

DIARY DATES

JANUARY

Week 1

- Thurs 29 Students return for Term 1 (ES1—S3)  
ES1 half day (8:50am—1:45pm)  
Morning Tea for all parents
- Fri 30 ES1 half day 8:50am -1:45pm  
Swimming Carnival at Waves Baulkham Hills (Years 3—6)
- Sunday 1 Feb 9am Missioning Mass—St Monica's Church

FEBRUARY

Week 2

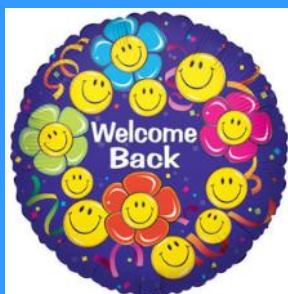
- Mon 2 Early Stage One commence full days
- Tues 3 Uniform Shop open
- Fri 6 Dance Fever—Sport Uniform

Week 3

- Tues 10 Uniform Shop open
- Fri 13 Dance Fever—Sport Uniform

Week 4

- Tues 17 Uniform Shop
- Fri 20 Dance Fever—Sport Uniform



# Monica's Matters

Web: [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)  
Email: [stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Phone: 9630 3697  
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Welcome back to all students, their families and to staff members! A special warm welcome to new families and children who are beginning their school journey with us this year. We welcome: Early Stage One, Ruby Graham, Elijah Gyimah, Elisha Gyimah, Ryan Sharma, Santiago Conda-Tengbeh, Simeon Gyimah, Leonardo Macorig, Manraj Kahlon, Siria Mondinelli, Giselle Mondinelli and Amarachi Ezema. 2015 looks to be an exciting one for the St Monica's School Community! I look forward to working together with you to build a happy, Catholic community.

This morning there was much excitement and a sense of anticipation as the children commenced the first day of the school year. It would be lovely to be capture this excitement and share it with others who do not get to witness this wonderful aspect of school life.

There was a lot happening over the holidays: Carpets were steam-cleaned in the infants' learning spaces: windows on the ground floor were cleaned and Mr Dennis has being touching up our playground markings as well as pruning the garden. This year we have moved some of the library shelving into the Year 1 space so that the picture books can be more accessible to our younger students.

Mrs Turner will continue with Reading Recovery this year and she has a new working space in the library office. With increased numbers in Stage 2, these classes will have access to the two withdrawal rooms for literacy and numeracy.

Our school Missioning Mass will be held at **9:00am this Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February**, in St Monica's Parish Church. We officially open the school year during the Sunday Parish Mass as this is a powerful sign of the link between school and parish. Each year we promote the Missioning Mass as a significant community occasion and a symbol of our faith and our endeavours to be Christ-centred. Students are requested to wear their school uniform. Early Stage One students are to meet Miss Clough outside the church at 8:45am.

We join together with our parish community for the celebration of the Eucharist as believing, worshipping and celebrating people. At this celebration we especially welcome members of other faith traditions. The school and parish work together to build a community of learners through the Mercy tradition of love, justice and compassion. St Monica's Mission statement clearly indicates the value we place on being inviting and inclusive: "*The community of St Monica's believes that everyone in our community is valued for the person they are, and the gifts they bring to our mission.*"

During the celebration of the Eucharist we are commissioned to undertake our different roles as pastor, parent, student, leader and staff member in our shared mission to Catholic Education at St Monica's. Each year the staff appreciates the commitment you make as a family in attending this celebration. Often it means maintaining a balance between the significant events and the regular demands in our lives. Your presence on Sunday is an indication that you value the partnership between home and school that is vital in developing the faith and spiritual dimensions of our children.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Missioning Mass this Sunday and to working with you as we explore the possibilities, confront the challenges and celebrate the successes of 2015.

Yours sincerely,

*Louise O'Donnell*  
Principal

### Mathematics Assessment Interviews

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who were able to bring their child/children for the MAI assessments on Tuesday and Wednesday. The teachers were able to complete many assessments over the two days and this was a wonderful start. At the end of 2014 all the new Kindergarten students were assessed as part of our transition programme. In the coming few weeks teachers will endeavour to complete the remaining interviews with minimal disruption to classroom learning time. The MAI provides the teachers with valuable information about your child's numeracy skills and is a starting point for their ongoing mathematical development.

### Literacy Support

Assessments and observations in Literacy (Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening) will occur for every student over the next few weeks so that a clear profile of each learner is gathered and then responded to with focused planning and teaching. This is called 'assessment for teaching' -starting where the student is at and taking them forward in their learning through effective teaching in a positive learning environment.

To support the literacy learning within the school every class has literacy support teachers during their literacy time.

Class	Support Teacher/s
Kindergarten	Mrs Boulous Mon-Wed Mrs Hanna Thurs
Year 1	Mrs Ungsuprasert Tues-Fri Miss Sweeney Tues - Thurs Miss O'Donnell Mon/Fri
Year 2	Miss Sweeney Tues-Thurs Miss O'Donnell Mon/Tues Mrs Hanna Wed
Stage 2	Mrs Mason Mon – Thurs Miss Sweeney Tues –Thurs
Stage 3	Mrs Boulous Mon-Wed Miss Sweeney Tues – Thurs Mrs Hanna Wed

### Attendance Matters

Over the past four years I have strongly promoted and encouraged all students to aim for full attendance. The teachers and I are continually working to improve our students' full attendance and I would like to take this opportunity to involve you as parents.

#### *In order to support this aim we would ask you to:*

1. Always encourage prompt daily arrival in time for our morning assembly at **8:50am**.  
Every minute counts...

If your child is.....	Days of Education lost in a year
5 minutes late every day	3 days
10 minutes late	6.5 days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
25 minutes late	19.5 days

2. Always encourage your child to come to school. One of the major causes of absenteeism is illness. However, it is alarming when students take the whole day off to attend a non urgent medical/dental appointment. When the appointment is not urgent please request for your GP/dental appointments to be made outside of school hours.
3. Always encourage discussions with your child concerning any problems he/she may be having and inform classroom teachers. Teachers will always support and work with you and your child.
4. Always encourage holidays to be taken outside of term time.

## Students will attend school a total of 195 days in 2015.

100% Attendance will indicate	No absences for the entire year.
95% Attendance	9.75 days absence per year
90% Attendance	19.5 days absence per year
85% Attendance	29.25 days absence per year
80% Attendance	39 days absences per year

I would encourage all parents to refer to their child's semester reports in 2014 and check their attendance percentage. Attendance at school does affect student performance. Please help us and your child/children by ensuring that they are at school every day and allow them to achieve their full potential.

### Taking Holidays During the School Year

Guidelines require that parents who are taking their children on holidays during term time must now formally write a letter to the Principal indicating the specific reason for leave.

### Term Dates

**Term 1** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Term 2** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 3** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July - 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Term 4** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – 16<sup>th</sup> December

### Staff Development Days

Each year all schools are given six Staff Development Days for the purpose of professional learning for all staff. Students do not attend school on these days.

*St Monica's six Staff Development Days in 2015* are:

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January (**Term 1**)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July (**Term 3**)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October (**Term 4**)

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (**Term 4**)

### School Open Hours

Parents are reminded that the supervision on the playground commences at 8:20am daily. Students should not be arriving at school before this time unless they are enrolled at the Catholic Out of School Hours Care facility. Supervision at school ceases at 3:30pm.

### Parent Information Meetings

Parent Information meetings are scheduled to take place in Weeks 2 and 3. After a short time of settling in there are always some areas that require clarity, for teachers as well as parents, and you may have questions about some processes. The meetings will provide an opportunity for parents to meet classroom teachers and be given general information relating to the teaching and learning programmes, classroom organisation and expectations in each class/stage.

It will also be an opportunity for you to ask specific questions on matters about which you are unsure. Communication takes high priority at St Monica's and it is important that at least one parent from each family attend.

<b>Wednesday 4 February (Week 2)</b>	Year 1 and Year 2	5:45pm
	Stage 3	6:30pm
<b>Wednesday 11 February (Week 3)</b>	Kindergarten	5:45pm
	Stage 2	6:30pm

### Acceptable Use of Information Technologies—Student Policy

Each year, every student is required to sign the Student Policy for the Acceptable Use of Information Technologies. The policy is available on the school website under school notes. Please go to your child's stage where you will be able to read and then download the last sheet. **The final sheet of the policy is to be signed by both student and parent and then returned to your child's homeroom teacher.** Upon receipt of the signed sheet at school your child will then be granted access to the school's technology.

<http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au/school-notes>



### **School Website and Facebook**

Clear and open communication is the key to a positive and supportive relationship. St Monica's Primary School continues to strive to do its best by enhancing our relationships with parents and carers. I strongly encourage parents to access our website where you will find all the information that you need at your fingertips. Our newsletter is always available to read and clarify any upcoming events. The Parent Handbook, calendar, school notes, order forms and our photo gallery are some of the things available.

The St Monica's Facebook is a closed site and is strictly only for our current parent community . It is a successful vehicle for communicating daily events around our school. The Facebook page is not an avenue to post grievances about the staff, school or parish. I strongly urge that you do not post anything that may bring our school or community into disrepute. When you have a grievance or a question relating to your child's learning, please directly contact the relevant school personnel.

### **Appointments/Messages for Teachers**

First thing in the morning is often a busy time for teachers. Once the bell goes all teachers are required to be present for the 8:50 am morning assembly. If immediate matters need to be communicated to teachers please make contact with teachers by 8:45am. The office staff are always able to locate teachers for parents.

For important matters that need time please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the teacher. This can be done by sending in a note, emailing or contacting the school office.

### **Kiss and Drop**

Parents are able to "Kiss and Drop" children to school in the mornings.

#### **The following guidelines apply for safety reasons:**

- Cars must enter the school grounds via Daking Street only.
- Students must always exit the car **via the driver's side only**.
- Farewell parents before getting out of the car.
- Parents are not to get out of the car to get bags out of the boot or to farewell children. Bags should be with the children ready to exit the car.
- Children walk into the school grounds via the gate.
- Parents are always welcome to park their car and walk their child/children into the school grounds if they are not able to comply with the safety requests in the "Kiss and Drop" zone.

Parents are reminded that there is no waiting in our car park from 3:15pm onwards. Please consider delaying your arrival after school as the students are well supervised until 3:30pm.

### **POSMs MEETING – Parents of St Monica's.**

Our first meeting for the year will be on **Wednesday 25 February (Week 5)** and the focus will be on the Fete that will be held in October. Please come along and share ideas. All stalls already have volunteered coordinators. All welcome.

### **Congratulations Mrs Abood!**

Mrs Jacquie Abood deserves bragging rights. Her son Damian attended Parramatta Marist, Westmead and sat the HSC in 2014. He received an ATAR of 99.80 and was awarded dux of Marist. Damian will pursue a combined degree in Engineering and Science at Sydney University.

### **Sport Uniform—Dance Fever Athletics**

All students are to wear their sport uniform each **Friday** this term. The Dance Fever Athletics program will commence on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** (Week 2)

#### **Timetable for Weeks 2—11**

11:50am—12:20pm	Kindergarten / Year 1
12:20pm—12:50 pm	Year 2
1:30pm—2:15pm	Years 3 and 4
2:15pm—3:00pm	Years 5 and 6

## ICE BLOCKS

Water ice blocks will be on sale daily from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** every lunch time for 50 cents.

## BABY AZAR CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome into our school community Christian Azar, a baby brother for Chanel and Alexander. Congratulations to the Azar family on the arrival of their newest family member.

## MOBILE PHONES

Every year parents who request permission for their child to bring a mobile phone to school are asked to do so in writing to the Principal. Students who brought phones to school last year are therefore required to provide a letter this year explaining the need for the phone at school. Permission is only granted to those students who travel home alone. On arrival at school the switched off phone is to be handed in at the School Office where the student is to sign in the phone. In the afternoon the phone will be sent to the classroom via the office bags. Students are to switch the phone on and place the phone in their school bag before leaving school.

## ASTHMA FORMS

Each year students with asthma are required to provide the school office with an updated **Student Asthma Form**. The form has been sent home to each family and can also be found on our school website. (**News and Events, School Notes** then **Whole School Notes**). Please complete a **separate asthma form for each child with asthma**. For more serious cases, this form will need to be completed in conjunction with your doctor. Students with asthma are required to provide the school with an asthma puffer—puffers are kept in the school office and are administered as required. Please note that any medication brought to the school office must have a chemist's label with the students name and dosage details attached.

## SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 School Fees will be sent out by the Catholic Education Office. If you do not receive your fees, or if you have changed addresses and have not yet informed the school office, please contact Mrs Cattermole immediately so that we can update your details and forward a new statement of account. Term 1 school fees are due and payable on **Friday 6 March**.

## STUDENT BANKING

Students are able to participate in Student Banking. Commonwealth Bank Dollarmite Youthsaver accounts can only be opened through Commonwealth Bank branches. You do not have to bank with the Commonwealth Bank for your child to open an account. Children bring their bank deposit books to school on a **Tuesday morning** with the deposit they wish to make. Books are returned to them on Wednesday or Thursday. Please contact the office for further information or to obtain a Youthsaver starter pack.

## SYMPATHY

The school community extends its deepest sympathy and prayers to the Seepersad family (Samika, Stage 2) on the recent passing of Mr Seepersad's father. Please keep this family in your prayers at this sad time.

## 2015 PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN TEAM SPORT TRIALS

Any primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2015 are invited to participate in the Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Primary School team sports trials during Term One. Flyers were given out to students in Term 4, 2014. Further information can be obtained by visiting: [www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au)  
The flyer can also be found on the school website under School Notes—Sport.



### Happy birthday to the following students and staff who celebrate birthdays in January.



Amelia Furjanic	Alisha Merchant	Zac Michael	Rafael Noonan
Alanah Khadi	Alana O'Donnell	Lachlan Roberts	Tia El-Kazzi
Ana Maria Costea	Jake Hollis	Erica Crame	Mariah Farah
Matilda Cooper	Aadit Grover	Noah Day	Alicia Youssef
Siria Mondinelli	<i>Staff: Miss Sweeney</i>		



**TRIVIA NIGHT**

St Monica's annual Trivia Night will be held on **Saturday 14 March 2015**, which is Week 7 of Term 1. The Trivia Night Committee has started to collect prize donations for the night. If you have your own business, work for, or have contacts with a business or company that may be able to donate some prizes for the Trivia Night, please speak to Kathy Sciacca, Tiff Cooper, Simone Lewis, Katrina Mitchell, Genevieve Smith, Vanessa Talty or Claudia Kassis. Alternatively, please contact the school. This is a very important fundraising night for our school and so we need lots of donations. The 2014 Trivia Night was lots of fun, so please save the 2015 date in your diaries.

**St Monica's Primary School ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED**

**BOLLYWOOD MEETS HOLLYWOOD**

**FANCY DRESS TRIVIA & GAMES NIGHT**

**6.30pm SATURDAY 14th MARCH in the School Hall**

**BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS** | **ADULTS ONLY** | **BYO ALCOHOL & NIBBLES** | **\$15 PER PERSON PLUS GOLD COINS FOR GAMES AT THE EVENT**

**NO TICKETS SOLD ON THE NIGHT** For Enquiries contact Tiff Cooper 0409 205 721 or email [tiff@bdcbulld.com.au](mailto:tiff@bdcbulld.com.au)

**REGISTRATION** Individuals or groups of less than 6 people register in this section and you will be combined into teams. (Between 6 & 8 players can register as a team, right)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per person)

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM REGISTRATION** Already have between 6-8 players? Register as a team.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$18 per person)

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT TYPE:**

- CASH
- CHEQUE  
Please make cheques payable to St Monica's Primary School



## ARE YOU RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER?

St Monica's Primary School sends out a newsletter every fortnight (Wednesday) via email.

Parents are requested to subscribe to **E-News** on the School Website ([www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)) and enter their details.

This is a *free* service.

Once you have entered your details, each fortnight you will be sent a notification advising that the newsletter is now available for viewing.

### The email will appear as

**stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au**

**Subject: Newsletter: St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta**

### Instructions for subscribing to E-News

- Go to the School Website: [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)
- Click on News and Events
- Click on Newsletters
- Scroll down until you see *Subscribe to our Newsletter*
- Enter your details
- Click on *Subscribe to E-News*.

*Please make sure you enter an email address that you check regularly as other important messages are often sent home this way.*

Alternatively, you may view the newsletter on the School Website—go to the **News and Events** Heading, then click on **Newsletters**. All previous newsletters may be viewed as they are archived on the website.

You may also view the **School Calendar and Events** under the **News and Events** heading.

Newsletters are due to be published on the following

**Wednesdays in Term 1, 2015**

**29 January (Thursday) (Week 1)**

**11 February (Week 3)**

**25 February (Week 5)**

**11 March (Week 7)**

**25 March (Week 9)**

For those families who do not have internet access, kindly advise the School Office where a hard copy will be printed for you.

29 January 2015

# **ASTHMA AWARENESS**

Dear Parents,

Asthma is the most common medical condition for Australia's school children with up to one in four children being affected. Asthma is also the most common reason for children being admitted into hospital.

Given the high occurrence of asthma and asthma attacks in schools, the State and Territory Asthma Foundations and Asthma Australia developed a national program targeting school students, their teachers and parents/carers. The program is called AFS (Asthma Friendly Schools). St Monica's is an asthma friendly school and aims to maintain an asthma friendly school environment.

Attached please find a Student Asthma Record Sheet to be completed by you and returned to the school by **Thursday 5 February 2015** for **each child in your family with asthma**. **Please do not place multiple students on the same form.**

**For more serious cases this must be done in conjunction with your doctor.**

**\*\*\* If you require more than one Student Asthma Record Sheet, please contact the office and one will be forwarded to you.**

**You may also download a copy from the website. Go to the School Website ([www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)) then click on News and Events, School Notes, then Whole School.**

You will appreciate that it is extremely important that the school be aware of the symptoms, triggers and management of your child's asthma, however slight, so that we can provide the best treatment possible in case of an attack.

We appreciate your co-operation and help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell  
Principal



## STUDENT ASTHMA RECORD - 2015

This record is to be completed by parents/carers in consultation with their child's doctor (general practitioner). Parents/carers should inform the school immediately if there are any changes to the management plan. Please tick (✓) the appropriate box and print your answers clearly in the blank spaces where indicated.

<b>Personal Details</b>	
Student's name: _____	Gender: M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>
(SURNAME)	(FIRST NAME)
Date of birth: ___/___/___	Form/Class: _____ Teacher: _____
Emergency contact (e.g. parent, carer): _____	
a. Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Telephone No: _____ (H)	_____ (Wk)
b. Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Telephone No: _____ (H)	_____ (Wk)
Doctor: _____	Telephone No: _____

<b>Usual Asthma Management Plan</b>						
Child's symptoms (e.g. cough): _____						
Triggers (e.g. exercise, pollens): _____						
Medication requirements:						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of medication</th> <th>Method (e.g. puffer &amp; spacer, turbuhaler)</th> <th>When, and how much?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of medication	Method (e.g. puffer & spacer, turbuhaler)	When, and how much?			
Name of medication	Method (e.g. puffer & spacer, turbuhaler)	When, and how much?				

In an **Emergency** follow the Plan below that has been ticked (✓)

**Standard Asthma First Aid Plan** Please tick (✓) the preferred box

<b>Step 1</b>	Sit the student upright, remain calm and provide reassurance. Do not leave student alone.
<b>Step 2</b>	Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever puffer (Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl or Ventolin), one puff at a time, preferably through a spacer device*. Ask the student to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
<b>Step 3</b>	Wait 4 minutes.
<b>Step 4</b>	If there is little or no improvement, repeat steps 2 and 3.
	If there is still little or no improvement, call an ambulance immediately (Dial 000).
	Continue to repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.
* Use a blue reliever puffer (Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl or Ventolin) on its own if no spacer is available.	

**OR**

**My Child's Asthma First Aid Plan (attached)**

**Additional comments:**

I authorise school staff to follow the preferred Asthma First Aid Plan and assist my child with taking asthma medication should they require help. I will notify you in writing if there are any changes to these instructions. Please contact me if my child requires emergency treatment or if my child regularly has asthma symptoms at school