

**ST MONICA'S  
PRIMARY  
NORTH PARRAMATTA**

**TERM 1, WEEK 3  
12 February 2014**

**DIARY DATES**

<b>Week 3</b>	
Fri 14	School Census Sausage Sizzle Dance Fever Athletics 2pm Church Cleaning
<b>Week 4</b>	
Mon 17	Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 18	Parramatta Zone Swimming Carnival 6pm Stage 3 Parent Information Night
Wed 19	6pm ES1 Parent Information Night
Fri 21	Dance Fever Athletics
<b>Week 5</b>	
Mon 24	Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am Parramatta Eels Anti- Bullying 2:30 pm- 3pm (Whole School)
Fri 28	Dance Fever Athletics
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>	
Mon 3	Uniform Shop 8:30am—10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Fri 7	Dance Fever Athletics
<b>Week 7</b>	
Catholic Schools Week	<b>BOOK FAIR/ GRANDPARENTS DAY</b> (to be advised of date to be held this week)
Mon 10	Uniform Shop 8:30am-10:30am Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Wed 12	<b>SCHOOL PHOTOS</b> (Envelopes to be brought in today)
Thur 13	Open Afternoon 1:45-2:45pm
Fri 14	Cross Country Dance Fever Athletics
Sat 15	Car Boot Sale



# Monica's Matters

**Web:** [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)  
**Email:** [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**Phone:** 9630 3697  
**Fax:** 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Welcome to the 2014 school year – this is the 122<sup>nd</sup> year in the life of our faith and learning community. We're confident it will be another successful, enjoyable and exciting year of learning! St Monica's is very proud of its rich tradition of high quality Catholic Education.

We have many significant events, initiatives and activities ahead of us this term, including:

- Continued celebrations as a Catholic faith community—sacramental program, school liturgies, special prayer occasions & class prayer.
- Catholic Schools Week in Week 7.
- Exciting new learning opportunities for the children with the introduction of the Reading Recovery Program (Year 1). We will also continue with three teachers in each of the stages during the literacy block.
- Dance Fever Athletics Program each Friday.

As a faith and learning community we are all challenged to be learners; to share a love of learning; to develop a desire for quality learning and quality work; to co-operate and collaborate; and, to use our many skills to become even better learners! Not despite each other, but alongside each other. Learning together so we can ALL do our best!

While each of these things are individually exciting and a very important part of our school, our major priority remains to provide the children of our parish school with rich educational opportunities that see them develop in faith, learning and social skills. To learn how to learn, think, choose, relate and be the best person they can be!

As I have moved around the learning spaces I can feel, see and hear lots of learning happening.

To mention just a few things.....

- Expectations, behaviour agreements, goals, learning intentions and responsibilities have been set up!
- Early assessments have commenced across the grades and the one-to-one Mathematics Assessment Interviews have been completed.
- Reading and writing is up and running!
- Mathematics explorations and explicit teaching can be counted on!
- Kindergarten children are learning their new routines and are being well supported by Miss Clough, Mrs Boulous, Mrs Madigan and their Year 6 buddies.
- Our Japanese Program has begun in earnest and a 'Mini Ninja' lunch time club started yesterday.
- Intensive use of technology to enhance learning is evident across the school!
- Library is open during lunch time on Tuesday and Wednesday for reading, and on Thursday for a drawing workshop.
- The School Choir will commence on Thursday.

I look forward to meeting parents over the next two weeks at our Information Nights.

**Wednesday 12 February 2014**  
**Tuesday 18 February 2014**  
**Wednesday 19 February 2014**

**Year 2/Year 1** 6 pm **Stage 2** 7pm  
**Stage 3** 6 pm  
**ES1(Kindergarten)** 6 pm

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

The new school year presents us with many exciting possibilities. At our first assembly last week I spoke with the students about being champions with their learning this year.

As I watched television over the holidays I viewed a number of champions. I explained to the students that success didn't happen just by chance; it was through hard work and determination. We all want to be Champions with our learning.

The idea of being a champion at school means the following:

<b>C</b> hallenge	our learning needs to be challenging and we in turn need to challenge ourselves
<b>H</b> elp	our school/learning space should be a place where we can help others with their learning but also we should feel confident and comfortable enough to ask for help from teachers, parents and peers when we are in need
<b>A</b> im High	we need to have high expectations in order to do our best
<b>M</b> istakes are ok	making mistakes or 'having a go' often leads us to improvement and good learning. We all need to create a climate where people can make mistakes and not feel self-conscious
<b>P</b> assion	love what you do, do it with commitment and enthusiasm
<b>I</b> nventive	be creative with your learning and thinking- have a go, listen to others carefully
<b>O</b> ptimism	be positive - optimistic learners often do best
<b>N</b> ever Give Up	be determined to persevere

### **Bullying- NO WAY!**

It doesn't matter whether it's physical, psychological or even cyber. Bullying is a concern that our school takes very seriously and is constantly working on to address. Every class has commenced a unit of work this term that will focus on strategies to recognise and deal with bullying issues.

A student is bullied or victimised when he or she is exposed repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students.

Bullying is characterised by three criteria:

1. It is aggressive behaviour or intentional "harm doing."
2. It is carried out repeatedly and over time; and
3. It occurs within an interpersonal relationship characterised by an imbalance of power.

If you suspect your child is being bullied, you should talk with your child and make an appointment with the teacher or myself to discuss your concerns. It is also important to encourage your child to report bullying behaviours to a trusted adult at school as quickly as possible after an incident of bullying. Bullying thrives in a culture of secrecy, so telling the school is important.

**Some signs of bullying might include:**

- Loss of confidence
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits, possible bedwetting
- Health problems such as headaches or stomach aches
- Unhappiness or mood swings with sudden temper tantrums
- Reluctance to go to school and changes in academic performance.

**What you can do:**

- Talk with your child and keep the lines of communication open so children are more likely to confide in you.
- Encourage your child to feel okay to ask others for help and to keep their own safety in mind.
- Ensure your child knows how to report bullying and to ask for help when needed
- Report the incident to a teacher. Don't try to sort out the situation yourself.
- Make sure you are modelling healthy behaviours to your child, especially in relation to conflict resolution and anger management.
- Help protect your child from harassment and cyber-bullying by closely monitoring internet use and installing free internet filters.

## PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS

Procedural fairness is a basic right of all when dealing with authorities. Procedural fairness refers to what are sometimes described as the 'hearing rule' and the 'right to an unbiased decision'. It forms the basis of our Student Management Policy. All teachers follow the principles of the 'hearing rule' and the 'right to an unbiased decision' when classroom and playground issues are brought to their attention.

The 'hearing rule' includes the right of the person against whom an allegation has been made to:

- Know the allegation related to a specific matter and any other information which will be taken into account in considering the matter.
- Know the process by which the process will be considered.
- Respond to the allegations.
- Know how to seek a review of the decision made in response to the allegations.

Our practices and procedures contribute to creating an environment where each person feels valued and respected and develops a sense of self-worth and achievement. These include positive strategies to ensure that all forms of discrimination, harassment, bullying or racism are considered to be unacceptable in our school; because such attitudes do not support our belief in the dignity of each person. We work in partnership with parents to ensure all matters are dealt with fairly and in a timely manner. A copy of our Complaints Handling Policy is on the website.

## GOSSIP

From time to time when people come together, some find the need to talk about others and pass on tales whether true or not, that can hurt, defame or disrespect. Our Catholic faith instructs us to "not bear false witness against our neighbour".

Aside from the inappropriateness of gossip and slander it is hurtful and harmful to people's reputations, esteem and feelings. Teachers, parents, children and community should not be damaged by the whispers of gossip.

If we are truly building the Kingdom of God here at St Monica's, we should think before we talk and choose our words based on the Gospel values. After all, this is what we are trying to teach our children.

## CAR PARK CAUTION

Please use extreme caution exiting the driveway each day especially in the morning. A number of our students who catch buses or walk home use our internal pedestrian crossing just as you exit the school area. Please use extreme caution approaching this crossing at all times. Parents will notice that Mr Elliott has trimmed a number of the bushes to make visibility easier. Thank you.

## CAR PARK COURTESY

A reminder that 'Kiss and Drop' in the morning is just that. Please drive into the drop off zone close to the entrance gate, give your child a quick kiss as they alight on the **driver's side only**. If you need to get out of the car to get bags, arrange clothing or give last minute instructions please park your car in the car park and take your time. Parents disrupting the traffic flow can be frustrating for other drivers doing the right thing. Please do not sound your horn or exchange harsh words if someone upsets you. Remember our children are watching.

**GRADUATION** The Year 6 Graduation and End of Year Mass will be held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm** followed by a celebration for the Year 6 students and their parents at Northmead Bowling Club. Thank you to Catherine Delaney (Bessie) and Peta Cappello (Angelina) who have offered to co-ordinate the event this year.

## STANDARD COLLECTION NOTICE

Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta collect personal information, including sensitive information, about pupils and parents or guardians before and during the course of a pupil's enrolment. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable the school to provide schooling for your son/daughter. Photos of children are used for various communication mediums including school and Catholic Education Office websites, school and system publications and newsletters and enrolment posters.

If any parent or guardian **does not** want their child's photo used in any of the above situations, please inform the Principal of the school in writing. For more details regarding the Standard Collection Notice—Go to **News and Events, School Notes**, then **Whole School Notes**.

**SCHOOL FEES** School Fees have now been sent out by the Catholic Education Office. If you have not received your fees, or if you have changed addresses and have not yet informed the school office, please contact Mrs Cattermole immediately so that we can update your details and forward a new statement of account. Term 1 School Fees are due and payable by **Friday 7 March 2014**.

### ASTHMA FORMS

Asthma forms were sent home for each family last week. If your child suffers from asthma it is very important that the school has an action plan on file. These forms are updated each year. For more serious cases the form must be completed in conjunction with your doctor. Children who have asthma are required to provide the school office with a puffer.

Asthma forms are to be returned to the office **by Friday 14 February**. The Asthma form can be found on the school website—go to **News and Events, School Notes** then **Whole School Notes**. Thank you.

### STUDENT BANKING

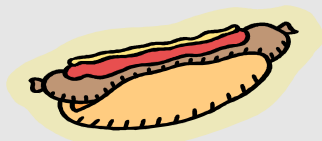
Please note that rewards will not be available until the end of February. The new system is still being implemented and will not be ready until then. Banking deposits made this year will be included in your tally.

### CHILD PROTECTION

Please be advised that if you wish to volunteer at school in the classroom, on excursions etc you will need to complete the Child Protection Online Training Module. The online module needs to be completed **every 2 years**. Go to <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au> and follow the instructions. Once you have completed the module, an email will be sent to Miss O'Donnell and you will then be able to assist at St Monica's. Thank you for your co-operation.



## SAUSAGE SIZZLE FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2014



The Social/Welcome Team is holding a sausage sizzle for all students and teachers to purchase on  
**FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2014**

**COST: Beef \$1.50  
Chicken \$2.00**

**\*\*NOTE:** All money to be brought on the day\*\*

Any profit made will go toward new technology for the Learning Space.

### Parent helpers needed

If you can lend a hand, cooking and preparation is from 11.30am or serving from 12.30pm.

Call or text Simone Lewis  
(M) 0421 816 257

Thanks for your continued support,  
*Social/Welcome Team*



**Happy birthday to the following students and staff who celebrate birthdays in February**

Veronica Sadek	Jake Chapman	Elleni Sentas	Jade David (Simon)
Poppy Sloane	Cassandra Kowalczyk	Aaliyah Assaf	Keira Mitchell
Lachlan Dardagos	Maureen Haddad	Chanel Azar	Jessica Crowle
Jasmine Bird	Charlotte Carter	Brandon Wallace	

**Staff:** *Mrs Mason and Father Fernando*

### **Uniform Shop**

A reminder that the Uniform Shop is open on **Monday mornings between 8:30—10:30am**.

If you are unable to attend on this day, you may complete an order form (complete with payment) and forward it to the office. Your order will be filled and sent home with your child on Monday afternoon. Order forms can be downloaded from the School Website.

## **SCHOOL OPEN AFTERNOON**

Thursday 13 March 2014 (Week 7)

**1:45pm—2:45pm**

All new families are welcome to visit our school.



# SPORT UPDATE

## Swimming Carnival

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, students from St. Monica's participated in our annual Swimming Carnival at Waves Aquatic Centre, Baulkham Hills.

We were blessed with beautiful weather whilst the students showcased their outstanding talents in 100m, 50m and 25m events.



St. Monica's takes great pride in being inclusive and the students were a testament to that belief as we saw many of them 'have a go' and enter swimming races for their first time.

I would like to personally thank all of the staff and parent volunteers who ensured that our students were able to participate in our swimming carnival. The assistance and support given by our staff and parents is greatly appreciated and a testament to their positive attitude towards maintaining an appreciation of swimming and physical activity.

Congratulations to all of the students who broke swimming records from our 2014 carnival. Students were awarded for their records at our school morning assembly on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February.



Congratulations to Abbi Lewis, Kyah Day, Joseph Azar, Bethany Phillips and Antonio Batach for breaking records at our 2014 Swimming Carnival.

A special congratulations to Bethany Phillips and Joseph Azar for breaking records for all of their entered events. Very impressive!

The Swimming Records Sheet for the records broken on the day can be viewed in the display case outside the School Office.

## Sport Contact

As sporting groups recommence for the year, it is important to promote physical activity and healthy eating within our school. If you would like to contact me in regards to sport either within or outside school hours, I am more than happy to provide opportunities/suggestions/connections for parents and their children.

Regards,

**Mrs Erin Turner**, Sport Coordinator



Well done Mrs Turner for a fabulous, well organised carnival.



# St Monica's Bush Dance



## THANK YOU

Thank you to Simone Lewis and Janet Joseph for co-ordinating the Bush Dance.

Thank you also to the parents and children who supported this wonderful event.  
A great time was had by all.





## Safety tips for parents

### Back to school safety tips for parents and carers Your child's safety depends on you

#### Drop off and pick up by car

Make sure your children are in an appropriate child restraint that is fitted and used correctly.

Stick to the **40km/h speed limit** in a school zone as children are about and can be unpredictable.

Look out for buses pulling out – watch for **wig wag lights**.

Always park and turn legally around schools and **avoid dangerous manoeuvres** like U-turns and three-point turns.

Always **give way to pedestrians** particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

Drop the kids off and pick them up on the **school side of the road** in your school's designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road can be dangerous because they may run to you without checking traffic.

It's safest for the kids to get out of the car on the **kerb side of the road** to be away from passing traffic.

#### Walking together to and from school

**Plan your trip** to school so you are using pedestrian crossing areas where possible.

**Always hold your child's hand** up until the age of eight. Young children need your help to spot danger like vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.

Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.

Talk to your children about **Stop, Look, Listen and Think** every time they cross the road.

- **Stop** one step back from the kerb.
- **Look** for traffic to your right left and right again.
- **Listen** for the sounds of approaching traffic.
- **Think** whether it is safe to cross.

Young children can learn these **safe pedestrian habits** from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

For more information visit  
[roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au)



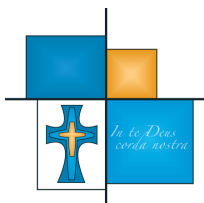
## Write4fun

Writing Competition is now open!

Calling all Australian School Students... (Prep to Year 12)

Write a story or poem today for your chance to win \$1,000 (\$500 for you and \$500 for your school)! **AND an iPod Touch 16GB + an Xbox 360 OR an Xbox One OR a Playstation 4!!!!** All it takes is an **AWESOME** story, or poem. Easy! For more information visit the website [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net).

**Entry is FREE! Entries close Sunday March 30, 2014. See Mrs Mason for more information.**



## ARE YOU RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER?

St Monica's Primary School sends out a newsletter every fortnight (Wednesday) via email.

Parents are requested to subscribe to **E-NEWS** on the School Website ([www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)) and enter their details.

This is a *free* service.

Once you have entered your details, each fortnight you will be sent a notification advising that the newsletter is now available for viewing.

**The email will appear as**

**stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au**

**Subject: Newsletter: St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta**

You may choose the frequency of being notified of an update — by choosing **immediately** you will be notified as soon as the update is made.

*Please enter an email address that you check regularly as other important messages are often sent home this way.*

Alternatively, you may view the newsletter on the School Website.

Go to the **News and Events** Heading, then click on **Newsletters**.

All previous newsletters may be viewed as they are archived on the website.

Upcoming dates and events are also published on the website.

Click on the **News and Events** heading, then go to **Events**.



Newsletters are due to be published on the following  
**Wednesdays in Term 1, 2014**

**12 February (Week 3)**

**26 February (Week 5)**

**12 March (Week 7)**

**26 March (Week 9)**

**9 April (Week 11)**

For those families who do not have internet access, kindly advise the School Office where a hardcopy will be printed for you.

The newsletter will also be uploaded onto Skoolbags.

Instructions on how to download Skoolbags to your phone / iPad can be located under School Notes / Whole School.