



TERM 1, WEEK 1  
30 January 2014

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## DIARY DATES

### JANUARY

#### Week 1

Thurs 30 Students return for Term 1 (ES1—S3)

ES1 half day

Morning Tea for all parents

Fri 31 ES1 half day  
8:50am-1:45pm

Swimming Carnival at Waves Baulkham Hills (Years 3—6)

Sun 2 Feb 9am Welcoming Mass  
St Monica's Church

### FEBRUARY

#### Week 2

Mon 3 Tennis note due

ES1 commence full days

Uniform Shop open  
8:30am-10:30am

Pow Wow  
9am-10.30am

Fri 7 Bush Dance

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Welcome Back for the 2014 School Year!

A warm welcome is extended to all our children and families and to our staff- those returning and those who join our learning community for the first time this year.

This morning we welcomed our new kindergarten students eager and enthusiastic to begin their first experience of school life. They all seemed to take this big step in their stride and none seemed daunted by their new environment.

We also welcomed new students in other grades- Maria (Year 1), Samika (Yr 2), Melica Rohani (Year 2) and Behshad Rohani (Year 5).

We are delighted that our new families have chosen our school for their children and we will honour the trust that they have placed in us to educate their child. We are sure that our new families will find St Monica's community to be very supportive and welcoming where we all learn together.

Sincere thanks to the staff for beginning the year with such enthusiasm. We are blessed with a very talented staff dedicated to the children and their learning. The staff have been meeting since mid-January to plan programmes for our children and they have some wonderful learning opportunities organised for them.

This year we are commencing Reading Recovery in Year 1 and Mrs Erin Turner will be undertaking the training in this program over the next two years. Each day Mrs Mary McKenzie will be in Year One learning space during the literacy block whilst the Reading Recovery sessions take place. More information about this initiative will be discussed at the Year 1 Information Night in Week 3. Miss Emily Clough will commence training this term as our Extending Mathematical Understanding Specialist Teacher. A Year 1 intervention group will start later on this term.

### PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

In Week 3 all the teachers will be conducting parent evenings to introduce themselves and the learning programmes for your children this year. It is essential that every family is represented at their child's/children's meeting. Parents will be notified next Monday with all the details for the Meetings.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to Mel Puyat for cleaning our playground and John Lewis for washing all our upstairs windows in the lead up to school starting, We really appreciate your generosity.

Mr Elliot has also been very busy during our recent hot weather tending our gardens that are certainly looking magnificent.

### SCHOOL OPEN HOURS

Parents are reminded that the supervision on the playground commences at 8:20am daily. Students should not be arriving at school before this time unless they are enrolled at the Catholic Out of School Hours Care facility. Supervision after school ceases at 3:30pm.

**ICE BLOCKS** will be on sale from **Monday 3 February—50 cents** each.

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Welcome to the 2014 school year! St. Monica's Swimming Carnival is on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January (tomorrow!)** at Waves Aquatic Centre, Baulkham Hills.

Buses will depart school at 9:15am and return to school by 2:00pm. This will allow time to pick up any siblings commencing Kindergarten.

Please ensure that children are supplied with plenty of water and sun protection as the forecast is predicting high temperatures. Please also ensure that your child brings their asthma medication on the day.

Regards, *Mrs Turner*

## MOBILE PHONES

Parents who request permission for their child to bring a mobile phone to school are asked to do so in writing. Permission is only granted for those students who travel home alone. On arrival at school the switched off phone is to be handed to the School Office. In the afternoon the phone will be sent to the classroom via the office bags. Students are to switch the phone on and place the phone in their school bag before leaving school.

## POW WOW

Pow Wow will recommence for 2014 next Monday 3 February. Pow Wow is held every Monday morning, during school terms, in the Community Room, from 9am-10.30am. Entry is by a gold coin donation and a piece of fruit to share.

## UNIFORM

Thank you so much for the time and effort that you put into preparing your children for school. It was a pleasure to see the students arrive at school this morning wearing their uniform proudly.

Hats are an important part of our school uniform and of our sun smart policy. Please ensure that your child has a school hat every day.

Our Uniform Shop will be open each **Monday from 8:30am to 10:30am**. Order forms are available on our school website.

## NUMERACY- Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAI)

Thank you to the parents who brought their children to our Mathematics Assessment Interview over the past two days. The information gained from this assessment is used to identify the key growth points that describe your child's mathematical learning in the domains of Counting, Place Value, Addition & Subtraction strategies and Multiplication & Division strategies.

When all the assessments have been completed the staff will analyse the information together and your child's results will be made available to you.

The teachers will use the information gained from the MAI to identify the experiences that will most effectively help each child to reach the next growth point in their mathematical learning. MAIs are one tool that teachers use to gain information about their students mathematical learning. The use of open-ended tasks within mathematical lessons, as well as teacher designed assessment tasks provide further insights for teachers about children's understanding of mathematics. Assessment is on-going. It assists us not just with what students know, but how deeply they understand what they have learnt.

## TENNIS LESSONS

Tennis lessons for students in Years 1 to 6 will commence on Tuesday 4th February. A note has been sent home today—please complete the form and **return it by Monday 3 February** to allow Mr Davidson to place the children in to their groups. Thank you for your co-operation.

## SPORT DAY

All classes will be required to wear their sport uniform on **Friday** each week. Next **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, we will commence our Athletics program conducted by 'Dance Fever'.

Kindergarten & Year 1:	11:50am – 12:20 pm
Year 2	12:20pm - 12:50 pm
Stage 2	1:30pm - 2:15 pm
Stage 3	2:15pm – 3:00 pm

## BALLS

This year we are encouraging students to bring in their own balls to play with on the playground at lunchtimes to promote active play. If your child chooses to bring a ball, it will need to be a soft surfaced ball or soccer ball. Please refrain from bringing basketballs as they can cause injuries to students. We ask that the balls are labelled with the child's full name and carried to and from school in a bag as each child is responsible for his/her own ball.

*Mrs Turner*



### Happy birthday to the following students and staff who celebrate birthdays in January.

Matilda Cooper	Erica Crame	Rafael Noonan	Tia El-Kazzi
Lachlan Roberts	Alanah Khadi	Jake Hollis	Flavin Dzimbanhete
Zac Michael	Mariah Farah	Ana Maria Costea	Aadit Grover
Alana O'Donnell	Alisha Merchant	Genesis Evangelista	Amelia Furjanic
<i>Staff: Miss Sweeney</i>			

## WELCOMING SCHOOL MASS

Our Welcoming Mass at the beginning of each year is a time when we ALL join together with the Parish to celebrate our common faith. It shows our commitment to this community and the importance of maintaining a strong bond between School and Parish. We work together with the Parish to create a liturgy that reflects and celebrates our values. It is an opportunity for our Kindergarten students to participate in school life with their peers and Senior buddies. During Mass we have a Commissioning Ceremony in which our Year 6 students receive their badges and pledge to lead the student body well. The Staff, students and parents also commit their support.

Your attendance at this Sunday Liturgy is important. However, we also realise that other issues may prevent your attendance. As many students actively participate in this liturgy we ask that you provide a written absence for the day so we can anticipate the space required in St Monica's Church.

We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday 2 February 2014 at 9am.**

**(Kindergarten meet Miss Clough outside the church at 8.45am.)**

Peace,

*Ms Kerry Power*, Religious Education Co-ordinator

**God of all beginnings and endings,  
 We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.  
 It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,  
 With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.  
 We trust that your purposes have always been at work each day.  
 Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.  
 Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.  
 Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,  
 And bless us, according to your will.  
 With the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams.  
 Watch over us and guide each day as you have done this past year.  
 Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.  
 May we continue to grow  
 In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace  
 All the days of our lives.  
 Amen.**

Yours sincerely,

*Louise O'Donnell*  
Principal

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS AN ALCOHOL FREE EVENT



Order Your Tickets  
For The



St Monica's Primary School

# BUSH DANCE

Food, Drinks and  
Ice-Creams for  
sale

Bring Your  
Own Picnic  
Chairs

Featuring  
THE  
BARB WIRE BUSH BAND



Dancing from  
6pm to 9pm

On: Friday 7th February 2014

**Pre-sale tickets:** Adults \$8, Child \$4, Family Ticket \$20\*  
(bring aunts, uncles, neighbours etc with Family ticket \$5 extra each)  
(Buy early—25% more on the day!) \*max 2 adults and 4 kids

### BUSH DANCE TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me:

\_\_\_ Adults @\$8 \_\_\_ Child@\$4 or  
\_\_\_ Family @\$20 with \_\_\_ extras @\$5 = Total \$\_\_\_

Family Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Elders Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type Cash / Cheque / Credit Card

Please make Cheques payable to St Monica's Primary School

Credit Card Details (if required)

Type Visa / Mastercard Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

The following Pizzas will be available for purchase on the night of the Bush Dance:

### (You Pizza)

Supreme  
Hawaiian  
Vegie

Pepperoni  
BBQ Meat  
Cheese

Small—(6 slices) \$12  
Large (8 slices) \$18



Drinks and Ice Blocks will also be available for purchase.