



**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 9, TERM 4
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 2011**

**SCHOOL HOMEPAGE - <http://www.olshmerbein.catholic.edu.au>
SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: 03 50252258**

Dear Parents and Friends,

Advent is an exciting time for all, and the students are definitely showing signs of excitement as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The next two weeks of School are going to be very hectic with much planning and preparation occurring as we prepare to celebrate special events in the School Community. These special events are mentioned throughout the Newsletter.

Next week we are planning to send home a **2012 Calendar** of any already known dates for next year. This will be updated regularly throughout the year as 'new' events/dates are known. Hopefully this will assist with your future planning also.

This week we welcome back one of our past students, Jennifer Argiro as a **Classroom Volunteer**. Jennifer is volunteering her time as part of a Community Service component of her schooling. Jennifer is currently in Year 10 (2011) at St Joseph's College.

The Parents & Friends are asking for parent volunteers to take on the role of **2012 Classroom Coordinators**. If you are willing to take on one of these roles please fill out the respective form at the end of the newsletter or let the Office know. We would like to finalise these before the end of the year.

We are also still looking for a couple more parent representatives to join the **School Board** for a two year term.

Last week we have 'named' **Christmas Baubles** and made other **Christmas Decorations** that will be put up in Fishers Supermarket.

Today was the **OLSH Transition Day** when the students worked in their 2012 classes. This morning all the students were excited about their day ahead and a few were also a 'little' nervous! At the time of writing the newsletter everyone was having a great day.

This evening we acknowledge and celebrate the teaching career of **Glenda Power** and thank her for her amazing dedication at her Retirement Dinner (I am pretty sure Glenda would like it named as something else, suggestions?).

MERBEIN ROTARY CHRISTMAS CAROLS – Kenny Park ~ Friday 9th December 7.00pm

This Friday evening the OLSH Choir will be performing at the Merbein Rotary Christmas Carols at 7.00pm. The students in the Choir are required to be there no later than 6.45pm. We wish them all the best for their performance and hopefully they will have plenty of support from the OLSH community.

CRAZY HAIR DAY & ACTIVITIES FUNDRAISER

Thank you and well done to everyone who supported these very special and important venture. It is always fantastic and amazing to see the way the OLSH Community rally to support each other when the time or need arises. Charisma and her family are so appreciative of the support that has been provided. Due to your wonderful support and donations we have been able to raise \$3826 for the '**Principal's Head Shave**' so far, which the money will be given to Charisma and her family to assist with associated costs of the operation (travel, accommodation etc); and through the '**Crazy Hair & Hot Dogs**' we have been able to raise \$641.75 for the Starlight Foundation. Well Done Everyone!

Charisma & Starlight Fundraiser: This Saturday morning a fundraiser for Charisma and the Starlight Foundation comes to a conclusion at Centro at 10.00am. Part of this involves one of our parents, Ivanka Carmen and members of Charisma's family 'shaving' their hair, and I'm led to believe that Mrs Sheehy will be having her hair coloured. Please come along and support them all if you can.

GRADE 6'S GRADUATION MASS – Wednesday 14th December 9.15am

On Wednesday 14th of December we will be celebrating the Grade 6's Graduation Mass as a School Community. The whole School will be celebrating this Mass with the Grade 6's and we invite everyone else to join us in celebrating the Grade 6 students' achievements and being part of the OLSH Community. The Graduation Mass will begin at 9.15am. The Grade 6 students will also celebrate their Graduation Luncheon with Sr Marion on this day.

Morning Tea: Grade 6 families and friends are invited to come back to the School to share in a morning tea provided by the Grade 6 students and their families after Mass.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2011

The 2011 School Magazine has been sent to the printers and we thank Ellen Fennelly for doing a fantastic job as Chief Editor/Designer and to Mia Mottram as the Assistant Editor. This year's Magazine is very impressive. Thank you to the following Businesses who have sponsored the 2011 School Magazine: Merbein South Store, Woodhart Plumbing and Leanne Marshall ~CPA.

NUMERACY (2011) & LITERACY (2012) ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS

Timetables for these Assessment Interviews will be sent home tomorrow. Please note that 2011 Grade 6 students will not be participating in any of these Assessment Interviews. Our 2012 Preps do take part in both Assessments. Please contact us if you have any queries. Further explanation of the Assessment Interviews for 2012 Prep families will be provided at the Prep Information Session on Tuesday 6th December (today).

2012 PREPS TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

It has been fantastic to have our 2012 Preps with us yesterday and today, and they will also be with us tomorrow. They have been doing 'lots' of school work and activities with their buddies. I think they are happy for the new 2012 school year to start now. **Parent Prep Parent Information Session & Child Supervision – Tuesday 6th December 3.45pm – 4.30pm (this afternoon)**

To enable parents to attend this Information Session, teachers will be providing supervised activities for the children in the Library. This is available to students and siblings. We ask that you provide a snack for your children if they will need one.

2012 GRADE 6 NETBOOK INFORMATION SESSION

Today the 2012 grade 6 students will be taking home a note in regards to a Netbook information session on Monday 12th December at 3.45pm. Please fill in the form at the bottom of the note and return it to school by Friday 9th December.

CLASS KRIS KRINGLES

Each class will be conducting a Kris Kringle over the remaining weeks of school. Students will be provided with a name of a fellow student of their class that they will be asked to purchase or make a gift for. We ask that the value of the gift does not exceed \$5.00 (the gift may be of a lesser value than this amount) as we like to emphasise the concept of 'giving', rather than monetary value. Students are asked to respect the requirement of keeping their 'Kris Kindle/Kringle' a secret. All gifts are to be brought in by Wednesday 14th of December, and the gifts will be exchanged on the final day of 'normal' School for the students in 2011, Friday 16th of December. Please see your child/ren's teacher if you have any queries.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES – Friday 16th December 10.00am – 2.30pm

We have planned a couple of special activities for the last 'normal' day of School for the students. Please help out where you can:

'Jump Rope for Heart' – We will be having the 'jump off' at 10.00am.

Whole School Swimming: We will be taking all students swimming. For this to happen we will require adult volunteers to assist with the supervision. If you can help out with this request please fill out the relevant form at the end of the newsletter or let the Office know. There will be no charge to the students for the swim.

Sausage Sizzle: We will be providing the students with a free 'Sausage Sizzle' for lunch on this day. We will require some help with the cooking, serving etc.

2011 END OF YEAR SCHOOL REPORTS

End of year School reports will be sent home on Friday 16th of December. Parents have the opportunity to make written comments on the Reports, in the appropriate section. If parents choose to make a written comment to communicate with the School, then you are to sign the relevant area of the Report and bring it into School on the day of their child/ren's Numeracy Assessment Interview. A copy will be made and placed in your child/ren's file, with the original being returned to you.

NB. We do not have allocated Parent and Teacher meetings at the end of the year, however there is the opportunity for you to make a time to meet with the

respective teachers on Wednesday 21st of December if you wish.

MERBEIN LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS CAKES

Once again we have the very popular Lions' Christmas cakes available from the School Office. The price of these wonderful cakes is \$14 each. This is an opportunity to support the Lions Club, who provides so much support for our School and the wider communities.

CHRISTMAS QUILT – SILENT AUCTION

Darcy & Fraser Graham's Nan Shirley has made another sensational Christmas Quilt, which she has donated to the OLSH Parents & Friends to use in a fundraising venture. Due to the high quality of the quilt and the interest in it, it has been decided to conduct a Silent Auction. If you are interested in purchasing the quilt you are asked to put in a 'bid/price' for it by filling out the form at the end of the newsletter and handing it in at the Office. The highest 'bidder' will buy the quilt! Please note that there is a reserve placed on the quilt. The quilt is on display in the Office foyer. The Quilt Silent Auction will be finalised at the School Concert.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Meeting – The School Board will be meeting tonight at the 6.00pm at Hill Corner Receptions, Merbein.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2011

I ask families to please come and see me if at any time throughout the year they would like assistance with payment of School Fees, purchasing of School uniforms etc. Support can be provided.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Correct School Uniform: All students are to wear correct School uniform including the right socks and shoes. Parental notification is required to explain why a student is not wearing correct School uniform. If the reason for the wearing of incorrect uniform is financial please come and see me.

Naming All Items: A reminder to make sure that all your child/ren's School Uniform items are clearly named.

2011 ACTIVE AFTER-SCHOOLS COMMUNITIES (AASC)

There are two weeks of Term 4 Program activity, Cricket.

Tuesdays (December – 6th, 13th) (after-school until 4.45pm)	Group 1 Cricket
Wednesdays (December – 7th, 14th) (after-school until 4.45pm)	Group 2 Cricket

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES - Friday 3.00pm

Families and friends are invited to join us at all assemblies. The Assembly will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room. The timetable for assemblies for the remainder of the year is below:

Term 4

December

9th Normal
16th End of Year

SIGNING IN & OUT

A reminder to everyone that when visiting the School during a normal School day (9.15am – 3.00pm) you must enter the School via the Office and sign in if you wish to enter the School, and sign out when leaving the School. No one is permitted to be in the School without completing this procedure. Please note that this is an OH&S requirement.

DRINK BOTTLES

All students are required to have a drink bottle in the classroom filled with water only.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

The outside classroom supervision of students begins at 8.25am and concludes at 3.45pm. Students are permitted to arrive at school before 8.25am, but there will be no teachers on 'yard duty' until this time.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

On behalf of the SRC Students we would like to thank everyone for their support on Crazy Hair and Hot Dog Day. A special thank you to a brave Mr Lowry for getting his head shaved. I'm sure you would agree with me in saying what a kind and caring gesture on Mr Lowry's behalf.

DIRECT DEBIT

Thank you to those who have returned their forms, for those who would like to take up Direct Debit could they please have their forms returned to the office by Friday 9th December at the latest.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Congratulations to Eden Mitchell, Jasmine Matotek and Chloe Hoyle who have been selected in the Under 11 Mildura Netball Academy squad.
- Sunraysia Singers Choir had their concert on Saturday night, congratulations goes to Breeanne Marks, Alyssa Marks, Julia Copley & Rebecca Neill for their beautiful singing. They will be singing again on Sunday night at the Mildura Carols by Candle Light.

LIBRARY NEWS

There will be no borrowing for the rest of the year, library books need to be returned by Thursday 8th December.

PREP NEWS

Library: All library books should be returned to school. Please check there is none at your house

KK's: These are to be under the Christmas by Wednesday 14th of December. Gifts will be exchanged on Friday 16th of December It is important to keep to the designated budget and remember, it's a SURPRISE!!

Thanks, Rachel Bunney

GRADE ONE NEWS

Show and Tell: This week's topic is; *This week; What Christmas gifts I would buy/make for my family.* No Show and Tell next week.

Homework: No homework/spelling. Please return home readers ASAP.

Library: Please return overdue books.

Christmas Craft: Over the next 2 weeks we will be making various Christmas craft, if you are interested in coming along to help with this please come and see me.

Kris Kringle: Presents are due next Wednesday.

GRADE FIVE & SIX NEWS

Reminders for 'Week Nine' are

- Thursday – Grade Five SJC Visit.
 - Friday – Tennis, Spelling and Homework.
 - Library – All library books should now be returned. Please return any outstanding books asap.
 - Parents can collect Grade Five NAPLAN results before or after school from Mr O'Callaghan.
 - All netbooks need to be returned by this Friday.
- Ryan O'Callaghan & Adam Lawrence

SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Jump Rope for Heart – Heart Foundation: Sponsorship forms were sent home with each student for this Fundraiser last week. We will be having our '**Jump Off Day**' on the last day of school (**Friday, 16th of December**). Students have a couple of weeks to find as many sponsors as they like who will donate an amount of money for this worthy cause. Students are to bring their form and money raised by **Wednesday, 14th of December**. Speak to family members, grandparents, cousins, friends and people in the Sunraysia Community to ask them for a small donation. There has been lots of skipping happening in the school yard during this term which has been great to see. Let's raise lots of money for the 'Heart Foundation' and make our last day of school for 2011 a fantastic day!

Upcoming Dates

Whole School Swimming – Friday, 16th Decemeber.

Jump Rope For Heart 'Jump Off Day' – Friday, 16th December.

2012 Dates – Term 1

Swimming Program – 13th to 17th February, 2012.

OLSH Swimming Carnival – Thursday, 23rd February 2012.

Ryan O'Callaghan, PE/Sports Coordinator

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As we move into our second week of Advent, the children of OLSH have been reflecting on what it means to wait for something special and the significance of waiting for the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. The students have been observing Advent with a candle lighting ceremony each week.

With the end of the school year fast approaching, we hope everyone has put the final year Graduation Mass on their calendar! The Mass will be held on Wednesday, December 14th at 9.15am. All parents, friends and family are most welcome to attend this occasion as we say goodbye to the school year and to our Grade 6 students.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students:

Grade Prep:	Hayley Rowe
Grade One:	Chloe Harmer
Grade Two:	Ben Moore
Grade Three:	Mitchell Langdon
Grade Four:	Nikita Anderson
Grade Five:	Olivia McCarten
Grade Six:	Marcus Dichiera

BIRTHDAYS

We hope the following students will have a very Happy Birthday:

Name	Date	Age
Jack Hoyle	6 th December	7
Alyssa Marks	11 th December	8

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve – Saturday December 24th

Our Lady’s Merbein – 7pm

Sacred Heart Mildura – 6pm, 8pm & Midnight

Christmas Day – Sunday December 25th

Werrimull – 8.30am

Our Lady’s Merbein – 10.30am

Sacred Heart Mildura – 8am, 10am

Reconciliation Service

Sacred Heart Mildura – December 14th at 7pm

2011 UPCOMING DATES

December

- 6th School Board
- 6th Glenda Power’s Retirement Dinner
- 7th Preps 2012 Visit – All day
- 8th Grade 5’s St Joseph College Visit
- 9th Merbein Rotary Carols
- 14th Graduation Mass
- 15th School Concert
- 16th Students Finish
- 16th Reports sent home
- 19th Numeracy & Literacy Assessments
- 20th Numeracy & Literacy Assessments
- 22nd Staff Finish

Grade Two: Soft Drinks, Long Life Milk, Fruit Juices, Cordial, Fruit Boxes, Topping, etc.
Grade Three: Pasta, Rice, Flour, Coffee, Teabags, Milo, Cake Mixes, Sugar, etc.
Grade Four: Potato Chips, Dry Biscuits, Sweet Biscuits, Popcorn, Peanuts, Cup of Noodles, Pretzels, etc.
Grade Five: Cake Mixes, Pudding Mixes, Ice-Cream Cones, Long Life Custard, Desserts, Coconut, Custard Powder, etc.
Grade Six: Canned foods e.g.: Fruits, Tomatoes, Corn, Soups, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Tuna, Beetroot, Sauces, etc.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES
 I am able to assist with the day’s activities.
 Name: _____

CLASSROOM COORDINATOR – 2012
 I would like to volunteer for Classroom Coordinator
 Name: _____
 Grade: _____

CHRISTMAS QUILT – SILENT AUCTION
 Name: _____
 Bid Amount: \$ _____

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS
Classroom Coordinators - 2012: We are asking parents to consider the position of Classroom Coordinator for the 2012 year. An outline of the duties will be available from the front office. We require at least two Coordinators for each Grade. A fundraising activity will be allocated to each Class for Classroom Coordinators to coordinate in 2012. If you would like to volunteer for one of these roles please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to the office.
Icy Pole Duty - 2012: Thank you to those who have assisted this year in Icy Pole Duty, we are now looking for an Icy Pole Coordinator and helpers for term 1, 2012. If you would like to volunteer you are required to be at the school for approximately 30 minutes (1.00 – 1.30pm). Please remember that you will require a Working with Children’s Check (WWCC).
Christmas Raffle: Raffle books were sent out with last week’s newsletter, there are more books available from the office. For our P&F Christmas Raffle we are asking for donations of groceries to put together a number of ‘Christmas Hampers’. Each grade has been allocated a section to ensure we have a good variety and they are listed below. There will be a basket in each classroom to place the donated items in. The following is a list of food suggestions to donate for each class (no home brand products thank you):
Grade Prep: Bon Bons, Shortbread, Plum Puddings, Serviettes, Decorations, Plastic Plates, Christmas Wrap, etc.
Grade One: Cereal, Fruit, Muesli Bars, Foil, Gladwrap, Lunch Bags, Freezer Bags, Jelly, Lollies, etc.

BOARD NOMINATION FOR OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL
 I wish to nominate for a position on the School Board.
 Nominated by:
 Seconded by:
 Nominees Signature: