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Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 32

15th October, 2021
Term 4, Week 2

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

We are excited and looking forward to the children returning to OLA. We know there will be some anxiety and uncertainty about being back together at school but in partnership we will undertake this transition with the children as the priority at all times.

Please be sure to read the email titled '**IMPORTANT UPDATE – Regarding Returning to School**' that was sent on Wednesday for all details you need to know about your child returning to school. Below is only a snippet of the essential 'need to know' parts:-

As communicated:

- *Kindergarten and Year 1 commence this Monday 18th October (Week 3)*
- *All other grades commence Monday 25th October (Week 4)*

With school officially returning, face-to-face learning is the priority.

The Government has specified all students should be at school on the date indicated for their year group, unless:

- *They have a medical certificate which says they can't return to school due to a condition or illness*
- *They are currently unwell*
- *They have been asked by NSW Health to self-isolate*

The Government expectation is that students return to school, as it is the best learning environment for them.

Remote home learning will officially cease on the allocated return date. As teachers will be teaching face-to-face they will not be able to provide two modes of learning. To support families and students who are in one of the vulnerable categories as outlined by the Government, or are not returning for other reasons, we will endeavour to provide home based learning in a simplified form to assist in the transition period (ie. this will not be as detailed or as comprehensive as was provided in the full lockdown period).

At OLA we have many processes in place to further ensure the safety of all in our school community. These include:

- *Only fully vaccinated staff and essential workers on site*
- *QR codes used daily by all adults*
- *Wearing of masks by all staff indoors and outdoors in accordance with health orders*
- *Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks (this is OPTIONAL not compulsory)*
- *Cohort arrangements to limit, as far as practical, children from different grades interacting with each other, eg. staggered lunch breaks, children arriving and moving directly to their own learning spaces, adjustments to dismissal etc.*
- *Hygiene practices, eg. regular hand sanitising and washing including sanitising as children enter the site*
- *Regular cleaning and sanitising of high touch areas*
- *Ensuring good ventilation in learning spaces (additionally all air conditioners have been serviced and cleaned)*
- *No parents and non-essential visitors within the school grounds*

- Physical distancing encouraged and maintained where possible
- Outdoor learning will occur when possible
- Bubblers will be disabled. Children are to bring in their own water bottles which can be refilled at school

Parents are asked to follow social distancing measures while waiting for the afternoon dismissal of the children, ie. not congregating at the school gates. The preferred option is drive through or, much easier, park at the oval, walk up and arrive at the exact pick up time and leave promptly. Kindergarten will be dismissed at 3:00pm as per usual. The siblings of children in Kindergarten will also be dismissed at 3:00pm.

As we return, our focus will be on the wellbeing of the children, re-establishing routines and teaching and learning with a particular focus on Literacy, Numeracy and opportunities to engage in Religious Education.

We kindly ask that if a device was borrowed that it be returned with the charger on the first day your child is back on site. We also kindly ask that any readers, resources or equipment that were sent home be returned. Please have these together in a plastic bag, securely tied and labelled with your child's name. This will make the process of checking off returns much easier.

It Is A Privilege

As educators and parents, we have the wonderful privilege of watching the children change and grow in their formative years or development. Each child is a unique gift nurtured in our care so that they may become independent, hope-filled adults who can make a positive difference to the lives of others. This reflection is for all who nurture our most precious gift, our children.

The Beatitudes of the Child

Blessed is the child who is believed and challenged.

Blessed is the child who can share problems – unafraid.

Blessed is the child whose school is a haven of happiness.

Blessed is the child to whom life is a book of knowledge.

Blessed is the child who is allowed to pursue curiosity into every worthwhile field of information.

Blessed is the child who has someone who understands that childhood griefs are real and call for understanding and sympathy.

Blessed is the child who is led gently by the hand along the pathway of life by someone who is guide, companion and inspiration.

Blessed is the child whose efforts to achieve have found encouragement.

Blessed is the child who has learning freedom from selfishness through responsibility and cooperation.

Blessed is the school, which sees in the child the hope of the future and dedicates itself to the realisation of that hope.

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

Tony Calabria
Principal

We look forward to seeing you back very soon

K & 1 - 18th October

Yrs 2 - 6 - 25th October



Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Sunday 17th October 2021
Gospel Reflection (Mk 10:35-45) *'The Son of man came to give his life as a ransom for all'*



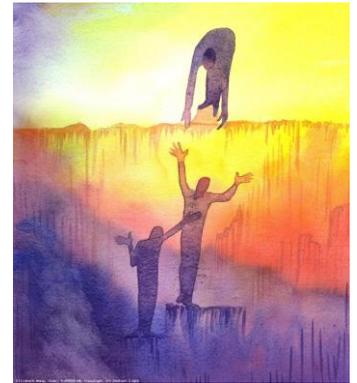
James and John are effectively calling 'shotgun' on the best seats at the table! When they ask to sit at the left and right hand of Jesus, they are asking Jesus to name them as his deputies. They're looking to secure for themselves positions of power and authority. The only problem is that they have a completely messed up idea of what it means for Jesus to enter into his glory. For several weeks now, we have been exploring a theme from the Gospel of Mark that follows a physical journey towards Jerusalem as well as a symbolic and theological journey towards what is going to occur in Jerusalem – Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

Throughout this journey, Jesus has been trying to prepare the disciples for what is to come and educate them about what it really means to be a disciple of his. Three times Jesus tells the disciples explicitly what lies ahead. Each time the disciples fail to grasp what Jesus tells them. Despite occasional glimpses of insight, the disciples still believe that Jesus is going to rise up as a political or military figure. In a complete dismissal of this sort of thinking, Jesus declares quite forcefully that leadership of this sort is not what he intends for himself, nor for those who follow him.

Leadership in the Jesus model is about being of service to others; it is not about prestige and acclamation. Many of the best leaders are those who do not have any title of leadership or authority. Their leadership and authority come from what they do and how they do it. They inspire others to follow their example. They don't demand it; they don't bully; they don't play power games. People simply want to follow their example.

Living the Gospel

What does it really mean to practise servant leadership? It means placing the needs of others before your own desires for prestige or authority. We've all known people who have been given a position of leadership and they really only wanted the job as recognition of their popularity; a thank you for previous work done; an opportunity to demonstrate their strength of will or cleverness with words. Servant leadership is about collaborating; it's about empowering people to do their best; it's about trusting others and about rolling up your sleeves and getting on with the job.



WELCOME BACK KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR ONE

Dear Lord,
use my eyes to
SEE my friends again.
Open my ears to
HEAR my teacher
Open my mind to
LEARN new things
Let my heart
REMEMBER you are near when I'm afraid
Help me to
LOVE others like you do.
I want to
SHINE your light
So bright in my school. Amen

Congratulations to Mrs Samantha Grunsell (6B) and her husband on the announcement of the impending birth of their second child early in 2022.

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.

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.

Literacy News

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



A guide for reading with your child at home

It is important not only for your child to be a reader but to be a fluent reader. Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and expression. Young readers should be able to read with automaticity, a smooth, natural tone rather than reading with a choppy, word-by-word uncertainty. The ease of fluent reading increases your child's ability to understand a text, in turn, promoting a heightened enjoyment of reading.



How can you help?

Reading selections to help your child practise fluency should be easier than the typical instructional reading level. Use the timer and book at home to help your child practice reading with speed, accuracy, and expression. Focus on those three key elements of reading to ensure reading improvements and success

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 last week regarding the cancelling of activities in line with Government restrictions and the associated refund in place for families.

Please note:-

Although children will be sanitised as they enter the classroom and use equipment etc, you are most welcome to send in a pencil case with items for your child only to use, if you wish ie, lead pencil, coloured pencils, small scissors, glue stick.

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

Term 4 Library Timetable

Monday – 2W
Tuesday – 2B, Year 4, Year 1
Wednesday – 2G, Year 6, Year 5
Thursday – Kindy, Year 3

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
- Year 2 – 9.30am Mon/Wed/Fri

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.

Sports Days

The students are to wear their sports uniform on the following days:-

- Monday** – Whole school
- Tuesday** – Kindy & Year 6
- Wednesday** – Years 2, 5 & 1
- Thursday** – Years 3 & 4

IMPORTANT NOTICE DO YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS BORROWED FROM SCHOOL?

During Covid, the school loaned out over 1,000 library books and readers to students.

We would appreciate it if parents and students look for any books at home and have them ready to return to school when they come back over the next two weeks.

We appreciate your assistance to this matter.
Thank you, Mrs Wagner



We Can Bounce Back

Preparing to Return to School Term 4 Week 2



Throughout term 3 students at OLA were engaged in learning experiences that promoted a positive mindset as well as developing skills and strategies to 'Bounce Back' from situations that may not have gone the way they wanted or expected. The 'Bounce Back' focus will continue in term 4.

How can we prepare our children for the return to school?

It is important to respond to and support the differing emotions that arise in our children so that we can support their transition back to a school routine successfully. We can do this by speaking about returning to OLA with positivity and involving our children in the practical elements such as packing their bag in preparation for the return to school. Your child may feel nervous about returning to school, your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact. Let them know it is OK to have these feelings and you will miss them too and think about them throughout the day. Perhaps you could set them a task to tell you about the best 3 things they did throughout the day when they get home in the afternoon. As a part of our 'Bounce Back' focus, students will have the opportunity to reflect upon the elements of school that they are looking forward to. Speaking about their teachers, friends, and school environment is important in familiarising and preparing students for their return to school.

Transition 'Back To School' Ideas

- Try on the school uniform
- Look at photos of OLA – OLA Facebook has great photos, videos and highlights of our learning for you to view
- Start going to bed at 'school term' bedtime
- Start having breakfast at your usual time for when you go to school
- Check that you have all your school supplies ready
- Talk about their friends and suggest ideas of some games they may like to play
- Practice social skills: playing and talking like you would with a friend
- Discuss ways to 'Bounce Back' from situations that may not have gone the way they wanted or expected
- Reminding your child/ren of routines including drop off and pick up points
- Have children help pack their lunchbox
- Let children help pack their bag with their hat, lunch box and water bottle
- Reassure your children that it is OK to experience different emotions in regards to returning to school.

The Night Before

- Pack your school bag
- Have your uniform and shoes ready
- Go to bed early
- Limit technology use one hour before bed
- Get a good night's sleep
- Set an alarm for when you need to wake up
- Think about what you are looking forward to about going back to school
- You may like to read a story together [The Invisible String by Patrice Karst \(Youtube\)](#) - A heartwarming story that reassures children that even though they can't always be with a loved one, they're always in each other's hearts.

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

Theme of the Week

"A positive Attitude is a Little Thing that Makes a Big Difference"

The impact of a child's attitude on their life is significant. No matter what other people say, think, or do etc, a positive attitude can make all the difference. The remarkable thing is every person has a choice every day regarding the attitude they embrace for that day. We cannot change an event once it takes place, but its effect can sometimes be improved by one's attitude. It has been said life is 10% what happens to a person, and 90% how they react to it.

Children are in charge of their attitudes. In speaking to the children, the importance of having a positive attitude to life and towards their peers is emphasised. Modelling a positive attitude is a responsibility we all share.



Happy birthday to members of our OLA Community who will be celebrating their birthday this week...

Mon 11th Oct
Zoe Farias

Thurs 14th Oct
Paige Mitrovich

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

Fri 15th Oct
Willow Johnston
Ivy Jakovljevic
Penelope Sofiak

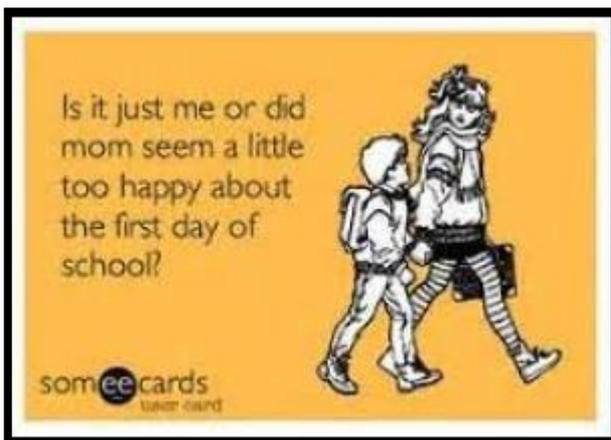
Sat 16th Oct
Emma Alin
Oliver Davidson

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'



Student Haircuts.

As you prepare your child for school it may well be time for a haircut 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.



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.