



## Week 9

### Wednesday 14 September

- Cake Stall (Stage 3 organising)

### Thursday 15 September

- ES1 Parish Mass 9:15am
- Stage One—*Police visit*

### Friday 16 September

- Pie & Sausage Roll day
- Stage One—*Paramedic visit*

## Week 10

### Monday 19 September

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am
- McKillop Track & Field—Homebush

### Friday 23 September

- Term 3 ends at 3:00pm

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

### TERM 4

#### Week 1

##### Monday 10 October

- Staff Development Day  
Students do not attend school today

##### Tuesday 11 October

- Students return for Term 4
- Summer Uniform

### School timetable

8:20am Morning supervision

8:50am Morning bell

10:40am—11:10am Recess

12:50pm-1:30pm Lunch

3:00pm Dismissal

3pm—3:30pm Afternoon supervision

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

If you have visited our school this week you would have noticed these posters prominently on display outside the Teachers Workroom.



Student attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of our students. Every day of attendance adds to a student's academic achievement and success at school. Parents are essential partners in promoting good attendance because they have the ultimate responsibility to ensure that their child attends school every day. In order to carry out this responsibility, parents need to be equipped with the right information. Many parents and students do not realise how quickly absences can add up to academic difficulty.

Michael Grose- Australia's leading parent educator has published an article **"It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school"**.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well established. The more time children spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

When children miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the children who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and children not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to children that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian children only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day on time.

### Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more that you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10:00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

Of course there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when children should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course, regular school attendance also helps children prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

### As a parent:

- ✓ Commit to sending children to school every day.
- ✓ Make sure children arrive at school and class on time.
- ✓ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ✓ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ✓ Make children who are away stay in their bedroom—that is where ill children should be.

**Michael Grose, Parenting Ideas, 2014**   [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)

Please talk to me if there are special circumstances that cause your child/ren to be late or if we can help you with getting your child to school on time.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

### SCHOOL FEES—now overdue

There are still some families who have outstanding school fees for 2016. Fees were due on Monday 22 August. Unless you are paying by regular instalments could you please contact Mrs Cattermole **immediately** to arrange an interview—9630 3697. Thank you for your co-operation.



Important  
Message

# Letter to parents regarding apps and internet safety

Dear Parents,

Last week this note (in collaboration with the Stage 3 teachers) was sent home to Stage 3 parents. It has now come to our attention that it also applies to some Stage 2 students.

We are concerned about these issues and want to remind you about the age requirements for accessing social media.

Many of the sites and apps that some children are using have age requirements that parents may not be aware of:

**13yrs - Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr, Reddit and Secret**

**16yrs - WhatsApp**

**17yrs - Kik and Vine**

**18yrs - YouTube (for posting ) and WeChat** (*although children aged 13-17yrs can sign up with parent's permission*).

As you can see the above information indicates that **no Stage 2 or 3 students are old enough to be on these sites or apps**. Games that are used online also have age restrictions, have you checked those?

These important strategies have previously been printed in the newsletter and will assist parents in promoting your child's cybersafety

- Have your child access technology in a visible open space ie the family room.
- Reinforce the need to keep passwords private and updated regularly. Every parent should know their child's usernames and passwords
- Monitor or supervise your child on the internet and conduct some 'shoulder safety' or 'spontaneous' observing when your child is online.
- Be aware of what your child is doing on the internet and display an interest in their cyberspace knowledge and experience.
- Educate your child about inappropriate online behaviours that are taught at school: You must not defame, make personal or derogatory comments about a person's appearance/mannerisms, stalk, bully, abuse, harass, threaten or intimidate people.
- Reassure that your child will not lose access to their technology if they report anything to you.
- Limit the time on the internet and ensure that devices are charged in an area (other than their bedroom) at a certain time each night.

**CYBERWISE: BE SAFE BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE**

For more information regarding this please look at the following links

<https://esafety.gov.au/?from=cybersmart>

<https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues/social-networking?from=cybersmart>

[http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community\\_issues/internet\\_safety/social\\_networking\\_sites](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/internet_safety/social_networking_sites)

If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**, Principal





## ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of Parramatta is required to appear before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 44.

This public hearing is expected to begin on Monday 12 September 2016.

For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website  
[www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings/case-studies](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings/case-studies)

For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on **(02) 8838 3470**. Operational from 03/09/2016 until 07/10/2016, Mon to Fri 7am-10pm, Sat and Sun 9am-5pm.

The Child Protection Information Line **1300 661 015** is available for families who would like more information about protocols or support services in Catholic schools run by the Diocese of Parramatta.

Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on **131 444**.

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au)

## FATHER'S DAY LITURGY AT ST MONICA'S



### Father's Day at St Monica's

Our St Monica's Father's Day celebrations were a huge success with many fathers, grand-fathers and other significant role models of our students in attendance.

Thank you to Mr Tyszkiewicz for cooking the breakfast and to the many mothers who assisted on the day.

Following the breakfast a special Father's Day Liturgy was held in the Hall. Thank you to Mrs Gardoni for organising the Liturgy.

## Term 4 - Summer Uniform

Students are to return to school in Term 4 (**Tuesday 11 October**) wearing their Summer Uniform.

Please ensure that **every article of your child's uniform is labelled** to avoid lost property.

Please be advised that at the end of Term all unlabelled, unclaimed items will be donated to the Uniform shop.

GIRLS	BOYS
<b>Summer</b> Polo Short-sleeved shirt Culottes Navy socks Black school shoes	<b>Summer</b> Polo Short-sleeved shirt Navy blue shorts Navy socks Black school shoes
<b>Sport</b> Short-Sleeved Shirt Sports Shorts Tracksuit Pants/School Jacket White socks Joggers (predominantly white)	<b>Sport</b> Short-Sleeved Shirt Sports Shorts Tracksuit pants/School Jacket White socks Joggers (predominantly white)
The <b>School Jacket</b> with crest may be worn at any time throughout the year The <b>School Hat</b> with crest is a <b>compulsory school item to be worn every day</b>	

### Prayers

Prayers are requested for members of our school community who are unwell at the moment. There are a few families that especially need our prayers at this time.



### Father's Day Helpers

Many hands make light work and good profits! Thank you to Chanel and Philip (Y6), Amelia and Marley (Y5) and Ryan (Y4) who helped me to choose the Fathers' Day items. Many thanks to all the parents who came to help on the day of wrapping and the stall including Genevieve Smith, Tiff Cooper, Annika Conda, Gizel Thomas, Simone Lewis, Bernadette Haddad, Joan Evangelista, Kathy Sciacca, Rebecca Barber and Laura Llamas. Thank you to the teachers who stepped in and showed all the gifts to the students. Thank you Simone - couldn't have done without you! We made a profit of **\$581.15**. **Gulshan Muttoo**

### St Monica's Day—Mufti Day

Thank you to all of the students for their donations on St Monica's Feast Day. We raised **\$226.90**. This money has been donated to the Arrupe Place Refugee Centre.

### Pow Wow

Pow Wow is held on Monday mornings in the Community Room (COSHC) between 9am-10:30am during school terms. Please bring morning tea for your child/children. An informal get together for mums and pre-schoolers / toddlers. Craft/books/activities. Lots of fun. All welcome. Contact the school office for more information.



**Ice Blocks** will be on sale at lunchtimes from Tuesday 11 October (Term 4)—**50c each**.

### Olympathon

Thank you for the Olympathon money. Total raised so far \$2950.

### Notice of Intention to Remove a Student from St Monica's School

The Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta Office has developed a Policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this states "**A term's notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be paid. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term.**" This means that unless the school receives a term's notice no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition.





## STAGE 3 CAMP

On Thursday 8 and Friday 9 September Stage 3 went on camp to the Bathurst Goldfields. They visited the Mineral and Fossil Museum, the Hartley Courthouse and participated in the Bathurst Goldfields Program.

Thank you to Miss Bagnall, Ms Callaghan, Mrs Mason and parent helpers Mr Haddad, Mrs French and Mr Unver who attended the overnight camp with the students and took great care of them over the two days.

## ICAS ENGLISH

Congratulations to the following children who participated in the ICAS English Competition:

### YEAR 3

**Participation:** Matilda Cooper, Laura Emphield, Galia Evangelista, Aidan Muttoo, Neave Sciacca, Aidan Pospischil  
**Credit:** Ashley Roberts

### YEAR 4

**Participation:** Ryan Clark, Ana Maria Costea, Emma Halamkova, Manraj Kahlon, Vinayak Sharma  
**Merit:** Jessica Stoker, Trinity Bird  
**Credit:** Jessica Crowle, Kayla Grzelak, Kael Sciacca

### YEAR 5

**Participation:** Anne-Marie Boujandy, Jessica Chapman, Rhiannon Cooper, Maurice Haddad, Garbhan Sciacca, Isabella Smith, Pinar Helena Unver  
**Merit:** Mateo Soriano  
**Credit:** Alexis Chang  
**Distinction:** Riwaz Bhattachan, Charlotte Newey

### YEAR 6

**Participation:** Andy Haddad, Philip Joseph, Brandon Lukic, Lachlan Roberts  
**Merit:** Nishika Jain  
**Credit:** Jackson Basha, Natasha Muttoo, Jack Talty  
**Distinction:** Brendan Pospischil



## MERIT AWARDS

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



ES1:	Alexa Romero, Lukas Lozancic Babic
Year One:	Max Lukasik, Jessica Ishak, L'lysse Puyat
Year Two:	Evan Michael, John Sadek, Manson Lu
Stage 2:	Sakina Kunambi, Akwasi Boakye, Santiago Conda-Tengbeh, George Keranis Jake Chapman, Neave Sciacca and Trinity Bird
Stage 3:	Eddy Tran and Amelia Furjanic

**LIMITED PLACES**

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY

**FULLY-QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**  
Half/Full Day

# FUN

Join your siblings and friends for some action these holidays! Be entertained and engaged with themed days, challenges, games and discos.

Open to all ages and abilities. Activities include: dance, gymnastics, parkour, acrobatics, ball sports, skip '2b' fit, ultimate challenge course, circus and more!

Register Online  
[www.dancefevermultisport.com](http://www.dancefevermultisport.com)

Enquiries  
[holidayfun@dancefever.net](mailto:holidayfun@dancefever.net)  
0422 752 254

Exciting New Auburn Venue

Your Discount Code:  
**NLT316**

### Staff Development Days Term 4, 2016

Monday 10 October (Week 1)  
Monday 19 December (Week 11)  
Tuesday 20 December (Week 11)



### Change of address / updating details

Parents are advised that if you have changed address you are now required to notify the school office *in writing*.

It is also important to advise the school office of any changes to home and mobile phone numbers so that we are able to contact you should the need arise.

Thank you for your co-operation

## Child Protection Requirements

All Parent Volunteers / Helpers are required to complete the following Child Protection requirements **prior** to assisting in the classroom or on excursions ('Building Child Safe Communities—Undertaking for Volunteers')

- **Volunteer Form**
- **Online Training Module (every two years)**

These can be accessed by visiting the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta homepage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> then scrolling down to 'Volunteers and Contractors – click here' (Links are also available on the homepage of our school website [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au))

Please contact the school if you require any assistance.

**We thank all volunteers for their continued support.**



### **FOSMS Dinner Term 3 (Father's of St Monica's Students)**

Term 3 dinner is going to be held on **Friday 23rd September 2016 at 7:30 pm.**

We can go once again to Thai Garden House in North Parramatta  
526 Church Street, North Parramatta 2151 Phone: 9683 1288

Please RSVP to me by Monday 19th September on 0418113160 or email at [njoptus@optusnet.com.au](mailto:njoptus@optusnet.com.au)

Regards, Neil JOSEPH



### **Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolments for Year 7 2018**

There will be Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2018 enrolments on:

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 9.15am – 11am**

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2018.

Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on one of our three upcoming school tours especially for Year 7 2018 applicants but open to any year group.

These mornings 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 on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

### **ARIA MUSIC**

**Quality investment in your child's future**

Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard?

Please email: [ariamusicschool@gmail.com](mailto:ariamusicschool@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.

#### ***Guitar Classes!***

Days: **Wednesday** lunchtime  
Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm  
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!!

#### ***Keyboard Classes!***

Day: **Tuesday** lunchtime  
Time: 12:30pm—1:30pm  
Location: The Community Room

**[www.ariamusic.com.au](http://www.ariamusic.com.au)**