Dear Parents,

Canadian Education Expert visits OLOL
A very big thank you for your patience with the carpark this morning. We were privileged to be able to host a visiting Canadian education expert, Lyn Sharratt. Over a hundred Principals and teachers listened to Lyn’s words of advice in our hall and many of them visited the school during the day. Lyn was interviewed by some of our Year 6 leaders, led by Mrs Biskupic and Katie. Look for their report on our revamped webpage or on Facebook.

Visitors to the school saw a hive of activity as students have begun learning in their new routines. It’s very impressive to see the amount of individual attention being given to students by their classroom teacher when they administer the Maths Assessment Interview. There is a real art in giving an individual assessment for reading or Mathematics. It’s a bit like an x-ray or ultrasound, that then needs a professional, specialist opinion to interpret it. Much professional learning time in the next few weeks will be spent on unpacking the MAI assessments and developing the best plan of learning for each child.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
Are you coming to Mass at 6:00pm this Saturday night? This is the parish school celebration of our patron saint, Our Lady of Lourdes. A barbeque generously organised and cooked by our parent group follows the Mass.

We also have a school Mass for the feast day, next Tuesday at 9:15am, during which we pray for blessings for the school year ahead. It’s always a highlight to see the Kindergarten children being welcomed into our school with the help of their Year 6 buddies.

The story of Our Lady of Lourdes is very inspirational. She appeared to Bernadette, a young French girl who was poor and uneducated due to her poverty and ill-health. Our Lady showed that she is a friend and mother to the lowliest of people. The hope that she gave to Bernadette is the hope that she gives to us too with our struggles in life.

May the grace and love of Our Lady of Lourdes be with you.

Regards,

Lesley Studans
OLOL PARISH/SCHOOL FEAST DAY MASS
OLOL Parish and School Feast Day Mass will be held this Saturday evening 9th February at 6:00pm to celebrate the feast day and beginning of the parish and school year. Representatives from parish groups and the children from our school will have roles in the Mass which will be a wonderful way to celebrate this significant event in the life of our Parish community. All families are encouraged to attend the Mass in the church followed by a barbeque cooked and supplied by the Parent Group.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT
Next Monday, from 7:30-8:30pm, 10th February, in the Library we will be holding a Kindergarten Information evening. This is an opportunity for parents of 2013 Kindergarten students to learn a little more about life in the Kindergarten classroom and have any questions that they have about life at “big school” answered.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
Next Tuesday, 12th February, at 9:15am, our new Kindergarten children will be welcomed to our school community and our school leaders for 2013 will be commissioned. All parents are warmly invited to attend but a special invitation is issued to those parents new to our school community, please come and experience what Our Lady of Lourdes is all about.

ASH WEDNESDAY
Next Wednesday at 9:15am we will come together as a school community to mark Ash Wednesday with a special Mass. This day signals the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. All parents are warmly invited to attend and participate in this special Eucharistic celebration.

SCHOOL BANKING – ANOTHER CHANGE OF DAY
Banking will recommence on Wednesday 13th February, 2013. If you wish to open a bank account for your child please contact the Commonwealth Bank.

SPORTS DAY
Kindergarten/Year 1 – Thursday
Year 2 – Wednesday
Year 3 - Friday
Year 4 - Friday
Stage 3 - Friday
Please make sure that your child wears the correct sports uniform on that day. All children must wear predominantly white jogger shoes with school sports shirt and navy shorts.

PARENTS AS EDUCATORS
A reminder that our Parents as Educators courses will be held on Wednesday evening, 20th February and Friday morning, 22nd February. Parents are required to complete this course, which includes the online child protection course, if they are to help in the classroom or supervise children in any capacity (excursions, sport gala days etc). To assist with organisation parents wishing to attend are asked to complete the form that was sent home on Monday.

UNIFORM APPOINTMENTS
Appointments for summer uniform fittings are available on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Please contact the school office if you require an appointment. If you know the size you need then a completed order form, with money, can be sent to the school office. Orders will be sent home in the following week. Appointments for winter uniforms will be available as advised in the newsletter later in Term 1.

GOLD AWARDS
Each week Gold Awards are presented to one child from each grade and one child selected by the Principal. The criteria for these awards are:
★ Community service to the school community
★ Consistent display of leadership qualities
★ Demonstrated awareness of and response to the needs of others
★ Consistently accepting of responsibility, dependable
★ Role model for peers and others
Lots of back to school fun-learning in our classrooms

Out and About at OLOL

Over the next week we will have a number of opportunities to come together and celebrate the Eucharist. This is significant because for us as Catholics, the Eucharist is at the very centre of our faith.

This Saturday, at 6:00pm, we will celebrate our Parish/School Feast Day with a Mass followed by a barbeque hosted by the Parent Group. This is an annual event and a great opportunity for the Parish and school to come together. Children and parents from the school will participate, along with parishioners, in the preparation of the liturgy with Ms Schrader coordinating. The barbeque that follows is an opportunity to socialise, to welcome new parents to our community and to further cement Parish/school links. It is a fitting way to begin our year.

The following Tuesday we will again come together to celebrate the Eucharist with our opening school Mass. This is always a special event as we welcome our Kindergarten students, new staff and families to the school as well as commissioning our 2013 school leaders. Parents are warmly invited to attend this Mass and celebrate with us as we begin another year.

Lent is early this year. As a result on Wednesday we will once again come together to celebrate the Eucharist, this time for Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday Mass will be very different from our other two celebrations. This is a solemn Mass where we reflect on our beginnings and take time to think about our journey through Lent and the changes we need to make as we prepare for the Resurrection. This Mass is rich in symbolism and very much about who we are as Catholics. It reminds us that our school community is bound by more than academic learning and that educating our children in the Catholic faith is also integral to who we are.

I hope to see many of you at these three special Eucharistic celebrations as we once again work together to develop our students both academically and spiritually.

Carol Cividin
Assistant Principal
Welcome Kindergarten 2013!!!

Last Thursday and Friday we welcomed our newest students to the Our Lady of Lourdes community. The Kindergarten space was full of exciting activities. The children settled well and there were smiles all round as the parents collected them at lunchtime. This week the children attend for full days and the fun continues. Take a look at the photos below and more on our website!