



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear OLMC Families,

"It's almost Advent; only a few weeks till Christmas!" Was it really a whole year since we last heard those words? Afraid so! However, it's not all bad news because, for Christians everywhere, the Season of Advent affords us the opportunity to get in touch with our own spirituality, to reflect on the journey we've taken over the past year and to set goals for the coming year – spiritual resolutions. The Season of Advent offers us each year, an opportunity to seek God within the boundaries of our souls while living outwardly amidst the noise and activity of the world around us.

The four weeks of Advent allow us time to ponder how Jesus came into this world in such a stunningly humble way. As we contemplate His birth in a bed of straw in a messy stable, perhaps, we see our own life as being a little messy too. Our life is often distracted, self-centred and sometimes leaves us wishing we were better people. But if we can slow down and refocus our attention, we might realise that God is there, waiting to love us even though we have so many unfulfilled good intentions and so many unfulfilled desires about our spirituality. I understand that this is not an easy thing to do at this time of the year - wrapping up work commitments, meeting end of year deadlines, Christmas shopping and planning, end of year social gatherings and so forth.

The bumper sticker that reads, "Be patient; God isn't finished with me yet" is a reminder that, in God's eye, we are a work in progress. Our faith is not a vaccine that prevents bad things from happening to good people. Rather, our faith is the new seed that brings forth new life and hope out of a life that contains struggle, difficulty, conflict and maybe misunderstanding. Christians, during Advent, are like the shepherds from the Bethlehem hills; we are called from our everyday activities to allow God to re-enter our lives, even when we are feeling least "religious" or "ready" for His coming, for His arrival within us.

*God, our Father,  
we thank You for Your love for us,  
a love that reaches out to accept us,  
no matter our circumstance.  
As we contemplate the arrival of Your Son,  
help us to share our love with others.  
May our love, like Yours, be abundant and healing.*

As Advent commences this week, I encourage all in the community to make time for prayer as we wait for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

All the best for the week ahead.



*Olimpia Pirovic*  
Principal

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

## UPCOMING DATES

### Week 7:

**Wed: 3:10-4:00pm** Concert and Training Band Practise

**Thur: 8:15am** Morning Workout

### **Kinder 2023 Orientation:**

Session 1: 9:15-10:45am

Session 2: 11:45-1:15pm

**Fri: K-6 Netball Clinic** (Students wear sports uniform)

### Week 8: SWIMMING

#### **BEGINS K-6**

**Mon:** Assembly: SRC Prayer

**Wed: 3:10-4:00pm** Concert and Training Band Practise

**Thur:** Yr6 Surf Life Saving Program

## NOTES HOME

### THIS WEEK

- Yr1 & Yr5 Canteen adjustments for swimming

### LAST WEEK

- Yr5 & Yr6 Surf Awareness Excursion
- OLMC Awards & Christmas Concert
- Preparing for Swimming Lessons
- Yr3 Reward Day Note

**Please Note there will be a limited Canteen Menu during the Swimming Lesson Period**

## MERIT AWARDS

KB	Lilly • Gabriella	4B	Chanel • Yelseta
KG	Yana • Tiana	4G	Benjamin • Aerabella
1B	Noah • Rubeena	5B	Jonathan • Dieter
1G	None Presented	5G	Eva • Victor
2B	Kiara • Kriti • Aayan	6B	Sameet • Alessandra
2G	Alana • Ilia • Anupriya	6G	Vihaan • Diana
3B	Luca • Alexia	6W	Estelle • Jacob
3G	Rajan • Mia	PE	Olivia • Kiara

## STAR CARD REWARDS

**Gold Awards:** Charlotte • Shanaya •

**Opal Awards:** Michael • Pia • Krisha • Alexia

**Platinum Awards:** Rishhan • Sipra • Alexander • Osaiah • Natalia • Veronica • Vrushti • Shriansh • Kira • Jessica • Margaret • Michael • Vincent • John Sayed •

**Principal's Awards:** Aayan • Alanna • Anthony • Matthew • Eva • George • Aarush • Jayden • Lilly • Nysa • Liam • Erik • Annalisa • Emily • Felizia • Elise • Arshnoor • Amber • Mikhail • Frances • Gabriella • Aruja • Zanthé • Naksh • Zoe • Dennis • Anthony • Gabrielle • Grace •

**Diamond Awards:** Anthony • Alynna • Jose • Estelle • Myra • Adriana • Azalea • Ojas • Amelia • Nicholas • Madisen • Isaac •



## STAFFING UPDATE

Transition and change is a part of every school community. It is often at this time of the year that we have to say goodbye to members of our staff. With mixed feelings we announce that Mrs Aboud, Mr Jones, and Miss Breusch will be bidding farewell to the OLMC community at the end of the year.

Mrs Aboud has made the decision to retire and enjoy more time with her family. Mrs Aboud will finish her working life at OLMC on Wednesday 30 November. We wish her all the very best as she discovers the delights of retirement.

Mr Jones will be taking up a PE teaching role in the High School of The Maronite College. Mr Jones is looking forward to the challenges of this new role and we wish him well in his new adventure.

Miss Breusch has accepted a position closer to home at St Columba's School in Leichhardt, who are very lucky to have her join their team.

Each of these teachers have added to the rich tapestry that is Our Lady of Mount Carmel. They have each made a lasting impression and with sadness we will send them each on their way at the end of the year with the reminder that they will always be a part of the OLMC Family.

## KINDERGARTEN 2023

**REMINDER:** Tomorrow we welcome all of our Kindergarten 2023 students to their orientation. Orientation is a valuable experience of familiarisation with the school, its surrounds and the peers and teachers our new Kindy children will engage with.

Session 1: 9:15-10:45am

Session 2: 11:45-1:15pm

## STAR CARD AWARDS

The last day for children to submit their star card awards will be Friday 2 December. Once all cards are counted and finalised, invitations will be sent to those recipients of Principal Awards to the coveted Principal's Morning Tea.



## END OF YEAR EVENTS: DATE REMINDER

- ★ **Tuesday 6 December** (6pm - 8pm): End of Year Awards & Christmas Story @OLMC on the grass. Bring a picnic blanket and light snack to enjoy the festivities.
- ★ **Friday 16th December** (1:30pm-3:10): End of Year Mass @OLMC Parish
- ★ **Friday 16th December** (6pm-10pm): Yr6 Graduation Dinner @OLMC Parish Holroyd Centre, Merrylands

## WHITE RIBBON DAY

The White Ribbon Campaign is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls, specifically focusing on changing the attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence against women. The victims of violence are not merely statistics; they are our wives, sisters, mothers, daughters, aunties, friends and colleagues. As a community we believe violence (in any form) is never acceptable and that every person has the right to feel safe and respected in their relationships. At OLMC we primarily focus on being safe and respectful in all that we say and do, knowing that the most impressionable members of our society are constantly watching us for guidance, your children.



If you or someone you know is experiencing violence and need help or support, please contact one of the support hotline numbers below.

**1800RESPECT** 1800 737 732    **Lifeline** 13 11 14    **Kids Help Line** 1800 551 800    **Relationships Australia** 1300 364 277

## SWIMMING LESSONS

Next week the children will commence their swimming lessons. During the first two days of the swimming program the instructors will assess the children's ability and check this against the information parents provided. During this period the assessments take place in either the deep pool or the shallow pool. The swim teachers need to ensure the children are capable swimmers before using the deep pool. Throughout the two week program the swim teachers will constantly assess the children and will move their groupings as required. Sometimes the children will use alternate pools depending on what they are being instructed in during that day's lesson. Please remember parents are always welcome to observe the lesson from the viewing area but must not enter the pool deck area.

For some of our students, this is a very new experience. Mr Jones has put together a short clip which our students have viewed several times with their class teachers. If your child (or it may even be yourself) is feeling a little unsure, you may find viewing the clip as a useful way of reducing the worries. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnrfJmROX\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnrfJmROX_Q)



## P&F NEWS



**Are you a Parent or Carer at OLMC?** If so, you are already part of the OLMC Parent & Friends Association. There is no initiation, application form or fees to join. All Parents/Carers are in this exciting team together, as one community. We are fortunate enough to have the P&F to be able to organise and mark off the different events in our social calendar. The P&F make memories and connect families together. In order to continue this for our children we need to help out wherever possible, get involved and support each other. To make things easier and balanced for everyone **'The Support Crew'** was introduced in 2021 and has thus far been very successful!

The Support Crew is exactly that! Parents and carers coming together to support the school, their children and community. It is a quick and easy form of communication for all upcoming P&F events. When we have events we will then contact you. If you're able to assist, that is great! If you can't, that's ok too.

We all have work and home commitments, after school activities, appointments and day to day tasks that need attention. We know that our families have many things that demand their time and so we appreciate any assistance you may offer. It is simply there for people to help out when they can. 'Many hands make light work' and we are so blessed with a community of individuals who are always willing to pitch in when needed. There is no such thing as too many helpers, we ask you to please consider getting involved!

If you are interested in being part of the P&F support crew, please send through your name, number and eldest child's name/class to our **President Karly Jouni- 0447 000 536**.

*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.*



Year 2



# Rouse Hill Farm Excursion

On Tuesday the 22nd of November, Year 2 explored the grounds of Rouse Hill House and Farm and were transported back to the year 1889. We dressed up as students and explored life as it would be. We went to school and learnt how to spell, we used an abacus and wrote on slate-boards, we marched around the grounds and went to the 'gym', we even learnt how to stitch. We experienced the role of children working on a farm.



I learnt that in the olden days the children used to wake up super early and do chores, even in their spare time. My favourite part was when we fed the chickens.

- Naksh. S



I learnt that horses lived in stables and how cows are milked, now we just milk them using machines, but 100 years ago we needed to use our hands. My favourite part was when we fed the chickens, because the chickens were cute

-Tiana. T



I learnt how to sew, people in the olden days used to sew their own clothes.

My favourite part was when we were pretending to be from 1882. We dressed up like the people would too, their clothes were less colourful than ours. I liked this because, we could dress up and participate in fun activities

-Sophia. F



I learnt how to sew and how life used to be 100's of years ago, it's very different to life now.

My favourite part was feeding the chickens, because I really like animals and using the water pump, we don't need to use a pump now, our water comes to our taps.

-Ilia. A

