

ST MONICA'S
PRIMARY
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 2, WEEK 7
12 June 2013

DIARY DATES - JUNE

Week 7

Thur 13 Semester One Reports
go home today

Fri 14 Peer Support

Week 8 PARENT TEACHER
INTERVIEW THIS
WEEK

Mon 17 Uniform Shop
8.30am—10.30am
Pow Wow 9am-11am

Pie /Sausage roll
orders due by today

Tues 18 ICAS Spelling Comp

Wed 19 Dance Fever

Fri 21 Pie and Sausage Roll
Day / Social Welcome

Dance Fever
Interschool Challenge
Homebush (4.30pm for a
5.30pm start)

Parish Bingo
6pm BBQ
7pm Bingo starts

Week 9

Mon 24 Uniform Shop open
8.30am—10.30am
Pow Wow 9am-11am

Wed 26 Dance Fever

Fri 28 *Mufti Day*—Gold coin
Closing date ICAS—
Maths/English
(Stg 2/3)

School closes at
3.00pm for Term 2

JULY

TERM 3

Week 1

Mon 15 Staff Development
Day
Students do not attend

Tues 16 Students return for
Term 3



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

At St Monica's we have high expectations for all of our students' learning. When you receive your child's Semester One Report tomorrow, remember to refer to the statements of achievement that describe your child's level of success in each Key Learning area. Take particular notice of your child's work habits. In reading the reports I was very impressed with the effort the children have been making this year with their learning. Also very impressive was the individual growth identified by the teachers about the children's learning so far this year. The children are to be congratulated on their fine efforts.

The next phase of the reporting process occurs with the Parent / Teacher Interviews. Next week you will come to the school with your child/ren to review and discuss their learning over the past five months. This is a valuable time to communicate with the teacher on the successes made and as well suggestions for further learning this year. To help you prepare for the interview please find some suggestions for "**Before, During and After**" the interview inside this week's newsletter.

Please keep the following four tips in mind when you read your child's report. **Look for strengths first.** Focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or key learning areas.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort needs attention, then your child has something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, speak to him/her about how pleasing this is and how it has a positive impact on learning.

Broaden your focus to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child interacts with his or her peers will influence their happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his/her future.

Discuss the report with your child, talking about strengths first before looking at areas for improvement. Together, share opinions on performance levels and concerns felt.

Have a great week.

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

MAKING SENSE OF YOUR CHILD'S REPORT

The reporting format is reflective of the Board of Studies Common Grade Scale. The E – A grading scale is from Year 1 – Year 6 only. Kindergarten students will receive a report, showing achievement against a criterion which is more appropriate at this stage of their development.

The Year 1-6 report indicates the extent to which the student demonstrates **Knowledge** and **Skills** not **Work Habits** and **Attitudes**.

A 'C' grade will indicate that your child is progressing at a grade appropriate level and is to be congratulated on their achievements in Semester 1.

COMMON GRADE SCALE

E

A student awarded an E grade has **elementary knowledge** and understanding in a few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills. The student requires assistance by a teacher to complete the task

D

A student awarded a 'D' grade has **basic knowledge and understanding** of the content and has achieved a limited level of achievement. The student requires some additional assistance to complete tasks.

C

The most common grade is the 'C' grade. A **C grade indicates that the student is achieving at the expected grade level** and to their capabilities. A student awarded a 'C' grade has sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved a satisfactory level of competence in the processes and skills. The student is working at grade level, meeting expectations for the grade, producing quality work samples.

B

A student awarded a 'B' grade has a **thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and skills**. The student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations. The student is working above grade level, is very capable, above average and is exceeding school benchmarks/expectations for their grade level.

A

A student awarded an 'A' grade has an **extensive knowledge and understanding** of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. The student is achieving well beyond grade level, uses complex language structures, higher order thinking skills, applies skills to new situations, applies knowledge- makes connections, possesses a wide variety of strategies and internalises concepts

Before the Interview

Be Prepared

- Plan and write down your specific questions before the interview
- Identify factors the teacher (s) need to beware of
- Talk with your child before the interview and ask him/her if there is anything in particular he/she would like raised at the interview
- Is there anything about your child that you think the teacher should know?
- Does your child have worries/ concerns about school you want to raise?
- What does your child like about school?
- Are you concerned about a particular area of learning such as reading, mathematics or social skills?
- Sometimes things change at home - for example, change of job, change in living or working arrangements, sudden grief situation. These are important things for teachers to know so that they may be of support for your child/children.

Punctuality

- Be on time
- Each interview will be in your child's learning space
- At the conclusion of your 15 minute interview a buzzer will sound

During the Interview

Attitude

- Approach the interview with a positive and relaxed attitude
- See it as an opportunity for a two- way conversation in which there is a sharing of information, ideas and concerns.
- Set the scene for a positive and constructive meeting by using open and positive body language -avoid 'defensive postures'

Communication

- Respect the Teacher's professional skills and expertise
- Use respectful behaviours
- Be constructive
- Discuss issues without becoming personal
- Express your needs and concerns calmly
- Remember you both want what's best for your child

Listen

- The best communicators are keen listeners
- Clarify points not completely understood
- If you don't understand the 'jargon' ask for meaning
- Ask your prepared questions

After the Interview

- Follow up on matters discussed
- Discuss the meeting with your child and talk about his/her strengths and CELEBRATE these
- Ask your child where improvements can be made
- Negotiate a plan with your child that encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning
- Follow up on recommendations of the teacher - eg recommendations of books, a better study arrangement etc
- Finally, give the teacher feedback and remember that you are encouraged to be in contact with your child's teacher at any time throughout the year.

Attendance

Over the past two years we have had a school focus on student attendance. Last year absenteeism averaged at 12 days per student. How is your child's attendance going this year?

Please look at your child's report tomorrow.



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

Jackson Basha	Edward Joseph	Angelina Cappello	Matthew Zheng
Julia Martinez	Bernadette Martinez	Geshua Toledo	Aidan Muttoo
Saisriman Tadepalli	Ajok Kondok	Nash Hawkins	Jesse Maffina
Jessica Dib	Philip Joseph	Jimmy Aoun	Raymond Khadi
Alanis Supuk	Emma O'Rourke	Aidan Pospischil	Grace Thomson
Bethany Phillips	Merna El Merhabi	Riwaz Bhattachan	Kayla Grzelak
Staff: Mrs Turner			

END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - Date change!

Please note that the date of the end of year Christmas Celebration has had to be changed. The new date is **Friday 13 December 2013**. Please amend this date in your diaries.



CONGRATULATIONS

- ◆ Congratulations to Mrs Natalie Newbury and her husband Ben who are expecting their first child in the middle of December.
- ◆ Congratulations to the Upadhyay family on the birth of their baby son. A new baby brother for Maan.(Year 1A)
- ◆ St Monica's community also extends it's congratulations to a past student who has recently been appointed as a Professor of English Literature at Kent University in the UK. Catherine Waters commenced school at St Monica's in 1965. We congratulate Catherine and her family on this wonderful achievement.



ARIA MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Students who attend the Aria Music School entertained St Monica's students, staff and parents at a performance held last Thursday 6 June. Thank you to the students for such an entertaining morning of music and for their superb compeering of the event. Thank you as well to their music teacher JR Diaz for his efforts in getting the students ready for the performance.



Entertainment Books 2013/2014 Fundraiser - Don't Miss Out !!!!

The new 2013/2014 Entertainment books are now available! The books include 2 for 1 meal deals, movie vouchers, discounts at local attractions and lots more! **Books cost \$65 each and every book sold raises \$13 for our school.** You may download an order form from the school website and send it into the office, or you may order securely online at:-

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/21576y3>

Books may be ordered for Sydney, Greater West or Sydney North.

Please contact Mrs Abood in the school office if you have any further enquiries.

READING ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who received reading awards recently:

*ES1— Galia and Kimi Stage 1— Gene, Mateo, Riwaz and Skye
Stage 2— Maria, Jordan, Cassie and Brandon W Stage 3— Jason, Robin, Jacob and Naomi*

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who received Merit Awards at recent assemblies:

Doyle:	Emma O'Rourke and Alexander Azar
McAuley:	Ajok Kondok and Hayden Herder-Beke
Callan:	Gene Kneipp and Jessica Dib
Conway:	Maurice Haddad and Matilda-Rose Hall
Augustine:	Kyah Day, Rishabh Ashok-Kumar and Hunter Malatag
McKinnon:	Damian Matijevic and Alysha Dunnett
Moran:	Monica Albayeh, Serena Barnes

The St Monica's Values for Week 6 and 7 are "*Compassion*" and "*Co-Operation*".
The tables below show examples of what Stage Two has been learning about these values.

<h3>Compassion</h3>					
LOOKS LIKE.....					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping out - Donating - Caring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving - Showing sympathy - Sharing 				
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: x-small;">SOUNDS LIKE.....</td> <td style="font-size: x-small;">FEELS LIKE.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will ... - I can ... - I should ... - I could ... </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helpful - satisfied - happy - good inside </td> </tr> </table>	SOUNDS LIKE.....	FEELS LIKE.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will ... - I can ... - I should ... - I could ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helpful - satisfied - happy - good inside 	
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<h3>Co-Operation</h3>					
LOOKS LIKE.....					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working together - Helping Out - Including others - Stay with the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listening to others 				
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DO YOU HAVE A MINIBUS LICENSE?

If there is a member of our school community that has a minibus license, we would appreciate you contacting the school office as soon as possible. Thank you. ***Louise O'Donnell***

DANCE FEVER

Parents are warmly welcomed to attend their child's/children's lessons on **Wednesday 26 June**.

8:50am— 9:35am	Years 5 & 6	9:35am—10:05am	ES1 & Year 1
10:05am—10:50am	Years 3 & 4	11:10am—11:55am	Year 2

Dance Fever Interschool Challenge —**Friday 21 June 2013** (Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush)
If your child will be attending the Dance Fever Interschool Challenge, their Permission note must be returned to their Homeroom teacher immediately. A copy of the note is on the website under **School Notes** then **Whole School**.

POW WOW NEWS

Hi everyone. We had a great time last Monday at Pow Wow. In keeping with our animal theme for Term 2, the children transformed into kangaroos and were hopping and dancing to music. We read stories about kangaroos and baby joeys. Next Monday we will be making snakes and spiders. Happy birthday to Ruby and Michael!

In Term 3 we ask that the children bring in their own morning tea in readiness for Pre-school and Early Stage One.

We meet every Monday morning in the Community Room from 9-11 am during school terms.

Entry is a good coin donation and a piece of fruit.

Have a good week. **Mrs Bernadette Haddad**



Discover OLMC Parramatta

Discover Contemporary learning, Academic Excellence in the Mercy Tradition at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta at the College Open Morning Tour on **Tuesday, June 18, 2013.**

The College is now enrolling for 2014 and 2015. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

Read with a Mate encourages men to pick up a book and support children's literacy development. Our 3 week program will give men the confidence, knowledge and skills to assist a child's reading ability. It's about coming together, reading together and having fun!

Only fathers are able to attend (no mums) and only children under the age of 5 (no brothers or sisters).

You'll need to attend all three sessions detailed below; **it is compulsory to attend all sessions:**

Session 1 : Saturday 15 June, 10am - 11am (Parramatta Stadium)

Session 2: Saturday 22 June, 10am - 11am (Parramatta Stadium)

Session 3: Sunday 23 June, Graduation at Parramatta vs Souths (ANZ stadium)

If you are interested, please email Hiba; hkanj@parracity.nsw.gov.au. Hiba will confirm your spot or place you on the waitlist once full.

KIDS! July School Holiday Workshop

KIDS! Calling out to all 9-12 yr-olds. This July Schools Holidays... Make your own stop motion animation movie!

You'll have fun in small groups using clay, origami, sand and other cool stuff to make characters and then film and edit them into a movie which you can keep. Mum or dad can drop you off, go shopping, do grown up stuff, whilst you make movie magic. Bring your BFF's you'll be working in small groups and then have your video on YouTube to private share with all your friends.

Who: 9-12 year olds

When: 10am-1pm / July 3, 4 & 5 / 3-day Workshop

Where: ICE, 8 Victoria Rd, Parramatta

Cost: \$98 BYO Lunch

For more information call Ellen 9897 5744 / info@ice.org.au and to book online and more information go to our link on the website: www.ice.org.au/projects/holidays