



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

When someone we love dies we become acutely aware of a large absence in our life, an absence that seems to fill the world. The death of those we love brings a sharp focus on their unique quality, and we often regret that we didn't make enough room for them in our life. Any of us who has watched the last moments of life know that it can become a time of regret and reproach – when our sorrows can take the form of wishing: “If only I had...” Human nature brings this natural response to our mindset. Personally my experience when losing my father had been this response, not through guilt but just wishing for more time and as the years without him continue, the family joys that he does not get to experience or the pain of his absence.



In Sunday's gospel we hear how the death of Lazarus leaves a large absence in the lives of those who loved him. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus is already dead, and Martha voices her regret: “if Jesus had been with them earlier, things would surely have turned out differently. But Jesus' absence is essential to the story.” Certainly, Martha felt that Jesus had let them down badly. But not so. Through Lazarus' death and return to life, Mary and Martha have their faith in Jesus strengthened and their friendship with him deepened.

Friendships with God or with another person is a precious gift. Like all precious things it must be protected and nurtured through trust given and received in times of apparent failure as well as in times of joy.

Is there a friend of ours in need of our trust or our forgiveness?

Is there something in our lives that needs to be “unbound or let loose” so that our friendship with Jesus and one another can be renewed?

Let us not be saying “If only I had...” without giving it our absolute best shot.

We pray for all those loved ones we have lost.

Olimpia Pirovic
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 9: Yr3 & Yr5 NAPLAN continues

Thur: AFL Afterschool Clinics continue

Fri: Yr4 Reward Day

Week 10: Yr3 & Yr5 NAPLAN continues

Mon: 9am Assembly: 1G

Tue: Uniform Orders due before 4pm

Thur: AFL Afterschool Clinics continue

Fri: Parent ECSI Information Session (See Below)

NOTES HOME

THIS WEEK

- K-6 Cumberland Police Youth Liaison Visit
- Yr 5 Reward Session Term 1
- Yr5 Science Activity - Ice Cream Making

LAST WEEK

- OLMC Homework Policy - attached to Newsletter
- Yr6 Cumberland Place Plan In School Experience
- Yr4 Reward Day
- Kindergarten Staffing Update

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

MERIT AWARDS

KB	Aadil • Azalea	4B	Matthew • Anuj
KG	Ethan • Benjamin • Oscar • Isabel	4G	Olivia • Aakash
1B	Osaiah • Veronica	5B	Lily • Thomas
1G	Shanaya • Aanya	5G	Olivia • Katrina
2B	Thomas • Trinity	6B	Malek • Myra
2G	Willow • Elijah	6G	Siya • Dieter
3B	Thea • Kiara	CA	Amelia • Eliana
3G	Sophia • Karthik		

STAR CARD AWARDS

Gold Awards:

Azalea
Arya
Jordan
Hannah
Zachariah
Daniella
John-Paul



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**

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AT OLMC: REMINDER

Over the past few weeks we have had many parents wanting to provide their child's class with a range of birthday celebration treats. This is a reminder that as a school we **WILL NOT** accept or distribute any treats provided for birthday celebrations, this includes, but is not limited to lolly Bags/Birthday Cakes/Cupcakes, offers to buy the class or Grade ice blocks etc.

The first reason is based on our duty of care for our students. Many of our children have allergies to a range of food products, this risk increases when shared products are brought in. Some of our children are also on medication, shared treats can impact the effectiveness of this medication... and no we can't just leave those students out.

The second reason is one that you may not have not considered. Many of our families have different pressures which impact their ability to provide a mass amount of treats for birthday celebrations. Therefore the providing of treats inadvertently creates a divide between the 'can do's' and 'can not's'. As a Catholic community it is our responsibility to ensure that the policies and procedures we put in place clearly reflect our call to support the 'common good'. This does not mean birthdays go without notice. Every child is made to feel special on their birthday. Our policy, which can be found in the Parent Handbook, states, ***'each class teacher will celebrate children's birthdays in their own special way... the class might sing to the birthday child, the teacher may give a gift from the prize box, a card etc'***.

In this day and age of excess, we firmly believe this is ample within a school setting. We would like to thank the parents who have recently made contact with the school to clarify this, before buying.



EXPLORING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY (ECSI)

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:

- 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

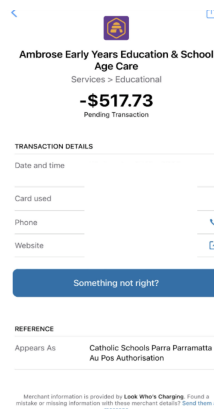
<https://forms.gle/C7JsD5NzKqSZCJ1D>



SCHOOL FEES PAYMENTS

It has been brought to our attention that parents may have received a receipt via their bank's mobile App for the first payment of their flexible payment plan with "Ambrose Early Years Education & School Aged Care" similar to the image.

Rest assured the money is being received by CSPD. The "Look who's charging" feature adopted by some of the major bank's has the wrong details in their system. CSPD are working with Experian to have this issue resolved.



MRS ANDERIESZ'S LEAVE

Mrs Anderiesz will be taking a period of well deserved long service leave between 28 March and 28 April.

During this period Mrs Diaz will take on the Acting Assistant Principal role. Mrs Thomas will take on the role of Acting Religious Education Coordinator.

We wish Mrs Anderiesz a most enjoyable and relaxing period of leave and look forward to her return.

PARENT GOD DAY

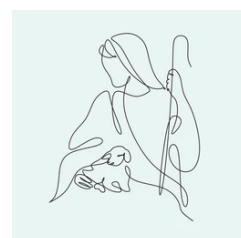
God Day will be celebrated on Friday 6th April at 11:30am. Families are invited to take part in our annual celebration in two ways:

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

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.



PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

Parents, if you feel you would like to continue the sacramental journey you began when you celebrated your child's baptism, you are welcome to apply to the Parish Sacramental Process. Applications can be found on our [parish website](#).

CONFIRMATION DATES

Applications close: Friday 5 May

Practice sessions: 3:30pm & 7pm Thursday 25 May

Confirmation & sponsor name due: Friday 5 May

Celebration: 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 27 May

FIRST RECONCILIATION DATES

Applications close: Friday 14 July

Celebrations: 7pm on Monday 24 & Tuesday 25 July

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES

Applications close: Friday 22 September

Taste & See sessions: 3:30pm and 7pm Thursday 12 October

Practice sessions: 3:30pm & 7pm Thursday 19 October

Celebrations: 11am Saturday 21 & 28 October

Please note the Parish new email address is ocarmswenty@gmail.com

P&F NEWS



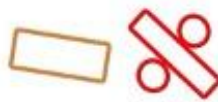
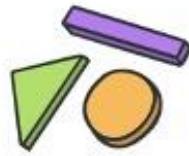
Second Hand Uniform Sale - Please come by to our upcoming uniform shop sale. For any donations, please bring them to the school office. Volunteers are still required to assist on the day to sort the uniforms and serve our parents. Please sign up using the link below: <https://signup.com/go/hCQfxUq>. When you buy a second hand uniform, make sure that you cross out any old names and add your child's name on the label.

Mothers' Day Stall News - The OLMC Mothers' Day stall is going cashless this year. We will soon be sharing details on how your child can shop at the stall, but it is going to require parents to be organised. Dad's check your calendars and save the date because we will be calling on your help for our Mothers' Day Breakfast on Friday 12 May.

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.



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International Day of Mathematics 2023



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On Monday, 13th March, the staff and students of OLMC participated in a session dedicated to having fun with Maths to celebrate the International Day of Mathematics. Here's what some of our students had to say about why they enjoy Maths...



It was a fun day, the math was made fun and added to my math knowledge, I really enjoyed creating and completing patterns - Isabel, Yr 4



I enjoyed using Spheros because I like coding and being able to move the Sphero without touching it. - Lucinda, Yr 3



My favourite activity was the missing pencil case culprit hunt. The day was very fun, the were all great! - Aarush, Yr 4



I enjoyed the Spero's because it challenged me to think about different angles I could use it to make a shape. I realised that it was a lot easier when we worked together because three brains are better than one - Adam, Yr 6



I really enjoyed solving problems in Year 4. We worked on a booklet and had to solve the math mysteries. - Pravi, Yr 3



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My favourite part was playing snakes and ladder because it was so much fun. I also enjoyed making a pasta bracelet that I got to take home - Charlotte, Yr 1



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