

TERM 1, WEEK 1
Wednesday 31 January 2018

DIARY DATES

Week 1

Wednesday 31 January

- Years 1—6 return

Thursday 1 February

- Kindergarten (ES1)
commence 9am-2:30pm
- Tea & Tissues for parents

Friday 2 February

- Swimming Carnival
(Years 3-6)

Week 2

Monday 5 February

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am
- Incursion—Stage 2

Tuesday 6 February

- Tennis Lessons resume

Wednesday 7 February

- Parent Information Night
6pm Stage 1
6pm Stage 2

Thursday 8 February

- Welcoming Mass —9:15am

Friday 9 February

- School Census Day
- Dance Fever commences
(Sport Uniform for all
students)

Week 3

Tuesday 13 February

- Cumberland Zone
Swimming

Wednesday 14 February

- Ash Wednesday
- Parent Information Night
6pm—Stage 3

Friday 16 February

- Dance Fever

School timetable

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



Monica's Matters

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake this week. I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing break. It was lovely to see the excitement on the faces of the students as they returned to school today. The playground this morning was exciting as children shared their holiday news with one another. I would like to especially welcome those who are new to this community.

A Prayer for the New School Year

Lord Jesus,

We ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.
Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.
Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.
Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen

The past two days of MAI assessments were very successful with 140 students completing the assessment. Thank you to all the families that were able to bring their child/children along to the assessment. The information gathered by the teachers from the MAI is invaluable in getting to know your child's level of competency in counting, place value and the four number operations. Any child that was not able to attend the interview will have their MAI over the next week. Please note that teachers will be out of class to ensure that the assessment is completed by the end of next week. All our Kindergarten students completed the assessment at the end of 2017 with Miss Shaw.

Thank you to our highly qualified, professional and dedicated staff. They have been in and out of the school over the holidays setting up the learning spaces and office and planning exciting learning opportunities and programs.



Good luck to our St Monica's students who commenced Year 7 this week.

I am sure everyone, staff, students and parents, are excited to be back at school. This year we welcome new students:



Chloe Abiodun, Sage Abiodun, Riana Arredondo, Tiara Arredondo, Anthony Carslake, Yashni Chowdhary, Parmida Foroutan, Elim Lee, Eon Lee, Yi Lin, Ziyang Lin and Zi Han Lin.

A special welcome to our new Kindergarten class that will commence tomorrow.

Rayansh Agrawal, Pranvee Basu, Amelia Bavell, Mariah Boutros, Joshua Chandra, Abigail Corera, Amelia Corera, Tiffany Do, Elyssa Ekert, Elijah Essey, Mia Fernandes, Aiden Forsyth, Liam Forsyth, Angus Graham, Joel Heesen, Micaela Hernandez, Laila Kula, Alessia La Macchia, Grace Lim, Chloe Luo, Angelica Menjivar, Soraya Mondinelli, Jaein Moon, Lana Salic, Rafaella Santos, Atticus Sloane, Czermiella Sarah Talampas, Philopateer Toma, Ivy Tran, Sarah Vasanth and Victoria Youssef.

All parents are invited to a morning tea, after our assembly to welcome all our new families tomorrow morning.

New Staff Members

We welcome new staff members, Mrs Irma Dawinan and Mrs Rita Davino. We hope that you both enjoy working and learning with us at St Monica's, we are happy to have you here.

Thank you to parents and students for your positive approach to the new school year. St Monica's is a wonderful school and community. This is due to positive relationships between families and staff working together to support students. I encourage all families, as the first educators of their children, to continue to work in collaboration with teachers to ensure the best outcomes for our students.

Have a wonderful week.

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

Maintenance

Over the holidays there have been a number of maintenance jobs that have been carried out. All the railings on the playground and in the stairwells in the learning space have been painted, two doors have also been painted, all student toilet cubicles on the playground and in the learning space have been fully tiled, the former uniform shop has been carpeted and cupboards have been installed, all the fire equipment, air conditioners and the lift have been serviced and all the learning spaces have been vacuumed and the carpets steam cleaned.

Mrs Erin Werner

This school year Erin Turner will be known by her married name Mrs Erin Werner.

2018 School Term Dates

Term 1	Wednesday 31 January—Friday 13 April (Easter—Good Friday 30 March—Monday 2 April)
Term 2	Monday 30 April—Friday 6 July
Term 3	Tuesday 24 July—Friday 28 September
Term 4	Monday 15 October—Wednesday 19 December

Staff Development Days

Monday 29 January and Tuesday 30 January (Term 1)
Monday 23 July (Term 3)
Friday 23 November, Thursday 20 December, Friday 21 December (Term 4)

Congratulations

To Michelle Rosewell on her engagement during the holidays to Joe. We wish you both all the best at this exciting time.



The Welcoming School Mass/Year 6 Leaders

All parents are invited to our Welcoming School Mass on **Thursday 8 February at 9:15am**. The Mass is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our faith together at the commencement of the school year.

All Year 6 students, including our school ambassadors and SRC leaders, will receive their badges at the conclusion of the mass.

Newsletters dates Term 1

The school newsletter will be published fortnightly on Wednesdays.

14 February (Week 3)
28 February (Week 5)
14 March (Week 7)
28 March (Week 9)
11 April (Week 11)

School Times

8:20 am	Morning supervision commences
8:30 am - 8.45 am	Students unpack their bags in the learning space
8:50 am -10:40 am	Morning session
10.40 am -11:10 am	Recess
11:10 am - 12:50 pm	Mid morning session
12.50 pm -1.30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Afternoon session
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Afternoon supervision

We request that children **do not arrive before school until after 8.20am**, unless in exceptional circumstances and with prior arrangement with the Principal. Early arrivals will need to be seated on the stairs outside the Teacher's Workroom until the teacher on duty commences duty. After school supervision concludes at 3:30 pm. Catholic Out of Schools Care is available for families who are unable to make arrangements for their child/children

Car Park Safety

Our children and their safety is our main priority. Children are especially vulnerable around vehicles and roads due to their size and capabilities.

Please observe the following guidelines:

- Children are to exit **via the driver's side only**. If this is not possible please park in one of the bays and supervise your child walking into the school grounds.
- **Parents are to remain in the car at all times.** Do not get out of the car to get bags out of the boot or to farewell children.
- Children walk into the school grounds via the gate.

Afternoon Car Pick Up

Please remember to use your family name card to alert the teachers on duty which students are next to be collected. The name cards assists the teachers in identifying the cars as car tinting prevents us recognising the driver. The most effective position is on the passenger side visor – simply flip it down as you drive up and we can clearly see your family name.

Mobile Phones

Each year parents who request permission for their child to bring a mobile phone to school are asked to do so **in writing** to the Principal. **Students who brought phones to school last year are therefore required to provide a letter this year explaining the need for the phone at school.** Permission is only granted to those students who travel home on a bus or who walk home. On arrival at school the switched off phone is to be handed in at the School Office where the student is to sign in the phone. In the afternoon the phone will be sent to the classroom via the office bags. Students are to switch the phone on and place the phone in their school bag before leaving school.

Medication

We are currently updating all medical information for **ALL** students at St Monica's. A reminder to parents that if your child requires medication to be administered during school hours, you need to provide written detailed instructions by completing a medication request form at the school office. All medication must have a pharmacy label with the child's name and administration instructions. Only medication with the pharmacy labelled details supplied by parents is able to be administered to students. **No medication is to be kept in your child's school bag.**

Anaphylaxis / Allergies

A number of students at school suffer from anaphylaxis and allergies.

It is a requirement **each year** that a **new updated action plan is provided to the school** for all children with anaphylaxis and allergies so that staff are kept informed of any changes in relation to the administration of medication etc for your children. The action plan needs to be obtained from your doctor.

Parents are requested to please provide an updated action plan / EpiPen (if required) as soon as possible to the school office, so that our records may be updated. Thank you for your assistance with this important matter

Annual Updates / Change of Details

Please complete family and student annual update forms and return them to the office. It is of great importance that your address, phone and emergency contacts are accurate and remain up to date. Please remember to inform the office if your details change throughout the year. It is most distressing for children and staff if we are unable to contact parents in the case of a child being ill or injured.

Please note: **Change of address must be advised in writing.** (Change of Details Form can be found on the website under School Notes)

Student Attendance Monitoring Process

Each morning the attendance register is marked by classroom teachers immediately after assembly, and recorded through FACES. If your child is late to school, arriving after 8:50am, **parents must come to the office and complete a late arrival form.** Students who go directly to the Learning Space without attending the office, may not have their name marked on the register and will be recorded as an absence.

A reminder to parents, that we must always receive a written note for every absence on the child's return to school.

If you need to collect your child before the end of the school day, please sign them out at the office. Parents are requested to please inform the office staff (prior to 2:30pm when possible) so that messages may be passed on to teachers before dismissal time.

Uniforms

The students wear their school uniforms with pride and this helps to instil a sense of belonging. The students look very smart in their uniforms. Thank you to parents for making an effort to support the school uniform policy.

When purchasing sport shoes, as stated in our school handbook, sport shoes need to be **predominantly white.**

Sacramental Dates 2018

Details regarding registration/Parent Lessons/Commitment Masses will be available soon and will be advertised on the website.

Confirmation— Friday 18 May 2018 (Registration Saturday /Sunday 17/18 February at weekend Masses)

Communion— Saturday 25 August 2018

Reconciliation—Friday 9 November 2018

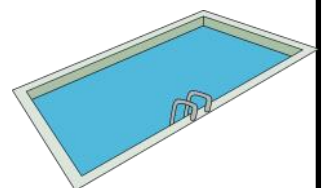
School Swimming Carnival (Years 3-6)



Wentworthville Swimming Centre
115 Dunmore Street, Wentworthville

Friday 2 February 2018

Parents welcome to attend



31 January 2018

Children in **Years 1—6** once again have the opportunity to learn tennis at school with Mr Ross Davidson.

- If you would like your child to learn tennis this year, please complete the permission slip below and return to the school office **by Thursday 1 February 2018 so that classes can be organised..**
Students will be notified of their lesson time once the timetable has been prepared.

✂ _____

I _____ give permission for my child _____
Print Parent's Name **Print Student's Name**

to commence tennis lessons in Term 1, 2018. Signed _____

Child's Name: _____ **(Please print)**

Preferred Day: ☒ Tuesday ☐ Thursday

Class: ☐ Year 1 ☐ Year 2 ☐ Year 3 ☐ Year 4 ☐ Year 5 ☐ Year 6

Tennis Lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

1st Group 8am–8:30am

2nd Group 8:30am–9am

Mr Davidson advises that lessons will resume on **Tuesday 6 February 2018**.

If your child is interested in tennis lessons, please see Mr Davidson on the playground on Tuesday/Thursday mornings. Thankyou.



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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: **Tuesday** lunchtime

Time: 12:30pm–1:30pm

Location: The Community Room

Keyboard Classes!

Day: **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!!

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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.

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’)*

These can be accessed by visiting the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta homepage
<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> then scroll down to **‘Volunteers and Contractors – click here’**

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

(Links are also available on the homepage of our school website www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au)
Please contact the school if you require any assistance.

We thank all volunteers for their continued support.