

ST MONICA'S  
PRIMARY  
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 2, WEEK 6  
4 June 2014

DIARY DATES

JUNE

Week 6

Fri 6 Dance Fever  
Sun 8 9am Confirmation  
St Monica's Church

Week 7

Mon 9 **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Tues 10 Uniform Shop  
8:30am—10:30am  
Wed 11 Semester One Reports  
sent home today  
Fri 13 Dance Fever  
Bingo Night

Week 8 **Semester One Parent /  
Teacher Interviews**

Mon 16 Pow Wow 9-10:30am  
Tues 17 Uniform Shop  
8:30am-10:30am  
ICAS Spelling  
Dance Fever —  
Interschool Challenge  
Homebush

Wed 18 Newsletter

Fri 20 Dance Fever  
Theme Lunch

Week 9

Mon 23 Pow Wow 9-10:30am  
Tues 24 Uniform Shop  
8:30am—10:30am  
Fri 27 Dance Fever

SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR  
TERM 2 AT 3PM

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

JULY

TERM 3

Week 1

Mon 14 **Staff Development  
Day**—Students do not  
attend school today

Tues 15 Students return for  
Term 3  
Uniform Shop  
8:30am-10:30am



# Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

This Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and twenty-three of our young parishioners will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a significant occasion not only for the children, their sponsors and their families, but for all of us as it offers us an opportunity to again reflect on what this call to discipleship means today.

Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit whom God sent to empower us to love one another, and to be witnesses to our faith.

We know and believe that God calls us to live a life of love, that in living this way we are called to live a spiritual life, not by denying ourselves but by reaching out to others. The spiritual life is not a matter of not doing wrong to another; rather a truly spiritual life depends on our doing good for others.

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish this Sunday provides us again with a 'reminder' of the real meaning of life. The liturgy's rituals and symbols enables one's heart to stop for a moment, to be reminded of the 'why' of the ordinariness of our everyday for it is here that we are called to be disciples of Christ. Not in Africa, not even working for the underprivileged. It is in the unexpected moments in our day to day life that God does and will come to life in us.

Discipleship is a call to respond to God who is with and in us, unconditionally, in privacy and in crowds, in the chaos of our worlds, who loves us and calls us to reach out in love. (*adapted from Intentional Disciples Sherry A. Weddell*)

Please keep the young people making their Confirmation and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations especially to our St Monica's students:

***Abbi Lewis, Damian Matijevic, Carl Valencia, Jayme O'Donnell,  
Genesis Evangelista, Brianna Mitchell, Martin Crame, Hayley Herder-Beke,  
Patrick Newey, Mattheas Noonan and Kyah Day.***

Tomorrow The Very Reverend Father Peter G Williams, Vicar General will be visiting our school at 11:00am as part of the Episcopal Visitation. Every few years the Bishop or his elected representative spends two days in the Parish. Father Peter will visit each of the learning spaces and will speak to staff regarding the Religious Education programme at St Monica's.

### **Semester One Reports/Parent Teacher Interviews**

On Monday all students were given a copy of the times when their teacher/s will be available for Parent/Teacher Interviews. Please return the slip promptly to secure a mutually agreed interview time. Every effort is made to give parents their nominated time and the teachers make every effort to coordinate sibling interview times.

The teachers have been working hard preparing the Semester One Reports for your children. With the term being only nine weeks this has been a little problematic in ensuring that the assessments and grades reflect as much of the Term 2 learning that is possible.

It is important to remember here at St Monica's that our expectations for your children are high. This means to attain an A or B grade the children must meet criteria that indicates that they have a high level of understanding and accomplishment. Most research on children's learning indicates that great schools have high expectations for their students. At St Monica's we will continue to honour the expectations of the E to A reporting scale to ensure that our standards and expectations for your children remain high.

## **MAKING SENSE OF YOUR CHILD'S REPORT**

The reporting format is reflective of the Board of Studies Common Grade Scale. The E – A grading scale is from Year 1 – Year 6 only. Kindergarten students will receive a report, showing achievement against a criterion which is more appropriate at this stage of their development.

The Year 1-6 report indicates the extent to which the student demonstrates **Knowledge** and **Skills** not **Work Habits** and **Attitudes**.

**A 'C' grade will indicate that your child is progressing at a grade appropriate level and is to be congratulated on their achievements in Semester 1.**

### **COMMON GRADE SCALE**

#### **E**

A student awarded an E grade has **elementary knowledge** and understanding in a few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills. The student requires assistance by a teacher to complete the task

#### **D**

A student awarded a 'D' grade has **basic knowledge and understanding** of the content and has achieved a limited level of achievement. The student requires some additional assistance to complete tasks.

#### **C**

The most common grade is the 'C' grade. A **C grade indicates that the student is achieving at the expected grade level** and to their capabilities. A student awarded a 'C' grade has sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved a satisfactory level of competence in the processes and skills. The student is working at grade level, meeting expectations for the grade, producing quality work samples.

#### **B**

A student awarded a 'B' grade has a **thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and skills**. The student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations. The student is working above grade level, is very capable, above average and is exceeding school benchmarks/expectations for their grade level.

#### **A**

A student awarded an 'A' grade has an **extensive knowledge and understanding** of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. The student is achieving well beyond grade level, uses complex language structures, higher order thinking skills, applies skills to new situations, applies knowledge- makes connections, possesses a wide variety of strategies and internalises concepts.

Special thanks to all the teachers for the professional way they have prepared the children's reports and for the preparation that they are currently doing for the interviews. They work extremely hard for your children and from the work that I am seeing and the conversations that I am having with the students your children are definitely benefitting from it.

### **Social Networking**

As a school community we have had to address with students and parents a range of issues involving material placed on social networking sites by students. These social network sites are not accessible via the school network.

I strongly recommend parents to view the following document available online published by the Australian Government, Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy. You can download any or all of the Easy Guide to Socialising Online, to print and keep as a handy reference. To print the full Easy Guide, click on the link below.

The Guide is regularly updated so check back often for the latest printable version.

[http://www.dbcde.gov.au/easyguide/download\\_the\\_easy\\_guide\\_to\\_socialising\\_online](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/easyguide/download_the_easy_guide_to_socialising_online)



## Trivia Night

What a fantastic night! A wonderful community event that was planned to the last detail over the last four months by Tiffany Cooper, Simone Lewis and Cathy Sciacca. These three ladies canvased businesses, wrote questions, planned games without ever having attended a trivia event.

Thank you to Julianne Gorrell for assisting Tiffany, Cathy and Simone with the setting up of the hall, and to Nick Sentas for compering the event and to Sonia Sentas for assisting on the night.

Thank you to all of the sponsors of our trivia night who generously donated items and also members of St Monica's Community who also donated: Coulter Swimming, Little Bottler, MCF Foods, Northmead Growers Market, Chloe's Beauty Bar, Coffee Embassy, Dominos Northmead, Officeworks North Parramatta, Boing Central, Three Threes, Cosmopolitan Restaurant & Bar, Supercheap Auto Nth Parramatta, TAB Northmead, Bunnings Nth Parramatta, El-Phoenician, Riverside Theatre, Jetts Northmead, Pancakes on the Rocks, Kingsgrove Sports, Lifestyle Store, Code Red, Michael Tolar Pharmacy, Riverside Brewery, Floral Expressions, Fine Wine Fine Food, Parramatta Leagues Club, Sydney Olympic Park, Beacon Lighting Nth Parramatta, Gisella Cattermole, Louise O'Donnell, Terry McFlynn, Neil and Janet Joseph, Joshua and Rebecca Essey, Simone and John Lewis, Sebastian and Kathy Sciacca, Joan Evangelista, Sherwin and Victoria Elias and Michelle and Emilio Menjivar.

Congratulations to the 2014 St Monica's Trivia Champions :  
Donna & Brett Bird, Kim & Brendan Hawkins, Carmel & Paul Hossack  
and Paul & Danielle Kneipp.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal



## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Parents are advised that an "**Administration of Medication During School Hours Form**" is to be completed if your child is to be given medication during school hours. This form can be located on the school website under School Notes (also available in the office).

It is also requested that medication is timed so that that the office staff may administer medication to all children at the same time—12:30pm. Thank you for your co-operation.

## WELCOME—Mr Dennis Cheung (Maintenance)

We welcome Mr Dennis Cheung who is our new School Maintenance person. Dennis is well known to St Monica's as he also assists with the care of St Monica's Church grounds as well. Dennis will be here from Tuesdays to Fridays after recess. Welcome to St Monica's School Dennis!

## SCHOOL FEES

A reminder to all families that unless you have a previous arrangement with the school, School Fees are due for payment today **Wednesday 4 June 2014**. Thank you to those families who have paid their fees. If you are experiencing financial difficulty with your fees, please contact the school office immediately to discuss the matter with the Principal.

## DANCE FEVER—INTERSCHOOL CHALLENGE—HOMEBUSH

The Interschool Challenge is open to ALL students from **Years 3 to Year 6** and this year will be held on **Tuesday 17 June 2014** at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre at Homebush. Doors open at 4:30pm for a 5:30pm start—finish at 8:30pm. \$5 per person (including competitors) which is to be paid at the door. Please return your permission slip to the school office to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

## PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for members of our school community who are unwell at the moment. There are a few families that especially need our prayers at this time.



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Parents are advised that the next **Staff Development Day** will be on **Monday 14 July 2014** (The first day back for Term 3). **Students do not attend school on this day.** Students return to school on Tuesday 15 July.



## YEAR 2 LITERACY

Last week, Mr Dib came to visit our Literacy group with his motorbike. We have been reading the book 'Bernard was a Bieke' and wanted to find out more about motorbikes. Mr Dib explained all the parts of the bike and the safety equipment needed to ride it. We all had a turn sitting on the bike. It was lots of fun. Thank you Mr Dib for bringing your bike to school and for helping us with our learning.

*Mrs Mason's Literacy Group*



## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Thank you to everyone who came to support St Monica's Biggest Morning Tea 2014 ! We had approximately 300 people attend our event and together we have raised \$3000 which has been sent to the Cancer Council!

Thank you to the team of ladies that helped organise the morning tea: Christine Khadi, Kathy Basha, Nikki Azar, Rebecca Essey, Souna Batach, Rebecca Hekeik, Katrina Mikhail, Susan Halabi and Jenny Coorey. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day - your support was greatly appreciated. Thank you also to our local businesses who donated to our Morning Tea: Spar Supermarket, Auspresso Coffee, Kebab's Plus@ Your Place, Q Cafe Caterez, Caterez, Rush Hour Australia and Delaqua . A special mention and thank you to Master Michael Daher and his senior students from Il Shim Tae Kwon Do (together with their parents) who finished their class early on Wednesday night to help set up the hall for our Morning Tea on Thursday morning. *Bernadette Haddad*

**St Monica's raises cup to research - (Article from the Parramatta Sun Local Newspaper)**

<http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/2300185/st-monicas-raises-cup-to-research/?cs=993>



**Road safety around your child's school**  
**Your child's safety depends on you**



### Drop off and pick up by car

- Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone as children are about.
- Look for buses pulling out – watch for flashing wig wag lights.
- Always park and turn legally around schools.
- Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.

### Walking together to and from school

- Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.
- Always hold your child's hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.
- Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.
- Talk with your children about Stop, Look, Listen and Think every time they cross the road.
- STOP ! one step back from the kerb.
- LOOK ! for traffic to your right, left and right again.
- LISTEN ! for the sounds of approaching traffic.
- THINK ! whether it is safe to cross.
- Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

For more information visit [roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au)

## 2014/2015 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The new 2014/2015 Entertainment Books have arrived and are available for purchase! **Books cost \$65 each** and every membership sold raises \$13 for our school.

This year you have the option of ordering an **Entertainment Book Membership** or an **Entertainment Digital Membership**.



You may order securely online at: <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/21576y3>  
Thank you to all the families who have already purchased their Entertainment Books! Don't miss out!!

Please contact Mrs Abood in the school office if you have any further enquiries.

### Happy birthday to the following students and staff who celebrate birthdays in June.



Jackson Basha	Edward Joseph	Angeline Cappello	Geshua Toledo
Aidan Muttoo	Ajok Kondok	Samyra Singh	Nash Hawkins
Jesse Maffina	Jessica Dib	Philip Joseph	Jimmy Aoun
Raymond Khadi	Alanis Supuk	Emma O'Rourke	Aidan Pospischil
Bethany Phillips	Merna El Merhabi	Riwaz Bhattachan	Dallas Kuea
Kayla Grzelak	Czyandexcel Panopio	<b>Staff:</b> Miss Rosewell and Mrs Turner	

### ICE BLOCKS

Please note that ice blocks are no longer on sale at lunchtime. Ice blocks will be sold again when the warmer weather arrives.



### ST MONICA'S BINGO NIGHT - Friday 13th June 2014

BBQ Dinner commencing at 6pm. BYO Drinks and Nibbles. Bingo starts at 7:00pm. Tickets cost \$20 per family or \$5 per single. Bring gold coins for the extra games on the night. Tickets will be on sale after each Sunday Mass this weekend or from the Parish Office (Tuesday– Friday).

### CHANGE IN MASS TIME—ST MONICA'S CHURCH

Please be advised that the **Saturday Vigil Mass at St Monica's Church** will now be commencing at **5:00pm** (starting from Saturday 5 July 2014).



### Catherine McAuley Westmead - School Open Morning 9.15 – 11am Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014

If you missed out on our Open Day or would like to come back and see the school on a normal school day please take this opportunity to come along to our School Open Morning. Tour around our school grounds, view our facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome.

School tours will leave from Mercy Square at 9.15am. Car parking is available after 9am on site via Gate 3 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital) in our bus bay area. Morning tea will be served following the school tour. Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend.

**DEALING WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM** Each year CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry offers an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers so as to minimize your legal fees and how to protect your rights regarding family assets. This night is being held on Tues 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at CCSS Centre, 51-58 Allawah St, Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Mr Richard Brading, (Solicitor at Wesley Legal Service, Castlereagh St.) Further details and registration: [soloparentministry@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentministry@ccss.org.au) or Ph. 99330205

# PHOTOS FROM ST MONICA'S TALENT QUEST



**Class Prayer**



Loving Father,  
I stand before you in the midst of  
confusion and complexities of life.  
My future seems distant and unknown.  
Give me, O Lord, the vision to see the  
path You set before me.  
Grant me the courage to follow Your way,  
that through the gifts and talents You have  
given me, I may bring Your life and  
Your love to others.  
I ask this through Jesus Your Son.  
Amen  
*By Nish (Stage 3)*

**A Poem written about the Holy Spirit, whilst learning about Pentecost.**

A living beautiful light, glinting  
from heaven.  
A guardian that helps us see in the world of  
darkness.  
A Soul of God flying around the air.  
A magical thing that all people  
need to receive.  
An angel that helps you enter the world  
of the eternity of life when it is  
your time.

*By Carl (Stage 3)*

