

DIARY DATES

Week 3

Fri 1 Census Day

Week 4

Mon 4 9am Book Character
Parade and Book Fair

Tues 5 Zone Athletics

Uniform Shop
8:30am–10:30am

Wed 6 Eels Educate Stg 2

Thur 7 Eels Educate Stg 3

Fri 8 Feast of St Mary of the
Cross MacKillop

Week 5

Mon 11 Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tues 12 ICAS—Mathematics
Uniform Shop
8:30am–10:30am

Wed 13 Eels Educate Stg 2

Fri 15 Feast of the Assumption

Week 6

Mon 18 Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Voice of Youth

Tues 19 Netball Gala Day—
Penrith

Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am

Wed 20 Eels Educate Stg 2

Thur 21 Liz Ellis Netball Clinic
S3

Eels Educate Stg 3

Fri 22 Theme Lunch

Sun 24 9am First Communion

Week 7

Mon 25 Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tues 26 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am

Wed 27 St Monica's Day
Liturgy
Father's Day wrapping

Thur 28 Eels Educate Stg 3

SEPTEMBER

Mon 1 Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tues 2 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am
Stage 3 Camp-Bathurst

Wed 3 Stage 3 Camp-Bathurst
Eels Educate Stg 2

Thur 4 Father's Day Stall

Fri 5 Father's Day Liturgy

Sun 7 Father's Day



Monica's Matters

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

Phone: 9630 3697
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

During the past two weeks religious and political leaders throughout the world have joined in prayer for the innocent victims on the MH17 flight.

We remember the people who have died and their families who are grieving their loss.

The Malaysian airline disaster, the continuing Palestinian Israeli conflict, the fighting in Syria and the current persecution of Christians in Iraq, have all highlighted the importance of our ongoing prayer for peace.

*Blessed are You source of life
Who help us to bring light where there is darkness
Healing where there is brokenness and
Peace to all of the earth's inhabitants*



The teachers at St Monica's are continually engaged in professional learning experiences that build our capacity to provide quality education for our students. Last week our Stage 2 and Stage 3 teachers attended a numeracy professional learning day that provided the teachers with some practical strategies to use with their students during the warm up, rich task and reflection time in their daily numeracy block. The teachers revised growth points in the domains of counting, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They also explored ways to ask questions and give specific feedback that promotes thinking and learning for the students.

This year all the teachers are reading the text, "*Visible Learning for Teachers- Maximizing Impact on Learning*" by John Hattie. By synthesising over 50,000 studies related to achievement in school-aged students Hattie conducted the biggest ever evidence-based research project in education. Hattie stresses that teachers need to know their impact on their students. Expert teachers are not limited to specific teaching strategies. Rather, they regularly focus on evaluating the effects they have on students and adjust their teaching methods accordingly. When teaching and learning are "visible" that is, when it is clear what teachers are teaching and what students are learning, student achievement increases.

This afternoon at our staff meeting we will continue our conversation around Hattie's research. The theme of our meeting is 'How do teachers need to prepare their lessons?'

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

Minecraft

A number of parents have expressed concerns over the number of hours that their child/children spend online in Minecraft. The link below allows parents to explore Minecraft in relation to the Australian Government site on Socialising Safely Online: <http://www.cybersafetyhelp.gov.au/easyguide/minecraft> This alternate link also explores a parent's perspective on Minecraft- <http://minemum.com/minecraft-parents-things-to-love>

Minecraft is used in many schools as a tool for teaching and learning. It is used mainly in creative mode and on most occasions the students are encouraged to build and collaborate with peers in a local online environment.

Thank You! The school community would like to thank Mr Seepersad (Samika, Year 2) for his very generous donation of school supplies for students at our school.

Term 3 School Fees—due Tuesday 19 August (Week 6)

Term 3 School Fees have now been sent out by the Catholic Education Office. Unless you have an arrangement with the school, these fees are due and payable on **Tuesday 19 August**. If you are experiencing financial difficulty please contact the school immediately so that a meeting can be arranged with the Principal.

Sausage Sizzle - Thank You

Thank you to Neil Joseph, Paul Hossack, John and Simone Lewis, Gulshan Muttou, Tiffany Cooper, Julie-Anne Gorrell, Rebecca Assaf, Vesna Furjanic, Kathy Basha, Cathryn Crowle, Trish Forsyth, Mark Kandalaft and Telly Stathopoulos for their help on the day. **\$405:55** was raised towards more technology for the Learning Space.
Social/Welcome Team

Staff Development Days

At the beginning of the year Friday 8 August was scheduled as a Staff Development Day. This Staff Development Day date was rescheduled to Monday 14 July (Day 1 of Term 3). Friday 8 August will be a normal school day and all students are to attend school.

The next scheduled Staff Development Day will be **Tuesday 7 October (Day 1 Term 4)** Students do not attend school on this day.

Pow Wow Please note that Pow Wow will not be meeting next Monday 4 August as they are invited to attend the Book Character Parade.

National Literacy & Numeracy Week

National Literacy & Numeracy Week will be held on 25 – 31 August. This is a collaborative approach by all school communities to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all children.

During NLNW students will have the opportunity to be involved in a range of literacy and numeracy activities in the classroom and with other children across the school. Throughout the week there will be opportunities for students to read their favourite book and participate in numeracy activities in groups. For this to be successful, each child will need to bring in their favourite picture book (or short story) to read and discuss and a water bottle on Wednesday 27 July.

The week aims to recognise locally the achievements of the students and the work of teachers, parents and members of the community who support young people to develop strong literacy and numeracy skills.

For any further information, please check out the NLNW website: www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au

Michelle Rosewell & Denelle Gardoni

Happy birthday to the following students and staff who will celebrate birthdays in August.



Jessica Stoker	Eddie Tran	Natalia Domanska	Alby Giles
Ahmad El Merhabi	Ainsley Mitchell	Samika Seepersad	Vris Patel
Madeline Smith	Michael Farah	Christian Comello	Kobe Puyat
Behshad Rohani	Joshua Albayeh	Staff: Mrs Hanna, Mrs Ungsuprasert and Mrs Abood	

BOOK CHARACTER PARADE AND BOOK FAIR

Monday 4 August 2014

A reminder that our **Book Character Parade** and our second **Book Fair** of the year will be held on **Monday 4th August**. The Parade will start at **9am**. **The Book Fair will be held after the Parade** and the students will be able to attend the Book Fair with their parents or later in their class groups. The Book Week theme this year is 'Connect to Reading', and we encourage the students to come dressed as **a book character they have connected with!** We emphasise that the character **MUST be from a book** and not just the child's favourite movie (although some movies have been made about books).

A letter to parents was sent home yesterday with more information about the Parade and the Book Fair. The note may also be found under School Notes on the school website. A Book Fair Garden flyer was also sent home yesterday with students. *Mrs Sharon Boulous*

GRANDPARENTS THANK YOU

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us on Friday 25 July, to celebrate the feast day of St Anne and St Joachim. Everyone enjoyed a very reverent and prayerful liturgy that was planned and organised by our Christ-centred leaders. We are glad you were able to join us to celebrate Jesus' grandparents, and how special grandparents are in our lives.



Michelle Rosewell, Acting REC

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Parents are requested to please check that their children are wearing their own uniforms. Quite a few students have recently lost labelled items of clothing which have not been returned. **Could you please check your children's clothing and return any articles which do not belong to them immediately.** There are many jackets and other articles in the lost property bin which have faded names due to frequent washing. Please ensure that your child's name is **clearly labelled** on their uniform. Thank you.



Catholic Education Office

Terra Sancta College to become St John Paul II Catholic College from Term 1, 2015

In response to feedback from the school community and particularly the Year 12 Students, the timeline for Terra Sancta College for the name change to St John Paul II Catholic College, Nirimba and Schofields will now be **Term 1, 2015**.

This new date will allow the current Year 12 Students to graduate under the name Terra Sancta College and allow the school community to prepare for the transition that will see the college maintain its fine heritage and tradition as a basis for 2015 and beyond.

The NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) has been advised of the new commencement date and a formal renaming ceremony will be celebrated by Bishop Anthony in first term next year.

Congratulations to Mrs Abood on her nephew Matt Abood winning a Gold Medal for swimming in the 4 x 100 metre relay team at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



AFTERNOON DISMISSAL NOTE

Parents are reminded that the Afternoon Dismissal note that was sent home yesterday is due back at school by this Friday 1 August. The form can be downloaded from the school website. Go to School Notes—Whole School Notes. Thank you.

Staff Development Days Term 4

Tuesday 7 October (Week 1)
Thursday 18 December (Week 11)
Friday 19 December (Week 11)

WRITE4FUN

The 2014 Schools Writing Competition is NOW OPEN! Write4fun encourages students to read and write through these FUN competitions that are EASY to enter! There are great prizes for winning entries. The quickest and easiest way to enter is online at www.write4fun.net

Alternatively you can see Mrs Mason for an ENTRY FORM and mail in your entries to PO Box 2734, Nerang DC, QLD 4211 (one entry form per entry) OR email your poem/story to enter@write4fun.net OR fax to (07) 5574 3644. There is NO THEME! Stories can be on any topic and in any style. Entry is FREE and the closing date is Sunday 31 August 2014. Happy writing!! *Mrs Mason*

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards this Term. Well done!!

ES1: Michael Farah
Year One: Alexander Azar, Summer Ierfino, Sakina Kunambi, Neave Sciacca
Year Two: Gene Kneipp, Isabel Menjivar
Stage Two: Jessica Chapman, Maurice Haddad, Philip Joseph, Jack Talty
Stage Three: Debra Chirchir, Nash Hawkins, Jayme O'Donnell

Stage Three Camp

Please note the correct date for the Stage 3 Camp this term is **Tuesday 2 September to Wednesday 3 September** (Week 8, Term 3). A note regarding the camp has been sent home with Stage 3 students today.

Enrichment Workshops for Primary Students at UTS

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are again hosting a series of innovative workshops for Year 3-6 students on 10 August and 26 October this semester. For further information and a full list of workshop sessions, timetables and registration details, please visit www.inspirationeducation.com.au *Mrs Mason*

Student Attendance Term 2 Our goal is for every student to attend school every day, on time and ready to learn. If your child is sick they should be kept at home until they are well enough to return to school. In Term 2, **91** students attended school every day. *Congratulations to the following children:*

ES1—DOYLE Kwaku Boakye Michael Farah Tina Kiaiefar Manson Lu Evan Michael Giancarlo Milutinovic Ashleigh North Vris Patel Charbel Sadek John Sadek Madeline Smith Jake Hollis	YEAR 1 McAULEY Jayden Albayeh Alexander Azar Jake Chapman Matilda Cooper Tia El-Kazzi Galia Evangelista Samira Hekeik Zachariah Kassis Sakina Kunambi Aidan Muttoo Medeea Pandrea Aidan Pospischil Emma Sadek Neave Sciacca Charles Sentas Trinity Mendoza	YEAR 2A CALLAN Jordan Basha Akwasi Boakye Gabriel Bucur Madeleine Gorrell Hayden Herder-Beke Ajok Kondok Joshua North	YEAR 2B CONWAY Ryan Clark Jessica Crowle Lachlan Dardagos Peter Farah Isabel Menjivar Zac Michael Veronica Sadek
S2A AUGUSTINE Levi Bryant Alexis Chang Rhiannon Cooper Chelsea Lewis Chanelle Maikhael Ainsley Mitchell Joshua Albayeh Brooke Emphield Mariah Farah Victoria Kassis Brendan Pospischil	S2B MCKINNON Jessica Chapman Christian Dib Rachel French Isabella Smith Alanis Supuk Jackson Basha Erica Crame Abraham Dennis Josue Heydari Philip Joseph Brandon Lukic Hunter Malatag Natasha Muttoo Lachlan Roberts	S3A MORAN Amalie Dona Carl Mendez (Valencia) Pankti Patel Christiane Farah Alby Giles Nash Hawkins Bernard Kneipp Kiara Naik	S3B KEOGH Debra Chirchir Hayley Herder-Beke Salama Kipanya Kunambi Abbi Lewis Damian Matijevic Monica Albayeh Joseph Azar Jasmine Bird Peter Boujandy Charlotte Carter Genesis Evangelista Jason Ierfino Edward Joseph Martha Kassis Jacob Khadi James Reid

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING MEASLES

A recent surge in measles cases in NSW has prompted an urgent reminder for people to check they and their children are fully immunised for measles.

Since the beginning of the year, 26 cases of measles have been reported in NSW. Measles continues to be brought back to Australia by under-vaccinated young travellers to Philippines and South-East Asia. As a result, people have now been infected with measles in Bathurst, on the Central Coast and in various parts of metropolitan Sydney. An infectious traveller has also spent time in Tamworth, Armidale and Singleton.

“NSW Health urges everyone to ensure they are up to date with their vaccinations. Anyone born during or after 1966 should have two doses of measles vaccine (at least 4 weeks apart). This is particularly important for those planning on travelling overseas, especially to the Philippines,” Dr Sheppard said.

Children should receive a measles vaccine at 12 months and a second dose at 18 months. Babies who are travelling before their vaccines are due can be given the first dose as early as 9 months of age.

Children over 18 months who have not had their second dose of measles vaccine can be vaccinated now.

“People returning from overseas, especially from the Philippines, should be on the lookout for symptoms of measles, which starts with a fever, cough, sore red eyes and a runny nose for several days before a blotchy rash appears.

“People who have these symptoms should see a doctor - but call ahead to protect others in the waiting room. They should let the GP know that they could have been exposed to measles overseas,” Dr Sheppard said.

For more information on measles, please go to www.health.nsw.gov.au or contact your doctor.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is running the **Seasons for Growth** Program for adults commencing on **Tuesday 5th August 2014**. This small group Program runs for five consecutive Tuesdays and is open to anyone grieving the death of their spouse or partner. See Notice Board for Flyer. **Venue:** CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. **Date/Time:** 5 Tuesdays from 05th August -10.00am – 1.00pm. **Cost:** \$80.00. Information and Registration- Ph. 9933 0205 or email: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au



Guitar lessons now at Carlingford Music Centre, contact Aria Music Office for details!

Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard ?

Aria Music is enrolling for Term 3 at St Monica's
Please email: ariamusicsschool@gmail.com
Ph: 0402 780 130

Qualified, friendly teachers encourage serious musical skills in a fun learning environment.
Group classes at school, \$21 per lesson.
Individual tuition is also available.



Guitar classes!
Day: Monday lunchtime
Time: 12 - 1p.m
Location: The community room

Keyboard Classes!
Day: Tuesday lunchtime
Time: 12-1p.m
Location: The community room



Music lessons have the Power!
Develops musical talent
Develops Self discipline
Encourages self-esteem
Enhances co-ordination & Concentration
Is lots of fun!!!!
www.ariamusic.com.au

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

Come along to STEPPING BEYOND on the last Tuesday of each month at CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, at 7.30pm.

Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30.

Cost: \$5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

SEMINAR - MANAGING FAMILY FINANCES

CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is holding a Seminar for anyone interested in gaining greater understanding on how to manage on reduced finances. This Seminar will cover topics on tracking your spending; prioritise your finances, Money Plans and how to make your money work for you. The night is held on Tuesday 12th August, 7.30pm-9.30pm at CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Trish Nowland (CCSS Financial Counsellor).

Further details and Registration PH: 9933 0205 Email: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au