

ST MONICA'S  
PRIMARY  
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 2, WEEK 4  
21 May 2014

DIARY DATES

MAY

Week 4

Thur 22 Biggest Morning Tea  
7:30am– 11:00am

Fri 23 Dance Fever

Sat 24 7pm Trivia Night  
Parish Hall

Week 5

Mon 26 Pow Wow 9-10.30am

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

Wed 28 7-8pm POSMS Mtg—  
Maths Focus. Learning  
Space

Thur 29 Feast of the Ascension  
11:30am 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

Wed 4 Newsletter

Fri 6 Dance Fever

Sun 8 9am Confirmation  
St Monica's Church

Week 7

Mon 9 **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY**  
**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Tues 10 Uniform Shop  
8:30am—10:30am

Wed 11 Semester One Reports  
sent home today

Fri 13 Dance Fever

Week 8 **Semester One Parent /**  
**Teacher Interviews**

Mon 16 Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tues 17 Uniform Shop  
8:30am-10:30am

Dance Fever—Homebush

Wed 18 Newsletter

Fri 20 Dance Fever  
Theme Lunch



# Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

St Monica's is now into the fourth year of the diocesan Extending Mathematical Understanding project (E.M.U). During these 4 years the teachers have been challenged in their mathematical understanding and they have had to relearn the way that they teach Mathematics. The teachers have been involved in professional learning to further develop their understanding in best practice for delivering the Mathematics Curriculum and meeting the needs of all the students.

Mrs Gardoni, Mrs Mason, Miss Rosewell and I have been trained as Teacher Leaders in the EMU program and we have had the responsibility of ensuring that all the teachers have a clear understanding of the Number strands in the curriculum.

Each year we set a school goal for Mathematics. This goal is in response to our student data and what we as teachers need to learn to improve the learning outcomes of our students.

The 2014 Numeracy school goal is: To develop students ability to interpret questions. Our approach to teaching mathematics is the same throughout the school. Consistent is the daily 60 minute Numeracy Block in every learning space at St Monica's. There is a consistency in structures and teaching practice ensuring that students achieve the best possible outcomes in Numeracy.

**The Numeracy Block is in 3 parts:**

- Warm Up (10-15 minutes)
- Rich Open Ended Tasks (30 minutes)
- Explicit Teaching /Reflection and Sharing (10-15 minutes)

The Reflection time is an important part of the Numeracy Block. The students 'tune in' to the Mathematics that has been learnt during the open ended task. The focus is learning and also deep understanding.

There is an expectation in every learning space that the students will explain their thinking by communicating mathematically, to demonstrate reasoning abilities that are fundamental to learning mathematics. Teachers ask the students to explain how they work things out. This allows students to share their thinking strategies in solving a problem. To communicate mathematically means that the student needs to use words, numbers or mathematical symbols to explain how they have arrived at an answer.

Parents can assist their child to learn to communicate mathematically by asking them to explain their answer to a problem. Sometimes getting your child to write the process that they used or to draw a picture/diagram of how they arrived at the answer assists them in articulating their thinking. The ultimate goal for each student at St Monica's is that they become numerate.

Numerate people are able to look for patterns and links between numbers. They are able to look for the best ways to answer a problem using efficient strategies and they link what they already know to the new ideas they are learning. Next week we have our parent meeting and our focus is on Mathematics. We will be involving parents in a range of activities that will assist you in supporting your child.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**, Principal

## POSMS MEETING

ALL PARENTS OF  
ST MONICA'S

Are invited to attend  
a **MATHEMATICS**  
**WORKSHOP**

**WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**7:00pm - 8:00pm**

**LEARNING SPACE**

Be prepared to enjoy  
Mathematics as you are  
involved in hands on activities  
that are typical of our  
Numeracy Block.

**ALL WELCOME**

## **Proposed NSW/ACT Catholic Systemic Schools Enterprise Agreement**

The proposed NSW/ACT Catholic Systemic Schools Enterprise Agreement is a single agreement covering the majority of staff working in Catholic Systemic Schools.

*It's Catholic education's response to:*

- growing community, pupil parent and teacher expectations
- funding and policy developments around curriculum and professional standards
- evolving research on new ways teaching and learning can flourish.

There is a dedicated website to explain the rationale and elements of the proposed Enterprise Agreement. Questions from parents and staff and issues raised by the Independent Education Union are posted and responded to on a regular basis.

### **What changes are being talked about?**

Education in Australia is changing. Our classrooms are no longer about a teacher standing in front on a chalkboard with desks in a row. Modern curricula, new technology and community expectations have changed schools forever. And this is putting different demands into our education system.

Catholic schools are proposing a new single agreement covering all teachers and general employees that is suitable for contemporary education – the current work agreement(s) are not in keeping with changes in the education sector.

In line with legislation to be enacted by 2018 a move to a standards-based structure with an emphasis on strengthening school leadership and promoting teaching as a profession

Clearer career pathways for general employees, such as support & operational staff

Emphasis on school based collaboration - *Each school can make some decisions based on their unique community with professional standards in place to ensure good local management.*

Fair pay – with core general conditions for all staff

Strengthening Catholic community values around a set of clearly articulated principles

*Our survey also told us that our values are the reason our staff choose to work in Catholic Education. Agility and an end to unnecessary regulation - The proposed agreement is efficient - consolidating several existing agreements and is written in easy to read English.*

### **FEDERAL BUDGET 2014-2015**

- In bringing down the Federal Budget 2014–15 the Federal government has given clear messages on spending cuts across many policy areas to reduce the government deficit and education is not immune.
- Despite the impact of Federal government budget announcements, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is committed to fulfilling its mission of providing affordable quality Catholic education.
- Federal government has stated their clear intention of devolving responsibility for education to States following the National Commission of Audit recommendation.
- Introducing indexed school funding meaning no **new** funding for schools beyond 2017 - only indexed increases in line with enrolments.
- Funding of the **Better Schools Plan for School Improvement – (Gonski Review)** is not going ahead beyond 2017.
- Federal funding for Catholic schools will now be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which over the last 10 years has risen about 3% annually while education expenditure has risen by 5.5% in the same period.
- Capital spending funding for capital works and new buildings remains unclear. Expected school population projections suggest 350 new Catholic schools needed over next 10 years across Australia
- New Trade Training Centres will not be funded after June 2016, which limits pathways for employment and training for year 11 and 12 students. Parramatta Diocese has two Trade Training Centres in Mt Druitt and Emu Plains.
- Significant cuts to the National teacher standards body (AITSL) who are responsible for determining the benchmarks for high quality teaching.
- Cuts to the national curriculum body (ACARA) who are responsible for developing a national curriculum, assessment and reporting e.g NAPLAN.

**DWF APPEAL DURING MAY**

*Faith at Work* is the theme of the Diocesan Works Fund (DWF) Appeal being held in parishes and Catholic schools during the month of May. This appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family to support ministries and services that no single individual or parish can offer. For example, it supports catechists who teach the faith in state schools, seminarians who are preparing for the priesthood, young adults working in youth ministry, and the All Saints of Africa Centre in Blacktown for recent refugees and migrants. Visit the website to watch a video message from Bishop Anthony and to find out more about how you can make a difference: [www.faithatwork.org.au](http://www.faithatwork.org.au) Please send your envelopes to the School Office for this Appeal. *Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.*

**HAIRCUTS—BOYS**

Parents are reminded about our Uniform Policy relating to boy's hairstyles. **Haircuts must be neat and simple. No undercuts, number ones, rat tails, pony tails or hair colouring is permitted.** School holidays are the time when they may have alternate hair styles.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the Grover family on the safe arrival of their new baby daughter, A sister for Aadit (Year 2).

**MOTHER'S DAY STALL**

Many thanks to everyone who assisted on the Mother's Day Stall on Thursday 8 May: Simone Lewis, Gulshan Muttoo, Agi Kowalczyk, Dorota Grzelak, Cathryn Crowle, Mitsue French, Julie-Anne Gorrell, Bernadette Haddad and Tiffany Cooper. **\$650** was raised on the day (\$270 of this money was raised through donated items to the stall).

**THANK YOU—NORTHMEAD BEAUTY THERAPY**

Thank you to Michelle Weston from Northmead Beauty Therapy who kindly donated 15 x \$10 Vouchers for our Mother's Day Stall. Michelle's Salon can be located at 23 Madeline Ave Northmead and her contact number is 9890 7444. Thank you Michelle for your very generous donation to St Monica's School.

**SCHOOL FEES**

Term 2 School Fees have now been sent home by the Catholic Education Office. If you have not received your fees 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.**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE—THANK YOU**

Thanks to Neil Joseph, Peter Reid, Paul Hossack, Janet Joseph, Simone Lewis, Kristy O'Rourke, Gulshan Muttoo, Julie-Anne Gorrell, Trish Forsyth, Vesna Furjanic, Tiff Cooper, Gabriela Maksimova and Rebecca Assaf for their help on the day. A profit of \$306 was raised and will go towards technology for the Learning Space. *Social/Welcome Team*

**ST MONICA'S 80's TRIVIA NIGHT SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2014 - 7PM**

Adults only. \$10 per head. Singles, couples and teams up to 8. BYO alcohol and nibbles. Come along for a night of laughter and **over \$2000 worth of great prizes** up for grabs. Silent Auction with items including a signed Parramatta Eels jersey, Wanderers and Sydney FC paraphernalia, to name just a few. Raid your children's money boxes for gold coins and bring them along to join in the extra fun, games and bonus rounds. All items have been generously donated. All funds raised go towards new technology for the Learning Space.

**NAPLAN BREAKFAST**

Thank you to Bernadette Haddad for organising the three morning event for Years 3 and 5. Thanks to Tiffany Cooper for donating the fruit. Thank you also to the parent helpers: Bernadette Haddad, Claire Pospischil, Neil Joseph, Pauline and Charles Boujandy and the many parents who helped on the day. Thank you also to the following students who assisted on the day: Andy and Maureen Haddad, Philip and Edward Joseph. Thank you to Christine Khadi and her sister Sally for assisting with the set up for the breakfast.

**TENNIS LESSONS**

Mr Davidson wishes to advise that there are **vacancies in the Thursday classes** for students in Year One or above. There are three vacancies in the 8:15am class and four vacancies in the 8:45am class. If you are interested please contact Mr Davidson directly or leave your details at the school office.

**WRITE4FUN**

Congratulations to Alysha Dunnett and Bernard Kneipp for also entering the recent writing competition. Go to the website to read all the winning entries! [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net)

**BIGGEST MORNING TEA—Thursday 22 May from 7:30am—11:00am.** Parish Hall. Come along, enjoy a cup of tea, supply a small plate of goodies (nut free), make a donation or volunteer to help. Please contact Bernadette Haddad if you are available to help. Students may attend with parents but should not be left unsupervised in the playground before 8:30am. All welcome.

### ABC SPLASH PROGRAMME

Hi. My name is Julian. I am from Stage 3. On Thursday 22nd May, I will be on ABC Splash from 2:00pm to 2:30pm, teaching others about programming. You can view this live, on the ABC Splash website. The URL is [splash.abc.net.au](http://splash.abc.net.au) Be sure to tune in. If you miss this, you can watch it online (also for parents!) Last Thursday on the 15th, Goose from Good Game and I filmed six segments. We will teach the viewers how to make their own game. *Julian, Stage 3*

### PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premiers Reading Challenge. Neave Sciacca, Kayla Grzelak, Emma Halamkova, Gene Kneipp, Kael Sciacca, Geshua Toledo, Alexis Chang, Jessica Chapman, Mateo Soriano, Abraham Dennis, Victoria Kassis, Cassandra Kowalczyk, Brandon Lukic, Edward Joseph and Bernard Kneipp. *Mrs Denelle Gardoni*

### TALENT QUEST

St Monica's Talent Quest will be held in one session commencing at **11:30am on Thursday 29 May**. This event will take place in the Parish Hall beginning with finalists in Division 1 (Stage 1 students). All parents are welcome to attend. Families of finalists will be officially notified this week.

*Miss Leona Sweeney*



### WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2014

On the 19th May, a group of children from Stages 2 and 3 went to the Riverside Theatre at Parramatta for the Sydney Writers' Festival. We listened to some amazing authors talk about their books and inspiration.

The authors we listened to were Steven Herrick, Felice Arena, Ursula Dubosarsky, Cornelia Funke and an illustrator named Andrew Joyner. Our favourite author was Steven Herrick because was entertainingly hilarious. He writes interesting poems and uses his kids as inspiration.

Thanks to Mr Lewis, Mrs Khadi and Mrs Basha for transporting us to and from the Theatre.

Thank you also to Miss Rosewell and Sr Mary for taking us.

*By the Stage 2 and Stage 3 Students*



### Library Monitors, 2014

Congratulations to the following children who are now Library Monitors for 2014!

They all filled in an application form and went through the interview process. The successful monitors have received their badges, and are part of a weekly roster! Their jobs include helping at borrowing time with scanning, putting books away on their correct shelves, and helping in many ways during lunch time and Book Fairs!

#### Year 5:

Alisha M, Alysha D, Sally E, Kyah D, Amalie D

#### Year 4:

Erica C, Alanah K, Lachlan R, Jack T, Chanel A, Joshua A, Alana O, Mariah F, Cassie K, Jackson B, Patrick C, Philip J, Andy H, Nishika J, Natasha M

Well done!

*Mrs Boulous*

### Book Character Parade and Book Fair (advanced notice)

Dear Parents,

Next term we will be holding a **Book Character Parade** and our second **Book Fair** of the year.

Date: **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August, Parade at 9am** The **Book Fair** will be held **after the parade** and the students will be able to attend the Book Fair with their parents or later in their class groups.

The Book Week theme this year is 'Connect to Reading', and we encourage the students to come dressed as **a book character they have connected with!** We emphasise that the character **MUST be from a book** and not just the child's favourite movie (although some movies have been made about books).

We will have a prize for each Stage, and we invite the children who attend POW WOWS to join us where there will be a prize for all! There will be more details as we get closer to the date.

*Mrs Sharon Boulous*  
Teacher/Librarian

## 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>

Thank you to all the families who have already purchased their Entertainment Books! Don't miss out!!

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



## WINTER UNIFORM / UNIFORM SHOP

All students should now be wearing their full winter uniform.

A reminder that the uniform shop is open on **Tuesday mornings between 8.30am and 10.30am**.

If you are unable to attend the uniform shop during this time, you may send in a completed uniform order form (together with payment) to the school office. Forms are available from the school office or the school website. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform—a detailed list can be found below.

### GIRLS

#### Winter

Short-sleeved polo shirt  
Long-sleeved polo shirt (optional)  
Culottes or Long Navy pants  
Navy Sloppy Joe (optional)  
School Jacket  
Navy winter stockings  
Black school shoes

#### Sport

Short-Sleeved Shirt  
Sports Shorts  
Tracksuit Pants/School Jacket  
Navy or white Socks  
Joggers

### BOYS

#### Winter

Short-sleeved polo shirt  
Long-sleeved polo shirt (optional)  
Long Navy pants  
Navy Sloppy Joe (optional)  
School Jacket  
Navy Socks  
Black school shoes

#### Sport

Short-Sleeved Shirt  
Sports Shorts  
Tracksuit pants/School Jacket  
Navy or white Socks  
Joggers

The **School Jacket** with crest may be worn at any time throughout the year  
The **School Hat** with crest is a compulsory school item to be worn every day



**Congratulations to everyone who participated in the School Athletics Carnival.**

**Pictured are students who received ribbons for their efforts on the day. Well done!**

## FOSMS Dinner Term 2

FOSMS will meet for a Thai meal at our original stomping ground in North Parramatta. Please check your calendars and lock in Friday **30th May at 7:30 pm**.

Please get back to me by 26th May so I can make the booking.

Neil Joseph (m) 0418113160

Restaurant: Thai Garden House  
526 Church St, North  
Parramatta NSW 2151

## Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

On the 20th of May, fourteen boys from Stage Three participated in a fun and exciting Soccer Gala Day. The boys played in seven different soccer matches, each lasting 10 minutes against other schools. They learnt different positions, skills and above all, how to work together and have fun. The boys represented the school in a great way and had a great time. We would like to thank all the parents, who gave up their time to take the boys to the park and for being very supportive of the team. Special thanks to Miss Bagnall and Mrs Turner for organising the day and to Bessie for volunteering to be our Referee. Thanks.

*By Jacob Khadi and Edward Joseph, Stage 3*



## ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

Last week our school participated in Allergy Awareness Week. You may have noticed the fortune fact cookies that the children took home on Friday. As well as enjoying a treat free from the leading allergens, they also learnt an important fact about allergies that we hope raised their awareness and the awareness of their family and friends. Australia and New Zealand have the highest growing population of children born with allergies across the world. This is a very serious condition and can be life threatening. The message we want to share is that it takes a community to protect and support people with allergies, especially our children and young people. Please take the time to find out more about allergies and encourage the discussion amongst family and friends. A great place to get the latest information is at [www.allergyfacts.org](http://www.allergyfacts.org) Please do not hesitate to approach Mrs Assaf for more information.

### **Grace & Silence Retreat Day: 24 May**

Young women aged 17-30 who are discerning their vocation to marriage, single or consecrated life or who would like to have a day of recollection are invited to the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mulgoa. 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. From 9.30am-4.30pm at the Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Details and registration: Sr M Julie 0408 738 334, [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com)

### **Vocation Discernment Afternoon: 25 May**

All young men who feel God might be calling them to the priesthood are invited to the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's vocation discernment afternoon. Starts at 2pm and concludes with pizza at 6pm. Holy Spirit Seminary, 31-33 Allen Street, Harris Park. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director tel 0409 172 700 or email: [vocations@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@parra.catholic.org.au)  
Visit: [www.parra.catholic.org.au/vocations](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/vocations) and [www.parra.catholic.org.au/holyspiritseminary](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/holyspiritseminary)

### **An evening for couples: 29 May**

Do you find it difficult to make decisions as a couple?

Does one or both of you end up feeling compromised and without an equal voice?

Do your discussions often result in unpleasant arguments or cold wars?

Come and learn a method for making couple decisions. This unique Values Based Decisions Making framework will help you to learn how to connect with your deepest values for love and unity so that your choices become true couple decisions. Francine Pirola, an experienced marriage educator, a director and founder of the Smart Loving series courses, will give this presentation. From 7.30-9pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown. Admission is free.  
Bookings: Karin at CatholicCare Parramatta (02) 9933 222, [Marriage@ccss.org.au](mailto:Marriage@ccss.org.au)

### **Faith at the Fiddler: 29 May**

A forum for young people aged 18-35 to come together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the warm and friendly atmosphere of Sydney's most famous pub. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Education Parramatta. The speaker is well-known journalist Miranda Devine. Topic: Communicating Virtue – How young people are hungry for meaning in an amoral age. From 5pm-7pm at The Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar – Catholic Education, Parramatta, [sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 1-8 June**

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches has produced resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which has the theme: 'Has Christ been divided?', a reference to *I Cor 1:1-17*. These resources have been adapted for use in Australia by the Faith and Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia. They include: Ecumenical Service of Worship outline; Daily Prayers and Biblical Reflections; Prayer Cards. These resources can be downloaded and ordered from [www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au](http://www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au)

### **Reunion of Catherine McAuley High School Westmead Class of 1972: 9 August**

Seeking ex-students and teachers who were at McAuley from 1969 to 1972 for a reunion. Don't be shy! We have located about 50 of our classmates and would love to find 100% of the girls in our year. Please pass on this message to your daughter, other family members or friends if they attended the school. Email Trish Lohan [tlohan@yahoo.com](mailto:tlohan@yahoo.com) or find us on Facebook: **Catherine McAuley Westmead Alumni Association**