Dear Parents,

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the tremendous support you have given to the school throughout the year. On Tuesday we had our annual Thanksgiving Mass during which I thanked individuals and groups for all that they do to ensure that we can provide the best possible education for your children. I feel privileged to work in a community where I receive so much support and where everyone is willing to give that little extra for the school community. We truly have a special place here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work throughout the year. I often don’t get the chance to acknowledged publicly how much I appreciate the work that they do and the care that they show for your children. I will have the chance to do that on Thursday.

Staff Movement
As I have previously mentioned Irene Podolczack will be retiring at the end of the year after 41 years service at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We will be having a special assembly for Irene on Monday at 12.00pm to say farewell and thank her for her dedication over such a long time. Russell Osborne, our Japanese teacher will also be leaving as he takes up a full time position at Mother Theresa in Mt Ridley. I would also like to thank Russell for the wonderful work he has done with the children over the last 5 years. Our Japanese festivals each second year are a real highlight for all. Nicole Piciullo will be replacing Irene and I am in the process of finalising Russell’s replacement.

Chickens needing a home
Our 5 chooks who have been laying so well of late and provide much joy for our children are looking for a home over the holidays. If you have chooks at home or if you have an empty chook shed and are willing to look after “the girls” could you please let the office know and we can organise some transport arrangements.

Graduation
Next Tuesday evening we will farewell our Year 6 students with a Graduation Mass and supper. Mass will start at 6.30 in OLMC Church and will be followed by supper in the school. Last year we started a few traditions that we would like to continue. The children will be dining upstairs in their rooms for a short period of time where they will have the opportunity to share some special moments with their classmates. Parents and family members will have supper in the Multi-purpose room and will be joined by the graduating class a little later. Letters have gone out to Year 5 parents as well as year 6 parents with an explanation of the night. Another tradition that we started last year was all students from Foundation to Year 5 will form a guard of honour around the church and the Year 6 students will have one last chance to farewell each of the children as they make their way through the guard of honour. This will be happening at about 3.10 and the children will be dismissed from there. The Year 6 class really enjoyed this honour, some even doing two laps. We are very lucky to have such a settled, caring group of senior students and I will have the chance to thank them next Tuesday.

Final Assembly
Next Wednesday, our last day for the year, we will have an assembly at 12.15. At this assembly we will present The Terrific Kid award for the term, present our House Leaders for 2016 with their badges, present certificates to the children who participated in The Premiers Reading Challenge, as well as presenting the presents from under the giving tree to a member of Vinnies. A reminder that school will be finishing at 3.15.

Once again thank you so much for supporting everything that we do here at OLMC. You should be very proud of your children because I believe that they are a very community minded, caring group of children who enjoy each others company and work well and play well together. I hope you all have a very safe and happy Christmas. For those getting away, enjoy the break and I look forward to an exciting 2016 full of surprises, challenges and fun as well as some exceptional learning opportunities.

Take Care

Paul Hogan
BOOK BOXES are now available for collection from the school office. If payment has not already been arranged, $300 is required upon collection.

School Fees are also required to be finalised for the 2015 school year, please contact the school office if you are experiencing financial difficulty.

Thank you

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**Giving Tree**

At our school we are having the Giving Tree again, run by Loreto House Team and Mini-Vinnies.

St Vincent De Paul are asking for a gold coin donation or an unwrapped toy that you think is appropriate for someone of your age. The money donated will be used to buy extra Christmas Hamper Gift Vouchers. The Giving Tree has been set up in the foyer for the presents to be placed around.

Please send donations of money to one of the 1/2 teachers. The date for bringing in donations has been extended to the **15th of December**.

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**Swimming 2016**

In 2016 Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be holding swim trials for children from Year 3 - 6 on Monday the 8th of February at the Sunbury Aquatic Centre.

My first request is that children who can swim 50 metres continuously, use the holiday period to practise their swim strokes in preparation for this event. **Parents please ensure children are always supervised when in the water.**

My second request is for parents available on this date (8th February) to assist with timing and organisation of the children on the day.

The actual twilight carnival has been brought forward to Tuesday the 16th February 2015 from 4:30-7:30pm.

Yours Truly

Colin Healy

PE

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE LRC**

Dear parent/guardian

I would appreciate if all resources borrowed from the LRC (library) be returned before the end of the school year. Please gather up anything you have at home and return it to school.

Regards

Julie (LRC)
November 2015

Dear Parents and children

This Christmas 2015 is a very special one in our parish. Pope Francis will launch this December an **Extraordinary Year of Mercy** to continue to the following December in 2016.

We invite you to celebrate Mass with us this Christmas. Our parish mass times are on **a new timetable** this year. They are:

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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24 December</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>St Anne's Church</td>
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All children are invited this year to take part in a dramatization of the Gospel story of the birth of Jesus during the 6pm and 8pm Mass at St Anne’s Church on Christmas Eve.

The dramatization is very simple. There are no lines to learn! The children dress up as angels, shepherds, innkeepers, or wise travelers in accordance with the gospel narrative of Jesus’ birth, (No fairies or goblins). Please provide an appropriate simple costume for your child. It would be a great help if a few parents can assist in coordinating the children for the dramatization. This is a very straightforward activity! If you are willing to assist please let me know. We ask that the children be at the church 30 minutes early on the night so that we can have a short ‘dress rehearsal’ before the Mass. Please return the RSVP below.

Our prayers are with you and your families as the Christmas season approaches.

**Kathryn Lara**

Religious Education Leader
On behalf of the Pastoral Team
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
Sunbury
97441060

RSVP to the parish office or your class teacher if attending **St Anne’s School** or **Our Lady of Mount Carmel School**. Alternatively, please e-mail Kathryn.Lara@cam.org.au or call the parish office on 97441060 no later than Friday December 11.

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<tr>
<th>Child’s name</th>
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<th>School</th>
<th>Character</th>
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Add more family members here
SUNBURY BLUE LIGHT DISCO 11th December from 6-8pm Primary school age only. Sunbury Memorial Hall. Contact Constable Kimberley Hunting on 9744 8111 for more details

SUNBURY KIDZ YOUTH CHOIR Directed by Adam Przewlocki. Repertoire includes Disney soundtracks, broadway hits and much more. Rehearsals: Mondays evenings during school terms from 6.45—7.30pm At Adam’s Studio -Flashdance Performing Arts Studio. Contact Details: sunbury.cantare@gmail.com or 0419 506 067
GIRLS CIRCLE PROGRAM

A structured support group for girls from the age of 10 to 12 years looking at self esteem, body image, impact of social media and bullying.

A professional & experienced youth worker will facilitate the group. The aims of the program is to increase positive connections, personal and collective strengths and competence in girls and young teenagers. The group will also incorporate activities such as jewellery, pom poms making and more!

COMMENCING IN TERM 1 2016

THURSDAY’S 4.00 to 5.30PM

Contact 9740 6627 for more information and bookings

Grant Provided by Sunbury’s Helping Hand & Sunbury Hume Lion’s Club