

Week 10

Thursday 15 December

- 8:50 am Tennis Stroke Production
- Scrub Day—Mufti clothes
- 3pm Online bookings close
- 6pm End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation

Friday 16 December

- School finishes at 3pm

Monday 19 December and  
Tuesday 20 December

- Staff Development Days

2017

Friday 27 January

- Staff Development Day—MAI testing

Monday 30 January

- Staff Development Day—MAI testing

Tuesday 31 January

- Years 1-6 commence school

Thursday 2 February

- ES1 (Kindergarten) commence—full days

Friday 3 February

- Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival—Granville Swimming Centre

Sunday 5 February

- 9:00am Missioning Mass for the whole school—Church



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



# Monica's Matters

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Phone: 9630 3697  
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

It is time to look back over our school year and to give thanks for our achievements, gifts and blessings for 2016.

Last Wednesday evening we held our annual Christmas celebration. Each year this event is a wonderful occasion to celebrate together, renew friendships and to share the peace and hope of the birth of Jesus. The students and staff devote their time, creativity and enthusiasm to preparing a night of entertainment for you. We appreciate your encouraging support with almost every family attending. I am sure you experienced the community spirit that was evident. Thank you to the Hekeik family for catering on the night.

Thank you to Miss Sweeney for the lovely choir presentation last Thursday morning. We indeed have a wonderful group of talented singers! To the boys and girls who attend music lessons at the school with Aria we say thank you for entertaining us with your playing. and sharing their musical playing skills with us.

On behalf of our parents and students I would like to thank all the staff most sincerely. How blessed we are to have such a professional and dedicated staff who give so much of themselves, personally and professionally, for the good of the children and our faith and learning community.

Farewell to our families who will be leaving our community at the end of this week. We wish you all the very best in your new school community:



**Akwasi and Kwaku Boakye, Ken Engelen, Massimo Milutinovic, Mark Rodriguez, Olivia and Elan Rouchotas.**

Farewell also to our Year 6 students and their families. Many of these families have been associated with our community for a number of years and we thank them sincerely for their huge contribution to the St Monica's community.

**Joshua Albayeh, Chanel Azar, Jackson Basha, Erica Crame, Patrick Crowle, Abraham Dennis, Brooke Emphield, Mohan Govender, Andy Haddad, Josue Heydari, Daryll Hilario, Nishika Jain, Philip Joseph, Victoria Kassis, Alanah Khadi, Calvin La, Brandon Lukic, Hunter Malatag, Natasha Mutto, Brendan Pospischil, Lachlan Roberts, Jack Talty, Eddie Tran Marcus Trimbounas and Sarah-Rose Wilson.**

Our **End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation** will be held tomorrow night (Thursday 15 December) commencing at 6pm in St Monica's Church. Students are to arrive at **5:45pm** and are to wear their full school uniform.

As we prepare for Christmas let us ponder awhile on three human beings like ourselves: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I wonder how they reacted to the extraordinary events in their lives. We can all relate to the delight a baby brings into our lives. In a vulnerable, fragile and new-born baby, God's gift of love was made known to us. The baby Jesus challenges us to live with the tenderness he stirs in our hearts. Where will the gift of Jesus be born this Christmas? Will it be in the telling of a well-loved family story? Perhaps in the reconciling phone call to an estranged friend or family member? Or in the giving up of the commercial excess of the day and contributing instead to those in greater need? Consider giving the gift of yourself this Christmas, in all your vulnerability, fragility and beauty.

May the Christ Child bless whatever we bring to him, and may we carry that blessing with us to all the people that we meet in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal



## Mathematical Assessment Interviews (Years 1-6, 2017)

In our last newsletter I advertised that the first two days of school in 2017 would be used to conduct the individual Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI). (Friday 27 and Monday 30 January)

**Online bookings close tomorrow Thursday 15 December at 3pm.**

For parents who do not have internet access, please contact the school office for assistance. Parents can also 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 2017.**

**A booking is required for all students in who will be in Years 1—6, 2017**

**[www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)  
Code: 8ad7d**

If parents are unable to book in a time with their child's teacher, there are extra teachers assigned for each stage.

**Stage 1 extra teachers—** Mrs Mason & Miss O'Donnell

**Stage 2 extra teacher—** Miss Rosewell

**Stage 3 extra teachers—** Mrs Ungsuprasert (Friday) and Mrs Boulous (Monday)

If your child is attending COSHC on either day parents can book their child in for an interview and the staff will take them at the appointed time.

Parents who know in advance that they will be away for the MAI's are asked to let their child's teacher know as soon as possible so that other arrangements can be made.



THE EASY WAY TO BOOK

## SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Dear Parents,

**Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI)** (for students in Years 1 – 6 2017) will be held on Friday 27 January and Monday 30 January 2017 (Term 1, Week 1)

**Bookings will open on Thursday 8 December 2016 and close on Thursday 15 December 2016 at 3pm**

For parents who do not have internet access, an iPad will be available in the School Office for you to make interview 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 class/Stage that they will be going into in 2017.**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE Thursday 15 December 2016 at 3pm**

Now you can book school interviews for the times that suit *your family*.  
Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**8ad7d**

**Go**

Simply enter the code and press "Go"  
**THIS CODE CHANGES – DO NOT USE YOUR LAST EVENT'S CODE**



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately – **Check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelled your email address correctly**

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on **Thursday 15 December 2016 at 3pm.**

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents who need to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 9630 3697

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the "contact us" button on the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school's name and suburb.

## Tomorrow—Thursday 15 December 2016

- **8:50am Tennis—Stroke Production** (playground) Thank you to Mr Davidson for providing tennis lessons at St Monica's. The students are very fortunate to have him coach them each week. Parents are welcome to attend.
- **9am-1pm Scrub Day**—Parents welcome. Students wear **are to wear mufti and joggers (no thongs)** so that their uniforms are ready for the End of Year Mass at 6pm. Parents are most welcome to assist as a working bee was not scheduled this year. Scrub Day will **commence at 9am and should conclude at 1pm**. There are many jobs to do!!
- **2:50 pm Guard of Honour** —Farewell to Year 6 students and families leaving St Monica's (playground)
- **3pm Online MAI Bookings close.**
- **5:45pm for 6pm End of Year Mass / Year 6 Graduation.** Students are to arrive at 5:45pm for 6:00pm Mass. Students are to **wear their school uniform to the Mass.**
- After Mass our Year 6 students will be cutting their Graduation Cake on the playground outside the Teacher's Workroom. Everyone is welcome to attend and to congratulate Year 6.

Following the cake cutting, *Year 6 students and their parents/siblings and significant adults who have been involved in their schooling at St Monica's only* are invited to a light supper on the playground. Thank you to the school and the generous Year 5 parents for providing the light supper.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS—THANK YOU

On behalf of St Monica's Staff we would like to say a big thank you to all the students and families who have so kindly passed on their Christmas wishes and gifts to us. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Louise O'Donnell



## 2017 Communication Nights—Learning Space

Parents are invited to attend the communication nights where important information relating to their child's learning for the school year will be discussed.

Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)	Wednesday 8 February (Week 3)	5:45pm—6:30pm
Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)	Wednesday 8 February (Week 3)	6:30pm—7:15pm
ES1 & Stage 3	Wednesday 15 February (Week 4)	6:00pm—6:45pm

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### St Monica's Parish

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday 24th December 5pm (English)  
Saturday 24th December 9pm (中文)

#### MIDNIGHT MASS—12am

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Sunday 25th December 9am (English)  
Sunday 25th December 11:30am (中文)

**NEW YEARS DAY**  
Masses as per usual Sunday Times



## 2016 End of Year Awards

Yesterday we acknowledged the many students in our school who this year have distinguished themselves in various areas of learning and life. Some have excelled in their academic achievement, some in their persistent effort with learning, some in their outstanding achievement in areas such as sport while others have been recognised for their leadership qualities, for giving of themselves to serving others and in helping to make this community a better place through active citizenship. We congratulate all students who were presented with school awards for outstanding effort and perseverance. Special thanks to Mrs Mary-Jo Mason for her organisation of this event.

### ***Congratulations to the following students***

#### **City of Parramatta Active Citizenship Award**

*Lachlan Roberts*

#### **Full Attendance for the 2016 School Year**

*Andy Haddad, Maureen Haddad, Wyatt Heesen, Zachariah Kassis, Tina Kiaiefar, Sakina Kunambi, Emma O'Rourke, Brendan Pospischil, Charbel Sadek, Emma Sadek, Isabella Rose Smith, Madeline Smith*

#### **Reading Encouragement Awards**

*ES1—Anna Maria Anish*

*Year 1—Pranaya Prasath*

*Year 2—Sophie Stoker*

*Year 3—Samira Hekeik and Jake Chapman*

*Year 4—Jessica Dib*

*Year 5—Christian Dib and Matilda-Rose Hall*

*Year 6—Sarah-Rose Wilson*



Lachlan receiving his award



#### **Servant Leadership (Buddy Reading)**

*Jessica Crowle, Ezekiel Logo, Emma Halmakova, Raymond Khadi, Jackson Basha, Marley Puyat, Myles Gaddi, Hunter Malatag, Chelsea Lewis, Madeline Lewis, Matilda-Rose Hall, Charlotte Newey, Chloe Pearson, Alanah Khadi, Pinar Helena Unver, Jason Grey, Natasha Muttoo, Rhiannon Cooper, Trinity Bird and Patrick Crowle*

#### **Recognition in Sport**

*Lachlan Roberts and Chelsea Lewis*

#### **Premier's Reading Challenge**

**Gold Awards**—*Neave Sciacca, Aidan Muttoo, Sophia Elias, Jayden Albayeh, Emma Halamkova*

**Platinum Awards**—*Joshua Albayeh, Patrick Crowle, Natasha Muttoo, Andy Haddad*

<b>End of Year Awards</b>	<b>ES1</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
<b>Christian Living</b>	Mia Siemsen	Sara Younes	Ruby Graham and Ruby Knight	Alexander Azar	Joshua North	Isabella Smith	Hunter Malatag
<b>Academic Achievement</b>	Bai Rui (Barry) Zhang	Liam Sciacca	Manson Lu	Zachariah Kassis	Jessica Crowle and Trinity Bird	Alexis Chang	Jackson Basha
<b>Consistent Effort</b>	Helen Elias	Andrew Clark	Simon Forsyth	Giselle Mondinelli	Raymond Khadi	Zoe Bird	Patrick Crowle
<b>Most Improved</b>	Oskar Grzelak	Gabriela Andrade	Kobe Puyat	Samira Hekeik	Gene Kneipp	Garbhan Sciacca	Daryll Hilario
<b>School Spirit</b>	Amelia Wong	Sophie Phan	Ashleigh North	Jayden Albayeh	Emma Halamkova	Charlotte Newey	Brooke Emphield

*See the website for photos from the Awards Assembly*



## Bragging Rights Ex-students

Congratulations to **Abbi Lewis** and **Hayley Herder-Beke** who both received Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards, **Angelina Cappello**—Outstanding Academic Effort and **Martha Kassis** —Year 8 Ambassador award at the Catherine McAuley Awards Ceremony.

**Nash Hawkins**—1st Place English, 1st Place - Science, 1st Place - Geography, 1st Place - Technology Mandatory, 1st Place - Visual Arts, Effort - Catholic Studies, Effort - Music

**Bernard Kneipp** 1st Place—Technology Mandatory, 1st Place Catholic Studies, Effort—English, Effort—Orchestra (Brass)

**Alby Giles**—Effort PDHPE

**Jacob Khadi**—Awards for English, PDHPE, Music and CST

**Jason Ierfino**—1st Place Spanish

**Year 9 Lucas Gonzalez**—Award for Photography and Digital Media, **Brendan Micallef**—Effort in Commerce

**Year 10—Kabir Sharma**—Awards for Maths and Science

Congratulations to **Bernard Kneipp**, **Nash Hawkins** and **Jacob Khadi** who have been accepted into the Year 9, 2017 accelerated Maths course at Parramatta Marist High. Well done!

*Miss Emily Farrelly, Year 2 teacher in 2017, met her students on Monday.*



*Congratulations to  
Trinity Bird who was awarded a  
Certificate for Servant Leadership  
as a Reading Buddy.*

## 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.

# 2017 School Term Dates

<b>TERM 1</b>	<p><b>Staff return - Friday 27 January 2017</b></p> <p>Friday 27 January and Monday 30 January are <u>Staff Development Days (MAI Testing)</u></p> <p><b>Stages 1-3 (Years 1-6) return —Tuesday 31 January 2017 (8:50am-3:00pm)</b></p> <p><b>ESI (Kindergarten) commence—Thursday 2 February 2017 (9:00am-3:00pm)</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 7 April 2017</b></p>
<b>AUTUMN HOLIDAYS</b>	<p><b>Monday 10 April 2017</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 21 April 2017</b></p>
<b>TERM 2</b>	<p><b>Monday 24 April 2017</b></p> <p>(Tuesday 25 April 2017—Anzac Day Public Holiday)</p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 30 June 2017</b></p>
<b>WINTER HOLIDAYS</b>	<p><b>Monday 3 July 2017</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 14 July 2017</b></p>
<b>TERM 3</b>	<p><b>Monday 17 July 2017</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 22 September 2017</b></p>
<b>SPRING HOLIDAYS</b>	<p><b>Monday 25 September 2017</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 6 October 2017</b></p>
<b>TERM 4</b>	<p><b>Monday 9 October 2017</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Friday 15 December 2017 (Last day for students )</b></p> <p>Monday 18 December 2017 (<i>Staff Development Day</i>)</p> <p>Tuesday 19 December 2017 (<i>Staff Development Day</i>)</p>
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>	<p><b>Monday 18 December 2017</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>January 2018 (Date to be advised)</b></p>

### Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

How to enter: It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel.

This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

Entries open on 7 November 2016 and close at 5pm on 7 February 2017.

Terms and Conditions can be found at [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)



## 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.***

## Important upcoming dates for 2016 / 2017

Thursday 15 December	8:50am Tennis Stroke Production Scrub Day—Mufti and Joggers (9am—approx. 1pm) Online bookings close for MAI at 3:00pm 5:45pm for 6pm End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation
Friday 16 December	School finishes at 3pm
Monday 19/12 and Tues 20/12	Staff Development Days
<b>2017</b>	
Friday 27 January	Staff Development Day— MAI bookings (Years 1 –6)
Monday 30 January	Staff Development Day—MAI bookings (Years 1-6)
Tuesday 31 January	Term 1 commences for Years 1—6
Thursday 2 February	ES1 commence (full days)
Friday 3 February	Swimming Carnival, Granville Swimming Centre (Years 3-6) Dance Fever (Infant classes)
Sunday 5 February	9:00am Missioning Mass at St Monica's Church (whole school)
Wednesday 8 February	<b>Stage 1 Parent Information Night</b> 5:45pm-6:30pm <b>Stage 2 Parent Information Night</b> 6:30pm-7:15pm
Wednesday 15 February	<b>ES1 Parent Information Night</b> 6:00pm-6:45pm <b>Stage 3 Parent Information Night</b> 6:00pm—6:45pm 7:00pm Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22 February	7:00pm POSMS Meeting
Tuesday 28 February	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 1 March	Ash Wednesday

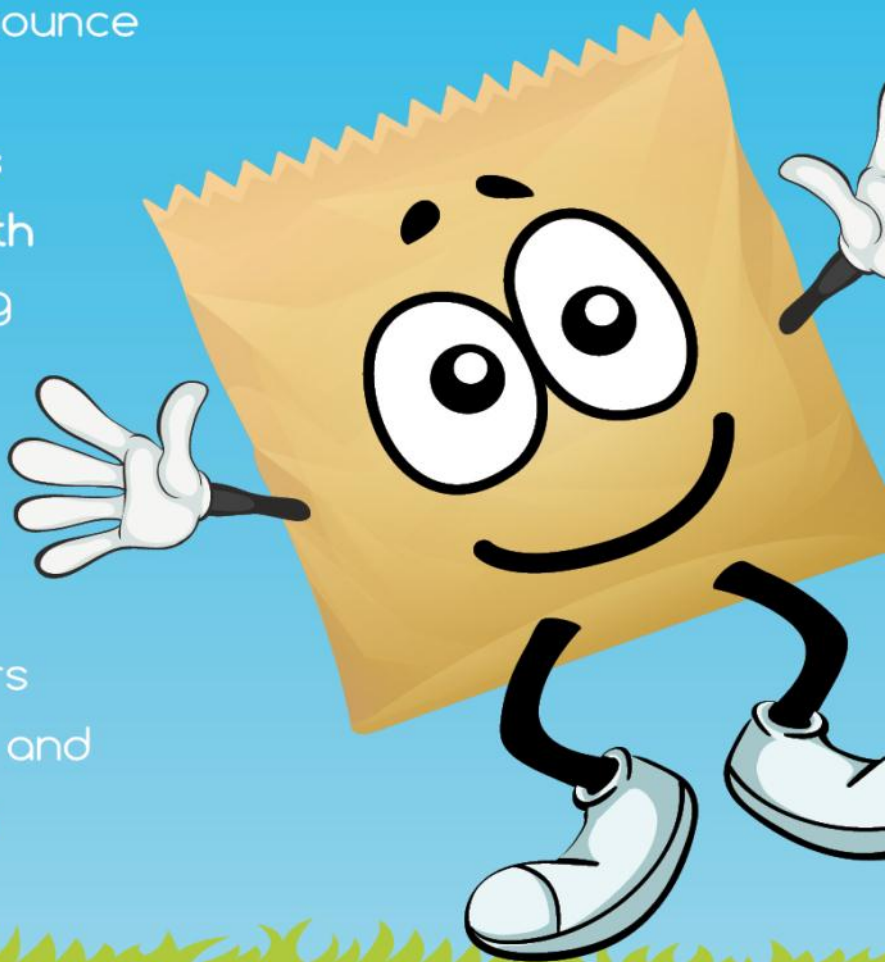


# TUCKSHOP2U

HEALTHY - AFFORDABLE - CONVENIENT

We're proud to announce  
Tuckshop2U will be  
serving St. Monica's  
Primary School North  
Parramatta starting  
Term 1, 2017.

Tuckshop2U is an  
easy-to-use school  
lunch ordering  
service that delivers  
healthy, affordable and  
convenient lunches  
directly to schools.



Please visit [tuckshop2u.com.au](http://tuckshop2u.com.au)  
for more information.

**We will still be doing 2 or 3 theme lunches per term and tuckshop2u will not be available on those days.**