



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Newsletter
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11th December, 2020
Term 4, Week 9

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

What an Amazing Year! Together we have met the Challenge

As 2020 comes to a close, we reflect on what an amazing year of faith, fun and learning we have had. In spite of the challenge that Covid has had on our society and school, together we have continued to ensure the safety and learning of the children has been paramount.

Thank you to the children. They are the reason we are here. Their enthusiasm for life and learning is a wonderful example to us all.

To you, our parents, the primary educators of your children, I give thanks for your support and partnership in providing so much for the children. No matter what your contribution over the year, big or small, it is appreciated and has benefitted the children.

We wish all those venturing on from OLA the best that life has to offer and welcome new families to our community for next year. Best wishes to our Year 6 students as they soon begin a new chapter in their lives. May God bless them and keep them safe.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute and thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to Catholic Education over the past year. Together they facilitate learning so that the children work towards reaching academic and human excellence in a faith filled community. Their generosity in terms of time, themselves and sharing of skills is often outside the normal hours of the day but it is in their giving so much that they receive. They have adapted to the ever-changing landscape this year and have risen to every challenge put before them. They have been outstanding.

My sincere thanks to our clerical ladies and support teachers. Their smiles greet so many and their support for the children, parents and staff is uncompromising. To Mr Meinardo (grounds and maintenance) who has kept our school looking so good and functioning as a learning environment, thank you.

My thanks to Mr Cauchi, our amazing Assistant Principal, for his support to not only myself, but to the entire OLA community. He is an outstanding leader and educator whose love of the children, expertise and gentle nature are very much appreciated.

We are blessed to have had Fr Carlos & Fr Omar guiding our parish community in its spiritual journey and relationship with Christ. Many thanks for their faith, love and care.

My sincere thanks to our wonderful community for your support and understanding in this unforgettable year. I could not be more proud of how everyone has worked together for the children.

May Christ's blessings be with you during this Holy season. Remember, **it is not what is under the Christmas tree but who is around it**, enjoy this special time with your family.



Thank you for your continued support. It is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

*Tony Calabria
Principal*

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)



[Jn 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ; his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Living the Gospel

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

(LiturgyHelp.com.au, 11-12-2020)



CHRISTMAS ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER APPEAL



Advent is a time for prayer, forgiveness and almsgiving to prepare for the coming of Christ. This year the OLA community collected items to make up hampers to spread God's love and give people hope. On behalf of St Vincent de Paul, we would like to thank the OLA community for all your kind donations, in making this Christmas one of unity and hope.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS WISHES

Keep an eye out for the link for the virtual Christmas Wishes which will be sent out next week. This will show each grade just taking a few moments to wish you a Merry Christmas in their own special way.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This week students in Year Two received a letter about the sacrament of First Reconciliation. The letter outlined the process for 2021 with an enrolment form. If your child is in Year 2 2020, and has been baptised and did not receive a note, please email the office to let Mrs Byrne know.

Years 3-6

If your child has been baptised and not received their sacrament of reconciliation, can you please contact the parish office by email to ask for an enrolment form for the sacramental program.

The Third week of Advent: Pray for Joy

We light a third Advent Candle as a sign of joy — a testimony to the Light of God coming into our world that will shatter the darkness and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Dates to Remember

Mon 14th Dec	End of Year Liturgy – Students only
Tues 15th Dec	Year 6 End of Year Luncheon Whole School Guard of Honour 2.40pm Year 6 Graduation Mass 6.30pm
Wed 16th Dec	Motiv8 Fun Day – Details to follow LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Start of School Dates for 2021

Week 1	Wed 27 th Jan	Staff/MAI Assessments
	Thurs 28 th Jan	MAI Assessments
	Fri 29 th Jan	Years 1 – 6 Start School
	27 th – 29 th January Kindy 2021 Assessments (90 min session on any of these days)	
Week 2	Mon 1 st Feb	Kindy Start School



Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who are celebrating their birthday this coming week and up to the end of this year....

Mon 14th Dec
Sahara Knipler

Mon 21st Dec
Braxton Conliffe
Denison Cu

Wed 16th Dec
Ryan Knipler
Maxim Stankiewicz

Tues 22nd Dec
Cameron Brackenburg
Tomas Mallari
Mrs Terina Macare

Thurs 17th Dec
Patrick Pacella
Gianluca Russo

Thurs 24th Dec
Malenna Graczyk
Oscar Meli

Sat 19th Dec
Mason Hession
Daniel Mandarano

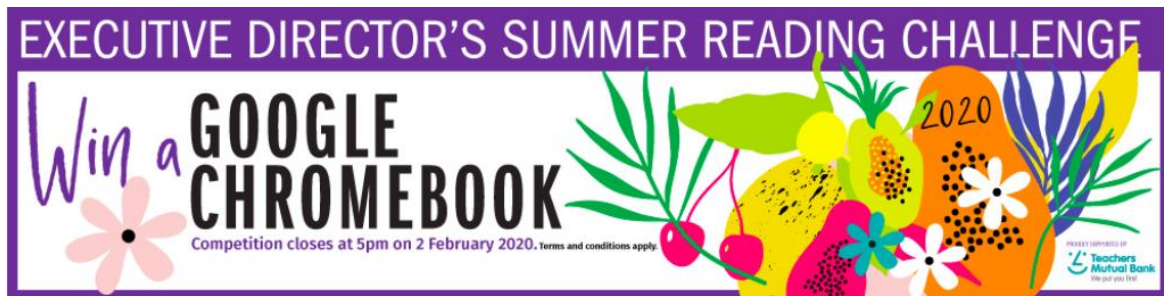
Sat 26th Dec
Charlotte Eyres

Sun 20th Dec
Nathan Murphy
Luciana Salib
Lurich Teng

Tues 29th Dec
Elizabeth McKee
Elena Valensise

2020 Principal's Award		
Student	Term 4	
Kinder B	Benjamin Nicholls	Elena Valensise
Kinder G	Daniel Salac	Ava Nobleza
Kinder W	Lila Naim	Ashton Ko
Year 1 B	Ariah Clark	Zara Farias
Year 1 G	Lucas Rapa	Valentina Buda
Year 1 W	Ella Macdonald	Korbin Bruckard
Year 2 B	Lucas Dobaj	Dexter Wijaya
Year 2 G	James Boje	Flynn Coughlan
Year 2 W	Tristan Williams	Charlotte Holden
Year 3 B	Eva Perry	Roko Deur
Year 3 G	Kaley Chown	Max Masters
Year 3 W	Zoe Bell	Zavier Dabit
Year 4 B	Gabriella Fedele	Justin Gauci
Year 4 G	Jasmine Vella	Luka Kurcubic
Year 4 W	Natasha Cabarles	Sybellah Arora
Year 5 B	Gabriella Ponturo	Matthew Kamber
Year 5 G	Ekamveer Hundal	James Conn
Year 5 W	Cailee Graham	Olivia Cutajar
Year 6 B	Alicia Gladwell	Mikayla Edwards
Year 6 G	Lachlan Connellan	Joseph Abdallah
Year 6 W	Zara Zivic	Marcus Mileto





These summer holidays, Mr Whitby is again launching his **Summer Reading Challenge** and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.

Taking part in the **Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge** is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell them in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website.

This year Mr Whitby is introducing **Student Reading Ambassadors** for the challenge. The role of the Student Reading Ambassador is to creatively encourage their peers to participate and enter the competition. Schools are then invited to nominate one outstanding Student Reading Ambassador for one of 10 prizes (each prize is a \$30 gift voucher).

PM e-Collection

A reminder that all **K-2 students** have access to this reading resource. This is a wonderful way to keep your child reading appropriate levelled books in the holidays.

Holiday Tips for Parents-Avoiding the Holiday Slide in Reading

Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned or slip out of practice during the holidays. Try these strategies to help your child improve their reading during the break and beyond:

Six books to success: Research shows that reading just six books during the holidays may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Libraries often run reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area.

Read something every day: Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day:

- *Morning:* The newspaper — even if it is just the comics or today's weather.
- *Daytime:* Schedules, TV guides, magazines, online resources, etc. For example, if your daughter likes the food channel, help her look for a recipe on the network's Web site — then cook it together for more reading practice.
- *Evening:* End the day by having your child read to you from the book he is currently reading (one of the six books, above). Have them rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you. Rereading will help them be more fluent — able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with nice expression.

Keep reading aloud: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so they will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase their knowledge and expand their experience with text, so that they will do better when they read on their own.

Source:

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/developing-reading-skills/three-ways-to-prevent-summer-slide>

Lisa Hurst
Literacy Coordinator

OLA Classroom Teachers for 2021

The list below names the classroom teachers for 2021:

6B	Mrs Samantha Grunsell/Mrs Samantha Zivic
6G	Miss Emily Digwood
6W	Mr Joshua Lee
5B	Mrs Vesna Jurcevic
5G	Mrs Rebecca Cordukes
5W	Miss Madison Hogan
4B	Mr Luke Campbell
4G	Miss Pina Grima/Mrs Abby Buckley
4W	Mrs Kyra Giglio/Mrs Abby Buckley
3B	Mrs Sarah McBrien
3G	Mrs Leanne Vella
3W	Mrs Cherie Lopresti
2B	Mrs Elaine Lombardi
2G	Miss Kimberley Marchant
2W	Mrs Katrina Byrne/Mrs Rebecca Moulton
1B	Mrs Jacqueline Cheadle
1G	Miss Zoe Brown
1W	Mrs Nicole Hodgess
KB	Miss Clare Crozier
KG	Mrs Nicole Arayon
KW	Mrs Nibal Younes

Children had an opportunity yesterday to meet their new teacher for next year.

A full staff list will be published at the beginning of next year.

Big Slides/Small Slides

"We loved it! When can we do it again!"

Our slides day was an amazing experience and was a big hit with the children. Check our more photos including our teachers enjoying the slides on our Facebook page.



School Leaders for 2021 will be announced on Monday morning at the whole school liturgy.

Are you missing out??
Join our Facebook
page.

Keep up to date with news from OLA
See what is happening at OLA
Visit our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/OLARouse>
HIII Or Click on the facebook f in the
top corner of our school website
Be sure to 'like us'

Theme for the Week:

"In Giving that We Receive"

Our theme this week focuses on the gifts of 'ourselves' that we give to others when we help another person, when we speak a kind word, when we forgive, when we do something for someone else and expect nothing in return. To gain satisfaction from simply living out our gospel values in our interactions with others truly helps us receive Christ in our lives at this special time of Christmas

Absences

Absences each year, once reports are published, can be a point of discussion. Please note this has been a tricky year with Covid when it has come to attendance with various codes being applicable to absentees. Additionally, the system CEDP uses has a default to 'unexplained' if a note is not sent within the first 7 days. Please let us know if there are any significant issues as we have found the system has let us down on a number of occasions.

Early next year we will be introducing a new system where you will receive an alert if your child is away and absent notes can be quickly done on your phone.

Days absences, coupled with Covid lockdowns and associated restrictions has meant some children have missed a significant amount of learning. We hope to return to normality in 2021 and re-introduce a strong emphasis on being at school everyday.

Christmas is for children.

What better time could there be to honor and love our children than the time when the King of the Universe was Himself a little child?

From the Office...

Uniform Shop

If you require uniform at the beginning of the year, please email your order during the holidays and we will endeavour to have it ready at the office for collection when you come to your child's MAI session on Wednesday and Thursday 28th/29th January.

Medication

All medication that is kept at the school office will be sent home at the end of the year, with paperwork for 2021.

Thank You to our P&F

Many thanks to our 2020 P&F committee of Kara Gergely-Hollai, Marian Vickers, Olivia Cameron and Leonie Blazey. Although it has been a quiet year due to COVID, we have managed to squeeze in a number of events for the children. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support. It is much appreciated.

LAST CALL.....

Readers & Library Books

Please check at home for any overdue books.

Could all readers and all library books please be returned to school early next week. This will allow teachers and librarians to ensure that all resources are ready for next year. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Treats

In these last days of school, children like to carry out the Christmas spirit by sending and receiving Christmas cards with lovely messages of joy and thanks. This is a lovely gesture. As there are a number of children at OLA who have severe allergies we kindly ask that you do not send in any edible treats for the children to give to each other, particularly as is still the case due to COVID. This particularly includes candy canes. We ask this so that our school community remains safe for all of our children. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Year 6 Farewell Dinner Dance

Last Sunday 6th December gathered at Springfield House at Dural for our graduation dinner. As we walked in we were greeted with a beautifully decorated room and we were able to choose where to sit. We all received a bombonerie box filled with chocolates. The night was spent dancing and playing fun games as well as posing in front of the photo booth. Thank you to the parents who organised this event for us.

Emily, Mya, Matilda, Madison and Lily



Thank you from us to the Parent Committee: Sarah Lenane, Flora Cauchi, Lee-Ann Wallis, Leigh-Ann Zahra & Julie Trimboli

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards this week:-

Term 4 Week 9		
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award
KB	Sophia Gobran	Ari Vilathgamuwa
KG	Dylan Jacob Cabunag	Millyana Pelaez
KW	Myra Batra	Adrian Kajavshekan
Year 1 B	Hayden Spiteri	Parker Conliffe
Year 1 G	Olivia Falzon	Johanna TorreIslas
Year 1 W	Rey Gupta	Audrey Summerhays
Year 2 B	Elijah Dabit	Madeleine Teo
Year 2G	Sienna Cutajar	Ally Flores
Year 2W	Arella Sales	Alana Apap
Year 3 B	Braxton Conliffe	Ava-Belle Chong
Year 3 G	Nicholas Thornton	Andre Mandarano
Year 3 W	Ethan Maddaford	Gael Casino
Year 4 B	Isaac Meighan	Elise Song
Year 4 G	Isaak Blye	Christian Medjumurac
Year 4 W	Jordan Holden	Elijah Atkins
Year 5 B	Malachi Rangan	Tahniah Arora
Year 5G	Mackenzie Molloy	Javin Chugh
Year 5W	Kobe Coombes	Ileesha Gunasekara
Year 6 B	Jett Laborte	Harrison McQuaid
Year 6 G	Joyce Ghobrial	Calum Graham
Year 6 W	Timothy Rochaix	Ben Roffmann



A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Olivia Blackman in Year 2 who, last weekend, cut her beautiful long hair and donated it to the AAF (Alopecia Foundation). Olivia raised almost \$2,000.00 for this worthy cause. We are very proud of you.

Congratulations to Ruby Masters & Rose Montgomery.

Ruby & Rose competed in the NSW State Championships for Irish Dancing at the end of November. Ruby placed 1st out of 41 achieving the title of State Champion in the 6 years age group.

Rose placed 4th out of 23 in the 8 years age group. This was an amazing achievement after the competition season has been on hold for all of 2020 and the girls trained all year via zoom during lockdown and then back in the studio at the end of Term 2.

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church

Christmas Novena Masses

(Simbang Gabi)

5.00am ~ daily at dawn

December 16th - December 23rd

Bookings via <https://www.trybooking.com/BMWOD>

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

5:30pm (outdoor ~ byo chair)

7:30pm

Christmas Carols at 11:30pm

Christmas Day

Midnight Mass at 12:00am

7:00am, 8:30am and 10:00am

Bookings via <https://www.trybooking.com/BKNKM>

