

ST MONICA'S
PRIMARY
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 1, WEEK 3
11 February 2015

DIARY DATES
FEBRUARY

Week 3

Wed 11 **Parent Meetings**
5:45pm ES1
6:30pm Stage 2
7:30pm Social/
Welcome Meeting

Fri 13 School Census Day
Dance Fever—Sport
Uniform

Week 4

Mon 16 Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Tues 17 Uniform Shop open
8:30am—9:30am
Shrove Tuesday
(Pancake Day)

Wed 18 ASH WEDNESDAY

Fri 20 Dance Fever—Sport
Uniform

Week 5

Mon 23 Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Tues 24 Uniform Shop open
8:30am—9:30am

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

Week 7 **CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK**

Mon 9 Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Tues 10 Uniform Shop
8:30am—9:30am

Whole School Mass
Open Afternoon

Fri 13 Dance Fever—Sport
Uniform

11:15am Open
Classrooms

Sat 14 Trivia Night



Monica's Matters

Web: www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au
Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

Phone: 9630 3697
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Thank you to our Stage One and Stage Three teachers and all the parents who were able to set aside time last Wednesday night to attend the Information Night. The most important aspect of attendance at these meetings is the message that you are giving both to your child and to the teachers I am interested! We are a team!

I believe that the following article: "*What Teachers Wish You Knew*" by Lisa Collier Cod, sums up good practice.

- **Don't be a stranger.** Talk to your child's teacher early and when you feel the need. Organised Parent/Teacher interviews shouldn't be the only time that you connect.
- **Learning doesn't stop at 3:00pm.** You can help the teacher do a better job by encouraging your child to show you something that they are learning at school. Every time your child gets a chance to show off what they know their confidence can grow.
- **Let your child make mistakes.** Teachers don't want perfect students. They want students who try hard and take risks in their learning. It is OK for your child to make mistakes and for their teachers to see what they don't know.
- **Teachers are on your side—give them the benefit of the doubt.** If your child is having a grizzle about the teacher, don't go into 'blame' mode or attack. This is where a good relationship helps — a quick chat can usually sort things out before matters escalate.
- **Keep your child engaged.** Most teachers have to spend far too much time tracking down lost items eg clothing, pencils. It is a good idea to have your child empty their bags each day as part of a regular after school routine. Look for anything that needs to be returned and have extra supplies on hand so your child doesn't go to school without their 'tools of the trade'.
- **If the teacher deserves praise, give it.** Teaching isn't easy so it is incredibly uplifting when someone takes the time to say 'thank you'. Why not email or write a quick note when your child enjoys a class event and you think the teacher is doing a good job.

I look forward to seeing all the Kindergarten and Stage Two parents at the Information Meetings tonight. Kindergarten 5:45pm and Stage Two at 6:30pm.

The Social Welcome Team Meeting will be held tonight at 7:30pm in the Staff Room. All parents are welcome, especially new parents to our school.

New Changes to Attendance 2015

The Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) informed schools last Friday of specific new changes to attendance in relation to students taking holidays outside the official school holiday periods.

The following outlines the changes that have been implemented as a result of the changes to the Education Act 1990 regarding attendance. These changes take effect immediately. Exemption from attendance no longer applies to travel and holidays, both domestically and internationally.

1-9 days absence:	Parents must notify the school principal by mail or email (written)
10-100 days absence:	Parent must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form (A1) prior to commencing leave. If approved the Principal issues a Certificate of Extended Leave (C1). If the Principal declines this application (ie it is not within the best interest of the child to take leave and be absent from school), a letter notifying parents that the application has been declined would be forthcoming.

New requirements for student absence and travel

CEDP has procedures and guidelines in place to achieve high standards of student attendance in collaboration with parents. Parents are required by law to ensure that children aged between 6 and 17 attend school. Schools are required to monitor and keep a register of student attendance in accordance with common codes which explain absences. Written communication explaining a student's absence after illness or leave, must be forwarded to the child's teacher.

Bully Audit

Bully audits are regularly conducted at St Monica's with our primary students. Our students have the opportunity to raise issues of bullying behaviours within our school. This process enables the school to monitor issues and to respond with appropriate programs and initiatives to maintain positive relationships between all students.

Primary students complete the audit form individually in the learning space. The survey asks each student to identify times they may have been bullied or have witnessed bullying in the learning space or our on the playground. The information is confidential and is a non-threatening way of obtaining important information that does not make any assumptions. The results of the audit are then compiled by Mrs Mason and me.

If a student is identified on five or more occasions by their peers, contact will be made with the parents and a plan established to support the child in making positive behavioural choices. On Monday, bully audits took place in Stage Two and Stage Three. This audit will be repeated again in Week 7.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

Communication

Our School Newsletter is sent out each fortnight in the odd weeks of each term. Please inform Mrs Abood, through the office, if you do not receive the newsletter.

The following table outlines the relevant staff member that parents need to approach for specific matters:

Class Teacher	Class learning, homework, friendship issues, individual educational plans for students, modifications to classroom programs, issues at home that may impact on your child's learning, playground issues.
Inclusive Education / Learning Support Miss Leona Sweeney	Any follow-on issues regarding individual learning plans for students, modifications to teacher programs (speech, hearing, vision issues, educational assessments)
Literacy Coordinator Mrs Erin Turner	English syllabus, specific strategies to further assist children with learning in reading and writing
Numeracy Coordinator Mrs Denelle Gardoni	Mathematics syllabus, Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program, specific strategies to assist with learning in number, place value, addition & subtraction, multiplication & division
Physical Education Coordinator Mrs Erin Turner	PDHPE syllabus, incursion programs, school carnivals & representation at Diocesan and other sporting events.
Library/IT Mrs Sharon Boulous	Student borrowing, book recommendations, book fairs & the policy regarding student acceptable use of technology.
Religious Education Coordinator Miss Michelle Rosewell	Religious Education program, Sacramental program, spiritual development of children & parents, school charism. School masses, liturgies & celebrations
Assistant Principal Mrs Mary-Jo Mason	Overall school learning program, follow up to classroom and playground incident reports, Seasons for Growth program, SRC, bus incidents
Principal Miss Louise O'Donnell	Matters to do with overall educational program, procedures, policies and school management, all child protection issues, general safety issues, enrolment, school fees, referral to school counsellor.
Parish Priest Father Fernando Montano	Faith development and life of your family, pastoral care of your family, sacraments, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/children RCIA - (inquiry into becoming a Catholic)

CHILD PROTECTION (online training module and volunteer declaration form)

As part of the Child Protection requirements, parents must complete a declaration form and an online training module prior to volunteering in the classroom or on excursions.

Forms have been given to parents at the Parent Information Meetings to complete. You may also download copies of these forms from the website. Please go to **School Notes**. Once the declaration form has been completed you will need to bring it to the office and have it signed by the office staff. This form remains active whilst your child is enrolled at St Monica's School. If your details/circumstances change then you are required to notify the school office.

As well as completing the volunteer declaration form, you are also required to complete the online training module. Please go to <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>

Once the online training module has been completed, the school will be notified via email. If you have any further questions please contact the school office.

State Election—March 2015

Key Messages

- Significant public funding gap exists between Parramatta's Catholic systemic schools and government schools in the Parramatta area.
- Catholic schools save taxpayers billions of dollars each year by educating 251,000 (1 in 5) students in NSW.
- Catholic schools require a more equitable share of capital funding to expand school places to meet the growing demand.
- Parents of Catholic school students contribute to the NSW education system twice- as taxpayers and through school fees.
- Newsletter
- Further information – Council of Catholic School Parents
Catholic Education Commission NSW
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

<http://www.ccspp.catholic.edu.au/elections>

DID YOU KNOW?

The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%.

The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fund-raising.

This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - *to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.*


Leadership, Advocacy and Support
Web: www.ccspp.catholic.edu.au @CCSPNSWACT Council of Catholic School Parents

DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic school parents in NSW paid \$943 million in school fees in 2012.

You also contributed \$161.5 million in school building levies and other capital funding that year.

That's more than \$1.1 billion invested by Catholic school parents in our state's education system in just one year!

Despite this extraordinary support, Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs each year.

This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - *to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.*


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SCHOOL CENSUS



Parents are advised that **this Friday 13th February** is our School Census day. If you are aware that your child is going to be away on Friday could you please send a note to your child's homeroom teacher **prior** to Friday.

If your child is away on Friday due to illness or other circumstance, you are requested to call the office on 9630 3697 or send an email to school **stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au** explaining their absence.

Please note that there will be **limited services available from the school office on Friday.**

It would be appreciated if only phone calls of an *urgent nature* are made to the office while the Census is in progress. Thank you.

MERCY WORKS

Sr Ailsa McKinnon has sent a thank you letter and a Certificate of Appreciation to our school for our donation to Mercy Works.

‘Thank you for the generous donation to Mercy Works. Your financial commitment will support the relief and development activities of Mercy Works in Timor Leste. Be assured that your contribution is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your generosity.’ Sr Ailsa McKinnon

SYMPATHY

The school community extends its sympathy and prayers to the Boujandy family (Ann-Marie, Stage 2) on the recent passing of Mrs Boujandy’s father, aunt and uncle. Please keep the Boujandy family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

PRAYERS—St Monica’s Community

There are several families in our community who are in need of prayers. Please pray for all families in St Monica’s Community who are experiencing difficulty and hardship at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Chirchir family (Debra, Stage 3 and Sandra, Stage 2) on the birth of their baby sister, Lisa.

STANDARD COLLECTION NOTICE

The Standard Collection Notice relating to personal information can be found under Policies and Procedures on our website. Go to the subheading **Parents** and then **Policies and Procedures**.

ASTHMA FORMS—2015

Thank you to those parents who have returned their child’s asthma forms/action plans for 2015. There are a number of students listed as having asthma last year who have not yet returned an updated form.

In order for us to provide assistance to your child in the event of an asthma attack, it is important that we have current information regarding the administration of their medication. Please complete a separate form for each child with asthma and return it to the office immediately. Asthma forms can be downloaded from the website under **School Notes**. If you do not have internet access please contact the office.

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 School Fees have now been sent out by the Catholic Education Office. If you do not receive your fees, or if you have changed address and have not yet informed the school office, please contact Mrs Cattermole immediately so that your details can be updated. ***Parents who still have outstanding 2014 school fees are asked to contact the school office immediately.*** Please note that Term 1 school fees are due and payable by **Friday 6 March**.

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**

Registration after Mass on:

Saturday 21st February at 5pm Mass and Sunday 22nd February at 9am Mass.

Please bring a Copy of your child’s Baptismal Certificate and a \$30 Donation

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



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

Keira Mitchell	Veronica Sadek	Lachlan Dardagos	Aaliyah Assaf
Maureen Haddad	Chanel Azar	Jake Chapman	Miranda Huang
Matthew Johnson	Jessica Crowle	Poppy Sloane	

Staff: Father Fernando and Mrs Mason

FOSMS (Fathers of St Monica's Students)

FOSMS will be meeting for our first dinner for 2015 on **Saturday 7 March 2015** at 7:30pm at our old favourite—Thai Garden House in North Parramatta—526 Church Street, North Parramatta. We encourage all dads to come along for the chance to catch up with old friends or make some new ones, especially if your child has started at St Monica's this year. Please contact Neil Joseph on 0418 113 160 or email njoptus@optusnet.com.au

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the school Swimming Carnival on Friday 30 January. Pictured are the students who received ribbons for their efforts on the day. Well done everyone!



SRC 2015

Congratulation to the following children elected to the Student Representative Council for the first half of the 2015 school year. Badges will be presented on Monday morning (16th February) at Assembly.

ES1	Siria Mondinelli and Liam Sciacca
Stage 1	Kobe Puyat and Galia Evangelista
Stage 2	Joshua North and Rachel French
Stage 3	Amalie Dona and Andy Haddad

CONSENT FORM: RAFFLE TICKETS (Permission to receive)

Due to a change in legislation, permission is required each year from families before raffle tickets can be sent home. A note has been sent home regarding this. All families are requested to complete this note and return it to school by **Friday 20 February**. Please be advised that when giving permission you are aware that a child under 15 years of age cannot sell lottery/raffle tickets unless accompanied by and under the supervision of an adult. You must also be aware that tickets cannot be sold door-to-door on any day before 9am and after 8pm (or sunset, whichever last occurs).

CONSENT FORM: Use of Student's image and or work

A consent form regarding the use of student's image and or work has been sent home to all families today. Please complete the form and return it to school by **Friday 20 February**.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT — TONIGHT

A reminder to Early Stage One (Kindergarten) and Stage Two parents that meetings will be held tonight providing an opportunity for you to meet classroom teachers and be given general information relating to the teaching and learning programmes, classroom organisation and expectations in each class/stage. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask specific questions on matters about which you are unsure. Communication takes high priority at St Monica's and it is important that **at least one parent from each family attend**.

Catherine McAuley Westmead - Enrolments for Year 7 2016

Closing Date for Year 7 2016 Applications 1st Round Offers is Friday 27th March 2015.



Open Morning specifically for Year 7 2016 enrolments - Wednesday 5th March 2015 9.15 – 11am

The morning will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day. To book places for a school tour please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

The school will also be holding an **Open Afternoon/Evening on Tuesday, 17th March from 4.00 – 6.30pm.**

This will provide another opportunity to tour the school with classrooms open and school tours running throughout this time. Following the Open event from 7.00 – 8.00pm there will be a Year 7 2016 Enrolment Information Evening presented by the Leadership Team. This will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting.

Any questions concerning the Open Afternoon/Evening or the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening can be answered by phoning School Reception. Car parking for any of these school events will be available via Gate 3 off Darcy Road, Westmead.

TRIVIA NIGHT 'BOLLYWOOD MEETS HOLLYWOOD'

Tickets are **NOW ON SALE** for the adults only 2015 Trivia Night to be held on Saturday 14th March. Buy your tickets from a committee member before school, or alternatively send in an envelope the completed form and money with your child to the office and a member of the committee will send home your confirmation/tickets for the night. Great fun will be had on the night. Donations for our prizes, raffles and auctions are coming in fast, but there is never too many, so if you have your own business, work for, or have contacts with a business or company that may be able to donate some prizes for the Trivia Night, please speak to Kathy Sciacca, Tiff Cooper, Simone Lewis, Katrina Mitchell, Genevieve Smith, Vanessa Talty or Claudia Kassis. Alternatively, please contact the school.

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 & MIGNOLLES | \$15 PER PERSON PLUS GOLD CHIPS FOR MARCH 14TH ONLY

NO TICKETS SOLD ON THE NIGHT For Enquiries contact Tiff Cooper 0408 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. (Groups of 8 & 8 players can register as a team, right)

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____

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

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

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

NAME: _____

NUMBER IN TEAM: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____ (\$18 per person)

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEAM NAME: _____

PAYMENT TYPE:

☐ CASH

☐ CHEQUE

Please make cheques payable to St Monica's Primary School

TRIVIA CLASS HAMPERS

Early last week every child took home a note about homeroom hampers that each class will be putting together for the upcoming Trivia night. Each class has a different theme:

ES1/Kindy	Miss Clough	Gardening
Stage 1/ Year 1	Mrs Turner	Sport
Stage 1/ Year 2	Mrs Gardoni	Auto
Stage 2	Mrs Paley	Easter
Stage 2	Mrs Weston	Stationery & reading
Stage 2	Mrs McKenzie	Kitchen & foodies
Stage 3	Miss Rosewell	Toiletries
Stage 3	Miss Bagnall	Games

Please bring your donated items in **BY FRIDAY**. Thank you to all the families who have already sent in their donations.

The Trivia Committee

Rosehill

Community Preschool 0-5

ENROL NOW!

Open Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm

We supply nappies, sunscreen, all meals and linen.

Community-owned and not-for-profit, we have served children and families with distinction since 1981. We are industry leaders in children's education and care.

103 Hassall Street, Rosehill
9635 8672 • bigfatasmile.com.au



Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard ?

Aria Music is enrolling for 2015 at St Monica's

Please email: ariamusicschool@gmail.com

Ph: 0402 780 130

Qualified, friendly teachers encourage serious musical skills in a fun learning environment.
Group classes at school, \$23.10 (Inclgst) per lesson.
Individual tuition is also available.



Guitar classes!

Day: Monday lunchtime

Time : 12 - 1 p.m

Location: The community room

Keyboard Classes!

Day: Tuesday lunchtime

Time: 12-1 p.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

ST PAUL'S NETBALL CLUB

St Paul's Netball Club is in desperate need of players for their 7's team for the 2015 netball season. They are looking for girls who turn 7 this year. Training is at the Gooden Drive courts in Winston Hills and they play each Saturday at the Kellyville Complex. Anyone interested should URGENTLY contact our Club Registrar Nicole Brown on 0407 868 093, or Assistant Registrar Jane Shelton on 0407 919 450.



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

Open Day
Sunday
March 1, 2015
10am-2pm

OLMC Parramatta Open Day

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2015 Open Day on Sunday, March 1 from 10am to 2.00pm. Principal's Welcome at 10am and 12pm. Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life. To reserve your place or obtain further information visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300.

Michael Grose

Read Michael Grose's latest newsletter titled:
So what is the secret ingredient to children's school success?
Visit www.parentingideas.com.au



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The next Session of CCSS Solo Parent Services Bereavement Support Program for those whose spouse or long term partner has died is on **Tuesday 17th February**, from 10.00am – 12.00pm **Venue:** 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. **Topic:** "Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief. **Registration:** Eileen or Rita Ph. 99330205 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au Cost \$5.00. See Flyer on Parish Notice Board

YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services monthly Bereavement Support Group for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Next gathering: **Tuesday 17th February**. Time: 7pm – 9pm **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Cost: \$5.00. **Registration:** Eileen or Rita Ph. 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au Flyer on Notice Board