

DIARY DATES

<b>Week 5</b>	
Wed 20	7pm POSMS Meeting Learning Space
Thur 21	S3 Soccer Gala Day 9:15am ESI Mass
Fri 22	Dance Fever Athletics Trials 7:30pm Confirmation
<b>Week 6</b>	
Mon 25	Pow Wow 9-10:30am Our Lady Help of Christians Liturgy
Tues 26	8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open
Thur 28	9:15am Stage 1 Mass Talent Quest 1:00pm
Fri 29	Dance Fever Church Cleaning
Sat 30	Registration for Holy Sun 31 Communion— see notice on Page 2
<b>JUNE</b>	
<b>Week 7</b>	
Mon 1	Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 2	8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open
Wed 3	ICAS Science Comp (Stage 2 and 3)
Thur 4	Grandparent's Day
<b>Week 8</b>	
Mon 8	<b>QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
Tues 9	8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open
<b>Week 9</b>	
Mon 15	8:50 am Aria Music Performance at Morning Assembly Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 16	8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open ICAS—Spelling
Thur 18	Semester 1 reports home
Fri 19	Mufti—Book Stall Bingo Night—Parish



# 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,

At this time of the year when Father Fernando and I interview parents seeking to join our community my thoughts are very much about what makes St Monica's a Catholic school. In my daily interactions with staff, parents and students I am reminded that St Monica's is a community grounded in the teachings of Christ and the Mercy traditions of compassion, justice and love. It is also a community where home, school and parish strive together to provide the best Catholic education for our children.

Our school Mission statement guides us in building our Catholic community. The following key beliefs lie at the foundation of our existence as a Catholic school:

**We believe:**

- **our community is Christ centred and authentically Catholic in all its endeavours.**
- **all people bring gifts to our community and all are appreciated and celebrated.**
- **in creating a caring environment that encourages personal freedom with responsibility and respect for all.**
- **in an individualised approach that allows for the development of the whole person.**

As members of St Monica's community we are each invited to live out our beliefs through our relationships, prayer and service to one another. The challenge for us is to endeavour to be a community that believes, worships and celebrates together; that is welcoming and accepting; and that offers quality teaching and learning based on a co-operative and reflective philosophy.

Over the next two weeks Father Fernando and I will continue our interviews for school enrolment. We have received 57 applications for Kindergarten next year. Next month a committee will meet and review every application, referring to the process throughout the Parramatta Education, Diocese of Parramatta Enrolment Policy. *Successful applicants will be notified early in July.*

Welcome to Mrs Carmel Fahy and Mrs Maryanne Grewcock who are replacing Mrs Cattermole while she is on leave for the remainder of Term 2. Mrs Fahy will work on Monday and Tuesday, Mrs Grewcock on Wednesday and Thursday and Mrs Abood on Friday.

**Confirmation**

We keep in our thoughts and prayers the 35 children in our school and parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday at 7:30pm.

May these children be truly blessed at this very special time in their lives. May God's grace bring great hope, joy and love into their lives.

**Congratulations to:** Erica Crame, Jordan Crockett, Patrick Crowle, Brooke Emphield, Mariah Farah, Mohan Govender, Philip Joseph, Brandon Lukic, Natasha Muttoo, Alana O'Donnell, Brendan Pospischil, Lachlan Roberts and Jack Talty.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

### SCHOOL INTERVIEWS—Online Bookings

This year the school will be introducing **online bookings** for our Parent/Teacher interviews to be held at the end of Semester One. Included in the next newsletter will be instructions on how to access the online bookings. Reports will be sent home on Thursday 18 June and interviews will be held in Week 10 commencing Monday 22 June.



### POSMs MEETING—Learning Space—tonight 6:45pm tea and coffee for a 7pm sharp start.

Do you want to know how you can help your child experience success in mathematics? The teachers of St Monica’s Primary School are here to help you. Rotate around and participate in a variety of hands on tasks that cater for all students K-6. We look forward to seeing you there!

### TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES

Term 2 school fees are due and payable on **Monday 25 May (Week 6)**. Unless you have a previous arrangement with the school please ensure payment of fees by this date. If you are experiencing financial difficulty with your fees please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Miss O’Donnell. Thank you.

### ST MONICA’S BINGO NIGHT— Friday 19th June.

BBQ dinner commencing at 6.00pm BYO Drinks and Nibbles. Bingo starts at 7.00pm. Tickets cost \$20 per family or \$5 per single.

### REGISTRATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION


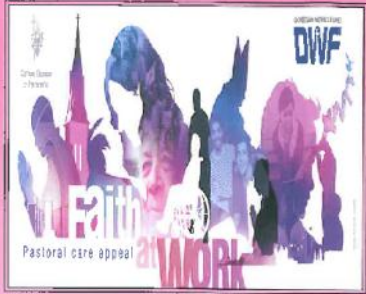
Students who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation are eligible to register for Holy Communion. Registrations will take place outside church **after Mass on Saturday 30 May at 5pm and Sunday 31 May at 9am.**

### THANK YOU

Thank you to our parent helpers who assisted with the Sausage Sizzle held on Friday 15 May. **\$390:30** was raised for the school. Thank you to Simone Lewis, Neil Joseph, Vanessa Talty, Paul Hossack, Gulshan Muttoo, Genevieve Smith, Trish Forsyth, Rebecca Assaf and Manjinder Sandhu.

### HEAD LICE

There have been reported cases of Head Lice in the school. To prevent head lice in the future, all family members should avoid sharing items such as clothing, brushes or hats from each other or from friends. To assist in attempting to eradicate head lice from the school we ask that you check your child’s hair weekly for the presence of lice. For further information please visit: [http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Head\\_Lice](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Head_Lice)





The DWF Appeal is a Diocesan pastoral care appeal held three times a year in parishes to fund a number of works and ministries in the Diocese of Parramatta. St Monica’s school communities will be participating in the Diocesan Works Fund (DWF) appeal from May 2015 as a key focus for our charitable giving. The DWF appeal in schools program provides opportunities to deepen the understanding of Catholic social teaching for students, families and staff, as well as provide much-needed funds for these essential ministries of the Catholic Church.

This year we will be drawing up the acronym ‘DWF’ on the playground in large letters, where students can then add their donation or envelopes onto the letters.

**When:** Friday 29 May, 2015  
**What to bring:** A donation to DWF. DWF is tax deductible. Parents who require this deduction can obtain an envelope from the office

*The Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun.*  
 Kindergarten and new student passwords will be arriving soon. Get reading!!!  
*Mrs Gardoni*

**DATE CHANGES** 

- **Mufti Day for the Fete Book Stall** will now be held on **Friday 19 June (Week 9, Term 2)**
- **School Photographs** will now be held on **Tuesday 11 August (Week 5, Term 3)**

*Please mark these dates in your diaries!*

## MERIT AWARDS

*Congratulations to the following students who have recently received Merit Awards.*



ES1:	Jessica Ishak
Stage One:	Jake Hollis, Maureen Haddad, Ashleigh North, Matilda Cooper, Jacob Kandalaft
Stage 2:	Emma Halamkova, Veronica Sadek, Ana-Maria Costea, Ezekiel Logo
Stage 3:	Marcus Trimbounas, Damian Matijevic, Victoria Kassis

## My Life Short Story Competition

**Competition closes 31 August 2015**

How would you like to win \$1000 cash, a signed set of the My Life series and \$1000RRP worth of books for your school?

Sound amazing? Are you a student in Australia and aged 8–13? Do you have a story about your life that is funny, gross, weird or amazing? Well, we want to hear it!

To enter:-

1. Get permission from a parent, teacher or guardian.
2. Enter your details and upload your 500 word short story below, or download our entry form and send it to us with a copy of your short story.

**[www.randomhouse.com.au/mylifecompetition](http://www.randomhouse.com.au/mylifecompetition)**

Download the entry form, attach one to each story and post it to us. Postal details are below.

**Attention: Sarana Emerton  
Random House Australia  
Level 3, 100 Pacific Hwy  
North Sydney, NSW 2060**

Need some inspiration for your story?

Many of the stories in the *My Life* series are based on things that have happened to Tristan. You can also visit [tristanbancks.com](http://tristanbancks.com) for some great writing tips.

If you have uploaded your story and details in our online entry form, you do not need to post us your entry. Competition ends 11.59 pm AEST on Monday 31 August 2015.

*Mrs Mason*

## WRITE4FUN

Congratulations to Natasha Muttoo, Andy Haddad and Jack Talty whose stories have been chosen for the next level of judging in the writing competition. Well done to all the children who have participated.

*Mrs Mason*

## 2015/2016 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment Books are once again available. **Books cost \$65 each** and every membership sold raises \$13 for our school.

This year you again have the option of ordering an **Entertainment Book Membership** or an **Entertainment Digital Membership**.

You may order securely online at: **[www.entbook.com.au/21576y3](http://www.entbook.com.au/21576y3)** or **click on the link on our website home page**. Please contact Mrs Abood in the school office if you have any further enquiries.

The Entertainment Books have not been sent to the school yet. As soon as the books arrive your order will be sent home.



## Writers Festival 2015

Last Friday (8th May) Stage 3 and some Stage 2 students walked to Riverside Theatre for one of the Writers Festival events. We saw Martin Chatterton—author /illustrator of the Mort books, Tristan Banks - author of the My Life series and James Patterson—the world’s top bestseller and author of many children’s and adult’s books. The event was not only a day where they gave us fantastic tips for our writing, but also a book launch for ‘Rafe’s Aussie Adventures’ by James Patterson and Martin Chatterton.

We all loved it and they told us some of the key points to become fantastic writers. These are listed below.

- Outline and plan ALL work before starting to write
- Use technology to gather inspiration eg music, videos and pictures
- Read highly recommended books. They will give you ideas
- If you are stuck for ideas, look outside .....
- Re-write, re-read and edit your work over and over again,

A huge THANKYOU to Mrs Muttoo and Mrs Davino for walking us up and back, and to the teachers for making it all happen! We had a fantastic day!

*Jack Talty*, Stage 3

### Age Requirements - Have you checked?

Children in today's society are surrounded by different forms of technology, many with different purposes.

Many students use technology as a form of communication (social media) and gaming. St Monica’s students are no different. They use various forms of social media to communicate outside of school with each other. I just want to make sure parents are aware of the age restrictions around many of these social media sites or applications (apps).

- Sites/apps such as Twitter, Kik, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Reddit, Snapchat and Secret all have an age requirement of 13yrs.
- LinkedIn 14yrs.
- WhatsApp 16yrs.
- Vine 17yrs. Some platforms, such as YouTube, WeChat and Kik, have a minimum age requirement of 18yrs (although children aged 13-17yrs can sign up with parent’s permission).
- Games that are used online also have age restrictions. Have you checked those? It is important for you as parents to know what your child is doing online, including knowing their usernames and passwords.

**For more information regarding this matter please look at the following links:**

[http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents/Cyber%20issues/~link.aspx?\\_id=1DB42270ADEB481EB83F753CB29E6CB7&\\_z=z](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents/Cyber%20issues/~link.aspx?_id=1DB42270ADEB481EB83F753CB29E6CB7&_z=z)

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents/Cyber%20issues/Social%20networking.aspx>

If you have any questions, please ask.

*Kellee Bagnall*  
(ICT Co-ordinator)



## Live Life Well at School

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing students' gross motor skills, fitness and healthy eating, we have been implementing the **Live Life Well at School** from the joint initiative between the NSW Department of Education and Communities and NSW Ministry of Health. We have received a grant of \$2000 to fund sporting equipment and healthy eating within our school after submitting an action plan and attending staff professional learning.

**Live Life Well at School** assists schools to:

- develop whole school strategies that support physical activity and healthy eating
- improve the teaching of nutrition and physical education through a focus on PDHPE programs
- foster community partnerships that promote and support whole school strategies
- provide opportunities for more students to be more active, more often.

As part of this grant we have been able to promote healthy eating which has included the NAPLAN breakfast promoted in week 4.

Thank you to the following parents who organised and assisted at the breakfasts for our Year 3 and Year 5 students: Bernadette Haddad, Claire Pospischil, Kathy Basha, Neil Joseph, Amanda Dib, Sonia Noonan, Kathy Sciacca, Karla Stewart-Sykes, George Assaf, Manjinder Sandhu, Sonia Sentas, Claudia Kassis and Joan Evangelista.

Thank you to Tiff Cooper for providing the fresh fruit (apples, bananas and mandarins).

Our Stage Three students have also been monitoring what our students have been eating at recess time and they have prepared some reports based on the data gathered.

**Mrs Erin Turner**  
Sport Co-ordinator

**GIANTS**  
G-MAN'S GIANTS

**JOIN G-MAN'S GIANTS!**

**JOIN G-MAN'S GIANTS**

**G-MAN will keep you up to date with everything that is happening at the GIANTS.**

You'll receive a G-MAN's GIANTS supporter pack which includes:

- ✔ Birthday card from G-MAN
- ✔ G-MAN's GIANTS supporter card
- ✔ FREE entry to two GIANTS home games at Spotless Stadium or StarTrack Oval\*
- ✔ Kids in the Park Football Clinic invite
- ✔ Welcome letter from G-MAN
- ✔ Sticker sheet

For more information please email: [gman@gwsgiants.com.au](mailto:gman@gwsgiants.com.au) or call the membership team on 1300 GIANTS (1300 442 687)

\*Ticket offer not valid at round 21 match against the Sydney Swans at Spotless Stadium

Check out my new website:  
**GMANGIANTS.COM.AU**

**GIANTS**

**JOIN G-MAN'S GIANTS!**

**GENDER:** Male / Female (please circle)

**NAME:**

**PARENT NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**SUBURB:**

**POST CODE:** **STATE:**

**EMAIL:**

**PHONE:**

**DOB:**

**MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [GWSGIANTS.COM.AU](http://GWSGIANTS.COM.AU)  
OR CALL 1300 GIANTS (1300 442 687)**

PRIVACY: All personal information you provide will be used by GWS GIANTS Football Club and the AFL in accordance with the AFL and AFL Clubs Privacy Policy available at [gwsgiants.com.au/privacy](http://gwsgiants.com.au/privacy). By providing your personal information, you agree to such use by the GWS GIANTS Football Club and the AFL.

(You can also download this form from School Notes—Sport on the school website)

*Join Our Team*

**NAB AFL AUSKICK AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL THIS TERM!**

NAB AFL Auskick is a great way to have fun, meet new friends and get active.

**THE Little BIG TIME**

NAB AFL Auskick is a great way to have fun, meet new friends and get active! For \$40 you will receive (4) one-hour sessions of skills, games and coaching. You will also get an AFL drawstring bag containing a football, activity book and much more. Most importantly, every participant will receive tickets to the GWS GIANTS v St.Kilda game

Lessons will be at Lake Parramatta Park (Bourke Street) from 3.30pm to 4.30pm, starting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Contact Demi Gregory 0422 489 796  
[Demi.Gregory@aflauskick.com.au](mailto:Demi.Gregory@aflauskick.com.au)

To register visit [aflauskick.com.au](http://aflauskick.com.au) and type in St.Monica's



## TALENT QUEST

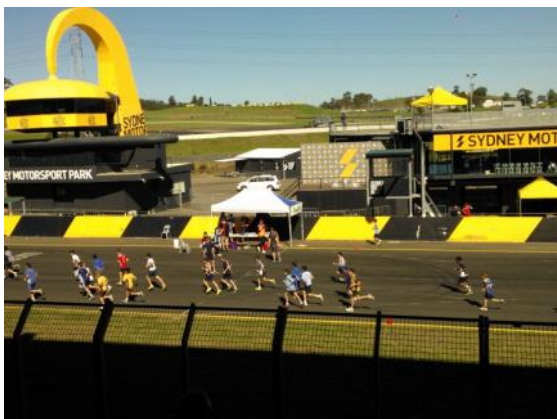
All are welcome to an afternoon of Entertainment as the finalists for the 2015 St Monica's Talent Quest take to the stage.

This year's finalists will be announced on Monday 25 May — three days before the main event which will take place on **Thursday 28 May at 1pm** in the Hall.

*Miss Sweeney*



## 2015 Zone Cross Country







## Free Seminar: Identifying and Managing Child Anxiety

Thursday, 28 May 2015

The Centre for Emotional Health in partnership with the Rotary Club of North Ryde is pleased to present a FREE community information evening for parents, carers, school counsellors and teachers on dealing with anxiety in children.

*In this information session, Dr Lauren McLellan will discuss:*

- Ways to identify anxiety in children, ages 7 to 12 years
- How anxiety can affect children
- Tips to manage child anxiety, and
- Available treatment options for children offered through the Centre for Emotional Health Clinic.

The discussion will include an interactive Q&A session.

### About the Presenter

Dr Lauren McLellan is a registered psychologist and post-doctoral research fellow who has experience working with children, adolescents, adults and families and has a particular interest in assisting children and their carers to manage excessive anxiety and fears. As a researcher, Lauren aims to understand how anxiety develops and is maintained so it can be prevented and effectively treated. She hopes her research can assist in the development of unique treatment packages for young people experiencing anxiety and related emotional health problems.

### Event Information

Time: Doors open 5.30pm. Event 6.00pm

Venue: Australian Hearing Hub, Level 1 Lecture Theatre, 16 University Ave, Macquarie University NSW

Parking: Free parking from 5.30pm in X3 and W4 car parks. Permit issued during registration process

RSVP: Bookings are essential as places are limited.

### REGISTER

Contact Person: Barb Corapi [barb.corapi@mq.edu.au](mailto:barb.corapi@mq.edu.au)

## NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art)

### Winter Holiday Courses

Next holidays students can develop performance skills in Drama School (grades K-6), take on the Costume and Design Challenge (grades 3-6) or get a taste for what we have to offer in NIDA Bites (grades 1-6)!

Courses run 29 June-10 July. Book before 29 May to save 10%.  
For the full list of courses and bookings visit [nida.edu.au/winter](http://nida.edu.au/winter)

### MERCY MUSIC & PERFORMANCE ACADEMY MAY WORKSHOPS

This month, **OLMC Parramatta** is launching the Mercy Music and Performance Academy Parramatta. Building on the strong musical tradition established by the Sisters of Mercy at OLMC, the Mercy Music and Performance Academy cultivates and nurtures the creative talents of young performers. The Academy offers instrumental lessons and workshops for both boys and girls. Students aged 9 – 14 are invited to attend the Vocal Workshop (9am – 12pm) and/or the Woodwind Workshop (1-4pm) on May 23 and May 30 (over 2 days). Cost: \$150 per workshop see [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy) for more information and to book.

# MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE



**CAN LEAD TO DEATH IN 24 HOURS<sup>1</sup>**



**SYMPTOMS CAN BE SIMILAR TO FLU**  
so it can be difficult to diagnose<sup>2</sup>



**CAN PRESENT AS MENINGITIS\* OR SEPTICAEMIA\*\***  
\*An infection in the brain and spine  
\*\*Blood poisoning



**HIGHEST RISK INFANTS, TEENAGERS & YOUNG ADULTS<sup>3</sup>**

**W A B C A B Y**  
5 MAJOR STRAINS<sup>4</sup>  
A, C, Y, W AND B



**SPREADS VIA CLOSE HUMAN CONTACT<sup>4</sup>**  
e.g. Coughing, sneezing & kissing

**KNOW** THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS




Headache, fever, drowsiness, a stiff or painful neck, sensitivity to light, vomiting, shivering, cold hands or feet, muscle or joint pain, change in skin colour<sup>4</sup>

A late-stage rash may also develop which can start off as a spot, blister, pinpricks and later purple bruise-like blotches<sup>5</sup>

**CHECK** YOUR VACCINATIONS ARE UP TO DATE



Vaccinations now available which protect against all major strains. Not all vaccines are given as part of the National Immunisation Program<sup>6</sup>

**TAKE SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS**



Wash hands, don't share food or drink and cover coughs and sneezes

**ACT** QUICKLY IF YOU SUSPECT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE



Don't wait for the rash – go straight to your doctor or hospital

**RULE OUT** MENINGOCOCCAL



Ask your doctor to rule out meningococcal disease.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR AND VISIT:  
**MENINGOCOCCAL.ORG.AU**



Produced by Meningococcal Australia and supported by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics.  
References: 1. WHO Meningococcal, Streptococcal and Streptococcal Infections. Bacterial Infections. Available online. Last accessed 13 June 2013: [http://www.who.int/vaccine\\_research/diseases/bac\\_bacterial/en/index.html#2](http://www.who.int/vaccine_research/diseases/bac_bacterial/en/index.html#2); Hart G A., Thompson A P.J. Meningococcal disease and its management in children. SPMJ 2009; Vol 333, p 685-90. 2. Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme. Annual Report of the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme 2011. 4. Meningococcal vaccines for Australians. NCIRS Fact sheet, November 2007. 5. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Guidelines for the early clinical and public health management of meningococcal disease in Australia 2007. 6. [www.immunisation.health.gov.au](http://www.immunisation.health.gov.au)

## SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

When your marriage relationship sadly and tragically breaks down, you can begin to think that your life has come to an end; dreams and hopes are shattered.

This is true for so many.

On the last Tuesday of each month, CCSS Solo Parents Services run a support group for such people, called “Stepping Beyond”.

We meet again on Tuesday 25th May at 7.30pm at Allawah St, Blacktown.

**For further details call Eileen or Rita on 99330205 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)**



## Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

**The next workshop in your area will be held:**

<b>TIME &amp; DATE:</b> <b>6.00pm – 8.00pm</b> Thursday 11th June 2015	<b>VENUE:</b> <b>Riverside Theatre</b> Corner Church and Market Street Parramatta in Rafferty's Theatre	<b>BOOK NOW:</b> <b>Elisabeth Sacco</b> <b>GLS Presenter</b> <b>Ph: 0449 247 495</b> or email <a href="mailto:esacco@saccon.com.au">esacco@saccon.com.au</a>
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**Helping learner drivers become safe drivers**




## Holy Family Primary School Luddenham

### 25th Anniversary

*Mass and Morning Tea*

Friday 12th June 2015  
9:15am in the Church

Followed by Morning Tea in the  
School Hall

RSVP—22nd May to Marie, Monica or  
Despina in the School Office

For further information contact the  
School Office on 4773 4485

Email—[Luddenham@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Luddenham@parra.catholic.edu.au)