



TERM 3 - Week 1

Wednesday 20 July

- Backyard League K-6

Week 2

Monday 25 July

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am

Tuesday 26 July

- Uniform Shop 8:30am-9:30am

Wednesday 27 July

- Backyard League K-6
- 7pm Social/Welcome Team Meeting

Thursday 28 July

- CBA Maths Competition (S2 & S3 students)

Week 3

Monday 1 August

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am

Tuesday 2 August

- Uniform Shop 8:30am-9:30am
- ICAS English (S2 & S3)

Wednesday 3 August

- Backyard League K-6

Friday 5 August

- Feast of Mary MacKillop Mass
- Pasta Day (Social/Welcome Team)
- Mini Olympics

Week 4

Monday 8 August

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am

Tuesday 9 August

- Uniform Shop 8:30am-9:30am

Wednesday 10 August

- Backyard League K-6

Thursday 11 August

- 11:30am Talent Quest

Friday 12 August

- K-2 Shoelace Tying workshop

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Welcome back everybody! I hope that those on holidays were able to relax, renew and re-energise in preparation for Term 3. As always our staff have been in and out of the school preparing fantastic and challenging learning experiences for their students. Our cleaners, John and Lisa, have cleaned all the carpets, scrubbed wet areas, dusted skirting boards and window sills and cleaned all the lower level windows. Mr Dennis has carried out lots of maintenance tasks and has also completed gardening activities over the last two weeks.

It has been a very difficult time during the holidays to comprehend the terrorist attacks, coup attempts and shootings in Nice, Turkey and America. These events have challenged our values and caused concern for us as Christian educators and parents. It is impossible to comprehend the violation of the sanctity of human life. How do we respond to our children's concerns when they are exposed to the vivid images of the anguish and distress of others. We need to listen to our children's feelings and reassure them that they are loved and precious to their family and of their safety at school. We seek comfort through faith in our loving and forgiving God, each other and prayer. Today at our morning assembly we prayed the Peace Prayer of St Francis for all the innocent victims and their families in countries across our world experiencing war and tragedy. I would like to encourage all families to pray this prayer together.

Peace Prayer of St Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.*



Thank you to all those parents that attended the parent/teacher interviews at the end of last term. The staff appreciated the positive feedback and support you have provided to them regarding the children's progress. It is important for the children that they continue to work hard on areas that were identified in their reports for improvement and not just concentrate on the things that they are already good at. Over the next few weeks the teachers will spend some time assisting students set new goals for Semester Two. The goal may relate to a specific key learning area, to work habits or to personal and social development. Please assist your child by talking to them about his/her goal. Your child may see their goal as impossible at the moment but with hard work, determination and the support of teachers and you, the parents, it will become a reality.

During the parent/teacher interview staff received positive feedback regarding changes to our Semester Report. Thank you to all the parents who were able to complete the survey on the new features in the report. Every survey that we received appreciated the new front cover with their child's photo and a banner reflecting our Mercy values. Many parents appreciated the individual comments for Religious Education, English and Mathematics as these comments helped them to discuss the report more easily with their child, focussing on achievements and areas for improvement.

A few parents asked if the font size could be increased. Unfortunately this is not possible as the report is not configured by our school but through the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta. Also another parent asked if we could have comments for each key learning area. Due to the limited word count the staff made the decision to have comments for Religious Education, English, Mathematics and a General Comment.

We greatly appreciate and value the partnership that we have with you, the parents. As with all partnerships they are only successful through good communication. If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's learning or friendship issues, please organise an appointment with your child's teacher who would be more than happy to clarify any questions for you.

We welcome **Mrs Melinda Callaghan** (replacing Mrs Paley while she is on Long Service Leave) and **Miss Jamal Al-Chalouhi** (in Year 2 for the remainder of 2016) and also new students– **Aimee Loof, Christian Bouassi, Dominic and Daci Scurtu.**

We look forward to Term 3 being another busy and productive term. Let us continue to work together to ensure that the children build upon their learning. We have had a great year so far.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

Church Refurbishment

St Monica's Parish has been granted permission by the Diocese of Parramatta to undertake a refurbishment project. The project includes repairing and restoring the 50 original, solidly constructed pews and kneelers. This restoration has required the pews and kneelers to be taken off site for 7 weeks for sanding by hand and staining.



With the church empty the carpet will be replaced and the floorboards at the back of the church will be sanded and polished.

The project is estimated to be completed in time for First Communion at the end of August.

The total cost of the project is \$75,000. As St Monica's Catholic Primary School is part of the St Monica's Parish I would strongly encourage every family to support this project. Any amount of financial support will assist in reaching the \$75,000 target and your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be sent into either the School Office, Parish Office or they can be placed on one of the collection plates at any of the weekend Masses. All donations need to be in clearly labelled envelopes.

Thank you.

Louise O'Donnell

Notice of Intention to Remove a Student from St Monica's School

The Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta Office has developed a Policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this states "**A term's notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be paid.** The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term." This means that unless the school receives a term's notice no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition.



**Photos from the Stage 2 Soccer
Gala Day held in Term 2**

Book Character Parade & Grandparents Day 2016

This year, we are holding a Book Character Parade on **Wednesday, August 17th at 9am.**

We encourage all **students, parents, teachers and toddlers** to participate for a fun morning and wonderful book prizes.

We would like all participants to come dressed as a character from a book, and we also have prizes for the best costume using recycled materials.

There will be a separate note coming home with the final details. Hope to see you all there and in costume! ***Mrs Sharon Boulous***



St Monica's Talent Quest—2016

Congratulations to the following finalists:

Division 1

- * Ruby K & Maureen
- * Sara, Sophie, Pranaya, Mary
- * L'lysse
- * Manson, Ahmad, Kwaku, Dallas, Kobe
- * Ryan (Hip-Hop)

Division 2

- * Patrick, Jack & Jackson
- * Samira, Poppy, Matilda, Neave, Summer
- * Jessica S & Manraj
- * Merna, Veronica, Jessica D, Samira
- * Sophia, Giselle, Emma O, Madeline
- * Jessica Chapman
- * Alexis Chang
- * Ainsley
- * Alanah
- * Chanel
- * Brooke & Natasha
- * Erica
- * Emma S
- * Rhiannon & Charlotte
- * Manraj (Guitar)



The St Monica's Talent Quest will be held on **Thursday 11 August (Week 4)** commencing at **11:30am** in the Hall. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend. ***Miss Leona Sweeney***

Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC)

Parents who collect their child/children early from school are requested to inform COSHC, ***prior to school dismissal***, that their child will not be attending the service that day.

Informing COSHC staff of absences will make it easier for them to account for the children on their list. COSHC's phone number is **0429 990 170**. Thank you for your co-operation.

OPAL Card—Reminder to students

Students who have an Opal card are reminded that they must **tap on and tap off when they travel to and from school**. Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students don't tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due to the lack of patronage. Please remind your child of this practise when using the bus service.

2016 Full Attendance - Term 2

Congratulations to the following students who attended school every day in Term 2.

ES1:	Helen Elias, Ken Volker Engelen, Georgia Fernandes, Wyatt Heesen, Manda Lu, Elan Rouchotas, Bai Rui Zhang,
Year 1:	Michael Maffina, William Paterson, Sophie Phan, Pranaya Prasath, L'ysse Puyat, Liam Sciacca, Lola Sloane
Year 2:	Maureen Haddad, Tina Kiaiefar, Manson Lu, Nika Naeme, Kobe Puyat, Charbel Sadek, Madeline Smith
Stage 2:	Jake Chapman, Ana Costea, Sophia Elias, Samira Hekeik, Massimo Milutinovic, Aidan Pospischil, Alexander Azar, Jordan Basha, Trinity Bird, Summer Ierfino, Emma O'Rourke, Ashley Roberts, Veronica Sadek, Kael Sciacca, Neave Sciacca, Gabriel Bucur, Jessica Crowle, Zachariah Kassis, Gene Kneipp, Sakina Kunambi, Emma Sadek, Jessica Stoker
Stage 3:	Zoe Bird, Brooke Emphield, Amelia Furjanic, Brandon Lukic, Isabella Smith, Jessica Chapman, Andy Haddad, Hunter Malatag, Natasha Mutttoo, Brendan Pospischil, Marley Puyat

2016 Full Attendance - Semester 1

Congratulations to the following 32 students who have attended school every day this year!!

ES1:	Ken Volker Engelen, Georgia Fernandes, Wyatt Heesen, Manda Lu, Bai Rui Zhang
Year 1:	William Paterson, Pranaya Prasath, L'ysse Puyat, Liam Sciacca, Lola Sloane
Year 2:	Tina Kiaiefar, Manson Lu, Charbel Sadek, Madeline Smith
Stage 2:	Ana Costea, Jordan Basha, Summer Ierfino, Emma O'Rourke, Kael Sciacca, Neave Sciacca, Gabriel Bucur, Jessica Crowle, Zachariah Kassis, Gene Kneipp, Sakina Kunambi, Emma Sadek,
Stage 3:	Amelia Furjanic, Isabella Smith, Andy Haddad, Hunter Malatag, Brendan Pospischil, Marley Puyat

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards last Term.

ES1:	Alexis Crame, Lydia Clancy
Year One:	Noah Day, L'ysse Puyat, Lola Sloane, Andrew Clark, Ryan Malatag
Year Two:	Jessica Chandra, Charbel Sadek
Stage 2:	Jericho Crame, Lachlan Dardagos, Emma O'Rourke, Kael Sciacca, Neelesh Govender, Jacob Kandaluft, Alexandra Santos, Isabella Smith
Stage 3:	Marcus Trimbounas, Natasha Mutttoo, Hunter Malatag, Isabella Smith



Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate birthdays in July.



Garbhan Sciacca	Sandra Chirchir	Patrick Crowle	Laura Emphield
Mateo Soriano	Matilda Hall	Natasha Mutttoo	Zachariah Kassis
Alexis Chang	Georgia Fernandes	Tia Nour	Sarah-Rose Wilson
Ryan Malatag	Ashley Roberts	Max Lukasik	Trinity Bird
Jose Arenas Abarca	Aimee Loof	HAPPY BIRTHDAY !	

Building Child Safe Communities – New procedures reminder for volunteers

Volunteers make a significant contribution to students and our community.

As part of our new 'Building Child Safe Communities' initiatives, we request the following from volunteers:

Step 1: Complete the 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form
for each volunteer location.

[VOLUNTEER FORM](#)

Step 2: Complete the online training module – required every second year.

[TRAINING MODULE](#)

These can be accessed by visiting the **Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta homepage**
<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> then scrolling down to 'Volunteers and Contractors – click here'.

Please contact the school if you require any assistance.

We thank all volunteers for their continued support.

Dance Fever

Three trophies won!!

Year 3 overall,
showcase dance and
overall winning school
for our section of
schools.
Well done everyone!



Staff Development Days

Monday 10 October (Term 4, Week 1)

Monday 19 December (Term 4, Week 11)

Tuesday 20 December (Term 4 Week 11)

Sport Days—Term 3

**Students to wear their sport uniform
on the following days.**

ES1	Friday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Wednesday
Stage 2	Wednesday & Friday
Stage 3	Wednesday & (2nd day to be advised)

OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites
you to discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for
Life at our Open Morning Tour on
Monday 25 July 2016.

Tour the College and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea'
with the College Leadership Team and get a sense of
the rich tradition and cutting edge education at OLMC
Parramatta. The College is now enrolling for 2018.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1222 to
reserve your place or obtain further information.



**College Open
Morning Tour**
Monday
July 25, 2016

2016 SEASONS FOR GROWTH

The *Seasons for Growth* school program is based on the belief that grief is normal and can be a valuable part of life and that children need to be provided with the opportunity to examine how grief, as a result of death, separation or divorce has impacted on their lives.

The program is based on research, which highlights the importance of social support in dealing with grief.

Seasons for Growth

- Assists students in understanding that the emotions associated with their losses are normal.
- Encourages the expressions of thoughts and emotions.
- Helps restores self- confidence and self-esteem.
- Develops a peer support network.

The program caters for different age levels where groups are limited to 4-6 children. The children are withdrawn from class once a week for 40 minutes. Each session is facilitated by the same Companion, and children participate in eight formal sessions, one celebration session and two 'reconnector' sessions.

The trained Companions at St Monica's this year are Mrs Sharon Boulous and Mrs Mary-Jo Mason. The children must have parental permission to attend the program.

At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest from parents who believe such a program would benefit their child/children.

Please fill in the from below and return to school by Friday 22 July 2016.

If you have any queries about the program please feel free to contact me.

Mary-Jo Mason
Assistant Principal

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2016—SEASONS FOR GROWTH

(Return to Mrs Mason by Friday 22 July 2016)

I am interested in my child attending the *Seasons For Growth Program* this year.

Print Parent's Name: _____

Print Child's Name: _____

Child's Homeroom: _____

Signed: _____