

ST MONICA'S
PRIMARY
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 3, WEEK 9
Wednesday 9 September 2015

DIARY DATES

- Week 9**
Wed 9 7pm POSMS Meeting
(Naplan and Fete)
Fri 11 Theme Lunch—
Sausage Sizzle
Sun 13 Bunnings BBQ
- Week 10**
Mon 14 Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 15 8:30-9:30am Uniform
Shop
7:00pm Stage 3
Product Launch
Wed 16 8am-10am Stage 2
Product Launch
7pm 2016 ES1 Parent
Information Night
Thur 17 Graduation Fundraiser
"Spider Day"
Fri 18 Term 3 ends at 3pm

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

TERM 4 OCTOBER

- Week 1**
Mon 5 **Public Holiday**
Tues 6 Staff Development Day
Students do not attend
school today
Wed 7 Students return for
Term 4—Summer
Uniform

**POSMS Meeting
tonight**

**Wednesday
9 September 2015**

**7:00pm—8:30pm
Learning Space**

We will be discussing
Naplan and the Fete.

All parents are
encouraged to attend.

We look forward to
seeing you there.



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,

I am sure that many people in our school community have been alarmed and upset by the images in the media of the civil war in Syria and the Syrian refugees in European cities desperate to survive. The Syrian people have lived through the escalating civil unrest in their homeland which has killed close to 100,000 people since the violence erupted nearly five years ago. It has been reported that more than 5.6 million children inside Syria and 2 million refugee children in the surrounding regions remain extremely vulnerable. Many families are in grave danger without basic needs like access to clean water, nutrition, shelter, health care and education.

Pope Francis has said on repeated occasions that violence cannot resolve this or any conflict. Dialogue is critical to foster peace because it builds relationships, which helps build understanding and trust. The Syrian people urgently need a political solution that will end the fighting and create a future for all Syrians, one that respects human rights and religious freedom. Please consider writing or emailing our politicians to encourage them to seek peace through the political process. In Australia we have the capacity to provide hope and assistance with housing, food, providing urgent medical care and providing other basic necessities and we need to voice this with our politicians.

Prime Minister

The Honourable Anthony Abbott
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Honourable Julie Bishop
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au

Leader of the Opposition

The Honourable William Shorten
Bill.Shorten.MP@aph.gov.au

This Friday I invite all parents to our special prayer for the Syrian people at our morning assembly.

Prayer for Peace for Syria

God of Compassion,
Hear the cries of the people of Syria,
Bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
Bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
Strengthen Syria's neighbors in their care and welcome for refugees,
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
And protect those committed to peace.

God of Hope,
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies,
Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria,
And give us hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace and Light of the World,
Amen.

In looking back over our Term 3 calendar there has certainly been an incredible amount that has taken place at our school. Thank you for the support of parents and carers in every aspect of school life. Know that it is extremely valued and an important contribution to the quality of what we are able to offer here at St Monica's School.

This term we have had:

- Class Masses
- Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, The Assumption. (School Masses)
- Archbishop Miller Conference
- Father's Day Liturgy
- First Communion
- Seasons for Growth program
- Stage 2 and Stage 3 excursions
- Peer Review Stage 2
- Writing Professional Learning for teachers
- ICAS English Competitions
- Voice of Youth
- School Photos
- Book Week
- Cross Country, Soccer Gala Day, Zone Athletics, Gymnastics, Eels, Wanderers, Hockey, Netball Gala Day
- Father's Day Wrapping and Stall
- Father's Day activities
- Fete mufti days- toys, lollies & lucky dip
- Theme Lunches

And still to come.....

- POSMS Meeting tonight Wednesday 9 September
- Sausage Sizzle Friday 11 September
- Bunnings BBQ Sunday 13 September
- Stage 3 Product Launch Tuesday 15 September @ 7:00pm
- Stage 2 Product Launch Wednesday 16 September 8:00am – 10:00am
- Kindergarten 2016 Parent Meeting Wednesday 16 September @ 7:00pm
- Australian Citizenship Day Thursday 17 September -Morning Assembly
- Spider drink for Year 6 Graduation Thursday 17 September @ 1:00pm

School Attendance

A parent of a child of compulsory school age is obliged to ensure that their child attends school every school day for the educational program in which he/she is enrolled. Parents are liable to be prosecuted if they fail in their duty. Non-attendance alone is not generally used as grounds for prosecution, however, it may figure as part of a larger pattern of child neglect.

Any time during which a student is not attending or participating in their educational program is considered an absence and requires explanation. From time to time a student might be absent from school. Parents comply with their compulsory schooling for their child by providing the class teacher with a satisfactory reason for these absences. A decision is made about whether a reason offered to explain an absence is satisfactory.

A reason will be ***considered satisfactory*** if it falls under one of the following categories:

- The student is ill, injured or carrying an infectious disease medical or dental treatment or procedures
- Funeral
- Cultural reason
- Family reasons

Parents should notify the class teacher in writing if their child is absent for these reasons.

Examples of ***non-satisfactory explanations*** include, minding a younger sibling, helping with the housework, for their birthday, a relative visiting or sibling at another school has a Staff Development Day.

Morning Supervision

Just a reminder that morning supervision of children at St Monica's commences at **8:20am**. Students who arrive before this time are not supervised on the playground. Parents are strongly advised not to drop their child at school before 8:20am.

Punctuality

I am concerned about the regular lateness of many children and I assume that parents do not want their children to be late. I understand that there are number of pressures on parents before school, however, it is very important that children are at school on time. Children are required to be inside the school gates by 8.50am. After this time children are required to be recorded as late on the class roll.

Some parents say to us that 8.55am or 9.00am is fine after all; it is only a few minutes. I take the view that late is late and that there is always push back at whatever time the start time is. It is essential training for children to know that trains, planes, buses, theatres, cinemas and lots of other organisations don't wait for you to turn up before they start or leave. Most employers take a dim view of lateness.

Lateness is an issue for teachers and the students in the class because it:

- ◆ Interrupts the flow of the class and lesson
- ◆ Doesn't allow for settling time before school and a chance for the child to talk to their friends
- ◆ Is poor training in the life skill of punctuality and common courtesy

Lateness is recorded in the class roll as required by the government legislation. Late passes must be issued to any student that arrives after 8:50am and the reason must be recorded on the roll. **All children who are late must be signed in at the office by a parent.**

Please talk to me if there are special circumstances that cause your child/ren to be late or if we can help you with getting your child to school on time.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

2015 LIBRARY REQUEST - IMPORTANT MESSAGE 'PAPER PLANES' BOOKS

Dear Parents. Six (6) copies of the book 'Paper Planes' by Steve Worland were accessioned and covered for Stage 3 for use as a shared text. We believe that some children may have mistakenly taken these books home as library books as they have a school barcode on the back. If you have these books at home could you please return them to school **as a matter of urgency**. A copy of the book cover is pictured at right. Thank you.

Mrs Sharon Boulous, Teacher/Librarian



Important—Working With Children Check

Parent helpers are required to complete the **Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta Online Child Protection training module for Volunteers**.

This module must be updated **every 2 years**.

Please go to <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>

Parents are also required to complete the **NSW Working With Children Check for Volunteers**.

Please go to www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au and click on the blue square with the gold star "Start Here" and then follow the prompts. This check is free for volunteers and is valid for **5 years**.

The links for both of these modules are also on the front page of our school website.

Please ensure that both of these are completed BEFORE you volunteer. Parents who have not completed these checks are not eligible to assist in the classroom or on excursions.

Thank you for your co-operation with this important matter.



How to keep your child safe online—Tips for Parents

A flyer has been sent home to all parents today with important information on how to keep your child safe online. For more information visit www.esafety.gov.au



Traffic—Kiss and Drop Zone (mornings)

Parents are reminded of the guidelines for the Kiss and Drop Zone to ensure the safety of ALL students.

Please note that

Students MUST exit the car VIA THE DRIVER'S SIDE ONLY

Please adhere to these guidelines for everyone's safety and to assist with the traffic flow in the carpark.

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.**

Afternoon Pick Up

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

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

The Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta, has developed a policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their child/children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this policy states that "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 anytime 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.

STUDENT LEAVE

As part of the implementation of the newly formulated National Standards, **holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included in Student Attendance Data as absences.**

Parents are requested to complete an **Application for Extended Leave** form for absences of 10 days or more. This form is available on our website (under school notes)

The link is below:

[www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/199/UserFiles/PublicationLinks/Application for Extended Leave Form \(A1\).pdf](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/199/UserFiles/PublicationLinks/Application%20for%20Extended%20Leave%20Form%20(A1).pdf)

Please submit this form *at least three weeks* prior to your leave. Miss O'Donnell will then respond to your application.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS—Term 4

A reminder that the next **Staff Development Day** will be held in on **Tuesday 6 October** (Term 4, Day 1). Students are to return to school on Wednesday 7 October for the commencement of Term 4.

Parents are also advised that the last two days of Term 4, (**Thursday 17 December and Friday 18 December**) are also **Staff Development Days**.

SCHOOL FEES

There are still some families who have outstanding school fees for 2015. Fees were due on Monday 17 August. Unless you are paying by regular instalments could you please contact Mrs Cattermole immediately to arrange an interview. Thank you for your co-operation.

Raffle Tickets

Thank you to all the families who have already returned their raffle ticket books and money. Extra books are still available at the school office.

There will be a lucky draw each week in the lead up to the fete. Any family who has sent in their raffle tickets is in the running to win a prize just because you have returned your raffle tickets.

The next raffle draws will occur on **Friday 11 September, 18 September, 9 October, 16 October & 23 October**.

Congratulations to Veronica Sadek and Max Lukasik who were the winners of the first raffle.

TOTAL BOOKS SENT HOME	Number of Raffle Books sold and returned	Number of Books to be returned	Number of Extra Books to be sold
163	68	95	18

EARN & LEARN

Thank you to everyone who collected the Earn & Learn stickers for St Monica's School. This fundraiser has now ended and to date we have collected **11,888** stickers. A big thank you to Mrs Gardoni and Year 2 who have been tallying the stickers each day. Thank you everyone for your support.

POSMS Meeting tonight

Our POSMS Meeting will be held **tonight Wednesday 9 September 2015** commencing at 7pm. Topics for discussion will include Naplan and the Fete. All welcome to attend.

STUDENT WORKBOOKS

This Friday 11 September the children will be bringing home their Creative Art books and/or artwork.

LUCKY DIPS—Thank You

Thank you to the following parent helpers who assisted with the collation of the Lucky Dips for the Fete on Friday 4 September. This was a mammoth task and the helpers spent all day preparing the Lucky Dips.

Sincere thanks to: *Karla Stewart-Sykes, Joelle Day, Yusnianti Lim, Simone Lewis, Gulshan Muttoo, Katrina Mitchell, Kimberly and Phil Graham, Yuly Clark, Annika Mari Conda-Santiago, Melissa Cabot, Charles Lukasik, Janet and Neil Joseph.*

FATHER'S DAY STALL—Thank You

The Father's Day Stall was a big success this year. A total of **\$543:30** profit from two morning sales was made. Thank you to Miss O'Donnell for her assistance in setting up the hall and sale table and for providing the wonderful morning tea for the wrapping day and the stall. A big thank you to the teachers for getting the students organised and to the children for their lovely manners when purchasing their gifts. Thank you to Gulshan Muttoo for her assistance with pricing, collating and managing the stall. Finally a huge thank you to the many parents who gave up their time last week for wrapping the gifts and helping on the stall to make sure all the students purchased a gift for their dad, uncle or grandpa. *Neil Joseph, Social/Welcome Team*

Thank you to: Gulshan Muttoo, Kimberley Graham, Rebecca Barber, Tiff Cooper, Simone Lewis, Dorota Grzelak, Joan Evangelista, Charles Lukasik, Melissa Cabot, Mitsue French, Kathy Sciacca, Marilou Hilario and Neil Joseph.

Commando Steve Willis visits Stage 3 students!

Commando Steve visited Stage 3 students as part of the 'Step-a-thon' programme. The students learned about fitness and participated in numerous activities. More photos available on the school website.



Father's Day Breakfast—Thank You

The Father's Day Breakfast was a huge success with almost 60 dads, granddads and significant male role models of our St Monica's student body in attendance. A huge thanks goes to Louise O'Donnell for supplying the breakfast and the Cooper Family for donating the dozens of eggs. Also a big thanks to the wonderful mums who came in early to make the bacon & egg rolls for all the men; **Tiff Cooper, Simone Lewis, Cathryn Crowle, Kimberly Graham, Annika Conda, Janet Joseph, Bec Assaf and Tiff Cooper**. Hope all the men had a wonderful Sunday. Thanks again. *Social/Welcome Team*

Girl's Holiday Clinic

Girls, Come and join the NRL Game Development Team for some fun Rugby League activities these school holidays.

Where: Pendle Hill Park , Hazel Street, Pendle Hill

When: Friday 25th September 2015— 10am-1pm

Age: 5-12 years old

Price: \$40 includes: PlayNRL Backpack, Football, Hat, Tee, Drink Bottle, Pump and Lunch.

Register at: www.playnrl.com/programs

Fete News

Trash & Treasure

The Hall will be opened after Masses (5pm Saturday Vigil and the 9am and 6pm Sunday) on the weekends of 10/11 October and 17/18 October for the collection of Trash & Treasure items for the Fete. **Please note that items are not to be left at school under any circumstances.**

Volunteer Commitment Form

The Volunteer Commitment has been sent home to each family. Thank you to those families who have returned their form to school. If you are yet to return your form, could you please ensure that you include your **email address** so that the organisers may contact you via email. Please see Page 9 of this newsletter if you require another form.

*Father's Day at St Monica's
Please see the Media Gallery on the website for more photos*



St Monica's is holding a BBQ at Bunnings this Sunday! Volunteers are desperately needed.

When: Sunday 13th September 2015

Where: Bunnings North Parramatta (opposite our school)

Time: 8:00am to 5:00pm



Many hands make light work so don't be shy. We would love it if you could lend a hand for an hour sometime during the day—cooking, serving etc. We will be putting together a roster, so if you can assist let us know asap. We will be working in teams of 4-5 people and you must be aged over 18 to help. For any enquiries please contact Neil Joseph on 0418 113 150 or njoptus@optusnet.com.au or via the Facebook POSMS group. Thanks as always for the great support we get. *Social/Welcome Team*

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



Marley Puyat	Nazanin Abdollahi Hagshenas	Jack Talty	Ashleigh North
Sally Essey	Mattheas Noonan	Neave Sciacca	Sanoy Bhattachan
Maurice Haddad	Manraj Kahlon	Staff: Mrs McKenzie	

Term 4 - Summer Uniform

Students are to return to school in Term 4 (Wednesday 7 October) wearing their Summer Uniform.

Please ensure that **every article of your child's uniform is labelled** as there are a number of unlabelled items in lost property.

Please be advised that at the end of Term all unlabelled, unclaimed items will be donated to the Uniform shop.

GIRLS	BOYS
Summer Short-sleeved shirt Culottes Navy socks Black school shoes	Summer Short-sleeved shirt Navy blue shorts Navy socks Black school shoes
Sport Short-Sleeved Shirt Sports Shorts Tracksuit Pants/School Jacket Navy socks Joggers (predominantly white)	Sport Short-Sleeved Shirt Sports Shorts Tracksuit pants/School Jacket Navy socks Joggers (predominantly white)
The School Jacket with crest may be worn at any time throughout the year The School Hat with crest is a compulsory school item to be worn every day	

MINDQUEST 2015

Glenwood HS, Cnr Forman Ave, and Glenwood Park Ave, Glenwood 2768

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November 2015 9:30am—3:30pm

On Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November 2015, the seventy-seventh MindQuest program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1-6 at Glenwood High School. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, chemistry and much more. Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is \$180 (including GST).

Glenwood HS is in the Baulkham Hills area close to the M7 and is easy to get to from most parts of Sydney. 20 mins Becroft, 35 mins North Sydney, 25 mins Strathfield, 30 mins Richmond, Penrith and Hornsby.

Please contact Shelagh on (02) 4232 2494 for more information.

Closing date: Monday 12 October 2015.

**Staff Development Days
Term 4, 2015**

Tuesday 6 October (Week 1)
Thursday 17 December (Week 11)
Friday 18 December (Week 11)

St Patrick's Cathedral Spring Fair

Prince Alfred Park (opp. Cathedral)
Saturday 12 September 2015
10am-4pm

UNLIMITED RIDE BAND

\$25 (prepaid)

\$35 (purchase on Fair Day)

Contact Parish Office 8839 8400 or available
after most Masses.

Prepaid offer available until 7 September only.

ARIA MUSIC

Quality investment in your child's future

Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard?

Please email: ariamusicsschool@gmail.com

Phone: 0402 780 130

Qualified, friendly teachers encourage serious musical skills in a fun learning environment.

Group classes at school \$23:10 (incl GST) per lesson. Individual tuition is also available.

Guitar Classes!

Days: Monday lunchtime
Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm
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!!

Keyboard Classes!

Day: Tuesday lunchtime
Time: 12:30pm—1:30pm
Location: The Community Room

www.ariamusic.com.au



BOOTCAMP / BOXING

Classes will resume next term for the Wednesday 1.30pm Bootcamp / Boxing at Northmead Reserve (Elizabeth Cres) for 8 weeks starting 14th October (term 4, week 2). Buy 8 classes upfront for \$100 or come casual for \$15 per/class. All welcome.

Need more information, please call Cam from Headturners Health & Fitness on 0410 839 497

**Please note that if this class doesn't suit you, many more classes are available including Personal Training

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta wants to hear from you

If you or someone close to you has suffered **ANY** abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic group) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us.

Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options.

You can contact us on:

Phone: (02) 9933 0233

Web: www.parra.catholic.org.au/safeguarding

Mail: PO BOX 3066, North Parramatta NSW 1750

For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact
NSW Police on 1800 333 0000

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT FORM

St Monica's Fete – Saturday 24th October 2015

Following is the list of jobs that we need assistance from every parent in the school to commit to so that we have a successful fete.

- Collecting stalls from a nearby school and setting up the stalls (Friday 23rd October)
- Unpacking items to go on stalls eg toys & books etc (Friday 23rd October)
- Working on a stall (Saturday 24th October)
- Packing up stalls from 2pm-3:30pm (Saturday 24th October)

Stalls					
BBQ	Books	Cake	Chocolate Wheel	Country Kitchen	Craft
Face Painting	Devonshire Tea	Drinks	Footy Pass/Hoopla	Lucky Dips	
Lollies & Showbags	Toys	Trash & Treasure	Selling Raffle Tickets		

Parent Name/s: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____

Eldest Student name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Please **tick** as many jobs that you are able to assist with.

- Selling Raffle Tickets at Winston Hills Mall**
- Saturday 10th October (9:00am-2:00pm) Time available _____
 - Saturday 17th October (9:00am-2:00pm) Time available _____
- I can collect stalls on Friday 23rd October**
- I can assist in setting up stalls on Friday 23rd October (from 9:00am)**
- I can work on a stall on Fete Day Saturday 24th October**
(Preference, if any, from the list above) _____
- Packing up stalls at the end of Fete day from 2:00pm-3:30pm.**

Please **tick** the times you are available to work on a stall on Saturday 24th October.

- 9:00am - 10:00am
- 10:00am - 11:00am
- 11:00am - 12:00pm
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm



Straight from Sydney Markets

FRUIT & VEGIE BOX

All fresh and seasonal fruit and vegetables bought at the markets just for you for only \$45

To pre-order, for pick up at the fete and ensure you do not miss out, fill out the form below and return to the school office with cash payment by Friday 16th October 2015

All profits will be donated to the St Monica's Community

Your fresh Fruit & Veg box will be ready for collection from the Fruit & Veggie Stall (in the Community Room) at the Fete on Saturday 24th October 2015

(Early pick up can be arranged for 3pm Friday afternoon at school pick up on the 23rd October 2015 - Please mark the bottom option)

Any questions? Contact Tiff Cooper on 0409 205 721 or tiff@bdcbuild.com.au

Proudly organised & supported by BDCbuild Pty Limited

Fruit & Vegie Box Order Form

Name: _____

Email / Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of Boxes: _____ @ \$45 each

Amount enclosed: \$

Optional:- Pick up from School 3pm Friday 23.10.15 (please tick)