

**Week 6**

**Thursday 2 March**

Open Morning for new families  
9:15am and 9:45am Principal  
talks followed by school tours  
(please register at school office)

**Friday 3 March**

- **Mufti Day**—Trivia Night  
Hamper donations (see ad)
- Dance Fever

**Week 7**

**Catholic Schools Week**

**Monday 6 March**

- ES1 Kindergarten  
enrolments open
- Book Fair—children only

**Tuesday 7 March**

- Book Fair from 8:30am
- 9am Parents invited to  
participate in CSW activities.

**Wednesday 8 March**

- 9:15 am Whole School Mass
- 7pm POSMS Meeting—  
Learning Space

**Friday 10 March**

- Dance Fever

**Week 8**

**Monday 13 March**

- Book Fair

**Tuesday 14 March**

- Book Fair

**Wednesday 15 March**

- School Photographs

**Friday 17 March**

- Dance Fever
- St Patrick's Day
- National Day against  
bullying

**School timetable**

<b>8:20am</b>	<b>Morning supervision</b>
<b>8:50am</b>	<b>Morning bell</b>
<b>10:40am—11:10am</b>	<b>Recess</b>
<b>12:50pm-1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
<b>3pm—3:30pm</b>	<b>Afternoon supervision</b>



# Monica's Matters

**Web:** [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)  
**Email:** [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**Phone:** 9630 3697  
**Fax:** 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Today we begin our Lenten journey for 2017 by receiving the Ashes with a most reverent, prayerful liturgy. The ashes with which we were marked on Ash Wednesday symbolise our beginning and our ending and challenge us to translate our intentions and prayers into real deeds of love, faith and generosity during the forty days of Lent.

The clear direction that Jesus gives us through Lent is that our lives will have periods of struggle and desolation and challenge. It is during these times of personal struggle and desolation that God is closest to us.

The Lenten period provides us a great opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with God by stripping away some of the clutter in our spiritual lives. We can do this by emulating the example of Christ- by fasting, giving and praying. Jesus also tells us that giving, praying and fasting should not be self-seeking or boastful, but rather motivated by love. Ultimately it is through doing these things that we can turn back to God. The season of Lent will conclude on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Lord's resurrection.

**Catholic Schools Week 2017: 'Learning connected'**

This year from **5 - 11 March 2017** St Monica's, will join with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW).

Our theme for CSW 2017 is 'Learning connected', building on Pope Francis' statement that 'Everything is connected'. This sense of connection calls for shared responsibility for the care of nature and our human relationships in a changing world. Pope Francis has addressed his second encyclical letter 'Laudato Si' to 'every person living on this planet' in order to start an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.

'Laudato Si' means 'Praise be to you' and it has the subtitle *On Care for Our Common Home*. In the encyclical letter, Pope Francis discusses the harm humankind has caused on earth and calls on every person to make necessary changes in our lives to protect our planet. Laudato Si' deals with many environmental issues including pollution, climate change, drought, loss of biodiversity and the decline in the quality of human life.

Pope Francis calls on the Church and humankind to acknowledge the current environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future. As Catholic schools, we can play an essential role in shaping the future of our planet by working together to care for our common home. Our world is a gift from God and we are called to act as both stewards and protectors during our time here. It is our responsibility to care for our world and make it a better place for the next generation.

Each morning next week at our assembly we will respond to Pope Francis' encyclical letter in prayer.

**School Goals**

Recently I shared with families at the Parent Information nights our three school goals for 2017. These goals give the staff direction and focus to our teaching and learning throughout 2017. Our goals are in response to our identified needs and through careful examination of data ie NAPLAN, Early Years Assessment, PAT-r, Religious Literacy and student work samples.

The goals are **SMART** goals which means that they are:

**Specific-** the focus is on the whole school

**Measureable-** displayed on the data wall

**Ambitious-** high expectations for growth are set

**Relevant-** based on the data

**Time bound-** achieved within the year.



**In 2017 St Monica's school goals are:**

**Mission Goal:** To develop a deeper understanding of Scripture and its application to Catholic life.

**Literacy Goal:** For all students by the end of 2017 to demonstrate growth as readers through improvement in their comprehension skills. Comprehension is one of the most challenging issues facing teachers of reading. Reading comprehension is important because without it students are not truly reading. Teachers know what good readers do and this year as a staff we will be exploring explicit comprehension strategies so that every student at St Monica's grows in their comprehension of texts.

All teachers have been focused on activating prior knowledge in each of their reading sessions over the past few weeks. Before the children commence reading the teacher encourage their students to:

- Share what they already know about the topic
- Include what they have experienced personally
- Recall what they may have read, seen on television or in a movie

Some children may have prior knowledge but do not make connections to the text so it is important that teachers and other students in the group help the student make those links.

**Numeracy Goal:** For all students by the end of 2017 to increase by at least one growth point in Place Value.

**Educational Research Project- Monash University—Multiplicative Thinking**

We are very excited that all teachers at St Monica's will be participating in a professional learning course called Multiplicative Thinking with the staff of Christ the King, North Rocks to support our 2017 Numeracy Goal. This course is presented by the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta in partnership with Dr Ann Downton from Monash University. The professional learning is part of a research project investigating the effects of teacher impact on the improvement of Stage 2 students development of multiplicative thinking. The staff will be involved in six sessions and will explore multiplicative structures that encourage multiplicative thinking.

All Stage 2 teachers and students will play a significant role in the study.

A letter will be sent home to every Stage 2 student outlining the project details.

A further letter will be sent to Stage 2 students **who have been selected** to participate in the project.

**Multiplication and Division** Students who have been identified as vulnerable in these domains to demonstrate accelerated growth and achieve at least 'on the way growth' points according to their grade.

**High Expectations**

At St Monica's we have very clear expectations regarding the behaviour of all members of our community.



Sometimes behaviour challenges do occur and at these times we need to work together to resolve matters quickly and to ensure that the children learn from what has happened. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns so that we can address them for you. By working together we can help all the children to be the best person they can be! The support and encouragement of everyone in this regard is greatly appreciated.

This is an ideal opportunity to support our community of St Monica's and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

Our school has a supportive and talented community of teachers, parents, carers, P&F, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to give students the best education possible.

This special week on the Catholic Schools' calendar provides an opportunity for the community to recognise our committed and gifted teachers and support staff for their work in encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion in our young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Monica's and look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

Once again, Australian Catholic Superannuation is a proud sponsor of Catholic Schools Week 2017 and we greatly appreciate their generous participation. I encourage you to visit the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund's website at [www.catholicsuper.com.au](http://www.catholicsuper.com.au).

We invite you and your family to join us at St Monica's to celebrate with our school and parish community during Catholic Schools Week 2017.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

### Attendance

As you would be already aware the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta has a strong focus on attendance every day— *'Every learner, Every day'*.

In each 2017 newsletter I will be publishing an accurate representation of the student attendance as it stands on newsletter day so that parents are kept informed of student attendance in relation to our target.

Our school is currently sitting at **87.2%**. This is below the expected **minimum target of 90%** set by the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta.

**Below is the student grade data as at 1 March, 2017**

Kindergarten	88%
Year 1	85.7%
Year 2	78.3%
Year 3	94.7%
Year 4	85.8%
Year 5	91.3%
Year 6	85.2%

We all need to remain mindful that attending school every day throughout the term, on time every day is what is important and most essential for the students' learning.

**POSMS Meeting**  
**Wednesday 8 March 2017**  
**7:00pm- 8:00pm**  
**Learning Space**

#### *Agenda*

**Anxiety & Resilience**  
(Madeline Patrick—School Counsellor)

**Playground equipment**

**Fund raising/Parent Involvement initiatives**

**Fete**

*All parents are invited to attend*

### School Photographs

**Wednesday 15 March 2017**  
**(Week 8)**

Order envelopes have been sent  
home with students

Sibling/Family order envelopes are  
available at the school office

Online payments  
[www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au)

Online Code  
**FEF 88K ZMQ**

### **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.

### **Library / Book Fair News**

A Book Fair will be held during Catholic Schools Week (Week 7) on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March and then again on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th March. A Book Fair letter will be sent home on Friday with further details. *Mrs Sharon Boulous, Teacher / Librarian*

### **Thank You**

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Unver (Pinar Helena, S3 and Onur James (Yr 1) who have kindly donated a Binding Machine to the school. We thank you for your generosity.

### **2018 Enrolments**

If you have a child who is eligible to commence Early Stage One (Kindergarten) in 2018, please contact the school office for an Enrolment Form. *Enrolments open on Monday 6 March and will close on Friday 7 April 2017.*

### **POSMS Meeting—Wednesday 8 March**

Parents are invited to attend the next POSMS Meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 8 March**. Come and meet our **School Counsellor, Madeline Patrick**, as she offers strategies to assist with **Anxiety and Resilience**. The meeting will commence at **7pm in the Learning Space**.

### **Swimming**

Congratulations to **Madeline Lewis (Stage 3)** and **Maureen Haddad (Stage 2)** who have qualified for the NSWCPs MacKillop Swimming Championships. The girls will represent the Parramatta Diocese at the Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush on Wednesday 22 March. Good luck girls!!

### **Car Boot Sale**

Due to a lack of interest the car boot sale has been cancelled.

### **Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)**

Thank you to the following volunteer helpers who made pancakes for the children yesterday: *Genevieve Smith, Rona Wang, Kenneth Hills, Dalia Sadek, Carmel Hossack, Joan Evangelista, Kyunghye Yoon, Carolina Garbi, Tiff Cooper, Kimberley Graham and Ken Gomez.*



## **2017 Catholic Schools Week Activities (Week 7)**

**Monday 6 March** \* **Book Fair—** (Children only—Preview during class reading group time)

**Tuesday 7 March** \* **Book Fair Sales - from 8:30am**

\* **9am— Invitation to parents to participate in CSW activities**

(In response to the Pope's latest encyclical students will be creating an art piece and parents are invited to support their children in this activity).

**Wednesday 8 March** \* **9:15am Whole School Mass**

\* **7:00 pm POSMS Meeting**



## SRC Representatives for Semester 1

**Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the SRC .**

**Students were presented with their badges at last Friday's assembly.**

### ES1

Lucas Alvarez and Isabella Younes

### Year 1

Eva Tran

### Year 2

Abbi Meale

### Stage 2

Bernardo Enciso Llamas

Dacian Scurtu

### Stage 3

Isabella Rose Smith

Henry Corcoran and Jericho Crame



## Merit Awards

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

**ES1:** Bianca Zhu and Markus Nabua

**Year One:** Helen Elias, Lydia Clancy, Barry Zhang

**Year Two:** Lola Sloane and Liam Sciacca

**Stage 2:** Samuel Nassif, Samira Hekeik, Aidan Pospischil, Evan Michael, Manson Lu, Andrei Philip Hilario

**Stage 3:** Marley Puyat, Myles Gaddi, Lachlan Dardagos



*Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate birthdays in March.*



Joshua North	Ann-Marie Boujandy	Oskar Grzelak	Kurt Hilario
Ashton Dardagos	Shubbh Chugh	Sophia Elias	L'Lysse Puyat
Charbel Sadek	John Sadek	Olivia Szymanski	Mia Siemsen
Ruby Elias	Martin Salib	Maria Nour	Sara Younes
Christian Kandalaft	Samira Hekeik	Jessica Chandra	Christopher Sadek
Alexandra Santos	Happy Birthday		



## Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Madeline and Chelsea Lewis who competed at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Madeline received the 11yrs champion award and Chelsea was runner up.

## Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who represented St Monica's at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival held at Blacktown Swimming Pool on Friday 24 February:

**Alexander Azar, Madeline Lewis, Chelsea Lewis, Aaliyah Assaf, Maureen Haddad, Maurice Haddad, Matilda-Rose Hall and Rhiannon Cooper.**

## NSWCPS MacKillop Swimming Championships

Congratulations to **Madeline Lewis (Stage 3)** and **Maureen Haddad (Stage 2)** who have qualified for the NSWCPS MacKillop Swimming Championships. Madeline and Maureen will represent the Parramatta Diocese at Homebush on Wednesday 22 March 2017.

## Bragging Rights...

Congratulations to **Aidan Pospischil** (Stage 2) who has qualified for the State Little Athletics Championships at Homebush in March. Aidan will compete in the 1100m race walk event. Good luck Aidan!

## Trivia Night Information Saturday 6 May 2017

### Mufti Day Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March



To assist in the fundraising as part of the school Trivia Night, we ask families to donate to the hampers that will be prizes on the evening. Each student is asked to donate an item (theme guide outlined below) and are invited to wear Mufti on that day as a thank you. All donations are greatly appreciated and reminders will be sent out closer to the date 😊

#### Hamper themes are:

- Kindy – Stationery/Reading
- S1 – Year 1 – Games
- S2 – Year 2 – Sports
- S2 – Year 3 – Auto
- S2 - Year 4 – Gardening / Outdoors
- S3 - Year 5 – Homewares / Kitchen & Foodies
- S3 – Year 6 – Toiletries / Pamper products



Drop off of hamper items will be from 8:20am near the school gates on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.



### Volunteers Needed!



The Trivia Night is a great night out for the parent friends & parish community of St. Monica's. But it doesn't happen without some behind the scenes magic.

We need volunteers to assist with

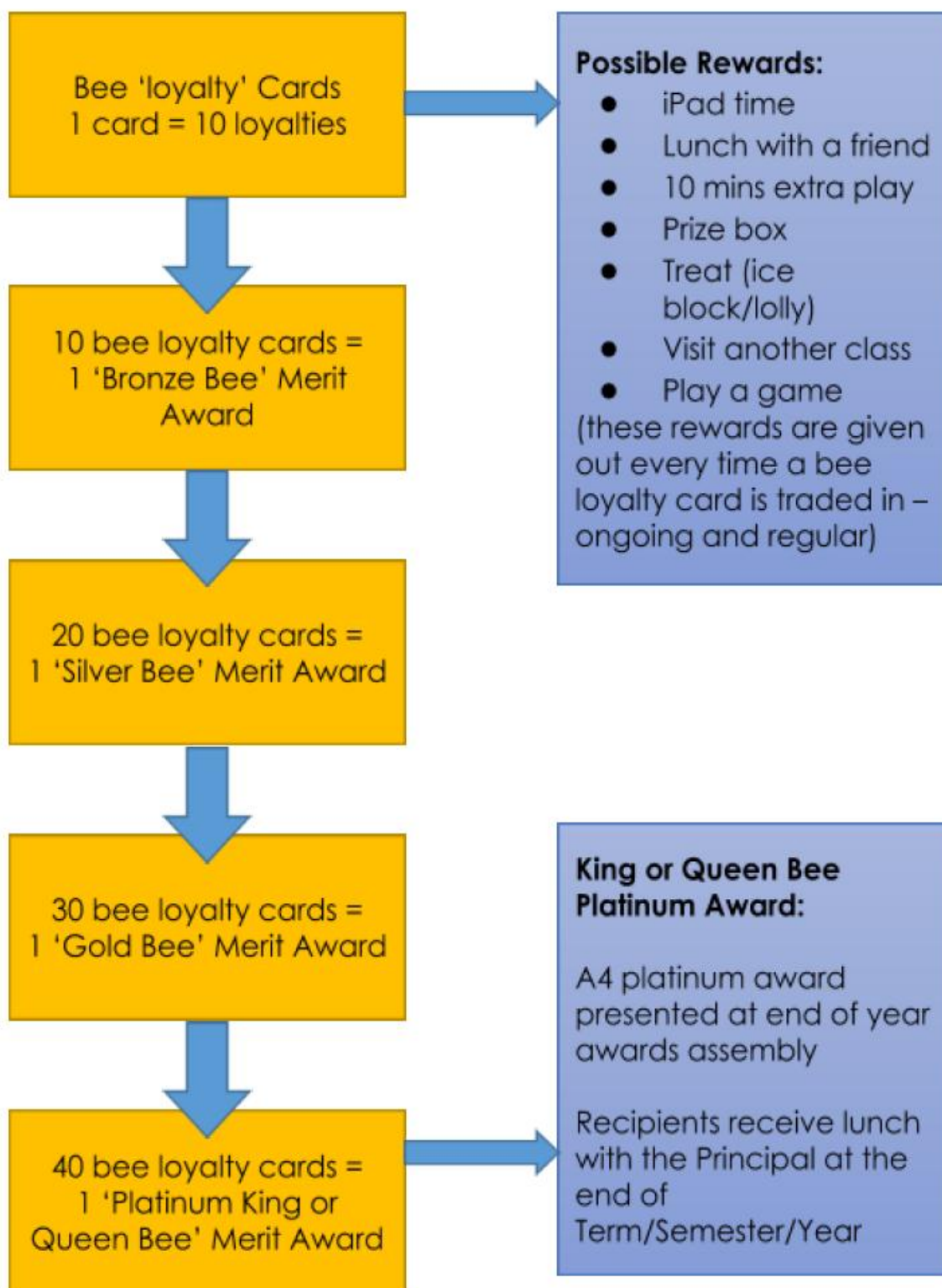
- Sponsorship collection
- Hamper collection (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March)
- Hamper wrapping or,
- Volunteering on the night to assist with making the evening a success!

Whether you can donate an hour or two of your time, or are keen to join the committee for more involvement, please contact any of the **2017 Trivia Team.**

Trish Forsyth	0402337075
Gen Smith	0414901968
Cathryn Crowle	0401295173
Vanessa Talty	0423845885
Kimberley Graham	0432892267

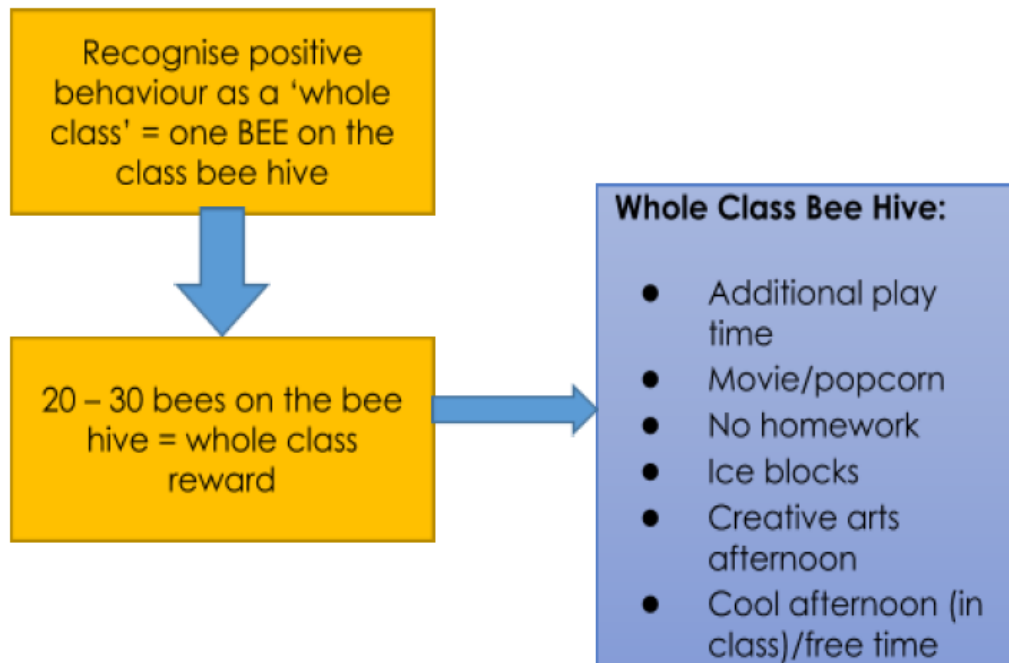
# St Monica's Rewards Flowcharts

## Individual Reward





## **Whole Class – in class positive rewards**



### **A clean playground**

\*Rubbish is bad for the environment and it is pollution.

\*It is important to keep our school clean and tidy.

\*If visitors come and see our school they will want to see the school clean and tidy.

\*You need to make sure you pick up your own rubbish because it is your own responsibility.

\*If you walk past a piece of rubbish make sure you pick it up.

### **By Summer and Sanoy (Stage 2)**

#### **St Monica's Famous bee-haviour Week 4:**

I can walk safely under the undercroft.

**Awarded to:** Stage 3

#### **St Monica's Famous bee-haviour Week 5:**

I am being safe by wearing my hat everyday.

**Awarded to:** Year 2

#### **St Monica's Famous bee-haviour Week 6:**

I am putting my rubbish in the bin.

If I see a mess I will help to clean it up.

\*This will be presented at Monday afternoon assembly

**Miss Emily Clough (Special Projects Co-ordinator promoting PBS4L)**



### *Miss Catherine Shaw*

Dear Families and friends of St Monica's.

I am Miss Shaw and I am the new Kindergarten Teacher for this year. I am so excited to be working with the school and with the students and I look forward to getting to know the school community better.

I have been working with children now for nearly 6 years teaching across all the year groups. Throughout my career I have gained a lot of experience in communicating efficiently with students and it has taught me how to cater for a diverse range of needs within the classroom.

I look forward to meeting everyone and contributing to the school and parish during my time here.

Thank you!  
Catherine Shaw



### *Mrs Angela Wedesweiler*

Hello to the community of St Monica's.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

It is lovely to be part of this school. I have moved with my husband Alan, our daughter Claudia and son Gabriel. We have twin daughters who are at the University of Technology Sydney so it is great to be back in Sydney closer to them. We spent 5 years teaching in Griffith and 5 years prior to that in Jerilderie and I have also taught in England and Singapore!

I look forward to getting to know everyone and feeling even more settled.

Angela Wedesweiler



## **Mufti Day this Friday 3 March 2017**

See page 6 of this newsletter for all details regarding donations for the School Trivia Night.

As this is sports day all students **must wear joggers.**



**GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
17-37 Marie Street CASTLE HILL NSW 2154  
Welcomes families to our Annual  
**"Open Evening for Year 7 2018"**  
on  
**Wednesday 8 March 2017**

- College Tours will be conducted from 5.00pm-6.00pm and re-commence at 7.00pm-7.30pm.
- Opening address by the Principal commences at 6.15pm in the Brother Damien Harvey Hall.
- Enrolment Packages will be available on the night for children currently in Year 6 2017.
- Expression of Interest forms will be available for other families with younger children (e.g. Year 5).
- Gilroy Catholic College focuses on quality education within the nurturing environment of a faith community.
- Gilroy is a Technology rich learning environment.
- We aim to develop competent and confident young people who can think critically and make decisions informed by Catholic values.
- Pastoral care is central to the organisation and operation of the College and endeavours to ensure that all students are able to recognise the dignity of their relationship with others.
- Applications close: 10 May 2017.
- You will be contacted mid Term 2 if you are successful to attend an interview.
- For further information visit our website or Phone: 8853-8200 or Email: [gilroy@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gilroy@parra.catholic.edu.au)



**PARRAMATTA MARIST HIGH SCHOOL**

2 DARCY ROAD, WESTMEAD NSW 2145  
PH. 02 9635 7066 | E. [PARRAMARIST@PARRA.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU](mailto:PARRAMARIST@PARRA.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU)  
[WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU](http://WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU)

**YEAR 7 2018 INFORMATION EVENING**

**WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2017**

**5:30PM - SCHOOL TOUR**

**6:15PM - 7:00PM - PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS & INFORMATION SESSION**

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL VIA [WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU](http://WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU)  
LIMITED PARKING AVAILABLE VIA GATE 3, DARCY ROAD (OPPOSITE WESTMEAD PRIVATE HOSPITAL)

**ENROLMENT INFORMATION**

Enrolment Packages will be available during the evening.

Enrolments Open: 13th March - Close: 31st March

ENROLMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE WILL BE PLACED ON A WAITING LIST

**WE OFFER TOP QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR BOYS**

Over the past 10 years, Our HSC Results have placed us in the top 100 schools in NSW.

In 2016, we achieved the following HSC Results: 51st in the state overall, 4th in Mathematics, Extension 1 and Extension 2, 28th in Mathematics General 2, 61st in English (Advanced), Extension 1 and Extension 2 and 6 All-round achievers.

Parramatta Marist High School has been both Nationally and Internationally recognised as High Quality Innovators in 21st Century Education

## ARIA MUSIC

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

Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard?

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

### **Keyboard Classes!**

Days: **Tuesday** 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!!

### **Guitar Classes!**

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

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



**A reminder that the Uniform Shop is no longer located on the school grounds.**

Parents are required to purchase all school clothing items through Oz Fashion.

No uniform items including school bags or hats are available at the school office.

**Oz Fashion is located at:**

115-127 Parramatta Road, Granville Phone: 9897 3121

**Opening Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Parking is available on site.

## 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.***





# 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.