

DIARY DATES

MAY

Week 2

Thur 8 9am Mother's Day
Mass
Mother's Day Stall
Fri 9 Dance Fever

Sun 11 Mother's Day

Week 3

Mon 12 Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 13 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am
Naplan (Years 3 and 5)

Wed 14 Naplan (Years 3 and 5)

Thur 15 Naplan (Years 3 and 5)
Stage One Excursion

Fri 16 Theme Lunch
Dance Fever

Week 4

Mon 19 All students to be
wearing full winter
uniform
Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Writer's Festival—
Riverside Theatre

Tues 20 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am

Wed 21 Newsletter

Thur 22 Biggest Morning Tea

Fri 23 Dance Fever

Sat 24 7pm Trivia Night in
the Hall

Week 5

Mon 26 Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Tues 27 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am

Thur 29 Feast of the Ascension
Talent Quest

Fri 30 Church Cleaning
Dance Fever
Mufti Day—for DWF
Appeal

JUNE

Week 6

Mon 2 Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tues 3 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Prepare Your Child for NAPLAN

You have probably heard a number of various viewpoints expressed in the media with regards to the NAPLAN tests. These words from Michael Grose will hopefully be of benefit when considering the NAPLAN tests.

"One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. **The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them.**"

Perhaps the best way is to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids.

As a parent, it helps your child if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It's better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities for them to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on.

It's also worth remembering that many children don't stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether or not your child takes them in his/her stride, here are some tips to help prepare your child for the NAPLAN tests:

1. Take your cues from your child. If your child doesn't worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn't exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.
2. Focus on your child doing his/her best and trying hard. Choose your words carefully when you speak with your children. As with all their learning activities, place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.
3. Listen to any concerns they have: If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings. Rather than shut them down with a 'get over it' response. "Yes sometimes tests can be a little bit scary, but they get easier every time that you take them." Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.
4. Give them some relaxation ideas. Anxious or nervous people will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising on the morning of the test are simple ways to help them get some feeling of control.

Each morning of NAPLAN we will be providing breakfast for the Year 3 and Year 5 students in the hall. Breakfast commences at 8:15am and will conclude at 8:45am.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Miss Michelle Rosewell who will be the Acting Religious Education Coordinator for the remainder of the year.

Mrs Denelle Gardoni and Mrs Mary Weston will be responsible for two special projects for 2014. Mrs Gardoni will lead our Mathematics focus and also be responsible for WHS. Mrs Weston will lead the school in developing our understanding of our Mercy traditions and also Social Justice initiatives.

During Term 3 the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta will begin the process of advertising for a permanent Religious Education Coordinator for 2015

CATCHING TEACHERS ON THE HOP

Throughout the year you are always welcome to come and discuss your child's learning progress with his/her teacher. We do ask, however, that you make an appointment by phone or letter so that you are able to discuss any issues in a relaxed manner at a mutually convenient time.

Parents are kindly requested not to seek interviews with the teacher during class time, morning assembly or whilst the teacher is on playground duty. This also includes catching the teacher to quickly let them know things about your children eg they didn't do their homework or they are not feeling well.

If you need to talk briefly to the teacher before school please go to the office prior to 8:50am and the ladies in the office will locate the teacher so that you can talk to them.

BUS RULES FOR A SAFE TRIP HOME

In the morning and afternoon the students at St Monica's need to follow some simple guidelines to ensure a safe trip to and from school.

1. At all times students are to remain seated whilst the bus is moving and keep their voices at an 'inside' level to allow the driver to concentrate on his or her job of driving the bus.
2. In the afternoon the students wait quietly on the bus lines outside the hall for the duty teacher. They then proceed with the teacher to wait at the bus stops on Church Street.
3. The students are asked to have their bus pass ready for the driver
4. Obey the bus rules and do not eat or drink on the bus.

Parents of children catching the bus are encouraged to talk to their child about these guidelines. Any problems encountered on the bus should be reported to the school so that we can follow up the matter.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL

A letter was sent home to each family on Monday regarding this appeal. If you have not received your letter please contact the school office. Parents are reminded that all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Once your envelope has been received, Mrs Cattermole will issue you with a receipt. Please keep this for taxation purposes.

SEMESTER ONE REPORTS

Semester One Reports will be sent home to all parents on **Wednesday 11th June**. Parent/Teacher Interviews will commence the week starting Monday 16th June.

Again this year we will have one night of interviews for those parents who are unable to come to an interview before or after school. This late night will be Thursday 19th June.

A letter will be sent home at the end of May so that parents can nominate their preferred interview time.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

All parents entering our school driveway on Daking Street are reminded that they need to keep well to the left of the road to allow oncoming cars to pass. Also driveways of businesses need to be kept clear.

Two parking spaces at the entrance to the driveway have been deemed "No Parking" for the period prior to and after school. Please move close to the curb in these spaces before entering our driveway.

LOST PROPERTY

Please label all jackets and other items that your child/ren bring to school. There are many unmarked jackets in the box outside the office at present.

SCHOOL FEES

Term 2 School Fees have now been sent home by the Catholic Education Office. If you have not received them could you please notify the school office immediately. Unless you have a previous arrangement with the school, School Fees are due for payment on Wednesday 4 June 2014.

MUFTI DAY

A Mufti Day will be held on **Friday 30 May 2014** for the Diocesan Works Fund Appeal. Students are asked to bring in a **gold coin** on the day. Students may wear their favourite football team jersey or football team colours.

MUESLI BARS

It has been brought to our attention that there are new varieties of Muesli Bars which contain crushed nuts as toppings. As we endeavour to provide for the different needs of all our students your co-operation is invited to assist the school by providing your child only with **foods that are nut free**. Thank you for your co-operation.

POSMS MEETING

The next POSMS Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 28 May**. 7pm-8pm. The Focus of the meeting will be on Mathematics. More details to follow.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

The students and staff will be participating in a lockdown drill this week. During a lockdown drill the students are encouraged to keep low and quiet until an 'all clear' is announced. This is an essential procedure for both students and staff to rehearse in the unlikely event and emergency does occur on site. Thank you for your support in this matter. *Mrs Gardoni*

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following parents who generously donated their time to help wrap all the Mother's Day presents for the Mother's Day Stall: Rodezon Rodriguez, Laura Llamas, Nova Mendoza, Lyn Hollis, Ema Kuea, Genevieve Smith, Agi Kowalczyk, Simone Lewis and Gulshan Muttoo.

PARISH FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Friday, 15th June 2014 6:30pm \$5 single \$20 family Tickets on sale in a few weeks.

CAN YOU HELP?

Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Primary in Seven Hills is urgently seeking professionals with a science background to coach teachers and students by helping them turn an idea into a testable question that can be investigated by a science experiment, as part of the school's MyScience program.

All you need is an understanding of experimental variables and eight hours to spare over a six-week period. The program commences with training on Tuesday 20th May.

For more information and to be a MyScience mentor at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, contact:
Sally Biskupic, MyScience Co-ordinator, Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills
Sbiskupic@parra.catholic.edu.au or (02) 9622 7216

PARENTS MATHS TIP

Can your child count forwards to 120 by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's?

Can your child count 10's not starting at a zero number? Eg 24, 34, 44 etc

Can your child count by 3's, 5's and 7's from any given number?

2014/2015 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The new 2014/2015 Entertainment Books have arrived and are available for purchase!

Books cost \$65 each and every membership sold raises \$13 for our school.

This year you have the option of ordering an **Entertainment Book Membership** or an **Entertainment Digital Membership**.

You may order securely online at: <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/21576y3>

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

Thank you to all the families who have already purchased their Entertainment Books!



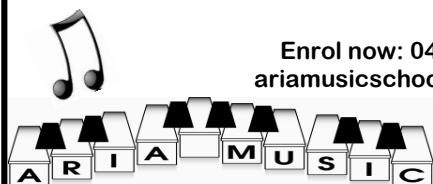
Aria Music guitar and keyboard lessons at St Monica's Primary! Enrol for Term 2

Guitar classes on Mondays
Keyboard classes on Tuesdays
In the Community Room.
Group classes at school
\$21 per lesson .
Individual tuition also available.

Qualified, friendly teachers encourage serious
musical skills in a fun learning environment

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Write 4 Fun Update

Congratulations to
Brandon Lukic and
Jade David (Simon) who
entered the competition.



Although the winners are yet to be
announced, their entries have been
chosen for publication in the next
Write4Fun edition.

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



Nishika Jain	Dunya Grudic	Monica Albayeh	Raymond Maikhael
Amalie Dona	Patrick Newey	Chelsea Lewis	Madeline Lewis
Chantelle Grabham	Jessica Chapman	Rachel French	Abraham Dennis
Pragna Guruprasad	Galia Evangelista	Marcus Trimbounas	Lanz Cruz
Alysha Dunnett	Ashton Wallace	Staff: Miss Buttigieg	

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

When: Thursday 22 May 2014 - From 7:30am to 12:00 noon
Where: Parish Hall, St Monica's Primary, 10 Daking Street, North Parramatta
WHY: To Raise Money for the Cancer Council to HELP SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER



Can you help?

- Come along and enjoy a cup of tea and something to eat for breakfast/morning tea
- Bring grandma, the neighbours, friends and family
- Volunteer to help set up etc
- Supply a SMALL plate of goodies (consider savouries as well as sweet—**no nuts** please)
- Make a donation—you can send a donation in an envelope marked "Biggest Morning Tea" or
- Donate on-line—tax deductible of course

Please contact Mrs Bernadette Haddad if you are able to help.

NOTE: Students may attend with parents but should not be left unsupervised in the playground before 8.30am.



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Friday 2nd May, St Monica's held the annual athletics carnival. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in a range of track and field events at Barton Park. Our students showcased their athletic abilities and outstanding sportsmanship.

We were blessed with beautiful weather for our students to enjoy participating in the athletics activities. The Dance Fever Company provided us with a range of equipment for the activities and the coffee van was a welcome addition to help us to warm up. A huge thank you to all of the staff and parents for assisting with the running of the day and packing up. The day was a success with your ongoing dedication to school sport.

Mrs Erin Turner, Sport Coordinator

*Congratulations Mrs Turner for all the behind the scenes work with the Athletics Carnival.
We really appreciate your expert organisational skills.*



Diocesan Cross Country

Congratulations to Lachlan Roberts who placed 5th in the Diocesan Cross Country which was held yesterday.
Well done Lachlan!



St Monica's Primary



SAVE THE DATE: **SATURDAY 24TH MAY**

FANCY 80 DRESS PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED

TRIVIA NIGHT

ADULTS ONLY

FRUSTRATED AND FRUSTRATED
TRIVIA.COM.AU

CALLING ALL YOU MATERIAL GIRLS AND BOYS
COME ALONG FOR AN **AWESOME** NIGHT OF
TRIVIA GAMES PRIZES

\$10
PER PERSON

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR REGISTRATION FORMS
COMING HOME WITH YOUR KIDS SOON
For enquiries contact TIM Cooper 0408 205 751 or email tim@rockbullid.com.au

BYO
ALCOHOL
& DRINKS

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL PHOTOS



Please visit the school website (Gallery) to see more photos from the Athletics Carnival