



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Week 7 Term 1

11th March, 2016

"Blessed are the merciful, for mercy they will find".

Dear Parents,

When my daughter, Danielle, was 15, she came home from school one day and said to me, "I know why babies of 'mixed marriages' are beautiful. It's God's reward to them for not being racist. Of course, all babies are beautiful. However, I thought this was a rather reflective statement from a teenager.

Last Friday, Danielle and her husband were thus rewarded with the arrival of their beautiful Eurasian baby boy, born in New York City. For my husband and I, this is an addition to the great joy and privilege that is Grandparenthood.

I suppose like grandparents always have, I lament and worry about the world into which these little children will grow. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew scripture says, "*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness.*" Isaiah 5:20

I know that, as a creation of God's, the world and its people are essentially wonderful. As Christians, we know that God is always with us. We are in His hands and salvation is ours. However, we have a responsibility to be mindful of the influences of the 'decision makers' in the world around us, in particular the media. Personally, I have a concern over the increasing prevalence of 'political correctness' – and wonder if it is a subliminal movement to shut down the freedom of speech?

Do we have the ability to discern what is evil and what is good?

Do we have the ethical fortitude to stand up for what we know is good and not be drawn into accepting that which is simply the trend of the day? (Maybe it's not PC to say any of that ☺)



Catholic Schools Week

On Wednesday, we had an 'invitation only' open school session for selected professional groups and preschools in the local area. It was very well received and I was very pleased with the opportunity to show them 'our school'. The feedback was very positive and they were very impressed – with the engagement of students and the obvious hard work and dedication of the staff. Later that day, we had visitors from two neighbouring schools as well as CEDP who also were very impressed with the way the year has begun.

Reading is Cool!

Clearly there are many people in the community who also think that reading is cool!! There was great response to our whole community reading session on Thursday afternoon. Thank you to so many who turned up to roll out their blanket and share in reading a book with their children and others' children. The sun was hot and shade was scarce but they found a spot. Today, the students participated in a whole school writing task from Kinder to Year 6. Thanks go to Mrs Hurst for her continued work in driving the improvement in Literacy for all our students.



NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember

Week 8: Thur 17th March -OLA Cross Country

Fri 18th March – St Patrick's Day Celebrations, GREEN Mufti Day

Week 9: Wed 23rd March – Dance Fever Interschool Challenge – Yrs 3-6

Thurs 24th March – Holy Week Liturgy – 9.00am on Basketball Court

12.00pm Angelus followed by the Easter Hat Parade

Week 10: Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

Wed 30th March – Kindy 2017 Information Night 7.00pm NEW FAMILIES ONLY

This Sunday's Gospel

Gospel Reflection (John 8:1-11)



Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in the middle they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and



in the Law Moses has ordered us to stone women of this kind. What have you got to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for an accusation to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, He straightened up and said, 'Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and continued writing on the ground. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until the last one had gone and Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained in the middle. Jesus again straightened up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus. 'Go away, and from this moment sin no more.'

In John's Gospel, Jesus is once again talking and teaching to a crowd of His followers, when he is interrupted by a group of angry men. With them is a woman who has broken a commandment. The men's hands are full of stones that they are ready to use to harm the woman. Jesus bends down to the woman and then writes in the sand a message that stops the crowd. It is a powerful message of repentance and forgiveness. Jesus wants the crowd to think of their own sins before condemning others. The message asks the crowd of angry men to only throw the first stone if they are faultless and free from sin. It is through John's Gospel we can see that God sent His only Son to save us. It is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can also share in the salvation brought by Jesus. We ask for forgiveness and try not to sin again, by leading a life of dignity and holiness. (God's Word 2016-Daily Reflections)

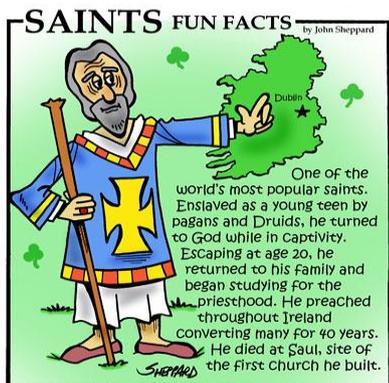
Sacrament of Holy Communion

This week students in Year 3 received information from the parish about enrolling in the program for students to prepare and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If your child is in Years 4-6 and has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation and you wish for them to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please print the attached letter from the parish and return it to the church as soon as possible. All forms need to be submitted to the parish by **18th May 2016**. This information can also be obtained in the Weekly Church Bulletin and on the table at the back of the Church.

Project Compassion Boxes

Please remember that one way you can contribute and help others suffering from poverty during the Lent season is by contributing to your project compassion box. Please return all boxes by the Holy Thursday on the 24th March.

Mrs Katrina Byrne
Acting Religious Education Coordinator



St. Patrick

St Patrick's Feast Day 17th March

Due to OLA Cross Country planned for the 17th March, we will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on **Friday the 18th March**.

What to wear: Students are able to wear green mufti on Friday the 18th March and bring a gold coin donation to support Project Compassion.

What is happening: Year 6 will be starting the day with a Liturgy. The School captains and SRC representatives will be organising fun activities at first break for students to participate in. There will also be an Irish dancing display from some of our talented Irish dances.

<http://www.catholic.org/>

Literacy News

Literacy News

Reading Afternoon

What a wonderful afternoon! Thank you to all family members who joined their children for an afternoon of reading. Despite the warm weather, the afternoon was a fabulous way to relax and enjoy a good book. This reading afternoon will be a regular event.



Writing Staff Development Day

Last Friday the OLA teachers completed a Persuasive Writing Marking Course. It was an opportunity to analyse writing samples, engage in professional conversations and identify strengths and needs. We will be using this criterion to mark writing, give specific feedback and to identify where to next for our students.

Lisa Hurst

Literacy Coordinator



PBS4L: Design an Angel Stamp

You are invited to participate in a competition for our PBS4L rewards program. We are in need of a design for an 'Angel Stamp' that will be used by all teachers at OLA. If possible, we would like the design to be a *cherub*. The stamp will track positive behaviour of students.

Criteria of image:

- must fit in the template provided
- black and white outline - not coloured in
- hand drawn design by student
- image only - no text

We will accept designs from all students until Thursday, March 24 (Holy Thursday). Following this, one design will be chosen and stamps made for teachers to use. The *prize* is that the design will be used as the OLA Angel stamp.



Examples of stamps/size the design will be shrunk.

Skoolbag App

Our School has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent community. We are asking parents to install our Skoolbag App. To install it, just search for our school name "Our Lady of the Angels Primary Rouse Hill" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.



There are many benefits to having this app on your device:

- You may select to receive notification for your child's grade only.
- Absentee notes can be completed on this app.
- Access to newsletters and news events linked directly to our school website.
- Instant notification when excursions are postponed, assemblies cancelled due to bad weather, delays during excursions and other important information.

Please ensure that you have updated your settings to receive the correct push notifications ie, if you needed year 3 last year, please update to year 4 this year. To update this click the "More" button on the bottom right of the app, then "Setup Push Notifications". Turn on the Push categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch. You will receive alerts specific to the selected grade and all alerts sent as a whole school.

Installation instructions for each device are attached to this newsletter.

OLA Cross Country

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help with the cross country next **Thursday, 17th March**. Could all volunteers meet me at the Student Access to the office at **8.30am** on the day for a brief meeting.

Miss Samantha Pepin

Sibling Kindergarten Enrolments 2017

Yes, it's that time of year again. If you have a sibling that is due to start kindergarten next year, could you please email ola@parra.catholic.edu.au and advise us of your child's name, DOB and the sibling + class. We will then arrange to send home enrolment forms over the coming weeks. Thanks



P&F NEWS

We are very pleased to announce that on behalf of the parents and friends of OLA, we have donated a *new shade sail* for the sand pit.



OLA FIESTA

Thank you to those who were able to attend the first meeting for the OLA FIESTA on August 14th. The meeting was quite exciting as we began to plan the big day.

Over the coming months we will be asking grade contact representatives and grade families to work together to organise and a run a stall on the day. We have a scaffold of stall ideas but welcome any other ideas or suggestions. If you have a particular interest or you are able to contribute through contacts or donations please let us know.

This year, the Parish and school community will work together to organise the Fiesta in AUGUST to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels. This will also mean that financially the school will also benefit from half of the funds raised. The next meeting for stall holders will be on Thursday April 7th at 7.30pm.

Thank you in advance for you enthusiasm and support for a wonderful fiesta in 2016!



Would you like to dress up and go out for a fun night with friends ?

Join us at the Parish Ball on Saturday April 2nd, Castle Hill RSL. Tickets \$75. You can join our tables of school parents or book one of your own. With or without a partner... Contact us via FB or email or pop in to the Parish Office. Hope to see you there ☺

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

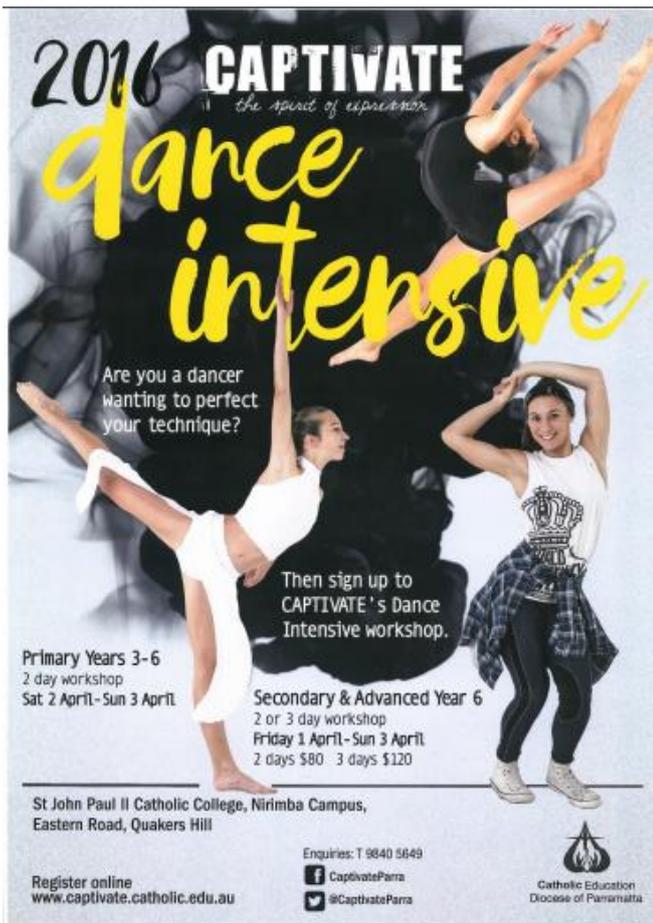
A special thank you to the dedicated team led by Jo Gladwell, Melissa Strong & Elicia Pace. Thank you also to those who came to help on the day. We are sure you will agree that sale is a great opportunity to buy a 'spare' as our children grow so quickly.

SPECIAL TREATS ROSTER

The roster for next week... Kellie Owen, Kelly Cleary, Belinda Connellan, Greta Vargas, Vanessa Lesar and Adrianna Attard. Thank you!



*Our Lady of the Angels
P&F Association*



Congratulations, again, to Thomas Gutwenger for achieving first prize (below) in the Castle Hill Show. What a talent and only six years old! We are proud of you Thomas. 😊



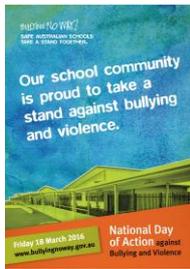
Breakup of School Fees

Just some clarification on the school based fees that were sent out. This year we have consolidated the school based fees, whereas previously each fee was set out on a different line. The fees are as follows:-

Maintenance Fee (per family)	\$120.00	-	\$40.00 per term
Resource Fee	\$150.00		
Technology Fee	\$75.00	-	\$225.00 term 1
Excursion Fee	\$84.00		
DanceFever	\$150.00 (\$50 x 3)		
Mathletics	\$30.00	\$264.00	- \$88.00 per term

We have been advised by the CEO that new bpay references will be posted out to everyone early next week. If you still have your old reference you are still able to use that in the meantime. If you need to discuss any aspect of your fees, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Goldsworthy



2016 National day of Action against Bullying and Violence

On the 18th March, OLA will be participating in the National day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Our captains will be speaking to the students throughout the week about ‘Bullying NO WAY!’ and giving students some tips and strategies to deal with bullying.

OLA will join other Australian school communities to say “Bullying. No Way! Take a Stand Together.” Captains will also be distributing wristbands to all OLA students, reminding them to take a stand and say ‘NO WAY to bullying!’

Please refer to the ‘no bullying’ brochure attached to this newsletter email.

Bullying – what can you do?

- If it happens in person:**
- ignore them
 - tell them to stop and then walk away
 - pretend you don't care
 - go somewhere safe
 - get support from your friends.
- If it happens online:**
- avoid responding to the bullying
 - block and report anyone who is bullying online
 - protect yourself online – use privacy settings and keep records.
- If you see someone being bullied:**
- leave negative online conversations – don't join in
 - support others being bullied.
- If it doesn't stop:**
- talk to an adult (parent, teacher) who can help stop the bullying
 - keep asking for support until the bullying stops.

Mackillop Trials
 Congratulations to Tyler S for successfully making it into the Mackillop Softball team. He will not only be representing the Parramatta Diocese but Our Lady of Angels. We wish Tyler all the best throughout the next competition.




- *Thank you to those who have volunteered to help us out. It's made a huge difference in the morning drop off.
 - *Thank you to those who have staggered the afternoon pick up which also has improved the flow of afternoon traffic.
 - *Fr Warren has requested that parents who come into the school in the morning with their children leave the car park directly after the assembly to free parking spaces for parishioners wanting to attend Mass.
- Perhaps, if you are intending to stay on longer, you might consider parking in the areas on Centenary Oval or Bruce Purser and walk over with your children. This is a valuable opportunity to teacher your children road safety.
- Thank you for your cooperation.

Bus Timetable – There is a new bus timetable attached to this newsletter, effective next Monday, 14th March.

Bookclub – Please remember that we **DO NOT** accept cash at school for the bookclub. Please either pay online or send a cheque.

Banking – Please remember to send your bank books in on Wednesday and they will be returned on Thursday.

Thank You

FROM THE CLASSROOM...4W

Year 4 have been learning about the First Fleet. In art we have looked at sketches made by botanists such as Joseph Banks. He made several botanical drawings of Australian plants such as the bottle brush. We have created our own artworks of the bottle brush using pieces of cardboard edged with paint instead of a paintbrush.



From the Parish Office...

Bingo

Tomorrow night get out your Bingo markers and come along to OLA Parish Bingo after the 5.30pm Mass starting at 7pm. Cost is \$10 for 3 books. BYO: nibblies & drink.

Instructional Mass

Do you want to get more out of Mass?

Then come to an INSTRUCTIONAL MASS to be presented and celebrated by Fr Warren Edwards.

Date: Tuesday, 15th March 2016

Time: 7pm

Where: OLA Church

Sacraments of Initiation

First Communion For those Children who have completed their Reconciliation in 2016 First Communion will take place in June 2016.

The first Parent-only session will be held on **Thursday, 19 May at 7.30pm.**

If you have a child in Year 3 or an older grade who has completed their Reconciliation and is not registered for First Communion, we ask that you contact the parish office for further information.

Parish Ball

On Saturday, 2 April, the Parish will be holding a Ball at the Castle Hill RSL Club. Tickets are now on sale for \$75-. Please contact the parish office for further information.

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

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am
Confessions available after the stations
The Passion Liturgy 3pm

Easter Vigil: Saturday evening 7pm

Easter Sunday: 8.30am, 10am and 5.30pm

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!!



What people say about our wonderful school... *I'm sure that outside of our family, there are many other parents and students who experience the same positive impacts from the OLA school environment as we do. Thank you so much for helping to grow our children into confident, positive, bright young adults who are keen to learn in so many different ways.*

(name provided)

Dance Fever Parking
Please remember that the Easter Show will also be on at Homebush when Dance Fever Interscholar Challenge is on 23rd March. Therefore, if you are driving to the venue, it would be a good idea to pre-pay your parking. The best places to park are the P3 and P4 parking stations.



Congratulations to
The lori family on the arrival of baby Rocca, a brother for Roman in Kinder
And
The Tierney family on the arrival of baby Keira, a sister for Ethan, also in Kindergarten. God's blessings on you all during this special time. ☺

Demonstrate how to calculate the amount of ingredients when you want to change a recipe.

Term 1 Week 7	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award	Einstein Award
Year 3 B	Grace Bennsion	Joshua Steater	Lucas Buda
Year 3 G	Denzel Chang	Chanel Johnston	Leila balangan
Year 3 W	Bowen Cleary	Eva Sultana	Roman Bizzanelli
Year 4 B	John-Paul Doueihy	Alicia Dersch	Cody Tickell
Year 4 W	Thomas Lenane	Luke Awadalla	Georgia Domars
Year 5 B	Shanae Makumbe	Charlie Hallal	Sascha Strykowski
Year 5 G	Ashley Cummings	Nicola Topic	Olivia Jones
Year 5W	Sophia Tapley	William Blazey	John Stafford
Year 6 B	Darci Buxton	Javier Silva	Ryan Muscat
Year 6 W	Angus Misek	Daniella Lopresti	Brock Bailey

*Until next week, God bless and stay safe.
Eva La Rocca,*

