Valuing Thanksgiving

Thankfulness is being grateful for what you have. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving and being. It is appreciating the little things which happen around you and within your everyday life. It is having a sense of wonder about the beauty of this world. It is being aware of the gifts in your life. We always talk about counting our blessings—let’s do it! Write a list of 100 things you are thankful for. Some might think that is too many. If that is the case, try this: Write down

- 10 living people you are thankful for
- 10 people who have died you are thankful for
- 10 physical abilities you are thankful for
- 10 material possessions you are thankful for
- 10 things about nature you are thankful for
- 10 things about today you are thankful for
- 10 places on earth you are thankful for
- 10 modern-day inventions you are thankful for
- 10 foods you are grateful for
- 10 things about the gospel you are grateful for.

Positive Behaviour Focus

Being respectful

The rule focus for this week is about Being Safe. Being safe means walk on the concrete. When we walk we can see where we are going and where other people are going. When we walk we arrive at our destination without injury to ourselves or others.

A Word from Our Principal

Belonging

Dear Parents

Latest Staffing News

Last week Dana Jarrett accepted a permanent position at St Thomas Aquinas commencing in 2015. Dana has worked at St Monica’s for the past three years. During her time at St Monica’s Dana has supported the development of our initiatives including Literacy Planet, weekend netball, Forward Together and was a staff representative on the Community Council. We wish Dana all the best in her new school.

Last weekend we conducted interviews for our teaching positions. At this stage I am able to announce that both Mrs Monika Richards and Miss Hayley Dix will be returning in 2015.

Staff Farewells

Our assembly to farewell staff leaving St Monica’s will occur on Monday 5 December, commencing at 9.30am in the hall. This will occur in place of our Monday morning assembly.

Year 6 Graduation

Next Tuesday evening the Year 6 children will gather to celebrate their years of primary school with Mass, commencing at 6.30pm, and supper prepared by the Year 5 parents. Year 5 parents may drop off food and donations toward Graduation between 3.10pm and 5.00pm on Tuesday.

Passing of the Light

On Thursday 11 December at 12.15 the Year 6 students will pass on the light of responsibility to the Year 5 students. Parents are welcome to attend.

Dance Fever

Parents keen to see the efforts of our dance fever program are invited to watch the final session of the program in the hall 9.10am – Year 5 & 6, 9.50am Year 3 & 4, 10.30am K-Year 2.

Candy Canes

The custom of giving Candy Canes with Christmas Cards is a lovely gesture. However, we have asked that the students keep the Candy Canes and eat them at home. We have worked hard to become a “healthy school”.

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 Tuesday 9 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.

Baby News

Congratulations to the Lemn family (Hena 1R) on the birth of their baby girl Jamie.
Walkathon News
Prizes Winners
Mini iPad – Rochelle W-K (5/6C)
Pendo Pad – Jeremy S (5E)
Class prizes – Laura G (KM), Tyler N (KS),
Jack R (KOR), Connor L (1D), Alicia Mc (1R), Adrian S (1S),
Bayley A (2R), Riley L (2D), Claudia G (2J), Amy R (3K),
Nicholas H (3F), Ava J (3RG), Elizabeth R (4LD), Anthony R (4M),
Ricky J (5M), Georgina M (5E), Elise H (5/6C), Ben H (6WS),
Ryan W (6B).
Extra prizes – Zali J (KM), Emma T (KOR), Jack R (KOR),
Jade R (5E), Sean B (1S), Olivia W (3F), Zoe K (KM), Sibel C (2D),
Ella S (2J), Ryan U (4LD), Luke B (KM), Franke S (4M),
Gabriel H (1D).

News from the Library
All Library books need to be returned in Week 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!

Giving Mass
Yesterday we celebrated our final whole school Mass. We gave thanks for all the blessings of 2014. Some of the blessings classes selected were: families, friends, classmates, teachers, laughter, community, special times, each other! Many thanks to Fr Warrick, who so graciously, gives of his time and shares his wisdom with us.

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 who are struggling in many ways this Christmas season. Mrs Anne O’Brien was present at our Mass yesterday to receive the hampers on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Mrs O’Brien informed us that they have many more families in need this year and that our contributions make a huge difference! If you have not already sent something in, please consider doing so.

Annual Parent Survey
This year we received 95 parent responses to our survey. A summary of the results are as follows. The Community Council will provide further feedback early in the 2015 school year.
Responses were scored as follows:-
Strongly DISAGREE 0, DISAGREE 1, Neither AGREE nor
DISAGREE 2, AGREE 3, Strongly AGREE 4
The average score for each statement is colour coded for quick reference.
0 to 1.9 2 to 2.9 3 to 4
3.3 This is a good school.
3.3 My child is happy going to this school.
3.3 The school is a safe place for my child.
3.0 My child is getting a good education at this school.
3.1 The staff at this school take an interest in my child.
2.9 There is good communication between the school and home.
3.1 The school website is informative.
3.5 The SKOOLBAG App is useful.
3.2 I know what is happening at the school and coming events.
3.1 I can make contact with my child’s teacher or other staff easily.
2.9 The school responds quickly to my concerns.
3.4 My child’s teacher is approachable.
3.2 The school Principal and other leaders in the school are approachable.
3.2 The school Principal and other leaders in the school are committed to the best possible education for my child.
2.8 Parent - teacher interviews are effective.
2.8 The school report card keeps me informed about my child’s progress at school.
2.9 I am happy with the quality of teaching my child receives.
3.0 This school takes a balanced approach in providing an all-round education.
3.0 The school’s expectations of students are clear.
3.1 The school makes me feel welcome.
3.3 My child’s teacher makes me feel welcome.
3.0 This school is well equipped.
3.1 I am happy with the school’s facilities.
3.1 I am happy with my child’s access to Information Technology (computers and iPads) available through the school.

Number of responses per grade level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment of School Fees is Now Due
As we still have in excess of $130,000 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 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.

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 – Quickier) 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 file 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

Most commonly in primary school-aged children mental health difficulties will present as disruptive behaviour, anxiety and depression. Children who are socially disadvantaged or exposed to multiple highly stressful life events are at considerably higher risk.

Mental health and learning
Good mental health and wellbeing is integral to academic learning. Mentally healthy students arrive at school ready to learn and are more likely to achieve academic success. They are more motivated learners, have fewer behavioural problems, and show greater commitment to their schoolwork. They are also more likely to experience success after primary school, with a greater likelihood of graduating and better prospects for constructive employment.

Conversely, poor mental health reduces students’ ability to learn and can lead to school failure and drop out. Academic failure has lasting consequences, as the failure to learn in school limits a person’s chance to succeed in the future.

Schools are more likely to achieve goals related to learning and academic success when students’ mental health and wellbeing is prioritised and addressed with the same enthusiasm as numeracy or literacy. Schools that promote mental health are also more likely to engage more productively with their community members, reduce student behavioural issues and achieve higher levels of staff satisfaction.

Governor General’s Sports Fun Day
Tomorrow 20 students from Years 3 to 5 have been selected to attend the Governor General’s Sports Fun Day. The Governor General’s aim is for the day to be an opportunity to actively enjoy sport and have fun, and to encourage and support fitness and healthy lifestyles for children, inclusion and ‘having a go’. The children will participate in a range of activities with representatives on the day from various sporting organisations including AFL/NSW, Canberra Raiders, Australian Touch Football, Softball ACT, Tennis ACT, Capital

Football (soccer), Little Athletics ACT, UC Brumbies, Cricket Australia, Netball Australia, Volleyball ACT and Hockey ACT. These organisations will run workshops and drills to teach children the basic rules and techniques of their respective sports. Thank you to the many parents who offered to drive the students and assist with supervision on the day.

Landscaping Plans for 2015
With our car park now complete I am hoping 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.

School Banking
Next Monday will be the last day of School Banking for the year. Special thanks to Helene Tewari for her time and effort as Banking Coordinator for the past 5 years. Nyree Watts will be the Banking Coordinator from 2015 onwards.

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

Billy G’s Gourmet Cookie Dough Fundraiser – Cookie Dough Delivery – Tuesday 9 December – Please pick up your orders from Canteen Windows at 3pm. If you are unable to pick up your order on Tuesday, please contact Felicity Magnusson on 0409 657 955 to organise an alternative pick up time.

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.
RE NEWS

An Advent Prayer
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. As we light the candles of this wreath may its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son so that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

PARISH NEWS

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.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>12.30pm-1pm</td>
<td>Prayer Time 5E &amp; Values Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Yr 6 Daramalan Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>6.30pm-9.30pm</td>
<td>Graduation Mass – Yr 6 &amp; Presentation of Certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Year 6 Fun Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AWARDS, PRIZES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Lucija P</td>
<td>Sarah S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Isabella C</td>
<td>Samuel J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Zali J</td>
<td>Laura G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Connor L</td>
<td>Jessica K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Gabrielle C</td>
<td>Natalie L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Mackenzie B</td>
<td>Jaidah T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Daniel Mc</td>
<td>Anyieth A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2J</td>
<td>Paul S</td>
<td>Annie W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Matthew P</td>
<td>Brooke M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3K</td>
<td>Charlotte J</td>
<td>Grace F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3F</td>
<td>Holly W</td>
<td>Nicholas H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3RG</td>
<td>Johnny R</td>
<td>Rose M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Charlotte F</td>
<td>Franko S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4LD</td>
<td>Coby W</td>
<td>Connor S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Nicholas D</td>
<td>Ryan C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5E</td>
<td>Jacob C</td>
<td>Jessica H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>Caitlin R</td>
<td>Holly O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Timothy G</td>
<td>Joshua C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6WS</td>
<td>Hannah K</td>
<td>Emily M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M&M Star Medallions – Skyla L (KS), Archie E (KS), Lilli P (6B), Luke W (KM), Sebby D (1S), Dimi T (5/6C), Rachael T (6B), Charlotte M (6B), Olivia C (6B), Erin C (6B), Jack M (6B), Hayden S (6B)

Chris Mechem from 5E travelled to Penguin Tasmania to compete at the National Athletics competition. The four day competition was extremely competitive and of high calibre. Chris ran a PB and finished with a ranking of 9th in the 200mtr. He ran the 100mtr and qualified 4th fastest for the finals with a PB. He finished the 100mtr qualified 8th at Australian Primary Schools. He recorded the best results for all ACT 10yrs boys. In the team event mixed 200mtr relay won a third place. Chris started his quest at St Monica’s athletics carnival, qualified for Belconnen zone, then qualified for ACT and then was selected for Nationals in Tasmania.

Sport Leaders 2015
Congratulations to the following children elected by the students and staff to lead their Sporting team in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Vice Captain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mugga</td>
<td>Jeremy S</td>
<td>Claire O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirri</td>
<td>Thomas I</td>
<td>Ellie B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buru</td>
<td>Josh G</td>
<td>Rebekah N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walga</td>
<td>Cameron H</td>
<td>Indya S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Badges will be issued at a special ceremony next year.

Awards to be presented at the final assembly on Monday 14 December commencing at 12.00pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musicorp</td>
<td>Hayden S (6B), Rachael P (6WS), Liam S (6B), Olivia A (6B), Sam Mc (6WS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rostrum Awards</td>
<td>Announce on the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Representatives</td>
<td>Currently formulating this list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Year 2 | Jorja J
Year 3 | Brynn F
Year 4 | Samuel V
Year 5 | Leah F, Claire O, Ricky J

Parenting Ideas – Michael Grose
This year we have taken out a subscription with Parentingideas. Our subscription gives us access to a range of Parent Tip Sheets and the Parentingideas 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@cgi.catholic.edu.au
The email will be checked regularly by Louise Dykes, Council Executive Secretary. We look forward to hearing from you.
Canteen Capers

6258 4687 (c)
6259 7240 (h)

Children can now order lunch online! To do this, go to Flexi School website. If you can’t make up your mind quickly, you can order lunch for the next week online. The school will then confirm the order on the Friday before the lunch is served. The online order is not required to be placed by 9:30 am each Monday. The deadline for orders placed by phone is 9:30 am each Monday.

Special Lunch Orders are due back in tomorrow for End of Year Lunch. The canteen will be closed for lunch orders in Week 9. The only lunch orders available will be Special Lunch Order on Monday 15 December. Parents will be informed in Week 9 as to whether or not the canteen will be open for window sales in Week 10, Monday to Wednesday.

The Roster for Term 4, Week 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early 9:15am - 11:45am</td>
<td>Late 11:30am - 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 8/12/14</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 9/12/14</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 10/12/14</td>
<td>Sonia Musolino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 11/12/14</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Houle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 12/12/14</td>
<td>Natalie Larkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paulina Climan</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/school/financial-assistanceforfamilies. If you require further information please telephone 6205 8262.

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 Engineering, 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, Rigcall 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 into the draw to win a $200 Asics footwear voucher for yourself! There will be 3 Asics vouchers to be won per event.
LiteracyPlanet delivers digital literacy content in a fun and motivating way meaning that children spend more time learning necessary literacy skills. We cover reading, spelling, grammar and comprehension.

With over 15,000 exercises to play, children are rewarded for learning! Join thousands of other Australian students who love learning with LiteracyPlanet!

Children can advance at their own pace, so whether they're at the top of the class or looking to improve, LiteracyPlanet can help.

We'd love for you to explore our brand new quest home account program!* We have a special offer for parents of students at St. Monica's Primary School. If you sign up for a home account, we will give you a special 25% discount on your subscription! Go to www.literacyplanet.com/at_home and enter the below promo code:

**MON25**

*Points from your child's LiteracyPlanet school account can be transferred to your home account, so you won't lose any of the points or credits your child has earned already!

**Sign up today at literacyplanet.com!**

"Our girls love LiteracyPlanet. I have to put a timer on so they still have to finish their other homework!"

T. Lemasurier - Parent