

DIARY DATES

Week 8

Mon 24 Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 25 Uniform Shop open
8:30am-10:30am

DECEMBER

Week 9

Mon 1 Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 2 Uniform Shop open
8:30am-10:30am

Fri 5 Theme Lunch

Week 10

Mon 8 Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 9 Uniform Shop open
8:30am-10:30am

Christmas Celebration

Wed 10 ROLLOVER-Office

Semester 2 Reports
go home today

Thur 11 ROLLOVER-Office

Fri 12 ROLLOVER-Office
School Disco—Mufti
& gold coin donation

Sat 13 Working Bee

Week 11

Mon 15 9am Awards
Assembly followed by
Thank you Morning
Tea

Tues 16 Scrub Day
6pm End of Year Mass
and Year 6 Graduation

Wed 17 Last day for students

Thur 18 Staff Development Day

Fri 19 Staff Development Day

TERM 1 January 2015

Mon 26 Australia Day holiday

Tues 27 Staff Development
Day—MAI Interviews

Wed 28 Staff Development
Day—MAI Interviews

Thur 29 All students return for
Term 1 (ES1 1/2 day)

Fri 30 ES1 (1/2 day)
Swimming Carnival



Monica's Matters

Web: www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au
Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

Phone: 9630 3697
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

There is no denying that we all live busy lives and that the years seem to be passing more quickly than ever! Family life is hectic to the point that 'quality time together' has to be rescheduled! Demands on our time are at an all-time high. As a result we set our priorities and live life accordingly. Yet there are times when we need to stop and evaluate what is important in our lives. As I reflect on the year that has just passed I am once more convinced that your involvement in our school is key to its success. Research tells us that children are happiest and achieve more when their parents are actively involved in their school life. Certainly my experience over many years supports this. So how does it happen at St Monica's? Here are a few examples:

Learning Meetings - during 2014 many parents have attended our focused POSMs meetings each term. This year we have focused on Mathematics, Project Based Learning and NAPLAN. Earlier in the year the teachers had successful information nights and the feedback from the parent/teacher interviews was very positive. Many parents also attended the 1-2-3 Magic and Emotional Coaching Parent Course.

Extra Curricular - Many parents have assisted with excursions throughout the year that align to the learning in the classroom. Excursions have included - Calmsley City Farm, Wannabees, Family Play Town, Sydney Observatory, Bathurst Goldfields, Taronga Zoo, Grip Leadership Day, Writer's Festival, Eco Summit and Lake Parramatta lunch time visits. Support has also been given to our successful sporting events- swimming, cross country, athletics, netball, soccer, Dance Fever and gymnastics

The Social Welcome Team - this small group of dedicated parents have focused on the social life of the school and what a year they have had! The following list certainly demonstrates their enthusiasm: Welcome Morning Tea, Bush Dance, Pancake Day, Catholic School's Week Morning Tea, cake stall for the Red Cross, Easter raffle, working bee, theme lunches- sausage sizzle, pasta, pizza & pie, discos, open afternoon tour, Mother's/Father's Day stall, NAPLAN breakfast, Trivia Night, walkathon and World Teacher's Day. I thank each and every parent on this team for your ongoing support.

With all of this parental involvement, no wonder our students are doing so well!

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please keep the following children and their families in your prayers as the children make their First Reconciliation at **7pm** this **Friday 21st November** in St Monica's Church.

Alexis Chang, Jessica Chapman, Rhiannon Cooper, Christian Dib,
Myles Gaddi, Mohan Govender, Jason Grey, Maurice Haddad, Daryll Hilario,
Kurt Hilario, Christian Kandalaft, Chelsea Lewis, Madeline Lewis,
Chanelle Maikhael, Ainsley Mitchell, Charlotte Newey,
Marley Puyat, Garbhan Sciacca, Isabella Smith and Mateo Soriano



ASTHMA TRAINING

Last Wednesday the teachers completed their bi-annual Asthma Training. In the next few weeks the teachers will complete their bi-annual anaphylaxis training and their yearly CPR training.

SYMPATHY

The school community extends its deepest sympathy to Dallas Kuea (ES1) and his mother Emma Lolohea on the recent death of Mr Peta Kuea (Dallas' father). Please keep Dallas and Emma in your prayers.

FAREWELL

Farewell to Madeleine Gorrell who will be leaving St Monica's at the end of this week to return with her family to Melbourne. Thank you to Mrs Gorrell who has actively supported the activities of the Social Welcome Team and has assisted with the fete and with the organisation in Pow Wow over the past three years.

WORKING BEE

Our next Working Bee is scheduled for **Saturday 13th December 2014 (Week 10)**. Closer to the event a flyer will be sent home with further details. Many hands make light work—even if you can only spare one hour.



2015 SCHOOL FEES

The Catholic Education Office, Parramatta have now set the school fees for 2015. A copy of the school fee schedule has been sent home to each family. School Fee information may also be found on the school website.

AWARDS ASSEMBLY AND THANK YOU MORNING TEA

The Awards Assembly and Morning Tea will be held on **Monday 15th December 2014** commencing at 9am.

SCHOOL DISCO

Our next school disco will be held on **Friday 12th December** between **1:30pm and 2:45pm**. Children are requested to bring in a **GOLD COIN** donation and they may wear **MUFTI** to school. Thank you to Mr George Assaf who has kindly offered to be our DJ for the disco.



CAR WASH—Year 6 Graduation Fundraiser

A HUGE thank you to all who made the Year 6 car wash a massive success on Saturday 8 November! Thanks to all the children and parents who washed an amazing **111 cars**—we did an awesome job!! A special thank you also to the parents of students not in Year 6 and to the siblings from all other stages who helped on the day. Thanks to all who brought their cars to be washed. Thanks to the Khadi and Azar families for the donation of the coffee cart and supplies and bottles of water. Thanks to the Kassis/Halabi family for their donation of the sausage sizzle. Thanks to Peta Cappello for signage, set up and organisation, Janet Joseph for logistics and Cathy Giles for money and food stall management with Susan Halabi. Most of all thank you to Claudia Kassis for being there all day—not only supervising but working tirelessly. It looks like we made in excess of \$1800—an amazing job! Well done and thanks to everyone. The Year 6 Graduation will certainly benefit. *Janet Joseph*



OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

Unless you are under an arrangement, all school fees should now have been paid. If you still have outstanding school fees, please call the school office *immediately* to discuss this with the Principal.

Please note that all outstanding school fees must be finalised by Friday 5th December 2014.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FINANCIAL / ADMINISTRATION ROLLOVER

The Annual School Financial/Administration Rollover will be taking place on **Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th December 2014 (Week 10)**.

Please note that there will be ***limited services available from the school office*** on these days.

It would be appreciated if only phone calls of an *urgent nature* are made to the office while the Rollover is in progress. Thank you.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have recently received Merit Awards.

Early Stage One	Evan Michael, John Sadek, Kwaku Boakye
Stage One	Ashley Roberts, Galia Evangelista, Madeleine Gorrell, Veronica Sadek, Samika Seepersad
Stage Two	Myles Gaddi, Chelsea Lewis, Isabella Smith, Marley Puyat
Stage Three	Elleni Sentas, Salama Kipanya Kunambi

Happy birthday to the following students who will be celebrating birthdays in **November**.



Laeticia Hossack	Gene Kneipp	Massimo Milutinovic
Victoria Kassis	Manson Lu	Evan Michael
Neelesh Govender	Antonio Batach	Jacob Khadi
Rhiannon Cooper	Alexander Azar	Isabella Smith
Gabriel Bucur	Ryan Clark	Jericho Crame
Peter Farah	Summer Ierfino	Emma Sadek

ARIA MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Students who attend the Aria Music School will be performing at the beginning of the End of Year Assembly and during the Thank You morning tea on Monday 15 December.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2015 - ADVANCE NOTICE

Mathematical Assessment Interviews — Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th January 2015

In 2015 we will again be assessing each child using the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) before Term 1 starts. Each family has been invited to make appointments to have their child/children attend a Mathematical Assessment Interview on one of the above dates in January.

The assessment interview takes approximately 30 minutes.

Please return the note that has been sent home nominating an interview time slot.

This means that school will commence for all students from Kindergarten to Stage 3 on Thursday 29th January 2015.

Important dates to remember—Term 4

Week 10	
Tuesday 9 December	Christmas Celebration
Wednesday 10 December	Rollover— <i>limited services available from the Office</i>
Thursday 11 December	Rollover— <i>limited services available from the Office</i>
Friday 12 December	Rollover – <i>limited services available from the Office</i>
Saturday 13 December	Working Bee
Week 11	
Monday 15 December	9:00am Awards Assembly followed by Thank You Morning Tea (<i>please note date change</i>)
Tuesday 16 December	6pm End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation
Wednesday 17 December	Last day for students
Thursday 18 December	Staff Development Day
Friday 19 December	Staff Development Day

SWIMMING CARNIVAL—Friday 30th January 2015 at Waves Aquatic Centre, Baulkham Hills



Permission notes have been sent home to students in Years 3-6 and eligible students in Year 2 who will be attending the Swimming Carnival next year. The Swimming Please note that the Swimming Carnival is a **compulsory school event**. The Swimming Carnival Permission Note can be downloaded from the school website—go to News and Events -School Notes-Sport.

Permission notes must be returned to school by **Friday 5 December 2014**. **Please note that the Carnival is being held on the second day of Term 1.**

As part of the Workplace Health and Safety regulations, there will be **no 'free swimming' or novelties** available during the carnival.

PRESERVES FUNDRAISER

Thanks very much to everyone who supported the recent preserve fundraiser. \$416 has been raised and donated to the school. *Mrs Claire Pospischil*

St Monica's School Community thanks Claire for her generous donation to the school and for her organisation of this special fundraiser.

Writers' Festival Launch of "Russ the Bus" at Parramatta Stadium

Students from St Monica's were invited to participate in the Writer's Festival Launch of 'Russ the Bus'. The school was featured on the Today show program. More pictures are available on the school website.



Hairstyles

Hair is to be clean and neatly cut. The following guidelines for students apply:

Girls

- Shoulder length or longer hair **must be tied back**.
- Ribbons or scrunchies in **school colours only** may be worn.
- Hair colouring is **not permitted**. This includes streaks, colour, dyes or excessive gel.

Boys

- Neat and simple haircuts.
- No undercuts, shaved heads, number ones, rat tails or pony tails.
- Hair colouring is **not permitted**. This includes streaks, colour, dyes or excessive gel.

Congratulations to the following students who received Gold Premier's Reading Challenge Awards

Ann-Marie Boujandy, Alexis Chang, Jessica Chapman, Rachel French, Amelia Furjanic, Maurice Haddad, Nishika Jain, Chelsea Lewis, Madeline Lewis, Garbhan Sciacca, Isabella Smith, Mateo Soriano and Pinar Helena Unver. Well done!



OLQP Greystanes—Charity Craft Market and Antique Valuation

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish (OLQP) Greystanes is again holding its highly popular Greystanes Charity Craft Market and Antique Valuation event on **Saturday, 22 November 2014 from 8am to 2pm in Camilleri Hall**. The profits from each Craft Market are given to a different charity each time the event is held; the profits from the upcoming Craft Market will be donated to CareFlight.

It is one month before Christmas, so be assured the Market will have special gift ideas. There are over 35 stalls from all over Sydney, selling quality gifts, baby wear, home-made décor, kitchen goods, edible treats, scarves and bags, jewellery, violets and plants and much more. A unique drawcard of the Craft Market is the professional Antique Valuations, available from 8.30am. Everyone is encouraged to bring along special treasures or family heirlooms and paintings to have them valued. Instead of bringing large paintings with you, the valuation can be done from a photo of the painting and artist signature. Each valuation costs \$5.00. This is a great social day out for the whole family with traditional Devonshire teas and a fantastic sausage sizzle serving breakfast and lunch from 8am. Profits from the Craft Market will be donated to CareFlight.

Save the Dates!

St Monica's North Parramatta Fete on Saturday 24th October 2015

St Marys Rydalmere Fete on Saturday 7th November 2015



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS

Re: Whooping Cough - Public Health alert

There has been an increase of whooping cough (Pertussis) notifications in the Western Sydney area since June 2014, particularly in the 2155 postcode area.

In order to prevent further cases of whooping cough Western Sydney Public Health Unit advises the following:

If your child (or any member of your family) has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as **a dry or persistent cough**, which may be especially bad at night, please **see your doctor** and take this notice with you. A nose and throat swab test can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until s/he has taken 5 days of antibiotics.

A whooping cough fact sheet is enclosed. More information on whooping cough is available on the NSW Health website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx> or please call Western Sydney Public health unit on 9840 3603 if you have any queries.

Thank you for your attention.

1st Wentworthville Scout Fun Day Saturday 29 November 2014 Time 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Cnr Darcy Road and Lower Mount Street Wentworthville NSW.

Greater Western Sydney Region Scouts will be holding a District Community Fun Day and Market Day commencing at 8 am at the Wentworthville Scout Hall. Scouting is for boys and girls aged 6 years to 25 years (Joeys 6-8, Cubs 8-10, Scouts 11-15, Venturers 15-18 Rovers 18+). A Scout information stall will operate with a range of activities like our mobile climbing wall, crate stacking, rope ascending, camp fires, cooking and a guessing competition. Come along and find out all the interesting and exciting opportunities that await you including camping, diving, canoeing, sailing, caving, abseiling, science and technology nights, hiking, bike riding, bowling, national and international trips. Come along and have some Scouting fun. Mums and Dads might also like to buy some hand-crafted jams, timber or plants and see what other treasures they can find before Christmas Day!

More <http://www.1stwenty.org.au/>