Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends of our College.

We have one more week before the end of Term 3 and quite a lot is happening here at the College. You can read about this in other section of the Newsletter. For my part, there are few items I would like to pass on to you this week. Firstly, just to let you know that Romone Lewin (Year 10) is steadily recovering in the Darwin hospital. Still a long way to go but the news is good so far. Please keep up your prayers for his full recovery.

Subject Selection for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Subject selections are happening at the moment for students moving into Years 9, 10 and 11 in preparation for setting a timetable for 2016 and the subjects that will be on offer at the College. I am aware that some students are contemplating moving to another school in Darwin so as to be able to prepare for their career path once they leave school. I urge all students and parents to consult with the school before such a decision is made because it could well be that O’Loughlin does actually offer the necessary subjects they wish to do in their senior years.

Year 7 Enrolments for 2016. I would like to provide an update on our current situation for our Year 7s in 2016. There are 144 places available. We have already filled 129 of these places and have two more applications to process. As a rule we keep 4 places held in reserve for families transferring from Catholic schools interstate over Christmas. This means that we now have less than 10 places available. Once we are full, we will continue to receive applications and will put them on a waiting list. If all places are not filled through interstate transfers by Monday 17th January, we will offer a place to those prioritized on the waiting list. We are also happy to receive applications for other Year levels at the College.

Staff Changes for Term 4. In my last Newsletter I mentioned a couple of staff changes for Term 4. I omitted to mention that Mr John Gawa, our Indonesian language teacher, will be away on Long Service Leave next term and we have appointed an experienced Indonesian teacher, Ms Glenda Sutardy, to replace John while he is away. Glenda will teach Indonesian language at both Holy Family and O’Loughlin.

We also say farewell to Ms Dee Avery, who has been one of our Inclusion Support staff for the last three years. We wish Dee well for the future and thank her for the great work she has done for the children she worked with during her time here at OCC.

Opportunity to receive missed school-based vaccines. Elsewhere in this Newsletter we have copied a letter from the NT Department of Health notifying about the opportunity to catch up on missed school-based vaccines. Consent forms have been given to our Year 12s already as they are the priority at the moment. Consent forms for Years 9 and 10 will be given out at a later date once we hear back from the Health Department as to when they intend to carry out the program for them.
Parent/Student/Teacher Evening. Last Wednesday saw a very successful Parent/Student/Teacher evening at the College. The session ran from 3.30 to 8.30p.m with a break at 6.00-6.30 for the teachers to have some dinner. I was very happy to see so many parents making full use of the opportunity to meet with their son/daughter’s teachers to discuss progress and how we can best work together for the advancement of their education. Thank you to all those parents and students who attended.

Collection of students during school time. I would like to make a plea to parents who need to collect their son or daughter from the College during the school day to try to time the collection at either recess (normally 10.40-11-10) or lunch 1.15-1.50). I do not allow the PA to be used during class time to call them to the office as it interrupts the teaching, and it is often difficult for one of our staff in Admin to stop what they are doing to go and collect the child. Nonetheless it is quite alright if the student knows what time he/she is to be picked up and can come out of class to the front office if it is a time outside recess or lunch. A note in their diary from the parent is sufficient to show to the teacher.

School uniform. There is a bit of slackness creeping into the wearing of the school uniform currently by quite a few students. The uniform is clearly stipulated in the student diary and the regulations are posted on notice boards around the school as well. The most common disregard for the uniform at the moment are incorrect shoes and the incorrect sleepers or ear rings. Please note that Year 12 are not exempt from these regulations. I ask parents to work with us as we make every effort to ensure students are correctly attired and to support us if a detention is handed out for the breach. Thank you.

End of Term. Next week is our last week for the term. Some students may have the tendency to slacken off during this last week. I have spoken to all teachers to ensure that they do not slacken off and to keep the children focused on their work. After all, it is only half way through the semester and there is a lot of teaching and learning to happen before the final report at the end of the year.

College Advisory Board Meeting. The College Advisory Board met last Monday. Items discussed were a brief update on the school budget and that we have received advice from the Catholic Education Office regarding the percentage increase for tuition fees for next year. Other matters raised were about healthy food in the canteen, the tabling of a draft Child Protection Policy for the school, the moving of the school uniform shop over to the Cricket and Football shop. More than likely this will happen but not until sometime next year. It was also reported that the P&F Association will run a barbeque at the Creative Arts Night at the College (Friday 20th November) and donations of food and drinks will be sought.

Conclusion. This will be the last Newsletter for this term so I take the opportunity to wish everyone all the best for the coming week’s holiday. God bless.

Jim Jolley
Principal