**Fete Day on Saturday**

1 Day to Go!!!

23 March 2013

**Celebrating Our History**

Following weeks of preparation Fete Day is almost here! Kathy Stiller and team have been working round the clock to ensure we have lots to enjoy. Our annual fete is the major fundraising venture for the year. Funds raised go towards special projects identified by the Council Executive, in line with parent and teacher suggestions and the needs of the school. Remember many hands make light work so be sure to volunteer to lend a hand on fete day.

See you on Saturday and don’t forget your carry bag for all the goodies you plan to buy!

**Final Reminders**

Raffle Tickets

Urgent - All fete raffle ticket books are now due back. Please ensure you return all sold and unsold books to the school tomorrow.

Cakes/Sweets Stall at Fete

Just a reminder that all baked goodies for the Fete need to be brought in to the school after 3.20pm on Friday 22 March 2013.

Book Stall

Last week’s class winner for donating the highest number of books was 3F with 393 books. Well done 3F!! The winning class group is rewarded with a treat from the Canteen.

White Elephant Stall

If you can help out please contact Bob on 0417219556 or Paul on 0408716612.

**VALUE -Cooperation**

**Cooperation**

Why should we practice Cooperation? Without cooperation, people disturb others. They don’t care about the rules and they don’t seem to care about others. When we work together, we can often accomplish more than each of us could do alone. Being cooperative is being willing to go along, in order to get along. We are respectful of the rules. We consider people’s needs, we look for ways to be helpful and we ask for help when it is needed. Cooperation brings us together and enables us to make any place a happy and safe one.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOCUS**

**Hands Off! Feet Off!**

The rule focus is Hands Off! Feet Off! Being Respectful means interacting appropriately with others. Keeping our hands and feet off treats others the way we want to be treated. It also helps us to play and interact safely. Parents you might like to discuss this very important rule with your children.

**A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been another busy week. I have mentioned in this newsletter some very important messages. Please carefully read the reminder message regarding the use of the staff car park and before and after school arrangements for your children. I am looking forward to catching up with you all at the fete.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- Please drive carefully and obey the speed limits around the school.
- No jewellery should be worn to school. Only plain studs or small sleepers and watches are acceptable. No bracelets, bangles, sparkly ear rings, nail polish, make up, etc is allowed.
- Students who come to school on bikes, scooters, skateboards or rip sticks MUST wear a helmet. Students seen not wearing helmets will have their ‘transportation’ confiscated and only returned once a helmet is worn.
- Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am. We have too many students arriving as early as 8.10am. Please understand that these children are NOT SUPERVISED. Students who are arriving prior to 8.30am are instructed to sit in the courtyard until the teacher on duty arrives. Where a student arrives early on a regular basis, the family will be required to arrange a booking with SMOOSH.

- Please do not use Staff carpark as a drop off/pick up point for your children especially in the morning as staff are unable to park for the day.

- Afternoon supervision concludes at 3.30pm. It is imperative that children are picked up as close to 3.30 as possible as supervision after this time is very difficult as teachers are often required to attend meetings and Office staff have finished work.

SMOOSH BOOKINGS are currently closed for Monday to Thursday as we have reached our capacity. Please discuss the possibility of any future openings with Miss Bec Perry, our Director. No casual booking are available.

School Holiday Program
While we are running our Holiday program in April we can only offer 24 places due to the availability of staff. The hours for our program will be from 8.30am to 5.30pm While we know this may be inconvenient for some families, we just cannot cover the longer hours. If you are interested in securing a place please contact our SMOOSH Office immediately to secure a place.

School Fees
School Fee accounts are now overdue unless you pay by instalments - Bpay, eftpos, credit card, cheque or cash. If any family is experiencing difficulty meeting their commitment please make an appointment to discuss how I may be able to assist you. Families who received remissions last year must apply to renew the agreement for 2013. All Fee Remission requests go to the Council’s Executive Fee Committee for approval.

Following an audit of our outstanding fee issues we have been advised to engage the use of a collection agency where an account continues to rise and no reasonable explanation is given for an outstanding fee account. Should you have concerns regarding your fees please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible.

NAPLAN
This year NAPLAN tests will be conducted at St Monica’s in Years 3 and 5 early in Term 2. The tests are conducted across three days and the timetable for testing is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 14 May</th>
<th>Language Conventions</th>
<th>40 minutes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 15 May</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Friday 16 May</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>50 minutes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>50 minutes</td>
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All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments which reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the ACT testing authority for more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption should that be your wish.

REMINDER TO ALL VOLUNTEERS - WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE Act -
The Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (the Act) commenced on 8 November 2012. Even though we all have until 7 November this year to be registered, the Catholic Education Office wishes all volunteers to be registered as soon as possible. It would be wonderful if this could be done by the commencement of Term 2.

There is no cost for volunteers. A form is located via the link found on our Publication page on our School Website. When filling in the details please write 'The Principal' as the school contact and office.stmonicas@cg.catholic.edu.au

To date we have 10 people who have registered for their card.

Dental Care
This week the children in Years 2 to 4 will receive a dental pack to promote oral health care. Each package contains an important oral health message, a family brushing chart and a toothpaste and toothbrush. We should see bright smiles from all the children tomorrow.

Parent Guide to Road Safety
Accompanying this week’s newsletter is an NRMA brochure promoting a parents’ guide to road safety near schools. PLEASE read carefully!

God bless

Carmel Maguire
Principal

Harmony Day
Today March 21 is HARMONY DAY. We all gathered in the church yesterday for prayer at 12:30 lead by 6B who shared the story of the rainbow. The theme of the rainbow is used to demonstrate how when we work together we create something beautiful. Today classes will complete an activity in their class and wear some orange!
Who was St Joseph?
What we know about the life of Saint Joseph is contained in the gospels of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke.
- Husband of Mary the Mother of Jesus
- Protector of Jesus
- He was a village carpenter of Nazareth,
- According to ancient tradition, Saint Joseph watches over and protects the Church.
- St Mary of the Cross(MacKillop) chose St Joseph as the patron of her religious order - The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart
- His feast is celebrated on March 19

First Holy Communion:
Please pray for the children of Year 4 and the Parish School of Religion as they continue their preparation to receive Jesus for the first time.
Placemats: If your child still has their placement at home – please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

Preparation Day 3 April
First Holy Communion Weekend: 6 April 6:00pm, 7 April 10:00 am St Monica’s Church

Holy Week - Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday)
Lent quietly comes to an end this weekend as the church begins the final journey to Calvary. On Sunday we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The Gospels speak of large crowds waving branches and placing them on the road in front of Jesus. They proclaimed him as King shouting Hosanna! Yet we know that by the end of the week Jesus had been arrested, condemned to death and crucified.

The Palm Sunday liturgy recalls these events - as we hear again the story of the Passion in the gospel. We gather palms, process to remember and enter this journey again with Jesus.

St Monica’s will hold its Easter liturgies next Wednesday and Thursday in the school Hall. We will commence at 12.00pm each day. Grade areas have responsibility for different parts of the Holy Week and Easter Story. You are most welcome to join us for our journey to Calvary.

Grade responsibilities:
Wednesday 27 March:
Kinder/ Year 1 – Palm Sunday
Year 3- Passover gathering /washing of the feet
Year 4- The Last Supper
Thursday 28 March
Year 5 and 6- The Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 3 April 12:30pm
Year 2 –The Resurrection

Palm Sunday Preparations
In preparation for Palm Sunday next weekend there will be a working bee for half an hour at 10.00am on Saturday 23 March to trim the olive trees next to the Church. Please bring the required equipment.

Easter Timetable
Palm Sunday (normal weekend Mass times)
Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper: St Michael’s Church, Kaleen, 7.30pm (with Adoration to 10.00pm).
Good Friday – Commemoration of Our Lord’s Passion: St Michael’s Church, Kaleen, 11.00am, St Monica’s Church, 3.00pm.
Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil: St Monica’s Church, 7.00pm.
Easter Sunday – Masses: St Michael’s, Kaleen, 8.00am, St Monica’s Church, 10.00am, St Michael’s, Kaleen, 5.30pm.

Chrism Mass
This year’s Chrism Mass will be celebrated in St Christopher’s Cathedral at 7.30pm on Monday 25 March. During this Mass the holy oils will be blessed for the year. All welcome.

Reunion Mass & BBQ for 2012 Year 6 Students
Last year’s Year 6 students of St Monica’s school will be joining our Parish at Mass next Saturday evening. Following Mass a BBQ will be held (this is the same day as the St Monica’s School Fete). As part of the BBQ we are asking if you could bring a plate for sharing at the BBQ. The plate might consist of cakes, sausage rolls and/or sweet things etc. Tables will be set up at the front of the Church for tea/coffee/cordial with space for your plate offerings.
Catholic Soccer Carnival – Sunday 24 March 2013
Information note on Soccer Carnival and food vouchers will be sent home with children today. Please Note: Parents are directly responsible for their child at the carnival. It is not the responsibility of the coach or manager to supervise children. A HUGE thank you to Mrs Mira Lustica for all her time organising the children to attend this carnival.

Schools Sports Association - SSA News
Softball – Good luck to Kendall E and Stephen F who will complete for the Belconnen PSSA Girls and Boys Softball teams. We hope you both play well!!
Cricket – Congratulations Harrison W and Ryan W who competed for the Belconnen PSSA Boys Cricket Team. Well done boys!!

Happy Birthday to the following children who are celebrating birthdays for the coming week.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conner H</td>
<td>Hayley C</td>
<td>Mikaela R, Cassandra J</td>
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CLASS CONTACT NETWORK
Calling for class contacts – parents who are interested in being a parent contact for their child’s class.
The Network works effectively when there are 2-3 contacts for each class as there are more hands to complete the few tasks that need to be done. If this sounds like something you would like to do please contact me as soon as possible, so we can get the social side of school life happening. Please send an email via the office.

Urgently seeking volunteers!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Parent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KRG</td>
<td>Fiona Steinberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM, Yr 1</td>
<td>Chantal Green, Marita Whitfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Charlyne Ross</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2014 ENROLMENT INFORMATION
St Monica’s Primary School
Official Enrolment Period
May 6 – 24 May
SCHOOL TOURS – Wednesday 8 May, at 10.00 am, 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.
Please encourage neighbours and friends with prospective enrolments to attend so they can see first-hand the school in operation.
Enrolment forms for 2014 school year will be available from the Front Office during this period.

Enrolment Application Forms for Archdiocesan Secondary Schools are also available
It is expected that available spaces will fill quickly so please ensure that the Enrolment Application Forms are returned to the school of your first preference within the enrolment period. Spaces cannot be guaranteed, even for siblings if the applications are not returned within the enrolment period. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be considering enrolling their child in an ACT Catholic School.

St Francis Xavier College
Living with truth, Leading with courage, Learning for life
Enrolling Now
Open Day: Wednesday 8 May, 10am-2pm
Starting Soon – Group Therapy at Gungahlin for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (7-12&13-17 year olds). This program offers 10x1 hour sessions of group therapy aimed at promoting Friendships, Communication, Social Skills and Mental Health. It employs the following interventions: Social Stories, Active Games, including Lego and Wooden Blocks, Role Plays and Case Studies. A current Mental Health Care Plan is needed for more information or to make a booking, please ring Rexton D'Cruz (MAPS), Clinical Psychologist on 0404 072 149.

Cost & Commitment: The cost for attending each session is $50.00. After the Medicare rebate of $31.65 is adjusted, the actual cost is $18.35 per session. Please think carefully before applying for this program, as we require a commitment from you that you will attend all 10 sessions without fail. Please keep in mind that one of the reasons why there are not many group therapy programs out there is because of issues with attendance. If you would like to register in this program email Rex at rxbren@optusnet.com.au.