Dear Parents,

On Monday and again this evening, parents have had the opportunity to sit down with the teachers to share any important information that may impact on the learning of the children and, for some it may have been the first chance to meet your child’s teacher. Judging on Monday’s experience, and I have no doubt tonight will be the same, it was a very positive experience. I often speak about the importance of parents working with the school to enhance the learning opportunities of the children and this is one small way of showing the children that you value the relationship with the school.

I have just looked at the calendar and there is certainly plenty happening next week but all activities promise to be great community building experiences.

PTFA news.

Next Monday 23rd February is the first meeting of the PTFA for the year. We have had several of our key members finish their time at OLMC so we are looking for any parents who can come along and support the work of the PTFA. The main tasks of the PTFA are fund raising and the organisation of social activities for the school community. We meet each month during the school term at 7.30 in the evening and we try to finish the meetings within an hour. They are very informal and for those new to the school, a great way of meeting people who have been a part of the school community for some time. One item on the agenda will be a Trivia Night which has been planned for Saturday 21st March. We had a trivia night two years ago and it was a lot of fun. Put the date in your diaries and more information will follow after the meeting next Monday.

School Advisory Committee

I have had a great response from parents who have volunteered to be a part of the group. We will be meeting next Wednesday 25th Feb at 7.00pm in the staff room. We have more parents than I expected but I am more that happy to accommodate the numbers.

Sports News

Next Tuesday the children in years 3-6 will travel to Boardman Oval to take part in athletics tryouts to compete in the Interschool Athletics Carnival on 13th March. On Thursday evening we have the Interschool Swimming carnival starting at 4.30 pm. Good luck to the children who have made the team. This is always a great community event and is well supported.

Prep and new families BBQ

Next Friday we have our first gathering of the year for the families in prep and those who are new to the school. I will be throwing some snags on the barbie but you are also welcome to bring along a picnic tea of some sort along with drinks and something to sit on. We will start at 5.30 on the green. It is a very casual night and a great opportunity to meet new people. Lets hope we get some good weather.

School Photos

School photo day will be Friday 20th March. We decided last year that we would try a new company to handle school photos so I would be interested in your feedback when the photos arrive. We are using Arthur Reed who have been working in schools for many years. I would like the children in their full summer uniform. If your child has sport on Fridays they can bring their runners in their bag and change following the photos. We usually manage to have most of the photos taken by play time. More information will be sent home in the upcoming weeks.

Safety of the children.

I mentioned in last week’s newsletter about some concerns that I had in relation to children and cars at the front of the school. For those who attended the assembly on Monday, you would have heard some more issues with children either walking or riding to school. Children must use the crossing or the lights when crossing Macedon St and if they are riding their bike they must wear a helmet. Also I think that riding a bike to school in prep can be quite dangerous. One more thing, if we can try to park as close to other cars without compromising on safety, it would be appreciated.

Take Care
Paul Hogan
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Newsletter

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**Terrific Kid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Jessie McDonald</td>
<td>For displaying leadership and following instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Amelia Haxby</td>
<td>For being organized and including others in games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 H</td>
<td>Keira Wilson</td>
<td>For great listening and being an awesome friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 J</td>
<td>Ethan deVeth</td>
<td>For improved listening skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 M</td>
<td>Claire Bonnici</td>
<td>For joining in discussions and being a helpful class member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 P</td>
<td>Kai Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>For brightening up our school community with his lovely smile. Welcome to OLMC, Kai !</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 R</td>
<td>Nicholas Albano</td>
<td>For making a conscious effort to stay focused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 S</td>
<td>Jack McGann</td>
<td>For his independent deep thinking skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 D</td>
<td>Grace Walker</td>
<td>For being a responsible leader and role model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 E</td>
<td>Blake Grima</td>
<td>For always being kind and caring to others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 R</td>
<td>Callum Chatfield</td>
<td>For showing to confidence when attempting new things</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Assembly 2.45 in the Multi Purpose Room—ALL WELCOME**

**ASSEMBLY ROSTER TERM 1 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week No. &amp; Date</th>
<th>Class Presenting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4—Friday 20th February</td>
<td>5/6 E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6—Friday 6th March</td>
<td>5/6D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8—Friday 20th March</td>
<td>5/6R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

*Education Maintenance Allowance has been discontinued from 2015.* However, OLMC will provide some fee relief to fee payers who hold a current Healthcare/Concession card. Families who have a valid card must provide the original card to the school office BEFORE FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, for verification to receive a discount on Family fees.
Information about Hepatitis A contamination of frozen berries

Dear Parents

As you may be aware, links were found over the weekend between 1kg bags of Nanna’s frozen mixed berries and at least five cases of Hepatitis A, including three in Victoria.

As a precaution and on advice from Dr Rosemary Lester, Victoria’s Chief Health Officer, the company has recalled this product on 14 February and two further products on 15 February due to concerns about potential for contamination with hepatitis A virus. The products recalled as at 9 am Monday 16 February are:

**Nanna’s Mixed Berries 1kg; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 22/11/16**

**Creative Gourmet Mixed Berries 300g; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 10/12/17**

**Creative Gourmet Mixed Berries 500g; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 06/10/17**

Consumers are advised to discard any of these products and to be aware of the symptoms of hepatitis A infection in the 15-50 days after consuming the berries.

*I have been informed that our canteen does not use any of these products. We use canned berries that have been canned in Australia.*

Dr Lester’s office has confirmed that the risk of exposure is very low but cannot be excluded. As for all people who have consumed the affected products, Dr Lester has advised parents and carers to look for symptoms 15 to 50 days after consumption.

Symptoms include fever, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark urine and yellow skin and eyes (jaundice). Symptoms may last for several weeks but full recovery usually occurs. Please consult the Health Department’s [Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) for more information.

Any person who is confirmed to have hepatitis A will be followed up closely and will be provided with further advice through the Department of Health and Human Services. If your child develops any of these symptoms, please seek medical advice from your local GP or Nurse on Call on 1300 60 60 24 and advise the school on 9740-7344.

Our student wellbeing team will ensure support is always available for any student who may need it.

If you have any immediate questions, please call me at school or come in and see me in person - my door is always open.

Kind regards

Paul Hogan
WELLBEING UPDATE 2015

As mentioned last year OLMC is participating in a State Government Initiative called Healthy Together Achievement Program. We are assisted by Sunbury Community Health and Healthy Together Hume. The aim of the program is to enhance both health and educational outcomes through a whole school commitment to health and wellbeing.

Our Wellbeing Team made up of parent and teachers has been running for over 6 months now. This team has already audited our current approaches, determined what the school community wants to achieve and is driving health and wellbeing activities within OLMC. The team meets in the LRC two to three times per term, usually on a Monday morning at 8.15. (Children and toddlers are most welcome)

If you are interested in finding out more about this or joining our hard-working Wellbeing Team please contact Ann Douglas either via email adouglas@olmcsunbury.catholic.edu.au or phone her at school.

2015 Student Conveyance Allowance

Student Conveyance Allowance forms are available from the school office. Applications must be made before Friday 27th February, 2015. Eligibility is determined by the following eligibility criteria

The conveyance allowance is a form of financial assistance to help families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school/campus. The conveyance allowance is available to eligible students travelling by public transport, private car and private bus. The conveyance allowance is also available to eligible students whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

The eligibility criteria varies depending on the type of school attended and where it is located.

Students attending a government or non-government school must:

* attend their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible
* reside outside Melbourne’s metropolitan conveyance boundary
* reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended
* be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

For further information please contact the office.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Newsletter

SCHOOL BANKING DAY IS EVERY TUESDAY.

This week 67 Students (1 new) deposited $888.60

Can all parents please change the class to which their child is currently in, on the front cover of their banking books. Many thanks. Your Banking Team

Japanese Festival

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School will be hosting a Japanese Festival Day for the whole school on Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{th} April. 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. 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 costumes in each year level. You could come as a Ninja, Samurai warrior, Geisha lady or something else typically Japanese.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information.

Sayonara
Ozubon-sensei
Russell Osborne (Japanese teacher)

CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 1 2015

Please contact Sally on 0400 384 403 if you are unable to attend

| 20\textsuperscript{th} Feb | Darren Xerri  
| Helen Hrkac  
| Alicia Weir  
| 13\textsuperscript{th} Mar | Liz Fahy  
| Tamara Moir  
| Karen Woodvine  
| Raquel Handley  
| 27\textsuperscript{th} Feb | Anita Burnell  
| Caroline Dillon  
| Lesley Spiteri  
| 20\textsuperscript{th} Mar | Nikki Taranto  
| Rochelle Hope Lane  
| Denise Debrincat  
| 6\textsuperscript{th} Mar | Michele Shalders  
| Paula Jarski  
| Kelly Boyd  
| 27\textsuperscript{th} Mar | Raquel Handley  
| Barb O’Brien  
| Teresa Paoly  

CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 1 2015

Please contact Sally on 0400 384 403 if you are unable to attend
PARISH NEWS:

LENTEN PROGRAM: As discussed at the parish meeting night on Wednesday night, the Lenten Program for 2015 will be run on Tuesday night in St Anne’s Church from 7.30pm-9.00pm and will be led by Lyn Plummer. Then Thursday morning from 10.00am– 11.30am in St Anne’s Church and will be led by Fr Bert Fulbrook. A $4 donation to cover the cost of the Lenten Resources would be most appreciated. The first session will be on Thursday 19 February.

LENT 2015: as mentioned, Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 18 February. This acts as a reminder that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the only 2 days of fasting and abstinence from meat. On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

· Prayer: for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways
· Self Denial: for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor;
· Helping others: for example giving cigarette or alcohol money to Project Compassion; giving special attention to visiting the sick, elderly or lonely.

The aim of responding in these three ways during Lent, is to help us to grow in strength as good Christians and live better lives. We can take up this challenge in 2015.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Parents of children in Year 3 are invited to a conversation on the program of preparing their children for celebrating the Sacraments. The one-hour conversation begins at 9.15am on Wednesday 25 February in the Parish Centre.

Parish Ministry Expo: We invite all families to consider helping the parish with various roles which are vital to the everyday running of the church. This weekend, we have information in the parish newsletter that outline the various ministries that people undertake for one year. The ministries include Altar Care, Altar Servers, Running Laptop during Mass, Baptismal Preparation Team, Bingo Team members, Children’s Liturgy Leaders, Church Cleaning, Washing Church Linen, Collection Team Leaders, Ministers of Communion to the Sick, Counting Team, Gardening and Maintenance, Gift Shop Assistants, Lectors, Setting up for mass, Ministers of Communion at Mass, Musicians & Singers and Parish Posties. Most of these roles require very little time, but are needed to keep the church running. Please consider signing up to one of the ministries as a RESPONSE to Lent 2015.
Kinda Kinder

Starts Tuesday 17 March 2015 from 9.15am to 10.15am and runs weekly during school terms in the Parish Centre at 101 Riddell Rd, Sunbury

Victoria University students lead children from infant to pre-school with fun, imaginative educational games.

All are welcome to attend.

The program is free to all families.

Please call the Parish Office on 9744 1060 for further information (no bookings required)