VALUE - Thanksgiving

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Vienna Cobb Anderson

Thank You!

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
We thank you for the gift of life: for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life, for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation: for the beauty that the eye can see, for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions at work, who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day: for life and one more day to love,
for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbours and one more person to love and by whom be loved,
for your grace and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Read more at http://www.beliefnet.com/Prayers/Christian/Gratitude/Prayer-Of-Thanksgiving.aspx#qhc0QWPJ5h3I67MW.99

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOCUS

BEING RESPECTFUL

The rule focus this week is about BEING RESPECTFUL. When we move around the school we move quietly. This means walking in silence in the corridors and when moving in and out of the classroom.

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Latest Staffing News

After 12 wonderful and rewarding years at St Monica’s Mrs Kelly Boyton has accepted a permanent position at Mother Theresa’s Primary School in Harrison commencing in 2015. Kelly has contributed a great deal to the life of St Monica’s, especially our Year 6 leadership program and preparing the children for high school. Kelly’s is an outstanding teacher whose creative flair has inspired many occasions, particularly in her leadership role as Coordinator. Kelly takes with her many wonderful memories.

With plans to travel and take up volunteer work with her husband, Mrs Joan Higginbotham has resigned from her position as Welfare Officer. Joan has enjoyed working closely with the children and will be missed by staff and children. Joan’s last day will be next Wednesday.

Special Prayers

Please keep the Platts family in your prayers as Leah’s brother Jason (uncle of Grace (4LD) and Ava (KOR) is very unwell in hospital.

Please keep the Watson family in your prayers, as Millie’s (2D) grandfather passed away last night; the father of Richard Watson and father-in-law of Mrs Kath Watson, who previously worked in our Library and as a relief teacher, and grandfather to Nicholas and Alex, former St Monica’s students.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord

End of Year & Giving Mass

Our end of year Mass will be held on Wednesday 3 December at 9:30am. We will be making a presentation to the St Vincent de Paul Conference at this Mass. Everyone welcome.
Nominations for Community Council Executive Membership - Nominations were due back today.

Semester Two Reports
With the end of the year fast approaching the teachers are busy finalising your child’s school reports. The reports will be issued on Monday 8 December. Should you be leaving prior to this date please let you child’s teacher know, as soon as possible, so that I can ensure it is signed off in time. While formal interviews will not be arranged, the teachers will be available once the reports are issued to discuss any concerns you may have. We are currently determining the best afternoon to make available for parents to request an interview if required.

Walkathon News
We made it! Money collected to date from the Walkathon is $16,380. We have a very generous community.

$15000- Pyjama Day + Whole School Movie - Tuesday 16 December

Special Assembly – Tomorrow 12pm-1pm
Walkathon Prize Draw, Writing Awards, Class & Star Awards

Major Prizes – Presented tomorrow commencing at 12.00pm
Mini iPad – Child who raises the most dollars.
Pendo Pad – Lucky draw prize. For every $5 donated a child’s name will be added to the lucky draw prize box.

News from the Library
Please return all library books in Week 8 and 9. The Library will be closed for Stock-take in Week 10. Thank you to the fantastic people who help in the Library and cover books for us. Much appreciated!

P & F Support
On behalf of the staff I would like to thank the Council Executive for approving $3000 of P&F funds for the purchase of reading material for Years 3 to 6, in preparation for 2015. The books and resources look fabulous.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal
Thank you, to all those who have already sent items in for the Christmas Hampers. Donations will be gratefully accepted up until Friday 12 December. This vital appeal provides Christmas supplies for those families and people in our parish that are struggling in many ways this Christmas season.

St Vincent de Paul Society has requested non-perishable food items such as celebration food eg. shortbread, plum puddings, mince pies, special biscuits, tinned ham, tinned vegetables, beetroot, pineapple, fruit salad, fruit cakes, drinks. Many thanks for your generosity at this time.

Billy G’s Gourmet Cookie Dough Fundraiser
The scheduled day for pick-up of orders is Tuesday 9 December 2014.

Students Leaving St Monica’s
Please advise immediately if you are moving and will not require a place at St Monica’s in 2015. We currently have no vacancies and I have received inquiries from several families wishing to enrol their child/ren next year. Written notification is required.

SMOOSH Program 2015
This is to advise that we currently have no available care places next year on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. We have reached our capacity. Any notes received will be added to a waiting list.

Payment of School Fees is Now Due
As we still have in excess of $160 000 owing in fees I ask that all families finalise their School Fee account immediately. This will ensure we can settle our accounts by 17 December. Families paying by Direct Debit should also check that current payments will ensure fees are paid in full by the end of the year.

School Fees Information
We have designed a calculation sheet to assist you in setting up a Direct Debit arrangement to pay your 2015 school fees. Simply enter the number of children you will have attending St Monica’s in the applicable white box and the sheet will break down the yearly cost into pay periods for you. There are simple explanations in small text boxes to the right of the sheet to help you.

The calculation sheet can be accessed via the school website, under Publications, Fee Related Information. There are simple instructions on the website regarding how to open the worksheet. To enter information into the worksheet you will be prompted to enter a password which is monica. We trust this will be a valuable tool to assist families in meeting their school fees commitments. Please contact Allison Walsh at the school office should you experience any difficulties using the worksheet.

School Magazine Sponsorship – Final Call
As the year is drawing to a close we are seeking the support of local businesses to advertise in our annual School Yearbook. Our Yearbook contains photos, events and stories from our students and staff and is a wonderful pictorial representation of the year. The St Monica’s Yearbook is distributed to over 370 families within the school community, in the Belconnen Area, at the end of each school year.

To help subsidise printing costs we are seeking sponsorship from businesses in the form of advertising. If you or anyone you know would like to advertise in our 2014 Yearbook please email your advertisement (PDF) or phone the school if you require more information.

Advertising in our school yearbook (All prices are GST Inclusive).

Details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside Back Cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inside Front Cover</td>
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<td>Inside Back Cover</td>
<td>A4 $250.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Half Page</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Page</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The 2014 yearbook will be sent out the week beginning 15 December.

Deadline for inclusion is Friday 28 November 2014.
All advertisements need to be in electronic form - PDF please. Another option is through financial sponsorship where your business name will be listed with other businesses that have provided financial support.

If you require further information please do not hesitate in contacting Allison Walsh at allison.walsh@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Qkr™ School Payments
St Monica’s Primary School is moving with the times! We are excited to announce that we are introducing the Qkr™ (pronounced – Quicker) app to make your life easier. Qkr™ is a FREE app to enable mobile payment for school-based accounts in order to save parents time. The app enables parents to use their smartphones to pay for School Fees, Excursions and other items such as Year 6 Leadership Shirts, Walkathon donations etc. This will alleviate the issue of parents having to give their children cash or credit card details to carry to school. In time we will be expanding the items available on Qkr™ for the convenience of parents. For those without access to a smart phone, a web-based version of Qkr™ will be available soon.

Although the app is a MasterCard initiative, it enables payment from most financial institutions and major credit cards with Safe and Secure MasterCard Technology. For more information refer to the accompanying flier with this newsletter. We are currently in the process of adding additional information to our Website under Publications.

Year 5 Committee meeting for Year 6 Graduation
Preparations are well underway for the Year 6 graduation. If you are a Year 5 parent and you would like to help, the committee is meeting this Friday at 2:30pm in the staff room. We would love to see you there.

KidsMatter - Mental health and learning

Children who experience multiple stressors – such as family breakdown, lack of academic success, parental mental illness, bullying, parental substance abuse, living in poverty or experiencing racism – are more likely to develop emotional or behavioural problems that can continue to affect their mental health into adulthood.

Currently in Australia nearly one in five people are affected by a mental illness in any one year, and the effects of mental illness are felt across our nation.

It is not always possible to predict which children will develop mental health difficulties, so programs need to target all children, with support ranging from teaching skills for emotional wellbeing to specific mental health interventions. It is now recognised that at least one in seven children will have significant mental health difficulties with serious associated problems at some time during their childhood.

Landscaping Plans for 2015
With our car park now complete I am hope to call on the help of parents to assist with landscaping ideas and suggestions for the gardens at the front of the school and around our new playground. Ideas most welcome.

With our janitor currently on sick leave we have several areas across the front of the school and around the hall that need weeding etc. If there are any parents happy to spare an hour or two please let me know and I can assign an area requiring TLC.

Canteen News
The canteen will be closed for lunch orders on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 December. The only lunch orders available on Monday 15 December is the Special Lunch Order. Parents will be informed in Week 9 as to whether or not the canteen will be open for window sales in Week 10 Monday-Wednesday.

Kinder Nativity Photos 2013
Are there any Year 1 parents who have 2013 Kinder Nativity Photos that they could email through for our School Magazine. Please email photos to gemma.francis@cg.catholic.edu.au by Monday 1 December 2014.

God Bless

Carmel Maguire
Principal

Looking for a Fundraising Coordinator
The Community Council are seeking a Fundraising Coordinator to plan and assist with our fundraising ventures in 2015. The Fete, Trivia Night and the Walkathon have their own coordinators so don’t think this is an onerous role! The Fundraising Coordinator works with a small committee of volunteers and prepares a Fundraising Plan for the school year to ensure our fundraising ventures are evenly spaced out. The Fundraising Coordinator liaises with the Coordinators of the Mothers' and Fathers' Day Stalls and assists with rallying volunteers and organising trestle tables and floats if necessary. The Fundraising Coordinator generally ensures that our fundraising ventures run smoothly. Our current Fundraising Coordinator is happy to do a hand-over with our new volunteer and will pass over a folder filled with ideas for fundraisers and can provide templates of documents as well.

Advent
The Church year begins this weekend with the commencement of the season of Advent- four weeks leading up to Christmas. This year there will be a Jesse Tree in the school corridor. The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus’ birth. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

The following is an excellent website if you are looking for some quiet reflection or faith based ideas to help your family prepare for the Birth of Jesus.

http://www.loyolapress.com/liturgical-year-advent.htm
Christmas Second Rites of Reconciliation
The dates for Second Rites of Reconciliation are as follows
Thursday, 11 December, St Vincent’s Church Aranda at 7.30pm.
Tuesday, 16 December, St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood at 7.30pm.

The winning poetry entry by Rachael T

The Mountains of Dragons
Early each morning the birds just awake,
The sky lights up over the lake.
But this lake is different, much different indeed,
Because there’s a mountain where dragons succeed.

Once every week a new dragon does hatch,
All different colours that so no two will match.
From lavender purple to emerald green,
They’re the most beautiful colours that you’ve ever seen.

Born with the colour of orangey fire,
Her eyes do shine like well-polished wire.
You’d find her name is uniquely bizarre,
She uses it well it is Ameethia
She flies by day and at night she protects
Destroying the enemy with amazing effects.
Her name means warrior, you might find it strange,
I’d name her Sunstrike – though her name couldn’t change.
She’s known for her stealth and her courage in battle,
The farmers work hard ‘cause she loves to steal cattle.
She does this for fun but also for food,
If you try to retrieve it you will be pursued.
All dragons can breathe deep down in the water
The youngsters use fish as they practise the slaughter.

Many have tried to defend their home town
Then the youngsters take charge and the village burns down.
And before we do know it the world is no more;
Then the dragons vanish with an Earth-shattering roar.

Princess
Perfect
Royal
Important
Nice
Castle
Exciting
Smart
Sparkle

by Mary D-H (KS)

Mrs Hind Is on the Floor!
1,2,3,4 Mrs Hind is on the floor!
5,6,7,8 Teacher gone let’s celebrate!

On Monday the 12th of October 2014, on a boring day of school, I walked into the library to find that Mrs Hind had fallen asleep on the floor!

The first idea that popped into my head was to … Pick her up and lock her away! I know it sounds crazy but imagine all the fun the kids would have trashing the halls and making BIG messes and doing whatever we want! And no other teachers would be able to stop us because there ARE no other teachers at this school. And with no teachers, I thought it wouldn’t be too hard for me to control only … 1,2,3,4… 50 kids!

So because I’m such a nice class mate and I knew that not having a teacher would make everyone happy, I did pick Mrs Hind up and locked her in a wheelie bin so she could keep sleeping! After I had locked her away I walked up to the PA microphone and put an announcement over saying “Hey kids, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT! There are no teachers in charge!!!”

As soon as I walked down the hallway I heard a stampede of Year Three’s singing… “Teacher’s gone, let’s celebrate! Teacher’s gone, let’s celebrate”. I was thinking to myself, this sounds like a broken record!

Then when I went to check on the Kindys and Year Ones I found that they had found some paint and started to paint our classrooms! I said “What are you doing?”, and their excuse was “We thought they needed a bit more colour.” I guess they were right.. And then I
just found more and more terribly horrible mistakes that more and more kinds had made!

I started to think to myself “What have I done? I need Mrs Hind!” So I raced out to the wheelie bin just before the rubbish truck got there! I wheeled it inside and gently pulled Mrs Hind out. I then quickly called the Cat in the Hat to come and clean the awful mess up with his cleaning machine. He arrived at the school in 10 seconds and believe it or not he cleaned the entire school in 5 seconds!! I had just woken up Mrs Hind when the Cat in the Hat picked all the kids up and put them at their desks. Mrs Hind woke up sleepy complaining about having a horrendously terrible nightmare about being locked up in a stinky smelly rubbish tip for a whole day! I told her that I had no idea what she was talking about and all the kids giggled quietly.

In the end we all got the mark A in our report for cleanliness and it all ended well. I even got to become best friends with the Cat in the Hat. That afternoon when I went home I told my parents what had happened, and of course, they didn’t believe me. I had no idea what I was talking about.

by Lara Mc (3RG)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindy</th>
<th>Scarlett Mc</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Harrison P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Claudia G, Cooper B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Lachlan G, Rose M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Lee K, Caitlin R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A lovely poem Miss Kenniff wanted to share

My Me Poem – by Charlie O (3K)
My name is Charlie, I go to school.
I like swimming, inside a pool.
My friends name is Tyler, who really likes fire.
My brother’s name is Joe, who claims he’s not a liar.
Now we speak of Lauren, who’s nickname is smurfette.
She is actually quite clever and she thinks that she’s a vet.
Now meet Patrick, he’s kind in every way.
But I guess that now it’s finished and, well – off you pop!

Parenting Ideas – Michael Grose
This year we have taken out a subscription with Parenting Ideas.
Our subscription gives us access to a range of Parent Tip Sheets and the Parenting Ideas Magazine. Please visit our Website under the Publications tab – Parenting Ideas.
for access to material uploaded to date.

Community Council Email Address
Council Email Address – this was established to allow parents to let us know areas of concern that they feel need addressing. As a Community Council we can only represent you if we know what is on your mind and as many of the council and you work, this address is just another avenue of contact.
Council.StMonicas@catholic.edu.au
The email will be checked regularly by Louise Dykes, Council Executive Secretary. We look forward to hearing from you.

CAKCEEN CORNER

| CANTEEN CAPERS | 6258 4687 (c) |
|                | 6259 7240 (h) |
Samantha Manning: |

Flexi Schools online ordering system is available for placing lunch orders. New to Flexi Schools – If your child has a lunch wallet you can select the option on the menu so a paper bag is not required.

The Roster for Term 4, Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early 9:15am - 11:45am</th>
<th>Late 11:30am - 2:30pm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/12/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Sonia Musolino</td>
<td>June Manning</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/12/14</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
<td>Assunta Tammaro</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12/14</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Lisa Simpson</td>
<td>Jan Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/12/14</td>
<td>Wilma Hird</td>
<td>Marie Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tanya Bridges</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please Keep In Mind:
* Help needed with the above VACANCIES.
~ Swap your shift if you can’t make your rostered day.
New faces greatly appreciated at any time.
Thank you - Samantha Manning

GENERAL COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme
The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide ACT residents on low incomes with financial support for students in Years 7-10. Application forms are available online at http://www.det.act.gov.au/schooleducation/starting.

Questacon – Holiday Workshops
There are full day and half day workshops being held at Questacon in January 2015. Full day workshops on 12 & 13 January are for 3D Design and Rockets, half day workshops on 14-16 January are for Enginuity, Building Robots and Mousetrap Racers. For registration and more information please phone 1800 889 995 or email bookings@questacon.edu.au.

Pro Tennis Hits Canberra
Canberra Velocity is hosting 2 rounds of the Asia Pacific Tennis League on the 6-7 December at the Canberra Tennis Centre, Riggall PI, Lyneham. The matches will feature internationally ranked tennis players with the team playing at 1pm Saturday and 10am Sunday. There will also be community activities from 10am-
2pm each day including the Australian Open Trophies (Saturday only), Hit the target competitions, speed serve, and ANZ Tennis Hot Shots. Entry and all activities are free.

A message from Brett Lee

We’re delighted to be running the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon in this, its 17th year. We’re proud of the fact that it’s the biggest event series of its kind in the world and even more so that it helps our own kids stay active and healthy.

The greatest challenges facing our kids today are obesity and mental health issues. Every year the research we do with parents confirms that around 91% of all kids’ self-esteem is improved as a result of participating in a Kids TRY event.

Kids TRYathlon is coming to Canberra on the 15th of February 2015! The kids tell me it’s one of the best days they’ve ever had so if you haven’t given it a TRY yet, you really should. My fellow TRY Hero ambassadors and I particularly enjoy giving every child a gold medal and seeing the big smiles on their faces.

Win $5,000 cash for your school

By encouraging students at your school to have their mum or dad register them to take part in Kids TRYathlon, there are great prizes for schools to win.

If 15 or more students from your school register for your local event, your school has the chance to win some great prizes. There is one major school prize of $5,000 cash towards a healthy initiative plus one of 13 trampolines from Springfree Trampoline valued at over $1,200 each. Furthermore, if you register your school and it has 15 or more participants, you will go in the draw to win a $200 Asics footwear voucher for yourself! There will be 3 Asics vouchers to be won per event.