



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Today is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the most important period of our church year, the Lent and the Easter Season. The events that we remember during this period are the foundation of our Catholic Religion. Each time we attend Mass as a community we recall these events when Jesus made his earthly body the sacrifice for all humankind.

Today I share with you an excerpt from an Ash Wednesday homily by Pope Francis' that I thought was thought provoking:

'People often remark on the way our churches are filled on Ash Wednesday. It's not a holy day of obligation. No one is required to attend Mass or receive blessed ashes. But there's something about the beginning of this season of Lent that draws us in, calls us to return to sanity, to a bit of austerity, to a change of heart and mind. It's a second chance at our new year's resolutions, long since broken and forgotten. It's a second chance at making changes in our lives. For some people, it's no less than a second chance at life. That something that draws us is God's grace. And it draws us back to God's merciful embrace.'

There's something attractive about Lent beginning in the middle of an ordinary week, catching us in the midst of our daily occupations and asking us to take time out to find God there. Lent doesn't take us away from our ordinary lives, but rather it invites us to bring a new and holy attention to those activities. This should be the way with all of our spiritual practices. We take time apart in order to return to our daily activities with new inspiration. God will always surprise us with possibilities when we least expect them. Let this Lent be one of those surprises.

Each year when Lent comes along, I often think of a conversation I once had with an elderly friend. He told me that he thought giving things up was an easy thing to do during Lent. Something more challenging is to reach out to those we sometimes lose sight of and to be of service to others. It can mean a great deal when we stop for a few minutes to have a chat with someone, simply sharing your time is a great act of service. Lent is our opportunity to show the God in us, to be models of grace and allow others to feel God's embrace through our actions.



During this Lenten season, how will you show God in you?

Olimpia Pirovic
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 5:

Thur: 8:15am Sharp:
Morning Workout
9:15am Open Day for
Kindergarten 2024 &
Prospective Enrolments

Week 6:

Mon: 9am Assembly: 3G
Tue: 9:15am Open Day for Kindergarten
2024 & Prospective Enrolments
Uniform Orders due before 4pm
Thur: Cross Country Carnival
Fri: SDD (NO STUDENTS)

NOTES HOME

THIS WEEK

- Kindy, Yr1 & Yr2 Technology Contract
- Yr3, Yr5 & Yr6 Technology Contract
- Yr1 Reward Day Term 1
- Yr2 Home Readers Note
- Project Compassion
- Catholic Schools Week Invitation
- K-6 Grade Overviews

LAST WEEK

- K-6 School Fees
- K-6 Meet The Teacher Booking Information
- K-6 OLMC Cross Country Carnival
- Yr3 The Matter of Matter
- Yr3 Student Log in Note

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (SDD): FRIDAY 3rd MARCH

NO STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL

MERIT AWARDS

KB	John-Paul • Diya	4B	Joshua • Aarush
KG	Marco • Veronica	4G	Charbel • Isabella
1B	Alexander • Maria	5B	Anabel • Emily
1G	Zanthe • Nysa	5G	Jad • Jayden
2B	Rita • Ghaith	6B	Katrina • Jada
2G	Sarah • Lucas	6G	Adam • Elyssa
3B	Emma • Kriti	C.A	Inayat • Sanaa
3G	Jacob • Sienna		

PROJECT COMPASSION

STARTS TODAY - Wed 22nd February! There was an error in the note sent home today regarding the start date. Project Compassion officially runs from Week 5 22nd February to Week 11 6th April. All donations will need to be submitted through the Qkr app. Children are encouraged to “earn their donation” by completing tasks at home. All donations will contribute to the colour house tallies. Thank you for your generosity and compassionate spirit during this Lenten season.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Catholic Schools Week begins on Monday 6th March and runs until Sunday 12th March. To mark this occasion, we will be holding a number of events during the week including opportunities for families to connect and share in prayerful experiences with their children. We invite families to

SAVE THE DATE for Monday 6th March 11:30am - 2:10pm.

The events on this day will include a liturgy, family group activities and a picnic lunch. An invitation has been sent home with all the relevant information.

SCHOOL FEES ACCOUNTS

Term 1 school fees accounts have been mailed to all parents by CSDP directly to your home address. Please check your account and ensure that all details are correct. Should you have any queries regarding your account, please contact Maree Murphy in the school office on 8832 1100. Payment plans for 2023 school fees should be in place to commence on Wednesday 15th March.

MEET THE TEACHER BOOKINGS

Last week, all families received a Meet The Teacher booking information sheet and questionnaire. Please ensure you **complete and bring the questionnaire to your meeting** as that will form the basis of your discussions and support the teaching team to construct effective teaching/learning programs. The teachers will also share with you the goals that your child will be working on during Semester One.

Book via

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Code: jwqkh

THURSDAY MORNING WORKOUTS

Our first Thursday Morning Workout session was a huge success with students from Kindy to Year 6 enjoying the early morning exercise opportunity. Just a reminder for our families, The gates open at 8:15am, stay open for a few minutes and are then closed. If you arrive with the gates closed, **your child has missed the session for the week**. Please do not attempt to enter via the office as our office staff can not be shuttling multiple students back and forth. Children can either wear their sport uniform or regular school uniform if they are participating.



KINDERGARTEN 2024

We can't believe that we're here already! The 2024 Kindergarten enrolment period will commence on the 20th February with enrolment packs being made available for prospective parents to collect from the office. We have also scheduled two open mornings on February 23rd and February 28th beginning promptly at 9:30am. We encourage all prospective families to attend one of the tours as they provide an opportunity for you to get a 'feel' for the school, meet other parents and staff and to ask any questions you may have about the enrolment process. [Please register your interest via the link.](#)



TYPING PRACTISE

With NAPLAN Online just around the corner and our world rapidly relying on digital efficiency, typing is an important skill. The more comfortable students are typing, the more they can focus on the quality of what they are trying to achieve. <https://www.typingclub.com/> is a free typing program that students can use to improve their keyboard familiarity. Typing messages, shopping lists and reminders can also help their fluency.

NUMERACY AT HOME

The **numeracy@HOME** resources support maths learning during everyday activities, such as when families are preparing meals, playing games, or walking down the street. <https://www.numeracyathome.com/> resources acknowledge that families are children's first maths educators and support parents through a range of videos, tip sheets, a blog, and a facebook feed.



ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Please ensure that you access COMPASS to enter an absence notification for your child as soon as possible. When you enter an absence notification, you must provide a reason for why your child is away. Please be as specific as possible. If you forget to enter your child's attendance before the roll is marked you will receive a SMS to notify you of your child's absence from class. This SMS includes a link which you can use to easily add the reason for your child's absence. However, this link is only live for 24 hours, after which you will have to enter the app and provide a reason. Any unexplained absences will be followed by a letter asking for your explanation. Please complete and return to school as soon as possible as it is a legal requirement that we keep accurate records of student attendance data.

STUDENT ILLNESS

During the past week we have had a number of children who have come to school and been sent home as they are unwell, all before 11am. While restrictions regarding student illness are back to pre-covid protocols, we still ask parents to use common sense in regards to sending children to school if they are unwell. The rule of thumb is, if you are medicating your child to get them to school, apart from regular or seasonal medication, they are too sick and should be kept at home. If your child has a high fever, vomiting, is coughing up phlegm or sneezing constantly and what is coming out is any other colour besides clear, then they are too sick. Students who are unwell need to stay home, rest and recover.

Parents are also asked to be respectful to school staff who call to ask for a child to be collected. Knowing that a call for child collection is inconvenient to families, our office staff monitor all children for a significant amount of time prior to calling you, this helps to rule out other factors and make sure a child pick up is warranted.

P&F NEWS

P&F General Meeting

Thank you to those who attended the first P&F General meeting of the year. It was lovely to see familiar faces and meet some new faces.

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 the variety of events, but they require parents other than those on the executive to help. Volunteering to help with school events provides you with the opportunity to form friendships with other parents, build community and make a valuable contribution to our school life. If you would like to participate and help out please fill out [this Google Form](#) or contact our P&F President Karly Jouni on 0447 000 536.

It was great to finally wrap up all the information pertaining to last year's OLMC FETE. We once again thank everyone that helped make the FETE so successful. We were very grateful for our sponsors GBS, Access Valuations, Speedway Petroleum and CDS. A special mention goes out to Karly Jouni for all her tireless hard work and time, this FETE would not have been possible without her! The final profit made was \$39,861 which will be shared between the school and parish; \$11,958 parish share, \$27903 school share. Thank you to all who supported our Fete.

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

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

2023

COMMUNITY ●

CONNECT ●

CHALLENGE



Our Stage 2 choir led us in praise and worship through their beautiful voices!



All grades contributed to the prayer intentions during our Mass.

Our Prayer

Lord, just as one of your stories has so many parts, so too has ours. There are many people who help us along the way and shape us into the people we will become. May we never stop listening to you and asking your help as we continue to build and grow as the community of Mount Carmel. Amen.

On Friday 17th Feb, we celebrated our Opening School Mass. It was the first Opening School Mass celebrated in our beloved parish of OLMC since 2019! During our Mass, we were invited to consider our school's theme for the year of Community, Connect and Challenge.



We also took this opportunity to officially congratulate our Student and Sport Leaders, and our Student Representative Council, as well as welcome all the new members of our school community.



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ENROLMENT PERIOD FOR 2024
HAPPENING NOW**



**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WENTWORTHVILLE**

**ENROLLING NOW FOR
KINDERGARTEN 2024**



**OPEN
MORNINGS**

**Thursday 23rd February
Tuesday 28th February
9:30am**

Talk by Principal and tour of the school.



**Scan to Register
for a
School Tour**



**Scan to watch a
Virtual Tour of
OLMC School**



Applications DUE Monday 3rd April 2023

**Bennett Street Wentworthville
Tel: 8832 1100**

olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.olmcwentworthville.catholic.edu.au

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

2024 may seem a long time away! However, if you have a child who is due to commence High School in 2024, Now is the time to collect enrolment packs and submit them. All Catholic Schools in the Parramatta Diocese formally commence their enrolment period during Catholic Schools Week (6-11 March 2023). Our local high schools are already accepting enrollment applications for 2024 and beyond. This is a good time for Year 5 parents to attend open days or school tours to explore options.

Many of our families consider the following Catholic High Schools for their children:



Catherine McAuley
2 Darcy Road, Westmead
98499100
www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au



St Pauls Catholic College
198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes
8868 3700
www.stpaulsgreystanes.catholic.edu.au



Parramatta Marist
2 Darcy Road, Westmead
9848 7100
www.parramarist.catholic.edu.au



Delany College
Granville

Delany College
Grimwood Street Granville
8633 8100
www.delanygranville.catholic.edu.au

Cerdon College



Cerdon College
74 Sherwood Rd, Merrylands West
8724 7300
www.cerdonmerrylands.catholic.edu.au



Enrolling Now for 2024

Come and see our school! School tours will run during Catholic Schools Week on Tuesday 7th March, Wednesday 8th March and Thursday 9th March.

All tours begin at 9.15am and finish by 11am.

Book directly for a school tour by visiting our website under Enrolment/Visiting Our School.

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2024 (First Round Offers) are due by mid March 2023. Applications for other years may be submitted at any time.

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au



OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN DAY

Sunday, 5 March | 9.00am – 3.00pm

Courageous Advocates. Limitless Possibilities.



*Many Gifts -
One Community*

OPEN DAY

SUNDAY, 12 MARCH | 11:30AM - 2:30PM

- College Tours
- Lesson Demonstrations
- Parents & Friends Association
- Staff and Students available to answer your questions

CONTACT US



02 8868 3700



St Pauls Catholic College,
Greystanes



spaulscollegegreystanes



www.stpaulsgreystanes.catholic.edu.au

