

**ST MONICA'S
PRIMARY
NORTH PARRAMATTA**

**TERM 1, WEEK 5
Wednesday 25 February 2015**

DIARY DATES

Week 5
Wed 25 POSMS Meeting 7pm
Fri 27 Dance Fever—Sport Uniform
Diocesan —Swimming Carnival

MARCH

Week 6
Mon 2 Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 3 Uniform Shop open 8:30am—9:30am
7:30pm Parent Only Mtg—Confirmation

Wed 4 Grip Leadership—Stage 3

Week 7 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mon 9 Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Book Fair (during reading groups)

Tues 10 Uniform Shop 8:30am—9:30am
Book Fair (parents welcome)
9:15am Whole School Mass

Open Afternoon 1:45pm-2:45pm
Fri 13 9:45-11am Cross Country
11:15am—Open Classrooms

Dance Fever— (Parents welcome)

Sat 14 Trivia Night

Week 8
Mon 16 Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 17 St Patrick's Day Liturgy

Fri 20 Dance Fever

Week 10
Mon 30 Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 31 Uniform Shop 8:30-9:30am

APRIL

Thur 2 School closes for Term 1 at 3:00pm

Fri 3 **GOOD FRIDAY**

TERM 2 Week 1
Mon 20 School resumes



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Last Wednesday we commenced the Church's season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. For forty days, Jesus took stock of His life, who He was and what God wanted Him to do. We call this forty-day period Lent. Christians are called in Lent to a special period of taking stock, of setting priorities, of encountering God, and rethinking what it means to be a steward of God's gifts. A good question to ask ourselves during Lent is, "What do I own, and what owns me?" may this holy season be a time for you to contemplate anew the many blessings you have received from our good and gracious God, and to respond in gratitude by generously giving of your very self. Generous giving always brings rewards. While generous giving does not protect us from the difficulties of life, it does assure us a deeper life. As surely as Lent leads to Easter, being a good steward is a lifestyle of giving that leads to greater satisfaction, purpose and meaning.

A LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, we ask your blessing in a special way upon us as we start our journey through this time of Lent. May we be truly sorry for our faults and failings. May we sincerely repent, by the help of your grace. We ask you to give us at this time of grace all the help we need to begin again, refreshed in your mercy and love. Amen.

2015 Whole School Learning Goals

At our recent Information Nights I informed parents of our whole school learning goals for this year. After careful analysis of our 2014 student learning data we have identified our focus in the three areas of formation, literacy and numeracy this year.

Formation Goal: For the students to gain a broader understanding of prayer.

Literacy Goal: For the students to improve in their reading and writing.

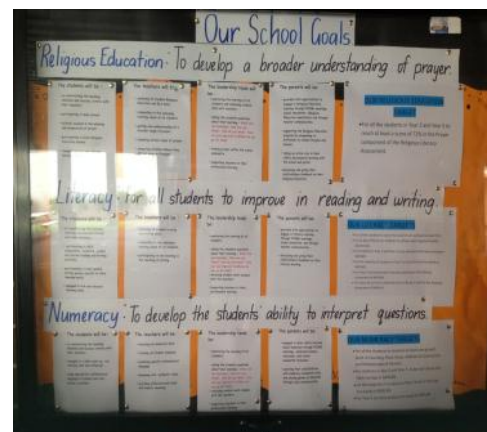
Numeracy Goal: For all students to develop in their ability to interpret questions.

We have set targets that we want our students to achieve by the end of 2015. In the display cabinet outside the teacher's workroom all parents are invited to take a closer look at our goals and our targets. We have clearly outlined specific strategies that we want our students, teachers, the leadership team and parents to use so that we will achieve our goals in 2015. At each of our POSMs meetings this year we will focus on our school goals.

POSMS Meeting—Wednesday 25 February 2015 (tonight)

All parents are invited to attend tonight's POSMS meeting where we will be focusing on the upcoming fete.

New ideas and suggestions are always welcome. The meeting will commence at 7pm in the Learning Space.



Children's School Books Coming Home

Starting next Friday 6th March all students will be bringing their Literacy book home. We commenced the practice of sending children's school books home last year and had very good feedback from parents appreciating the opportunity to view their child's learning. I know that many children were excited about the feedback that they had received from their parents.

We encourage you to talk to your child about his/her work. Parents may find it useful to ask the five key questions that the leadership team use when they visit classrooms on their instructional walks:

- ♦ *What are you learning?*
- ♦ *How are you doing?*
- ♦ *How do you know?*
- ♦ *How can you improve?*
- ♦ *Where do you go for help?*
- ♦ *What new skills have you learnt?*
- ♦ *Are there areas that you would like to improve in and why?*

Parents are invited to write a comment in your child's book after the last piece of work. eg, Wonderful effort! I loved reading your stories. I can see that you are using some very descriptive words. I love the way that you are sounding out your words/using capital letters and full stops. Well done on explaining synonyms/visualisation/persuasive language to me.

Behaviour Expectations

Over the past four weeks all the teachers have been talking about being a safe and a respectful learner. We hope that parents have been reinforcing this message at home.

Last week and this week we have been focused on our expectation – '**Right place, Right time**'. We expect all the students to be on their class lines at the morning assembly, after recess, after lunch and after school by the time the second bell rings.

The teachers on playground duty have been giving the students feedback as to how well each class has achieved the expectation. Ask your child to explain the feedback charts below of our week so far.



What is Bullying?

In the last newsletter parents were informed of the process of bully audits that are being regularly conducted in Stage 2 and Stage 3. The teachers revise with the students the behaviours of a bully prior to them completing these audits.

Bullying is when a person or a group do unkind things to someone, on purpose, **repeatedly** and the person being bullied finds it hard to stop it.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

- ♦ Mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance).
- ♦ Not liking someone or a single act of social rejection.
- ♦ One-off acts of meanness or spite.
- ♦ Isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

While these conflicts still need to be addressed and resolved, they are not deemed bullying.

On Friday, 20 March, St Monica's will take part in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

Safety—Carpark

Parents are requested to use caution in the afternoons when you are collecting your child. If you are parking in the car park and walking into the school grounds only enter via the gate beside the hall.

Walking through our double gates when cars are leaving the school grounds places your child and yourself in a dangerous situation.

Speed Humps

Three speed humps will be installed in the car park within the next few days. One speed hump will be at the entrance at Daking Street, another alongside the Kiss and Drop gate and the last speed hump will be just before the internal pedestrian crossing.



As there is provision for two lanes of traffic **please have your child exit only from the driver's side of the vehicle**. Alternatively, parents can park and walk their child onto the school grounds.

NAPLAN

The 2015 NAPLAN tests will be conducted over three days from **Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14 May, 2015**.

For students in Year 3 and 5, there are four tests covering:

- ♦ numeracy
- ♦ reading
- ♦ writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

School A to Z

School A to Z <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu/home> have many helpful tips for parents (and teachers) across a wide range of topics related to student learning.

Talking and Listening skills are a constant focus within all learning groups. Being able to take in information, respond to instructions and share ideas, thoughts and opinions are vital skills for children to succeed in life.

The following tips may assist parents in developing and reinforcing talking and listening at home.

- Avoid interrupting your child when they are talking and listen carefully to what they have to say.
- Use everyday opportunities to talk with and listen to your child as they share things that are of interest or importance to them.
- Show your child you are interested in what they are saying by giving nods, smiles, supportive words and gestures. The positive feedback helps reinforce to your child that what he/she says is important and worthwhile.
- If your child has trouble remembering things said, it's a good idea to encourage them to repeat in their mind what has been said, and then retell it in their own words. Making notes can help if they have to do a task.
- If you are planning something such as a party or an outing, try having a brainstorming session with your child. You can do this just by listening and sharing ideas or by writing them down together.
- Discuss dates on a family calendar such as public holidays, weekends and have your child mark in important events.
- From the calendar, talk about days, months and years in relation to events such as birthdays and other occasions.
- When walking or travelling together, talk about street names and the meaning of a displayed sign. You could also discuss anything known about names and signs encountered (eg give an explanation about how street names may have come about.)

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

COMPETITIONS

Write4fun

The 2015 Schools Writing Competition is **NOW OPEN!!** Write4fun encourages students to read and write through these FUN competitions that are EASY to enter! All classes are welcome to enter (K-6).

The quickest and easiest way to enter is online at **www.write4fun.net** Poems must not exceed 16 lines and short stories must not exceed 500 words.

There is NO THEME! Entries can be on any topic and in any style. Entry is **FREE** and the closing date is Sunday 29 March 2015.

Stage 3 Competition—What Matters?

What Matters? is a writing competition that gives year 5-12 students in NSW and the ACT a chance to say what matters to them in society today. What actions do you think should be taken to build a better society? What would you change if you could? What do you want other people to care about?

How to Enter: Write a 400-600 word opinion piece on what matters to you and why. Entries must be typed on A4 paper. Strictly one entry per student. All entries must be accompanied by a signed entry form. Entry forms are available from your teacher or can be downloaded at **whitlam.org/whatmatters**

Please see Mrs Mason if you need any further information.

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards this term.

ES1: Andrew Clark, William Paterson

Year 1 Jose Bernardo Enciso Llamas, Ruby Graham, Menuk Gunawardena, Elijah Gyimah, Elisha Gyimah, Kobe Puyat and Ryan Sharma

Year 2: Jake Chapman, Santiago Conda-Tengbeh, Galia Evangelista, Simeon Gyimah, Zachariah Kassis, Leonardo Macorig, Giselle Mondinelli.

Stage 2 Peter Farah, Trinity Bird, Marley Puyat,

Stage 3 Debra Chirchir, Brooke Emphield, Jordan Crockett, Amalie Dona



Sacrament of Confirmation

If your child has received the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* and the *Sacrament of Communion* and is in Year 5 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 22nd May at 7:30pm**

Parent Only Meeting in School Community Room, 10 Daking Street on Tuesday 3rd March at 7:30pm

PERMISSION NOTES

The following permission notes have been sent home this Term.

All of the permission notes mentioned below are available on the school website under NEWS AND EVENTS then SCHOOL NOTES (Whole School Notes)

- ***Local Excursion***
- ***Acceptable Use of Information Technologies (IT) (Please read with your child and print last page)***
- ***Mode of Transport***
- ***Raffle Tickets (eldest child)***
- ***Consent Form: Use of Student 's Image and or Work.***

There are a number of students who have not yet returned these notes.

Please ensure that the notes are returned to school immediately.

- Students must have their 'Acceptable Use of Information Technologies permission note' signed and returned before they will be allowed access to the school's technology.



School Fees—(Flexible Payment Plan)

Parents are advised that if you take the option of FPP (Flexible Payment Plan) - forms must be submitted to the Catholic Education Office (Attention—Angela Adams) **no later than 5 March 2015**. If your forms are not submitted by this date they will not be processed and other arrangements will have to be made with the school. A reminder that Term 1 school fees are due for payment by **Friday 6 March 2015**. **Families who have still not received their fees are asked to contact the school office immediately.**

Pancake Day and Sausage Sizzle

Thank you to our parent helpers who kindly donated their time on Shrove Tuesday (17 February) to make pancakes for the students as well as assisting at the Sausage Sizzle on Friday 20 February. The Sausage Sizzle raised **\$222.35**. Your generosity of time is greatly appreciated.



Pancake Day Helpers: Tiffany Cooper, Melissa Cabot, Sonia Sentas, Bridgette Kandalaft, Jane Crame, Gulshan Muttoo, Yuzzie Lindsay, Nesreen Fouad and Karla Stewart-Sykes.

Sausage Sizzle Helpers: Neil Joseph, Paul Hossack, Gulshan Muttoo, Simone Lewis, Janet Joseph, Sonia Sentas, and Trish Forsyth.

Whole School Mass—Catholic Schools Week (Week 7) **Tuesday 10 March 9:15am**

Dance Fever - Athletics (Friday 13th March)

The students are very excited to have the Dance Fever Company join them to teach Athletics skills. As part of Catholic School's Week, we invite all parents to attend their child/children's sessions to see the fantastic skills they have learnt.

Dance Fever Session Timetable:

Early Stage One / Year One:	11:50am-12:20pm
Year Two:	12:20pm-12:50pm
Stage Two:	1:30pm-2:15pm
Stage Three:	2:15pm-3:00pm



2015 Catholic Schools Week Activities (Week 7)

Monday 9 March	* Book Fair (during class reading group time)
Tuesday 10 March	* Book Fair (parents welcome to attend with their child) * 9:15am Whole School Mass * 1:45pm—2:45pm Open Afternoon School tours for new families
Wednesday 11 March	* Book Fair concludes today
Friday 13 March	* 9:45am-11:00am Cross Country * 11:15 am Open Classrooms * 11:50am—3:00pm Dance Fever Athletics (parents welcome to attend their child's lesson)





Happy Birthday!

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

Christian Stathopoulos	Brendan Pospischil
Charbel Sadek	John Sadek
Maan Upadhyay	Hunter Malatag
Abbi Lewis	Andy Haddad
Suhana Roy	Jessica Chandra
Ashton Dardagos	L'Lyse Puyat
Ann-Marie Boujandy	Maria Nour
Joshua North	Kurt Hilario
Sara Younes,	Kyah Day
Josue Heydari	Sophia Elias
Christian Kandalaft	Samira Hekeik
Patrick Mitchell	Ryan Sharma
Staff: Mrs Madigan	

Tuesday, 3 March 2015 ♦ 5.30pm School Tours & BBQ
6.30-7.15pm Principal's Address and Information Session
Bookings Essential: www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au
Enrolment packages will be available during the evening.
Enrolments Open: 11 March 2015 ♦ Close: 2 April 2015
Enrolments received after the closing date will be placed on a waiting list

Parramatta Marist High School

Information Evening






2 Darcy Road Westmead NSW 2145
 Phone: 9635 7066 ♦ www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au
 Parking is available via Gate 3, Darcy Road
 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital)



We offer top quality affordable Catholic education for boys.
 For the past 8 years, PMH's HSC Results have seen us placed in the top 100 schools in NSW.
 In 2014, we achieved the following HSC Results:
 42nd in the state overall, 8th in Mathematics
 State places in Industrial Technology and Studies of Religion
 96 Distinguished students, 7 Premier all-rounder awards
 Parramatta Marist has been both Nationally and Internationally recognised as innovators in 21st Century education.

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2016



Catherine McAuley is a Catholic girls' secondary school, located at Westmead. Our broad curriculum encourages young women to pursue independent lifelong learning.

OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 17 March 2015 4.00 - 6.30pm

Tour our school grounds, visit classrooms and view displays.
 A Year 7 2016 Information Night will be held following at 7.00pm with presentations from the school leadership team.

CONTACT OUR SCHOOL ON 9849 9100 FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK. APPLICATIONS CLOSE 27TH MARCH 2015.

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead
www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

High School Enrolment Information

Parents are advised that the guidelines for enrolling at Catholic Systemic Secondary schools have been changed. It is strongly advised that you attend the advertised Open Days. Parents are also advised that they must make an application to their chosen high school by the enrolment closing date. Enrolment packages for Parramatta Marist will be available at the Information Evening. Enrolment applications received after the closing date will be placed on a waiting list.

Important Message

TRIVIA NIGHT

Bollywood meets Hollywood - Saturday 14 March 2015

Thank you to all the parents who donated items for the hampers for the upcoming Trivia Night on Saturday 14 March. Don't forget tickets are on sale now. Coming to the Trivia Night is a great way to support your child's education and it will be such a fun night. Please purchase your tickets from one of the mums selling them in the morning, by sending your order form into the office or contact Tiff Cooper on 0409 205 721. Tickets are \$15 per person. We hope to see you there on the night!

St Monica's Primary School
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED

BOLLYWOOD MEETS HOLLYWOOD

FANCY DRESS TRIVIA & GAMES NIGHT

6.30pm SATURDAY 14th MARCH in the School Hall

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS | ADULTS ONLY | BYO ALCOHOL & MISC | \$15 PER PERSON PLUS GOLD COINS FOR GAMES AT THE NIGHT

NO TICKETS SOLD ON THE NIGHT For Enquiries contact Tiff Cooper 0409 205 721 or email tiff@bdcbuild.com.au

REGISTRATION Individuals or groups of less than 8 people register in this section and you will be combined into teams. (between 8 & 16 players you register as a team, right)

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____ (\$15 per person)

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEAM REGISTRATION Already have between 8 & 16 players? Register as a team.

NAME: _____

NUMBER IN TEAM: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____ (\$15 per person)

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEAM NAME: _____

PAYMENT TYPE:

- ☐ CASH
- ☐ CHEQUE
Please make cheque payable to St Monica's Primary School



Sausage Sizzle & Bingo Fundraiser

Current and former students from the St Monica's school community attend training at the Il Shim International Taekwon-Do Academy in the Parish Hall on Monday and Wednesday afternoons/evenings.

Il-Shim Taekwon-Do are holding a Sausage Sizzle & Bingo Fundraiser to help send **10 young athletes to Italy to represent Australia** at the World Championships in mid-2015.

If you would like to come along for a fun family night with prizes, games and competitions, the details are:

- When: Sat 28/02/2015
- Time: 5.00pm to 8.30pm
- Where: St Monica's Parish Hall, 10 Daking Street, North Parramatta (opp Bunnings)
- Cost: \$10 per child and \$20 per adult



for bookings or queries please contact Melanie on 0404 059 660



Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard ?

Aria Music is enrolling for 2015 at St Monica's

Please email: ariamusicsschool@gmail.com

Ph: 0402 780 130

Qualified, friendly teachers encourage serious musical skills in a fun learning environment.

Group classes at school, \$23.10 (Incl gst) per lesson.

Individual tuition is also available.



Guitar classes!

Day: Monday lunchtime

Time : 12 - 1p.m

Location: The community room

Keyboard Classes!

Day: Tuesday lunchtime

Time : 12-1p.m

Location: The community room



Music lessons have the Power!

Develops musical talent

Develops Self discipline

Encourages self-esteem

Enhances co-ordination & Concentration

Is lots of fun!!!!

www.ariamusic.com.au



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

Open Day

Discover what a Mercy Education can do for your daughter at the OLMC Parramatta Open Day on

Sunday March 1, 2015 10am - 2pm

Principal's Welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

A Mercy Education is treasured for life

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au



MERCY JUSTICE DIGNITY HOSPITALITY SERVICE

World Day of Prayer on 6 March

The theme for the World Day of Prayer is 'Jesus said to them "Do You Know What I Have Done to You?"' (John 13:1-17). This year's worship celebration was prepared by the women of the Bahamas. For more information and to download free resources visit:

<http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>

Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

Chisholm Cottage provides 'a home away from home' for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women's League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel 02 8382 6437, 0404 861 523 mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

Good News! Stolen Computers Arrest

Latest Media Releases

Two charged after more than 800 computers stolen from schools

Friday, 20 February 2015 04:52:35 AM

Two men have been charged after more than 800 computers were stolen from schools across NSW. A three-month police operation – code-named Strike Force Clementine – has been targeting people responsible for the theft of computer equipment from more than 20 schools in the north-west and southern suburbs of Sydney, the Southern Highlands and Illawarra.

Police believe the same organised syndicate committed 36 aggravated break-ins on stealing computers worth about \$500,000.

Police will allege the Macbooks and iPads were then on-sold via online sales websites and pawn shops. Strike Force Clementine investigators raided a business in Kings Cross last month and recovered 176 computers that police allege in court were part of the proceeds of the break-ins.

As part of the on-going operation, police have now arrested two men who they allege were part of the organised syndicate.

Police believe the group targeted private schools from Kiama to Kellyville.

About 8.15am yesterday (Thursday 19 February 2015), a 20-year-old man was arrested at a home in South Windsor.

He was taken to Windsor Police Station where he was charged with 44 offences:

- Aggravated break and enter commit serious indictable offence in company (22 counts)
- Receive/dispose stolen property (21 counts)
- Take part in a criminal group.

It will be alleged this man was involved in break-ins on 22 private schools.

The man was refused bail and will appear in Penrith Local Court today (Friday 20 February 2015).

This follows the arrest and charging of a man about 7am Tuesday (17 February 2015), at a home in Ebenezer.

This 20-year-old man was taken to Windsor Police Station where he was charged with 26 offences:

- Aggravated break and enter commit serious indictable offence in company (13 counts)
- Receive/dispose stolen property (12 counts)
- Participate criminal group contribute criminal activity.

He was bail refused to Penrith Local Court on Wednesday 18 February 2015. At this appearance the man was again remanded in custody, to re-appear in Penrith Local Court on Friday 27 February 2015.

It will be alleged this man was involved in break-ins on 12 private schools.

Strike Force Clementine comprises officers from the North West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad (RES) and Operation Countdown.

Investigations are continuing.