

DIARY DATES - AUGUST

Week 5

Thurs 15 Mass 9:15am -Stage 2
Feast of the Assumption

Stage 3 Camp
Canberra

Gymnastics

Fri 16 Stage 3 Camp
Canberra

Week 6

Mon 19 8.30am-10.30am
Uniform Shop
9am-11am Pow Wow

Tues 20 Science in the City
Netball Gala Day at
Penrith

Wed 21 Book Fair
9:00am Grandparents
Day Liturgy - Hall

Thurs 22 Gymnastics

Fri 23 St Monica's Feast Day
9:15 am Liturgy
Lake Parramatta Park
from 12.00 noon
Mufti Day (Books)

Week 7

Mon 26 8.30am-10.30am
Uniform Shop
9am-11am Pow Wow

Wed 28 Father's Day Stall

Thurs 29 Gymnastics

Fri 30 9am Father's Day
Liturgy / Brunch
followed by Dads in
the Classroom

Sun 1 Sept Father's Day

SEPTEMBER

Week 8

Mon 2 8.30am-10.30am
Uniform Shop
9am-11am Pow Wow

Tues 3 7pm Fete Meeting

Thurs 5 Gymnastics

Sunday 8 9am First Communion



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Do you ever ask your children when they get into the car of an afternoon or when they arrive home from school what they learned at school that day only to be told, 'nothing'? I don't think this is an uncommon occurrence. Sometimes children can give an answer that is more of a description of an activity that was completed rather than what was learned in completing the activity....eg "We did reading!"

This year the staff have been engaged in the work of Lyn Sharratt, the author of "Putting the Faces on the Data" and there has been a major focus on making learning visible at St Monica's. Students are asked five key questions by teachers whilst they are completing tasks to ascertain their understanding of what they are doing at the time:

- What are you learning?
- How are you doing?
- How do you know?
- How can you improve?
- Where do you go for help?

What is visible learning?

The characteristics of a visible learner include:

- Being able to articulate what they are learning and more importantly why it is important
- Being able to talk about the strategies they are using to learn
- Understanding the assessment tools being used and what they are using to learn
- Seeing mistakes/errors as an opportunity to learn and being comfortable saying that they don't know how to do something or that they need assistance
- Positively supporting their peers' learning
- Knowing what they know and also what they need to know

Why this emphasis?

As teachers we need to prepare our students on how to learn and relearn so that they are prepared for their future.

"...the model that says *learn while you are at school, while you are young, the skills that you will apply during your lifetime* is no longer tenable. The skills that you can learn when you're at school will not be applicable. They will be obsolete by the time you get into the workplace and need them, except for one skill. The one competitive skill is the skill of **being able to learn**. It is the skill of being able not to give the right answer to questions about what you were taught in school, but to make the right response to situations that are outside the scope of what you were taught in school. We need to produce people who know how to act when they're faced with situations for which they were not specifically prepared." (Seymour Papert)

So today when your child arrives home from school don't ask them "How was your day?" instead ask them what they learned and then gently probe further and assist them to articulate what was their learning during the day. In this way, children will begin to understand that the context and activities are only important if learning has been the result!

Have a great week.

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

2013 FEDERAL ELECTION

With the federal election set for 7 September, it is important for all parents to be aware of the key issues facing Catholic schools. A flyer will be sent home tomorrow with your child with detailed information. Please check your child's school bag tomorrow for the flyer.

MEETINGS

The next **Fete Meeting** for Stall Co-ordinators will be held on **Tuesday 3 September at 7:00pm**.

CANBERRA EXCURSION

Miss Bentley, Ms Power, Mrs Boulous, Mr Al-Ali, Mr Joseph and all our Stage 3 students will be visiting Canberra this week. We wish them well as they visit the War Memorial, Parliament House, Electoral Office, Questacon and The Australian Institute for Sport. I thank the teachers and parents for giving up their time for this very worthwhile overnight excursion.

POSMs MEETING

Thank you to Mrs Sally Connell for the input on 'Building Resilient Children' at our POSMs meeting last Wednesday and also to the parents who came along and shared their strategies with each other. The handout on tips for building resilient children has been placed on the website.

Thank you also to Peta Cappello who reported on the Parent Representative Council Conference that she and Catherine Phillips attended in May and also to Simone Lewis for the fete update. The PRC handout is also on the school website for your information.

BOOK STALL / MUFTI DAY

After our last successful mufti day for toys, we are looking forward to another fantastic response for our book stall. On **Friday 23rd August** all students are asked to bring in items for our Book Stall. As we are expecting a 'library' of books, it would be extremely helpful to the volunteers sorting through the donations if books could be grouped at home before sending them in to school ie travel, cooking, sport, fiction, non-fiction etc. We will also gratefully accept CD's, DVDs, Computers and old records.



Please note that we cannot accept encyclopaedias for the stall.

We will accept donations **after 2:00pm on Thursday 22nd August** if this will assist parents. Items will be stored in the student foyers overnight. **Donations on Friday 23rd August can be taken directly to the hall.**

Parents who are able to assist in sorting items will be most welcome. Please contact the office if you can assist. For all enquiries please contact Gulshan Muttou email gulzy92058@yahoo.com

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that Term 3 School Fees are due and payable by **Monday 19th August 2013**. Unless you have a previous arrangement with the Principal, could you please ensure that the fees are paid by this date. Thank you to those families who have already paid their fees.



ST MONICA'S DAY

On **Friday August 23rd** we will celebrate St Monica's Day by building and flying kites at Lake Parramatta.

Each child will need at least 2 plastic shopping bags to construct their kite. If you have some plastic shopping bags at home please send them into your child's classroom next week.

A reminder that we will also share lunch at Lake Parramatta and we hope that many of you can join us there from 12:00 noon. *Ms Kerry Power*

TRIPLE P COURSE (Positive Parenting Program)

Parents who have nominated to do the Triple P Course are reminded of the course dates. The Course commences at **7:00pm** in the Staffroom.

Wednesday 28th August
 Wednesday 4th September
 Wednesday 11th September
 Wednesday 18th September



LATE NOTES / ABSENCES

Parents are reminded that children arriving late to school must be brought into the office where a late note is to be signed. **Many students are arriving late and are coming in to the office unaccompanied even though there have been countless reminders that children must be signed in by their parent.**

Please note that if your child has been away from school due to illness or other circumstance a note must be sent in to the Homeroom Teacher **on the day that your child returns to school** explaining their absence. It is a legal requirement that all absences are recorded on the class roll.

For extended periods of leave an **Application for Exemption from Attendance at School** form must be completed and sent in to the Principal for approval. Please note that this must be done **prior** to your child going on leave. The form can be downloaded from the school website under School Notes or you may collect a copy from the school office.

STUDENT BANKING—Rewards for Term 3

A reminder to those students who are eligible to claim their rewards for Term 3 that your order needs to be in by next **Tuesday 20 August (Week 6)**. *No late orders will be accepted.* Orders received after this date will be ordered in Term 4.

Rewards available for Term 3

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| * Money Boxes (Spn, Addy, Pat, Cred and Pru) | * Knuckles Game |
| * Handball | * Torch |
| * Wallet | * Calculator |

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The Sausage Sizzle held on Friday 2 August was a huge success with a profit of **\$408.90** made. Thank you to Simone Lewis, Nick and Vanessa Talty, Neil and Janet Joseph, Tiffany Cooper, Jalaja Kumar, Gulshan Muttou, Swapna Tadepalli, Sonia Sentas, Kerry Taylor and Rebecca Assaf.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

A reminder to all students that the Premier's Reading Challenge finishes in **2 week's time!!** Congratulations to those students who have already completed the challenge.

Mrs Denelle Gardoni



FATHER'S DAY STALL

The Father's Day Stall will be held on **Wednesday 28th August** with a wide range of Dad and Grandfather gifts available for purchase, ranging in price from \$3 to \$10. A flyer has been sent home today with further details. Please contact Tiffany on 0409 205 721 or Julie-Anne on 0414 985 467 if you are able to assist.

FETE RAFFLE

Thank you to all the parents who have sent back sold raffle tickets and have requested more tickets to sell. I know from talking to lots of children that family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours have been approached to buy raffle tickets. Thank you for supporting this activity for our fete.

Grandparent's Day

Wednesday 21 August 2013

Schedule of Events

- 8.20-8.50am** Book Fair to be held in the library
- 9.00am** Grandparent's Day Liturgy in the St Monica's School Hall, followed by a performance by the St Monica's School Choir
- 9.30-10.00am** Book Fair to be held in the Library

Sharing of our learning

- 10.00am** Stage 3 Voice of Youth speeches
- 10.15am** Stage 2 sharing of Information Reports
- 10.30am** Stage 1 sharing of literacy learning
- 10.45am** Kindergarten singing and music performance
- 11.00- 11.30am** Morning Tea for Grandparents to be held in the school hall

We look forward to seeing you!



Big Cake Bake
For Grandparents Day we will be having a Cake Stall to raise money for the Red Cross. The Big Cake Bake will collect cakes made by parents (and maybe students or even Grandparents) and sell them to the visitors to our school on Wed 21st. A selection of cakes sent in will be used for morning tea and the rest will be sold. Volunteers are needed to bake cakes, biscuits, slices etc and sell items at the stall on the day - please send items to school using disposable packaging (where possible). Thanks. **Social/Welcome Team.**

Grandparent's Day BOOK FAIR



Dear Parents,

Next Wednesday 21st August we are holding a Book Fair in the Library area as part of our Grandparents Day celebrations. The students will be able to preview the Book Fair during their Literacy time on either Monday or Tuesday with their class. The children will bring home a wish list, but there is no obligation to buy.

If students are going to buy from our Book Fair, please send along their money in an envelope with their name, class and amount of money on the front. The children will have the opportunity to purchase during the day. Alternately, you could fill in credit card details and sign on the form provided on the back of the wish list!

Please note: There will be **NO EFTPOS** facility for this Book Fair due to the high demand at this time. All cheques should be made out to St Monica's School.

We will open the Book Fair from 8.30am – 8.55am for students accompanied by parents or grandparents those who wish to purchase books or donate books to our Library. There will also be an opportunity for purchases by parents and Grandparents after the Liturgy between 9:30am—10:00am before visiting our Learning spaces.

We hope to see you there to join with us in celebrating our special day.

Mrs Sharon Boulous, Teacher/ Librarian



READING ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS—Term 3

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

- ES1** Sahil Arya, Sakina Kunambi
- Stage 1** Ajok Kondok, Peter Farah, Christian Dib,
- Stage 2** Flavin Dzimbanhete, Jordan Crockett, Maria Morgan, Mattheas Noonan
- Stage 3** Genesis Evangelista, Marcus Gaddi, Joseph Azar, Maliek Evans-Khalil

Mrs Mary-Jo Mason

WRITING COMPETITION

Entry is **NOW OPEN** in the 2013 Schools Writing Competition! Students from ES1 to Stage 3 are invited to enter their short stories OR poems, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer.

Write a story or poem today for your chance to win \$1,000 (\$500 for you and \$500 for your school)! **AND an iPod Touch 16GB + an Xbox 360 OR an Xbox One OR a Playstation 4!!!**

There is no theme!! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE.

Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by September 13, 2013.

Go to www.write4fun.net for online entries or see Mrs Mason.

The Values for St Monica’s School in Weeks 3, 4 and 5 are
“Fairness”, “Responsibility” and “Compassion”.

The lists below show the students’ understanding of these values.



Cumberland Zone Athletics

On Wednesday 7th August, students from St Monica's represented our school at the Cumberland Zone Athletics carnival held at Blacktown Olympic Athletic Track.

The children represented our school with great sportsmanship and enthusiasm. There were a remarkable 5 Cumberland Zone records broken on the day, which demonstrates the calibre of the athletes. Our students demonstrated their athleticism and competed to the best of their ability. We had a very successful day with students reaching the finals of some track events as well as students who excelled in their field events of shot put and long jump. We are very proud of all of our athletes who competed on the day.

I would like to thank Mrs Wendy Paley for transporting, supervising and coordinating the children into their events on the day.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the parents who assisted in transporting children, marshaling and lending a hand due to limited assistance on the day. The students had a wonderful day and it would not have been a success without your support and dedication.

Congratulations to the following athletes who competed on behalf of St. Monica's:

• Joshua Albayeh	• Rishabh Ashok-Kumar	• Nicholas Roberts
• Bethany Phillips	• Ritesh Ashok-Kumar	• Isabelle Kandalajt
• Patrick Youssef	• Monica Albayeh	• Nikolas Katsetis
• Alby Giles	• Jimmy Aoun	• Alanah Khadi
• Jason Ierfino	• Chanel Azar	• Jacob Khadi
• Jasmine Bird	• Serena Barnes	• Brandon Lukic
• Abbi Lewis	• Abraham Dennis	• Chanelle Maikhael
• Hayley Herder-Beke	• Teliyah Fernandes	• Damian Matijevic
• Bernard Kneipp	• Jason Ierfino	• Brianna Mitchell
• Lachlan Roberts	• Madeline Taylor	• Brendan Pospischil
• Grace Thomson		

Further congratulations to the following students who will progress to the Diocesan Athletics Carnival:

- Monica Albayeh – 4th 10yrs Shot Put
- Teliyah Fernandes – 1st 11yrs Shot Put
- Chanelle Maikhael – 3rd 8yrs 100m Sprint
- Bessie Phillips – 2nd Shot Put
- Grace Thomson – 3rd 12yrs Long Jump

Mrs Turner
Sports Coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER—Term 3

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	TIME
Thursday 15 August	Mass—Feast of the Assumption (Stg 2)	St Monica's Church	9:15am
Wednesday 21 August	Grandparents Liturgy	Hall	9:00am
Friday 23 August	Feast Day Liturgy	Learning Space	9:15am
Friday 30 August	Father's Day Liturgy (Liturgy/Brunch/followed by Dads in the classroom)	Learning Space	9:00am
Sunday 8 September	Holy Communion Mass	St Monica's Church	9:00am
Thursday 12 September	Whole School attends Parish Mass	St Monica's Church	9:15am
Thursday 19 September	Year 2 attend Parish Mass	St Monica's Church	9:15am



Catherine McAuley Westmead - School Open Morning 9.15 – 11am Thursday 29th August 2013

Enrolments for Year 7 2015

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2015. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on our upcoming school tour and avoid the crowds in Term 1 next year.

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.

Discover OLMC Parramatta - Open Morning

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta would like to invite you to discover the College's rich tradition and cutting edge education and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Executive at the Open Morning Tour on Monday, August 26, 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.

STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND LTD

In January 2014 we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, Japan, the USA & Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. Further information on our inbound students can be viewed on the website. Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life! Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation which is registered with education and regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about the organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, please call our office on 1300 135 331. **Sandra Harders, Hosting Co-ordinator**

NORTHMEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL SPRING FAIR

Sunday 8th September 2013 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Bursting with fun! Rides, BBQ, Books, Cakes, Games, Gelato, Plants, Raffles and much, much more! Don't miss out!



Is your child gifted, talented, intelligent, curious, creative and filled with promise?

WE CAN HELP YOU!

An invitation to participate in a series of new and innovative workshops at UTS

WhizzKidds workshops

Creative Teaching-Dynamic Learning

Limited spaces are now available for your child to take part in our fun and inspiring enrichment programs at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). A range of full day workshops are being run across Literacy, Numeracy, Science and HSIIE-based subjects for students who may seek extension in any of those areas.

Key features of the program include:

- The most qualified, experienced and passionate presenters
- Guaranteed student enjoyment
- Individual needs of all students catered for
- All sessions run at UTS campuses in state-of-the-art learning spaces
- Learning will take place in a hands-on, interactive environment

Year Groups:
Year 3/4 and Year 5/6

Program Dates:
Saturday 15th June
Sunday 16th June
Saturday 19th October
Sunday 20th October

Time:
9:30am-3:30pm

 

FOR MORE DETAILS
www.inspirationeducation.com.au | 1300 677 336



FOR KIDS WHOSE FAMILIES ARE CHANGING

Group activities for children age 6-11 who are experiencing & struggling with Family separation | Parents' divorce | Family changes

Six Tuesdays: Tue 15th Oct 2013 - 19th Nov 2013

Time: 4.00pm – 5.15 pm. After school

Venue: Ann D Clarke Building 2A Villiers St Parramatta Bookings: Phone 9933 0222 to reserve a place

Cost: \$10 per child per session (includes snack) Concessions may be available

Topics Covered:

Week 1: Everything is different

Week 2: Is it my fault?

Week 3: I wish everything was back to normal

Week 4: I am so mad!

Week 5: How can I manage?

Week 6: What I have learned?