

DIARY DATES

Week 9

Thursday 3 December

- 9:15am S1 Parish Mass

Week 10

Monday 7 December

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tuesday 8 December

- 8:30am—9:30am Uniform Shop open
- 7pm Christmas Celebration

Wednesday 9 December

- 9am MAI online bookings close
- Semester Two reports sent home

Thursday 10 December

- Year 6 Fun Day

Friday 11 December

- End of Year Awards
- Thank you Morning Tea

Week 11

Monday 14 December

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am
- *Rollover—Limited services available from the office*

Tuesday 15 December

- *Rollover—Limited services available from the office*
- 8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open
- Scrub Day
- 6pm End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation

Wednesday 16 December

- Last Day for Students

Thursday 17 December

- Staff Development Day

Friday 18 December

- Staff Development Day

2016

Week 1

Tuesday 26 January

- Australia Day—Public Holiday

Wednesday 27 January

- Staff return
- Mathematical Assessment Interviews

Thursday 28 January

- Mathematical Assessment Interviews

Friday 29 January

- Year 1—6 students return for Term 1

Week 2

Monday 1 February

- ES1 commence 8:50am—1:40pm



Monica's Matters

Web: www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au
Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

Phone: 9630 3697
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Last weekend we commenced the season of Advent. It is the time in our church year when we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, at which time we change the cycle of readings we are using at mass. Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, but also of penance and preparation for Christmas.

In these busy days before Christmas, take some time to let the season of Advent bring some light, hope, freedom and peace to you and your family. It all starts with a desire to have a change of heart, to love more and to be patient.

"This Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

Mother Teresa, Love: *A Fruit Always in Season*

We can open our hearts during Advent by thinking of people who are in less fortunate circumstances than ourselves. The St Vincent de Paul appeal is a great opportunity for the children to show that they are following the Mission of Jesus.

We would like to ask that every child donates ***at least one non-perishable item*** (that can be stored without refrigeration) to the Christmas hamper in their classroom.

Some food suggestions include tinned food (vegetables, fruit, baked beans, tuna etc), pasta, jam, soup, noodles, bottles or drink or juice, or anything else that has a long expiry date.

At our Christmas Concert on Tuesday 8 December Christmas concert we will be presenting our community's donations so that they can be delivered to families in the parish.

Farewell to Staff

We thank Miss Anne Buttigieg for her commitment to the St Monica's community for the past five years as our Japanese Language teacher. We wish her every success as she commences a classroom teacher position at St Oliver's, Harris Park.

Farewell to Mrs Mary McKenzie for her dedication to providing exciting and engaging learning for our students over the past two years. We extend our best wishes to Mrs McKenzie as she continues her teaching career at Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills.

Lastly, we thank Mr Andrew McBriarty for the enthusiasm he has brought to his position as Technology Support. There have been many challenges with technology upgrades and system changes over his two years at St Monica's and Mr McBriarty has always approached everything with an 'I can' attitude. We wish him all the best as he commences his university degree next year.

Welcome to a new teacher

We welcome Mr Greg Tyszkiewicz who will join our teaching staff next year. He is dedicated to being a role model of our Catholic faith and creating quality learning experiences for his students.

We wish Mr Tyszkiewicz a rewarding and successful teaching journey at St Monica's.

Teaching Staff 2016	
Early Stage One	Mrs Erin Turner / Mrs Cath Ungsuprasert
Stage One Year 1 Year 2	Miss Emily Clough Mrs Mary Weston
Stage Two	Mrs Denelle Gardoni, Miss Michelle Rosewell, Mr Gregory Tyszkiewicz
Stage Three	Miss Kellee Bagnall and Mrs Wendy Paley (Mrs Mary-Jo Mason on Fridays)
Learning Support	Miss Leona Sweeney
Teacher Librarian	Mrs Sharon Boulous
Teacher's Aide	Mrs June Madigan

End of Year reports

On Wednesday 9 December (Week 10) students will receive their Semester Two Learning Reports. The reports are a reflection of your child's learning and social development for the second semester of the year. The teachers have dedicated significant time to allocating the grades for each student. Grades are allocated based on a number of variables such as student work samples, assessment tasks, observations and daily class work. You may find that your child receives a higher or lower grade than they received in Semester One. This is due to the fact that they are being assessed on different learning outcomes.

Students from Years 1-6 will receive a level of achievement in each Key Learning Area based on a scale described by the letters E-A and an effort indicator. It is important to remember that the majority of students will receive 'C' grades which indicates that they are achieving the expected outcomes. They are at the expected grade level-celebrate it!

Students in Kindergarten will receive a level of achievement based on a scale: With Assistance, Working Towards and Achieved.

World Youth Day Raffle Tickets

Thank you to all the parents who have returned the World Youth Day raffle tickets. It would be appreciated if all tickets are returned sold by **Monday 7 December (Week 10)**. More raffle booklets are available at the school office.

Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge

Expand your imagination by reading this summer and you could win an iPad mini. Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them and you could win one of four iPad minis. The more books you read, the more chances you have to win.

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au Entries close 5 February 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal



by Jose Bernardo
Enciso Llamas
in Year 1

27.1.15
Reading or tv
Reading is better than
tv because Reading is good
for you. So your Reading
gets better, and if you
watch tv too much you
won't get better in your
Reading. when you go out
outside look at shops
and you will see posts.

**Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) will be held on
Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January 2016. (Term 1, Week 1)**

Online bookings will close on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 9:00am

For parents who do not have internet access, an iPad will be available in the School Office for you to make bookings. Parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require or phone the school on 9630 3697.

Interview duration for each child is **30 minutes** and spaces are limited.

Parents with more than one child may select one of the extra teachers available for the interviews if they are unable to co-ordinate times with the stage teachers.

Parents are reminded to book their children in to the stage that they will be going into in 2016.

An information sheet will be sent home on Friday with all the details you will need to make the bookings.

All students from Early Stage One to Year 5 are requested to book an appointment.



Changes to School Transport Scheme

The School Opal card's new online application for relevant parents and students travelling in the Opal public transport region was launched on Monday 2 November.

The application can be found at

transportnsw.info/school-students

Just like current paper travel passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don't need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card **unless** they are **changing schools, campus, their home address or moving from Year 2 to 3 or Year 6 to 7.** Please complete the online process and then return your application to school by **Wednesday 9 December.**

Those students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal card sent to school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

Unless you have an arrangement with the school, all school fees should now have been paid. If you still have outstanding school fees, please call the school office ***immediately*** to discuss this with the Principal.

Please note that all outstanding school fees must be finalised by Tuesday 8 December 2015.

2015 ANNUAL SCHOOL FINANCIAL / ADMINISTRATION ROLLOVER

The Annual School Financial Rollover will be taking place on
Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December (Week 11).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that there will be **limited services available from the school office** on these days.

**It would be appreciated if only phone calls of an urgent nature
are made to the office while the Rollover is in progress.**

Working Bee

**Parents are advised that the Working Bee scheduled for Saturday 12 December
has been postponed until next year.**

MERIT AWARDS



Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards.

ES1:	Lola Sloane, Alicia Youssef, Sophie Phan, Miranda Huang and Ethan Wu
Year One:	Evan Michael and Tina Kiaiefar
Stage 2:	Ann-Marie Boujandy, Emma Halamkova, Jordan Basha, Merna El Merhabbi, Aadit Grover, Veronica Sadek, Isabella Smith, Jessica Stoker, Keira Mitchell, Zac Michael, Jericho Crame, Gabriel Bucur, Myles Gaddi, Ezekiel Logo, Rachel French, Alanis Supuk, Jessica Dib, Maurice Haddad, Raymond Khadi, Isabella Rose Smith, Mateo Soriano, Shreya Shrestha, Rafael Noonan, Madeline Lewis and Jason Grey
Stage 3:	Christian Stathopoulos, Debra Chirchir, Hunter Malatag, Abbi Lewis, Sally Essey, Philip Joseph, Jackson Basha and Joshua Albayeh

Showtime at Sydney Opera House

On Sunday 22nd November, Rhiannon Cooper, Charlotte Newey, Shreya Shrestha and Jessica Stoker participated in the Australian Girls Choir, Annual Concert at the Sydney Opera House. The Australian Girls Choir has a number of choral groups, which have been practising hard all year for this big event. The Concert Hall was filled with over two thousand people who came to enjoy our performances.

We felt honoured to be standing on the stage of the Opera House, singing for the Australian Girls Choir. The experience was incredible! We encourage any girls who enjoy singing to try out for the Australian Girls Choir!

By Charlotte Newey and Rhiannon Cooper

COHSC—2016 Summer Vacation Care at St Monica's

(Week 1) 11-15 January 2016 (Week 2) 18-22 January 2016 (Week 3) 27-28 January 2016

Care is available each day from 7:00am—6:30pm. All excursions will depart by 8:00am and return by 4:00pm unless otherwise specified.

Please return the booking form in person or email to coshestmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au.
Contact Centre Supervisor on 0429 990 179

The booking form can be downloaded from the School Website under **School Notes—COSHC**.
The programme is also displayed in the cabinet outside the school office.

Happy birthday to the following students and staff who celebrated birthdays in **November**

Emma Sadek	Manson Lu	Evan Michael
Laeticia Hossack	Gene Kneipp	Massimo Milutinovic
Neelesh Govender	Rhiannon Cooper	Alexander Azar
Victoria Kassis	Isabella Smith (Year 3)	Gabriel Bucur
Ryan Clark	Jericho Crame	Peter Farah
Summer Ierfino	Amarachi Ezema	Yiannis Keranis
Staff: Miss Bagnall		



Happy birthday to the following students and staff who will celebrate birthdays in **December**

Isabella Smith (Year 4)	Mark Rodriguez	Hayden Herder-Beke
Daryll Hilario	Skye Meale	Andrew Clark
Jonah Assaf	Jose Bernardo Enciso Llamas	Tina Kiaiefar
Staff: Mrs Boulous, Mrs Weston, Miss Clough and Mrs Cattermole		

2015 Christmas Concert

Our 2015 Christmas Concert will be held on **Tuesday 8 December**. Please read the details below:

Where: Undercroft Area

Time: 6:45pm arrival for a 7:00pm start (children will be lining up in their assembly lines near the flags)

What to wear:

ES1	Black and/or white clothing
Year 1	Christmas Colours (red, green & white)
Year 2	Christmas Colours (red, green & white)
Stage 2	Christmas Colours (red, green & white)
Stage 3 Girls	White clothing
Stage 3 Boys	Black clothing

Please note **NO THONGS** allowed for all students.

On the night, ice blocks will be available for 50c each and a coffee van available for coffee, tea, etc.

You are welcome to bring a fold-up chair or picnic rug to sit on.

Please be reminded that this is a compulsory school event.

If you are unable to attend, please let your class teacher know ASAP.

Aria Music Performance

Congratulations to the students who performed at the school assembly on Monday 30 November. A special thank you to the dedicated music teachers for their efforts in preparing the students for the performance.



Mathematics Day at Catherine McAuley

On Friday 27 November, Nishika and Natasha from Year 5 spent the day at Catherine McAuley where they participated in mathematics activities with students from local Primary Schools.

Christmas—Food Allergies

As we have a number of students at school with food allergies, parents are requested **not to send in chocolates, candy canes or lollies** for their children to exchange with their friends for Christmas.

A Christmas Card is always still appropriate.

Thank you for your co-operation with this very important matter.

2015 Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully completed the
2015 Premier's Reading Challenge.

Early Stage One	Andrew Clark, Noah Day, Miranda Huang, Ryan Malatag, Kristian Romic, Liam Sciacca
Year One	Aaliyah Assaf, Ruby Graham, Maureen Haddad, Madeline Smith, Sophie Stoker
Year Two	Jayden Albayeh, Sophia Elias, Aidan Mutto, Emma O'Rourke, Aidan Pospischil, Neave Sciacca, Charles Sentas
Year Three	Jonah Assaf, Ryan Clark, Jessica Crowle, Kayla Grzelak, Kael Sciacca, Samika Seepersad, Jessica Stoker
Year Four	Ann-Marie Boujandy, Rachel French, Maurice Haddad, Chelsea Lewis, Madeline Lewis, Garbhan Sciacca, Isabella Smith, Mateo Soriano, Pinar Helena Unver
Year Five	Joshua Albayeh, Patrick Crowle, Andy Haddad, Philip Joseph, Natasha Mutto, Brendan Pospischil
Year Six	Kyah Day, Abbi Lewis

A special mention to the following students who received:

Gold Awards Jonah Assaf, Ryan Clark, Jessica Crowle, Kayla Grzelak, Kael Sciacca, Jessica Stoker

Platinum Awards Kyah Day and Abbi Lewis

Congratulations everyone.

Mrs Denelle Gardoni

Important upcoming dates

Tuesday 8 December	Christmas Concert (6:45pm for a 7pm start)
Wednesday 9 December	9:00 am online MAI bookings close Semester 2 Reports sent home
Thursday 10 December	Year 6 Fun Day
Friday 11 December	9:10 am End of Year Awards / Morning Tea (approx 9:45am)
Monday 14 December	Finance Rollover—<i>limited Office services available</i>
Tuesday 15 December	Finance Rollover—<i>limited Office services available</i> Scrub Day 6pm End of Year Mass / Year 6 Graduation
Wednesday 16 December	Last day at school for students

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**ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SCHOOL & SPORTS SHOE GUIDE 2016



JUNIOR SCIENCE ACADEMY



WWW.JUNIORSCIENCEACADEMY.COM.AU

The Junior Science Academy aims to encourage children to develop their understanding of how our world works. Supported by science experts at Macquarie University, the activities are designed to suit all primary school aged children.

Children are introduced to science concepts, participate in science based experiments and make friends in a safe and supervised environment at Macquarie University where they have access to its learning facilities.

Our programs run four times a year in the school holidays and we add and rotate topics each offering.

Drop off 8.30am to 9.30am (children are supervised)

Activities 9.30am to 4.30pm

Pick up 4.30pm to 5.30pm (children are supervised)

Cost \$95 per child per day, including GST

ENROL ONLINE TODAY!

www.juniorscienceacademy.com.au/enrol

CONTACT DETAILS

Email: juniorscience@mq.edu.au

Phone: 02 9805 3130



CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT

FREE



Thursday 10th December 6-8pm

Bring the family along for a great night of fun

- Santa's little helper workshops
- Gift wrapping service
- Meet Santa in store
- Light refreshments will be provided

Plus more great activities in store including:

Petting Farm zoo with **REAL DEERS**,
LIVE Crocodile and Reptiles,
Snowcones And Fairy Floss,
Kids face Painting and Craft,
Visit from santa 6.00-6.30pm 6.45-7.15pm

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