

DIARY DATES

Week 9

Wed 11 7pm Triple P Course

Thurs 12 Gymnastics
MacKillop Athletics

Fri 13 Theme Lunch—
Hot Dog Day

Week 10

Mon 16 8.30am-10.30am
Uniform Shop

9am-11am
Pow Wow

Tues 17 7.30pm Registration
for Reconciliation

Wed 18 7pm ES1 2014
Parent Meeting
7pm Triple P Course

Fri 20 Tombolo—students to
bring a bottle for the
stall

Students to wear
SPORT UNIFORM

Term 3 ends at
3:00pm

OCTOBER - TERM 4

Week 1

Mon 7 **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
Students do not attend
school

Tues 8 **STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY**
Students do not attend
school

Wed 9 Term 4 commences
Summer Uniform



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Last Sunday, students from Stage 2 and Stage 3 made their First Holy Communion. Receiving First Eucharist is God's special gift to his people. God invites us to share this special meal - the meal of his love.

When children receive the Sacrament of Communion for the first time, they know, through their preparation, that Jesus becomes food for their soul under the appearance of bread and wine. They are encouraged to receive Communion afterwards, as often as they can, in order to remain in close friendship with Jesus. This is because, when we receive Communion, we receive Jesus and all that he stands for: his compassion toward the sick and disadvantaged, his forgiveness of those burdened by guilt, his call on people to share their wealth, his teaching of the true meaning of love.

The reality for many, who made their First Communion at an early age, is that they did not continue to nurture that friendship with Jesus. However, the friendship is still there but, for any number of reasons, it is no longer a two-way friendship; Jesus is the only one keeping it going. Maybe, as we matured as people, work ambitions or perhaps problems and worries consumed our attention and energy and our Spiritual development got left behind. Maybe anger, hurt or disappointment soured us in some way. Maybe we forgot about prayer, Mass and the Sacraments and thought that we were completely self-sufficient.

In the last chapter of St Luke's Gospel is a story of two disciples who were on their way from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. As they journeyed, they were joined by another traveller and the conversation turned to the events of the previous Friday when: *"Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, was betrayed by our chief priest and leaders and handed over to be condemned and crucified."* Luke 24:19,20. When, eventually, they arrived at Emmaus, the two disciples invited the other traveller to stay with them. *"When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then, their eyes were opened and they recognised him."* Luke 24:29-31.

Jesus had been travelling with them but they were so involved in the recent events of their own lives that they did not recognise Him. Jesus became real to them through the blessing and breaking of bread, in other words through the Eucharist. Jesus first gave his body and blood to the disciples during the last Supper in anticipation of the Resurrection.

When our children receive their First Communion, we might imagine them as the disciples who walked the road to Emmaus. Imagine them as leading us to recognise Jesus, who has never left the friendship we had with Him. In the Mass Jesus, through the priest, will break bread with us in the Eucharist, and offer us the opportunity to renew or further develop our friendship with Him.

Have a great week.

Louise O'Donnell
Principal



JOHNNY ROMEO

Johnny Romeo is part of the Diocese of Parramatta Captivate Team and has been our resident artist for the past three years. Around the school you can see many of the artworks that the children have completed under his guidance. Johnny's latest work has been a photography project with some of our Stage 3 students. The students were asked to capture what we value here at St Monica's. In their discussion of ideas with Johnny the students identified the following as important to us: team work, friendship, sharing, investigation, engagement, technology, co-operative learning and positive relationships with staff.

After a voting process with students, staff and parents the photographs were chosen that capture these ideas. At assembly this week the chosen photographs will be shown to the students and next Tuesday large posters of these photographs will be hung on our playground. In Term 4 there will be a presentation to our community whereby the process will be explained in detail.

MAINTENANCE

Each school in the Diocese recently had an independent assessment of the state of their facilities and we were given a very detailed report. Our report listed a number of items that needed to be addressed immediately. Some of the items were easy to complete by our groundsman, Mr Elliott such as applying silicone to wet areas and the kitchens, replacing light diffusers and repairing locks.

Other work though required specialist attention. For the last two Saturdays and Sundays painters have been preparing and painting all the doors in our school and this work will be completed this Saturday. The maintenance report also indicated that we needed to repair the soft fall.

The soft fall has been repaired several times over the past 4 years and after advice from three independent companies and the Catholic Education Office, we will replace the soft fall with synthetic grass on the first Saturday of the school holidays.

FETE NEWS

The next Fete Newsletter will be sent out this Friday.

A volunteer form is included in the fete newsletter and I know that you all will be very generous in offering to volunteer to do one or more of the jobs listed on the form so that our fete is a raging success!

RAFFLE TICKETS

Thank you to all the parents that have sold and returned raffle tickets and also to those parents who have asked for more books to sell.

The school was given a total of 350 raffle books to sell out of the 1000 books that were printed.

As it stands today -

NUMBER OF BOOKS SOLD AND RETURNED	NUMBER OF BOOKS TO BE RETURNED	NUMBER OF EXTRA BOOKS STILL TO BE SOLD
82	140	128

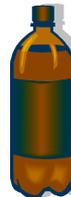
As you can see we have quite a number of books to be returned and we need more parents to offer to sell another raffle book or more. Consider selling tickets to family, friends, and work colleagues.

We have just over 6 weeks to our fete and I am confident that all of our raffle tickets will be sold!

On Friday 20th September we will have our first special draw for all the children who have returned raffle tickets so far. Don't forget to fill in the final page in the raffle booklet before you return your sold tickets. Special raffles will be held in the lead up to the Fete.

TOMBOLO

Our final drive for items for the fete this term is for our tombolo stall (bottle lottery). Please send in any item that comes in a bottle eg soft drinks, cordial, vegemite, jam, pasta sauces, salad dressings, toppings, coffee, etc. Students will be asked to place the bottle in baskets at the gate as they arrive for school. Children who bring in bottles will be given a raffle ticket and we have 4 family Powerhouse Passes valued at \$25 to give away.



BASKETS

If any parent has large baskets at home that are no longer needed, the Chocolate wheel Coordinators would love to receive them. We have a number of prizes that need to be placed in baskets so that they can be displayed at the fete. Please drop the baskets in at the office.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (Term 4)

Please note that the next Staff Development Day will be on **Tuesday 8 October 2013** (Week 1 Term 4 —the day after the long weekend). Students do not attend school on this day. Staff will focus on the new English Curriculum, Assessment and the ESL scales.



Term 4 will commence for students on **Wednesday 9 October**.

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

The Catholic Education Office has developed a policy related to the notice required from parents to terminate their children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese.

In part this states that **"A terms notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full terms fees will be paid. The notice can be given any time 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.

SHOES

A number of students are wearing incorrect footwear on a daily basis and class teachers have not received correspondence from parents as to the reason. Parents are reminded that students are required to wear the following footwear:

Boys and Girls: Navy Socks and Black School Shoes

Boys and Girls: Navy or White Socks and Joggers (*Sport days only*)

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property bin located outside the school office is full of unclaimed jackets, hats, lunchboxes and drinkbottles. Please check the bin to see if any of these items belong to your child/children.

Jackets and hats remaining in lost property at the end of the term will be cleaned and donated to the uniform shop.

TENNIS LESSONS

Mr Davidson has advised that tennis lessons will resume on **Wednesday 9 October 2013** (1st day of Term 4).

HOT DOG DAY

A reminder that there will be a Hot Dog Day this **Friday 13 September** during lunchtime. Hot dogs will be \$2.00 each and students are to bring their money on the day. Money raised will be going towards technology for the Learning Space. *Social/Welcome Team*

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



Medeea Pandrea	Sally Essey	Felicity Dunnett	Marcus Gaddi
Maurice Haddad	Marley Puyat	Nazanin Abdollahi Haghshenas	Mattheas Noonan
Julian Peen	Jack Talty	Neave Sciacca	Kimi Cruz
<i>Staff: Miss Bentley</i>			

READING ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS—Term 3

Congratulations to the following students who recently received Reading Encouragement Awards.

ES1	Kimi Cruz, Galia Evangelista, Aidan Muttoo
Stage 1	Michael Kositse, Alexis Chang, Jessica Dib, Jason Grey, Jonah Assaf, Amelia Furjanic
Stage 2	Alanah Khadi, Salama Kipanya Kunambi, Andy Haddad, Brandon Wallace, Philip Joseph, Pankti Patel
Stage 3	Catherine Trimbounas, Elleni Sentas, Christiane Farah, Chantelle Grabham, Nicholas Roberts

Mrs Mary-Jo Mason

ICAS—ENGLISH

Congratulations to the following children who participated in the ICAS English exam

Cassandra Kowalczyk – Credit, Natasha Muttoo – Credit, Brandon Lukic – Credit, Jack Talty – Distinction, Kyah Day – Credit, Abbi Lewis – Participation, Pankti Patel – Participation, Saisriman Tadepalli – Participation, Nish Jain – Credit, Edward Joseph – Credit, Julian Peen – Distinction

The Value for St Monica's School in **Week 9** is **"Perseverance"**.

The list shows the students' understanding of this value.

encourage
effort
resultgoals
persist
PERSEVERANCE
focus
work

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER—Term 3

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	TIME
Thursday 19 September	Year 2 attend Parish Mass	St Monica's Church	9:15am
Friday 20 September	Mercy Day Activities	Learning Space	9-2pm
Friday 20 September	Tombolo (Bottle Lottery)	St Monica's School	

MERCY DAY

Friday 20th September (last day of Term 3)

Students are to wear sports uniform for the activities afternoon



September 24th is Mercy Day!! This celebration is a time for schools founded by the Sisters of Mercy to reflect on the values of social justice and mission. Our school stairwells and Foyer will be named in honour of this founding congregation. The foyer is named 'Mercy Foyer', the ES1 stairwell will now be known as the 'Sullivan Stairs' in honour of our founding Principal. The Stage Three stairwell will be called the 'Catherine McAuley Stairs' in honour of the foundress of the Mercy Sisters, Catherine McAuley. On September 20, five of our previous Mercy Sister Principals will join us for morning tea and a blessing of these areas.

- ◆ 9:00am Liturgy
- ◆ 9:15am—10:30am Activities
- ◆ Mercy Sisters visit
- ◆ 10:50am—11:10am Recess
- ◆ 11:30am Blessing of the Foyer and Stairs—Father Fernando
- ◆ Lunch
- ◆ 12:45pm—2:00pm Afternoon activities

School Banking Update: Redeem your tokens for a moneybox this year!

In 2014 the School Banking program will be launching a new set of exciting reward items for students to redeem their tokens for. Each reward item will continue to be valued at 10 tokens (i.e. 10 deposits) and there will be **two new** reward items for students to choose from **each term**.



With exciting new reward items on offer in 2014, please be aware that the **Dollarmites moneyboxes will no longer be available next year**. To avoid any child missing out on claiming their moneybox, please let your children know of this change and encourage them to redeem their moneybox this school year.

In an effort to ensure your child doesn't miss out, the rule of one money box per year has been removed. If your child is trying to collect the series of Dollarmite moneyboxes, they are encouraged to do so before the end of the school year. Please understand that they still need 10 tokens to redeem each moneybox.

Sydney's largest school holiday program returns this spring, with over 60 fun-filled activities to keep your kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under \$20, making it affordable to discover Sydney's most exciting playground this holidays!

All Day Holiday Recreational Program	Kids Yoga
AFL Clinics	Kids on Canvas
Archery – Kids on Target	Martial Arts for Kids
Cheer and Dance	Segway Fun Rides
Circus Skills and Flying Trapeze	Writing Workshops
Fizzics Education – Lego Roboticsand lots more

Full details at www.kidsinthepark.com.au.

POW WOW NEWS

Hi everyone. We have been very busy over the last two weeks. We have learned the letter the letters I, J, K and L. Next week we will be learning M & N. Happy birthday to Helen Elias and Madeline Smith . On Monday Helen brought in a piñata to share with the children and it was lots of fun . Next Monday is the last Pow Wow session for Term 3. Have a wonderful holiday and we will see you in term 4. Pow Wow resumes on Monday 14 October. *Mrs Bernadette Haddad*

**NOTICE**

If your child has received the **Sacrament of Baptism** and is in **Year 3 or above**, he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

Registration: Tuesday 17th September at 7:30pm in the Community Centre.
(*Please bring Baptismal Certificate*)

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is offering another 7 week "Post Separation Recovery Program" for those who are separated or divorced. Each Session includes input, small and large group sharing and time for personal reflection on aspects such as grief, dealing with intense emotions, learning lessons from the past, redefining yourself, forgiveness, setting goals and moving forward. It has proved to be a very effective "recovery" program for those who have experienced the breakdown of their marriage relationship. Commences 7.30pm Wednesday, 23rd Oct. at Blacktown. For registration and further details: Ph. 99330205 or soloparentministry@ccss.org.au

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED

CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is holding its second fortnightly Bereavement Support Group Session on Wed 18th Sept. for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. The topic for this Session is "*Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief*". Venue: St Finbar's Parish Centre, 46 Levy St. Glenbrook from 10.30 – 12.30. This is an opportunity to gain some information about the grieving process and to support each other during this most difficult and painful time. Details and Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

MINDQUEST 2013 - Glenwood HS, Cnr Forman Ave and Glenwood Park Ave, Glenwood 2768
Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November 2013 9:30am—3:30pm

On Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November 2013, the 70th MindQuest program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1-6 at Glenwood HS. 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 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 \$170 (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 Beecroft, 35 mins North Sydney, 25 mins Strathfield, 30 mins Richmond, Penrith and Hornsby. Closing date: Friday 11 October 2013. **Contact Mrs Mason for more information.**

SPLASH FESTIVAL—Sydney Olympic Park, Aquatic Centre

Sunday 29 September 2013 10am—5pm.

Purchase tickets online at www.ticketdirect.com.au or for more information call (02) 9752 3666

Grace & Silence Retreat Day for Young Women: 21 September Young women aged 17-30 who are discerning their vocation to marriage, single or consecrated life are invited to the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa for a Grace & Silence Retreat Day. Grace & Silence commences with a short impulse followed by Eucharistic adoration; silent prayer and reflection and concludes with a group rosary and afternoon tea. Cost: \$20 includes lunch. Time: 9.30am-4.30pm. Venue: 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Further information and **registration contact Sr M Julie Brcar 0408 738 334 or juliebrcar@gmail.com**

Prayer and Reflection Day: 13 October Everyone is welcome to this lovely day of quiet, peaceful prayer and reflection in beautiful surroundings of the Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Rd, Castle Hill. Time: 10.30am-3pm. Donation: \$10. Bookings: CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0205.

Mass in Igbo language: 13 October Mass celebrated in Nigerian at 11.30am in St Oliver Plunkett's Church, 35 Wigram St, Harris Park. Details: Austin Okerefor: 0421 928 116, Evaton Onton: 0469 627 218 or Stella Nwosu tel 0405 478 472, 8678 2118, stellanwosu@msn.com

Remembering Marriages at St Mary's Cathedral: 13 October Those married at St Mary's Cathedral are invited to return with their families for a special Mass of Thanksgiving, Blessing and Renewal of Vows on Sunday 13 October at 10.30am, followed by morning tea on the Crypt Veranda. Certificates will be presented for 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, or 60th anniversaries. Those with ancestors married at St Mary's are also invited to join in this wonderful celebration. To register your interest, RSVP by 10 October to Helen tel (02) 9220 0414 or Event Coordinator: valentina.markovina@sydneycatholic.org

9th National eConference on St John's Gospel: 16 October Theme: 'The love of God made visible'. Keynote educators: Fr Francis Moloney SDB and Dr Dorothy Lee. A FREE eConference presented by The Broken Bay Institute in association with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Institute for Mission in Blacktown is a host site – please contact Maryann to register your attendance on the day tel (02) 9831 4911. Time: 10.30am-2.30pm. To participate independently contact Rhonda Andersen at the BBI tel (02) 9847 0726, econferences@bbi.catholic.edu.au

Emmaus Golf Day: 18 October Calling all golfers to help raise funds for CatholicCare's Emmaus service supporting people with a disability. If you would like to play golf or enter a team of 4 in this fundraising golf day at Springwood Country Club, please contact Claire tel (02) 9933 0222, golfday@ccss.org.au

Catholic Super Free Retirement Seminar: 30 October & 11 November Have you started thinking about retirement? Financial security will give you the opportunity to enjoy a longer life with family and friends and to pursue your interests free from money worries. Catholic Super is an industry fund and returns all profits to members. This FREE seminar will cover: retirement goals & budgets, increasing your retirement savings, transition to retirement strategy.

Wednesday 30 October: Parramatta RSL, Hunter Room, cnr Macquarie & O'Connell sts, Parramatta;
Monday 11 November: Springwood Sports Club, Sassafras Room 2, 83 Macquarie Rd, Springwood.
Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start. Register: tel 1300 730 327 or www.csf.com.au