



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

One of my regular tasks each week is to write a message in the weekly newsletter. Inspiration comes from an encounter or conversation with a member of our community. Sometimes inspiration comes in response to an event or occurrence in our local community or further afield. Sometimes it takes a long time for inspiration to find me. However a regular source of inspiration comes from the Scripture of the upcoming Sunday Mass, which is the source of this week's spark.

This week I was drawn to the opening words of the Responsorial Psalm 89:

'Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart.'

I felt this text was something that we could all relate to and connect with our recent experience of being restricted to our homes. Our limited movement and personal encounters have made us realise the wonder, joy and pleasure we experience from all those things that have been denied to us. As our lives begin to open up, we are each experiencing our own personal Easter Story as we emerge from our tombs to experience new life. Emerging with a newfound appreciation for the things we have taken for granted. The challenge now is to **gain wisdom of heart** by continuing to appreciate the things we have missed and gained from this time of isolation and denial.



Next week is the one that we have been looking forward to for such a long time. I along with all our staff will be eagerly awaiting the return of our Kindergarten and Year 1 children. Everyone is busy preparing for their return and then the return of all our students the following week. It is going to be a time of excitement, anxiousness, happiness and challenge. For some children and parents it will be easy to leave the intimacy of remote learning behind, while for others it may be a struggle to separate from parents or children. It is important to prepare the practicalities for the return to school by re-establishing routines and getting school essentials ready. It is also important to emotionally prepare for the return to school by listening to and talking about your feelings, both good and bad. We are here to help you and your child with the transition back to school. To help them get excited, each child will receive a small welcome gift from Mrs Anderiesz and me.

While everyone has been away, something exciting has happened in our community, Mrs Carswell has announced that she and her husband Paul are expecting the arrival of their first child. I'm sure you will join me in offering congratulations and good wishes for the safe arrival of their baby next February.

This week's Newsletter has a lot of very specific information regarding the plans for our student's return next week with some significant changes to daily routines, particularly around the afternoon pickup process. ***It is essential that all parents and carers read all the information carefully.*** Mrs Anderiesz and I will be hosting zoom sessions to explain changes and answer questions, please refer to the next page for details. Please also carefully read the last pages with reminders regarding traffic rules in school zones, which you may be out of practise with.

Olimpia Pirovic

Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 2:

Mon-Fri: 12 pm OLMC Rosary Prayer led by 6B, 6G, 5B, 5G, 4B

Thur 11am & 3:30pm: **Miss Pirovic & Mrs Anderiesz ZOOM for Parents**

Sat: **OLMC Mission to Busk Evening**

Week 3:

Mon: WELCOME BACK KINDER & YEAR 1 STUDENTS (ZOOMS Stop)

Yr 2, 3, 4, 5 and Yr6 Grades continue regular ZOOM sessions with students
8am-10am Learning From Home Pack Collection

Mon-Thurs: 12pm OLMC Rosary Prayer led by 4G, 3B, 3G, 2B

Fri: Mission Liturgy (No Rosary)

LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT YOUR PRINCIPAL'S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE!

P&F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY 25 OCTOBER (WK4) @ 7PM VIA ZOOM

MERIT AWARDS

KB	Elijah ▪ Ruth ▪ Elijah	3G	Krishna ▪ Jolenta ▪ Emily
KG	Harshi ▪ Sukhmani ▪ Georgia	4B	Eva ▪ Jeremiel
1B	Serah ▪ Emma ▪ William	4G	Gabrielle ▪ Matthew
1G	Sienna ▪ Jacob ▪ Sienna	5B	Leon ▪ Varsha
2B	Mariella ▪ Logan ▪ Abeer	5G	Lachlan ▪ Billy
2G	Gia ▪ Owen ▪ Leah	6B	Osean ▪ Xavier ▪ Winona
3B	Aerabella ▪ Sam ▪ Miranda	6G	Keillan ▪ Riona ▪ Siya

ZOOM FOR PARENTS

On Thursday, Miss Pirovic and Mrs Anderiesz will hold two open ZOOM sessions for the primary purpose of supporting parent queries. No new announcements will be made during these sessions. This is just an opportunity to check-in and receive support.

Date: Thursday 14th October

Times: 11am & 3:30pm

Meeting Id: 679 0860 2168

Password: 76863

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Parents are reminded that as we transition back to school, students are to wear their summer uniform. We would encourage families to try and see the year out without needing to purchase a uniform, however, some students may have had an enormous growth spurt. If you require a uniform please purchase via the QKR app. The first delivery to our school will be on Thursday 21 October, so all orders must be finalised before 3pm Tuesday 19 October. Families are also able to purchase a second hand uniform. Please make contact via the P&F email if you require a second hand uniform.

WATER BOTTLES

Over the Remote Learning period the school bubblers needed to be turned off for health and safety reasons. Due to these restrictions still being in place it is vital that all students bring a **FILLED WATER BOTTLE EACH DAY**

OLMC ROSARY PRAYER

We would like to thank those many families who have been able to join us for OLMC Rosary Prayer each day. During October we will continue our devotion to Mary every weekday in October (Mon-Fri) at 12:00pm. Each day the rosary will be led by a different class, with some special appearances from community members.

Meeting ID: 628 5070 9443

Password: 938 937

MISSION TO BUSK PREVIEW



A special exclusive preview will be **debuted on October 16th at 7pm** for our OLMC Community to enjoy. In the spirit of Mission To Busk, families will be able to donate during this exclusive event via a link on our FACEBOOK Page. All donations will go to support the repairs of the Church roof.

CANTEEN

As the staggered return of students continues, the canteen will not be in operation. Regular purchasing during recess and lunchtime and the ordering of lunch orders will begin on Monday 25th October which is the beginning of Week 4.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

We were so disappointed to cancel this year's first sacrament of Holy Communion celebrations. Parents who registered and who provided their email address have been advised of this by email. These families will automatically be registered for next year's celebration, unless they choose otherwise.

We anticipate that we will be able to celebrate the first sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, as well as Confirmation next year. You can stay in touch with all the latest parish news via our parish website or our Facebook page.

If you have any questions regarding the parish sacramental process, please email the Pastoral Associate, Paola Yevenes, at paola.olmc@gmail.com.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL - MONDAY 18 OCTOBER

As families are aware, over the next two weeks the children attending CEDP schools will start returning to school from Monday 18 October with all students returned by Monday 25 October in alignment with NSW Public Schools.

To support our students, families and teachers, we have made the following adjustments to learning beginning from Week 3.

WEEK 3: Kindergarten and Year 1 children will return. ***Kindergarten and Year 1 Zooms will cease.***

WEEK 4: All students in Yr 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 will return. ***Zooms for these Grades will cease. All students are expected to return on October 25.***

WEEK 5: With the announcement of an earlier return for our students we understand that some of our families may be feeling a little rushed. So we have made the decision that all our students will work from a learning plan that is in the format of the remote learning pack and grade Zooms for grades will stop. We will continue to provide remote learning resources up until, and including Week 5. As we anticipate that the majority of students will return on their scheduled week (or earlier), remote learning resources will have to look a little different as teachers will not be able to produce the same level of detailed resources as they will be focusing on the learning and the social and emotional aspects of welcoming our students back. Learning resources will continue to be distributed via the usual methods for Kinder-Year 6.

Work will be provided for children who, due to medical advice around their risk level are required to remain at home. **Parents whose children fall in this category need to discuss this with Miss Pirovic and are asked to make contact before the end of the week.**

SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES

The school has in place a range of practices to help support the health and wellbeing of our students, teachers and families.

- Classroom spaces will be rearranged to ensure our students can learn at a safe distance from each other.
- **Masks:** All adults (teachers and visitors) need to wear a mask when on the school grounds. Students are encouraged to wear masks, however, this is not mandatory and they will need to manage their own masks. Teachers can not help them. Any child who catches a bus is required to wear a mask regardless of age.
- The sharing of resources will be minimised with the school already purchasing an adequate amount of coloured pencils, grey leads and glue sticks for our students. Children in Year 2-Year 6 already use their own supplies
- Students will engage in regular sanitising, handwashing and high touch surfaces will be cleaned as per guidelines.
- Whenever possible, windows and doors will be opened to allow for maximum ventilation, with class groups encouraged to use outdoor spaces. Fans and air conditioners will also be used to support adequate ventilation.
- Teachers will continue to rigorously monitor for flu like symptoms amongst the students within their class. Students who are unwell or have these symptoms will be sent home along with their sibling and require a covid test before returning.
- As a school we will minimise the mixing of students across grades.
- Recess and lunch times will be staggered with separate break times for Infants and Primary grades. This will allow our students to remain in separate areas, while also having lots of room to play and socialise

Parents must also do their part to support our efforts. To ensure our community remains safe, parents are reminded that **students must not attend school if they are unwell, no matter how slight the symptoms.**

- Students who are absent from school or who have been sent home due to flu like symptoms **must be tested**
- **If a student is sent home from school, their siblings will also be sent home with them**
- Students **must not return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free**
- Schools must **sight the negative COVID-19 test result** prior to allowing students to return to school i.e. NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre correspondence (SMS or email or hard copy) and/or a medical certificate must be provided to the school and a record of this kept by the school.
- If your child is being tested and awaiting results, Parents are expected to inform the school so that we can apply a 'Flexible' code for attendance.

Positive Covid Case Response

As yet we have not been notified of any changes to the response protocols for any positive covid cases. As our student population is predominantly unvaccinated, we anticipate that the response and isolation measures will remain the same.

Should we be in a situation where there is the notification of a positive covid case in our school and based on previous experience the following outlines the process followed:

IF we are notified, the following steps occur:

- The school is notified of a case by a parent, CEDP or NSW Health
- NSW Health become involved with managing the situation with the school and CEDP. Contact tracing begins and parents of children immediately affected and the wider school community are notified by the school
- NSW Health determine the close contacts and notify them regarding testing and isolation. NSW Health will communicate directly with close contacts and casual contacts providing instructions for those people and their family.
- The school will be closed for 1-3 days to undergo deep cleaning. Learning from home will not be provided.
- Individuals and families required to isolate will continue to do so as directed by NSW Health. Children required to isolate for 14 days will be provided with work to continue learning at home and recorded as flexible attendance.

Throughout this whole process, parents will be advised with information and instructions from NSW Health, the school or CEDP. We will respond to situations as they develop and communicate directly with you via phone call, email, Skoolbag or Facebook. These will be the only sources parents should follow. We ask parents to understand that Privacy Laws govern what we are able to communicate to you, so we won't be able to tell you who is diagnosed and may be general in our response to your questions. We will share the information that we are permitted to and that parents need to know.

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS ABOUT ENTERING THE SCHOOL SITE

As we return it is vital to remind families that **EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE** for ensuring our community remains safe and open.

Social Distancing – Drop off and Pick up Procedures

Parent behaviour during Drop Off and Pick Up times need to be reflective of social distancing protocols. **It is essential that parents and carers follow the stated requirements to support the safety and wellbeing of all within our community.** Staff will be on hand to support parents and children to follow these new protocols, asking those who are not observing social distancing or lingering to move on.

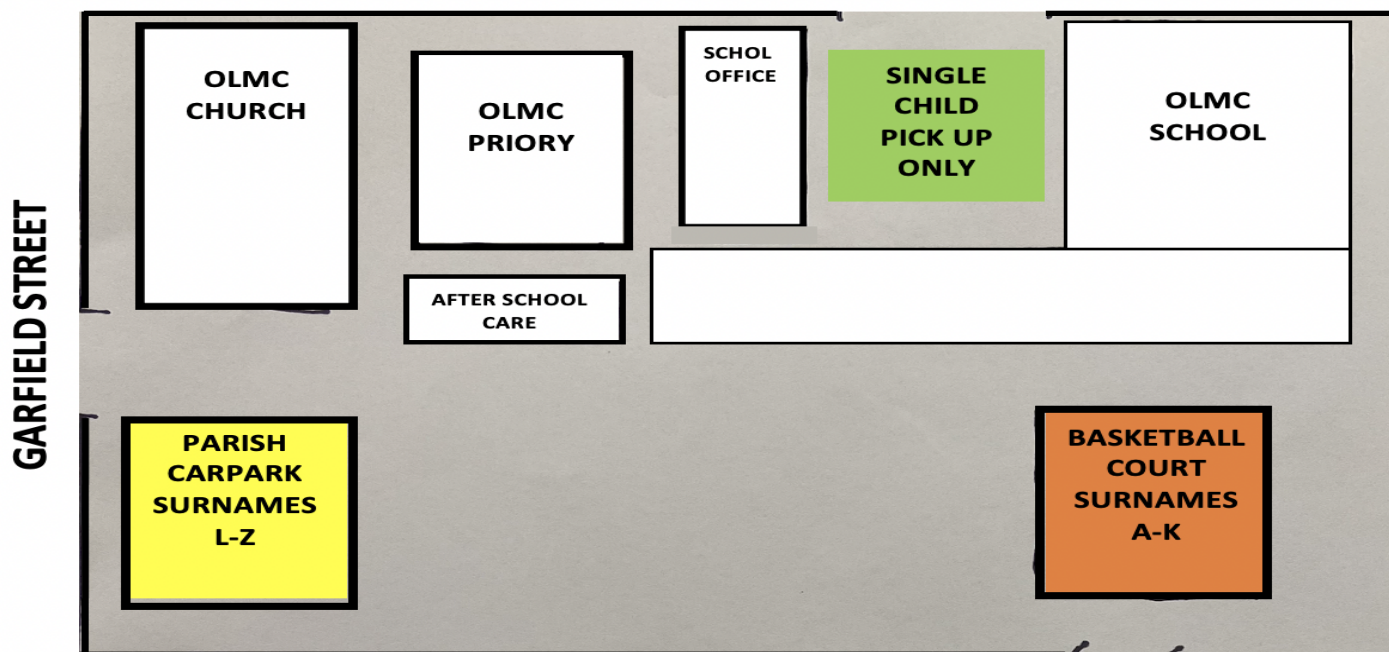
Morning Drop Off Procedures

- Parents/carers need to be aware of social distancing and personally monitor their own movements to ensure adequate distance at all times.
- All adults must wear a face mask at all times while in the vicinity of the school or on school grounds.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to **STAY IN/AT THEIR CAR** and watch as their child/ren walk into the school.
- If you walk your child to school, please refrain from walking up to the gate. Stop at a safe distance and watch as your child/ren walk into the school.
- **No parent or carers will be allowed to enter the front or back playground.**

Afternoon Pick up (THIS HAS CHANGED)

- Pick up will begin at 2:50pm to support a quicker and more distanced departure
- There will be **THREE** pick up areas:
 1. **BENNETT STREET PICK UP AREA** - Families with only 1 child at the school will pick up from the **Bennett Street** gate
 2. **SMITH STREET BASKETBALL COURT PICK UP AREA** - Families with multiple children and have a surname beginning with the letters **A-K** must pick up from the Basketball Court entry on **Smith Street**
 3. **GARFIELD STREET CARPARK PICK UP AREA** - Families with multiple children and have a surname beginning with the letters **L-Z** must pick up from the Parish Carpark

BENNETT STREET



SMITH STREET

- Parents must walk around the outside of the school to collect their child/ren from the designated area only. **No parent is permitted to walk through the school.**
- **THINK ABOUT PARKING:** Parents need to be aware that you may not be able to park near the pick up point. You may be required to park elsewhere and walk around the perimeter of the school to the pick up point. Please Note: **There is a School Bus Zone in operation on Smith Street. Parents are not allowed to park in the School Bus Zone**
- Parents/carers need to maintain social distance and be particularly aware when entering/exiting the grounds
- Parents/carers must wait outside the gate, collect their children and leave straight away. **This is not a time to socialise**

We know that parents are aware of the need to put these additional safety measures in place and also expect them. However, these measures will not be effective if parents use the opportunity during drop off and pick up times for socialisation. Please refrain from lingering. Pick up your child/ren and move on quickly. While this situation continues to force us to take necessary precautions, we do so willingly to support the safety, wellbeing and learning of all.

Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting

Our Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in Week 4, Monday 25th October via Zoom. Grab a cup of tea or a glass of wine and get comfy, or dressed up, to join us from the comfort of your own home!

We are seeking people to become involved in our Parents and Friends committee to support us in the work we do. We are farewelling two of our committee members this year so we encourage you to think about how you might want to become involved. The job descriptions for the various roles within our Parents and Friends committee can be accessed on the [school website](#). Please note that we are looking for people to become part of a support crew rather than seeking nominations for fundraising and social committees. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions and the ever changing nature of school events it has become too hard to make a long term commitment to these roles.

If you would like to learn more about any of our roles you are invited to contact our committee members via olmcpandf@gmail.com

If you would like to nominate yourself for a position please complete [this attached form](#)

President: Ensures that the needs and wishes of the parent body are given a voice and that good relationships are established with the executive body and teachers.

Vice President: The key task of the Vice President is to support the President of the P&F Association in their duties and to perform those duties in their absence.

Secretary: Responsible for the communication and correspondence of the organisation with the wider community.

Treasurer: Responsible for the accounts and reports on the finances of the P&F.

P&F 2022

PRESIDENT

SUPPORT MEMBERS, LEAD,
ORGANISE CALENDAR
EVENTS, PURCHASING, RUN
MEETINGS

VICE PRESIDENT

SUPPORT TEAM, BACK UP
FOR PRESIDENT,
APPROVALS, ATTEND
MEETINGS, NEWSLETTER
AND SKOOLBAG

SECRETARY

LETTER CORRESPONDENCE,
MINUTES, APPROVALS, ATTEND
MEETINGS

SUPPORT CREW

A TEAM OF MEMBERS OF
THE COMMUNITY THAT
ARE HAPPY TO HELP.




















TREASURER

BALANCE BOOKS, APPROVALS,
PAYMENTS, BUDGETS, ATTEND
MEETINGS

Parking and traffic rules in school zones









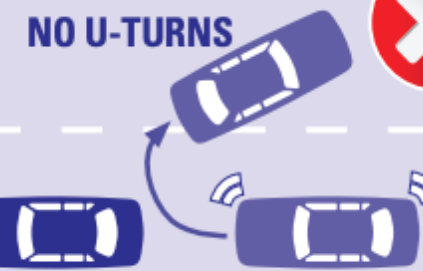



You need to take extra care when driving and parking in school zones. Make sure that you and your child understand the road rules. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting not only your child but other children at risk. The parking and traffic rules around our schools are there to protect your children. If you break the rules you will be fined. **Please choose safety over convenience.**

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO IMPORTANT SAFETY TRAFFIC RULES

ZONE	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHY IS IT THERE?	PENALTY	DEMERIT POINTS*
	You cannot stop in a NO STOPPING zone for any reason (including queuing or waiting for a space). 	Keeps clear sight lines between drivers and children / pedestrians.	EXCEEDS \$349 	(School Zone) 2 
	You can stop in a NO PARKING zone for a max. of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. If no spaces are available you cannot queue on the road way or in any other zones while waiting for a space. You will need to drive away and park elsewhere, only returning when there is space to pull up. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle at all times and cannot leave your vehicle unattended.	Provides a safe place for children / pedestrian set down and pick up.	EXCEEDS \$194 	(School Zone) 2 
	You must not stop or park in a BUS ZONE for any reason (including queuing or waiting for a space) unless you are driving a bus. If times are shown on the sign, you are not allowed to stop during those times.	Provides a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up school children.	EXCEEDS \$349 	(School Zone) 2 
	You must not stop on or within 20 metres before a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING or 10 metres after a crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking.	So drivers can clearly see pedestrians on the crossing.	EXCEEDS \$464 	(School Zone) 2 
	DOUBLE PARKING You must not stop on the road adjacent to another vehicle at any time even to drop off or pick up passengers.	Double parking blocks visibility and forces other cars to go around you.	EXCEEDS \$349 	(School Zone) 2 
	You must not stop on any FOOTPATH or NATURE STRIP , or even a DRIVEWAY crossing a footpath or nature strip for any reason.	You could easily run over a child or force pedestrians onto the road to get around you.	EXCEEDS \$194 	(School Zone) 2 

Please note: The above information is current as of 1 January 2020. Penalties set by NSW State Government and reviewed on 1 July each year.

Safety tips for school zones:

EXITING THE CAR 	 Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.	APPLY BRAKE 	 Make sure the park brake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
PARKING 	 NEVER double park.	CROSSING 	 NEVER park across a pedestrian crossing.
NO U-TURNS 	 NEVER undertake a U-turn in close proximity to the school.	NO 3 POINT TURNS 	 NEVER undertake a three-point turn in close proximity to the school.

Safety tips for students:

BUCKLE UP   Stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped.	STORE ITEMS   Make sure your school bag and other items are in a safe position.	BE READY  Be ready to get out of the car with your belongings when the car has stopped and you have unbuckled your seat belt.	EXIT SAFELY  Always get in and out of the back seat through the safety door - the rear foot path-side door.
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Demerit Points:

* The **Demerit Points** Scheme is a national program that allocates penalty points (demerits) for a range of driving offences. A driver who has not committed any offences has 'zero' points. If you commit an offence that carries demerit points, the points are added to your driving record. If you incur the threshold number of demerit points within a three-year period, a licence suspension or refusal is applied. The three-year period is calculated between the dates the offences were committed. It ends on the day your most recent offence was committed.

For further information regarding demerit points please visit: rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/demerits/