Dear Parents,

NEW STAFF AT OLA IN 2015
It has been a long and detailed process, but I can now announce teaching staff appointments at OLA for next year.

I welcome Mrs Leisl O’Brien and Mrs Mikaela Kranz, who will both be teaching in the year 5 and/or year 6 classes. Both are very experienced upper primary school teachers. I am sure that both will quickly and smoothly become part of our very talented and dedicated teaching staff.

Mrs Bock (year 2), Miss McKellar (year 2), and Miss Kelly (Prep) have secured another 12 month contract at OLA for 2015. Mr Clark (year 6) is now on permanent staff at OLA. Great news for our whole community.

Miss Alicia Lowry has been appointed to Our Lady of the Rosary, Kenmore for 2015. Alicia has had a very successful year teaching year 1 at OLA this year. Thank you for all your efforts and best wishes for the future.

SOME OF THE PLANS FOR 2015
SCHOOL BASED FUNCTIONS TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Successful contemporary schooling is necessarily served by attending to various functions associated with learning and teaching. In order to support learning progress and achievement for each student these functions need to be evident in each school. The performance of these functions can be met by a range of school personnel in a variety of timeframes.

1. Monitor the learning progress and achievement of each student in the school against the Australian Achievement Standards using relevant and appropriate learning and teaching data.
2. Initiate and coordinate changes in teaching using evidence based practices that improve the impact of teaching on each student’s learning progress and achievement.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skill in pedagogy and assessment to coordinate curriculum programming and implementation.
4. Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skill in the teaching of literacy and/or numeracy in alignment with Australian Curriculum and BCE positions to ensure effective teaching and improved achievement in every curriculum area.

In essence, these functions encapsulate school efforts to monitor each student’s progress through:

• effective data use;
• implementing effective teaching that impacts positively on student learning and progress;
• enhancing pedagogical practice based on the endorsed curriculum; and
• improving the impact of literacy and numeracy teaching.

Technology, whilst not mentioned explicitly, supports endeavours across all four areas.

From time to time these functions may be performed by a variety of role holders, and may be shared across staff as expertise and skill-sets are identified and developed. They may require different time allocations and the timing of activity may need to be flexible in responding to school routines and needs. Currently schools may have role-holders such as a nominated class teacher, Support Teacher Inclusive Education, Curriculum Support Teacher or Assistant Principal (Admin and/or RE) who engage in these functions to some extent.
The Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching 2014-16 Strategy anticipates that these functions are carried out by suitable staff members, who have the competencies and resources to deliver such services to the school community. In the years ahead Brisbane Catholic Education Office will strive to build the capacity of those performing these functions through activities delivered under the Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching 2014-16 Strategy.

**LEARNING ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION**

2015 sees an increased allocation in the area of Learning Enhancement across the community of schools. The Learning Enhancement allocation may be used flexibly by principals in consultation with their area supervisors in order to implement the local learning and teaching strategies.

The Learning enhancement allocation will be used at Our Lady of the Assumption School in 2015 to provide impetus and focus in the areas of:-

♦ literacy (with a focus on Reading to Learn)
♦ Information Technologies to develop and enhance teacher’s skill set in using Learning Management Systems in each classroom.
♦ Social and emotional well being coaching and mentoring.
♦ Robotics in the classroom

**FACILITY UPGRADES PLANNED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

**TOILETS REFURBISHMENT** - including full painting, a new floor coating and new hand washing facilities that the children can comfortably reach.

**LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE**

The current music room will be converted into a Learning support area with offices for Support teachers Inclusive Education, school based Guidance counsellor and a learning area for small group work, structured play, school officer work area etc. The music room will move one room to the west and will be bigger than its current space.

**INTERNAL RING ROAD**

Demolition and preliminary works will occur in the holiday period with road work completion early in 2015.

**ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICES**

60 NEW LAPTOPS have been ordered and will be imaged ready for the children’s use in Term 1 next year. This will bring our total useful device numbers up to over 200 for 2015. (Some of our current netbooks and laptops will be 'retired' as they are out of warranty)

**P & F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and FINAL BOARD MEETING FOR THE YEAR**

November 24th –School board Meeting 6.30 PM
Parents and Friends Association Annual General Meeting 7.30 PM

**WINE AND CHEESE WILL BE SERVED IN THE STAFF ROOM**

**TUCKSHOP**

As a result of having to source a different supplier of the Sushi Rolls the crispy chicken and avocado has been replaced with crispy chicken and lettuce.

**OLA PIANO CONCERT**

I would like to cordially invite Parents, Grandparents and Friends to attend our OLA Piano Concert on the 20 November 2014. This will be held in PENDER HALL at 6.30 pm.
Lesley Parish - Piano teacher 0402 110 880
School Fees and charges for 2015

There has been no increase in fees and charges for 2015. Fees will be billed in a slightly different format that will allow us to secure an additional capital loan from the Archdiocesan Development Fund for the planned building refurbishments scheduled for the holiday period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEES 2015</th>
<th>Tuition Fee and activity fee</th>
<th>Building Fund Capital Levy</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Per Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Child</td>
<td>$1,520.00</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td>$500</td>
<td>$4,228.00</td>
<td>$1,082</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Tuition Fee – per child**

WHAT IT PAYS FOR

This covers the running costs of the school and tuition costs e.g. rates, additional staff hours, all library and classroom resources and furniture, cleaning, library and all computer costs including maintaining the network, purchasing programs and computers, the employment of “above schedule” staff (Music, School Officers, Physical Education specialist, Clerical assistance, Groundsman) and associated award superannuation and work cover charge, contract payments associated with fire protection, pest control and security services. They also pay for insurances, electricity, audit fees and other professional costs, rates, cleaning supplies and telephones. Maintenance of grounds, repairs to plant, equipment and furnishings. Capital expenditure involving school and office furniture and fixtures.

**Pay Fund and Futures Levies (AEL)**

Payment of the Archdiocesan Education Levy to Brisbane Catholic Education. The School is invoiced on a quarterly basis, and while the levy constitutes a small percentage of overall income to Catholic Education, it is a major item of expenditure to be met by the School. Catholic Education Office recurrent expenditure includes school level staffing, various grants, central services, and other sundry costs. Archdiocesan Education Levies for 2015 amount to $2200 per child and a Special Futures Fund Levy of $20.00 per child.

**Activity Fee – per child**

These are costs that we pay on your behalf. Books, stationery, sport and cultural activities, (eg buses to sport,) and all costs involved in participating in these activities, excursions, swimming lessons, concerts, end of year activities and many other activities.

**Building Fund Levy – per family**

This fee pays for maintenance and the principal and interest repayments on school loans. This is a compulsory levy and as such is not tax deductible.

If parents wish to make a donation to the building fund above and beyond this levy, this additional amount is fully tax deductible.
I have just returned from a research trip to the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence near New York. The Yale Center is home of the RULER Program, the world’s best emotional intelligence program for children and families.

The thing that I love about the RULER Program is that it’s totally evidence-based. Its effectiveness is backed by mountains of scientific evidence, so credibility is assured. But that’s all I can tell you about the program now – you’ll just have to wait.

In the meantime, there are plenty of other evidence-based tips for parenting that I can share with you. Here are 10 research-backed tips for raising what most parents want: happy, successful kids.

1. Birth order matters
Birth order is something parents need to work with. If you disregard the birth order of your children you are overlooking a vital piece of your parenting puzzle. For instance, research has shown that eldest children tend to experience greater mental health problems, particularly anxiety, than children in any other birth position.

2. Positive peers matter
Recent research I was involved in demonstrated that the wellbeing of teenage girls is highly influenced by their peer groups. A positive peer group usually equated with high life satisfaction regardless of what other factors where at play.

3. Parent mental health matters
If you want happy kids then you need to get yourself happy. Parent anxiety and depression is linked to behavioural problems in kids; it also makes our parenting less effective.

4. Sibling relationships matter
Research shows that over the long haul healthy relationships makes kids happier. But how do you go about teaching kids to get on? Start by encouraging children to build small acts of kindness, which builds empathy.

5. Developmental matching matters
A number of studies have shown that much of what is considered ‘poor parenting’ has more to do with poor developmental matching. Put simply, parents who raise an eleven-year-old like they did their eight-year-old may find that conflict and resistance become their constant companions, and unhappiness accompanies their child.

6. Good parenting matters
Permissive, laissez faire, autocratic or authoritative parenting? The links between authoritative parenting (a mixture of firmness, warmth and family participation) and children’s happiness and wellbeing are well drawn.

7. Family dinners matter
Significant research links family strength and children’s wellbeing with regular family mealtimes. Importantly, there is a high correlation between teenagers who eat with their family at least five times a week and good mental health.

8. Fun matters
Researchers believe that the dramatic drop in unstructured play time is in part responsible for slowing kids’ cognitive and emotional development. Unstructured play helps children learn how to work in groups, to share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, regulate their emotions and behaviour, and speak up for themselves.

9. Helping others matters
The Positive Psychology movement know what they are talking about when they put volunteering at the forefront of an individual’s wellbeing. Helping others makes you happy over the long term.

10. Emotional intelligence matters
Emotional intelligence is a skill, not an inborn trait. Kids learn best when they have concrete tools to assist their learning, whether learning to read (books come in handy), playing sport (a ball and some goalposts helps) or learning to dance (some suitable music helps).
**Boot Camp at OLA 6 Days Per Week**

Why not reward yourself this semester and join many other OLA Mums and Dads by benefiting from increased energy, fitness, and a leaner body composition by Xmas. Boot Camp Enoggera has established itself over the last few years and is now conducting 6 fitness sessions per week at OLA.

Our former military trainers goals are simple:

Create a supportive environment where all fitness levels are welcomed by existing Boot Campers.

Program each exercise session for maximum return on investment.

Have lots of fun training and acknowledge all achievements from Boot Campers.

The 25 week initiative "Spring into SUMMER" allows plenty of time to create a healthy, fit, and energetic YOU just in time for summer.

All new boot campers receive 1 FREE week of training (go to the website below to take advantage) to ensure that the environment and training suits your needs. There is no obligation to sign up after your free week.

Contact: Mat Skate  Mob: 0414474040
Email: contact@weighttolife.com.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/fitnessinthepark
Website: http://www.fearlesshealth.com

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**Mount Alvernia College** is currently accepting Applications for Enrolment for **YEAR 7, 2018**. **Closing date for Applications is 8 February 2015.**

It is important that you lodge your application by the due date to be considered in first round offers. Second round offers are made subject to availability.

Enrolment Forms are available via email request from the Mount Alvernia College website [www.mta.qld.edu.au](http://www.mta.qld.edu.au) or contact Jodi Walsh on Ph: 3632 8508 for any further information.

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**GUITAR & UKULELE LESSONS**

Lessons will be available for children at OLA during school hours in 2015. Any enquiries should be directed to:

Shayne at Learn Music on 0411 728 155

Any adults interested in music lessons at Virginia, West End or the CBD ring Brendan on 0412 701 492. Parents with children in the guitar or ukulele program will receive a 50% discount for their own lessons.
OLA P&F PRESENTS...

CAROLS NIGHT!!
MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

BBQ DINNER
5PM TIL 6.15PM

STUDENT CAROLS
STARTS 6.30PM

POP-UP CRAFT STALL!
FROM 5PM

BYO ALCOHOL PERMITTED

ON SALE: Steak Burgers * Sausage Sizzle * Soft Drinks/Poppers/Water * Sno Cones * Popcorn * Safeflame Candles!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CANTEEN AND GIFT SHOP WILL BE CLOSED DURING CAROLS, SO PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO PURCHASE FOOD AND DRINK PRIOR.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

THE P&F NEED PEOPLE TO HELP WITH PREPARATION OR ON THE NIGHT TO SERVE FOOD, DRINK, OR TO SELL CANDLES, PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW TO THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE NUMBER: ___________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ___________________________

☐ YES! I can help with preparation on Monday 1st December – 2pm (set up, salad prep)

☐ YES! I can help on the night from 5pm to 6.30pm (bbq, sno cones, popcorn, drinks, candle sales)