

DIARY DATES  
DECEMBER

Week 9	
Wed 3	Stage 3 Art Exhibition 6pm-8pm, Learning Space
Week 10	
Mon 8	Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 9	Uniform Shop open 8:30am-10:30am  Christmas Celebration 6:30pm for 7pm start
Wed 10	ROLLOVER-Office (Limited services from the School Office 10/12—12/12)  Semester 2 Reports go home today
Thur 11	ROLLOVER-Office
Fri 12	ROLLOVER-Office  School Disco — * Mufti * gold coin donation * theme lunch - (sausage sizzle)
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](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,

Last Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, marked the beginning of the new church year and the church season of Advent. The four weeks of Advent lead us to Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus. The story of His birth is very familiar to us and has been known by believers and non-believers alike for over 2000 years. At my parish church over the weekend my Parish Priest encouraged us during Advent to be a people of hope, compassion and tolerance for those whose needs are greater than our own. During Advent our school community has been asked to generously support sending food items to school for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. The hampers will be distributed to families within our local community who are in great need of our care and support.

As the 2014 school year draws to a close I take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to you and your families for all you have contributed this year to making St Monica's a wonderful place of learning and life for our students. It is your engagement with what we are trying to achieve here at St Monica's that enables us to continue our successes.

I wish to acknowledge the many families who leave our school community this year as the last of their children graduates from Primary School. Feel certain that your contribution to this school is cherished as a lasting gift to the education of our students now and into the future.

Farewell to the following families: Aoun, Batach, Cappello, Carter, Domanska, Giles, Grabham, Hawkins, Naik, Peen, Phillips, Reid and Youssef.

Farewell to students in other grades who will also be leaving our school: Cruz, Kowalcyk and Mendez (Valencia).

I thank the teachers and staff of the school for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to their vocation as co-educators of your children. Our goals are all centred around creating the best learning opportunities for the children. In a special way I wish to thank Mrs Mason and Miss Rosewell for their outstanding leadership, passion and work during this year and particularly this term.

At this time of year it is also sad for a school community to farewell valued staff members. I would like to thank Mrs McKenzie who has endeared herself to all the students especially in Year 1 this year with her gentleness, her passion for early childhood learning and her understanding of each child's needs.

Sister Mary and Sister Teresa will also be leaving us at the end of the year to work with Parramatta Marist, Catherine McAuley and Mother Teresa Primary School, Westmead. We thank them both for their dedication to the learning at St Monica's. We have appreciated their wisdom, friendliness, laughter and their fabulous capturing of our events throughout the year.

We congratulate Mrs Erin Turner on her recent appointment as Coordinator at St Monica's for 2015.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

## 2015 SCHOOL LEADERS

It is with pleasure that I announce the School Student Leadership Team for 2015. It was wonderful to see all Year 5 students put their names forward to be considered as part of the team. **Miss O'Donnell**

**School Ambassadors:** Abbi Lewis and Hayley Herder-Beke  
**Student Representative Council:** Mattheas Noonan and Sally Essey

## WORKING BEE

Our next Working Bee is scheduled for **Saturday 13th December 2014 (Week 10) between 7am and 11:00am**. Many hands make light work—even if you can only spare one hour.



## 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.**

## STAGE 3 ART EXHIBITION

Stage 3 will be holding their Art Exhibition tonight Wednesday 3 December 2014 between **6:00pm and 8:00pm** in the Learning Space. All are welcome to attend this special event.

## BOOK COVERING

Dear Parents. We have purchased some new books for Reader's Circle for next year. There are 6 copies of each book and we would appreciate them being covered so the students may commence using them next year. If you are able to take a set of 6 books, I have left them inside the office door in bags with the contact you will need for each bundle. When the books are covered, could you leave them in the same box for me to collect and add to our shelves ready for next year? Thank you. **Mrs Boulous, Teacher/Librarian**

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION

There are still **5 families** who have not replied to the Year 6 Graduation Dinner. As a matter of urgency could you please return your RSVP and payment as final numbers were due to the venue yesterday. Thank you.

## SCHOOL DISCO

**Friday 12 December** between **1:30pm and 2:45pm**. Children are requested to bring in a **gold coin donation** and they may wear **mufti**. There will also be a sausage sizzle lunch for children to purchase on the day. There will **not** be a theme lunch this Friday 5 December as previously advertised.

## Merit Awards

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

<b>Early Stage One</b>	Sophie Stoker, Tina Kiaiefar, Mark Rodriguez
<b>Stage One</b>	Medeea Pandrea, Jesse Maffina, Zac Michael, Pragna Guruprasad, Jessica Stoker, Merna El Merhabi, Ajok Kondok
<b>Stage Three</b>	Christian Farah, Alysha Dunnett, Charlotte Carter, Alby Giles

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

Chanelle Maikhael	Daryll Hilario	Isabella Smith
Hayden Herder-Beke	Isabel Menjivar	Mark Rodriguez
Melica Rohani	Peter Boujandy	Bernardo Enciso Llamas
Tina Kiaiefar	James Reid	Martha Kassis
Skye Meale	Jonah Assaf	

**Staff:** Mrs Boulous, Mrs Weston, Miss Clough, Mrs Cattermole and Mrs Newbury



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

As the Christmas concert quickly approaches, we would like to inform you that all children will be participating in our Christmas Concert. It will be held at **6:30pm** for a **7:00pm** start on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 on St Monica's school grounds.

Please note that this will be an **outdoor event** and in the event of rain, it will be **cancelled**. Please bring something to sit on (chairs/picnic blanket) and picnic food. All students will sit with their parents until their class performance on the night.

The students have been rehearsing their parts and are very excited to share their performances with you.

**Class teachers have sent home notes outlining what the students will wear. Please refer to these notes for details.**

We look forward to seeing you at our celebration on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Please note: There will be limited parking on the Parish site and there will be no parking within the school grounds.



### Important remaining events for Term 4

#### Week 9

Wednesday 3 December

Stage 3 Art Show—Learning Space 6:00pm-8:00pm  
All welcome

#### Week 10

Tuesday 9 December

Christmas Celebration 6:30pm for 7:00pm start  
Please refer to letters sent home last week for details.

Wednesday 10 December

Rollover—*limited services available from the Office*

Thursday 11 December

Rollover—*limited services available from the Office*

Friday 12 December

Rollover – *limited services available from the Office*  
Sausage Sizzle

Disco (Children wear Mufti for a gold coin donation).

All proceeds to St Vincent de Paul

Saturday 13 December

Working Bee 7:00am-11:00am

#### Week 11

Monday 15 December

9:00am Awards Assembly followed by Thank You Morning Tea

ARIA students will entertain parents during morning tea.

Tuesday 16 December

Scrub Day! Students wear Mufti.

6pm End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation. ***All families to attend.***

Wednesday 17 December

Last day for students. Farewell Tunnel at 2:45pm.

Thursday 18 December

Staff Development Day

Friday 19 December

Staff Development Day

### Important dates for the first 2 weeks for 2015

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

MAI Assessments (Staff Development Days)

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January

All students commence Term 1.

Parent morning tea after assembly

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Primary Swimming Carnival—Waves, Baulkham Hills

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Opening School Mass 9:00am St Monica's

Information Nights

Week 3—Wednesday

**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.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

**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.**

**Catherine McAuley Year 7 2016 Enrolment**

A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools was introduced in October 2014 which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese. The key change in the new policy is the removal of the concept of 'feeder' parishes and schools.



In light of these recent changes it means the letter sent to all primary school parents of Year 5 girls concerning enrolment at Catherine McAuley for Year 7 2016 is now incorrect. That letter referred to feeder schools and advised that Catherine McAuley would not need to interview applicants from feeder schools who apply for a place at Catherine McAuley.

***Please be advised that given the new Enrolment Policy and given the great demand for places at Catherine McAuley all applicants will continue to be interviewed as was past practice.***

A reminder that applications for Year 7 2016 must be submitted by the ***closing date of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015*** to be considered for first round offers. Offers of admission will be made during Term 2.

A Year 7 2016 Enrolment Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 after the Catherine McAuley Open Afternoon/Evening which will now take place from 4.00 – 6.30pm.

Please contact Catherine McAuley School Reception if you have any further questions regarding enrolment on 9849 9100 or visit our school website [www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au)

## 2015 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, government funding of the school sector is still very much in the spotlight. There is still no proposed funding model from the Federal Government beyond 2017, which is causing uncertainty for schools and our system.

While we hope a new model will be developed soon, we can expect further pressure on government funding in the future. Educational inflation is at 5.1% adding further pressure on the costs of schooling.

This means we will need to pass on a 5% school fee increase next year to ensure we can maintain our current service levels (see over page).

We understand families are also facing greater financial strain, so we do not make this decision lightly.

We are committed to ensuring that no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation and we have in place a range of discounts and programs to support families including:

- Sibling discounts for second and third child enrolled
- No diocesan tuition fees for the fourth and subsequent children enrolled
- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Financial hardship relief
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

Our schools also keep school-based fees for technology, administration and excursions within a reasonable amount to ensure the costs of a Catholic education are as affordable as possible.

In terms of capital funding, there is increasing pressure on Catholic schools to pay for development costs and land for new schools. Additionally, new government funding for capital projects is very limited and interest subsidies have been abolished.

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

To ensure this continues we will be increasing the building levy by 5% or \$33 per family per year (see over page).

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs while increasing our services and value for money and are directing our limited resources into big initiatives like:

- literacy and numeracy programs to improve learning outcomes (Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4) and our support for students with disabilities and emotional and behavioural needs (Diversity is the Norm, post school options, etc)
- putting more teaching resources into classrooms for literacy intervention
- providing greater opportunities for professional learning for leaders and teachers
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our technology and infrastructure
- modernising learning spaces



**Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2015**

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees can be paid upfront at the start of the year or in three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is only charged for the first three (3) children currently enrolled in the diocese (in other words there is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools - see 'Sibling Discounts' below). To work out how much the fee is for each child, check the table below.

The 2015 Annual and Term Diocesan Tuition Fees are as follows:

ANNUAL FEES	No charge for 4th+ children	1st Child	2nd Child	3rd Child
Primary	Kindergarten	100%	75%	50%
	Years 1 – 6	\$1,047	\$786	\$525
Secondary	Years 7 – 8	\$1,350	\$1,014	\$675
	Years 9 – 10	\$1,875	\$1,407	\$939
	Years 11 – 12	\$2,079	\$1,560	\$1,041
		\$2,658	\$1,995	\$1,329

TERM FEES	Charged in Terms 1, 2 & 3	1st Child	2nd Child	3rd Child
Primary	Kindergarten	100%	75%	50%
	Years 1 – 6	\$349	\$262	\$175
Secondary	Years 7 – 8	\$450	\$338	\$225
	Years 9 – 10	\$625	\$469	\$313
	Years 11 – 12	\$693	\$520	\$347
		\$888	\$665	\$443

**Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2015**

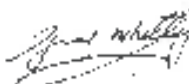
All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. The levy for 2015 is \$702 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$234 payable in terms one, two and three.

I understand that for some families, school fee increases will be difficult to manage, and if this is the case, I urge you to confidentially contact your school principal to enquire about financial hardship.

Please know we will provide every assistance to families in serious financial need.

Please visit our website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au) for more information. If you have any concerns please contact your school principal.

Yours sincerely



Greg Whitby  
Executive Director of Schools



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta