



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

This Sunday marks the fourth Sunday of Lent. The Gospel reading this week tells the story of the miracle of Jesus healing the Blind Man. When Jesus saw the blind man, he spat on the ground to make a paste and then rubbed it over the man's eyes. Jesus then sent the man to the Pool of Siloam, a ritual bath, where he washed himself to find that his sight had been restored.

The man was then taken to the Pharisees who, being blinded by the laws of the Jewish rituals, failed to see Jesus as God, but saw him as a sinner because he had broken the laws of the Sabbath. The blind man in contrast saw the truth very clearly and rebuked the Pharisees because they failed to see the truth of Jesus before their very own eyes. The blind man, despite his physical blindness, was open to Jesus' actions and an encounter with Truth himself.



We all have blind spots in our thinking - an inner Pharisee - obscuring our understanding of the truth and of reality. Instead the truth we are capable of knowing is replaced with partial truths, because it would be uncomfortable to acknowledge the whole truth about ourselves, our mistakes or our circumstances. So we hide away from these truths and ignore the things we may need to address. When we do this we miss the opportunity to know the great truth of God's love for us and His desire to heal and to help us love God and all his people.

Let us consider:

*In what ways have I been blind like the Pharisees?*

*How can I be open to Jesus so as to see the love and light of God more clearly?*

We do not set out on our days of vulnerability to encounter God, but he sets out to encounter us. This week, be attentive to situations where God might be trying to encounter you through prayer, other or nature.

Today our Year 3 and Year 5 children commence NAPLAN. Our children are well prepared and we encourage all families to remember that this testing is an indication of one point in time and does not represent the whole picture of our children as learners. Their NAPLAN results will not stop them from getting into high school or being successful individuals. We wish all our Year 3 and Year 5 children well.

*Olimpia Pirovic*

Principal

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



When I was on pilgrimage, I was able to visit The Pool of Siloam which was a sacred Christian site. The exact location of the original pool as it existed during the time of Jesus remained a mystery until June 2004 when excavations revealed it near the City of David outside the walls of present day Jerusalem.

## UPCOMING DATES

**Week 8:** Yr3 & Yr5 NAPLAN continues

**Fri: 9:15am:** Yr2, Yr3 & Yr4 students attend Parish Mass (families are welcome to attend if they choose)

**Week 9:** Yr3 & Yr5 NAPLAN continues

**Mon: 9am** Assembly: 1B

**Tue:** Uniform Orders due before 4pm

## NOTES HOME

### THIS WEEK

- OLMC Homework Policy: Attached
- Yr6 Cumberland Place Plan In School Experience
- Yr4 Reward Day
- Kindergarten Staffing Update

### LAST WEEK

- Yr4 Staffing Update
- Yr6 Reward Day
- ECSI Parent Survey Letter

**2023 PROJECT COMPASSION: DONATE VIA THE QKR APP UNTIL THURSDAY 6 APRIL**

## MERIT AWARDS

KB	Jordan • Alexis	4B	Dev • Reis
KG	Victoria • Billy	4G	Kira • Joaquin • James
1B	Eloise • Liam	5B	Joseph • Aaliyah
1G	Rishhan • Senali	5G	Zachary • Yara
2B	Ethan • Ruth	6B	Olivia • Matthew
2G	Annabelle • Amelia	6G	Paige • Sienna
3B	Isabelle • Serah	CA	Adam • John-Paul • Anthony • Reuben
3G	Sri Harika • Siena		

## PROJECT COMPASSION UPDATE

Project Compassion runs until 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. Our Week 7 tally as of Monday 6/3 is as follows:

**Gilroy / Blue House: \$120**

**McAuley / Gold House: \$85**

**Elijah / Red House: \$75**

**MacKillop / Green House: \$55**

Thank you for your generosity and spirit of compassion during this Lenten season.

## KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENTS



Now is the time to finalise your Kindergarten enrolments for 2024. **If you have a child who has turned 5 or will turn 5 in the first half of 2024, now is the time to inquire as to your child's readiness.**

We will be sending out first round offers in 3 weeks. If one of your children already attends OLMC and you want to enrol your next child, the process and documentation is the same as for new families to our community. If you have not already collected and completed enrolment forms you need to do so ASAP!

## STAFFING NEWS

As with all our school families, our staff have family obligations that on occasion necessitate them taking leave. Mrs Toth will be taking leave until the end of Term 1 to support the care of her father. Mrs Speranza and Miss Nicholas will take on the responsibilities for Kindergarten Gold.

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The PRC is in full swing at OLMC! All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 have received their 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) username and log in to support families in updating their child's reading record. **For our parents with children in K, 1 or 2, your child's reading log is updated by Mrs Anderiesz from the books they experience with their class over the course of the challenge period.**

### Rules

- Students from Kinder-Year 2 must read a total of 30 books (20 from the [PRC List](#) and 10 of their personal choice)
- Students from Year 3-Year 6 must read a total of 20 books (10 from the [PRC List](#) and 10 of their personal choice)
- Challenge closes for student on Friday 18 August 2023 so **LET'S GET READING**



## REVIEWING/UPDATING FAMILY & STUDENT INFORMATION

Parents and carers should receive an email or SMS (for those parents without email) from Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) asking you to review and, where necessary, update important contact and student information. The link closes **on Sunday 19 March** so if you haven't already done so, please complete the review/update as soon as possible to ensure that your family's details are up to date.

If you have any questions or did not receive the link, please contact the CSPD Community Liaison Team on 9840 5796

## SAFE PARKING - NO PARKING IN DRIVEWAYS

As parents of our school community we expect you to be safe and respectful when you are dropping off and picking up your child/ren from school. Recently there have been reports of unsafe, intimidating and disrespectful behaviour from some of our parents and carers. One of the main issues recently is parents and carers who use the driveway outside the Bennett Street gate as a parking spot. Some parents pull into this space, between parked cars, or double park blocking traffic flow while their child 'quickly jumps out of/in' the car. This is unsafe and unacceptable behaviour from our parents and carers. **The driveway is not a parking spot or drop off point.** If you cannot safely park you need to drive around the block and try again. The example of your behaviour is observed by your child. We all need to be aware of the impact of our words and actions.



## WINTER UNIFORMS

Families are encouraged to organise winter uniforms for their child/ren as early as possible. We are unable to provide try-on sizes at school but a size guide is at the end of this newsletter. 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 4 April. Students must wear their winter uniform from the beginning of Term 2. **Please update your child's 2023 class on the app.**

**DON'T FORGET TO LABEL jackets, jumpers and hats**

## EMAILING STAFF

We value our strong relationship with families and welcome opportunities to communicate with parents and carers. We also recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to contact your child's teacher or other school staff. Although staff will read their emails at various times throughout the school day, their priority is teaching the children and preparing for their class. They are generally not expected to respond to emails outside of normal working hours. In the case of emergency please contact the school office via email on [olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olmcwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au) or phone 8832 1100. Staff will return your call or respond to your email as soon as possible.

If your child's teacher has provided you with their email you can email them directly or send your emails to the school email account, which will then be directed to your child's teacher or another relevant staff member. This helps us to have confidence that we are aware of any matters needing our attention as a team, and that you are connected to the person who can best help.

## PARENT ECSI SURVEYS

Over the coming weeks, all students from Years 5 and 6 at OLMC, along with all staff and **one parent from each family** will be invited to complete the Catholic Identity Survey.

To enable us to get the best possible picture of our community we would like to invite you to attend **one 'Introduction and Survey' session** in the school library on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday 21st March, 7:00pm
- Friday 31st March, 9:00am
- Friday 31st March, 2:15pm
- Tuesday 4th April, 7:00pm

If you are able to attend a session we ask you to please complete the Google form so that we are able to cater appropriately.

<https://forms.gle/C7JsD5NzKqSZCJ1D>

## PARENT GOD DAY

God Day will be celebrated on Friday 6th April at 11:30am. Families are invited to take part in our annual celebration in two ways:

1. Participate in the creation of our Parent God Day display which will occur on **Friday 31st March 10:00am & 3:20pm** in the Teacher Planning Room.
2. Join our Easter Liturgy & God Day Walkthrough on **Thursday 6th April 11:30am to 1:30pm** on the back playground and learning spaces.

If you wish to participate in our Parent God Day display, please contact the office or email Mrs Abigail Diaz at [amagtanong3@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amagtanong3@parra.catholic.edu.au)

If you are unable to make the session time but would still like to participate, please email Mrs Diaz to arrange for a take home pack to be sent home to complete.

## P&F NEWS

### Second Hand Uniform Sale

Please come by to our upcoming uniform shop sale, Wed 29th March 2:45-3:30pm.

For any donations please bring them to the school office.

If you have some time to spare, help is needed to sort the uniforms and serve our parents. All help is appreciated. Please sign up to the link below:

<https://signup.com/go/hCQfxUq>

### Parent Representative Council (PRC) Event

Each term the PRC hosts an information session for parents. This term's focus is on Children's Mental Health. The event will take place on 20 March at CathWest's Mt Druitt campus. Please see the last page for more details.

*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 3 SCIENCE INCURSION

## THE MATTER OF MATTER



In Science this term Year 3 students are learning about materials and the states of matter. They are learning to describe everyday examples of the changing states of matter. They are also learning about the scientific process where they will make predictions and observations during experiments.

To support their learning in Science students engaged in an incursion focusing on the states of matter. They participated in experiments by observing how adding and removing heat can cause changes in the states of matter.

Year 3 learnings from the incursion:

- Olivia, Kiara, Luke and Serah: The plasma ball was lots of fun and cool to touch!
- Emma and Sophie: We learnt that gas can melt and turn into plasma. We also learnt that electricity is a form of plasma.
- Iliia, Lachlan and Isabelle M and Isabelle T: We thought the dry ice experiment was cool because you got see the reaction when the ice was dropped into the liquid and touch the bubbles.
- Kriti and Anaishca: We learnt what the states of matter are - solid, liquid, gas and plasma
- Rishaan and Daniel: We really enjoyed seeing dry ice for the first time. We learnt that it is minus 78 degrees celsius which means you cannot touch it with your bare hands.







## 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.

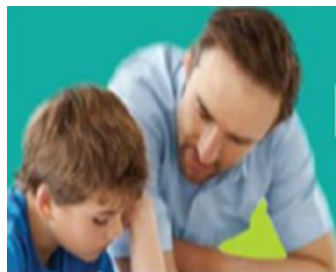
It is vital that families understand our position about homework. Our children participate in a full day of learning. In determining homework, we acknowledge that students are engaging in many different activities outside of school hours. These include a range of physical activities, sports, recreational, 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.







Parents Representative Council  
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



## Children's Mental Health Matters!

**1 in 7 Australian students  
has a mental health disorder!**  
**What signs should parents look for?**  
**How can you help your Children?**



**Catholic  
Schools  
NSW**

Our guest speaker for the PRC event is

**Jennifer Coen**

Senior Manager – Wellbeing, Catholic Schools NSW



**Register here to attend**

Jennifer will discuss the most common mental issues in children & adolescents. You can find out what signs you should look for and ways you can help when your children are struggling. Jennifer is federally registered Mental Health Social Worker, with a Master of Education. She works with senior counsellors across NSW, offering advice and consultation around mental health, wellbeing and student behaviour.



**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)**

(PRC AGM - will be held prior to guest speaker)

**CathWest Innovation College**

**91 N Parade, Mount Druitt NSW 2770**

**Miguel Pro SJ Performing Arts Centre**

Light supper and refreshments will be provided,  
and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!



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