

DIARY DATES

MARCH

Week 9

Wed 26 7pm 1-2-3 Parent Meeting

Fri 28 Dance Fever Athletics

Week 10

Mon 31 Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am
Pow Wow 9-10.30am
QCS survey ends

APRIL

Fri 4 Dance Fever Athletics
Disco 6pm-8pm
Parish Hall.

Sat 5 Working Bee 7-11am

Week 11

Mon 7 9am Easter Liturgy
Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am
Pow Wow 9-10.30am
Tues 8 10:40am Easter Liturgy
4-6pm PBL
presentation (includes
farewell for Ms Power
at 5:45pm)

Wed 9 12:40pm Easter Liturgy

Thur 10 2:30pm Easter Liturgy

Fri 11 9:10am Mass
Dance Fever Athletics
Closing date for 2015
ES1 (Kindergarten)
enrolments

Term 1 ends at 3pm

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

TERM 2

Week 1

Mon 28 School Resumes

Uniform Shop
8:30am-10:30am
Pow Wow 9-10.30am

Fri 2 May School Athletics
Carnival



Monica's Matters

Web: www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au
Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

Phone: 9630 3697
Fax: 9683 4984

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

As we reach the halfway point of our Lenten journey let us focus ourselves so that we can make some time for prayer and reflection

Lent needs to be more than a time for fasting.... It is a time for joyous feasting. Lent is a time to fast from certain things and feast on others.

A season where we are called to:



Fast from judging others.....feast on the unity of life
Fast from seeking differences.....feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from words that pollute.....feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from complaining.....feast on appreciation.
Fast from unrelenting pressuresfeast on prayer.
Fast from hostility.....feast on non-resistance.
Fast from lethargy.....feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from gossip.....feast on the truth.



May this Lenten season allow each of us time to reflect upon the fasting and feasting of our lives. We pray that in looking at our lives anew, we will be ready for the coming of the risen Jesus at Easter.

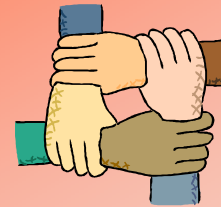
Harmony Day & National Day Against Bullying

Last Friday we celebrated Harmony Day and National Day Against Bullying. Stage 3 students led us in a beautiful liturgy that celebrated the rich cultural backgrounds within our school. Together we prayed that we would commit to building a school community in which diversity is celebrated and where peace and harmony would be experienced by all.

Our celebration concluded with this prayer:



***Dear Lord,
We thank you for all the different
cultures that you have brought to
St Monica's.***



***We pray that we can stand together as
one big family and be accepted for who we are.
We pray for countries that are suffering in war, poverty,
with no food or water and for the people who are
lonely with no family.
Almighty Father, please bring peace and harmony to
this beautiful world that you have created.
Amen.***

ANTI-BULLYING

At St Monica's we have been addressing bullying through our Personal Development learning programs. Every teacher has explicitly taught an anti-bullying unit that has focused on social and conflict resolution skills. All students are encouraged to report to teachers any incidences of bullying.

Every class last Friday displayed anti bullying posters around the school with important messages. Please take time to look at the posters as the messages are powerful and are important to reinforce with your children.

KINDERGARTEN 2015

We have had a large number of new families to the parish submit enrolment forms. If parents within the school have a child commencing Kindergarten in 2015, please ensure that you submit the enrolment application by **Friday, 11th April**.

Interviews with Father Fernando and I will be conducted during the month of May.

OPEN AFTERNOON

We had a wonderful response to our Kindergarten 2015 Open Afternoon. It was a delight to hear how positively our student leaders spoke about their school, their community, their church, their teachers and the parents' involvement in what happens here at school. Congratulations to our student leaders: Jasmine Bird, Angelina Cappello, Edward Joseph, Jacob Khadi, Bernard Kneipp and Bessie Phillips.

Also my sincere thanks to Tiffany Cooper and Neil Joseph who accompanied the students on the tours and were on hand to answer specific questions related to parent involvement and student learning.

Thank you also to all the parents who volunteered their time and delivered flyers to local Pre-Schools and homes within our boundary in the lead up to the open afternoon.

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE

This week we have taken delivery of \$20,526.00 worth of new technology that will be added to our existing items. An additional 14 Apple Macbook Pros and 6 Ipad 2 WiFi 16gb will be available for our students to use. Thank you to all the parents who have supported our ongoing fundraising initiatives that have assisted us in purchasing these items.

FAREWELL MS POWER

All parents were notified last week that Ms Kerry Power, our Stage 3 Teacher and Religious Education Co-ordinator, is leaving at the end of Term 1. We will officially farewell Kerry at **5:45pm** on **Tuesday 8th April** at our PBL presentation night. Hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

Easter Liturgies

Easter Liturgies will be held in the Hall during Week 11. Parents are invited to attend these short reflections on the events of Holy Week.

Monday 7 April	9:00am	Early Stage One
Tuesday 8 April	10:40am	Year One
Wednesday 9 April	12:40am	Year Two
Thursday 10 April	2:30pm	Stage Two

Mass will be celebrated on Friday 11 April at 9:10am.



2015 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

St Monica's Primary School is now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten (Early Stage One). Enrolment Application forms may be collected from the school office or you may download an enrolment form from the School Website (www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au) then go to the PARENTS heading, then click on Enrolments.

When lodging your application you will need to provide your child's **original birth and baptismal certificates and an up-to-date immunisation form**. A \$30 non-refundable Enrolment Application Fee will need to be returned with your completed application.

When lodging your Enrolment form you will be given an interview time - your child will need to attend this meeting with you. **Enrolment interviews will take place during Term 2.**

The **closing date** for Kindergarten 2015 enrolments is **Friday 11 April 2014 (last day of Term 1)**

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

If you have a payment arrangement with the school and you have received an arrangement letter, could you please return it to the School Office as **a matter of urgency**. If the letter is not returned, it may cause the arrangement to be invalid.

**EASTER RAFFLE**

A reminder that the Easter Raffle will be held on **Friday 11 April** (last day of Term 1). Please return all tickets and money as soon as possible to the school office.

TALENT QUEST

St Monica's Talent Quest 2014 will be held on **Thursday 29 May (Term 2, Week 5)**. The Talent Quest is open to all students in Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3. Students may perform as a group or individually. We encourage students to choose age appropriate songs and dance routines. We ask parents to assist us in this endeavour.

Application forms for participation in the Talent Quest are now available and should be returned before the end of Term 1. Auditions will take place in Week 2 of Term 2. *Miss Leona Sweeney, Teacher*

BOOK FAIR NEWS !

Thank you one and all for your support during the Grandparent's Day Book Fair. We made an amazing profit of **\$917.70!** We will be spending the money on the latest Picture Books recommended by the Children's Book Council and resources to support the use of ebooks! *Mrs Sharon Boulous*

COSHC

COSHC's Vacation Program for April 2014 and the Booking and Permission form are now available on the school website. Priority is given to those families who currently attend COSHC and places are filling up fast. Closing date for booking and payment is **Friday 4 April 2014**.

CHILDREN'S DISCO (for Students of St Monica's only—ES1– Stage 3)

To be held on **Friday 4 April** between **6pm –8pm in the Parish Hall**. **\$5 per child** which includes a popper drink and either popcorn or chips. **Preschool children are welcome to stay but only if accompanied by an adult**. If any parents are available to help with supervision please contact Bernadette Haddad. **Tickets available at the door**. Children attending will be given a ticket for a mystery lucky door prize. Thank you to George Assaf who will be our DJ and to Laurie and Rebecca Hekeik who are donating the popcorn /popcorn machine. Surprise performance included!!

QCS SURVEY

By now, those randomly selected families would have received their Quality Catholic School Survey. Many thanks to all those families who have already completed the survey.

There are still a number of families who have not yet completed the survey.

Your participation in the survey is encouraged and valued. **A reminder that the survey is totally confidential and no family is identified in any way.**

*It would be appreciated if you could complete the survey by **Friday 28 March**.*

If you elect to complete the survey online, could you please notify Mrs Abood, by email that the survey has been done. (stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you for taking part in this important survey for our school.

Harmony Day



St Monica's celebrated Harmony Day on Friday 21 March 2014. Students were invited to wear a colour representing their National Flag or the symbolic colour of Harmony Day which is Orange. A Mercy Cross was made out of the coins. A total amount of \$179:00 was raised which will go towards Caritas' Project Compassion.



The simplest way
to improve the health of your
family and save money

Come to our FREE Fruit & Veg Sense Workshop

Date: Tuesday, 20th May
Time: 9:00am until 10:30am

Venue: St Monica's Primary School

Did you know that eating enough fruit and vegetables all their lives can help protect children against diseases, including some forms of cancer? This **free workshop** run by Cancer Council NSW will show you how you can easily:

- 🕒 Save time and money making healthy meals
- 🕒 Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters
- 🕒 Get a free recipe book simply by attending

Don't miss out – registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than 16/05/14 by:

Calling or visiting the school front office or register online at
www.cancercouncil.org.au/eatittobeatit/register

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.



Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolments for Year 7 2015

There will be one more Open Morning specifically for Year 7 2015 enrolments on:

Thursday 3rd April 2014 9.15 – 11am

This morning 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 this school tour please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

**Save the date for our Open Day –
Saturday 10 May 2014 between 9am – 12.30pm**







OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA
Celebrating 125 Years

**Year 7, 2016
Information
Evening
Tuesday April 1, 2014**

The following information has been posted on the Parramatta Local Area Command Facebook Page. Parents are advised to please take notice of this information.

SCHOOL ZONE PARKING OFFENCES

Increased penalties for School Zones. Current as at 1 July 2013

	Means that in the area in the direction of the arrow, you <u>must NOT STOP your vehicle</u> at any point on the road or kerb, unless there is a medical or other emergency.	Maximum Penalty \$405 + 2 Demerit Points
	Means that you have no more than 2 minutes for drop-offs or pick-ups of passengers or goods and the driver must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.	Penalty \$169 + 2 Demerit Points
	Means that in the direction of the arrow or arrows you are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.	Penalty \$304 + 2 Demerit Points
	DOUBLE PARKING You are NOT PERMITTED to stop or park your vehicle alongside another vehicle that is already parked parallel to the kerb.	Penalty \$304 + 2 Demerit Points

- STOP in a NO STOPPING zone: \$304 + 2 Demerit Points, or STOP on or near a Children's or Pedestrian Crossing: \$405 + 2 Demerit Points
- STOP on path/strip in built up area: \$169 + 2 Demerit Points
- STOP or Park in a Disabled Marked Area without a permit: \$506

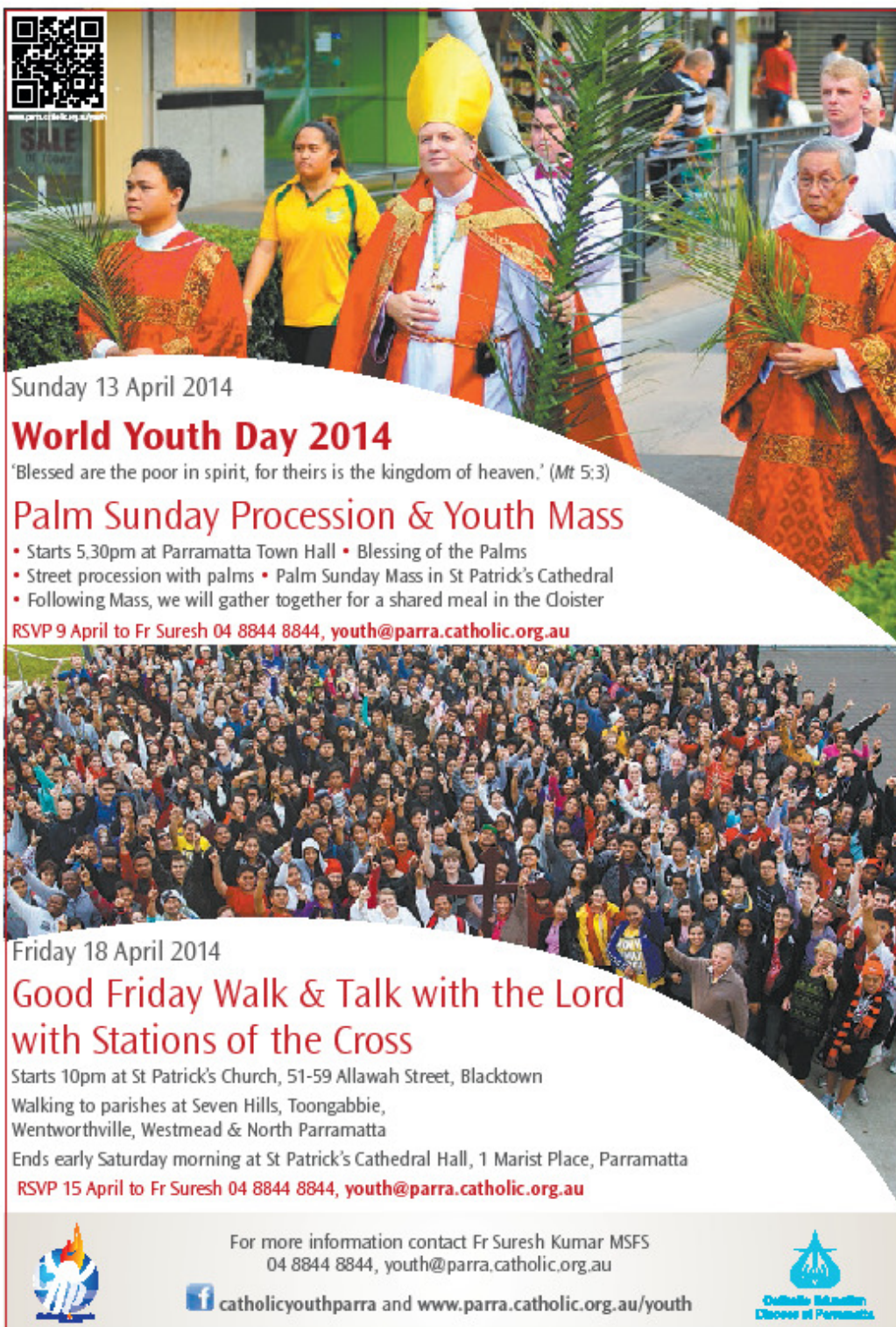
Please Note: fines subject to change without notice. Current to 30 June 2014. These penalties apply to offences in school zones during posted school hours.

Are you interested in playing Rugby? North Rocks Rugby Union club are urgently seeking boys who will be turning 9,10 or 11 in 2014. We already have several boys from St Monica's in the team - so why not come and play with your schoolmates!!? The team trains at Kingsdene Oval on Felton Road in Carlingford on a Wednesday night 6:30 to 8:00 pm, and plays a home and away competition on Sundays. Registration discount of 50% is available for first time players joining in 2014.

Please contact Neil Joseph on 0418113160 if you are interested or email njoptus@optusnet.com.au. Our club website can be found here :<http://www.northrocksrugbyrugby.com.au/>

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

On the last Tuesday of each month CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: *"How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?"* Date: Tuesday 25th March, Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.



Sunday 13 April 2014

World Youth Day 2014

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' (Mt 5:3)

Palm Sunday Procession & Youth Mass

- Starts 5.30pm at Parramatta Town Hall • Blessing of the Palms
- Street procession with palms • Palm Sunday Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral
- Following Mass, we will gather together for a shared meal in the Cloister

RSVP 9 April to Fr Suresh 04 8844 8844, youth@parra.catholic.org.au

Friday 18 April 2014


Good Friday Walk & Talk with the Lord with Stations of the Cross

Starts 10pm at St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown


Walking to parishes at Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Wentworthville, Westmead & North Parramatta


Ends early Saturday morning at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta

RSVP 15 April to Fr Suresh 04 8844 8844, youth@parra.catholic.org.au



For more information contact Fr Suresh Kumar MSFS
04 8844 8844, youth@parra.catholic.org.au



 [catholicyouthparra](https://www.facebook.com/catholicyouthparra) and www.parra.catholic.org.au/youth

St Monica's Primary 

SAVE THE DATE: **SATURDAY 24TH MAY**

FANCY I ♥ 80 DRESS  **PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED**

TRIVIA NIGHT

ADULTS ONLY

FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

CALLING ALL YOU MATERIAL GIRLS AND BOYS
COME ALONG FOR AN **AWESOME** NIGHT OF
TRIVIA GAMES PRIZES

\$10 PER PERSON | **KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR REGISTRATION FORMS COMING HOME WITH YOUR KIDS SOON** | **BYO ALCOHOL & DRINKS**

For enquiries contact TMY Cooper 0408 235 751 or email tmycooper@stmonica.school.nsw.edu.au

Reminder

2015 Kindergarten Enrolments
close on **Friday 11 April 2014**.
Enrolment forms available on the
website or from the school office.



WORKING BEE

Saturday 5 April 2014 7am–11am

Many hands make light work.

*Please remember to send back your note
to the School Office.*

*The Working Bee note can be found
under SCHOOL NOTES on the website.*

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY

SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS PROGRAMS KIDS FUN DAYS

Wednesday 16 April (10 am – 12 noon) - Rockets

Make and launch your own paper rockets
and watch water rockets being launched

Wednesday 23 April (10 am – 12 noon) – Star Stuff

A short multimedia presentation followed
by hands-on science activities

KIDS ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

Saturday 19 April (7pm – 9 pm) – Mars Rovers

Come along and find out, why we are
sending rovers to Mars

Saturday 26 April (7pm – 9pm) – The Lives of Stars

Where do stars come from and where do
they go?

In addition to the multimedia presentation
all programs will include a 3D astronomy
movie and either safe viewing of the sun
(day program) or viewing of the night sky
through the University's telescopes. Our
programs run regardless of the weather.

Cost: \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession
and \$40 family.

Bookings are essential:

Book and pay online:

www.uws.edu.au/observatory,

What's On

Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or
email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au

Trivia

Q: What star of the Breakfast Club was also part of the
original cast of the Facts of Life?

A: Molly Ringwald played Molly Parker in 13 episodes
between 1979-1980.