

ST MONICA'S  
PRIMARY  
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 2, WEEK 9  
Wednesday 17 June 2015

DIARY DATES

Week 9

Thur 18 Semester 1 reports home  
Fri 19 **Mufti**—Fete Book Stall  
Pyjama/Tracksuit  
Bingo Night—Parish  
Dance Fever

Week 10 Interviews this week

Mon 22 Pow Wow 9-10:30am  
Tues 23 8:30-9:30am Uniform  
Shop open  
Thur 25 Stage 2 Soccer Gala  
Fri 26 Term 2 Ends

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

JULY

Week 1

Mon 13 **Staff Development  
Day** (Students do not  
attend school today)  
Tues 14 8:30-9:30am Uniform  
Shop open  
Fri 17 NSW PSSA Cross  
Country Eastern Creek

Week 2

Mon 20 Pow Wow 9-10:30am  
Tues 21 8:30-9:30am Uniform  
Shop open  
Fri 24 Mufti - Toys (Fete)

STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT  
DAY

**Monday 13 July 2015**

***Students do not attend  
school on this day.***

Students return to school  
for Term 3 on  
Tuesday 14 July.



# Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

This week is Refugee Week! During this week we are encouraged to reflect on those who come to our shores as refugees and asylum seekers.

Until 1951 there was no commonly accepted term for people fleeing persecution. People who fled their country were known as stateless people, migrants or refugees. Different countries treated these people in different ways. Following the mass migrations caused by the Second World War (particularly in Europe) it was decided that there needed to be a common understanding of which people needed protection and how they should be protected.

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and it's 1967 Protocol (commonly known as the Refugee Convention), to which Australia is a signatory, defines a refugee as:

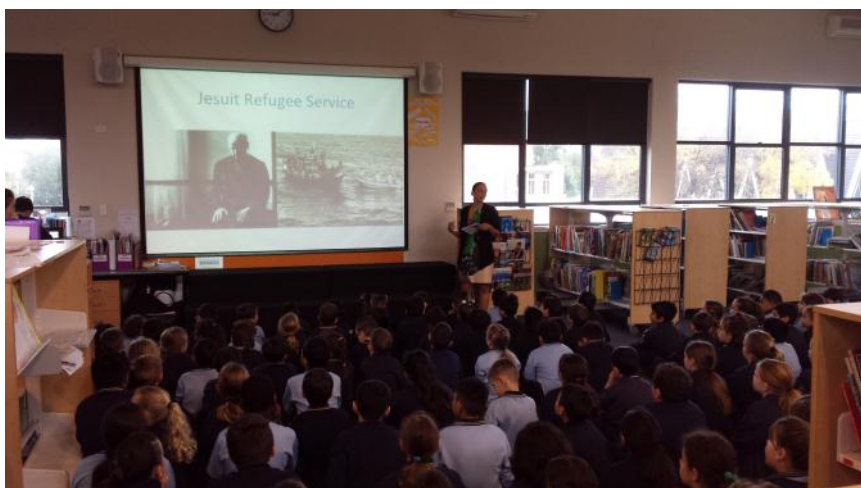
*Any person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.*

*The Refugee Convention definition is used by the Australian Government to determine whether our country has protection obligations towards asylum seekers. If an asylum seeker is found to be a refugee, Australia is obliged under international law to offer protection and to ensure that the person is not sent back unwillingly to their country of origin.*

As Australians let us celebrate and welcome our refugees and celebrate the positive contributions to Australian society made over the past 64 years by the 800,000 Australians who once were refugees.

We were very fortunate yesterday to have Maeve Brown from Arrupe Place, a Jesuit Refugee Centre in Parramatta, speak to our students about the wonderful work they are doing for refugees and asylum seekers. On a weekly basis the centre assists over 150 families with food, clothing and bedding. In addition they also offer cooking classes and English lessons.

Thank you to all the families in the school that have been able to send in donations for Arrupe Place. Mr Dennis will deliver these items to the centre.



In all the learning spaces this week the teachers have been raising awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrating the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

### ***A Prayer for Refugees***

*Almighty and merciful God,  
whose Son became a refugee  
and had no place to call his own;  
look with mercy on those who today  
are fleeing from danger,  
homeless and hungry.*

*Bless those who work to bring them relief;  
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;  
and guide the nations of the world towards that day  
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

### **DANCE FEVER**

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the Dance Fever Challenge at Homebush last night. They were all fabulous ambassadors for our school and represented us superbly. Thank you to all the staff that attended and supported the students - Miss Bagnall, Miss Rosewell, Mrs Boulous, Mrs Mason, Miss Sweeney and Mrs Turner.



Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

## SEMESTER ONE REPORTS

Tomorrow all parents will receive their child's first semester report. These reports are one way of communicating to you about your child's learning achievements and challenges. Parent/Teacher Interviews provide an important opportunity to focus on your child's learning, identifying areas of strength and areas of development for your child as well as setting future short and long term goals for Semester Two. It is encouraged and most beneficial for ALL students to participate in the interview or at least part of it.

## MAKING SENSE OF YOUR CHILD'S REPORT

The reporting format is reflective of the Board of Studies Common Grade Scale. The E – A grading scale is from Year 1 – Year 6 only. Kindergarten students will receive a report, showing achievement against a criterion which is more appropriate at this stage of their development.

The Year 1-6 report indicates the extent to which the student demonstrates **Knowledge** and **Skills** not **Work Habits** and **Attitudes**.

**A 'C' grade will indicate that your child is progressing at a grade appropriate level and is to be congratulated on their achievements in Semester 1.**

## COMMON GRADE SCALE

### E

A student awarded an E grade has **elementary knowledge** and understanding in a few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills. The student requires assistance by a teacher to complete the task

### D

A student awarded a 'D' grade has **basic knowledge and understanding** of the content and has achieved a limited level of achievement. The student requires some additional assistance to complete tasks.

### C

The most common grade is the 'C' grade. A **C grade indicates that the student is achieving at the expected grade level** and to their capabilities. A student awarded a 'C' grade has sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved a satisfactory level of competence in the processes and skills. The student is working at grade level, meeting expectations for the grade, producing quality work samples.

### B

A student awarded a 'B' grade has a **thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and skills**. The student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations. The student is working above grade level, is very capable, above average and is exceeding school benchmarks/expectations for their grade level.

### A

A student awarded an 'A' grade has an **extensive knowledge and understanding** of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. The student is achieving well beyond grade level, uses complex language structures, higher order thinking skills, applies skills to new situations, applies knowledge- makes connections, possesses a wide variety of strategies and internalises concepts

## **Before the Interview**

### ***Be Prepared***

- Plan and write down your specific questions before the interview
- Identify factors the teacher (s) need to be aware of
- Talk with your child before the interview and ask him/her if there is anything in particular he/she would like raised at the interview
- Is there anything about your child that you think the teacher should know?
- Does your child have worries/ concerns about school you want to raise?
- What does your child like about school?
- Are you concerned about a particular area of learning such as reading, mathematics or social skills?
- Sometimes things change at home - for example, change of job, change in living or working arrangements, sudden grief situation. These are important things for teachers to know so that they may be of support for your child/children.

### ***Punctuality***

- Be on time
- Each interview will be in your child's learning space
- At the conclusion of your 15 minute interview a buzzer will sound

## **During the Interview**

### ***Attitude***

- Approach the interview with a positive and relaxed attitude
- See it as an opportunity for a two- way conversation in which there is a sharing of information, ideas and concerns.
- Set the scene for a positive and constructive meeting by using open and positive body language -avoid 'defensive postures'

### ***Communication***

- Respect the Teacher's professional skills and expertise
- Use respectful behaviours
- Be constructive
- Discuss issues without becoming personal
- Express your needs and concerns calmly
- Remember you both want what's best for your child

### ***Listen***

- The best communicators are keen listeners
- Clarify points not completely understood
- If you don't understand the 'jargon' ask for meaning
- Ask your prepared questions

## **After the Interview**

- Follow up on matters discussed
- Discuss the meeting with your child and talk about his/her strengths and CELEBRATE these
- Ask your child where improvements can be made
- Negotiate a plan with your child that encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning
- Follow up on recommendations of the teacher - eg recommendations of books, a better study arrangement etc
- Finally, give the teacher feedback and remember that you are encouraged to be in contact with your child's teacher at any time throughout the year.

***Louise O'Donnell***

## ABSENCES

Earlier on this year I communicated the importance of your child's daily attendance at school. Please refer to your child's report and the number of days absent/partial absences that your child incurred in Semester One.

The reprinted data below will assist all parents in determining the percentage of attendance that their child has attended school this semester. Pay close attention also to the number of partial absences that your child had over the semester.

As I have looked at all reports I have been alarmed at the number of partial absences that some children have had over the semester. While I acknowledge that the mornings can be a busy time, parents are strongly advised to have their child at school on time every morning at 8:50am.

### Staff Development Day

A reminder that our Staff Development Day is on **Monday 13 July** (the first day of Term 3). COSHC will be open on this day.

Australian Early Development Census Between June and July this year all schools will be taking part in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) an Australian Government initiative. The nationwide census of early childhood development assists our school and community understand how children are developing when they commence school, what is being done well, and what can be improved. A letter explaining the census will be sent home to all Kindergarten families this week.

If your child is.....	Days of Education lost in a year
5 minutes late every day	3 days
10 minutes late	6.5 days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
25 minutes late	19.5 days

**Students will attend school a total of 195 days in 2015.**

100% Attendance will indicate	No absences for the entire year.
95% Attendance	9.75 days absence per year
90% Attendance	19.5 days absence per year
85% Attendance	29.25 days absence per year
80% Attendance	39 days absences per year

## SKOOLBAG APP

Please take the time to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just look for our school name "St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta" in The Apple App Store for iPhone or Google Play Store for Android. This is an important form of our communication that is used regularly. There are also instructions on our school website.

## MUFTI DAY for the Fete Book Stall - Friday 19 June 2015 (pyjamas or tracksuit)

Students may wear **MUFTI - pyjamas or tracksuit (& sport shoes)** to school in support of the Fete Book Stall. Books, magazines, console and computer games, unused puzzles, DVDs and CDs may be taken directly to Hall from 8:00am—12pm on Friday 19th June. (please do not bring encyclopaedias or any study related books).





DANCE FEVER PERFORMANCES

With only two weeks left of Dance Fever we would like to invite all parents to view their child’s lesson in the Parish Hall this week (Friday 19 June).

Dance Fever Timetable:

Kindergarten / Year 1	11:50am—12:20pm
Year 2	12:20pm—12:50pm
Stage 2	1:30pm—2:15pm
Stage 3	2:15pm—3:00pm

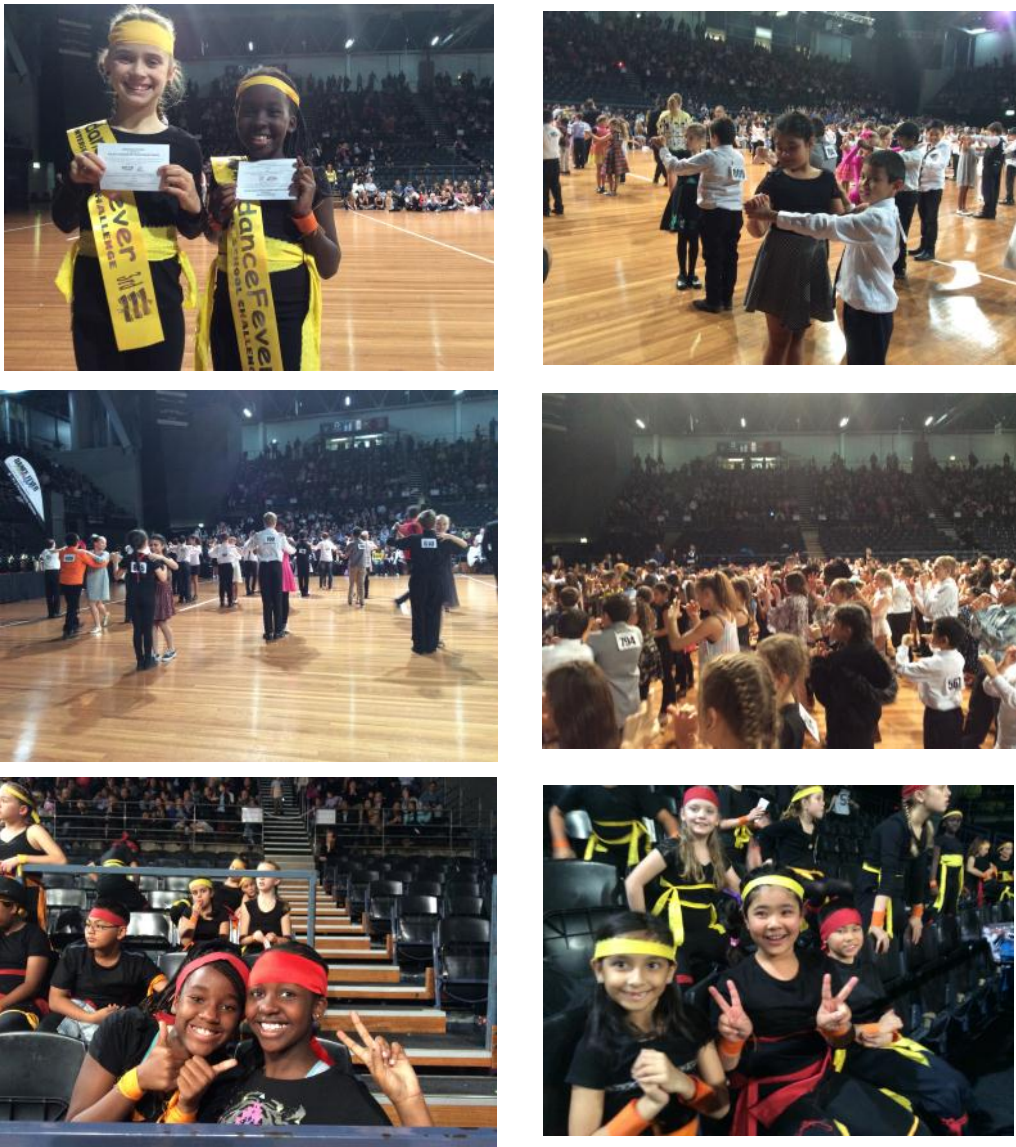
LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure your child’s name is on all their belongings. We have a number of jackets in lost property at present. It is easier to return items to the rightful owner if their name is on it.

SYMPATHY

Please keep in your prayers the Logo family (Ezekiel—Stage 2) on the recent passing of Ezekiel’s grandfather.

Dance Fever Photos



## Year 6 GRADUATION PIE DAY

The Social Welcome Team held a Pie and Sausage Roll Day on Tuesday 16 June for all staff and students to raise funds for the Year 6 Graduation. Thank you to Simone Lewis, Rebecca Essey, Neil Joseph and the Year 6 students who assisted on the day.



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

COSHC is able to offer limited places for care for the Staff Development Day on **Monday 13 July**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Application form on the school website under School Notes—COSHC.

## COSHC

The COSHC Winter Vacation Care Program and Booking forms are also available on the school website.

## FOSMS

FOSMS (Fathers of St Monica's Students) will be meeting for our term 2 dinner on Friday 26th June 2015 at 7:30pm (this is the last day of school term 2).

Meet at:

Standard Indian in North Parramatta  
515 Church Street, North Parramatta

Phone: 9630-0319

I hope you have all had a successful term 2. There have been many events at the school, soccer gala days and a few excursions. Such a busy term, especially with NAPLAN for years 3 and 5 as well. Lets get together and swap a few stories!!

**Please RSVP to Neil Joseph by Monday 22nd June on 0418113160 or email at [njoptus@optusnet.com.au](mailto:njoptus@optusnet.com.au)**

## KISS AND DROP—REMINDER

Parents are able to “Kiss and Drop” children to school in the mornings.

### The following guidelines apply for safety reasons:

- Cars must enter the school grounds via Daking Street only.
- Students must always exit the car **via the driver's side only**.
- Children are to farewell parents **before** getting out of the car.
- **Parents are not to get out of the car** to get bags out of the boot or to farewell children. Bags should be with the children ready to exit the car.
- Children walk into the school grounds via the gate.
- Parents are always welcome to park their car and walk their child/children into the school grounds if they are not able to comply with the safety requests in the ‘Kiss and Drop’ zone.
- Cars are to move to the right side of the driveway in the ‘Kiss and Drop’ Zone—**please do not stop in the middle of the driveway to let your child out of the car.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**AFTERNOONS:** Parents are reminded that there is no waiting in our car park from 3:15pm onwards. Please consider delaying your arrival after school as the students are well supervised until 3:30pm.

## MERIT AWARDS

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



ES1:	Lola Sloane, L'ysse Puyat, Ryan Malatag
Year One:	Simon Forsyth, Ruby Graham
Year Two:	Samira Hekeik, Emma O'Rourke
Stage 2:	Joshua North, Ann-Marie Boujandy,
Stage 3:	Mariah Farah, Alanah Khadi, Salama Kipanya Kunambi, Erica Crame, Daryll Hilario and Mattheas Noonan

Congratulations to Lachlan Roberts for competing in the NSW Catholic Cross Country. Lachlan came 20th out of approximately 109 competitors which is a HUGE achievement. Well done Lachlan we are proud of you!

**Today Erica Crame and Jack Talty have shared their writing — a visualisation from the prospective of a refugee. This was in response to a visualisation activity in Stage 3 Literacy.**

### Refugee Visualisation

I've been on this small boat for days now, well, that's what I remember. All I see are unfamiliar faces, torn luggage bags and my forever loved family. The feeling of the cold metal below my feet brings a shiver down my spine. I miss my warm home, my country, my beloved place. I wish I was back at my sanctuary. But it's not safe, there's something there...war! All I can hear are children crying and babies screaming. Adults tremble as the boat rocks back and forth. I wished to smell a beautiful scent, but all I could smell was the scent of fish and sea.

By Erica Crame

### The Endless Struggle - A Refugee's Story of Struggle

As we walk the never-ending struggle to safety, homeless asylum seekers, whose cities have faced destruction, along with the diversity of religions and nationalities, makes an appalling silence. As we undertake the journey to safety, like a dog looking for it's owner, we start to understand the treacherous struggle we stuck in. The forgotten plains serve as the lonely path of immigrants, winding through countries of war. As the Endless Struggle continues, hunger fills the pessimistic atmosphere, and the malignant aroma of smoke and gun-powder makes us wish we were back home. I clutch Nanna's old, wrinkled hand, and I feel a hint of courage amongst the desperation. But as the Endless Struggle continues, she disappears amongst the bustling crowd. My calls to her are like ants amongst a city of humans. As the Endless Struggle goes on, we can truly see no end.

By Jack Talty

## 2015/2016 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Enjoy an action-packed school holidays with the NEW Entertainment™ Membership. With the school holidays approaching, now is the perfect time to buy an Entertainment™ Book or Entertainment™ Digital Membership. All you need to do is choose which Membership suits you

Entertainment Books **cost \$65 each** and every membership sold raises **\$13 for our school**. If you would like to order a membership please do so immediately to avoid missing out!

**The fundraiser will be closing soon.**



This year you again have the option of ordering an **Entertainment Book Membership** or an **Entertainment Digital Membership**.

You may order securely online at: [www.entbook.com.au/21576y3](http://www.entbook.com.au/21576y3) or **click on the link on our website home page**. Please contact Mrs Abood in the school office if you have any further enquiries.



## Diocesan Works Fund Appeal

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, students and parents had the opportunity to donate to the Diocesan Works Fund Appeal. The Stage 3 Christ-centered Leaders held a liturgy that helped students to think about the Diocesan Works Fund and what it does for our community. The Diocesan Works Fund supports a number of works and ministries in the Parramatta Diocese. Together, the school community raised over \$600 to help the community through DWF.



## Nepal Fundraiser

Last Thursday 4 June, St Monica's held a fundraiser for the people in Nepal who have recently experienced an earthquake and resulted in destroying cities, homes and schools. The Nepal Fundraiser was held in the afternoon. Four activities took place that included Coin Toss, Coin and Spoon Race, Paper Aeroplane Competition and a break for ice blocks. Each competition was playable if you donated one coin to the Nepal Fundraiser. It was a huge success as the school raised over \$430 which will be donated to Caritas. We would like to thank all the families who donated to this cause. We would also like to thank the year 6 students for planning, organising and running the activities.

By Kyah Day

## Seminar - Dealing With The Legal System

CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers to minimize your legal fees, protecting your rights regarding family assets and other topics. This night will be held on Wednesday 24th June from 7.30pm-9.30pm at CCSS, 2A Villiers St, Parramatta. Registration essential: Eileen or Rita Ph.9933 0205 email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au) See Flyer on Notice Board

## YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The Support group is for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children.

**Next gathering:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm  
**Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Eileen or Rita Ph. 9933 0205 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

### Upcoming Events—Term 2

Thursday 18 June	Semester One Reports sent home
Friday 19 June	Mufti Day (Pyjama/Tracksuit) for the Fete Book Stall (Book donations to the Hall 8am-12pm) Parish Bingo Night—Hall
Monday 22 June	Parent Teacher Interviews this week
Thursday 25 June	Stage Two Soccer Gala Day
Friday 26 June	Term 2 concludes at 3pm