Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to an exciting and very busy year! We hope that all families had a safe and happy holiday break. The Year 6/7 students have already made a positive start to the year and there is a lot to look forward to in the coming months! Below is some information in relation to classroom routines. Please do not hesitate to come and see us should you have any further questions.

**Middle Schooling**

Middle Schooling refers to students in Years 6 to 9. There is a growing awareness in education that as a pre/young adolescent group the needs of students in Years 6-9 are somewhat different to others. Their developmental stages vary across physical, emotional, intellectual, social, cognitive and moral platforms.

**The Classroom**

A significant amount of time has been spent with the children on establishing a quality and positive classroom environment, focusing on the values that are important to them. We are excited to be utilising our flexible learning environment in innovative and energising ways. We have established a Code of Cooperation and together understand the roles of both the student and teacher. Students are given the opportunity to work on tasks individually and in groups through classroom tasks, specialist lessons, subject swaps and ICT activities. In our classroom, we value the importance of students being able to work with a variety of other students. We are also engaged in a buddy program where we work with another class from the Junior Primary unit.

**Middle School Collaboration**

Year 5/6/7 Classes

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/7T</td>
<td>Amy Todd</td>
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<td>6/7L</td>
<td>Grace Loizos</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Nadia Santin</td>
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<td>5C</td>
<td>Franco Canil</td>
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As part of our Middle School Programme we have incorporated rotations between the four JLC classes.

**Science**: Franco Canil  
**Digital Technology**: Amy Todd  
**Visual Arts**: Grace Loizos  
**Health**: Nadia Santin

*As part of our partnership with parents, a member of the Middle School team may contact you regarding your child’s progress if necessary.*

**Uniform**

It is an expectation at OLMC that all students will wear school uniform. A detailed uniform policy is on the school website. Please familiarise yourself with this document. Students are not permitted to wear any jewellery such as bracelets or rings. Make-up, including nail polish, is not a part of our school’s uniform.

**Please pay particular attention to correct footwear, ensuring that black school shoes are worn when wearing the formal uniform.**

Our class PE days are:

- 6/7T – Tuesday and Friday  
- 6/7L – Monday and Friday
Assessment and Reporting

Continuous assessment is an integral part of the learning process. Our focus is on providing positive feedback to students, acknowledging their successes, highlighting areas for attention or development and motivating them to continue developing their skills and knowledge along the learning continuum. We endeavour to provide you and our students with quality assessment practices.

Assessment techniques that will be utilised in the Middle School include:

- Observations
- Questioning
- Anecdotal Records
- Checklists
- Written tasks
- Oral tasks
- Rubrics
- Tests
- Peer Assessments
- Self Assessments

Specific feedback on individual students will be discussed privately with that student. At the end of Term Two and Term Four formal written reports about student achievement will be provided in conjunction with Parent Teacher Interviews which occur in Term One and Three.

Personal Responsibility (Behaviour Management)

All students have the right to learn in a safe, respectful and welcoming school environment. When a student's behaviour interferes with classroom learning, the teacher will respond. At OLMC we believe that every teacher has the right to teach and everyone has the right to learn while feeling safe and free from unwarranted distractions. Students develop an awareness that they are responsible for their own behaviour, while also gaining skills while working in a group and respecting the rights of others to learn.

If issues arise, teachers will make time to discuss strategies to restore appropriate behaviour.

You will be notified if your child is regularly not meeting the behavioural and learning expectations of our School/Classroom. We will request a time with you to discuss how we can move forward in a positive manner.

Edmodo: A Learning Network

This year we will be using Edmodo in our class. Edmodo is a free and secure learning network for teachers, students and schools. It provides a safe way for teachers and students to connect, share content, access classwork, participate in discussions, manage due dates and receive class information. Please refer to the attached letter regarding Edmodo.

JLC Bulletin

Each week the 6/7 students receive a class bulletin called the JLC Bulletin. This clearly explains to the students the homework expectations and due dates for the week ahead. It also informs the students of the inquiry topic we are focusing on in a particular week, as well as class and school reminders. The JLC Bulletin instructs the class to our weekly Edmodo challenge, which they are expected to respond to on Edmodo during the week. The JLC Bulletin is also posted on Edmodo at the beginning of each week. We do spend some time talking about the bulletin on Mondays, however, it is up to each student to access it in their own time and check to see what work needs to be done. The JLC Bulletin is only published in digital form and can only be accessed via Edmodo.

Homework

On average, students in Year 6/7 may have approximately 30—40 minutes of homework each night (including 20 minutes reading). This time will vary depending on your child’s after school commitments. Homework may consist of unfinished work, consolidation of learning or extension activities. As the year progresses, students will be expected to undertake small research tasks linked to classroom learning. Students are expected to manage their work load and keep track of due dates. They will receive ongoing support from their teachers with their time management skills.

One of our main aims is to develop independent learners who take responsibility for their own management and development. If your child is experiencing difficulty with their homework due to out of school commitments or circumstances, could you please notify your child’s class teacher. If all homework has not been completed (and there has been no communication from a parent / caregiver) then it is the student's responsibility to complete this homework in their own time.
Study Time

Study time is a quiet time specifically for our 6/7 students who would like to stay after school to work on assignments, finish off tasks, use the computers or receive teacher support. Study time will be offered on the following days - from 3:00pm till 4:00pm Term 1.

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Allergies

A friendly reminder that Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish School is an Allergy Aware school. Please refrain from sending any food to school with your child that may contain nuts. Thank you for your cooperation with this very important issue.

Brain Food

Our classes will be having a short break for a snack between mornings – recess. This should consist of fruit, raw vegetables, dried fruit or cheese.

Excursions/Camp

Throughout the year our students will partake in some exciting learning experiences outside of the school environment. In addition to this, in Term 3 the 6/7 students will be attending camp. The camp dates are Wednesday 21st September to Friday 23rd September. Further information on the camp and excursions will be distributed throughout the year.

Final Note:

Please refer to the school calendar for all the important dates for this term.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to make a time to see your child’s teacher.

Feel free to email us: gloizos@mcps.catholic.edu.au or atodd@mcps.catholic.edu.au

We are available most mornings and afternoons for a quick chat, or can arrange a specific time to meet with you as is required.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child as they continue their journey at OLMC.

Please sign and return the slip below acknowledging that you have received our newsletter. We would also appreciate if you could provide us with your email address to maintain our partnership with you.

Kind Regards,

Amy Todd and Grace Loizos

6/7 Teachers

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ATTENTION MS TODD & MRS LOIZOS

I ____________________________ have received the 6/7 Term 1 Newsletter.

(Parent/ Caregiver name)

Email address ________________________________________________