be experienced in the next few days remind me 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. It is indeed a privilege to be a part of Our Lady of Mount Carmel school and parish community.

There are many wonderful events that reflect the spirit of our Mercy and Carmelite community; the parish/school fete in March, Catholic Schools Week Open Morning, Parent Workshops on the Catholic school and Mathematics, Mothers' Day Mass, Grandparents' Mass and Father's Day Parish Mass with children and mothers/fathers/grandparents sitting together, our Blessing and Opening in August, the Creative Arts Expo in September and the Voice of Youth Competition to name a few.

Our school is about learning – teacher learning and student learning. We know from current theory, practice and research that the teacher is the most significant factor impacting on student learning. Our Lady of Mount Carmel teachers work in collaborative teams; assessing student learning, planning and teaching the learning for each student and then assessing the achievement of outcomes before planning the next stage of learning.

This year has been a time of exploring the learning and teaching opportunities of our new learning spaces. The Building the Education Revolution (BER) funding of $3,000,000 that our school received as part of the Federal Government economic stimulus package provided these new learning environments. They have become a stimulus for our thinking about how we provide for student learning in the 21st century. I commend the teachers of Mt Carmel to you for their dedication to their learning and diligence in providing quality student learning throughout this year.

God Bless

Mrs Anne Marrins—Principal

DATES FOR 2012

Stage 1 to Stage 3 commence back at school on Monday 30th January 2012

Early Stage 1 commence school on Thursday 2nd February 2012
2000 years ago, John the Baptist strode out of the desert proclaiming to anyone who would listen that they had better prepare and get ready the Messiah was coming! In the gospel accounts, John must have looked a very wild man dressed in camel skin and a thick brown belt. His hair and appearance would have been dishevelled after his time in the desert. He spoke plainly to the people. He was not afraid to mince his words and make people feel uncomfortable about themselves. John has very close parallels to Elijah (who has links to Our Lady of Mt Carmel). Elijah lived many, many years before John, and like John he was a great prophet. They wore the same kind of clothes, their message was the same and was said just as bluntly “Get ready”. John baptised in the Jordan near where Elijah had ascended to heaven.

Today we share in the baptism of Jesus, baptised with the Spirit not just with water. We kneel to worship and honour Jesus, Our God who has taken on our humanity.

“O Adonai and leader of Israel you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and You gave him the law on Sinai. O come and save us by your mighty power.”

Mrs Bernadette Nolan—Religious Education Coordinator

END OF YEAR MASS

Our final mass for the year will take place in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church on Thursday 15 December at 10.00am. This will be followed by Morning Tea in the Parish Hall at 11.00am and the Awards Presentation will take place at the following times:

11.45am—Stage Two and Stage Three Awards
12.30pm—Early Stage One and Stage One Awards

A note went home this week. Please return the attendance slip to school indicating if you will be attending morning tea.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The Social Justice team is organising the collection and distribution of Christmas Hampers to those in need in our Parish Community. Children are being asked to contribute an item of food to these hampers which will be presented to St. Vincent De Paul at our Christmas Concert on Friday 10 December 2011. Some suggestions may include food items such as chips, biscuits, tinned food, soft drink, Christmas cake, etc with a reasonable shelf life.

Parents, Grandparents and Friends are invited to our Christmas Concerts which are being held in the Stage 1 area.

Early Stage One and Stage One will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 8 December 2011 and Stage Two and Stage Three will be held at 7.00pm on Friday 9 December 2011.

A note is being sent home today. Please send the attendance slip back to school.
CLASS NEWS 1A/1K

1A and 1K have been learning that Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus. It is a time for us to think about what we can share with others in return for all the gifts God has given us, especially the gift of Jesus.

1A and 1K were asked how they prepare for Christmas. These are a few of their responses:

- Set up the Christmas tree with the angel on top - Marlon
- Read the story of the first Christmas - Joaquin
- Donating toys - George
- Open the Advent calendar - Duang
- Bring food in for the Christmas hamper - Sheryn
- Put a Christmas wreath on the door - Luke
- Visit family - David
- Put out the Nativity set - Sarah
- Write Christmas cards - Sebastian
- Light the Advent candles - Isaac. Z
- Sing Christmas carols - Manyaa
- Say a special Christmas prayer - Clarissa

Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations

Congratulations to Madielyn Nolan who was nominated to attend the PDCPSCC Sports Awards. Madielyn was nominated for an award for her outstanding achievements & participation in a variety of levels of sports.

Madielyn has represented OLMC & the Parramatta Dioceses in the following sports:
- OLMC Swimming Carnival (Senior Girls Age Champion)
- OLMC Athletics Carnival (Senior Girls Age Champion)
- Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival (Senior Girls Runner Up)
- Diocesan Swimming, Athletics & Cross Country
  MacKillop Touch & Soccer (Winners of the Grand Final)

Community News

ROSARY CRUSADE—Sunday 11 December 2011

This special and unique event will be the first of its kind celebrated in Australia and we encourage people, especially young families, to attend this grand celebration to be a part of Australian history.

Angelus and Mass will be celebrated, as well as a procession, hymns and prayers of the Rosary in honour of Our Blessed Mother Mary. We invite those attending to bring their own icons and pictures of Our Lady to hold during the proceedings.

The Crusade will take place at C.S.I. Recreational Club, 81 South Street, Schofields, NSW 2762 from 3.00pm until 8.30pm.

Let’s get Australia and the world back into the protection of Our Blessed Mother and her Son Jesus Christ!

Call 1300 663 502 toll free or register at:
www.lightofchrist.com.au

UCANN News

UCANN (Understanding Children with Additional Needs Network) is a diocesan parent representative body that aims to help support parents of students with additional needs within our diocese.

We are surveying parents of students with additional needs to see whether the UCANN parent network is meeting their needs.

If you are a parent of a student with additional needs, could you please type the following link into your browser and fill in the survey online. The deadline for responding to the survey is Wednesday 7 December. This will enable us to better meet the needs of our community in 2012.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UCANNsurvey

P&F News

Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge

Bust the boredom of summer holidays with a book and you could win an iPod Touch!

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic Schools in the Parramatta Diocese. The categories are: Ages 5-8, 9-12 and 13+.

Reading 10 or more age-appropriate books during their summer holidays, students will go in to the draw to win in each age category. Students must record all the books they read on a log sheet, which is signed off by a parent or guardian. This must be received by 5pm on Friday 10 February 2012. Winners will be published on the Catholic Education website next year in February. Entry terms and conditions and log sheets can be downloaded from:

www.parra.catholic.edu.au
NOTES HOME

1. Christmas Concert Invitation
2. Stage 1 Incursion Note
3. End of Year Mass/Morning Tea/Awards Note

TWO CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES/TOURS IN 2012

The Religions of Asia. This pilgrimage tour of Malaysia will depart Sydney on Monday 7 May 2012 and return on Friday May 18. This 12 day pilgrimage will be a very Catholic tour with daily mass, prayer and spiritual input.

Pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece This pilgrimage will leave on Monday 24 September 2012 and return on 12 October. We will visit places of great spiritual significance in the Scriptures and the early church.

For further information please contact Father Ted at frejtyler@live.com or at PO Box 526, Katoomba 2780

DIARY DATES 2011

Term 4

December

Week 9
Monday 5 Reports/Work Samples Folders
Wednesday 7 Gymnastics ES1 & Stage 3
Thursday 8 Gymnastics ES1 & Stage 3
Friday 9 7.00pm Christmas Concert ES1/S1

Week 10
Monday 12 6.00pm Yr 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner
Thursday 15 10.00 End of Year Mass
11.00am Morning Tea
11.45am Awards Presentation
Friday 16 LAST DAY OF TERM 4 FOR STUDENTS

DIARY DATES 2012

Term 1

January/February

Week 1
Monday 30 January Years 1-6 Commence School
Thursday 2 February Early Stage 1 Commence School
Tea & Tissues Morning Tea (P&F)

NOTES HOME

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