Dear Parents,

Last Friday we had a working bee and thanks to the parents who came along we were able to get all the little jobs, that needed attention, done. Not only are these nights a great opportunity to get things done around the school they are also a terrific chance to get to know other members of the school community. It was great to see a number of new families as well as those who have been around for some time. The BBQ at the end of the evening allowed those in attendance to relax and chat over a couple of well earned drinks and a sausage or two or three.

Sabbath Week

First term is a very busy one and as you will see when reading the rest of the newsletter we have several things happening in the upcoming weeks. It is for this reason that, once a term, usually towards the end of term, the teachers have what is called a Sabbath Week when we try not to have any meetings and I encourage teachers to take the opportunity to get home early or catch up with friends after school for a coffee. This week has been our Sabbath week and I know that the teachers appreciate this opportunity. Being a father myself, I know how busy life can be and it is not a bad idea to have a week like this at home and take time to slow down a little and try to have a week of family meals around the table and enjoy the conversations that come up.

Swimming Carnival

Last Thursday 26 children braved the chilly conditions to represent the school at the swimming carnival at the Sunbury Aquatic Centre. While the water was warm, the chilly wind made things a little uncomfortable for the swimmers and spectators as well. Thanks to those parents who helped out and congratulations to the children who, not only competed well, but also behaved really well and did our school proud. We placed third in the small schools section.

School Advisory Council

As expected, at last weeks meeting, the issue of parking in Macedon St, came up and as a consequence we have tried to address the matter in a number of ways. A letter will be written to the City of Hume expressing our concerns at the state of the service road, I have written to the Mayor inviting him to visit the school at 3.15pm. I have also been a visible presence on a number of days to try to keep the last parking space at the corner of Macedon and Jackson Sts clear. This will enable cars to get in to the service road more easily. I will also be talking to Prep parents on Thursday evening to remind them of the procedures that we have in place. The police have also been asked to patrol the area to make sure that parents are not parking in areas that they shouldn’t be.

Casual Clothes Day

For the last few years we have had an Easter Raffle that is coordinated by the PTFA. Next Wednesday the children are to wear casual clothes and instead of bringing a gold coin as is the norm, children bring an Easter Egg or some kind of gift associated with Easter. These eggs etc will be made up into hampers that will be raffled off. The raffle will be drawn on 27th March.

Twilight games evening.

Next Thursday evening, 14th March, we will be holding a tabloid sports event at school, during which time children will be in their House teams competing in fun activities. The evening will start at 4.30pm and the activities should finish at 6.00pm. Families are then invited to bring along a picnic tea and join with other families in a social evening. Hopefully the weather will be similar to this week. The children can wear their house colours or a ribbon in the colour that represents their House.

Athletics Carnival

On Friday 15th March children in years 3-6 will be travelling to Boardman oval to tryout for the Inter-school carnival that is taking place on 20th March. The children will be competing in various track and field events with a squad being chosen to represent the school.

Transition to secondary school Parent Forum

OLMC along with St Anne’s and the two schools in Gisborne are part of a project that is looking into transition to Secondary School. We will be asking for feedback later in the year. There is another forum being held by Greenvale Primary School in conjunction with Lentara Uniting Care for families of children in Sunbury and Diggers Rest. If you have a child in years 4 or 5 and would like to attend the evening at Killara Primary School on Monday the 18th March please contact the office for a free ticket.

Take Care
Paul Hogan
2014 PREP ENROLMENTS

Enrolments open Wednesday 13th March. Enrolment packs and further information available from the school office.

Wednesday 13th March: Prep Information Sessions, Parish Centre 2.00pm & 7.30pm.

Wednesday 20th March: Our Lady of Mt Carmel Open Day 9.30am & 7.00pm.

Friday 26th April: Enrolments close.

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY—BRING AN EASTER EGG!

Wednesday 13th March

There is a casual clothes day for the children on Wednesday 13th March. We ask that instead of a gold coin donation you provide an Easter Egg or Easter gift to be packed into hampers that will be prizes for the Easter raffle.

Thanks for your support. OLMC PTFA

GUITAR LESSONS DEADLINE—TUESDAY 12TH MARCH. If you wish to join our guitar group you MUST HAVE YOUR NOTE TO US ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE. No one will be able to join after this date. Thank you for your co-operation.

Ruth Lethlean & Michelle Tighe

Thanksgiving/ Church contribution: this is a friendly reminder to all families that if you pay thanksgiving on a quarterly basis, the first instalment of $166.66 is due by 30 March. Please call the parish office on 9744 1060 if you have any queries.

ST PATRICKS EVE BASKET SUPPER/DANCE: Sat 16 March 2013 from 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Keep this date free to come and rock your socks off! The “Ripchords” will be playing music from the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s with a good sprinkling of Irish thrown in. Gather a table of 10 or come on your own and make new friends and get into the Spirit of St Patrick’s Day. Bring along food to share with those on your table. Tickets are $20 per head. Book early to avoid disappointment. Inquiries and payments to the Parish Office. COME ALONG, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, SUPPORT OUR PARISH AND ENJOY A GREAT NIGHT!
Reminder: Keep informed and up to date with school events by downloading **tiqbiz** to your phone, tablet or computer. Further information available from the office.

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours**
- Monday: 8.40am - 9.15 am
- Friday: 2.45pm - 3.15pm
- Order forms/list available from the office

**OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL TUCKSHOP ROSTER**
Sally Hewitt-Tacey
0400 384 403

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**SCHOOL BANKING**
CONGRATULATIONS OLMC! WE NOW HAVE 52 STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR STUDENT BANKING, WITH 23 STUDENTS BANKING THIS WEEK YOU SAVED A TOTAL

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours**
- Monday: 8.40am - 9.15 am
- Friday: 2.45pm - 3.15pm
- Order forms/list available from the office

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Newsletter**

**Week 6 Gospel Challenge:**

Then Jesus told a story. "A man had a fig tree," he said. "It had been planted in his vineyard. When he went to look for fruit on it, he didn't find any. So he went to the man who took care of the vineyard. He said, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree. But I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year. I'll dig around it and feed it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Our challenge: The world is driven by increased performance and relies heavily on data to map progress. So it was in the time of Christ. The fig tree reflects the people – God the owner. The people who take care of the vineyard really have faith in the tree and its potential. Our challenge is to see the good in others and give them a chance to bear fruit. In this time of Lent forgiveness and reflecting on our life-making good choices for a long term benefit demonstrates being fruitful.

**Project Compassion.**

Lent is a time for generosity through almsgiving. We as Catholics are called to give to the poor and make our world a more equal and just place.

During Lent each class has a Project Compassion box in their classroom. Children are asked to be generous during this Lenten period. Last year we raised almost 900 dollars for the Caritas organization. Visiting [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org) will give a more detailed vision of where fundraising will be directed.

Colin Healy
REL
Japanese Festival

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School will be hosting a Japanese Festival Day for the whole school on Wednesday 8th May. The day will encourage the children to both connect with and extend their current learning about Japanese language and culture. Students of all year levels will participate in the day, with some activities being conducted by Japanese visitors. Students are encouraged to dress up for the day. The day will begin with a whole school assembly at which students can appear in their Japanese costume. Prizes will be awarded to the best costume in each year level. You could come as a Ninja, Samurai warrior, Geisha lady or something else typically Japanese. Use the coming school holiday break to work on a costume. Japanese lunch orders will also be available. Students will be able to order a variety of nutritious Japanese foods from a menu. Order forms will be distributed through classrooms in the weeks to come.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information.

Sayonara

Ozubon-sensei

Russell Osborne (Japanese teacher)
COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

LOOKING FOR LEADERS: are you passionate about what Jesus taught us? Would you like to share what Jesus taught us with the children of our parish? If you answered yes to both of these questions and can spare about an hour every 4-6 weeks, we would love you to be part of our Children's Liturgy Team. We are in desperate need of more leaders to take the pressure off our current leaders. The more leaders we have, the less frequently members are rostered! Contact the Parish Office on 9744 1060 if you can help.

OLMC YOUTH CHOIR: if you are interested in being part of our youth choir, please contact Catherine at olmcyouth-choir@yahoo.com. Practise is usually only twice per month and sing at Mass once per month. We have a great bunch of kids practising at the moment to help make Mass an uplifting experience and would love to hear from children who would like to be part of this.

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS WANTED
Vacancies available across Hume Municipality please contact Hoban Recruitment on 9325 3200 for details

SUNBURY ROTARY CLUB FAMILY & CRAFT MARKET
Saturday 6th April, Neighbourhood House and community centre, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury 9am—2pm
Discounted Pet Microchipping available only $25, bookings essential. 1300 734 738.
Also Car Boot sale, plants and pottery, clothing woodwork demonstrations Live entertainment, face painting and much much more. For more information call Rotary on 9744 5096