

# Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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28<sup>th</sup> March 2014

# Week 9 Term 1

# **Dear Parents**,

As we near the end of the term, we find ourselves in the middle of the season of Lent and also nearing Easter. Lent, as we have said, is the season of preparation preparation through absitance, self denial, prayer and good works. GOOD WORKS? What does this look like for us- teachers, students and parents?



You might have noticed two brightly painted seats in the playground. I wonder if you have asked your child what these are for? If you had, they should have been able to tell

you that these are special seats for students who are feeling sad and lonely or hurt in some way. This project is a small effort in building the awareness among the students of others in need. We all have needs and, sometimes, the most desperate need is for an act of kindness. We are hoping that students who see a child on the 'Rainbow Bench' will go over to them with a kind and welcoming word.

Very sadly, it is very apparent that there are members of the parent community who also experience this need. Parents establishing friendship groups is a wonderful thing. However, sometimes groups become exclusive and excluding of others and there is a serious question around their worth. Their existence is a fact. Whether its members are aware of the nature of the impression this gives, I am giving the benefit of the doubt. My biggest concern lies in the fact that their children are learning that this is the way one treats others. It is not.

Lent is a time of *good works* – this means being aware of those around you that are not being included, standing alone and reaching out to them with a smile, a welcoming gesture and even a "Hello, how's your day going?" If someone says 'hello' or 'thank you' to you, it is polite to reply or acknowledge nicely. Recently a group of parents reached out to a new parent, inviting them to come to their grade dinner and even offering to drive the children home on these rainy afternoons. This is a wonderful example of the welcoming community here at OLA. With so many new students joining our school, this is an area with which I am particularly vigilant and make every effort to ensure that they feel welcomed and are happy.

# It takes very little to make a very big difference. Most importantly, you are modelling decent behavior to your children. This is a Catholic school. If we don't show it, who will?

# Feast of the Annunciation – 25<sup>th</sup> March

On Tuesday, the school gathered around the Marian Prayer Space for prayer in honour of this important feast day - nine months before Christmas. I thank Yr 1 for organising this liturgy and our RECs, Mrs Callaghan and Mr Baker, for overseeing. The liturgy concluded very appropriately with the noon Angelus.



### Parent Teacher Student Conferences.

The Parent Teacher Student Conferences will be held this coming week.

While it's only fifteen minutes, this is a valuable opportunity to receive insight into how your child has progressed throughout Term 1 and to address areas of further development, a time for reflection and goal setting. Please note that the session is strictly a 15 minute time slot which means about 12 minutes of discussion. Our teaching staff runs two sessions like this a year, double the expectation and that of most other schools. Out of respect for them and other parents, please be punctual and do not go over time, especially if your appointment is the last of the night. Thank for your cooperation and understanding.



Dates to Remember				
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Parent/Teacher/Student conferences begin			
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day			
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Kindergarten 2015 Info Night for New Families 7pm			
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mass: Yr 3; NRMA Day – Parent Session at 2.00pm			
Thurs10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Liturgy beginning with the Angelus at noon.			
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mass: Yr 2 Last day of Term 1- Easter Hat Parade 1pm			
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	First day of Term 2			

This is information session for *new families only* 



# FROM THE P&F

Reading Cinemas wants to help our schools fundraising efforts by providing us with complimentary movie passes. All you need to do is present one of the attached vouchers when you purchase a tickets at Reading Cinemas.



For every 10 coupons handed in, our school receives one complimentary movie pass. It's so easy!



Would you like to be involved in the yearbook? This is a great opportunity to put your creative flare, organizational skills and or computer skills towards creating an everlasting memory for your children. We are looking for about half a dozen people to be involved so if you would like to dedicate a little or a lot of time please email us at <u>olapandf@hotmail.com.au</u>.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask a P & F representative or email us.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

The Parents and Friends Association <a href="mailto:olapandf@hotmail.com.au">olapandf@hotmail.com.au</a>

# WE WON!!

Congratulations to the movie team responsible for the 30 second video clip on why OLA is the best school that was entered into this year's Catholic Schools Week Compettion – you won!!

These students took out first prize in the VOTERS CHOICE category with 188 votes so thank you to everyone who voted. The prize is \$500 JB HI FI Voucher. Thank you also to Mrs Hey who facilitated the project with the students. Yay!!

Creative Arts Expo...Don't miss this golden opportunity!

The Creative Arts Expo is a school presentation in the areas of dance, song and drama that is held on a three yearly basis across Parramatta Diocese. In the interest of fairness for the schools involved, numbers are usually limited to around 50 participants. <u>Can you image a time when every interested child in a school was able to participate? I can. It was OLA</u>. The last time we entered, which was in 2011, the population of our school was around 130 students. Typically, around a third to a half of these students was keen to participate. How lucky were they that we were able to accommodate their wish to be in this project. But were they really lucky?

This year, with a student population of over 400, the expected expressions of interest from the children numbered well over 100. This means that, inevitably, there would be a large number of students that would be unsuccessful and disappointed. Disappointment is a fact of life. Sometimes, some of us get a greater share than others. Parents have a responsibility to point out to their child that this is not a time to become despondent. It is not normal to always get that for which you hope. This is a 'golden opportunity' for learning, for growth and most importantly, building resilience. Children need the right attitude from their parents to get them through but, especially, to be able to cope with the rest of life's disappointments which are inevitable.

The show in 2011 saw an amazing demonstration of generosity of staff and parents. Already, this is shaping up to be the same. The teachers involved – Mrs Byrne, Ms Theoharous and Mrs Rizk – have given up hours of their breaks in the day to 'get the show on the road', and continue to do so. The selection process has not been easy, especially dealing with disappointed kids. There is much work still to be done and I am grateful to these staff members for their commitment and sacrifice. Recognition also goes to the team of parents who have come forward to begin the preparation in a range of ways.

### **Gospel Reading**



Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A A reading from the Gospel of John 9:1-41 As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.



His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" —which means Sent—.So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbours and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is, "but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed

that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes.

We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, A Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer. Continue to talk to your children about their Lenten Promises and how they can help others less fortunate than themselves, making sure your Project Compassion Box is in a significant place in your home.

# Family 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. There is one small shelf 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 <u>ola@parra.catholic.edu.au</u> with *Family Prayer Space* in the subject line. Thank you the Wooldridge Family who sponsored our Family Prayer Space this week. Next week the sponsor family will be **Kroeger Family**.



#### Easter Hat Parade



Please note the new date to remember – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April (last day of school) for the Easter Hat Parade, at 1.00pm. This is an annual activity and a wonderful opportunity for the students to design and make, as well a worthwhile exercise in cooperation and collaboration for all. It is always a pleasure to see the students proudly showing their creations. Please refer to your child's class communication note for further details. We hope you can come along for the parade. There may even be a visit from Easter Bunny. ©

# Information for Parents NRMA Science & Road Safety Day - Friday 4 April, 2014

This term our school will be taking part in a new and innovative road safety education program delivered by NRMA Motoring & Services free of charge to 100 primary schools across NSW and ACT.

The day is a great opportunity for your children to learn about road safety from a science perspective, so that they can better understand the forces that act on humans while in cars and on bikes and why wearing safety gear such as seatbelts and bike helmets make a real difference to their safety.

Parents are also invited to attend a **30 minute Parent Workshop at** <u>**2:00pm**</u>. The workshop will be delivered by a science professional who will explain what parents can do to help their children stay safe on their bikes and on their way to and from school.

# **Kindergarten Siblings for 2015**

Enrolment forms are being sent home today for sibling kindergarten children for next year. If you have not yet advised us that you have a sibling for 2015, please email and we will send a form home.

### Winter Uniform

For those new to school life, the children wear their winter uniform in terms 2 and 3. However, we do normally allow a period of two or three weeks where the children can wear either uniform (must be complete summer or winter – not parts of both) due to the constant changing weather. We will advise you in week 1 of term 2 the date for the complete changeover. Attached to this newsletter is the uniform price list. If you need winter uniform please complete and send in, or attend the uniform shop on Tuesday mornings.

### Social skill for weeks 9 and 10- Taking messages

Knock on the door and wait to be invited in. Say, "Excuse me". After giving the message say, "Thank you".

# Garden Club- worms wanted

We are after some compost worms for our garden club. If you have compost worms at home and could spare a small container of them we would be most grateful. We don't need many as they multiply quickly!

# **ICAS**

The entries and money for the University of NSW competitions close next Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

# <u>Free...</u>

We have three sheets of heavy duty steel roofing, 10 metres in length. These would make a very good roof for a carport, shed, cubby house, etc. If you are interested, please ring the school asap.

# From the Catholic Education Office

# **CAPTIVATE Dance Masterclass**

Registrations are now open for the CAPTIVATE Masterclass on 4-6 April at Terra Sancta College, Nirimba Campus. During the 3 days students will have the opportunity to work with highly professional teachers and learn a wide variety of dance styles, including:

Jazz, Contemporary, JFH, Lyrical HipHop, Musical Theatre, Urban Jazz Fusion, Fitness for Dancers, Make-up & Styling and Rehearsals

OPTION 1 \$120

3 DAY INTENSIVE DANCE WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE

(Recommended for all Commercial Dance Ensemble Members)

Students will participate in the full 3 days of dance classes experiencing all dance styles on offer. Classes are graded (to the best of our ability) so please be honest and provide as much detail as possible when completing the Registration Forms. There may be changes on the day. OPTION 2 \$80

### 2 DAY (Sat & Sun) DANCE WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE

Students choosing Option 2 will participate in classes on Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September along with performing on Sunday 1 September's performance.

NOTE: All students must do Day 3 (Sunday) as rehearsals and performance is on this day.

VENUE: Terra Sancta, Nirimba Campus, Eastern Rd, Quakers Hill

TIMES: Friday 4 April 8.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 5 April 8.00am-5.00pm

Sunday 6 April 8.30am-5.15pm

5.15pm-6.30pm (dinner break)

6.30pm-8.00pm (Performance)

Visit <u>www.captivate.catholic.edu.au/events</u> for more information or to register. Click here for flyer.

# From the Bishop's Office...

Connect with the Diocese and find out the latest news and events on Social Media:

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic

Twitter @parracatholic

#### St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Parramatta

Recruiting male and female singers in all voice parts. Develop vocal skills and learn more about the Catholic faith and liturgy. Scholarship payments available to singers aged 16-35 who demonstrate music leadership skills. To arrange an audition, contact the Director of Music, Bernard Kirkpatrick tel 0430 431 884. For further information, visit <u>www.stpatscathedral.com.au</u> The Missionaries of God's Love Spiritual Association (Sydney) warmly invites you, your friends and acquaintances to a Healing Mass with Fr Ken Barker MGL. Mass at 1pm will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills. The day concludes at 4pm. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. RSVP to Jenny:jennytscott25372@gmail.com or Missionaries of God's Love Facebook page.

#### Central Coast tour with pelican feeding: 1 April

Enjoy a day out on the Central Coast with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Cost: \$30 includes morning tea and pelican feeding. Lunch at Digger's at The Entrance (own expense). Bus departs 8.30am at 20 Virgil St and 8.35am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.

Book early to avoid disappointment – deposit of \$20 required. Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, <u>francesgrima@optusnet.com.au</u>

#### Colloquium on The Francis Effect: 3 April

Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia are hosting a colloquium that will enlarge on the reflections contained in *The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel* as well as further explore Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium.* This event will bring together Catholic leaders for a day of formation and professional development for anyone who is living and leading mission and evangelisation. Keynote Address by Fr Noel Connolly SS<u>C – *The Francis Effect: A Theology of Leadership for*</u>

*Mission*. From 8.30am to 4.30pm.**Registration:** \$195 adult, \$95 concession (registration includes a copy of *The Francis Effect*, morning tea and lunch). Venue: Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club. More information and to register: <u>www.catholicmission.org.au</u> **The Seven Last Words of Christ Lenten Retreat: 4-6 April** 

A Lenten weekend retreat for young adults organised by Singles for Christ Australia. Includes silent reflection, talks, prayer, adoration, Confession and Mass. Kilhilla Conference Centre, 5-17 Queens Rd, Lawson. Cost: \$115. Details: Alex Pace (02) 9831 4044.

#### Grace & Silence Retreat Day: 12 April

Young women aged 17-30 years who are discerning their vocation to marriage, single or consecrated life or who would like to have a day of recollection are invited to the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mulgoa. Grace & Silence commences with a short impulse followed by Eucharistic Adoration; silent prayer and reflection and concludes with a group rosary and afternoon tea. From 9.30am-4.30pm. Cost \$20 includes lunch. The Schoenstatt Shrine is at 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For further information and registration contact: Sister M Julie 0408 738 334, <u>uliebrcar@gmail.com</u>



# From the Classroom....this week featuring Year 2W

One of the highlights of Year 2 this term has been our amazing excursion to Bondi Beach! We had such a great time that we spent the week after the excursion composing, editing and publishing recounts of the fun we had on our day. Take a look at our fantastic writing!

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animal for our groups and my active made about some makes Our group had leads of fur went pack to the park to have our The bus was here and we happed in the your and ment much the wheel I had an awesome day!

# App of the Week

**IXL Maths Practice** is an app where you can log in as a guest and practice tangible activities, starting from preschool maths to year 9 content. Cost: Free

# Parish Family Fun Movie Night Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

This is a great way to spend the evening on the first day of the school holidays. Movie TBA

Food starts at 5.30pm and the movie starts at 6.30pm.

The class with the highest ercentage of attendance wins an ice cream party, which will take place after the holidays. The winning class will be announced on the night.

> Congratulations to the following students...

# From the Parish Office...

EASTER SERVICES **Palm Sunday:** normal mass times Solemn entrance at the 10am Mass Holy Thursday: Evening Mass of the Last Supper 7.30pm Adoration will be available till night prayer at 10pm Stations of the Cross 10am **Good Friday**: Confessions available after the stations The Passion Liturgy 3pm Easter Vigil: Saturday evening 6.30pm 8.30am, 10am and 5.30pm **Easter Sunday**:

After Mass, there will be a special morning tea and Easter eggs from the Easter Bunny! Please bring a plate to share for morning tea!!

Ladies Night

All Ladies from the Parish are invited to come along to Ladies Night tonight at Cathy Galea's home, 31 Barry Road, Kellyville. BYO a plate of goodies!! Bingo

You are invited to come along to our Bingo Night on Saturday night after the 5.30pm Mass. Cost is \$10 for 3 books. BYO: nibblies & drink.

### **Family Fun Movie Night**

Join us for a Family Fun Movie Night on the oval at OLA on Saturday, 12 April at 6.30pm. You can watch the latest Movie on the big screen under the stars for free. You are purchase sausage sandwiches and popcorn on the night. The class with the most attendance to the movie will win an ice cream party and the winners will be announced on the night.

#### **Parish Fundraising Drive - Hot Cross Buns**

Support our Parish Fundraiser by ordering your Easter Hot Cross Buns through us. With the support of Bakers Delight Stanhope Gardens, we will have available all the different flavours of buns, fruit, fruit-less, mocha, choc-chip. Cost is \$6.50 per half dozen. Grab a form from the Church or Parish office by Sunday, 13 April. Orders will be available for collection after Holy Thursday Mass and after the services on Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

#### **Baptism Seminar**

Will be held on Sunday after the 10am Mass.

Stations of the Cross ~ Every Friday night in Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Reflection ~ Fr Warren and Fr Joby present every Wednesday night at 7.30pm a Lenten Reflection.

Parish Priest: Fr Warren Edwards

Assistant Priest: Fr Joby Kadambattuparambil Ittira

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. Email: parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Website: www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Ph: 8883 4063 Fax: 9629 7603

Term 1 Week 9			
Student	Academic Merit Award	<b>St Francis Award</b>	<b>Einstein Award</b>
Kinder B	Lachlan Banovic	Milla Price	Milly Stone
Kinder G	Olivia Scaf	Amity Galea	Ella Dimech
Kinder W	Lucas Cajic	Tayla Buxton	Charlotte Muscat
Year 1B	Chanel Johnston	Dante Merrin	Jared Cleland
Year 1 G	Anneliese Gutwenger	Roman Bizannelli	Jonathon Fuda
Year 1W	Marcus Billyard	Sienna Mooney	Grace Bennison
Year 2 B	Christian Garofano	Nicholas Gomez	Chloe Ross
Year 2 W	Harry Taylor	Charli Molloy	Eoin Trainor
Year 3 B	Amelia Dimech	Alissa Sweeney	Chiara Fallone
Year 3 G	Owen Huber	Karl Fischer	John-Paul Colosimo
Year 3 W	Eva Earp	Ariane Maher	Paige Hayden
Year 4 B	Caleb McGrady	Remi Ferdinands	Ella Sievwright
Year 4 W	Brock Crook	Kalani Nobleza	Rebecca Charlesworth
Year 5/6 B	Jordan Vargas	Jack Hudson	Will McArdle
Year 5/6 W	Ben Maher	Isabella Coelho	Elise Ewer

Until next week, may God bless and keep you safe. Eva La Rocca, Principal 7