

DIARY DATES

Week 4

Wednesday 17 February

- ES1 Parent Information Night 5:45pm
- 7pm Social Welcome Meeting

Thursday 18 February

- 9:15am Stage 1 Parish Mass
- Years 1 and 2 Parent Information Night 5:45pm

Friday 19 February

- Dance Fever
- Religion books sent home

Saturday 20 February

- Confirmation Registration after 5pm Mass

Sunday 21 February

- Confirmation Registration after 9am Mass

Week 5

Monday 22 February

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tuesday 23 February

- 8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open

Wednesday 24 February

- POSMS Meeting 7pm in the Learning Space

Friday 26 February

- Dance Fever
- Diocesan Swimming
- Church cleaning

Week 6

Monday 29 February

- Pow Wow 9-10:30am

Tuesday 1 March

- 8:30-9:30am Uniform Shop open
- 7pm Confirmation **Parent Only** Meeting—Community Room

Week 7 Catholic Schools Week

Monday 7 March

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

Tuesday 8 March

- Cross Country

Wednesday 9 March

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



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,

Last Wednesday we began the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday. You might be asking yourself, 'What is the point of Lent?' For Christians, it is the time when we try to trim away some of the non-essentials and return to and refresh the things that are at the real centre of our lives. What are the things that really matter? What sort of person am I and what sort of person do I want to be? So, we try to find a little more time to be still, to wait quietly. We try to let go of some of the less important things. We 'give up something' and we reach out to those in need. In doing so we discover something of our own brokenness and seek forgiveness.

By making things a little simpler, a little less cluttered, we are able to see more clearly the things that are important: love, justice, forgiveness, prayer, our family and our relationships. Let us all take some time to reflect on what is truly important to us as we journey towards Easter this year.

At our school assembly on Monday afternoon I spoke to the children about four goals that I would like everyone to focus on throughout the year:

Attend school every single school day- this means being on time for school and arriving well before the 8:50am bell. Unpacking school bags in the learning space prior to the bell time means the children can start the day ready to learn.

Start the way you want to finish- stay motivated throughout the year- set achievable goals and as these goals are achieved celebrate your success before setting new goals.

Read every day because reading is the key to success.

Strive to be the best you can be- be the best mathematician, writer, reader, artist, school leader, friend. Whenever you choose to be your best it will be recognised by your mum, dad and teachers and they will be proud of your efforts.

Quite a number of years ago the following advice was published in the Principal Journal- "**What teachers wish you knew**" by Lisa Collier Cool. The advice is still relevant today:

Don't be a stranger! Talk to your child's teacher early and when you feel the need. Parent/Teacher interviews mid-year shouldn't be the only time you connect.

Learning doesn't stop at 3:00pm. You can assist the teacher to do a better job by encouraging your children to tell you something they are working on at school. Every time your children get a chance to show off what they know, it builds confidence.

Let your children make mistakes. Teachers don't want perfect children; they want students who try hard. Sometimes parents think every piece of work has to be done exactly right, and this can put too much pressure on their children. But it's OK for children to make mistakes. It's important for teachers to see what students don't know so that they can go over the work again.

Stay involved. Give support and be your child's cheerleader no matter how well they have done in each key learning area. We don't expect you to be an expert on every subject. Just knowing that their parent is paying attention can be very motivating for a student.

Keep your child organised. Have a routine each afternoon where your child unpacks his/her school bag. Set up a special place, such as a box in the kitchen where notes that need a response and/or work that your child would like to share with you, can be placed.

If the teacher deserves a good grade, give one. Teaching isn't easy so it's incredibly uplifting when a parent takes the time to say thank you.

A reminder that the **POSMS Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday 24 February (Week 5)** commencing at **7:00pm** in the Learning Space. All parents are welcome to attend. We will be discussing behaviour management.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

Important information regarding afternoon pickup this Friday 19 February.

Parents are advised that there is a funeral booked at St Monica's Church at 2:30pm on Friday. Parents are requested to use the drive through pick up to collect your children at dismissal time as there will be limited parking available in the carpark and surrounding streets.

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.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au/school-notes>

Asthma Form

Each year students with asthma are required to provide the school office with an updated **Student Asthma Form**. The asthma form is included with this newsletter and can also be found on our school website. (**News and Events, School Notes** then **Whole School Notes**).

Please complete a **separate asthma form for each child with asthma**. For more serious cases, this form will need to be completed in conjunction with your doctor. Students with asthma are required to provide the school with an asthma puffer—puffers are kept in the school office and are administered as required.

Please note that **any medication** brought to the school office **must have a chemist's label with the students name and dosage details attached**.

Anaphylaxis Forms

Each year parents of students who have been diagnosed with **anaphylaxis** are required to provide the school with an updated action plan which is signed by a doctor. Parents are requested to send in their child's updated form as soon as possible so that we can update our records. It is important that these forms are updated so that our staff have the correct information relating to your child.

School Fees

Term 1 School Fees will be sent out by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Unfortunately they have been delayed due to the implementation of the new finance system. Term 1 school fees are due and payable on **Monday 7 March 2016**.

Sushi Lunch—Thank You

Sushi Day Theme Lunch was a great success with 290 sushi rolls being devoured by students, teachers and parents. Definitely one to add to the 'Theme Lunch' list. A big thank you to:

Trish Forsyth, Mitsue French, Kim Graham, Masoomah Yadegan, Michele Abarca, Simone Lewis, Tiff Cooper, Kathy Basha, Gen Smith and Gulshan Muttou. Feedback is welcome and if you have any other ideas for theme lunches please let us know. **Social/Welcome Team**



Church Cleaning—Can you help?

The school is rostered for Church cleaning on **Friday 26 February**.

Please meet at 2:00 pm outside the church.

Many hands make light work.

POSMS MEETING

Wednesday 24 February (Week 5)

7:00pm in the Learning Space

Behaviour Management

All welcome

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards.



ES1: Theresa W
Year One: William P, Gabriela A
Year Two: Aaliyah A, Ruby K, Manson L
Stage 2: Lachlan D, Joshua N, Poppy S, Ezekiel L, Emma H, Jordan B, Jessica C, Raymond K
Stage 3: Lachlan R, Jason G, Matilda-Rose H, Christian D



Congratulations to **Evan, Kwaku and Dallas** who also received Merit Awards last week .



STAGE	HOMEROOM 2016
ES1 (Mrs Erin Turner)	Doyle
Year 1 (Miss Emily Clough)	McAuley
Year 2 (Mrs Mary Weston)	Conway
S2A (Mr Greg Tyszkiewicz)	Augustine
S2B (Miss Michelle Rosewell)	McKinnon
S2C (Mrs Denelle Gardoni)	Callan
S3A (Miss Kellee Bagnall)	Moran
S3B (Mrs Wendy Paley)	Keogh

ARIA MUSIC

Quality investment in your child's future

Would your child like to learn
Guitar or Keyboard?

Please email: ariamusicsschool@gmail.com

Phone: **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.

Location: The Community Room

Keyboard Classes!

Day: **Tuesday** lunchtime
Time: 12:30pm—1:30pm

Guitar Classes!

Day: **Wednesday** lunchtime
Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm

www.ariamusic.com.au

Mercy Prayer

During the Lenten Season we will be saying this prayer instead of our School Prayer.

**Let our prayer rise before you,
God of all peoples and nations.**

May your grace fill the world.

Sanctify the work of our hands.

Bring forth the reign of your justice and mercy.

Ice blocks

Sold at lunchtime each day
50 cents each

2016 Church Cleaning roster for the School Group (Fridays)

The group meets at 2:00 pm outside the Church.

26 February	22 July
18 March	26 August
13 May	16 September
17 June	28 October

Dance Fever Athletics

The Dance Fever Athletics program is held on Fridays.

Students are to wear their sports uniform on **Fridays in Term 1**.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open each **Tuesday** between **8:30am—9:30am**.

Completed Uniform Order forms (together with payment) may be forwarded to the school office where you order will be filled and sent home with your child on Tuesdays.

Thank you for your patience while the new finance system is being implemented.

The School Uniform

GIRLS

Summer

Short-sleeved shirt
Culottes
Navy Socks
Black school shoes

Winter

Short-sleeved shirt
Long-sleeved shirt (optional)
Culottes or Long Navy pants
Navy Sloppy Joe (optional)
School Jacket
Navy winter stockings
Black school shoes

Sport

Short-Sleeved Shirt
Sports Shorts
Tracksuit Pants/School Jacket
White socks
Joggers (predominantly white)

BOYS

Summer

Short-sleeved shirt
Navy blue shorts
Navy Socks
Black school shoes

Winter

Short-sleeved Shirt
Long-sleeved shirt (optional)
Long Navy pants
Navy Sloppy Joe (optional)
School Jacket
Navy Socks
Black school shoes

Sport

Short-Sleeved Shirt
Sports Shorts
Tracksuit pants/School Jacket
White socks
Joggers (predominantly white)

The **School Jacket** with crest may be worn at any time throughout the year
The **School Hat** with crest is a **compulsory school item** to be worn every day

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a serious and rapid allergic reaction usually involving more than one part of the body.

St Monica's currently has students who can suffer severe allergic reactions (**life-threatening**) through contact with nuts. As we endeavour to provide for the different needs of all our students, your co-operation is invited to assist the school in supporting and catering for the needs of these particular students, and any future students, by providing your child only with **foods that are nut free**. Students are reminded that they are **not to share food** at recess and lunch.

PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL ALL ARTICLES OF CLOTHING TO AVOID LOST PROPERTY



**COME & TRY
Rugby League**

**THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
5.00PM - 6.00PM
JOHN CURTIN RESERVE
HUXLEY DRIVE, WINSTON HILLS
COME AND LEARN TO PLAY LEAGUE**

Try Rugby League in a FREE, fun, safe introductory clinic run by qualified and experienced coaches. Join a friendly local club participating in the Parramatta District Convents Rugby League Competition.

Winston Hills Hawks
Proudly supported by **NRL**

[HTTPS://WINSTONHILLSHAWKS.TEAMAPP.COM](https://winstonhillshawks.teamapp.com)