

ST MONICA'S
PRIMARY
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 1, WEEK 7
Wednesday 11 March 2015

DIARY DATES

Week 7	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
Fri 13	9:45-11am Cross Country at Lake Parramatta 11:15am—Open Classrooms Dance Fever— (Parents welcome) see timetable
Sat 14	Trivia Night
Week 8	
Mon 16	Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 17	Uniform Shop 8:30am-9:30am St Patrick's Day Liturgy 10:30am
Fri 20	Dance Fever 9:15am Stg 3 Parish Mass MacKillop Swimming Championships Church Cleaning 2pm National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
Week 9	
Mon 23	Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 24	Uniform Shop 8:30-9:30am
Wed 25	9:15am Stg 2 Parish Mass
Thurs 26	9:15am ES1 Parish Mass
Week 10	HOLY WEEK
Mon 30	8:50am Morning Liturgy Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 31	8:50am Morning Liturgy Uniform Shop—8:30am - 9:30am
APRIL	
Wed 1	8:50am Morning Liturgy
Thur 2	8:50am Morning Liturgy School closes for Term 1 at 3:00pm
Fri 3	GOOD FRIDAY
Sun 5	EASTER SUNDAY
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Week 1	
Mon 20	School resumes—Term 2
Tues 21	Uniform Shop 8:30-9:30am
Sat 25	Anzac Day



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Catholic Schools Week—Educating for Today and Tomorrow

This week is a very significant week for the 615 Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools across NSW and the ACT as we showcase what happens every day in our schools. Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between all those who have a stake in our schools—children, families, staff, priests, parishioners and the wider community. Each day our staff share in the evangelising mission of the Church integrating faith, life and culture within our community.

This year the theme of Catholic Schools Week is “Educating for Today and Tomorrow”. This theme was carefully selected to reflect the 50th anniversary of *Gravissimum Educationis*. The Latin, Gravissimum Educationis, which translates to Declaration on Christian Education, is a document of the Second Vatican Council. The document recognised the continuing need for the Church to support parents in the education of their children so that they might be better equipped to participate professionally in the social, political and economic life of their communities. Fifty years on, it is still relevant today as we celebrate our partnership with you, our students and the parish.

During the week I would encourage you to share with your children your reasons for choosing St Monica's Primary. I hope that your children will appreciate your reasons for choosing this school.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for our school mass yesterday. Later on in the day we welcomed forty visitors to our school for our Open Afternoon. These visitors were able to hear and observe all the great learning that takes place at St Monica's every day.

Thank you to Neil Joseph, Tiffany Cooper and Camille Sloane who accompanied our Year 6 students Kyah Day, Amalie Dona, Alysha Dunnett, Sally Essey, Hayley Herder-Beke, Abbi Lewis, Mattheas Noonan and Patrick Newey on tours of our school and answered lots of questions and spoke about the learning at St Monica's.

This Friday, 13 March, we will conclude our Catholic Schools Week with a number of celebrations. We look forward to sharing our learning with parents for all or part of the day.

Friday 13 March 2015—Catholic Schools Week Activities

- ◆ Cross Country 9:45am-11:00am Lake Parramatta
- ◆ Recess
- ◆ Open Classrooms 11:15am
- ◆ Dance Fever Athletics (*parents welcome to attend*)

ES1/Year 1:	11:50am-12:20pm
Year 2	12:20pm-12:50pm
Years 3/4	1:30pm—2:15pm
Years 5/6	2:15pm—3:00pm



Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING PROJECT (QCS)

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will once again be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2015. QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning. This will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

From **Monday 9th March to Friday 20th March 2015** all staff, all students from Stage 3 and 60 parents, randomly selected by the Catholic Education Office, will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. These parents have been sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20 – 30 minutes to complete. ***If you choose to complete the survey online, we ask that you send a short email to the school notifying us that the survey has been completed.*** The school email address is: **stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au**

Please note that paper surveys must be returned by Wednesday 18th March.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

Any parent selected to complete the survey is encouraged to participate as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas for improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Miss O'Donnell or Mrs Abood in the office.

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that Term 1 school fees were due last Friday 6 March 2015. Thank you to those families who have paid their fees. Any family who has not paid their fees or made an arrangement with the school are asked to contact the school office ***immediately***. ***(Please advise Mrs Cattermole if you have still not received your account so that she can provide you with a copy).***

CATHOLIC EDUCATION— DID YOU KNOW?

The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from federal and state governments must keep pace with rising education costs – to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families. Make your vote count—How does your party support Catholic education?

POSMS

Some of our parents run a Facebook group to help keep everyone up to date with events, links to newsletters and notes, CEO news etc. You can join the group: Web: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/POSMS/>
It is also handy for questions like "Is it mufti tomorrow?", "Do Stage 2 wear sports uniform for the excursion?"

NB: Concerns and issues should always be raised with your child's teacher, rather than aired with this group.

BOOKS This Friday 13 March, religion books will be sent home with the students and on Friday 20 March numeracy books will be sent home. Thank you to all the parents who responded to their child's learning and gave them feedback. The students enjoyed sharing the feedback with their peers and teachers.

APP - Five Nights at Freddy's

In the past two weeks I have been informed by parents that they were concerned about an app that their children were wanting. I have looked on the Common Sense Media website where they have previewed the app as a **'terrifying psychological thriller, too much for kids'**. **Recommended age 14+.**

Parents need to know *Five Nights at Freddy's* is a **horror game** that uses tension and jump scares in place of blood and guts - and, as a result, is a lot scarier than many other titles. The sense of being trapped and defenceless in a small office quickly becomes real -- and when the animatronic characters jump out at you, you'll jump (and maybe scream). This makes the game much too intense for younger children- and teens should know what they're getting into.

We encourage all parents to be vigilant in monitoring the APPS that can easily be downloaded as some APPS are very inappropriate for young children.

TOYS AT SCHOOL

Parents are requested to ensure that their child does not bring toys (including Pokemon Cards, expensive/sentimental games/toys) to school. Children become upset if items are misplaced or lost and this impacts on their learning throughout the day.

Stage 3 GRIP Leadership Conference

On the 4th of March, a group of Stage 3 students went to Homebush Sydney Olympic Park to attend a leadership conference. During Session 1, we learnt another way to interpret scissors, paper, rock. First paper, it means create a plan, scissors mean take action and rock means stay strong.

During Session 2, we learnt four principles. First, stand up when there is an opportunity, stand up for what is right, stand up for others and lastly stand up for yourself. One of our students, Kyah represented our school in a game called 'Stand up for what's right'.

Our last session was about creating our own leadership plan to present to our school. Plan stands for:

Priority areas
Listen
Activity
Next step

Patrick was also chosen to participate in a segment called 'Loud Noises'.

We would like to thank Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Essey for transporting us to and from the conference.

Written by: Abbi Lewis, Sally Essey, Hayley Herder-Beke and Kyah Day.

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards this term.



ES1: Liam Sciacca, Mary Cabot and Siria Mondinelli

Year 1 Evan Michael and Simon Forsyth

Year 2: Neave Sciacca and Charles Sentas

Stage 2: Marley Puyat, Trinity Bird, Matilda-Rose Hall, Hayden Herder-Beke, Peter Farah, Isabella Smith, Ray Khadi, Lachlan Dardagos and Jessica Dib

Stage 3: Erica Crame and Jackson Basha

PERMISSION NOTES

The following permission notes have been sent home this Term. All of the permission notes mentioned below are available on the school website under NEWS AND EVENTS then SCHOOL NOTES (Whole School Notes)



- ***Local Excursion***
- ***Acceptable Use of Information Technologies (IT) (Please read with your child and print last page)***
- ***Mode of Transport***
- ***Raffle Tickets (eldest child)***
- ***Consent Form: Use of Student 's Image and or Work.***

There are still a number of students who have not yet returned these notes.

Please ensure that the notes are returned to school immediately.

- ***Students must have their 'Acceptable Use of Information Technologies permission note' signed and returned before they will be allowed access to the school's technology.***

'KISS AND DROP' ZONE

Parents are requested to please adhere to the 'Kiss and Drop' guidelines. There have been a number of incidents where parents/carers are stopping their car in the 'Kiss and Drop' zone in the mornings and walking the children to the playground. Parents/carers are not to get out of the car if they are in this zone and children are to exit the car from the **driver's side only**. If you wish to walk your child to the playground, please park in the carpark spaces and use the pedestrian crossing near the double gates.

Please remind anyone who is dropping off children to school of these important rules.

The safety of the children is our highest priority. Thank you for your co-operation.

CUMBERLAND ZONE SWIMMING

St Monica's participated in the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival at Parramatta Pools on Tuesday 17 February. We were blessed with beautiful weather and an astonishing 19 students represented our school in a wide range of events. St Monica's was very proud to have our own Kyah Day awarded 11yr Girls Champion at the Zone Carnival. Congratulations Kyah!

Thank you to Mr Neil Joseph for your outstanding assistance with timekeeping throughout the day. St Monica's parents are truly a testament to the values of St Monica's and Miss Bagnall and I greatly appreciated all of your assistance on the day.

Congratulations to our relay teams who participated in the event for the first time. Both of our Junior Girls and Senior Girls progressed to the Diocesan Carnival. Well done!

Thank you to Miss Bagnall for your organisation leading up to the day as well as assisting the students to ensure that they were ready for their events.

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the Diocesan Carnival held on Friday 27th February: Alexander Azar, Chanel Azar, Kyah Day, Hayley Herder-Beke, Abbi Lewis, Chelsea Lewis, Madeline Lewis, Matilda Rose-Hall and Sally Essey.

DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Kyah Day who was again awarded 11yr Girls Champion at the Diocesan Carnival. Congratulations also to Abbi Lewis and our Junior Girls Relay Team (Chanel Azar, Matilda-Rose Hall, Madeline Lewis and Chelsea Lewis) who will continue on to the MacKillop Swimming Championships on Friday 20 March at the Sydney Aquatic Centre at Homebush.

Good luck girls!

Mrs Erin Turner
Sport Coordinator



STATE LITTLE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Brendan Pospischil and Lachlan Roberts (Stage 3) who will be competing in the State Little Athletics Championships at Homebush on 21-22 March. Lachlan will represent Parramatta Little Athletics in the 800m while Brendan will compete for Winston Hills Little Athletics in the 1100m race walk. We wish them the best of luck.

NAPLAN 2015

All parents of Year 3 and Year 5 students should have received a letter this week outlining the National Assessment Program -Literacy and Numeracy.

	Tuesday 12th May	Wednesday 13th May	Thursday 14th May
Year 3	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Meale family (Skye—Stage 2 and Abbi— ES1) on the birth of their new baby sister Grace Elizabeth.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH 2015

The Seasons for Growth school program is based on the belief that grief is normal and can be a valuable part of life and that children need to be provided with the opportunity to examine how grief, as a result of death, separation or divorce has impacted on their lives.

The program is based on research, which highlights the importance of social support in dealing with grief.

Seasons for Growth

- Assists students in understanding that the emotions associated with their losses are normal.
- Encourages the expressions of thoughts and emotions.
- Helps restores self- confidence and self-esteem.
- Develops a peer support network.

The program caters for different age levels where groups are limited to 4-6 children. The children are withdrawn from class once a week for 40 minutes. Each session is facilitated by the same Companion, and children participate in eight formal sessions, one celebration session and two 'reconnector' sessions.

The trained Companions at St Monica's this year are Mrs Sharon Boulous and Mrs Mary-Jo Mason.

The children must have parental permission to attend the program.

At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest from parents who believe such a program would benefit their child/children.

Please fill in the form below and return to school by Friday 27 March 2015.

If you have any queries about the program please feel free to contact me.

Mary-Jo Mason

Assistant Principal

✂ _____

SEASONS FOR GROWTH—2015

(Please return to Mrs Mason by Friday 27 March 2015)

I _____ (Parent) am interested in my
(PRINT NAME)

child _____ in _____
(PRINT NAME) (HOMEROOM)

attending the *Seasons For Growth Program* this year.

Signed: _____

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

CHRISM MASS

St Patrick's Cathedral
Wednesday 1st April— 7.30pm

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

St Monica's Parish
Thursday, 2nd April—7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

St Monica's Parish
3rd April— **Stations of the Cross**—10am
Chinese Stations of the Cross— 1.30pm
Passion of the Lord—3pm
Reconciliation will follow the 3pm Liturgy

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Easter Vigil

St Monica's Parish
Saturday, 4th April—6.30pm
Chinese Mass —9.00pm

Easter Sunday

St Monica's Parish
5th April—9am
Chinese Mass—11.30am
No evening Mass

2015 CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

Each year the School is placed on the Church Cleaning roster to assist with the cleaning of St Monica's Church.

Volunteers are invited to assist on the days listed below. The group generally meets at 2pm at the Church and are always finished well before school dismissal.

Please contact the school if this is an area that you would be able to assist with.

Friday 20 March

Friday 29 May

Friday 24 July

Friday 14 August

Friday 23 October

St Monica's Primary School ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

ROLYWOOD MEETS HOLLYWOOD
FANCY DRESS TRIVIA & GAMES NIGHT
 6.30pm SATURDAY 14th MARCH in the School Hall

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS ADULTS ONLY BYO ALCOHOL & MISCIBLES \$15 PER PERSON PLUS GOLD COINS FOR GAMES AT THE END

NO TICKETS SOLD ON THE NIGHT For Enquiries contact Tiff Cooper 0409 205 721 or email tiff@bdcbuild.com.au

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

NAME: _____
 NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____
 TOTAL: \$ _____ (\$15 per person)
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

TEAM REGISTRATION
 Already have between 8 & 8 players? Register as a team.

NAME: _____
 NUMBER IN TEAM: _____
 TOTAL: \$ _____ (\$15 per person)
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 TEAM NAME: _____

PAYMENT TYPE:

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



Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard ?

Aria Music is enrolling for 2015 at St Monica's
 Please email: ariamusic@stmonicas.com.au
 Ph: 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!
 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
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WE CAN HELP TRANSFORM YOUR CHILD

FROM THIS TO THIS TO THIS!

REGISTRATIONS ARE **NOW OPEN** FOR THE **UNDER 6's TO UNDER 17's**

Come and join a great family club and transform your child into a future Wallaby!

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