

DIARY DATES

Week 8

Thursday 17 March

- 10:15am St Patrick's Day Liturgy—School Assembly area

Friday 18 March

- Dance Fever

Week 9

Monday 21 March

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Thursday 24 March

- Holy Thursday

Friday 25 March

- Good Friday—Public Holiday

Week 10

Monday 28 March

- Easter Monday—Public Holiday

Tuesday 29 March

- Students return
- Uniform Shop 8:30am-9:30am
- Easter Hat Parade after morning assembly

Thursday 31 March

- 9:15 am ES1 Mass

Friday 1 April

- Dance Fever
- Mufti Day—hamper donations

Week 11

Monday 4 April

- 8am-9:30am PBL Stage 3
- ES1 2017 enrolments close
- Pow Wow 9am-10:3am
- Whole School Annunciation Liturgy

Tuesday 5 April

- Uniform Shop 8:30am-9:30am
- 9:15 am Stg 1 Mass (new date)

Wednesday 6 April

- 8am-9:30am PBL Stage 2

Thursday 7 April

- 9:15am Stage 2 Parish Mass

Friday 8 April

- 9:15am Stage 3 Parish Mass
- Dance Fever
- Term 1 ends

TERM 2 - Week 1

Monday 25 April

- Anzac Day—Public Holiday



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Last week we celebrated Catholic Schools Week - a week where our school was able to celebrate what makes our school such a special place for our students to learn and grow in faith. St Monica's has a supportive community of teachers, support staff, parents, carers, clergy and parishioners who all work together to focus on giving students the best possible education in the Catholic tradition.

The students, staff and our community are always striving to make our school a place of acceptance, of learning and of care and compassion for others.

During Catholic Schools Week we conducted a number of activities. On Tuesday we held our Cross Country trials for our primary students and then invited the school community to visit our learning spaces and view the students actively engaged in their learning.

On Wednesday we welcomed 30 prospective families who attended our open day. We had a number of tours during the morning that were ably conducted by eight of our Year 6 students - Jackson, Patrick, Brooke, Philip, Natasha, Brendan, Lachlan and Jack. I was very proud of each of them. These students confidently answered questions, spoke about the learning in every learning space and spoke highly of the great things that take place every day in our school. At the conclusion of each of the tours the visitors spoke highly of these students' communication skills and their level of maturity, especially talking about what it means to be a 21st century learner. Thank you to Tiff Cooper who also showed our visitors around our school and answered questions.



During the week our school hosted 20 educators from St Bernadette's Dundas Valley, St Mary's Rydalmere and St Patrick's Parramatta, as well as three leading curriculum educators from the Catholic Education Office. Each school shared their current Religious Education, Literacy and Numeracy data aligned to their individual school goals. During the meeting our school leadership team shared the analysis of our Religious Literacy, Writing and Mathematical Assessment Interview data and the strategies that we have adopted so far to support our teachers and student learning. Our colleagues affirmed us in the work that we have already undertaken and offered the school leadership team suggestions for future direction.

Finally, on Friday we concluded our celebration of Catholic Schools Week with our whole School Mass. Thank you to our Stage 3 students, Mrs Paley and Miss Bagnall who prepared our beautiful Mass.

Kindergarten 2017

We are currently accepting enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2017. Please let family, friends and neighbours know that they can download the enrolment application form from our school website or collect one from our school office.

Last year the Parramatta Diocese revised the Enrolment Policy for all of their schools. The policy offers Catholic families a greater choice by allowing them to enrol in any school in the Parramatta Diocese.

Our enrolments officially opened on Wednesday 9 March and will close on Monday 4 April 2016. First Round interviews with Miss O'Donnell and Father Fernando will commence at the end of April (Term 2).

Where places are limited, priority will be given in the following order:

- * Catholic children who live in the local parish
- * Catholic children from other parishes
- * Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (eg siblings)
- * Orthodox children
- * Children from other Christian faiths
- * Children of non-Christian faith.

The Diocese of Parramatta Enrolment policy is available on our school website

Quality Catholic Schools Survey

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will once again be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling Survey (QCS). The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behavior, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

Between 21 March and 1 April all Staff, Year 3-6 students and 60 randomly selected families selected by the Catholic Education Office Parramatta will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents who have been randomly selected will be sent home a paper survey but they will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20 – 30 minutes to complete. The survey provides data about our school's cultural behavior, relationships and learning community.

This year we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. The survey will still remain confidential and individual responses will not be accessible by the school or the Catholic Education Office. An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential.

Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help us to develop strategies for further improvement. This will definitely assist the school in working with all students to further improve their learning.

Parents who have been randomly selected to complete the survey are encouraged to participate as this will help our school to identify our strengths and the areas in which we can focus our improvement. Please contact Mrs Abood if you have any operational or procedural questions.

Numeracy Goal: For all students to improve in multiplication and division by at least one growth point.

Mathematics is important at St Monica's! All students participate in a one-hour lesson every day. This includes a warm up activity, exploration of an open ended task and a reflection time. Displays in each of the learning spaces reflect the learning taking place in each of the spaces. Ask your child to tell you about their Mathematics lesson today!



Working Bee

Thank you to the following parents, students and staff who attended the Working Bee last Saturday—Kim Gibbs and Ruby Knight, Slavica and Brandon Lukic, Brad North, Masomeh Yadegari, Sumiana Malatag, Geoff Newey, Ema Kuea, Melissa Griffin-Hall and Matilda— Rose Hall, Phil, Kim and Ruby Graham, Juliana Fernandes, Simone, Chelsea and Madeline Lewis, Claudia, Victoria and Zachariah Kassis, Gerard, Kathy, Jackson and Jordan Basha, Genevieve, Isabella Madeline & Olivia Smith, Nick, Vanessa, Jack and Nina Talty, Rich, Cathryn, Patrick and Jessica Crowle, Sebastian, Kathy, Garbhan, Kael, Neave and Liam Sciacca and Mr Dennis Cheung.



Mrs Mary Weston

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Mary Weston, our Year 2 teacher, who will be on leave until at least the end of Term 1. In her absence Mr Daniel Delaney will be teaching in Year 2.

Attendance- Every Student Every Day Counts

Thank you to all the families who continue to support the school and their child's education by ensuring that their child attends every possible day at school. Absences from school due to illness are totally understandable. When children are sick, they need to be at home and return to school when they have fully recovered. Unnecessary absences directly affect the learning of students. Parents are kindly asked to keep this in mind especially as we move towards Easter and the school holiday period. Additional days for holidays at this time need to be kept to an absolute minimum.

*As Lent draws to a close,
let us pray fervently that Easter will be a celebration of renewal in Christ.
By the holy Cross of Christ,
save us and raise us up, O God,
forgive us our sins and lead us to eternal life.
Amen*

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

SCHOOL FEES

Families should now have received their School Fees which were sent home by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. If you have not yet received your School Fees please advise Mrs Cattermole immediately. Thank you to those families who have paid their fees. Please note that the due date for Term 1 fees is **Friday 18th March 2016**.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the Sadek families (Emma, Charbel, John and Veronica) on the recent passing of their grandfather. Please keep the Sadek families in your prayers.

2016 AFTERNOON DISMISSAL / MODE OF TRANSPORT FORM

There are still a number of students who have not yet returned their Mode of Transport form.

A copy of the form was in the last school newsletter. Please download the form from the school website, complete the details and return to school as soon as possible. It is vital that this information is returned so that we can update our records with regards to dismissal instructions for all children each day. If you are unable to download the form please contact the office so that a hardcopy may be sent home for you. Thank you for your co-operation.



SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - 'Working With Children Check' for volunteers

The School Athletics Carnival will be held on **Friday 29 April 2016 (Term 2, Week 1)** at Barton Park, (Gladstone Street, North Parramatta).

Parent helpers/volunteers are reminded that a '**Working With Children Check**' for volunteers as well as the **Online Training Module** must be completed **prior** to volunteering at school events. Links for the 'Working With Children Check' and the Online Training Module can be found on the front page of the school website page.

Morning Tea / Lunch—please read

There are still a number of students who regularly attend the office stating that they do not have food to eat at morning tea and/or lunch. Many children appear to be eating all of their food at recess and therefore do not have anything to eat at lunchtime. Could you please ensure that enough food is packed for both recess and lunch each day. Thank you.



Sr Catherine Maddock

Sr Catherine Maddock, the founding Principal of Christ the King North Rocks will be leaving the parish and returning to Ireland on the 30th June. A mass of thanksgiving in her honour for over four decades of service to the CTK community and Catholic Education in the Diocese, will be celebrated on Sunday 19th June at 10am at Christ the King Parish followed by morning tea. Those of you who have known Sr Catherine over this time are asked to join us for this very special celebration. *Mr Tony Hughes, Principal, Christ the King North Rocks*

Stage 1 Mass—change of date

Parents are advised that the Stage 1 Mass previously advertised for Tuesday 29 March has been changed to **Tuesday 5 April at 9:15am**. Please mark this change of date in your diaries.

Uniform Survey Result

The votes from the 113 families who responded to the survey (out of a possible 131 families) overwhelmingly voted to **keep our existing school shirt**. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete the survey.

Whooping Cough

There has been a reported case of Whooping Cough in Early Stage One.

Easter Hat Parade



This year we are holding an **Easter Hat Parade**.
It will be after morning assembly on **Tuesday 29th March**.
All children and teachers are encouraged to participate and
younger siblings are welcome to join in too.
Get creative at home as there are prizes up for grabs.
Thank you for your continued support. Social/Welcome Team



As part of the fundraising for **Trivia Night** we are organising hampers from each homeroom that can be used for prizes and raffles.

Your child will receive a note shortly with more information about donating an item for the hamper.

We are planning to collect the items for the hamper on **Friday 1st April** as part of a school **Mufti Day**. Stay tuned for more details.

Thanks, on behalf of the Trivia Committee

Merit Awards



Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards.

Year 2: Nika Naeme, Sanoy Bhattachan and Ashleigh North

PBL Project Dates (Week 11—Term 1)

Stage 3 Monday 4 April 8am—9:30am

Stage 2 Wednesday 6 April 8am—9:30am

PERMISSION NOTES

All of the permission notes mentioned below are available on the school website under NEWS AND EVENTS then SCHOOL NOTES (Whole School Notes)

- *Local Excursion*
- *Acceptable Use of Information Technologies (IT) (Please read with your child and print last page)*
- *Mode of Transport/Afternoon dismissal*

There are still a number of students who have not yet returned these notes.

Please ensure that the notes are returned to school immediately.

- *Students must have their 'Acceptable Use of Information Technologies permission note' signed and returned before they will be allowed access to the school's technology.*

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



Oskar Grzelak	Mia Siemsen	Andy Haddad	Hunter Malatag
Josue Heydari	Sophia Elias	Suhana Roy	Sara Younes
Jessica Chandra	Christian Kandalaft	Brendan Pospischil	Alexandra Santos
Ann-Marie Boujandy	Samira Hekeik	Ashton Dardagos	Kurt Hilario
L'Lysse Puyat	Maria Nour	Charbel Sadek	Joshua North
John Sadek	Staff: Mrs Madigan		



Early Stage 1 enjoying a painting lesson



'Buddy Bench' donated by Bunnings North Parramatta

Thank you to Tashi and Kat from Bunnings who kindly presented St Monica's with a 'Buddy Bench' at last week's assembly.

Bragging Rights

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brendan Pospischil (Stage 3) who has qualified for the State Little Athletics Championships at Homebush on March 18-20. Brendan will be competing in the 1100m race walk event.

PBL

Recently Miss Bagnall, Mrs Boulous and Miss O'Donnell attended a PBL leadership meeting at Marist, Westmead. At lunch time all the leadership teams were invited to visit the science lab to see students who elect to work in the lab during their lunch break on experiments.

Imagine our delight when we found three of our ex students confidently presenting their creations of a lava lamps to our large group.



Cross Country Thank You

Thank you to all the parents who assisted on the day with setting up the course, time-keeping, supervising the course and marking students laps. Congratulations to Lachlan Roberts who broke the 11 year boys 3km record. Well done to everyone. **Mrs Erin Turner**, Sport Co-ordinator

GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2016

On March 7th, six students arrived at school at 8.00am and were ready for a day full of leadership learning. As they walked down the stairs of the Homebush Sport Centre to the basketball court set up for the conference, and took a peek at the notebooks provided, they knew that they were in for a fabulous day!

We started off with a key message not to be forgotten: The overall goal requires my contribution, and different peoples' contribution is needed at different times. In short, this means we are all good at different things and we all must work together.

A person doesn't become a leader by being chosen, they become a leader by continually growing. The first session was all about growing as a leader, and the speakers used the metaphor of a tree. The roots being what we believe are the CORE VALUES, the trunk symbolizes COMBINING WITH OTHERS, not only one person leading, but many to create a great range of uniqueness and individuality. The leaves and branches tell us to CONTRIBUTE TO WHAT IS AROUND YOU. As leaders we must be willing to assist when we are asked and know when to be responsible when we are not. The last part of the tree is the water. The water makes the tree grow, the tree being the leaders, and the water being what we are taught about leadership. It symbolizes CONSTANT INPUT, because you never stop learning how to be a leader. The quote we were told for this topic was "It is not enough to just know what leadership is, we must grow in leadership and show leadership."

Lachlan, Alanah, Erica, Jackson, Brooke and Jack would like to thank Mrs Emphield and Mrs Talty for escorting us to and from the conference, Mrs Mason for getting us all organised and Miss Bagnall and Mrs Paley for giving us the responsibility to represent our school.

By Jack Talty (Stage 3)

School Opal Cards

Please note that all School Opal Cards have now been distributed to schools and students.

Students who have not received their pass can forward an email to The Concessions Team at concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au with the subject heading "**Pass not received**" providing the following details:

- Student full name
- DOB
- Address
- School

All students that have applied for a new pass through our website (<http://transportnsw.info/school-students>) will have their pass sent to the nominated address. Please allow 7-10 business days from the date you receive the approved email before the School Opal card is despatched to the address.

2016 EASTER CELEBRATIONS

CHRISM MASS

St Patrick's Cathedral

Wednesday 23rd March— 7.30pm

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

St Monica's Parish

Thursday, 24th March—7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

St Monica's Parish

Friday 25th March— Stations of the Cross—10am

Chinese Stations of the Cross— 1.30pm

Passion of the Lord—3pm

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Easter Vigil

St Monica's Parish

Saturday, 26th March—6.30pm

Chinese Mass —9.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY

St Monica's Parish

27th March—9am

Chinese Mass—11.30am

No evening Mass



He is not here:
for he is risen,
Matthew 28:6



PBS4L update

We have continued to focus on our Positive Behaviours Program. The students are enthusiastic about their learning and are being guided using explicit lessons given by all the teachers.

The students are able to identify what Learning Behaviours are and how that will affect their individual learning performance and support their overall learning success.

We are preparing for our school based launch early next term.

We'll keep you posted!

- When do I do my best learning?
- Am I a problem solver?
- Do I listen to others ideas?

Join our Easter Family Night

FREE

Thursday 17th March 6pm–8pm

Bring the family along for a great night of fun!

- Easter D.I.Y. Workshops
- Visit from Easter Bunny
- Fun Easter egg hunt
- Easter activities for the whole family
- Light refreshments provided

Plus more great activities in store including:

Bookings recommended — for more information or to book speak to a team member in-store or go to www.bunnings.com.au and locate your nearest store.

1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Course

Learn to manage difficult behaviour in children 2—12 years old.

A three session program for parents and carers
Venue: St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School

7 Chetwynd Road, Merrylands Phone: 9637 4600

Registration Fee:

The course costs \$10 (per parent or per couple) which covers the cost of the Parent workbook.

Register for this course by contacting
St Margaret Mary's School Office on 9637 4600

The course is 3 sessions and will be run on the dates below:

- Session 1 6-8pm Tuesday 10 May 2016
- Session 2 6-8pm Tuesday 17 May 2016
- Session 3 6-8pm Tuesday 24 May 2016

Flyer can be found under School Notes—Whole School on our school website for further information.



ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Photography Date:
Thursday 28/04/2016

[ONLINE ORDER CODE](#)
[FEF 88K ZMQ](#)

Copy and paste the link below in your browser to order photographs

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/PublicPortal/Home.aspx?nbnhmHqqedAVbnRb5QxNoQ==>

Dear Parents,

School photography day is coming up very soon. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link above or by using the envelope.

Important Information:

- **School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school**
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos now
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day**
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken.
- Past years' photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school's **advancedlife** & your **advancedyou** photo sites (**follow the link above**)
- **Sibling photographs** must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. **A photograph will not be taken without an order.** Sibling photographs only apply to children enrolled at the school.




















Advancedlife would like to express our appreciation to ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money back guarantee on our products to ensure your peace of mind. We would also love to receive your feedback or resolve any issues you may experience as fast as possible, to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your advancedlife experience please contact us at -
enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

Each student will receive their envelope with further details this week.

Parking and traffic rules in school zones


You need to take extra care when driving and parking in school zones. Make sure that you and your child understand the road rules. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting not only your child but other children at risk. The parking and traffic rules around our schools are there to protect your children. If you break the rules you will be fined. **Please choose safety over convenience.**

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO IMPORTANT SAFETY TRAFFIC RULES

ZONE	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHY IS IT THERE?	PENALTY	DEMERIT POINTS*
	You cannot stop in a NO STOPPING zone for any reason (including queuing or waiting for a space). 	Keeps clear sight lines between drivers and children / pedestrians.	EXCEEDS \$319 	(School Zone) 2 
	You can stop in a NO PARKING zone for a max. of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. If no spaces are available you cannot queue on the road way or in any other zones while waiting for a space. You will need to drive away and park elsewhere, only returning when there is space to pull up. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle at all times and cannot leave your vehicle unattended.	Provides a safe place for children / pedestrian set down and pick up.	EXCEEDS \$177 	(School Zone) 2 
	You must not stop or park in a BUS ZONE for any reason (including queuing or waiting for a space) unless you are driving a bus. If times are shown on the sign, you are not allowed to stop during those times.	Provides a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up school children.	EXCEEDS \$319 	(School Zone) 2 
	You must not stop on or within 20 metres before a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING or 10 metres after a crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking.	So drivers can clearly see pedestrians on the the crossing.	EXCEEDS \$425 	(School Zone) 2 
	DOUBLE PARKING You must not stop on the road adjacent to another vehicle at any time even to drop off or pick up passengers.	Double parking blocks visibility and forces other cars to go around you.	EXCEEDS \$319 	(School Zone) 2 
	You must not stop on any FOOTPATH or NATURE STRIP , or even a DRIVEWAY crossing a footpath or nature strip for any reason.	You could easily run over a child or force pedestrians onto the road to get around you.	EXCEEDS \$177 	(School Zone) 2 

Please note: The above information is current as of 1 January 2016. Penalties set by NSW State Government and reviewed on 1 July each year.

Safety tips for school zones:

EXITING THE CAR   Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.	APPLY BRAKE   Make sure the park brake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
PARKING   NEVER double park.	CROSSING   NEVER park across a pedestrian crossing.
NO U-TURNS   NEVER undertake a U-turn in close proximity to the school.	NO 3 POINT TURNS   NEVER undertake a three-point turn in close proximity to the school.

Safety tips for students:

BUCKLE UP   Stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped.	STORE ITEMS   Make sure your school bag and other items are in a safe position.	BE READY Be ready to get out of the car with your belongings when the car has stopped and you have unbuckled your seat belt.	EXIT SAFELY Always get in and out of the back seat through the safety door - the rear footpath-side door.
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Demerit Points:

* The **Demerit Points** Scheme is a national program that allocates penalty points (demerits) for a range of driving offences. A driver who has not committed any offences has 'zero' points. If you commit an offence that carries demerit points, the points are added to your driving record. If you incur the threshold number of demerit points within a three-year period, a licence suspension or refusal is applied. The three-year period is calculated between the dates the offences were committed. It ends on the day your most recent offence was committed.

For further information regarding demerit points please visit: rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/demerits/