

TERM 4, WEEK 7  
Wednesday 18 November 2015

#### DIARY DATES

#### NOVEMBER

<b>Week 7</b> Fri 20	7pm - St Monica's Church First Reconciliation
<b>Week 8</b> Mon 23	Pow Wow 9-10:30am MAI Online bookings open at 9:00am
Tues 24	Uniform Shop open 8:30am-9:30am
Wed 25	9:15am ES1—Parish Mass
Thur 26	9:15am S2 Parish Mass
Fri 27	9:15am S3 Parish Mass 2:20pm WYD Fundraiser
<b>Week 9</b> Mon 30	Pow Wow 9-10:30am
<b>December</b> Tues 1	Uniform Shop open 8:30am-9:30am
Thur 3	9:15am S1 Parish Mass
<b>Week 10</b> Mon 7	Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 8	Uniform Shop open 8:30am-9:30am 7pm Christmas Celebration—undercroft
Wed 9	9am MAI Online Bookings close Semester 2 reports sent home
Thur 10	Year 6 Fun Day
Fri 11	End of Year Awards Thank you morning Tea
Sat 12	Working Bee
<b>Week 11</b> Mon 14	Pow Wow 9-10:30am <i>Rollover—limited services available from the office</i>
Tues 15	<i>Rollover—limited services available from the office</i> Uniform Shop open 8:30-9:30am Scrub Day 6pm End of Year Mass / Year 6 Graduation
Wed 16	Last day for students
Thur 17 Fri 18	Staff Development Day Staff Development Day



# Monica's Matters

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Phone: 9630 3697  
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

I'm sure over the weekend that you watched the news reports with horror as the extent of the terrorist attacks in Paris unfolded. These senseless acts are hard to comprehend as they violate the sanctity of human life.

How do we respond to our children's concerns when they are exposed to the vivid images of the anguish and distress of others? We need to listen to their feelings and reassure them that they are loved and precious to their family and that they can feel safe at school.

We seek comfort through faith in our loving and forgiving God as we pray for the innocent victims of the Paris attacks and for those who have been victims in similar terrorist attacks in Turkey, Beirut and Baghdad over the past week. Keep also in your prayers the service men and women who are working to restore peace.

## Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



## First Reconciliation

Please keep the following children and their families in your prayers as the children make their First Reconciliation at **7:00pm** this **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** in St Monica's Church.

*Trinity Bird, Zac Michael, Jordan Basha, Ezekiel Logo, Jericho Crame,  
Christian Dib, Jonah Assaf, Gene Kneipp, Emma Halankova, Hayden Herder-Beke,  
Kayla Grzelak, Jessica Crowle, Rafael Noonan, Laeticia Hossack,  
Kael Sciacca, Massimo Milutinovic and Sarah-Rose Wilson*

## 2016 Student Leadership

It is with pleasure that I announce the school Student Leadership Team for 2016.

### **Congratulations:**

School Ambassadors  
Student Representative Council

*Jackson Basha and Erica Crame  
Lachlan Roberts and Brooke Emphield*

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

Dear Parents,

**Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI)** will be held on **Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January 2016. (Term 1, Week 1)**

**Online bookings will open on Monday 23 November 2015 at 9:00am and close on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 9:00am**

For parents who do not have internet access, an iPad will be available in the School Office for you to make bookings. Parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require or phone the school on 9630 3697.

Interview duration for each child is **30 minutes** and spaces are limited.

Parents with more than one child may select one of the extra teachers available for the interviews if they are unable to co-ordinate times with the stage teachers.

**Parents are reminded to book their children in to the stage that they will be going into in 2016.**

**An information sheet will be sent home on Friday with all the details you will need to make the bookings.**



The School Opal card's new online application for relevant parents and students travelling in the Opal public transport region was launched on Monday 2 November.

***The application can be found at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students)***

Just like current paper travel passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don't need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network.

**Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card unless they are changing schools, campus, their home address or moving from Year 2 to 3 or Year 6 to 7.**

Those students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal card sent to your school for the beginning of the first term in 2016. More information will follow in the next few weeks.

#### **OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES**

Unless you have an arrangement with the school, all school fees should now have been paid. If you still have outstanding school fees, please call the school office ***immediately*** to discuss this with the Principal.

***Please note that all outstanding school fees must be finalised by Tuesday 8 December 2015.***

#### **2015 ANNUAL SCHOOL FINANCIAL / ADMINISTRATION ROLLOVER**

The Annual School Financial Rollover will be taking place on **Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December (Week 11).**

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

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

#### **WYD Fundraiser - Friday 27 November 2015 2:20pm—3:00pm**



We will be holding a fundraiser on Friday 27 November to raise funds for all the pilgrims in our parish who are travelling to the Philippines and Poland next year for World Youth Day. Millions of young Catholics from across the globe will join Pope Francis in Krakow, Poland for World Youth Day in July next year.

One itinerary will take us via the Philippines to work with young people devastated by an earthquake 18 months ago. The other will re-trace the footsteps of Saint John Paul II through Poland.

On this afternoon students will have the opportunity to purchase ice-blocks (50c), lolly bags (50c) and novelty toys (50c). The afternoon will begin at 2:20pm and conclude at 3:00pm.

## 2016 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, there is still uncertainty around long term government funding for Catholic schools. Indications are that federal government funding for education post 2017 will be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which historically has been much lower than the education inflation rate. Funding growth linked to CPI will not meet increases in the real costs of schooling.

To maintain our current service levels we will need to increase diocesan tuition fees by 5%. This increase will mean we can continue to fund important initiatives to improve student learning, including:

- literacy and numeracy programs such as Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4 and professional learning for teachers and leaders to support the implementation of these programs
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our learning spaces, technology and infrastructure
- building new schools and expanding existing schools to cater for new places

### Scholarships and fee arrangements

We are committed to ensuring that no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation. There are a range of scholarship and support programs to assist families including:

- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Fee arrangements and discounts
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

### Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2016

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fee can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Flexible payment plans are also available around weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments. The fee is only charged for the first three children currently enrolled in the diocese. There is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools.

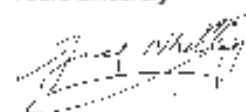
### Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2016

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard, and ensure we can expand or build new schools in high growth areas. To ensure this continues we will need to increase the building levy by \$33 per family per year. The levy for 2016 will be \$735 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$245 in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs and we do not take the decision to raise fees lightly. If a school fee increase will be difficult for your family to manage, please contact your school principal. We will provide every assistance to families in financial need.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby  
Executive Director of Schools

The 2016 Annual Tuition Fees are as follows:

Annual Fees		1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Tuition Fee Primary	Kindergarten	\$1,098	\$825	\$549
	Years 1 - 6	\$1,419	\$1,065	\$711
Tuition Fee Secondary	Years 7 - 8	\$1,968	\$1,476	\$984
	Years 9 - 10	\$2,184	\$1,638	\$1,092
	Years 11 - 12	\$2,790	\$2,094	\$1,395



## MERIT AWARDS

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



- ES1:** Charlize Cooper, Ashton Dardagos, Gabriela Andrade, Sara Younes
- Year One:** Madeline Smith, Jake Hollis
- Year Two:** Tia El Kazzi, Emma Sadek, Samira Hekeik, Ashley Roberts
- Stage 2:** Ann-Marie Boujandy, Jessica Chapman, Ryan Clark, Chelsea Lewis, Ainsley Mitchell  
Jessica Crowle, Jonah Assaf, Czyandexcel Panopio, Rachel French
- Stage 3:** Jackson Basha, Kyah Day, Abraham Dennis, Damian Matijevic



*Remembrance Day at St Monica's  
11 November 2015*

*Library Monitors with Mrs Boulous*

**OVER \$3,000 IN CASH & PRIZES TO BE WON**

Write4fun is hosting one last writing competition for 2015 and students from ALL AROUND Australia are invited to enter their ORIGINAL poems or short stories to be in the running for the fabulous CASH and prizes on offer.

**WHAT TO ENTER?**

Poem	Short Story
16 lines or less	500 words or less

You can use ANY writing style and you can write on ANY topic.  
\*Hint: Write something that YOU love to read.

**WHO CAN ENTER?**

Australian school students in Prep to Grade 12. This includes ALL primary and high school, public, private, catholic, special and home school students!

**WHY ENTER?**

Fantastic prizes! Including \$1000 CASH (\$500 to you and \$500 to your school) and your choice of an Apple iPad Air or Samsung Galaxy Tab or Xbox One or Playstation 4.

There will be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15 finalists in each division (poetry and short story).

Your poem or short story will also be considered for inclusion into a Write4fun Hardcover Book!

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners will receive a complimentary copy of the book. Those selected will have the opportunity to purchase the edition at a discounted rate. "We are very excited to be sponsoring this competition," stated Julia Woods, Managing Editor for Write4fun. "Our hope is that competitions such as these inspire students, in a fun way, to be creative with words!"

**write4fun**

Enter online: [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net)  
 Email to: [enter@write4fun.net](mailto:enter@write4fun.net)  
 Mail to: write4fun  
 PO Box 2734  
 Nerang DC QLD 4211  
 Fax to: 0 (07) 55743644

**Apple iPad Air** or **Samsung Galaxy Tab** or **Xbox One** or **Playstation 4**

**HOW TO ENTER?**

- Enter online [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net)
- Email to [enter@write4fun.net](mailto:enter@write4fun.net)
- Mail to Write4fun, PO Box 2734, Nerang DC, QLD 4211
- Fax to (07) 55743644

**OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF**

Please make sure you include an EMAIL ADDRESS that you can access DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. ENTRIES CLOSE Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 5pm.

**Happy Writing!!**

**write4fun**

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