



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

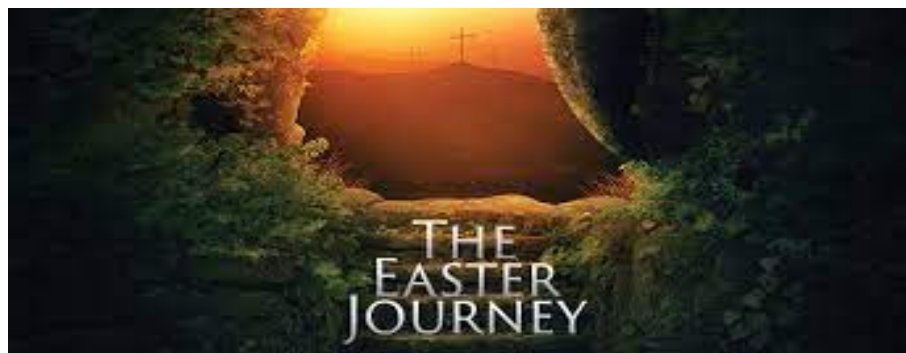
Easter falls later this year and Holy Week occurs in the first week of the holidays. In preparation for Easter it has become a tradition for our OLMC school community to mark this with 'God Day'.

**God Day** is a day that our students look forward to each year. They don't get a treat or have a mufti day. They take a deep dive into a piece of scripture relating to the Easter story. Their teachers guide them in deciphering the meaning of the text by learning about the context of the time when Jesus lived, finding out about the characters mentioned and looking at old maps of the Holy Land to gain a deeper understanding of the Scripture.

Once the children have unpacked the meaning of the text, they then look to make connections with their own life. They consider what is the lesson that will guide them in the choices they make or the actions they take. They also look to see how the messages connect with what might be happening in our world. After much discussion the children will write their own reflection to record their personal understanding of the Scripture and its connection to their personal situation.

Then comes the part everyone enjoys the most on God Day, creating an artistic representation or interpretation of the Scripture. The creativity of our children impresses me every year. Each child finds a unique perspective to represent in their painting, sculpture, drawing, model or actions. All of these wonderful creations form a display which becomes a part of our Easter Reflection walk. On the last days of school each class will walk around our school to stop and read each piece of scripture and pray together in preparation of their journey towards Easter.

Once again our parents will have the opportunity to participate in God Day remotely. Miss Magtanong has prepared some packs for parents to get creative and you are invited to attend a zoom session this afternoon to discuss the Scripture focus for the parents. Please check the details on the next page for how you can take part.



*Olimpia Pirovic*  
Principal

***The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful***

## UPCOMING DATES

### Week 10:

**Wed:** Parent God Day ZOOM  
4:30pm

**Thur:** Yr5 Sphero Session

**Fri:** **LAST DAY FOR  
ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS**

Basketball Clinics- See below

### Week 11: God Week Begins

**Mon:** 3B Assembly via ZOOM (details below)

**ZOOM ID:** 630 0497 0528 **PASSCODE:** 287889

**Tue:** Last uniform order for Term 1 (before 4pm)

**Wed:** Band

**Fri:** **LAST DAY OF TERM 1**

Basketball Clinics- See below

## NOTES HOME

### THIS WEEK

- K-6 Parent God Day Challenge

### LAST WEEK

- Yr4 IT Expectations
- Yr3 Reward Day Term 1

**\*\* If your child is unwell, has a sore tummy, cough, runny nose, sore throat etc please keep them at home \*\***

## MERIT AWARDS - Awards will be presented at assembly next week

KB	Amber ▪ Shriansh	4B	Jad ▪ Yara
KG	Sebastian ▪ Maria	4G	Thomas ▪ Liliana
1B	Ethan ▪ Annabelle	5B	Luke ▪ Dieter
1G	Scarlett ▪ Elijah	5G	Malek ▪ Gabrielle
2B	Joanne ▪ Lucinda	6B	Tiarna ▪ Sameet
2G	Emma ▪ Sam	6G	Kayla ▪ Chinmayaa
3B	James ▪ Reis	6W	Emad ▪ Alanah
3G	Owen ▪ Charlotte	CA PE	Ayaan ▪ Joanne Clara ▪ Elijah

## KINDERGARTEN 2023



The 2023 Kindergarten enrolment period is coming to an end with many interviews already occurring. Enrolment Applications and documents are **due back before the 1st of April**. Sibling families who are wanting to enrol a child in 2023 **MUST return their completed forms asap** to ensure you are able to attend an interview BEFORE the end of Term 1. Returning forms late could jeopardise your child's place as enrolment offers to new families will begin Day 1 of Term 2. First round offer letter will be sent out at the end of this week.

## PARENT GOD DAY 2022

God Day is an exciting day each year for our children and parents. This year Miss Magtanong has come up with a plan that allows parents to get involved too. You can participate in God Day by picking up a pack from the office and joining the zoom meeting **this afternoon at 4:30pm**.

**Meeting ID: 680 6518 5551**

**Passcode: 189217**



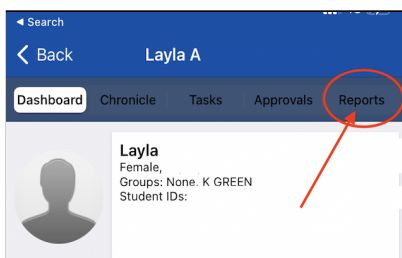
## SCHOOL FEES

Reminder notices have been sent for Term 1 school fees accounts by CEDP. Term 1 school fees were payable in full by 18 March unless a Flexible Payment Plan is in place. Should you have any queries regarding your account please contact Maree Murphy in the school office.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

As always our families have been very generous donating \$1270 to date. We hope that your children have been earning these donations through service. We are still accepting **cashless donations** using our school **Qkr! App** until **Friday 8th Apr (Wk 11)**. Thank you for putting your compassion into action!

## COMPASS STUDENT REPORTS



Last week all student COMPASS reports were uploaded to the parent portal. This will allow parents to have easy access to all of their child/ren's reports since we rolled over to the COMPASS system. To access your child/ren's reports parents log into COMPASS, select their child, select 'Reports' on the top tool bar and choose the report you want to download. These can be downloaded on both mobile and desktop. Parents are reminded that only reports from 2021 or later will be available as this is when we began using the COMPASS system.



## WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM

Have you organised winter uniforms for your child/ren? ***Have you updated your child's 2022 class on the app?*** This update makes it easier to get the uniform order to the right class. All orders for uniforms should be placed using the Qkr app by 4pm on Tuesdays so that delivery can be made each Thursday. **The last day for ordering this term will be Tuesday 5 April.** Students wear their full winter uniform from the beginning of Term 2. Please check and ensure that all items are labelled with your child's name and it is still visible. If you purchased second hand uniforms you will need to add your child's name.

### GIRLS

**Tunic** - School tartan tunic

**Blouse** - Lemon long sleeved blouse with Peter Pan collar

**Tights or socks** - Navy blue ankle or knee high socks or navy blue tights

**Hair** - Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. No hair colouring is permitted. Hair ties, ribbons and headbands must be yellow, navy blue or school uniform pattern.

### BOYS

**Trousers** - Navy blue half elastic backed trousers

**Shirt** - School blue long sleeve shirt with school crest

**Tie** - striped school tie

**Socks** - Short grey school socks with blue/gold band

**Hair** - Neat and simple haircuts that are graduated. **No** undercuts, number ones, rat tails or hair colouring, or visible lines for example. Hair shouldn't be longer than their shirt collar.

**Jumper** - Fleecy royal blue jumper or Wool/Nylon jumper - optional  
**Zip Jacket** - Royal blue with school crest (also part of the sports tracksuit)

During Term 1, we noticed that the hairstyles of some of our students do not match our school uniform policy. Girls are reminded that their hair should be tied back if it is longer than shoulder length. Our boys' haircuts should be blended and no shorter than a number 2, **without visible lines**. We appreciate parent support in ensuring haircuts are school appropriate as we move into Term 2.

We also noticed that some of our students have multiple layers under their school shirt (some up to 4 layers). All of our classrooms are air conditioned and comfortable. Having these multiple layers means your child may overheat and be unable to remove these layers. Think about how many layers you wear. It is enough for your child to wear a singlet, their school shirt, a jumper and or jacket. When your child is outside they are running and engaged in active play which keeps them warm enough.

## BASKETBALL CLINICS K-6



Western Sydney Wolves are running basketball clinics for the next two Fridays for our Primary students. Each class will take part in 2 Sessions. This Friday students in 3Gold, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will participate and are able to wear their sport uniform.

## SCHOOL PHOTO DAY TAKE 2

As we know how important school photo day is for all families, we have arranged for a second session to take place for those families who were unable to attend on Monday. This session will be held on May 11 with individual portraits and family portraits being taken only: **NO CLASS PHOTOS**. This will be the only session to take place, no other session will be scheduled if your child/ren can not attend this date. We thank those families who did the right thing and kept their child/ren home on Monday.



## PARISH NEWS

### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

**CONFIRMATION:** Just a reminder that the 4 June celebration has been booked-out. If your baptised child/ren is in Year 5 or above and would like to celebrate their sacrament of Confirmation, they can celebrate at 4pm on Saturday 11 June.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** 15 October has now been booked-out. If your baptised child/ren is in Year 4 or above, and would like to celebrate their first sacrament of Holy Communion, you can choose between 22 or 29 October.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** If your baptised child/ren is in Year 3 or above and would like to celebrate their first sacrament of Reconciliation the 25, 26, 27 July are still available. For further information, please visit our Parish website or email the Pastoral Associate, Paola Yevenes, at [paola.olmc@gmail.com](mailto:paola.olmc@gmail.com)

## P&F NEWS

**Easter Competition Activities**- WOW, Talk about Talent! We have been overwhelmed with amazing entries this year. Father Janu will be very busy going through all the entries next week. Please make sure all entries are submitted by Friday 1st April (this week). All winners will be announced via the OLMC Facebook page.

**Thankyou**- Thankyou to all the volunteers who helped with the second hand uniform shop sale last week. It was a great success. "Many hands really do make light work".

*This column is compiled by P&F Communications. If you have any queries or wish to contribute, please email [olmcpandf@gmail.com](mailto:olmcpandf@gmail.com) and attention it to P&F Communications*





## HOMEWORK POLICY

At Our Lady of Mt Carmel we believe that Homework provides a link between home and school. It allows families to connect with the classroom and to take an active role in the learning. Homework should be an **interactive experience that enhances family life** and is **manageable** for parents, teachers and students.

Homework involves an element of choice which enables students to evaluate and take responsibility for their learning. The homework assigned to students provides opportunities to:

- Consolidate classroom learning
- Develop a pattern of behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom
- Involve family members in learning
- Lead a balanced lifestyle which includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits

The following table demonstrates the homework appropriate for particular phases of learning. It is important to note that the timing is a **general guide** for determining the amount of homework families might set out to achieve with their child.

<b>Kindergarten</b>	10 minutes a night	Daily reading is an expectation. Home readers will also be provided that are at an <b>easy level</b> for your child so that they can enjoy the experience. Students practise targeted words and complete some mathematical activities with the support of family members where appropriate.
<b>Year 1</b>	15 minutes a night	
<b>Year 2</b>	20 minutes a night	
<b>Year 3</b>	20 minutes a night	Students are expected to work more independently. Daily and extended reading is expected and is vital to build students' reading stamina. They are encouraged to practise mathematical concepts and complete a range of tasks that support learning across other areas of the curriculum e.g. History research task.
<b>Year 4-Year 6</b>	30 minutes a night	

### **So what does the research say about homework (with the exclusion of reading)?**

#### **Six things that families need to know!**

- There is no consistent evidence to show that homework lifts academic performance of primary aged students. Developmentally, they are not ready. They can't filter out irrelevant information or avoid environmental distractions – and if they struggle, the overall effect can be negative.
- Parent involvement with homework makes a considerable impact on a students' perception of learning and skill development. It has longer lasting effects than punitive consequences.
- There is no evidence that homework helps students develop time management skills.
- Homework should be purposeful and relevant and should not jeopardise the right of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle.
- The **quality** of homework and **effort** spent on it is more important than the **quantity** and **time** spent.
- **Unstructured playtime** with siblings and parents is far more likely to **develop social skills** and **creativity** than most standardised homework tasks.
- Research supports the importance of regular home reading with extensive reading linked to superior performance on measures of general knowledge, vocabulary, spelling, verbal fluency and comprehension.

It is vital that families understand our position about homework. Our children participate in a full day of learning. In determining homework, we acknowledge that students are engaging in many different activities outside of school hours. These include a range of physical activities, sports, recreational, creative and cultural pursuits. Some students even have responsibilities as caregivers. Knowing this, having a punitive response towards homework would be counterproductive and not reflective of the role parents play in making decisions about what's right for their family. Families can expect to receive optional tasks, similar to the examples above, in which their children can engage with when it fits with their family lifestyle. At Our Lady of Mount Carmel we will not enforce any repercussions if students do not engage in homework. If families wish to enforce consequences we will support you in your decision as having clear guidelines and expectations is healthy for any family unit, however, there won't be any additional consequences at school.

The most useful homework of all is the learning that occurs during family interactions & shared experiences:

- Lots and lots of family conversation such as storytelling, jokes, family discussions, etc.
- Shared bedtime stories with a caring adult or family member reading to the children.
- Family games, activities and hobbies.
- Regular visits to the local library.
- Outings to all kinds of places of social, historic and natural interest.
- The kind of imaginative play that comes naturally to children of all ages.