

# Celebrate the Past—Build The Future.

Issue 3

17th April 2010

## OUR INVITATION TO YOU!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Your Invitation to the Opening!
- Building Work Completed!
- The Amazing Day
- Continuing Research into the school & parish
- School Memories
- More Pavers on Offer

*The Community of St Monica's Primary School invites you to the Opening Celebration of our New Learning Centre!*



**Saturday 29th May 2010**  
**10am til 2pm**

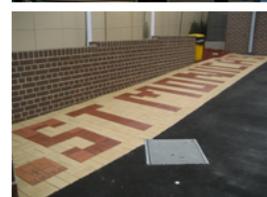
#### What's on...

An exhibition of the school's 118 year history.

A chance to reunite with former classmates

Tours round the new Learning Centre

Refreshments and a few stalls



*(The Bishop and dignitaries will be attending the formal opening on Friday 28th May 2010 at 10.30am—which you are also welcome to attend)*

St Monica's Primary  
10 Dakin Street  
NORTH PARRAMATTA

Phone: (02) 9630 8995  
Fax: 9683 4984  
E-mail: [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au)

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Help us make the Opening extra special by digging out your old photos, uniform, certificates etc and sharing them with your former classmates! We especially need class photos pre 1973, communion groups and names for all classes 1973, 1977, 1978, 1983, & 1985! Email us: [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au) or call 9630 8995.

## HAPPY 2010!

St Monica's School, North Parramatta was opened in 1892 and so is now in it's 118th year, and 13th Decade, how cool is that!

Whatever decade you or your family attended, put the 29th May in your diary and come and join us to see the new school buildings and relive some of your old school memories—you'll be amazed at what you remember, and could be amazed by who you meet again!



**BUILDING WORK COMPLETED**

The building of a new state of the art school at St Monica's has finally completed. The school children moved in for the first day of term 1 2010. The new buildings include brand new teaching facilities, wet areas and bubblers in each area, electronic whiteboards, air conditioning, lots of cupboards and lots of space. There is also a new office with student and public entrances, sick bay, staff room and staff work room and new Smoosh (St Monica's, out of school hours care) Everyone loves the new

facilities and with the team teaching, open plan facilities and 21 century learning St Monica's is now on the map as a modern state of the art learning centre.

Currently the builders are completing a face lift for the old hall, a drive through from Daking Street to Church St/North Rocks Road, basketball/ tennis court, car parking and landscaping with the estimated completion date to be the end of April.

We are planning a BIG formal opening of the new school. The Bishop will be formally blessing the school on



Friday 28th May with a Celebrate the Past, Building the Future Open Day for Parents, Families, Past Pupils, Friends and neighbours on Saturday 29th May 2010 (10am til 2pm) Don't miss it!

**WHAT WAS THE FIRST CELEBRATE THE PAST, BUILD THE FUTURE DAY LIKE?**

*What an Amazing Day!*

About 100 Past Pupils turned for our first Celebrate the Past, Build the Future open day. The day consisted simply of a display of the school and Parish 116 year history and all the class and communion photos we could find! The feedback was amazing and so many people enjoyed revisiting their own school before the bulldozers moved in and reviving memories long forgotten.

One group from the 1950's used it the day as a reason to bring

their old friends together for the weekend—one even flying down from Queensland.

One ex-student from the mid 1960's turned up and didn't find anyone he knew and none of his class photos either, but said how much he had enjoyed meeting people and the amazing atmosphere on the day.

Enid Davis was the star of the day. Enid attended St Monica's by tram in the

1930's and is still living in Northmead.

Others met up with classmates they hadn't seen for 50 years and some with classmates they'd hadn't seen for 20 years but all enjoyed the day.

The feedback was amazing so don't miss out this time! Find some time in your day to pop down and relive your primary school days!

**TRACK DOWN YOUR CLASSMATES**

We have about 100 Past Pupils registered on our database now and about 110 in our Facebook group we are looking to invite everyone to our grand opening day.

Dig out the old school photos and start ringing round! Do your old school friends still live in the area? What about their parents or brothers and sisters.

Did your siblings attend the school or what about your cousins and neighbours? Help us spread the word!

Did you graduate in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 or 2000, or just finished year 12?

Why not organize to pop down with your classmates and have a reunion?



**1963 - Yr 1**



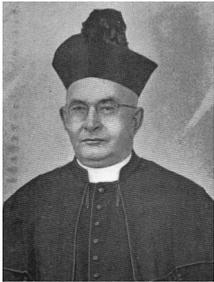
1st Row (back) Margaret Stretton, Laurel Gibbs, Elizabeth Harris, Helen Roberts, Ingrid Koehnli, Kathy Cathy Sullivan, Julie Wilson, Lyn Overton, - - , Louise Palumbo.  
 2nd Row Brad Jeffries, Terry Chalquidson, - - , Alan Prosser, Jimmy Tracco, Phillip McInnes, Michael Clough, Paul Mitchell, - - , Steven Williams, - - , Gary King, Kevin Boden.  
 3rd Row Paul Horton, - - , Jimmy Ripper, - - , Patrick Farrell, - - , Priscilla, - - , Jeffrey Grewener, Gary Allsett, - - , Robert, - - , Stacy Cividin, Anthony Brown, Greg Atkins.  
 4th Row (front) Hugh Quinn, Estrella Potts, Cathy Nelson, Karen Nicholson, - - , Andrew Ross, Nicola Scott, Maria Salis, Sam Shaw, Kerry Kairan, Paula Boyle, Vicki Sinclair, Lyn Brooker, Sue Ryan, Mary Wisful.

Class Photos '67

### CONTINUING RESEARCH INTO THE SCHOOL AND PARISH HISTORY

After Last years successful exhibition of school and parish history, Janet Joseph is continuing her research and is currently finalising a coffee table type book.

We have had a number of recent finds including a photo of Fr Dogherty.



Tracking down the Gillett/Overton/Prudames clan was exciting as they have had 3 generations attend St Monica's. Right are Carlene and Michael Miller—3rd generation students in the 1990's.



The Koen brothers send in some photos of their father and uncle who attended the school in 1929.

The boys on the bottom right show the only photo so far found of the 1918 school building which faced Church St. Who knows what else might be uncovered?



### SCHOOL MEMORIES

Along with photos we are also collecting memories - everyone has some of these!

One recurring theme from the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's was that of the free milk given to



all the school students at that time to improve their health. Mostly the

memories weren't too complimentary! Milk left out in the morning heat was pretty yucky unless you brought your own Milo!

Another recurring theme from the early 1960's was that of the deb ball. All the Kindergarten children were taught to bow and curtsy for their grand entrance into the ball!



Before the fencing went up around the school it seems the playground was a shortcut for

trucks and was often visited by dogs from the surrounding area. One group from the 50's remembered a girl being bitten on one occasion and Marie Carney remembers a snake found in the boys toilets—first thought to be a lizard!



*What are your stand out memories from your time at St Monica's?*

### SCHOOL OPENINGS

This year will be the schools 4th school opening! 1919 was when the first building was opened (school had previously been held in the church or in a lean-to at the back of the church). The first school building ran along Church St and was opened in 1919 (roughly where the church is now), the 2nd was building along Daking St which was opened by Cardinal Gilroy on Sunday 5th June 1955 and the 3rd was the old double storey building opened Sunday 11th July 1965 (see photo)

Don't miss our historic 4th school building opening day—there may not be another opportunity for another 45 years!



SOMETHING TO  
CONTRIBUTE?

ST MONICA'S PAST  
PUPILS  
ASSOCIATION

C/- St Monica's Primary School  
10 Daking Street  
North Parramatta  
NSW 2151

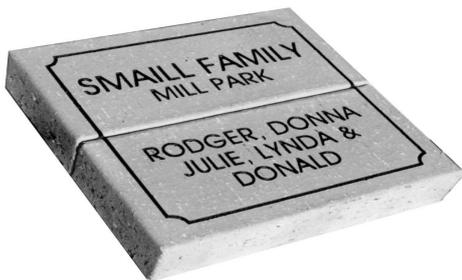
Phone: 02 9630 8995  
Fax: 02 9683 4984  
E-mail: [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au)

Join us on Facebook too— *St Monica's  
Primary North Parramatta Past Pupils  
Association*

The St Monica's Primary Past Pupils Association aims to Celebrate the school's past by recording, preserving and displaying the school's, Parish's and Local area's history. It hopes to Build the Future by supporting the school and parish community. It provides opportunities for reunion, celebration and support.

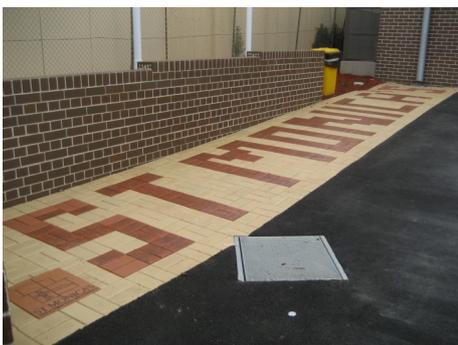
Register today and we'll help find some of your classmates, and probably some old photos too!

PAVERS  
AVAILABLE  
AGAIN!



At the 2008 open day we were offering engraved pavers for sale. These pavers have now been laid at St Monica's and are a fabulous record of students/families attendance at the school. The pavers were laid as part of the playground landscaping in 2 colours to spell out "St Monica's".

After seeing them laid we were flooded by people wanting to buy one so we have opening up the sale again. Single Pavers can hold 3 lines of text (up to 32 characters ) and cost just



\$25, and double pavers can hold up to 6 lines of text (up to 64 characters) and cost \$50.

You could also buy a paver as a memorial to a friend or loved one, to celebrate the birth of a baby, for a wedding, an anniversary , or just to share your favourite quote!

Please find attached the paver order form, if you have friends or family who attended please pass on to them too.

Please have your forms in by **25th June 2010**

ANY MORE  
PHOTOS?

Do you have any Class photos from before 1973? Any concert, sports, communion or special event pics your family took? Any Cine film?

There are many past pupils who have lost or never had their class photos and we have been able to bring back memories to so many students through their class or communion photos. We still need many more—the 1960's seem to be especially rare.

Please share them if you do have any photos—you can scan and email them to [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au). Not on the computer, no worries, you can drop them at the school, or get a friend to copy and print them for you? If needs be we arrange to pick them up.

Certificates, Trophies, Badges and memories also welcome for the open day display!



JOIN THE CWL

Here in the North Parramatta parish, The Catholic Women's League meets once a month on a weekday morning, for the purpose of praying together, friendship, socialising and discussions. If you are interested in joining the Catholic Women's League or popping along to learn more about what they do, please contact Marie Carney on 9630 2801.

DO WE HAVE  
YOUR EMAIL  
ADDRESS?

If you receive this newsletter by snail mail; it means we don't have your current email address. If you don't have email that's fine but if you do, adding your email to our database will lower our costs and administration.

Thanks  
Email us on [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au)