

ST MONICA'S  
PRIMARY  
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 1, WEEK 7  
12 March 2014

DIARY DATES

MARCH

<b>Week 7</b>	<i>Catholic Schools Week</i>
Thur 13	Open Afternoon 1:45-2:45pm
Fri 14	Cross Country Dance Fever Athletics
<b>Week 8</b>	
Mon 17	QCS Starts today  Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Wed 19	Year 6—Back Care
Fri 21	Dance Fever Athletics 2pm Church Cleaning
<b>Week 9</b>	
Mon 24	Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Wed 26	Pie /Sausage Roll Day
Fri 28	Dance Fever Athletics
<b>Week 10</b>	
Mon 31	Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
	<b>APRIL</b>
Fri 4	Dance Fever Athletics Disco
Sat 5	Working Bee
<b>Week 11</b>	
Mon 7	Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Fri 11	Dance Fever Athletics Term 1 ends at 3pm
<b>TERM 2</b>	
<b>Week 1</b>	
Mon 28	School Resumes Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Fri 2 May	School Athletics Carnival



# Monica's Matters

Web: [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)  
Email: [stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Phone: 9630 3697  
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

We are over the halfway point of term and the teachers have been working hard on our identified school goals each week at our staff meeting.

Our goals have one clear core intention and that is to improve the learning outcomes for all our students. To successfully achieve our goals in 2014 we need to build the capacity of our teachers and our students. This year the staff have identified three goals that focus on the areas of Formation, Literacy and Numeracy.

- **Formation:** In 2014 the students and teachers will continue to deepen their understanding of scripture and they will explore the different names for God. During the year scripture and key concepts will be displayed in each learning space.
- **Literacy-** Our goal is to improve the student performance in Reading and Writing by gathering, analysing and responding to student data. During the year the teachers will bring student work samples to staff meetings for analysis and they will then plan future learning for the student. Small guided writing groups will be established in every learning space. The teachers will be engaging their students in writing strategies for text and sentence structures, spelling and punctuation.
- **Numeracy-** In 2014 the teachers will focus on using and explicitly explaining mathematical language. The students will be encouraged to use appropriate mathematical language when they reflect on the strategies that they have used in their daily problem solving activity. A mathematical word wall will be very visible in each learning space for the students to refer to especially at reflection time. The learning intention and success criteria will continue to be clearly displayed for each numeracy block.

## Student Workbooks

Last Friday the students in Year 1 – Year 6 received two of their workbooks to share with their family over the weekend.

Lots of children were excited on Monday to share their parent's written feedback with their peers and teachers. This feedback to your child is a constant reminder that you are interested in their learning and care about the standard of work that they are producing.

Over the next consecutive Fridays two more workbooks will be sent home each week.

Please ensure that your child's workbooks are returned each Monday so that your child can continue their written work in their book.

I would appreciate any feedback from parents on this new initiative that will continue throughout the year.

## Extended Absences/Student Leave for Reasons Other Than Illness

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason other than illness or a school related event you are required for an exemption in writing with a full explanation of the reason for leave which will then be processed by the principal and an approved exemption will be supplied to you. An **Application for Exemption for Attendance** is available on the school website and also through the school office.

If the absence from school is longer than 20 days a copy of travel documents will need to be supplied to support the request for exemption. If an absence from school is longer than 100 school days then the request will need to be supported by an explanation and a copy of relevant travel documents. This application will be processed by the Principal and forwarded to the Catholic Education Office. A copy of the Guidelines for Exemption for attendance at NSW Catholic Systemic Schools' in its entirety is available on request from the school office.

## QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING PROJECT

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will once again be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2014.

QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

From **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March** all staff, all students from Stage 3 and 60 randomly selected parents by the Catholic Education Office will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be 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 [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au))

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 which we can focus our improvement.

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

## AFTERNOON SCHOOL CAR LINE

Last week a ranger from Parramatta Council was in Daking Street observing our after school carline and he has made three immediate recommendations.

### ***Parents are requested to:***

- keep all business driveways clear whilst on the car line allowing cars to reverse out onto Daking Street if required
- keep to the left hand side of the road so that oncoming traffic can access Church Street
- move close into the kerb where the 'no parking' signs have been placed at our school entry

Parents are reminded again that there is no waiting in our car park from 3:15pm onwards. Please consider delaying your arrival after school as the students are well supervised until 3:30pm.

## WORKING BEE - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April - 7:00am -11:00am

Please find an hour or two to join us to complete a number of tasks in the learning space and in our gardens. A flyer will go home next week with more details.

## BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Save the date—**Thursday 22 May 2014**

## PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Our first POSMs Meeting this year will be an introduction to Project Based Learning. Our Stage 3 have been piloting this program this term and would like to share their learning with the whole community on Tuesday 8 April between 4pm and 6pm.

## PANCAKE DAY

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who cooked pancakes up in the learning space last week. It was a highly organised event and was well received by all our students who thoroughly enjoyed the parents great cooking. Thank you to Bernadette Haddad.



## NAPLAN 2014

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

	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Language Conventions</b> 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	<b>Reading</b> 45 minutes	<b>Numeracy</b> 45 minutes
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Language Conventions</b> 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	<b>Reading</b> 50 minutes	<b>Numeracy</b> 50 minutes

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At St Monica's we endeavour to give our students a diverse range of extra-curricular activities whilst they are in primary school. Our students have the opportunity to:

- participate in excursions
- attend an overnight excursion to Canberra/Bathurst in Stage 3
- record on the school radio station
- sing in the choir
- learn Japanese
- participate in the school Talent Quest
- learn to play an instrument (guitar, keyboard, recorder)
- learn to play tennis
- participate in Dance Fever and perform at Homebush Bay
- attend the Writers Festival, Science in the City at the Australian Museum and the Ecco Summit at Homebush
- have art lessons from a world renown pop artist
- play a wide range of sports including –AFL, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Cricket, Swimming, Cross Country and athletics
- participate in public speaking at school and with all schools in the Parramatta Diocese work collaboratively with local schools on community projects eg the current Westfield project with Christ the King.

### **GRANDPARENTS**

*Grandparents bestow upon their grandchildren*

*The strength and wisdom that time*

*And experience have given them.*

*Grandchildren bless their Grandparents*

*With a youthful vitality and innocence*

*That help them stay young at heart forever.*

*Together they create a chain of love*

*Linking the past with the future.*

*The chain may lengthen,*

*But it will never part...*

*~Author Unknown~*

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

## 2015 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

St Monica's Primary School is now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten (Early Stage One). Enrolment Application forms may be collected from the school office or you may download an enrolment form from the School Website ([www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)) then go to the PARENTS heading, then click on Enrolments.

When lodging your application you will need to provide your child's **original birth and baptismal certificates and an up-to-date immunisation form**. A **\$30** non-refundable Enrolment Application Fee will need to be returned with your completed application.

When lodging your Enrolment form you will be given an interview time - your child will need to attend this meeting with you. **Enrolment interviews will take place during Term 2.**

The **closing date** for Kindergarten 2015 enrolments is **Friday 11 April 2014 (last day of Term 1)**

## SKOOLBAG APP (FREE app)

A reminder to families that St Monica's Skoolbag App is available for free download in the Apple App Store. Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It allows the school to keep you up to date with the latest news, notices, alerts, newsletters etc. Parents can check Skoolbag at any time to see the latest updates and information. Skoolbag is **FREE** for parents to use. Instructions on how to install Skoolbag onto your Smartphone / Android may be found under SCHOOL NOTES on the school website. For further information go to [www.skoolbag.com.au](http://www.skoolbag.com.au)



## BOOK CLUB

Please note that Book Club orders and payment must be received at school **by Tuesday 18th March 2014**. No late orders will be accepted.

When returning the Book Club order form to school, please ensure that your **child's name** and **homeroom** are written clearly on the form. Thank you.

## STUDENT BANKING

Students will notice that the yellow checklist has been removed from their deposit wallet (as advised by the Bank) to create less confusion when redeeming rewards.

As previously advised, **Student Banking has now been upgraded and changes have been implemented with regards to the rewards system**. As the change-over has now occurred **students will be notified via their deposit wallet when they are eligible to redeem their reward**. Deposits have been recalculated by the bank and may vary from your own calculations.

The list of rewards currently available to students includes: **Handball, Scented Pencils and the following 2013 Items -Blue Wallet, Headphones, Knuckles Game, Moneyboxes (Pat, Pru and Spen)**. **Students are now able to redeem rewards as soon as they reach 10 deposits (not only in Week 6)**. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Abood in the Office.

## SCHOOL FEES—Term 1.

Term 1 School Fees were due on Friday 7 March 2014. If you have not yet paid your fees, and you do not have an agreement / payment plan with the school, please contact the office to make an appointment to see Miss O'Donnell. Please note all school arrangements regarding school fees are for a 12 month period only and must be reviewed at the beginning of each year.

## LOCAL EXCURSION PERMISSION NOTES

There are still a number of students who have not yet returned their Permission Notes. Notes have again been sent home today and we request that they are returned to school **tomorrow**. Students who are participating in the School Cross Country on Friday will need to ensure their note is returned so that they may attend.



## CURRICULUM NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS

During the holidays Joshua Albayeh entered a competition run by Sydney Thunder cricket. He was the winning entrant and received an Ipad for himself and one for the school. Thanks Joshua and well done.



### GRIP LEADERSHIP DAY

On Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> February, a group of Stage 3 students went to the GRIP Leadership conference. Bessie, Monica, Elleni, Angelina, Jacob, Edward and Alby had this opportunity to attend.

We learnt how to lead like a strawberry and not be a watermelon leader. A watermelon leader is someone who acts differently on the outside to who they are on the inside. A strawberry leader is someone who is the same on the inside as they are on the outside. GRIP is an acronym for **G**enerosity, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **P**eople. We also learnt that a HERO is like a leader because they both serve others. This is one of the main messages that they wanted to spread out to all the schools at the GRIP Leadership Conference.

HERO is also an acronym for **H**elper, **E**ncourager, **R**ole Model, **O**rganiser. There is one more acronym that we learnt and that is BERRY. Berry is an acronym for **B**e sure to do the right thing; **E**ncourage others to do the right thing; **R**efuse to lie; **R**espond to something that you see is not right; **Y**ou overcome criticism.

We had an awesome time learning how to be great leaders within our school. We are looking forward to working with the rest of Stage 3 as effective leaders.

Many thanks to Mrs Albayeh and Mr Joseph for assisting with transport and helping on the day.

### SRC BADGE PRESENTATION

Congratulations to **Genesis Evangelista** who is the Year 6 SRC member and not Bernard as advertised in the last newsletter.



### WRITE4FUN COMPETITION

Entries for the Write4fun competition close on March 30<sup>th</sup>. You can write a poem or short story up to 500 words. Visit [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net) for the rules and details of how to enter. *Mrs Mason*



## 2014 Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Madeline Lewis, Chelsea Lewis, Abbi Lewis, Kyah Day, Bethany Phillips, Antonio Batach and Joseph Azar for representing St. Monica's and Cumberland Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. The carnival was held on 28th February at Blacktown Pool with schools from across the Parramatta Diocese. This is a huge achievement for all of our children!

Further congratulations to Madeline Lewis, Abbi Lewis and Kyah Day who are progressing to the Inter Diocesan Carnival to be held at Homebush on 28th March. Good luck girls

*Mrs Erin Turner*  
Sport Coordinator



## PBL (Project Based Learning) Invitation to the Whole School Community

Stage 3 have participated in PBL (Project Based Learning) this term and there will be a presentation of their work in Week 11. The driving question for the project is 'Create a product that honours the different cultures within St. Monica's community'. You may remember that we collected and collated the different cultures in our school earlier in the term. They researched familiar and new cultures and identified the cultural strengths that have remained for many immigrants. Students have worked in cooperative learning groups to discuss, plan, model and create their product. In conclusion, they must present their product to their peers and teachers, receive feedback and adjust before a public display to their parents and invited adults. We look forward to the culmination, presentation and reflection of this rich and rewarding project. Hope you can join us on **Tuesday, April 8 from 4pm till 6pm** in the Stage 3 area of the Learning Space. Refreshments provided. Regards, Stage 3 teachers.

## Harmony Day

Harmony Day is a National initiative to recognise the need for tolerance and respect for diversity within our community. In the spirit of our active PBL project regarding cultural respect and our focus toward social justice during this time of Lent we would like to invite the school community to celebrate Harmony Day by wearing a colour from their National flag OR the symbolic colour of Harmony Day, orange. In response to this we ask that students donate a gold coin toward Caritas' Project Compassion on **Friday, March 21**. We will make a Mercy Cross out of the coins on the playground before Recess on the day. Thank you in advance for your support. Peace Stage 3



## Book Fair Thank You

Thank you to all who attended the Grandparents Day Book Fair! It was a wonderful experience for the students, parents and grandparents!

Thank you to the kind parents who stepped in and helped at the sales desk, and a special thank you to Susan Halabi who was a wonderful help and volunteered also at the sales desk!!

We will let you know our final profit when all monies have been collected.

Thank you.

*Mrs Sharon Boulous*  
Teacher/Librarian



## TRIVIA NIGHT — St Monica's Hall

**SATURDAY 24th MAY - \*SAVE THE DATE\***

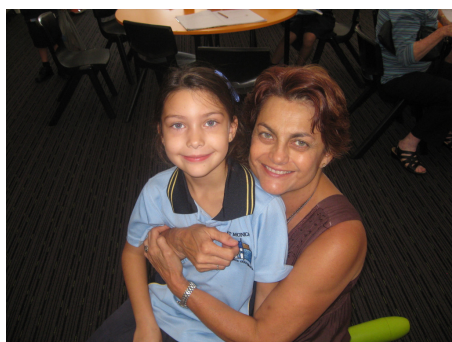
80s Dress-up Theme - BYO nibbles and alcohol. Adults only - \$10 per person. Cash 1st prize for the winning team. More details to follow.





## *Grandparent's Day*

Grandparent's Day was celebrated at St Monica's School on Tuesday 11 March, with grandparents from Turkey, Romania and Botswana. Grandparents, Parents and Students celebrated the day with Morning Tea, Liturgy and a Book Fair. Special thanks to Tiffany Cooper, Simone Lewis, Gulshan Muttoo and Neil Joseph for setting up the morning tea and for cleaning up afterwards. Thank you to our IT Trainee, Andrew McBriarty, for the wonderful photos taken on the day. More photos will be on the website shortly.





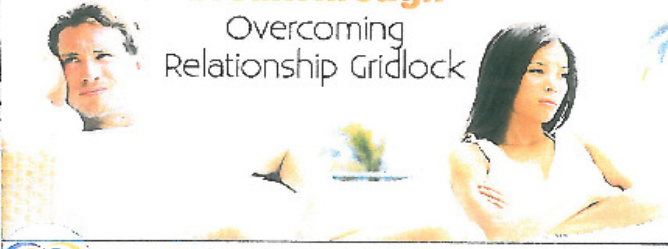
I would like to invite you to the *SmartLoving Workshop* on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2 - 5pm in the Holy Family School Hall.

Please see below for full details.


God Bless,  
Father Zvonimir

## BreakThrough

### Overcoming Relationship Gridlock




**SUNDAY, MAR 23**  
**2-5PM**



**SMARTLoving Workshop**  
\* Spouses can attend on their own or as a couple

**Luddenham NSW**

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### BreakThrough Overcoming Relationship Gridlock

All couples go through periods where their relationship is strained. Stress, sleep-deprivation, demands from family and work can starve your marriage of the positive energy it needs and deserves. Soon, you find yourselves arguing more often, making up with less enthusiasm and becoming someone even you yourself don't like.

If this sounds like you, or someone you love, it's time to do something about it. The *SmartLoving BreakThrough Workshop* is a practical, solution-focused event for all stages of marriage. Drawing on contemporary research and Catholic theology, this workshop will arm you with skills and insights to transform your relationship into the thriving, joy-filled encounter that it is meant to be.

- Identify your conflict triggers
- Learn strategies to de-escalate an argument
- Understand what the real issues are
- Find constructive ways to re-establish connection

**Workshop Details**  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**2-5pm**  
 Holy Family School Hall  
 32 Willowdene Ave  
 Luddenham NSW 2745  
 Donation at the door  
 (afternoon tea provided)  
**Bookings essential**  
 Call Jess: 02 9319 5280  
[info@smartloving.org](mailto:info@smartloving.org)

\*Check website for more dates

**Tuesday, 4 March 2014 ♦ 5.45pm School Tours & BBQ**  
**6.30-7.15pm Principal Address and Information Session**  
**Bookings Essential: [www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au](http://www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au)**  
 Enrolment packages will be available during the evening.  
**Year 7, 2015 Enrolments Open: 5 March 2014 ♦ Close: 7 May 2014**  
 Enrolments received after the closing date will be placed on a waiting list

## Parramatta Marist High School

### Information Evening



2 Darcy Road Westmead NSW 2145  
 Phone: 9635 7066 ♦ [www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au](http://www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au)  
 Parking is available via Gate 3, Darcy Road  
 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital)



We offer top quality education with very affordable fees.  
 For the past 7 years, PMH's HSC Results have seen us placed in the top 100 schools in NSW

In 2013, we achieved the following HSC Results:  
 77th in the state overall, 28th in Mathematics  
 26 students with an ATAR above 90, First in the state in Mathematics 2 Unit  
 Parramatta Marist has been both Nationally and Internationally recognised  
 as innovators in 21st Century education.

**Catherine McAuley—Reunion**

A reunion is being organised for ex-students and teachers who attended Catherine McAuley High School Westmead from 1969 to 1972.

If you are interested in attending the reunion, please contact Trish Lohan on the following email address  
[tlohan@yahoo.com](mailto:tlohan@yahoo.com)

Details can also be found on the Catherine McAuley Alumni Facebook page.

**Winston Hills Hawks Rugby League**

Come play Rugby League on Sundays within the Catholic Convents Competition. Come play in a safe, fun and friendly club. Our home ground is John Curtin Reserve where we train. Come be a Hawk where you can make new friends and exercise within our school community. Contact Donna Wakefield for details 0412 544 552.