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Newsletter
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8th October, 2021
Term 4, Week 1

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

Welcome back to our final term for 2021. I hope that the holidays were an opportunity to step back from the routine of the last three months and spend time together as a family. As life as we know it begins to return to some normality, I encourage you to take time out where and when you can during the busyness that will reappear to spend time with family and friends, especially with your children in their early years. No matter what, all the riches in the world can never bring back missed opportunities for special moments with those you love.

This has been a year like no other, particularly given the extensive amount of time our children have been undertaking remote learning, but together we have achieved the impossible. We are so very proud of everyone.

We hope everyone is excited as we are to return to working with the children at school. I look forward to another great term of faith, fun and learning as we work in partnership in our Christ-centered community of children, parents, teachers and priests.

The Premier yesterday announced the new dates that children are required to return to school. We welcome back Kindergarten and Year 1 from Monday 18th October and now Years 2 – 6 on Monday 25th October. We know it will be a challenge for some but we kindly ask that parents adhere to this new staggered return outlined by the Government.

There are many questions that are currently being asked of the Government and the new Premier in relation to the students returning to school. Some have been answered, some answers continually change and some are yet to be addressed.

During this coming week, we hope to receive clarification regarding many of the mandatory restrictions on schools and their impact on our daily interactions. Please be aware that schools, because of their nature, have many different restrictions upon them that differ from the general public.

My appreciation and thanks to our talented OLA team of professionals who have given above and beyond what is expected all for the children. As a staff we are currently looking at strategies to further support the children's well-being as a priority along with adjustments to our daily routines to ensure a safe environment for all in our community.

Thank you in advance for your support as we ensure a safe return to school.

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

*Tony Calabria
Principal*

Please see the last page of this newsletter for a letter from Mr Greg Whitby, Director of CEDP regarding recent announcements.

We look forward to seeing you back very soon

K & 1 - 18th October

Yrs 2 - 6 - 25th October



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Sunday 10th October 2021

Gospel Reflection (Mk 10:17-30)

'Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.'



Jesus reminds us in this gospel that to join him in bringing about the reign of God requires absolute commitment and a willingness to give up that which is most precious to us. The rich man who approached Jesus was genuine in his desire to fulfil all the requirements of the Law to attain eternal life. Jesus quoted to him all the commandments that deal with right relationships with others. The man is able to tick these off and assure Jesus that he has been doing this since childhood – a pretty big claim in the first place! Then Jesus 'looked steadily at him and loved him' – he looked on him with the eyes of love; the eyes that see to the heart of a person, and in that look knew what was most important to the man. Jesus could tell by his dress no doubt that the man was wealthy and so it is this aspect of the man's life that Jesus chooses to challenge him about. This gospel shouldn't necessarily be read as a condemnation of wealth – rather, it is the man's inability to surrender his wealth that Jesus challenges. Jesus sees to the heart of the man and asks if he is willing to give up that which is most important in his life. The man is unable to do what Jesus asks of him and goes away sad. Why sad? He's sad because he knows that he has been tested and failed. He knows that what he genuinely desired was within his reach but he needed to let go of his position, his status, his wealth, to be able to grasp what he desired in both hands.

St Francis of Assisi Feast Day 4th October, 2021

On 4th of October, we remembered the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis of Assisi was a Catholic friar who gave up a life of riches to live a life of poverty. He established the Franciscan Order of friars and the women's Order of the Poor Ladies.

At the age of 19, Francis went to battle against a nearby town and was captured and put in prison. After a year left in a dungeon, Francis was set free. Over a few years, Francis began to see visions from God that changed his life. One day, Francis was praying in a church that needed to be repaired. God spoke to Francis and told him to repair His church. Francis then decided to give all his money to the church. This decision made his father very angry, so Francis left his home and took a vow of poverty.

St Francis is also known for his love of nature, especially animals. He treated the animals gently and with kindness. St Francis believed that actions were the best way to show his love for God.

Peace Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.



Semester 2 Student Representative Council

Given that students will soon be back at school, we will be able to officially congratulate and present badges to the Semester 2 SRC representatives. Whilst unfortunately we will not be able to have a whole school ceremony and commissioning due to Covid regulations, Mr Calabria and Mr Cauchi will visit the classrooms to present their badges amongst their peers who elected them into the role. Year 1 SRC representatives will be presented their badges on Monday 18th October (first day of the staggered return to school for Kinder and Year 1). The remainder of the SRC representatives will be presented with their badges on Monday 25th October upon their return to school.

Next week we will include in the newsletter our Semester 2 SRC members for Year 1 – 5.

Thank you to our SRC members from each class who over the holidays recorded a short message to their class/grade. These will be posted on each class page this coming Monday for their peers to view. Congratulations and thank you to all our SRC members for their great work.

Term 2 Principal's Award/Student of the Term Recipients

Due to the sudden restrictions that were imposed at the end of Term 2, we were not able to present and celebrate our Student of The Term recipients. We will endeavour to present the Term 2 recipients with their medals in a covid safe way once all the children have resumed face to face learning in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, we will not award a Term 3 Student of The Term, however, it is our intention to proceed with a Student of The Term award in Term 4.

READ.....READ.....READ READ TO SUCCEED!



Please click on the **dark blue** links below

Sora & Wheeler Online Resources

- CEDP provides personal access to eBooks for all students via SORA or WHEELER. They can be accessed online or via the “SORA app” or the “Wheelers ePlatform” apps. Sign in via your CEDP username and password.

Download a printable SORA Guide for Students

- **Getting Started in SORA - How to Login and navigate SORA**
- **How to borrow a book in Sora**

Ways to improve reading comprehension at home

Developing reading comprehension skills is important for absorbing story books as a young child. As children get older, this skill will help them understand textbooks, newspapers, and other more complex texts.

1. Have your child read aloud. This forces them to go slower, which gives them more time to process what they read and in turn improves reading comprehension. Plus, they are not only seeing the words — they are hearing them, too! You can also take turns reading aloud.

2. Provide books at the right level. Make sure your child gets lots of practise reading books that aren't too hard. They should recognize at least 90 percent of the words without any help. Stopping any more often than that to figure out a word makes it tough for them to focus on the overall meaning of the story

Source:

Lisa Hurst
Literacy Coordinator

Excursions/Incursions

All excursions/incursions have been cancelled due to lockdown and associated restrictions. Please see the important email sent to all families yesterday regarding the cancelling of activities in line with Government restrictions and the associated refund in place for families.

Class Zooms

Zooms will continue as follows until children are scheduled to return:-

- Years 5&6 – 9.00am each day
- Year 3&4 – 9.00am Mon/Wed/Fri
- Years K,1&2 – 9.30am Mon/Wed/Fri

2022 Team Sport Trial Nominations

Attention **current (2021)** Year 4 and Year 5 students. Nominations will open for **ALL** team sports in Term 4.

1. Check <https://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Pathway-Information> for more information regarding which team sports are available.

We will provide more details closer to the time of nominations.
Regards, Mrs Batten

Student Reports

Student reports for Semester 2 will be very different from previous years. This is due to the extended period of remote learning and minimal time back at school.

They will outline the learning opportunities that were focused on during Terms 3 and 4, the level of engagement of the children, along with written comments from the teachers.

“If Something’s Not Quite Right....”

At OLA Primary School, we strive to build a learning community in partnership with the home and parish, which models relationships based on:-

- Mutual respect
- Affirmation and welcoming of individual differences
- Sharing and forgiveness
- Collaboration and support
- Generosity, gratitude and service

Our community rejoices in:-

- Nurturing co-operative relationships between students, staff, parents and parishioners
- Using effective ways to communicate within and across the school community.

At times, issues may arise at school that cause you concern and you would like to speak to someone about these. The following procedures are in place. At all times the dignity, rights and beliefs of all those involved are respected.

The first point of call is the child’s class teacher. Contact the school office via email or written note to the teacher to make initial contact with the teacher concerned.

If you are not satisfied with the solutions offered or believe that they have not been given a fair hearing you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Assistant Principal or Principal to discuss the issues further.

A comprehensive outline of the OLA Managing Complaints Policy can be found on the school website at [this link](#) under ‘Catholic School Community’.

Let's Get Back to Routine

- We suggest that children begin moving back to regular school eating and break times (the absence of a fridge full of food for consumption at any time will be challenging for all when returning).
- Have children try on their uniforms and shoes well before their start day - just in case the growth spurt has been bigger than you think.
- Ensure haircuts are in line with School Policy (see this newsletter).
- Begin a conversation to see how your child is feeling about returning to school and address any areas of concern.
- Ensure your child has what they need to learn at school.
- Please check that nail polish, excess jewellery etc is removed.

Summer Uniform

The children will be returning in their summer uniform. If you need any new uniform, please email the uniform order form to the office and we will arrange to fill it and advise you when it will be ready for collection. The uniform order form is attached to this newsletter for your reference.

If you are changing schools/moving and won't be returning to OLA in 2022, please email the school and we will forward the Notice of Withdrawal form for you to complete. This form can also be found on the school website.

Thank you

Are you missing out?? Join our Facebook page.

Take a look and see the amazing learning and happenings at OLA

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

Hillsbus

We have been informed that all Hillsbus school services will recommence from Monday 18th October 2021. They will also recommence School Term timetables for all public routes for students who use public routes to school.



Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who celebrated their birthday this week...

Mon 4th Oct
Sebastian Georges

Fri 8th Oct
Annie Blazey

Tues 5th Oct
Troy Noel-Osimen

Sat 9th Oct
Azalia Sales
Antonio Dinos

Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who are celebrating their birthday this coming week...

Sun 10th Oct
Lucas George
Mia George

Thurs 14th Oct
Paige Mitrovich

Mon 11th Oct
Zoe Farias

Fri 15th Oct
Willow Johnston
Ivy Jakovljevic
Penelope Sofiak

Wed 13th Oct
Lucious Cappello
Maddison Dyke
Olivia Vella
Eli Nobleza
Lyla Sofiak

Sat 16th Oct
Emma Alin
Oliver Davidson

Student Haircuts.

As you prepare your child for school it may well be time for a hair cut from a professional. We kindly ask you to adhere to our school policy outlined below when it comes to haircuts. Children spoken to in the past have blamed the parents, and mum or dad have blamed the child. So remember as the adult you are responsible in ensuring children receive the appropriate haircut. Current trends such as mullets, undercuts etc are not acceptable. Thank you for your support in this area.



COVID-19 symptoms



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath



Loss of smell



Loss of taste

Stay Safe



Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser



Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or your elbow. Put the tissue in the bin and wash your hands



8 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday the NSW Government again changed the dates for some students to return to school. The new plan will still see Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 12 students back at school on Monday 18 October with all other students expected to return on Monday 25 October. Our staff are really looking forward to welcoming their students back!

For many families, this news will bring joy as students are able to return to school and reconnect with their friends and teachers sooner. We understand that for others in our communities, such as students with complex health conditions, an earlier return date may cause concern. If your family needs additional support, please reach out to your child's school to discuss how we can help.

The health and safety of our communities remain our top priority. We will continue to follow the health advice, which includes strong support for vaccinations. Each school has a detailed COVID-safe plan which includes hygiene measures, regular cleaning, year groupings where possible, maintaining good ventilation and measures to regularly monitor and improve air quality. We are ready to respond if there are any further cases of COVID-19 within our school communities.

Our teachers are excited about being able to focus on teaching their students at school again. We know that the face-to-face connection between the teacher and their students are so important, as are the social contacts between classmates.

Your child's school will be in contact with further information about how today's news impacts on their return to school plan. They will also provide you with more details about the kind of school activities that can take place during the term. A reminder also that for many secondary schools, the schedule for face-to-face learning for students in Years 7 to 11 will need to be flexible so that the large candidature HSC exams can be held under COVID-safe conditions.

Thank you for your outstanding support of students' remote learning across more than 100 days of 'lockdown'. We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory B. Whitby', is written over a white background.

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