

DIARY DATES

Week 6

Thursday 3 March

- 9:15am ES1 Parish Mass

Friday 4 March

- Dance Fever

Saturday 5 March

5pm Commitment Mass—Confirmation

Sunday 6 March

9am Commitment Mass Confirmation

Week 7 Catholic Schools Week

Monday 7 March

- Book Fair
- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tuesday 8 March

- Book Fair
- Cross Country—Lake Parramatta
- Open classrooms (existing families—11:10am-12:50pm)
- 8:30am-9:30am Uniform Shop

Wednesday 9 March

- Book Fair
- 9am-10:30am Open Morning for new families 2017

Thursday 10 March

- 9:15am Stage 2 Parish Mass

Friday 11 March

- 9:15am Whole School Mass
- Dance Fever (parents welcome)

Saturday 12 March

- Working Bee—7am-11am

Week 8

Monday 14 March

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tuesday 15 March

- 8:30am-9:30am Uniform Shop
- Back up day Cross Country
- Catherine McAuley Information Night 4pm-7pm

Thursday 17 March

- St Patrick's Day Liturgy

Friday 18 March

- Dance Fever

Week 9

Monday 21 March

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Thursday 24 March

- Holy Thursday

Friday 25 March

- Good Friday—Public Holiday



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the half-way point of the term. We have had a very busy start to the school year with all Mathematics Assessment Interviews completed, kindergarten successfully starting school, Parent Information Nights and our Swimming Carnival held, Dance Fever Athletics program up and running, Social Welcome Team meeting conducted, Sushi theme lunch enjoyed and last Wednesday night, we had our first POSMs meeting for 2016.

Thank you to all the parents that were able to attend our POSMs meeting. Our school goals were explained and parents were given a handy guide explaining the strategies that students, teachers and the leadership team will be adopting this year to achieve our Formation, Literacy and Numeracy school goals. Thank you to the School Leadership team for their valuable input on the night.

Thank you to all our teachers for their informative communication nights that were conducted in the last fortnight. Thank you to all the parents who attended these meetings. You have begun both the journey and the parent/teacher relationship that is so important in your child's education.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall receive Mercy

Matthew 6; 7

Mercy

What does it look like? Sound like? Feel like?

What kinds of words and gestures express the compassions, tenderness and fidelity of our merciful God?

Think about the ways you communicate: speech patterns, non-verbal cues, actions.

How fluent are you in the language of mercy?

Ask: How merciful am I in my actions, my thoughts?

Do I really look for the good in the other?

Do I honour my promises?

Do I readily say, "I'm sorry?"

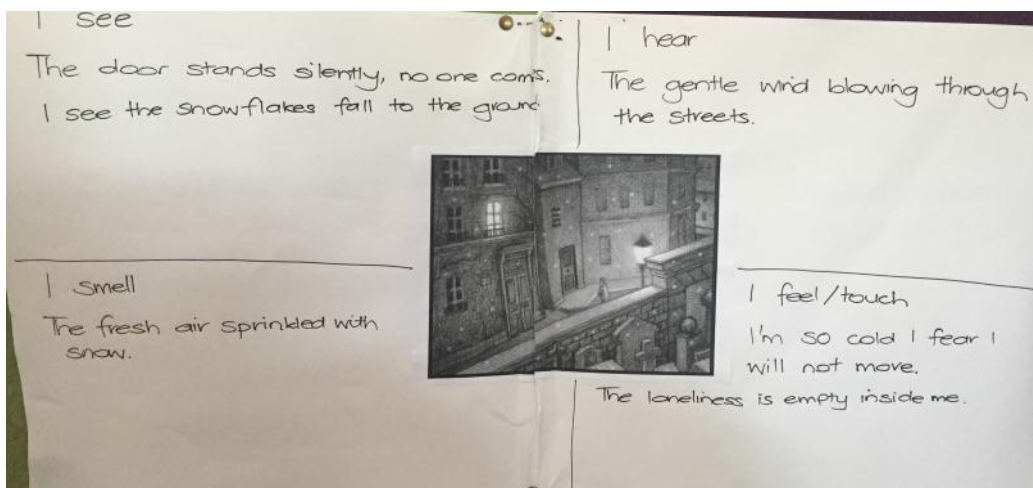
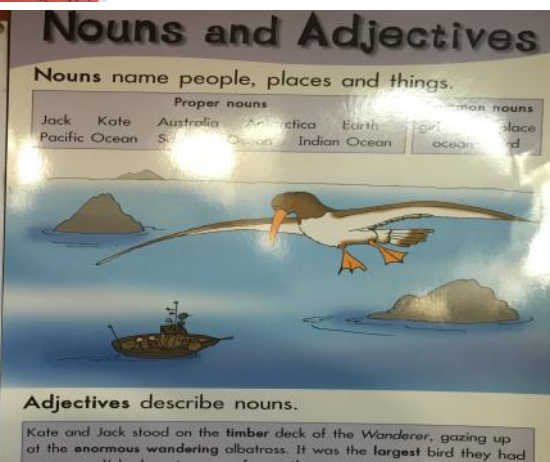
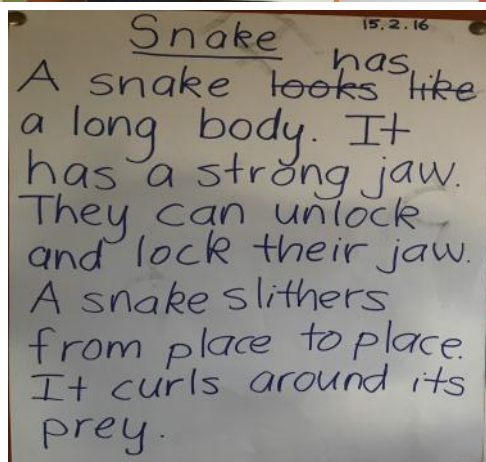
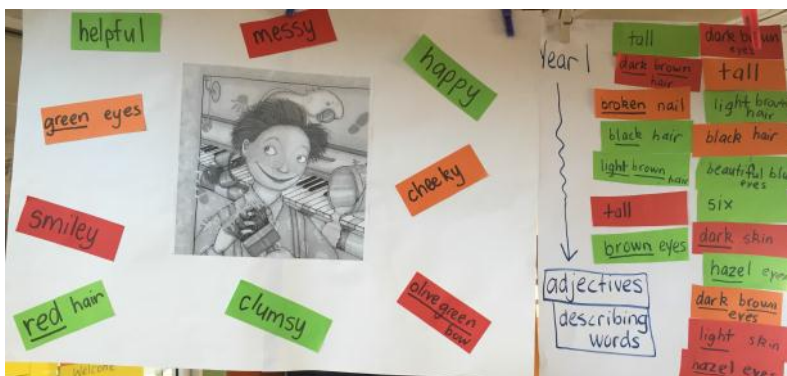
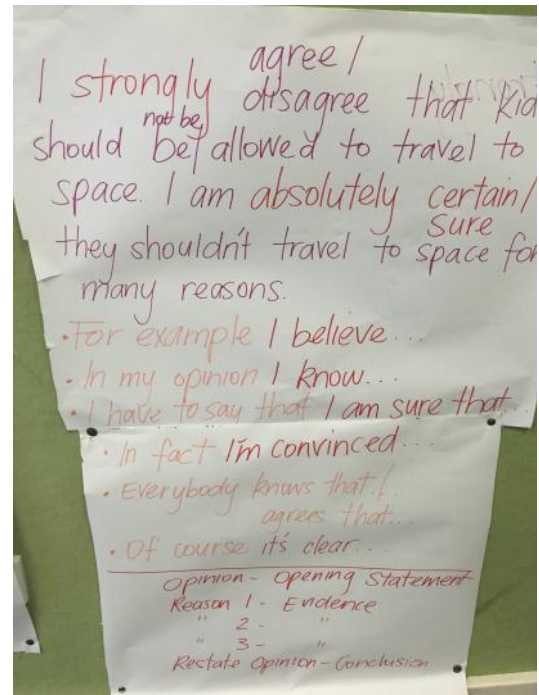
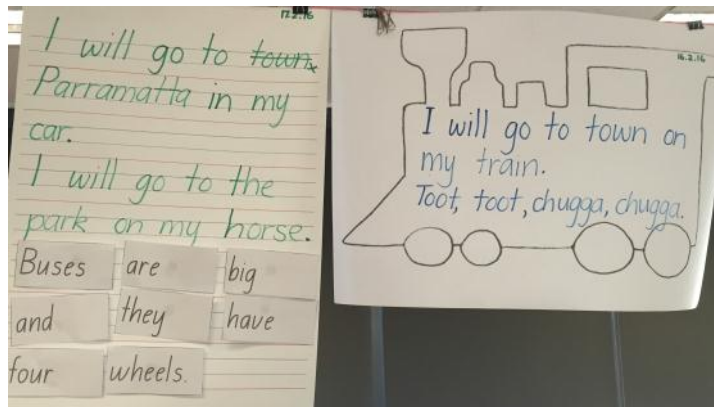
Do I utilize the power of smiles, warm expressions, and direct eye contact?

Do I show empathy? Can I walk in the shoes of another?



Thank you to Mrs Sonia Noonan (Rafael, Stage 2) and Telstra for their \$1000 grant to be used on technology to assist the students at St Monica's. We have purchased two Nikon D3300 cameras. We are grateful to Mrs Noonan for nominating St Monica's for this grant.

This fortnight I would like to share with you some of the teaching and learning that occurs in our classrooms every day for Literacy. In all our learning spaces the students are engaged in purposeful writing tasks assisted by their teachers who provide support for them through explicit teaching. Teachers guide students by demonstrating how to achieve particular purposes, discussing the effectiveness of writers' choices and giving feedback at all stages of the writing process. The ultimate goal of all teaching is for students to become independent writers.



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.

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 will not occur as they 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 and a hard copy is available in the School Office foyer.

School Uniform

I have been approached by some parents over the past few years to look into an alternate type of shirt for the school uniform that would be worn all year round. I have approached our school supplier, Oz Fashions Australia, and they have designed these two shirts. As you can see from the photograph there would be a boy and a girl's shirt (unlike the unisex shirt we have at present).

The shirts are polyester cotton and the care instructions indicate-hand wash or a gentle machine wash with similar colours. Do not bleach or soak and rinse well. Dry without delay away from direct heat and do not tumble dry. Shirt requires a warm iron.

Girl's shirt \$34 inclusive of GST

Boy's shirt \$32 inclusive of GST



The shirts will be displayed on the fence near kiss and drop each morning and will be on display in the afternoon pick up area for parents to have a closer look at the garments.

Every family will receive a voting form next Thursday, 10 March, so that we know the opinions of all.

If the new designs are successful after the votes are counted then there will be a 2 year changeover into the new shirts. Stage 3 in 2017 would not be required to wear the new uniform but Kindergarten 2017 and any new student to the school would be required to wear the uniform from January 2017.

Louise O'Donnell



PBS4L

In 2016 St Monica's teachers and students are undertaking a Positive Behaviours Program. As we all know positive behaviour is an important factor in the development of the whole child. It is really important that we focus on the good behaviour rather than the negatives.

The main focus for our school will be our new school rules:

- Be Respectful
- Be a Learner
- Be Safe

Currently, we are focusing on Respectful Behaviour in the Learning Space and the Playground.

- How do I show respect for my teachers?
- How can I be a good friend to others?
- Do I show respect at home?

Children's Work Books

As advertised in a previous newsletter and in our school goals the children will bring home three books on rotation each term – Religious Education, Literacy and Mathematics. This Friday the children will be bringing home their Mathematics book and next Friday their Religious Education book.

We invite parents to write a comment to your child in their book after their last piece of work. Children (and the teachers) really do treasure your comments and it allows us to see that the book did indeed leave the school bag and that you have spent a few minutes sharing in your child's learning. Additionally, we ask that the books be returned each Monday so that your child can continue their written work in the appropriate book.

School Evacuation

In the last newsletter I informed parents that we had successfully practised our school evacuation. We have always had the grass area in front of St Monica's Church as our assembly area for these drills.

This year we would like to practise the child assembling in an alternative area outside the school. For the purpose of this exercise we will evacuate the students into Daking Street. Over the next few days the teachers and students will rehearse their alternate exit from the school. At this stage Early Stage One, Year 1 and Stage 2 (Mr Tyszkiewicz) will exit via the Community Room, Year 2 and Stage 2 (Miss Rosewell) will exit via the Teacher's Workroom and Stage 3 and Stage 2 (Mrs Gardoni) via the gate on Daking Street. We will then have an official evacuation drill with all classes vacating the school into Daking Street.

Welcome to the school community

This week we welcome two new students to St Monica's School— Pranaya Prasath (Year 1) and Vinayak Sharma (Stage 2).

Enrolments 2017

If you have a child who is eligible to commence Early Stage One in 2017, please download an enrolment form from the website (or collect one from the office). Enrolments open on Wednesday 9 March and close on Monday 4 April 2016.

Bragging Rights

Congratulations to our ex-student **Kyah Day** who was crowned the 12 years age champion at Our Lady of Mercy College's swimming Carnival last Thursday night. She also broke the 50m Breaststroke record (set in 2003), came 1st in the Under 14yrs 50m Butterfly and came 2nd in the Under 14yrs 200m Freestyle. Well done Kyah!



If your child has achieved an award outside school i.e. music, dance, gymnastics etc. please email details to our school email and Mrs Abood will publish the great news in our school newsletter.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell

Principal

Before/After School pickup/parking

Thank you to Mr Charles Lukasik and Mrs Katrina Mitchell who have ensured the efficiency and safety of our school 'Kiss and Drop' each morning. If there are other parents that would like to assist in the morning please contact the school office.



It is always difficult at the beginning of the new school year with dismissal in the afternoons. I would ask parents, carers and relatives collecting students to remember the importance of safety. Your children are precious and it is important that everyone is able to enter and leave the school grounds safely. **Please remember that entry into the school grounds is only via Daking Street.** There is provision for two lanes entering the grounds. I have had reports from parents wishing to park and walk in to collect their child that they are prevented in doing so because a driver is occupying the two lanes at the school entry. It is important to look after the school's neighbours in the afternoon and not park in or across their driveway. I understand the difficulties with the pick up in the afternoon. Please consider delaying collecting your children in the afternoon. Staff are on duty for car pick up until 3:30pm.

School Fees

School Fees are sent home by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Due to the implementation of the new finance system, Term 1 fees have been delayed. Please note the following changes:

The due date for Term 1 fees has been extended from 7th March to 18th March 2016.

The return date for all FPP forms has been **extended to 14th March 2016**. Any forms received after this date will be assessed on an individual basis. **Please go to the website for a complete list of the school fees.**

Congratulations

Congratulations to the **Ishak** family on the recent birth of their son Joshua. A brother for Jessica (Year 1).



Asthma and Anaphylaxis Forms

Parents are reminded to send in a separate form for each student with Asthma as soon as possible so that we can update our records for 2016. Forms are available on the school website.

For students with Anaphylaxis—a form is required each year from your doctor so that we can update our records for 2016. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who represented St Monica's at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival held at Blacktown Pool on Friday 26 February: **Jessica Crowle, Matilda Cooper, Madeline Lewis, Chelsea Lewis, Ainsley Mitchell, Rhiannon Cooper, Chanel Azar, Matilda Hall, Alexander Azar, Simon Forsyth, and Maurice Haddad.**

Congratulations to **Chelsea Lewis** who qualified for the NSWCPs MacKillop Swimming Championships which will be held on Friday 31 March at Homebush Aquatic centre. Good luck Chelsea!

2016 Sacrament of Confirmation—Commitment Masses

Commitment Masses - 5pm Saturday 5 March or 9am Sunday 6 March 2016 at St Monica's Church

Morning Tea / Lunch—please read

There have been quite a number of students who have been attending the office stating that they do not have food to eat at morning tea and/or lunch. Many children appear to be eating all of their food at recess and therefore do not have anything to eat at lunchtime. Could you please ensure that enough food is packed for both recess and lunch each day. Thank you for your co-operation.

Underwear/Socks

Parents are requested to supply a spare pair of underwear/socks in their child's schoolbag in the event that they may be needed during the school day. The office has a very limited supply of underwear and these are in small sizes only.



GET CREATIVE! NOT RESTRICTED TO COMIC & MOVIE CHARACTERS

PENRITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

Astronomy Night – Saturday 5 March 2016

(8.00 pm – 10.00 pm) COSMIC COLLISIONS

From asteroids and comets that collide with Earth to the merging of giant galaxies, collisions in our universe can be dramatic and sometimes devastating events. Not all collisions are extinction events though. This exploration of things that go bump in space will include some of the latest information about the Chelyabinsk meteor event that occurred in 2013.

The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50 family
Bookings are essential: To book and pay for tickets visit westernsydney.edu.au/observatory

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards.



ES1: Amelia Wong, Barry Zhang
Year One: Mary Cabot, Liam Sciacca, Alicia Youssef
Stage 2: Jonah Assaf, Ana-Maria Costea, Joshua North, Giselle Mondinelli, Jessica Dib, Ryan Clark, Matilda Cooper, Madeleine David, Zac Kassiss
Stage 3: Zoe Bird, Brandon Lukic, Jack Talty, Marcus Trimbounas

SRC Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the SRC for Semester 1. Badges were presented at last Friday's morning assembly.

ES1	Barry Zhang and Olivia Hekeik
Year 1	Noah Day
Year 2	Charbel Sadek
Stage 2	Charlie Sentas and Jessica Crowle
Stage 3	Mateo Soriano and Sarah-Rose Wilson

Acceptable Use of Information Technologies—Student Policy

Each year, every student is required to sign the **Student Policy for the Acceptable Use of Information Technologies**. This year the policy will be sent home to each child. (If you lose your copy please go the school website and download the policy)

The last sheet of the policy is to be **signed by both student and parents** and then returned to your child's homeroom teacher. Upon receipt of the signed sheet at school your child will be granted access to the school's technology. <http://www.stomonicasparra.catholic.edu.au/school-notes>

Parent Technology Lessons (Stage 2 and Stage 3 parents)

Miss Bagnall will be running Google Applications lessons in Week 7 (next week). If you are wanting to participate in these lessons, please send back the completed slip which was sent home today indicating which day you would like to attend. (Wednesday 9th March 8am-8:45am or Thursday 10th March 3:15pm-4pm).

PBL Project Dates
(Week 11—Term 1)

Stage 3 Monday 4 April
8am—9:30am

Stage 2 Wednesday 6 April
8am—9:30am

WRITE4FUN

The Writing Competition for 2016 is NOW OPEN for K-6. Write a poem or short story for your chance to win \$1,000 cash (\$500 for you & \$500 for your school)! As well as some AWESOME prizes. All it takes is a burst of inspiration, a dash of creativity and a little bit of effort for great poems and stories to appear! We can't wait to read yours!

Entry is FREE! Entries close Thursday 31st March, 2016.
Enter online: www.write4fun.net

Mrs Mason

St Patrick's Marist College - Open Day for Year 7, 2016

Monday 7 March 2016 4:00pm—6:00pm

You are most welcome to attend the Open Day (151 Kirby Street, Dundas)

At the Open Day you will be invited to take part in a tour of the school where you will meet current students and experience the many aspects of College life. You will be welcomed to our new Hospitality learning space where you will taste some of the food that you could learn to make. There will be hands on experience in the Science Department, Music and Drama displays, various academic subjects to explore and much more.

2016 Catholic Schools Week Activities (Week 7)



- Monday 7 March** * **Book Fair in the Parish Hall**
(Children only—Preview during class reading group time)
- Tuesday 8 March** * **Book Fair**
Children—may attend before school but **only with a parent**—from 8:30am
Children will also be attending during class time and during recess time.
Parents may attend before school, during recess and during open classrooms (11:10am—12:50pm)
* **Cross Country**—Stages 2 & 3 and children in Yr 2 who are turning 8 in 2016
9:20am Lake Parramatta
* **Open classrooms 11:10am—12:50pm (for existing families)**
- Wednesday 9 March** * **9am-10:30am Open Morning**— School Tours for **new families for 2017**
* **Book Fair concludes today** (Parents may attend before school from 8:30am.
Children may attend during recess)
- Thursday 10 March** * 9:15am Stage 2 Parish Mass
- Friday 11 March** * 9:15am Whole School Mass—All welcome
* 11:50am—3pm Dance Fever Athletics (parents welcome to attend their child's lesson)
- Saturday 12 March** * Working Bee - 7am-11am

Book Fair 2016

Our Book Fair will be held next week in our Parish hall. There is a list of times for both parents and children to attend. We strongly advise parents to use the online payment which will be on the Book Fair flyers coming home next Monday. To access this facility, you need to log on to: www.scholastic.com.au/payments

Be sure to choose **Book Fairs Payments**, not Book Club.

Record the Payment receipt number on the flyer, or on an envelope, to ensure that the students have their proof of payment.

Alternately, you may use the credit card facility on the day, or send the correct cash in an envelope with your child's name, class, and book selection clearly written on the front to avoid confusion.

Looking forward to seeing many of you next week.

Sharon Boulous, Teacher/Librarian

Dance Fever - Athletics (Friday 11th 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





St Monica's Primary School

North Parramatta

2 March 2016

2016 AFTERNOON DISMISSAL / MODE OF TRANSPORT FORM

Dear Parents,

We are updating our records and require you to complete the form below for **each child** in your family. Please return this form to the school by **Monday 7 March 2016**.

Please complete a separate form for each child at St Monica's.

We would appreciate this information to assist us directing students to the correct departure area each afternoon.

Identification of **bus numbers** will also assist us when we need to contact bus companies.

** If your child arrives by bus in the morning, please include these details in the table below.

Child's Name: _____

2016 Homeroom: _____

2016 Scholastic Year: _____

Please fill in the table to show the most common pattern of after school travel for your child.

Tick the relevant box. If a relative/friend collects your child on any particular day/days, please indicate the person and the relationship to your child.

	Car Pick Up	Collected from the Playground	COSHC	Walkers	School Bus Please advise bus number. Please advise am or pm.	Bus Please advise bus number. Please advise am or pm.
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

The PRC meeting was held on February 29th, 2016 at Patrician Brothers, Blacktown

Thank you to Mrs Gulshan Muttoo who attended the PRC meeting on behalf of Mrs Genevieve Smith who is the 2016 St Monica's representative. Please read the excellent report that Mrs Muttoo prepared for us.

Setting Up For Success in 2016

What can you do?

Goal setting

How to approach parent teacher interviews

Read school reports

How parents can get involved in their child's school

- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know the teacher
- Go to school events
- Read the school newsletter
- Be organised at home
- Supervise homework
- Ask about your child's day

6 Simple and effective strategies

- Teach them the value of education
- Encourage a growth mindset
- Show your child/ teenager that you are a learner
- Be mindful of what you say and do
- Take attendance seriously
- Everyday counts

Daily punctuality is important. The early part of each day is critical.

Important learning is scheduled during this time – when children are rested and receptive.

Key concepts are built in this time.

We all need to work together with our children's best interest in mind to ensure that students are at school every day and that they are well enough to attend.

Lead learning in the home:

- Talk to your child
- Read to your child
- Make the most of any teachable moment that comes along in the home
- Let them have a go at things – even if you could do it better, faster, neater

Reading your child's report

- Look for strengths first
- Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning
- Broaden your focus and form a picture of your child's progress
- Discuss the report. Ask for their opinion about how they performed

Tips to Prepare Child For High School:

- Be positive and enthusiastic
- Attend orientation events
- Find a school buddy for your child
- Understand the school routine
- Be prepared ahead of time
- Visit the school
- Figure out a travel route
- Practice travelling to and from school
- Have an emergency safety plan
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings
- Connect with the child