



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Week 1

31st January 2014

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, everyone. I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating with family and friends the birthday of Jesus, our Saviour. How wonderful it is to see the progress being made in the construction of the new church! Our prayers over the holidays have been truly answered to have most of us return safe and well.

Congratulations on the very orderly and calm way in which students and parents managed the first day of school. I am happy to report that students and staff are well settled in to their roles of learning and teaching on both sides. The beaming smiles of parents on first day were very apparent. ☺

A special welcome to the many new members of our community – 18 new students and their families and eight new staff members.

On Monday, we will be welcoming 86 new Kinder students, half of whom are new to OLA and 'big' school. Please make them feel welcome and be understanding and patient while they learn and get to know the rules and practice at this school. Thank you.

There are a number of significant events that mark the beginning of each year. The first is the Parent Information Night (no children). This is a 30 minute briefing on the routines and expectations of your child's new grade and is hosted by his/her teacher. This will be held on Wednesday 12th February with Kinder to Y2 commencing at 6.30pm and the Yr 3-6 starting at 7pm. This is an important opportunity to find out the answers to the 'little' day to day things – it is NOT a time to discuss your child with the teacher. It is an expectation that at least one parent will attend this session and will be very helpful to you, especially if it is a grade not experienced previously.



The next important event is the Opening School Year Mass (10am on Friday 21st February in the church followed by the induction of the 2014 SRC. Later in the evening of the same day is our Social Night. Each year, the P&F host this casual evening where families are asked to bring along some nibbles and their own drinks. There will be a disco for the students under the basketball area allowing parents to mingle and get to know each other. We look forward to getting to know you a little better, as well.



Please Speak Up.

Clear and open communication is the key to successful relationships and so it is in this school community. If you have any issue or concern, no matter how trivial you think it may be, please do not hesitate to phone me or drop an email to the school so that it can be clarified. The sooner this is done the better. Often, something trivial is innocently discussed out of context among parents and the matter becomes a source of unnecessary anxiety. I would hope that, if you were approached about something to which you have no answer that you respond with, 'Call the school and ask them'. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAIs)

Thanks to everyone who took the time to bring along their child for their MAI. To conduct individual assessment interviews with over 400 students is an ambitious task and required some strategic organisation but, in the interest of your child's learning, we are confident to have this completed by the end of Week 3.

Dates to Remember

- Monday 3rd Feb: Kinders Day One
 - Tues 4th Feb: St 3 Excursion to Minnamurra Falls
 - Wed 5th Feb: St 3 Team Building Day
 - Fri 7th Feb: 9am Mass Year 4; 2.45pm Assembly – hosted by Year 5/6
 - Mon 10 Feb: SRC Speeches begin.
 - Wed 12th Feb: Parent Information Night – 6.30: Kinder – Yr 2, 7pm- Y3-6
 - Fri 13th Feb: 9am Mass Yr 3; assembly host: Yr 5/6 B
- NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE: the primary school and Parish Mass is now on Sunday 15th February at 10am instead of Feb 9th

PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATED TERM CALENDAR IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.



From the Parents and Friends Association

FRIDAY SPECIAL TREATS WILL RESUME NEXT FRIDAY, WEEK 2 AND WILL BE SOLD AT AFTERNOON TEA SO BRING YOUR 50c!!



Reminders...

New in 2014

There are a few changes from the start of this year, none of which affect anyone in any way. These are:

Bell Times: In the interest of maximising learning, the bell for the second break of the day will be happening later. This will provide two two-hour blocks of Learning and Teaching and make the afternoon block, when students are generally hotter and more tired and less productive, a shorter time. This is a common trend happening across schools and is a response to the teachers' requests. Because of the longer middle block, students will be encouraged to have their larger food intake (lunch) in the morning slot and an afternoon tea at 1.40pm.

Also in the interest of not wasting learning time, there will be a warning bell **at 8.45am before school** with the quiet bell at 8.50am. For your information, the new bell times are:

8:20 am – 8:45am – first bell (fitness from T2), 8.50am quiet bell.

Morning break (lunch) 11.00 am – 11:40am

Middle block: 11.40am – 1.40 pm

Afternoon tea 1:40 pm - 2.20 pm

Afternoon Block: 2.20 – 3.10 pm (kinder dismissed at 3pm.)



PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ALONG THE DRIVE THROUGH FROM THE CHURCH TO THE SCHOOL ADMIN IS A NO PARKING AREA FROM 8.15AM TO 9.15AM AND 2.30PM TO 4PM. PLEASE OBSERVE THIS AND AVOID THE EMBARRASSEMNT OF BEING ASKED TO MOVE.

Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Drive Through Pick Up

This year, OLA will have over 400 students. This means that the morning drop off and afternoon pick up will be an even greater challenge. In the morning with parents rushing off to work, etc, patience is especially needed to be exercised so please allow time for this and remember to keep within the speed limit of **10KPM**. This is a reminder that **KINDERGARTEN PARENTS ONLY** are expected in the drive through **before 3.10pm**. Please do not arrive in the **drive through** before this time if you have any children in any other grades. This includes parents of kinder students with older siblings. In fact, we are suggesting that, if any of your children are in Grades 3 to 6, please arrive around 3.20pm and not before. From the beginning of 2014, anyone arriving out of these times may be asked to exit and return to the back of the queue. Also, please display your name card on the **PASSENGER SUNVISOR** upon entering the drive through. Please don't wait till you have arrived at the pick-up point as students' names need to be called well before this to ensure a smooth flow. If you don't have a name card, simply make one by writing your surname large and clear in black on white card.

We are very fortunate to have this drive through/pick up facility and, given the numbers of students and cars, the process works very well with everyone's cooperation and patience.

Many hands make light work.



Thank you to Mrs Byrne who assisted the morning traffic flow by acting as a 'lollypop' person. This was a big help and we are appealing to anyone who can give 10 minutes in the morning or the afternoon to control the flow of pedestrians and cars during the 10 minute peak periods. This is only on the school grounds. A high visibility vest will be provided and a 'lollypop'. If you are able to assist, please contact the P&F or the school by email with 'lollypop person' in the subject line. The more people we get, the easier it will be and we can draw up a weekly roster.

From the Office....

Thank you to all parents for your patience during the first weeks of school. The office desk and phone is often at its busiest at this time of year and so I do appreciate your patience.

Just a few reminders:-

Notes/money for the Office - Each morning teachers will ask the children in their class if they have any notes or money. Teachers will keep any information they require and will send any other notes or money to the office via the class note bag. This system allows the office to receive notes and money without parents being required to actually come into the school. It also helps the children develop responsibility for passing on information.

Change of Details - It is **critical** that the school has up-to-date contact details for all students at all times. Please ensure that any phone, address or contact details that change are relayed to the office as a matter of urgency. It is most distressing for children and staff if we are unable to contact parents in the case of a child being ill or injured.

Uniforms - The uniform shop is open on **Tuesday mornings from 8.15am - 9.30am**. If you need to come in to purchase uniforms, please do so at this time. Otherwise please either phone or email your order through and we will get it ready for easy collection from the office.

Visiting the School - A reminder that during school hours, **ALL** parents, visitors and classroom helpers **MUST** sign in at the front office and collect a Visitors Sticker and then sign out as they leave the school, even if it is at the end of the day.

Late/Early Leavers - If your child is late for school or needs to be collected early, you must attend the office and fill out the Late/Early Leavers Slip. If, for some reason your child is out of school for **two hours or more** in any one day, eg arrives at school after 10.45am or is collected before 1pm, there is a new requirement for reporting these partial absences. You are now also required to fill out the book at the front desk and this information will be collated and forwarded to the Department of Education throughout the year.

Photography - Photos of the students are often placed on our website and occasionally in the local newspapers. If for any reason you do not wish for your child to have their photo displayed in this manner, please advise the office in writing.

School Fees - All families should receive their school fees early next week. Once again the Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) is being offered to parents as an alternative to the current payment term of 30 days. Please see the information below regarding this option. **Please Note that the swim program fee is not included on the account at this stage, as well as the year 5/6 Canberra excursion. These two fees will be billed in Term 2 and will need to be paid in addition to the flexible payment plan.** If you have any queries at all about the fees, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Goldsworthy.

Medication - If your child needs medication at school, new medication forms will need to be completed and given to Mrs Goldsworthy in the office. Please see me if you need to discuss anything, or you need the forms. No medication is to be kept in your child's school bag.

Student's Birthday

As the grades are becoming larger, we ask that if you send a treat in for your child's birthday that you only send enough for his/her class (not the whole grade). Also if you are sending in ice blocks, you will need to drop them at the office at about **1.30pm** as we don't have enough room in our freezer to keep them frozen throughout the morning. Cupcakes can be left at the office in the morning.

Class Numbers are:-

Kindy - 29 each Yr 1 - 24 each Yr 2 - 32 each Yr 3 - 24 each Year 4 - 29 each Yr 5/6 - 27 each

Thank you.

School Fees 2014 – Flexible Payment Plan

The FPP is an alternative to our current payment terms of 30 days and offers families choice to pay their annual fees weekly, fortnightly or monthly over either a six month period from March to August.

Importantly the setup administration of FPP is very streamlined as families will either complete Bpay information directly with their bank online or lodge a direct debit authority with the DDF.

Broadly it works like this:-

- There is no additional administration fee to families accepting the FPP offer
- FPP is offered in Term 1 only of the school year
- FPP offer documentation is included with the Term 1 Invoice/Statement
- Families have until 21st February 2014 to lodge FPP Direct Debit Forms to CEO
- Families have until 6th March 2014 to setup a FPP via BPAY by scheduling the first payment to be received by the 7th March 2014

An example of 2014 FPP payment timeline is as follows:-

FPP Standard Plan	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Repayments	25	13	6
First Payment	7/3/14	7/3/14	7/3/14
Last Payment	22/8/14	22/8/14	7/8/14

What will Parents receive in Relation to FPP?

- Term 1 Tax Invoice/Statement (as per usual);
- Direct Debit Request - Parent to complete and insert in self-addressed envelope to the CEO;
- Direct Debit Request Service Agreement (printed on the back of the Direct Debit Request);
- BPAY payment guidelines
- Full fee details for 2014 (**with the exception of the swim program and the year 5/6 Canberra excursion – to be billed in term 2**); and
- Frequently Asked Questions (printed on the back of full fee details for 2014);

If you have any queries at all in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Goldsworthy once you have received your fees.

Our School is a Nut Aware School Community

At Our Lady of the Angels School, we have children who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for these children the reaction can be life-threatening. This is called anaphylaxis and can occur in minutes of an exposure to a trigger, in these children's case, nuts.

We see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these children. So as to support our community's effort in this regard, we kindly ask that parents avoid preparing snacks for recess or lunch that include Nutella spread, any peanut butter, nut spreads, snack bars and biscuits that contain nuts. Products having the statement may contain 'traces of nuts' are suitable to bring to school.

We also ask that you **do not** include foods that contain nuts when providing food for special events such as cake days or morning teas.

Important

ICAS

Attached to this newsletter is the form for ICAS competitions. These are voluntary competitions held from term 2 in the areas of Writing, Spelling, English, Computer Studies, Science and Mathematics. Some of the competitions are open to year 2 students this year. All information regarding costs and arrangements are in the attached letter, which needs to be returned with the required money to the office by 4th April. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Hey.

Book Covering

We have purchased a lot of new guided reading books and sets of novels which need to be covered. If you can help with this, please see Mrs Goldsworthy in the office. Contact is supplied. Thanks.

BookClub

We are looking for a couple of parents to help collate the Bookclub pamphlets which they come in (twice a term). This would probably only take about an hour if there are a few helpers. If you can assist, can you please send an email to Mrs Goldsworthy. Thanks.

OLA Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 18th February

Our Lady of the Angels School will be holding its annual swimming carnival on Tuesday 18th February 2014. All children in Years 3-6 are expected to participate in the carnival. A note was emailed yesterday to all children in Years 3-6, can you please complete the permission form and online questionnaire as soon as possible to assist with organisation of the carnival. I have included the Google Doc URL to be completed online about your child's swimming abilities and parent volunteers.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UoZxpCtXJhCUWeIvVsz9ehnnhd5sBbWtGWINuwuwWwk/viewform>

Please Note: This year all children are to come to school as normal and they will be travelling to the pool by bus with their class teacher. If you are at the carnival, you will be able to take your children home directly from the pool.

Attention Year 2 Parents

In addition, only competent (strong) 50m or 25m swimmers in Year 2 turning 8 in 2014 are invited to participate in the carnival. Age restrictions apply to some regional competitions and this is open to students who **TURN 8 YEARS or OLDER** between 1st Jan 2014 and 31st Dec 2014. If your child is turning 8 years old and are eligible to swim in the OLA Swimming Carnival, please download the information/ permission note for the swimming carnival from the school website and send in a completed form.

Gala Days for 2014

If you would like your child (years 3-6) to participate in any gala days in 2014, eg, soccer, netball could you please complete the survey on google docs

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JJDZDNDpak1qcxrkLcUkkRtpZNu1Xj3k7HLMUvn9r4/viewform>

PARENT HELPERS???

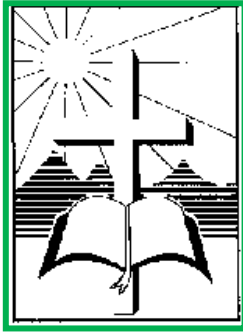
Have you completed your Child Protection for Volunteers Training??

It has been heartening to see how many of our parents, grandparents, etc, have completed the Child Protection Training in anticipation of helping out at school. Whenever this is done, the school is notified by email and the names added go on a register to which we refer when someone wants to come into the school. The list is growing, thank you.

To avoid disappointment, please make sure you have completed this. The URL is:

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/child-protection-training>

This includes helping at school in areas such as gross motor, lunches, reading groups, etc.



This Sunday's Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22–40 Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord,

Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Discuss with the family the persons of Simeon and Anna as they meet Jesus. (Luke 2: 25–40)

Because Simeon and Anna lived lives of prayer and fasting in the Temple, they were filled with the Spirit of God. That is why they were able to identify Jesus as the Saviour even though Jesus was only a baby. To these two holy people, he was recognisable as the Redeemer who had been promised. Simeon described Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

We too are called to recognise Jesus as Lord. Together as a family, you can discuss ways to recognise Jesus as Lord by praying and attending Mass, fasting, and serving others. As a family, decide on one specific sacrifice you can make in order to alleviate the suffering or need of someone you know.

How would we respond if we were to meet and recognise Jesus? How often do we recognise Jesus in those around us? In the mirror? In fact, each of us is created in the image of God and we are entitled to and have a responsibility to treat ourselves and others just as we would Jesus.

(Sourced and modified from <http://www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm>)

Religious Education Coordinator

As you may be aware, Mrs Stenning, our REC, was seconded to another school in an acting role for 2014. In the meantime, we have begun the process for appointing an acting REC for OLA. Please keep this in your prayers that the right person for this privileged role is found.

Parent Sacred Space.



In the office foyer, we have a display cabinet of which two shelves are devoted to prayer. This is an invitation to OLA families to ‘sponsor’ this sacred space. This means that each week, one school family is responsible for decorating this space with some small items of their choice and relevant to them. An example is – Week three - this space is sponsored by the Smith Family and there might be a small posy of flowers, a set of Rosary Beads and maybe the photo of someone for whom the Smith family is seeking prayers. This is the family’s choice. There are only two small shelves and nothing elaborate is expected. This is an initiative to bring community prayer to the fore in our school and to make it more personal and meaningful. I or someone else at school will be happy to assist you if needed.

If you are interested in participating, we look forward to receiving an email from you to ola@parra.catholic.edu.au with *Family Prayer Space* in the subject line.

Thank you to the parents who have already come forward. I am pleased to announce that the Dersch Family (Bethany Yr 5 and Alicia Y 2) will be our first sponsor family next week.

Friday Afternoon Assemblies

This year, each Friday Assembly will be hosted by a different class. The format will follow much the same way as it always has except with the scheduled class hosting and presenting a very brief (3 minute max) item of some kind. There was no assembly today in Week 1 and Yr 5/6 B will present the first assembly of the year being in Week 2.

From the Parish Office...

Attention Year 6!!

Welcome students to Year 6. Tonight the OLA Youth are having a "Pizza Night". Here they are launching their 2014 Calendar and are inviting the Year 6 students to come along and join in the fun. Beginning in the OOSH room at 7pm it will cost \$5- for the pizza. Parents are asked to introduce themselves to Izarra. It will conclude at 9pm.

OLA Inaugural "Adults v Youth Cricket Twenty/20"

You are invited to come along to The Hills Centenary Park (cnr Withers & Commercial Rds) to watch the Adults of the Parish take on the Youth. If you are interested in assisting the adults attempt to beat the youth - contact Ian Blazey on blazeyfamily@bigpond.com. The match begins at 1pm.

Sacraments of Initiation Dates to Remember

First Communion: for those children who did their Reconciliation last year this is a continuation for you! First Session: Parents only

Confirmation: This is for children in Year 6. This will commence in August 2014. Further information will be provided to you later in the year.

For any enquiries, please contact Anthony Saliba, OLA Sacramental Co-Ordinator at sacramental@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Lenten Reflection

As Lent is approaching soon, Fr Warren will be presenting a Lenten Reflection every Wednesday night throughout Lent beginning March 12 at 7.30pm. Please advise the Parish office if you would like to join in.

Children's Liturgy

There will be Children's Liturgy during the 10am mass this Sunday. All children aged 4-7 are invited to come along.

OLA Playgroup

Playgroup returns next Tuesday at 9.30am in the OOSH room. For further information, please contact Piaf on 0403 486 477.

Mass times:

Sat vigil: 5:30pm Sunday: 8:30am, 10am & 5.30pm. Weekdays: Mon -Sat: 9 am Wed - 7pm Novena Mass to St Joseph for special intercessions for the Building of our Church.

Confessions: 9:30 am Sat, OLA Church

Baptisms & weddings: By appointment

Parish Priest: Fr Warren Edwards

Assistant Priest: Fr Joby Kadambattuparambil Ittira

Parish Secretaries: Geraldine Farrugia and Rose Sultana

Sacrament Co-ordinator: Anthony Saliba

Email: parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

frjoby@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Website: www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Contact information: O.L.A. Parish Office, 1 Wellgate Avenue, Rouse Hill

Ph: 8883 4063 Fax: 9629 7603

Uniforms

A reminder that uniforms are only available for sale on Tuesdays from 8.15am till 9.30am. At other times, orders may be emailed through to Mrs Goldsworthy, your order prepared and notification sent when ready for payment and pick up from the office.

Baby News!!

Congratulations to Mrs Irwin and her husband on the arrival of baby Marcus. They are all doing well and we look forward to meeting the little man very soon.



Until next week, may God bless and keep you safe.

Eva La Rocca,

Principal

**'Student
of the Week'
awards go to:**

Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award	Einstein Award
Kinder B			
Kinder G			
Kinder W			
Year 1B			
Year 1 G			
Year 1W			
Year 2 B			
Year 2 W			
Year 3 B			
Year 3 G			
Year 3 W			
Year 4 B			
Year 4 W			
Year 5/6 B			
Year 5/6 W			

Awards Begin in Week 2

Congratulations to these students for great work in class, for showing St Francis qualities or for recognising a mistake as an opportunity for learning. ☺