



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! It was wonderful to see the excitement on the faces of the children yesterday as they arrived at school. The children were eager to reconnect with their friends and meet their teachers. There were many parents who were equally excited to send their children off to school again.

The beginning of a new school year is the opportunity for a fresh start. When I visited the children in their classrooms on Tuesday the discussions were about the expectations we had of each other and the goals the children wanted to achieve this year. The children identified that many things about their new grade were similar while others were different. Michael Zaitouni summed it up the best when he said the difference was that now he is a bit older the expectation was that he would be more responsible. Our Year 5 and Year 6 students commented about how they would demonstrate leadership and responsibility, particularly in relation to their buddies.

It is fitting that as we began our new school year our Sunday reading last week focused on the Beatitudes. We also know this as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Through the Beatitudes Jesus was telling us how God wants human beings to be and act. They are attitudes, or ways we should behave each day. Mountains are important in scripture stories as the Jewish people of Jesus' time believed that being atop a mountain made them closer to God. This week at home you might discuss how the teachings Jesus gave us help us to make ourselves and others happy and help to build God's Kingdom here on earth.

As we begin this new school year, let us reflect on the Gospel and consider the Beattitudes we can live...

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure of heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

This year we warmly welcome a number of new staff into the OLMC family. I am sure that our parents and children will make them feel welcome and understand what makes our school community a special one. Welcome to Miss Penelope Collyer (Year 2), Miss Mikayla Ozols (Year 5), Miss Natalie Touma (Year 5), Mrs Rachel Paine (Year 6) and Ms Rebecca McMullen (PE).

I also warmly welcome all the new families joining OLMC this year and hope that your time at OLMC is a special one. Tomorrow we look forward to welcoming our Kindergarten children and families to our school.

Olimpia Pirovic

Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 2:

Wed: Yr6 Camp (Collaroy)

Thur: FIRST DAY FOR 2023

KINDERGARTEN 9:10am Start

Yr6 Camp (Collaroy)

Kindy Pick up at 3pm from the Basketball Court Entry

Fri: Yr6 Camp (Collaroy)

Kindy Pick up at 3pm from the Basketball Court Entry

Week 3:

Mon: 9am Assembly

Tue: 7pm- 8:30pm 2023 Kindergarten Parent information Evening

Fri: World Youth Day Fundraising Event (Mufti Day)

Welcome Dinner 5:30-7:30pm

NOTES HOME

THIS WEEK

- Whole School Ice-Block & Movie
- Kindy & new families only: Compass Info
- Welcome Dinner Invitation

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

At OLMC our main communication channels to parents are:

- ~ **Weekly Newsletter**
- ~ **COMPASS PARENT PORTAL**
- ~ **School Website**
- ~ **School Facebook Page**

Each Wednesday our newsletter, which is the main source of communication with our community, is emailed to our parents and distributed via the Compass parent Portal and always available on our [school website](#). Don't forget to make sure that you have the COMPASS PARENT PORTAL app on your phone, and that it is active and functioning. If you have any issues please email Mrs Anderiesz at Landeriesz@parra.catholic.edu.au.

It is the responsibility of parents to read any notes or communications and refer back to them when you have questions. Our staff are often repeatedly asked many questions which have already been communicated, please ensure you re-read these notes before you call the school.

COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

The compass parent portal is a key point of communication for parents. It is used to share information with parents and a resource to communicate student attendance. At least one parent in each family is asked to have the Compass App downloaded.

ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS - Please ensure that the school is notified if your child is absent from school. The preferred method is to 'ADD' (+) an attendance notification through the COMPASS PARENT PORTAL for your child. Teachers monitor parent notes daily and will contact you if there is an issue with the reason you have provided.

EXTENDED LEAVE - All holiday leave consisting of two (2) or more days must be approved by the Principal and requires a leave application. A leave form can be obtained from the school office or [website](#). All leave must be submitted as early as possible with a minimum of at least two weeks prior to your intended leave. This leave cannot be submitted through the COMPASS PARENT PORTAL.

CONTACT DETAILS - Please call or email the school office if/when you have changed home address, home/mobile phone number or email accounts. It is vital that we have the correct information in case of emergencies and to ensure accurate billing information. If you need to update your mobile number or email, this can be done via the COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

PE LESSONS AND SPORT DAYS: STARTING NEXT WEEK

In each grade, the children wear their sports uniform on the day they have Physical Education lessons and their Sport Lesson. There will be occasions where these days may change due to timetable changes. When this occurs, parents will be notified with a note or via the newsletter. This year our PE lessons will be conducted by Fit Futures who provide qualified PE teachers. The children are meeting Ms McMullen. The following schedule indicates the days students need to wear their sports uniforms.



Kindergarten	Monday and Thursday
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Year 1	Thursday and Friday
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Year 2	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
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Year 3	Tuesday and Thursday
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Year 4	Tuesday and Friday
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Year 5	Monday and Wednesday
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Year 6	Wednesday and Friday
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SCHOOL UNIFORM & HAIRCUTS

Thank you to parents for ensuring that the children returned to school on Tuesday looking so fresh in their full summer uniform. We appreciate parent support in ensuring their children wear their correct school uniform and have appropriate school haircuts throughout the year.

OLMC Haircut Expectations

- **Boys** - Neat and simple haircuts, no undercuts or colouring, no shorter than a **number 2**, no rat tails, mullets, or patterns shaved in, cuts should be graduated without obvious difference in length.
- **Girls** - Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. Long fringes should be kept back with clips or a hairband. No hair colouring is permitted. Hair ties, ribbons and headbands must be white, blue or school uniform pattern. Cultural braided additions must be a natural colour without beading.

(Please note the final decision is at the discretion of the principal)

LABELLING ALL ITEMS

Please ensure that all personal items (clothing, lunchboxes, bags, etc.) are clearly labelled with your child(ren)'s name. Each year there are numerous items of clothing, especially hats and jackets that have no names or identification in lost property.

NO NAME = We can't find the OWNER

STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

Morning Drop Off

- Parents/carers are encouraged to **STAY IN/AT THEIR CAR** and watch as their child/ren walk into the school to support the flow of traffic. In the morning Bennett St is a No Parking zone.
- We continue to have no parents onsite in the morning as a way of supporting our students in their independence and socialisation habits.
- On Monday when we have assembly, parents are more than welcome to attend. However we ask parents wait until the bell has rung and most the students are seated until they enter the school. This is to ensure you don't get injured while our students are playing and running around.
- Please remember that Smith St has a School Bus Zone in effect in the morning and afternoon, this means parents are not able to park here.

Late Arrivals

Sometimes unforeseen situations will occur and families will be late for school. To support the flow of traffic we will continue with the process of

1. Parents walk students to the office doors to make sure they enter the building.
2. The office staff sign them in as late.
3. In the afternoon parents receive an 'Explain Partial Absence' letter or notification via the Compass App.
4. Families are asked to complete it straight away and **return any notes the very next day.**

Please note that an explanation is required - We are not able to enter 'Late' in the roll record.

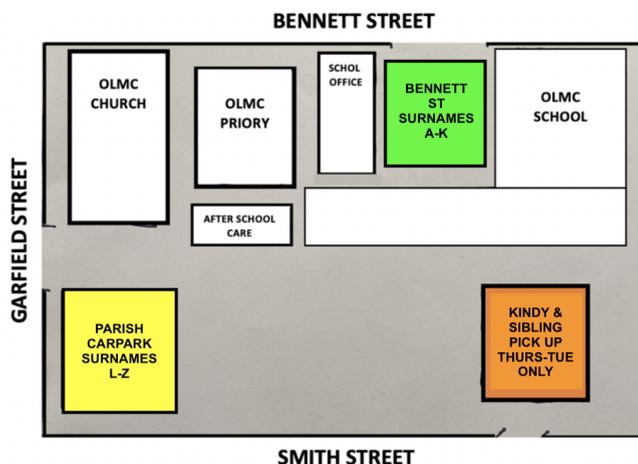
Afternoon Pick Up

- Pick begins at 3:10pm
- There are **TWO** pick up areas:
1. BENNETT STREET PICK UP AREA - Families with a surname beginning with the letters **A-K** pick up from the **Bennett Street** gate

- 2. GARFIELD STREET CARPARK PICK UP AREA** - Families with a surname beginning with the letters **L-Z** pick up from the **Parish Carpark**

Having two zones is all about increasing the flow of traffic so parents are asked to

- **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 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 are asked to walk into the school and wait. Do not wave to or call your child from outside the gate. They will be stopped and asked to return to their place in the line so that we can be sure they are leaving with the correct person and are exiting the school safely.
- At 3:20 pm all children who are still waiting to be collected will be brought to the front playground.



SAFE DRIVING & PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOURS

Parents are asked to be considerate and patient during pick-up and drop-off times. All of our surrounding streets are very active and require traffic to keep moving due to buses and the ever flowing traffic on Station Rd from the Great Western Highway, especially in the afternoons.

Parents are asked to follow these practices no matter which zone they are collecting their child from::

1. Keep the flow of traffic going by moving on quickly;
2. If you cannot park and someone is not leaving within a few seconds, YOU MUST MOVE ON. Please continue around the block until the next available parking space;
3. Roads that surround a school (Bennett Street, Smith St, Garfield St) have double lines. **This means U-Turns are illegal**
4. Pedestrians also have a responsibility to be safe. Walking behind or in front of moving cars is dangerous. Parents are asked to model responsible pedestrian behaviour by walking to the crossing to cross safely!
5. Park on a surrounding street and walk to the school to collect your child;
6. If a school bus is coming up the street behind you, keep moving unless you are parking immediately;



We understand that these times of the day are frustrating, however, we have to work together to ensure the safety of the children and all road users.

P&F NEWS

Welcome back!

A big welcome back to our students and families. Welcome also to the new students and families who have joined our OLMC community. We hope and pray for an amazing year ahead.

To celebrate this new year, the P&F of OLMC would like to invite you to our annual welcome back dinner. A night to catch up with one another. Food, drinks and entertainment will be provided. Please bring your picnic blankets and your family's favourite dessert that will be shared with all at the dessert table. An invitation is coming home today with all the details, so be sure to check your child's bag.

We hope to see you all there!

Volunteering to Help

The Parents and Friends Association relies on the participation of all our parents in whatever way they are able. We all enjoy attending these events, but they require parents other than those on the executive to help. We need parents to help with the Uniform Shop Sale and the Welcome Dinner. If you can help out please fill out [this Google Form](#) or contact our P&F President Karly Jouni on 0447 000 536. Volunteering to help with these events provides you with the opportunity to form friendships with other parents, build community and make a valuable contribution to our school life.



PARENTS & FRIENDS OF OLMC
LET'S WELCOME IN 2023 TOGETHER!

FRIDAY, 10TH OF FEBRUARY

5:30-8:30PM

SMITH STREET ENTRY

DINNER AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING A PICNIC BLANKET AND YOUR FAMILY'S FAVOURITE DESSERT TO BE SHARED AT THE DESSERT TABLE!

FREE LUCKY DRAW PRIZE UPON ENTRY

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT FILLED WITH FOOD, MUSIC AND LOTS OF GREAT ACTIVITIES! AN OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP AND MEET NEW FAMILIES.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Staff 2023

Principal:	Miss Olympia Pirovic
Assistant Principal:	Mrs Lauren Anderiesz
RE Coordinator:	Mrs Abigail Diaz (Acting Religious Education & Stage 2 Leader)
Coordinator:	Miss Deborah Osei-Adomako (Stage 3 Leader)
Coordinator:	Miss Therese Coutinho (ES1 & Stage 1 Leader)
Special Projects:	Mrs Katie Carswell
Administration Staff:	Mrs Maree Murphy (Finance) Mrs Vicky Penna (Administration) Mrs Margaret Grant (Business Manager)
Early Stage 1:	KB - Miss Melissa Khoshaba KG - Mrs Jessica Toth
Stage 1:	1B - Mrs Katie Carswell 1G - Mrs Frances Orlando 2B - Miss Penny Collyer (Mon-Thurs) & Mrs Sharon Taylor (Fri) 2G - Miss Therese Coutinho (Mon, Wed-Fri) & Mrs Sharon Taylor (Tue)
Stage 2:	3B - Miss Jessica Dooley 3G - Mrs Elise Stevenson (Mon-Wed, Fri) & Mrs D'Anne Worsley (Thurs) 4B - Mrs Abigail Diaz (3 days Mon-Wed) & Mrs Stefanie Chehade (2 days Thur-Fri) 4G - Miss Amarese Sharma
Stage 3:	5B - Miss Mikayla Ozols 5G - Miss Natalie Touma 6B - Miss Deborah Osei-Adomako (Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri) & Mrs Rachel Paine (Wed) 6G - Mrs Kimberly Pearn (Wed-Fri) & Mrs Rachel Paine (Mon-Tue)
LTST:	Mrs Elise Stevenson
IT Assistant	Mr Henry Clemson (Mon, Thur, Fri)
Diversity:	Mrs Lauren Anderiesz - EMU - Year 3 Mrs Hilary Smith - EMU - Year 1 Mrs Elisa Speranza (Tue-Fri) Mrs Kath Noble (Mon-Wed) Mrs Jennie Cerniauskas (Mon-Wed & Fri) Mrs Suzy Kirby - Reading Recovery Miss Vivian Mikhael (Tues-Thurs) Miss Erin Ho (Mon-Wed) Mrs Victoria Dihka (Tues & Thurs)
Reading Recovery:	Mrs Suzy Kirby
Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU):	Mrs Lauren Anderiesz Mrs Hilary Smith
School Counsellor:	Ms Sara Kennedy (7 days per fortnight)
Teacher Assistants:	Mrs Diane Gauci (Mon-Fri) Mrs Alyson Hanson (Mon-Fri) Mrs Judi Cundy (Mon-Wed) Mrs Jo Martin (Mon-Thurs) Mrs Sandii Bahari (Mon-Fri)
Music/Dance/Drama (RFF):	Mrs Melissa Laus (Tues - Thurs)
Physical Education (RFF):	Fit Futures (Tues - Thurs)
Cleaning Staff:	Golden Touch Cleaning – Sam Pioz Director / Ben - Current Cleaner
Maintenance/Grounds	Mr Peter Wood (Mon, Wed & Fri 7:30am-3pm)
Canteen Operator:	Mrs Farideh Moussa
COSHC Coordinator:	Ms Elham Jahanbakhsh

2023 SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY EVENTS*

TERM 1		TERM 1 & 2		TERM 2 & 3		TERM 4	
January		7	Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival (Mt Druitt)	23	Semester One Reports Sent Home Book Fair Commences	26	2:10pm P&F Executive Meeting
26	Australia Day Public Holiday	14	Diocesan Swimming Carnival (TBC)	26-30	Parent/Teacher Interview Week Book Fair Continues	October	
27	Staff Return - Staff Development Day (NO STUDENTS) K-6 Maths Assessment Interviews	15-27	NAPLAN testing window	30	Last Day Term 2	27	World Teachers' Day
30	K-6 Maths Assessment Interviews	April		July		30	7pm Parents & Friends AGM
31	School Resumes for Yr 1 to Yr 6 Kindergarten MAI Interviews	3-6	Holy Week Reflection	Term 3		31	Kindergarten 2024 Playgroup
February		6	Last Day of Term 1	17	School Resumes Term 3	November	
1	Kindergarten MAI Interviews	7	Good Friday (NO STUDENTS)	14	10am OLMC Feast Day Grandparents Day Celebration	2	Kindergarten 2024 Playgroup
1-3	Year 6 Camp	9	Easter Sunday	August		8	Kindergarten 2024 Playgroup
2	Kindergarten Commence	Term 2		3	2:10pm P&F Executive Meeting	9	Kindergarten 2024 Playgroup
6	Playgroup Begins (TBC)	24	School Resumes Term 2 (Winter Uniform)	8	Feast of St Mary MacKillop 7pm P&F General Meeting	14	Kindergarten 2024 Playgroup
7	Parent Information Evening 6:30-8pm	25	Anzac Day - Public Holiday	8	Cumberland Zone Athletics	14	Yr 4 2024 BYOD evening
9	2:10pm P&F Executive Meeting	May		18	National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence	16	Kindergarten 2024 Playgroup
15	P&F General Meeting	9	Mothers' Day Stall (TBC)	25	Diocesan Athletics (Blacktown)	23	Kindergarten 2024 Orientation
17	Opening School Mass	10	Diocesan Cross Country	29	Father's Day Stall (TBC)	27-8	Swimming Program K-6
20	Kindy 2024 Enrolment Period Begins	11	2:10pm P&F Exec Meeting	September		30	Yr5 Surf Awareness
22	Ash Wednesday	12	Mother's Day Celebration	1	Fathers' Day Celebration	December	
23	Open Morning for Kindergarten 2024 & prospective enrolments	14	Mothers' Day	3	Fathers' Day	5	6pm-8pm Christmas Story & End of Year Awards (TBC)
28	Zone Swimming Carnival	15	School Photo Day	22	Last Day Term 3	7	Yr6 Surf Awareness
March		16	7pm P&F General Meeting	October		11	Swimming Carnival (TBC)
3	Staff Development Day	27-3	National Reconciliation Week	Term 4		15	1:30pm End of Year Mass (TBC)
6-10	Catholic Schools Week	June		9	School Resumes Term 4 (Summer Uniform)	15	6pm Yr 6 Graduation Dinner (TBC)
7	Meet the Teacher Goal setting Meetings Late Night	12	King's Birthday Holiday	24	6:30pm Kindergarten 2024 Information Evening	15	Last Day of Term 4

* All events are subject to current restriction advice and may be changed