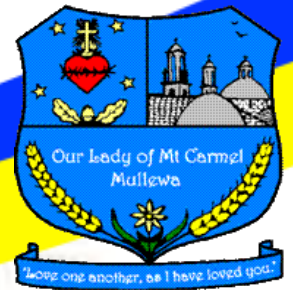


Our Lady of Mt Carmel School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 3
15th February, 2021



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LENT

*Loving God,
be with us in a special way during this time of Lent
so that we can become people of love and service.
Help us to think about how we treat others, the way we act,
the way we live our lives, and how we can look
to the needs of others rather than our own.
May our fasting lead us to hunger for justice;
our alms-giving help us bring peace and our prayer
be the chant of a humble and grateful heart.
Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen*

OLMC Calendar Important Dates

- 16th February Shrove Tuesday**
- 17th February Ash Wednesday**
- 18th February Yr. 4/5/6 Assembly 2.45pm**
- 26th February Pupil Free Day**
- 1st March Labour Day Long Weekend**
- 11th March Yr. 2/3 Assembly**
- 19th March OLMC Faction Swimming Carnival**
- 26th March NCVISSA**
- 2nd April Final Day of Term 1**
- 3rd April Good Friday**

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'

Messages from the Principal's Desk

**Let today be the day
you give up who you've been
for you who can become**



Welcome

Welcome back to the first weeks of this 2021 school year. It was with much excitement we welcomed everyone on the first day and we were all extremely grateful that our students were able to attend school, unlike many students elsewhere. We all hope you enjoyed your time off from the routines of school life across the holidays and thank you for your efforts in preparing your children so well to begin the new school year. They were not only nicely presented in their uniforms, but also held a positive attitude to commencing the new school year.

The staff all commented on how happily the students entered the gates and settled in so well in their first week. Some were in different classrooms and some with a different mix of classmates. We remain a committed and caring staff with our first priority as usual, being that the children are feeling safe and settled upon entering the school gates, and are supported in making the most of their school days. A special mention and welcome needs to be made to our six new Kindergarten students – Connor, Maddison, Ollie, Alayah, Aliyah and Yvonne. After their first day, you would think they had always been part of the OLMC family. Well done to all of the PP and Year One students for making them so welcome in their new classroom.



New Staff – Mr Lachlan Anderson and Mrs Tanya Moffat

A very big welcome to our two new part-time staff members. Mr Lachlan Anderson from Geraldton, will be teaching music to all classes, and assisting the Year 4/5/6 students with their English lessons, as well as teaching some lessons in the Year 2/3 class. Mr Anderson is very happy with the interest all of the students have shown during music lessons and is looking forward to working on singing across the school as well. Mrs Tanya Moffat from her farm at Eradu, comes to us with a huge number of years teaching experience and will be working with our K/PP/1 students. Mrs Moffat has a wonderful talent in the art of storytelling and the younger students have already enjoyed a number of these sessions. We are very pleased to have both Mr Anderson and Mrs Moffat with us this year.

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

This Wednesday, 17th February, we will be celebrating an Ash Wednesday Mass, at 9am in the undercover area. Ash Wednesday is the day that marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. Fasting, prayer and almsgiving are ways we can open our hearts to the love of God during Lent. The students have all written their commitments and on Shrove Tuesday, these will be offered up during a Burning Ceremony in which Father Robert will also burn palm leaves collected from Palm Sunday last year. The ashes from this burning will then be used to sprinkle the students' foreheads during the Ash Wednesday Mass, as a reminder that from dust they began and to dust they will return. Parents are very welcome to attend the Mass, that will also be open to OLMC Parishioners.

School Grounds – Thank you Mr Murray!

Our school grounds were presented beautifully for the students to come back to, and continue to be kept neat

and tidy every day. Hopefully, parents and visitors to the school have been noticing the immaculate state of our beautiful front garden. It is truly a pleasure to arrive at school every morning to these surroundings. We thank Mr Rob Murray for his work across the holidays in preparing the school oval and playgrounds. In particular, Mr Murray spent a lot of time enhancing the K/PP outside yard with new white sand and garden beds. A special thank you to Mr Brendan Weir and Mr Mark Flannagan (who is no longer one of our dads!) who spent the Saturday morning before school began, loading the sand.



New BenQ Boards

The students came back to their lovely classrooms with new BenQ Boards having been installed in the Year 2/3 and 4/5/6 classrooms. The students have the benefit of learning with the assistance of these boards, along with their regular Apple TV's and their own device. This means each class has one to one iPads for all students, and the older students also have access to a bank of 20 laptops they are able to use as a daily learning tool when appropriate. Each of our students has a CEWA log in and password that allows them to access Teams and store and retrieve learning documents.

COVID Update

As a school community we have continued with our COVID safe practices as outlined by CEWA in their guidelines. Our students continue to wash their hands before and after recess and lunch. Thank you to parents for continuing our practice of "Kiss and Drop" at the school gate and all the students are working extremely comfortably with this. If you do need to come onto school grounds before or after school to speak to your child's teacher, we ask that you please sign in and do not enter the classroom, unless there has been a formal meeting organised. At this stage, assemblies and school Masses will continue to be held outdoors in the undercover area. Due to the recent COVID restrictions at the start of the school year, our welcome BBQ was cancelled. Parents will soon be informed of a date for our School Advisory Council and P&F AGM's.

Commissioning Mass for Staff

On the Friday before school commenced for students, our staff members travelled across to Geraldton to celebrate the Commissioning Mass for all new and old staff from Catholic schools in our Diocese. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Michael Morrissey, assisted by the schools' Parish Priests, including Father Robert. After the Mass, staff had the chance to catch up with colleagues, and meet new staff members, in a social atmosphere.

Visit from Mr Allen McMahon (Geraldton Catholic Education Office)

Students and staff recently welcomed Mr Allen McMahon, our new School Improvement Advisor from the Catholic Education Office in Geraldton. Mr McMahon has many years' experience as a principal in both rural, regional and city schools. He is currently on secondment from St Columba's Catholic Primary School in South Perth. Mr McMahon thoroughly enjoyed his visit to OLMC.

Swimming Lessons

Thank you to Mrs Tracey Messina who had everything organised to begin swimming lessons in Week 1. Even with the cooler weather we are experiencing, all of the students participated confidently and have been enjoying their lessons. A big thank you to Jodi Schulz, Sarat Bainbridge, Melinda Weir and Rob Murray who have kindly offered to assist with lessons, which is a great help to our staff. Our Faction Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 19th March, and the NCVISS Swimming Carnival on Friday, 26th March.

Year 4/5/6 Assembly and Ministry Badges Presentation

The Year 4/5/6 Assembly will be held this Thursday, 18th February, commencing at 2:45pm. At the end of the assembly, the Year 5/6 students will be presented with their badges and certificates that have been blessed by Father Robert for the Ministries they have taken on for Semester One. Each of the students are in charge of a particular ministry and their roles are to plan and organise activities associated with their particular area. It has been wonderful to see the students accept their responsibilities in a mature fashion and prepare for their upcoming roles. Everyone is welcome to attend the assembly.

Bushfire Fundraiser

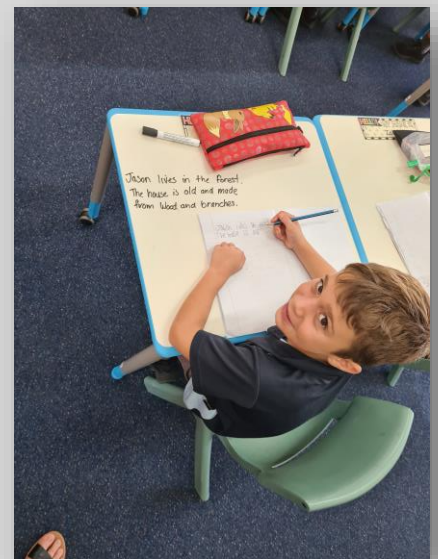
This Friday we will be holding a fundraiser for students and families affected by the recent bushfires. Staff will be cooking sausages for lunch and the students will be able to purchase sausages and bread for lunch for \$2.

Please feel free to donate as generously as you wish.

New Desks

The children were delighted with the new desks that arrived last week. Each of them has a whiteboard surface that the students are able to write on and make notes.

*Jill Hollands
Principal*



'Love one another, as I have loved you.'



'Love one another, as I have loved you.'



'Love one another, as I have loved you.'

Birthdays

A very happy birthday to the following students:



6th January Jack Murray
13th January Hayden Bryant
8th February Maddison Tropiano
14th February Alivia Dean
19th February Roman Kovac
1st March Isla Tropiano



★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

Office Reminders

Parent/Emergency Contact and Medical Emergency Information – If your contact details change throughout the year please contact the office as soon as possible and update your information. Please also let the office know if your child has any allergy and/or medical condition. It is imperative that the school has the most up to date and correct information in case of an emergency.

Parish Notices

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – Mass is celebrated every Sunday commencing at 8:30am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For further details and information on any Mass services please feel free to contact Fr Robert O'Bryan PP on 9961 1181 or 0457 980852



'Love one another, as I have loved you.'