

DIARY DATES

TERM 2 - Week 1

Thursday 28 April

- School Photos —Students to wear Summer Uniform

Friday 29 April

- Athletics Carnival —
Barton Park, North Parramatta
- Bingo Night

Week 2

Monday 2 May

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am
- Mother's Day Stall

Tuesday 3 May

- 8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop
- Cross Country Eastern Creek
- Final date for ICAS competition payment (Stages 2 & 3)

Friday 6 May

- 9:15am Mothers Day Mass followed by Morning Tea
- Dance Fever—sport uniform

Sunday 8 May

- Mother's Day

Week 3

Monday 9 May

- All students to be wearing Winter uniform from today

Tuesday 10 May

- 8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop
- Naplan (Spelling Writing, Grammar) Years 3 and 5

Wednesday 11 May

- Naplan (Reading) Years 3 & 5
- 7pm Social/Welcome Meeting

Thursday 12 May

- Naplan (Numeracy) Yrs 3 & 5

Friday 13 May

- Dance Fever -sport uniform
- 2pm Church Cleaning (school)
- Confirmation 6:30pm for 7pm start—St Monica's church



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

On Monday as our nation celebrated ANZAC Day we were reminded of the men and women who were prepared to make sacrifices, many giving their lives, for the freedom and quality of life that we enjoy today. These men and women were of great character acting with resilience, selflessness and perseverance. They made the huge commitment to serve their country and they got on with the job with energy and initiative.

Teaching our children the value of commitment is a huge responsibility and requires us to teach by example. Through our own actions we must show them what commitment looks like, and we must purposely give them opportunities to demonstrate it in their own lives.

In the school setting each day I have experienced the commitment of the teachers to the achievement of their students. Commitment is an essential element of successful teaching—cultivating students' curiosity and interest in learning. In addition to your other responsibilities as parents you remain continuously committed to working in partnership with us in the education of your children.

A few years ago Andrew Mullins wrote a book '*Parenting for Character*'. He urged readers to "Teach your children to honour commitments, to keep their word, to face up to consequences of the simplest actions, otherwise, when commitments become adult sized, their good intentions may not last the distance. If they lack the necessary habit of commitment, intentions can unravel when life picks away at them."

Being able to honour commitments has a lot to do with having a good strong character and 'good character' in our children does not just happen; it is the outcome of consistent efforts of parents and teachers over many years. Aristotle made the observation that, "Good moral behaviour comes about as the result of habit, we become just by doing just acts, brave by doing brave acts." We are not born with character. Character is a learned behavior.

Psychologist, Tom Licona, suggests that character can be understood better if taken in two parts: 'Performance Character - those qualities such as self-discipline and perseverance that enables us to give our best effort and do our best work in any performance context and Moral Character - those qualities such as honesty, justice and caring that enables us to have successful relationships, live and work in community and assume the responsibility of citizenship.' He goes on to say that, "The goal of Catholic character is not simply 'good character' but the character of Christ."

When we encourage our children to be the best possible persons they can be, we are encouraging them to strive for excellence, to develop their gifts, those talents that enable them to become fully the person God means them to be. When we encourage our children to be of strong moral character, we are asking them to exercise the capacity God gave them for goodness and the ability to love other people in a way that reflects God's love - to be of the character of Christ.

By providing loving relationships, being good role models, setting high expectations, upholding firm and fair discipline and by holding our children accountable to themselves, we provide an environment that supports the development of good character; we provide the means for our children to grow as people committed to the Christian way.

Kindergarten 2017 interviews

This week Father Fernando and I have commenced meeting with new families seeking to enrol their children at St Monica's next year. It is always an immense privilege to listen to the aspirations and dreams that parents have for their children and their motivation in seeking to join this Catholic community.

Often what are put forward as reasons for seeking a Catholic-based education is described in terms such as: nurturing, community, faith, values, high expectations, holistic and broad education, care, support, committed teachers, family and relationships.

What is often being described in this language is not simply words but a reality to be lived. This reality is based on children being educated as part of a community where Christ is encountered each day through kindness, forgiveness, love, patience, hospitality, compassion and service.

NAPLAN

In 12 days time the students in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit the NAPLAN test. This testing is an Australia wide test completed under set conditions to ensure reliable, nationally comparable results across all schools and sectors. They are 'a snapshot' of a student at one point of time in his/her learning.

Many factors can influence a student's performance on the day such as illness, a family crisis, lack of sleep and anxiety issue.

Therefore, it would be wrong to define a student's capability and capacity as a learner by a 'one test on a day'. A student's overall performance can not be measured by any one NAPLAN result.

Student growth is a daily, life-long journey. As with all journeys, sometimes the road is long and hard, winding and unpredictable, fun and challenging and full of surprises along the way. Parts of the journey are smooth sailing, parts are difficult, other parts are easy and happy But the journey is life-long.

At St Monica's our teachers have ongoing data on every student and they use these to inform their teaching and learning on a daily basis. Intervention is designed and personalised learning plans are established as we gather more data and make observations. The work that teachers do every day is enormous.

When NAPLAN results are received at the end of Term 3 our school will use the information as a guide to measure the effectiveness of our teaching in literacy and numeracy.

Once again we supply breakfast each morning for the Year 3 and Year 5 children who are completing NAPLAN. The breakfast will be held in the Hall commencing at 8:00am. Cereal, toast and fruit will be served. If any parent can assist serving breakfast please contact Bernadette Haddad 0409 507 059.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS—tomorrow

**All students to wear full summer uniform
(short-sleeve polo shirts, shorts, culottes, school shoes)**

No running shoes, long pants or stockings/tights please.

School photographs will be held **tomorrow Thursday 28 April**.

Ordering envelopes and instruction sheets were sent home last term with every child.

If you are ordering online your child does not need to return their envelope.

Please note that **no change** will be available from the school office.

**Regardless of the weather, students are to wear their
SUMMER UNIFORM for the photos.**

Whole School Photo will be taken at 8:50am SHARP!! Don't be late!

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

St Monica's Athletics Carnival will be held **this Friday 29 April** at Barton Park (Gladstone Street, North Parramatta). The buses will depart school at **9:00am**. Please bring plastic to sit on as the ground may be damp. Please refer to the original note for further details (on the school website).



DANCE FEVER

Please note that Dance Fever starts on **Friday 6 May (Week 2)** for all students. Students will need to wear their **sports uniform** and joggers **every Friday** this term. *Mrs Erin Turner*

ICAS (Competition for Stages 2 and 3)

A reminder that the closing date for all ICAS competitions is **Tuesday 3 May**. No late payments can be accepted. The original note is on the school website under School Notes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Miss Emily Clough on her recent engagement to Mitch. It is a very exciting time for Emily and her family.



WELCOME

Welcome to Maryam (ES1), Anthony (Year 1) and their family to our school community.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

The Biggest Morning Tea will be held on **Monday 23 May**. Please mark this date in your diaries. More details to follow.

WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM / UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Parents are reminded that all students are to be wearing their **full winter uniform** by **Monday 9 May (Term 2, Week 3)**.

The Uniform Shop is open on Tuesday mornings (during school terms) between 8:30am—9:30am.

Parents are encouraged to send in their completed uniform order forms (with payment details included) so that the order can be filled and returned home with your child.

Please be advised that the new finance system is **still in a trial stage** and your patience while this is being implemented is appreciated. Thank you.

GIRLS

Summer

Short-sleeved St Monica's shirt
Culottes
Navy Socks
Black school shoes

Winter

Short-sleeved shirt
Long sleeved shirt (optional)
Culottes / Long navy pants
Navy Sloppy Joe (optional)
School Jacket
Navy winter stockings
Black school shoes

Sport

Short-Sleeved Shirt
Sports Shorts
Tracksuit Pants/School Jacket
White Socks
Joggers (predominantly white)

BOYS

Summer

Short-sleeved St Monica's shirt
Navy blue shorts
Navy Socks
Black school shoes

Winter

Short-Sleeved Shirt
Long Sleeved shirt (optional)
Long Navy pants
Navy Sloppy Joe (optional)
School Jacket
Navy Socks
Black school shoes

Sport

Short-Sleeved Shirt
Sports Shorts
Tracksuit pants/School Jacket
White 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

OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on **Monday May 9, 2016**.

Tour the College and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team. The College is now enrolling for 2018.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au to reserve your place. Contact the Registrar 8838 1222 to discuss how your daughter can be a Mercy Girl.

Mother's Day Stall

When: Monday 2 May 2016 (Week 2)
Where: Parish Hall
Time: 8:20am *Siblings*
9:00am *All Students*



This year's Mother's Day Stall will be held on **Monday 2 May**. This is a chance for school students to shop at school for something special for Mum. The children can purchase some wonderful gifts to suit all mums, which will range from \$4 to \$12. Children need to bring their money to shop on the day. The most secure way would be in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it and the amount enclosed.

Siblings may shop together before school at 8:20am.

Mother's Day Mass

When: Friday 6 May 2016 (Week 2)
Where: St Monica's Church
Time: 9:15am



The school would like to show how much St Monica's mums are appreciated, and so all mums, grandmothers etc are invited to attend a special Mass at St Monica's Church at 9:15am on Friday 6 May. Always a beautiful Mass which brings tears to your eyes! Morning Tea will follow in the Hall.

How can you help?

We need parents who can assist us with the Stall on the day. Please advise Gulshan (0405 043 170) if you can help. Thank you for your support.

Social/Welcome Team



Catherine McAuley Westmead School Open Morning **9:15 – 11:00 am Tuesday 17th May 2016** **Enrolments for Year 7 2018**

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2018. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on our upcoming school tour especially for Year 7 2018 applicants but open to any year group.

Our Open Morning is a great opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend. Our school tours will leave at 9.15am and car parking will be available in the visitor's car parking area via Gate 3 from 9am onwards. Ask for details when making your booking.

Term 2—Upcoming Events



Week 1

- Thursday 28 April * School Photos—Students to wear **SUMMER UNIFORM**
- Friday 29 April * Athletics Carnival, Barton Park, Gladstone Street, North Parramatta

Week 2

- Monday 2 May * Mother's Day Stall
- Tuesday 3 May * Cross Country Eastern Creek
- Friday 6 May * Dance Fever commences (Sports Uniform)
- * 9:15am Mother's Day Mass followed by Morning Tea
- Sunday 8 May * Mother's Day

Week 3

- Monday 9 May * All students to be wearing their WINTER uniform
- Tues 10 —Thurs 12 * 8am NAPLAN breakfast for Year 3 and Year 5
- Tuesday 10 May * NAPLAN (Spelling, Writing, Grammar) Years 3 & 5
- Wednesday 11 May * NAPLAN (Reading) Years 3 & 5
- * 7pm Social/Welcome Team Meeting
- Thursday 12 May * NAPLAN (Numeracy) Years 3 & 5
- Friday 13 May * Dance Fever (sport uniform)
- * 2pm Church Cleaning (School Group rostered on)
- * 7pm Confirmation (6:30pm for a 7pm start)

Week 4

- Friday 20 May * Dance Fever (sport uniform)
- Saturday 21 May * Trivia Night

Week 5

- Monday 23 May * Biggest Morning Tea
- Friday 27 May * Dance Fever (sport uniform)

Week 6

- Tuesday 31 May * ICAS Science (Stage 2 and Stage 3)
- Friday 3 June * Dance Fever (sport uniform)
- Saturday 4 June * 5pm Mass—Registration for First Communion
- Sunday 5 June * 9am Mass—Registration for First Communion

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: **Wednesday** 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



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

ALL parent volunteers MUST now have a 'Working with Children Check'.

This replaces the Prohibited Declaration Forms some parents have completed in the past. These forms are no longer valid.

We ask that **ALL** volunteers complete a 'Working With Children Check' as soon as possible so that you can continue to be a volunteer in our school. This includes volunteering in the classroom and on excursions.

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. The link for the WWC Check is available on the front page of our website.

The check is free for volunteers and is valid for 5 years.

Parents will need to complete the online application—you will then receive an email with an application number.

- Print out this email and take it to the RMS (Roads and Maritime Services) with your identification.
- Once your application has been processed you will then be sent another email providing you with a 'Working With Children Check' number. **Please forward this email to the school email address - stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au (please include your date of birth).**

ONLINE TRAINING MODULE — Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta
<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>

Please note that **ALL** volunteers are also required to complete the Online Training Module through the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta every two (2) years. The link for the Online Training Module is also on the front page of our website.

Please note that BOTH modules must be completed in order to comply with the requirements.