

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

Week 5

Thurs 7 NRL Skills ES1-Yr 2  
Stage 2 Eels Educate  
Indigenous Cultural  
Day

Fri 8 NRL Skills Stage 2/3  
Stage 3 Eels Educate

Week 6

Mon 11 Uniform Shop  
8.30am—10.30am  
Pow Wow 9—10.30am

Thurs 14 NRL Skills ES1-Yr 2  
Stage 2 Eels Educate

Fri 15 Stage 3 Eels Educate

Week 7

Mon 18 Uniform Shop  
8:30am-10:30am  
Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Wed 20 ES1 and Stage 1  
Taronga zoo excursion

Thurs 21 Talent Quest  
Stage 2 Eels Educate

Fri 22 Stage 3 Eels Educate  
7pm Sacrament of  
Reconciliation

Week 8

Mon 25 Uniform Shop  
8:30am-10:30am  
Pow Wow 9-10.30am  
Tues 26 POSMS Meeting 7pm

Thurs 28 Stage 2 Eels Educate

Fri 29 NRL Skills Stage 2/3  
Stage 3 Eels Educate  
Parish Christmas Party

DECEMBER

Week 9

Mon 2 Uniform Shop  
8:30am-10:30am  
Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Thurs 5 Stage 2 Eels Educate

Fri 6 Theme Lunch  
Stage 3 Eels Educate



# Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

## The "Power of Play"

We all like to have fun, but did you know there is scientific research proving the positive power of play? "Life can hurt, play can heal".

*Here are some of the many ways science says that play leads to healing in children and youth.*

**Play keeps the doctor away.** Play keeps us moving and active, which helps children maintain fitness and a healthy body weight.

**Play can help to heal broken relationships.** Building positive memories together during playtime is a powerful way to strengthen relationships. Over time, playing together builds trust and binds people together in healthy ways.

**Play bolsters emotional health by helping children overcome insecurities and gain confidence.** When children take risks and overcome challenges in their pretend worlds (dolls, LEGO, games, role plays), they learn skills to overcome real world challenges.

**Play reduces strains on a child's mental health.** Laughter and play are healthy ways to minimise stress, which can lead to anxiety, depression and illness. Children and teens with healthy outlets for active play also learn to manage their energy and emotions more effectively.

**Play actually helps the brain grow.** The more experiences a child has, the more connections (synapses) the brain cells will make. The more connections, the more effectively the brain works.

**Play reduces violence by helping children practise and refine social skills.** As children learn to resolve conflicts, persuade teammates, and play fair in their game-time, they are learning valuable skills to reduce aggression in schools, sports and families.

So "**Go outside and play**" may be yet another piece of timeless wisdom from our parents and grand-parents.

Yours sincerely,

*Louise O'Donnell*  
Principal

## **POSMS MEETING**

**Tuesday 26th November 2013**  
commencing at **7pm.**

**Agenda:** Assessment and Fete Wrap Up

All welcome to attend.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2014 - ADVANCE NOTICE

### Mathematical Assessment Interview— Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th January 2014

In 2014 we will again be assessing each child using the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) before Term 1 starts. Each family will be invited to make appointments to have their child/children attend a Mathematical Assessment Interview on one of the above dates in January that takes approximately 30 minutes.

A letter will be sent home in a few weeks for parents to nominate an interview time slot.

**This means that school will commence for all students from Kindergarten to Stage 3 on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

### BUS PASS APPLICATIONS

A reminder that **new bus pass applications are required for Year 2 students going into Year 3 in 2014** or any new enrolments for 2014. Bus pass applications have been sent home to students in Year 2 who currently hold a bus pass. If your child is in Year 2 and will need a bus pass for next year, please enquire at the school office.

Completed bus pass applications need to be returned to the school **no later than Monday 25 November 2013** in order for bus passes to be ready for next year.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Abbi Lewis who was the winner of the \$100 Myer Gift Voucher drawn on Friday 25 October in our last Pre-Fete raffle.

### STUDENT BANKING—Rewards for Term 4

A reminder to those students who are eligible to claim their rewards for Term 4 that your order needs to be in by this **Tuesday 12 November (Week 6)**. Those students who are eligible to place an order have already been notified via their deposit books. **No late orders will be accepted.**

Available awards for Term 4: Money boxes, Handball, Knuckles game, Torch, calculator & headphones.

The last day for student banking for this year will be **Tuesday 10 December**.

### EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL FORM

An exemption from school form is to be completed for students who will be absent from school for an extended period of time. This form can be downloaded from our school website. Please go to **NEWS and EVENTS, SCHOOL NOTES** and click on **ADMINISTRATION FORMS**. The form is to be completed and returned to the Principal for approval prior to leave being taken. You may also request a copy of the form from the school office.

### OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

Unless you are under an arrangement, 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 10 December.**

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REMOVE A STUDENT FROM ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Catholic Education Office has developed a policy related to the notice required from parents to terminate their children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese.

In part this states that **"A terms 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 then no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition. Notice in writing will be accepted at anytime during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment. In this circumstance the requirement for 10 week's notice will be waived.

### PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Sale of tickets to start from this weekend.** Tickets will be on sale after all masses. Tickets may also be purchased through the Parish Office (Tuesday to Friday)

#### Price of tickets

- \$25 Adults
- \$50 Families (2 adults and 2 children)
- \$20 Pensioners
- \$10 5-16 years old

*Friday 29th November 2013  
6.30pm  
Parish Hall  
BYO*



## THANK YOU

Thank you to Neil Joseph, Simone Lewis, Tiffany Cooper and Kathy Sciacca for all their assistance at the barbeque yesterday. A special thank you to Cordina Farms who donated all the sausages for the BBQ. A pamphlet has been sent home for each family today.

## INDIGENOUS CULTURAL DAY—THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Tomorrow all students will participate in an Indigenous Cultural Day led by Koomurri Management. Parents are welcome to join us with activities commencing at 11:30am. **Children will wear their school uniform.** We will conclude the day with an assembly in the hall at 2:40pm. Thank you to Mrs Newbury for her organisation of the day.

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2014

A note was sent home this week incorrectly stating that the carnival would be held at Parramatta Pool. The correct venue for the Carnival is **Waves Aquatic Centre at Baulkham Hills**. A new note will be sent home shortly.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### LAST WEEK OF TERM - Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

With only six weeks before the end of the school year there are important events in the final week. Parents need to make sure that these events are included on their calendars.

### FINAL ASSEMBLY & THANK YOU MORNING TEA

On **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** we will have our final assembly where all staff will present awards for Christian Living, Academic Achievement, Consistent Effort, Most Improved and School Spirit. Parents of those children who are receiving awards will be notified prior to the assembly. We will award those students who have attended school every day in 2013 and also the Citizenship Award.

At the conclusion of the assembly at approximately 9:45am we would like all parents to attend a thank you morning tea. As a staff we would like to formally thank all parents who have supported the many activities within the school throughout the year (including the fete which was supported by all parents at St Monica's)

### END OF YEAR MASS & GRADUATION

Our Final Mass will be held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm** in St Monica's Church. This will incorporate the farewell of our Year 6 students. The Year 6 students together with their teachers, Ms Power and Miss Bentley, are planning a beautiful liturgy that celebrates and reflects upon our school year.

It is an expectation that all students attend this Mass wearing their school uniform. This will allow us to pray together and thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon our community in 2013.

**SCRUB DAY—Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (Students wear mufti!)** This is an opportunity for children to clean their tubs, tables and organise all equipment within their learning space in readiness for the commencement of school next year.

**FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS** will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**.

### FETE NEWS UPDATE

During the week the St Vincent de Paul Society collected all the remaining toys left over from the fete. These toys will be distributed to families recently affected by the fires in the Blue Mountains. A number of the soft toys were donated to a nursing home. The toys are used for the patients when they are distressed to provide enormous comfort to them.

### TIM BAILEY - Channel 10

Tim Bailey will be visiting St Monica's Primary on **Wednesday 27 November 2013 at 5pm**. Students will be required to wear their **SCHOOL UNIFORM** and to arrive at school at 4:45pm. Students are welcome to make signs about the weather, St Monica's School and Channel 10.



*There will be two live crosses to St Monica's School during the 5pm News Hour.* Parents and pre-school children are also welcome to attend.

### PAST PUPIL NEWS—School Captain

St Monica's School community congratulates **Stephen Samson** on being elected School Captain for Parramatta Marist High School for 2014. Stephen spent his primary school years at St Monica's and his contributions to the School and the Parish have been greatly appreciated. We congratulate him on this achievement and wish him well. Daniel Chalouhi, a member of St Monica's Parish, has been elected Vice Captain at Parramatta Marist. We congratulate both boys and wish them well for next year.



## The Value for Week Three is: Fairness

St. Monica's defines *fairness* as being aware of other cultures, accepting diversity, being included and including others.

	Students Will...	Staff Will...	Parents Will...
<b>Fairness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat people as they themselves wish to be treated.</li> <li>• Listen to what others have to say.</li> <li>• Be fair and courteous to others e.g. take turns and offer assistance to those in need.</li> <li>• Give everyone a fair chance to explain (not jumping to conclusions).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model fairness at all times</li> <li>• Explicitly teach students how to be fair to others both within and outside the classroom</li> <li>• Acknowledge and promote fairness with students by providing verbal feedback and issuing awards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model fairness at home</li> <li>• Explain the importance of being fair within the community.</li> </ul>

## The Value for Week Four is: Responsibility

St Monica's defines *responsibility* as being accountable for one's own actions, contributing to one's own society and taking care of the school environment.

	Students Will...	Staff Will...	Parents Will...
<b>Responsibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display responsibility within and outside of school.</li> <li>• Take responsibility for one's own environment.</li> <li>• Be responsible for one's own actions.</li> <li>• Demonstrate leadership in certain roles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model how to be responsible at all times.</li> <li>• Explicitly teach the importance of being responsible.</li> <li>• Explain why being responsible is everyone's duty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have roles of responsibility at home for their children.</li> <li>• Explain the importance of being responsible to their children.</li> </ul>

**MUSIC: COUNT US IN**

On Thursday the children from Stage 2 and 3 joined over 2,150 schools and nearly 600,000 students singing this year's song "Keep On".

**READING ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS—Term 4 (Weeks 3, 4 and 5)**

**Congratulations to the following students who recently received Reading Encouragement Awards.**

<b>ES1</b>	Tia El-Kazzi, Jeremy Adu-Sarfoh, Emma O'Rourke
<b>Stage 1</b>	Michael Kositse, Jason Grey, Ashton Wallace, Jericho Crame, Chelsea Lewis,
<b>Stage 2</b>	Jenny Taylor, Alisha Merchant, Hunter Malatag, Damian Matijevic, Chanelle Maikhael, Josue Heydari, Hayley Herder-Beke
<b>Stage 3</b>	Jasmine Bird, Naomi Mousellis, Brianna Mitchell, Nicholas Roberts, Christiane Farah, Marcus Gaddi

*Mrs Mary-Jo Mason*

**WRITE 4 FUN**

Congratulations to Jack Talty and Brandon Lukic for entering the competition. Their entries will be published in the Write 4 Fun book. More details to follow.

**Happy birthday to the following students who will celebrate birthdays in November.**

Antonio Batach	Emma Sadek	Massimo Milutinovic	Alexander Azar
Jacob Khadi	Gabriel Bucur	Gene Kneipp	Peter Farah
Summer Ierfino	Ritesh Ashok Kumar	Rishabh Ashok Kumar	Jericho Crame
Laeticia Hossack	Victoria Kassis	Jeremy Adu-Sarfoh	Scarlett Dumazel
Rhiannon Cooper	Ryan Clark	Maria Morgan	

**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

For your convenience the Uniform Shop will be open on **Wednesday 29 January 2014** between 9am and 11:00am. (Staff Development Day)



## TALENT QUEST 2013



We are happy to announce that our Talent Quest for this year will take place on **Thursday, November 21**.

This Talent Quest is open to students from Stage 1 to Stage 3. If your child is keen to participate, please take note of the following dates and times.

**Talent Quest Date:** Thursday, November 21  
**Times:** Division 1 (Stage 1) 11:30am  
Division 2 (Stages 2 & 3) 1:30pm

**Auditions:** Week 5—Wednesday, Thursday & possibly Friday.

The Talent Quest is a wonderful opportunity for those participating to showcase their creative abilities, increase their confidence and build up their resilience.

It is good to see parents encouraging their children in the creative arts and we look forward to seeing many of you in the audience on Thursday, November 21.

*Miss Leona Sweeney*

## POW WOW NEWS



We have had a busy start to Term 4. Some of the Pow Wow children had ES1 orientation and 15 of them will now be starting school in 2014!

We have now finished learning the alphabet.

Last Monday we began our Christmas theme. The children wrote a letter to Santa, with the help of their parents. (There were some very interesting requests).

Next Monday we will be making Christmas craft. Pow Wow is held every Monday morning, during school terms, from 9am till 10.30am. We ask the children to bring their morning tea. Entry is a gold coin donation. Have a good weekend!

Mrs Bernadette Haddad

## Showbags On Sale!

Next week on Monday 11 November, we will have our range of Fete Showbags on sale from 8.30am outside the teacher's workroom. Showbags cost \$5 each and are valued at over \$40 and also make a great gift for kids birthdays or Christmas. Don't forget nieces, nephews, cousins and grandchildren! The six bags on sale are:

- ◆ Girly Shirley (suit age 4-8)
- ◆ Girls Only (suit age 9-13)
- ◆ Smencils (pencils that smell, full of stationery, all ages)
- ◆ Action Heroes (suit boys 4-8)
- ◆ Stinky and Gross (suit boys 9-13)
- ◆ Jolly Joker (magic tricks bag, all ages)

Children can bring their money to school in a bag or envelope. Please support this fundraising effort for school, especially if you have not already purchased a Showbag.

For enquiries or orders, please contact Mrs Julie-Anne Gorrell on 0414 985 467.

## SKOOLBAGS—UPDATE

Dear Parents. There is a new updated version of our app available from the app store. Please click on updates and get the latest version. There are many new features available. Further information is available at the link below.

<http://www.skoolbag.com.au/newfeatures.php>

## OLMC Parramatta

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta is now accepting applications for Mercy Scholarships for Academic Excellence and Music Excellence. Girls entering Years 7, 9 or 11 in 2015 are invited to apply.

You are also invited to discover the College's rich tradition and cutting edge education and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Executive at our final Open Morning Tour for this year on **Monday, November 11, 2013**.

OLMC Parramatta will be welcoming future Mercy Girls starting Year 7 in 2014 to Orientation day on **Friday November 15**. Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or contact the Registrar 8838 1222 to discuss how your daughter can be a Mercy Girl.

The College is now enrolling for 2014 and 2015. Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.