The year is off and running. Our new staff and students have all settled in and are looking forward to the year ahead. Over the coming weeks, to help families get to know our staff, I will publish photos of the various teams that make up our wonderful school.

Meet Our Kindergarten Team

Mrs Lynne Sydney (KS)

Mrs Bridgette McCann

Mrs Emma Russell (KM)

Miss Sally Gervink

Mrs Veronica Ellis (KG)

Baby News

Congratulations to Yvette and Rob Rosenfeld on the arrival of their second boy Blake, who arrived during the holidays.

Congratulations to the Alston-Campbell family on the arrival of Clementine, sister to Millie (3/4RG) and Jessamine (1D).

VALUE - Respect

Every child and every adult in St Monica's School is a special gift of God our Father.

Every child and every adult in St Monica's school deserves my respect.

I will do my best to show respect for everyone in my school.

I will cooperate with the children and adults in the school.

I will speak with respect to others.

I will play fair with others.

I will do my best to make others feel good about themselves.

I will treat everyone as I wish to be treated.

Thank you God our Father, for your gifts of people who love and help me.

St Monica, pray for us.

Amen

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOCUS BEING SAFE

Being safe means being sunsmart. We wear our hats at all times when we are outside.

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

COLLABORATION

"When you think about community, collaboration really is part of a community action."

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

- Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Dear Parents

This year we have adopted a theme of collaboration as the focus of all we do. At its best collaboration creates a community working to achieve a common goal through shared practice, knowledge and problems.

Congratulations to Yvette and Rob Rosenfeld on the arrival of their second boy Blake, who arrived during the holidays.

Congratulations to the Alston-Campbell family on the arrival of Clementine, sister to Millie (3/4RG) and Jessamine (1D).
Q&A hour with the Principal – Friday 13 February
To connect with families and promote improved communication I have set aside a number of Friday mornings from 9am – 10am so that parents can drop in for a coffee and chat. The gatherings will be informal and held in the staffroom, little ones are welcome. To gauge interest please let the office staff know if you plan to drop in before next Thursday. Coffee mornings will be advertised regularly in the newsletter.

Parent Information Evenings
To inform parents of new initiatives, policy updates and provide strategies to support your child at home, the teachers will be hosting a series of Parent Information Sessions. These evenings are a crucial way in which we communicate with parents. I look forward to your attendance. Location to be advised.

| Kinder  | Monday 16 Feb | 7.00pm |
| Year 1  | Tuesday 17 Feb | 6.30pm  |
| Year 2  | Tuesday 17 Feb | 7.30pm  |
| Year 3 & 4 | Wednesday 18 Feb | 7.00pm |
| Year 5 & 6 | Thursday 19 Feb | 7.00pm |

School Fees
Tomorrow a fee statement will be sent to all families who have not finalised their 2014 school account. This will also include those families paying via regular payments. Our records indicate we have $80,000 still owing. Families are required to settle their 2014 accounts immediately. Should this be an issue please contact the Principal to discuss payment options. The 2015 accounts will be sent home in Week 3.

Japanese Visitors
Unfortunately our Japanese visitors will not be coming in March. Due to the incident that occurred in Sydney last year, the parents have elected not to proceed for safety reasons. While this is very sad news I can understand a parent’s decision. Thank you to the many families who had offered to billet a Japanese student.

Japanese Assistant
This year we welcome a new Japanese teaching Assistant from the beginning of the year and for two terms. Her name is Momona Akira. You can call her Momo for short if you like and the children will call her Akira Sensei. She is a lovely girl, quiet but with good English skills. Should any of our families like to invited her into their home for a meal or a family outing please speak to Mrs Anne Hodgkin, our Japanese teacher. In this way she will get to see many different aspects of life in Australia.

Reminders & important information
Starting time is 9.00am sharp. Avoid arriving late as it is very disruptive to the classroom routine. Students arriving after this time must be signed in at the Front Office by an adult. Supervision commences at 8.30am and NO STUDENT should be at school before 8.30am. Students arriving before 8.30am are unsupervised unless they are enrolled into SMOOSH. Teacher supervision concludes at 3.30 pm. At all times outside school hours, the school grounds are not formally supervised and no responsibility will be taken by the school for any consequences of the activities of pupils outside these hours. Special arrangements will be made in relation to authorised school activities which require attendance of pupils at the school outside these hours.

We have several access points for our afternoon dismissal.
- Children going to SMOOSH or catching a designated school bus are to assemble in the Kindergarten play area.
- Parents who park on the basketball court or hall car park are to walk down to meet their children in the assembly point at the end of the school building. Please supervise your child/ren carefully when walking between cars.
- Children who are picked up from Chomley Street (at the back of the oval) are to assemble in the courtyard. Parents can either walk across to meet their child/ren or wait for the supervising teacher to walk the children across the oval to the carpark.
- Children who walk via the underpass are to wait for the supervising teacher near the Yr 3 – 6 play equipment.
- No child should be picked up under the trees near the entry to the staff car park.
- Parents should refrain from waiting in the building at the end of the day as it can get very congested at bell time.

Correct School Uniform is to be worn at all times. Coloured shoelaces should be avoided in sport shoes. Clarification regarding girls socks – white socks with summer uniform. White or navy socks with navy shorts.

If a student’s hair is longer than shoulder length, it must be tied back in an appropriate school coloured band. Hair should also be of natural colour and cut in an appropriate style for school.

No jewellery should be worn to school and only plain studs and watches are acceptable. No bracelets, bangles, sparkly earrings, nail polish, make up, etc is allowed.

Students with Mobile Phones or electronic devices are asked to send their phone to the Office via the classroom message bag each day. Phones will be confiscated if seen during the day and returned at the end of the day.

A child’s absence must be followed by a note indicating the date, reason for absence. I strongly recommend parents make use of the notification facility found on our school app. This is sent directly to the school office email address where we print out for our school records. Emails are also acceptable. Class Rolls are checked each morning by 9.10am and again at 3.00pm. Rolls are a legal document and must accurately reflect a child’s reason for non-attendance

Parents visiting the school to assist are to sign in/out at the Front Office and receive a Visitors badge. All volunteers must hold a WWVP Card, displayed in a visitor’s lanyard.

Please ensure that the School always has up to date contact and emergency details for your children.

No child should be on the school equipment before or after school during staff supervision time. In the interest of safety this includes all non-school aged children as well.
Nut Free School
St Monica’s is a nut free school. We have a number of children who do suffer severe anaphylactic reactions to contact with any nut products. Could I ask that you please make sure that NO products containing nuts be sent to school. It will mean that you will have to check the ingredients of particularly packaged foods to ensure they do not contain nuts. Also, please do not send sandwiches with peanut butter or nut spreads on them. This is a serious matter because for some of our children contact with these products can be life threatening.

New Student Emails
Only Year 5 & 6 students currently have access to a special email account, coordinated by the Catholic Education Office. To protect the security of personal emails children should be reminded not to share their passwords.

Swimming Carnival
Our swimming carnival is booked for Friday 20 February. Please include the date in your calendar as we need your assistance on the day. Children from Year 3 – 6 attend and competent 8yr old children who can swim 100 metres. Information will be sent home tomorrow and will be available on the website.

Year 5 & 6 Camp
Next Wednesday, our Years 5 & 6 students and teachers will be heading to Cooba, an outdoor Education Centre north of Cooma. Having visited Cooba on several occasions I know the children will have a fabulous time. A final note was sent home with the children today.

Qkr!™ School Payments
St Monica’s Primary has introduced 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, Walkathons 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!™ is now available at https://qkr.mastercard.com/store. Although the app is a MasterCard initiative, it enables payment from most financial institutions and major credit cards with Safe and Secure MasterCard Technology.

St Monica’s School App
Our School has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name "St Monica’s Primary Evatt" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

Set the App alert to advise when new messages are pushed out. Use the special features in the App to advise when you change your contact details or to notify the school when your child is absent. School events and the newsletter are also available via the App.

As children are changing grades please ensure you change the grade levels on your phones for alerts.

Parents can receive the newsletters, notes and alerts currently uploaded to our School App via email. To activate this service please log into our school webpage and click the blue ‘subscribe for email’ button on the Skoolbag noticeboard. Select the messages you would like to receive via email and submit.

Contact Details
A reminder to families to update phone details if you have changed your place of work or mobile number. This will ensure staff can contact parents in an emergency. This can be done via our school app, via email or telephone the office.

Arriving Late to School
In the event of your child arriving to school after the morning bell it is a requirement that a child be signed in by an adult. Children should not be signing themselves in.

School Banking
School Banking will begin next Monday afternoon (Week 2).

Extra Curricular Activities
Chess - Expression of interest
Sydney Academy of Chess is looking at running chess coaching at your son/daughter’s school, St Monica’s Primary School. The classes will be held once per week.

Chess is a valuable activity for children, developing their logical thinking skills, concentration and discipline, as well as being a source of much enjoyment!

What better way to combine learning and fun!

These classes begin with an interactive lecture by one of our experienced coaches. During the second half of the lesson children play games against each other, putting newly learned strategies into practice. As the term progresses and the children become proficient in all the basics, the lectures will move on to more complex ideas such as strategy, middle game ideas and chess technique.

The cost for the coaching is $7 per child per lesson. There are approximately 8-10 lessons during each term.

If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity, please complete the attached note and return immediately.
In School Music Tuition
This year in school tuition lessons between 9am - 3:00pm will only be offered to children in Year 2 and above. This decision was made as the Year 1 teachers found it very disruptive to their programs with children coming in and out at various times during prime teaching time. I trust you will accept this educational decision.

Book Club
Book Club Issue 1 pamphlets will be sent home today (K, 1 & 2) and tomorrow (Yrs 3–6). All orders are due back to school by Thursday 19 February 2015. To make it easier for parents we have set up with Scholastic a new ordering and payment system called LOOP. Please refer to flyer that is attached to book club pamphlet.

God bless
Carmel Maguire
Principal

RE NEWS

Welcome back to the new school year. This morning we celebrated our Opening School Mass. Fr Warrick spoke to us about each of us has a role to play in building our school community. Thank you, Fr Warrick, for the loving way that you speak to us and encourage us to follow Jesus’ example.

Our theme this year is collaboration. We will all need to work hard, listening to, sharing with, encouraging each other as a community during the term ahead. One special quote that I have come across in researching collaboration is this one by Helen Keller “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”. I hope this inspires you to reach out to others this following week.

Lent commences on Ash Wednesday
St Monica’s School will attend Mass at 9:30 Wednesday 18 February. All children from Year 1 –Year 6 will receive the Ashes at this Mass. You are most welcome to join us.

St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal
The annual St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal is held in early Lent. Volunteering as a collector might be a way in which you could assist the Society in collecting much needed funds. Do you remember the Project Compassion Boxes from your time at school? Each class will have a box for extra change, unclaimed lost coins or donations during Lent. $5 funds a tray of seedlings for a farmer in Fiji, $20 provided a hygienic water containers for families in Niger.

Sacramental Dates 2015
Sacrament of Eucharist:
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 25 February 2015, 7:00pm.
Home Groups Week: 2 March-6 March
Home Groups Week 2: 9 March-13 March

Preparation Day Wednesday 29 April
First Holy Communion Saturday 2 May and Sunday 3 May 2015.

Sacrament of Confirmation:
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 22 July 2015, 7:00pm.
Parent and Child Evening Wednesday 29 July 7:00pm
Sacrament of Confirmation Tuesday 1 September (6:00pm) 2015
Archbishop Christopher Prowse will confer the sacrament.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: (First Confession)
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 23 September, 2015
7:00pm.

Home groups Week 1: 19 October-23 October
Home groups Week 2: 26 October-30 October
Sacrament of Reconciliation Tuesday 24 November, Wednesday 25 November, Thursday 26 November: 6:00pm-7:30pm

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Feb</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Musicop Lessons Commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13 Feb</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Camps</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Feb</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Kinder Rest Day</td>
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AWARDS, PRIZES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<th>RESPECT</th>
<th>CLASS AWARD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Maeve J</td>
<td>Bella P</td>
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<td>KS</td>
<td>Evan L</td>
<td>Ethan G</td>
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<td>KM</td>
<td>Jesse F</td>
<td>Anthony M</td>
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<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Emma T</td>
<td>Lachlan B</td>
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<td>1M</td>
<td>Tomas G</td>
<td>Darcy B</td>
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<td>1OH</td>
<td>Archie E</td>
<td>Ababelle S</td>
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<td>2R</td>
<td>Ruby S</td>
<td>Jaidah T</td>
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<td>2L</td>
<td>Ryan K</td>
<td>Annie R</td>
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<td>Anjelo F</td>
<td>Elizabeth B</td>
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<td>Lachlan R</td>
<td>Callie W</td>
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<td>3D</td>
<td>Anyieth A</td>
<td>Bridget A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4RG</td>
<td>Claire R</td>
<td>Phoebe W</td>
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<td>4M</td>
<td>Emily C</td>
<td>Charlotte W</td>
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<td>4Mc</td>
<td>Sarah K</td>
<td>Ellen C</td>
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<td>Lochlain K</td>
<td>Dylan R</td>
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<td>5E</td>
<td>Elena S</td>
<td>Joven M</td>
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<td>5/6ED</td>
<td>Angus C</td>
<td>Sophie H</td>
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<td>6F</td>
<td>Emma J</td>
<td>Rebekah N</td>
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<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Luke Mc</td>
<td>Jake T</td>
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M&M Star Medallions –

Softball News
Coby White played for the under 13 boys softball team at Hawker in the Canberra softball carnival on the Australia Day long weekend.

Jessica H – (4MC)
Congratulations to Jessica on her wonderful athletic success during the holiday – a talented athlete.
Happy Birthday to the following children who are celebrating birthdays this week.

| Kinder | Samantha S |
| Year 1 | Elspeth S, Xara G |
| Year 2 | Zoe O, Coco B, Lillian B |
| Year 5 | Tara K |
| Year 6 | Sophie A, Emma J, Laura W, Patrick G, Ebony T |

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_SMonicas@catholic.edu.au
The email will be checked regularly by Louise Dykes, Council Executive Secretary. We look forward to hearing from you.

CANTENE CORNER

CANTENE 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 1, Week 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early</th>
<th>Late</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 9/2/15</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 10/2/15</td>
<td>Jeanette Jobson</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 11/2/15</td>
<td>Sonia Musolin</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 12/2/15</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 13/2/15</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
</tr>
</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

Junior Rugby Union Registration
2015 Meet the Players Day – Sat 7 Feb 10am-1pm at Brumbies HQ. All registered players receive a season pass to all Brumbies home games and an Owls training shirt. You can also register at Southwell Park, Lyneham on Sat 21 Feb 1pm-3pm or anytime online via the Owls club webpage.

Heat Cheerleading
Enrolling now for 2015. Get involved in Australia’s fastest growing sport – learn to jum, stunt, dance and tumble! Heat Cheerleading offers fun and affordable cheerleading classes for boys and girls from 5 yrs to adults, training at Dickson College. For more info call Bronwyn on 0418 620 772 or email info@heatcheerleading.com.

Larissa Dann
parent skills

PARENT EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING (P.E.T)
Supported by Parentline ACT

Communication skills for peaceful parenting and resilient children (without the use of punishment or reward). Helps develop emotional intelligence, and grow confident, considerate children. Powerful, proven and practical. Yell less, enjoy your children more. Build relationships that last a lifetime.
The course consists of three-hour sessions, once per week, for eight weeks. Booking is essential.
$290 pp for the course (investment includes a workbook and textbook).
Course begins: Thursday, 12th February, 2015; Time: 6.30 pm to 9.45 pm; Place: Weston, ACT.

Enjoy P.E.T. with Larissa, Canberra’s most experienced P.E.T. instructor.
0413 451 607 www.parentsskill.com.au info@parentsskills.com.au

School Bus Services
Details of all school and regular bus services are now available on the action
MyWay Cards
We are urging parents and students to check MyWay cards and top up if required. MyWay cards can be topped up automatically using the handy autolode service, online, over the phone via the ACTION and MyWay information line (13 17 10), or in person at Canberra Connect shopfronts and MyWay recharge agents.

Bus Fare Increase
A bus fare increase came into effect on 3 January 2015. Single trip school student MyWay fares are now $1.10 and cash fares are now $2.30. Parents and students can find more information on the Transport for Canberra website or by calling 13 17 10.

Children who train in karate are less likely to be bullied and school work and class behaviour can improve due to karate’s disciplined and respectful training
OKR Karate classes for all the family
no contracts, pay as you go

- Build confidence
- Improve fitness
- Gain self discipline
- Learn self defence

North side classes in:
Evatt
Fraser
Hawson
Holt
O’Connor

other classes: all around Canberra, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Bredbo, Yass
contact Wendy 0406 375 091 wendy okr@gmail.com

Fitness with Purpose: self defence for all ages
Dear Parents,

Sydney Academy of Chess is looking at running chess coaching at your son/daughters school, St Monica’s Primary School. The classes will be held once per week.

Chess is a valuable activity for children, developing their logical thinking skills, concentration and discipline, as well as being a source of much enjoyment! What better way to combine learning and fun!

These classes begin with an interactive lecture by one of our experienced coaches. During the second half of the lesson children play games against each other, putting newly learned strategies into practice. As the term progresses and the children become proficient in all the basics, the lectures will move on to more complex ideas such as strategy, middle game ideas and chess technique.

The cost for the coaching is $7 per child per lesson. There are approximately 8-10 lessons during each term.

If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity, please fill in the form below and return it to the school office by Thursday 5 February.

Thanks and regards,

Sydney Academy of Chess

Expression of Interest
St Monica’s Primary School Chess Classes 2015

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the chess coaching organised by the Sydney Academy of Chess in 2015.

Student’s name ____________________________ Class __________________

Student’s name ____________________________ Class __________________

Parent’s name and signature ____________________________

Contact: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Preferred time

☐ Before School    ☐ Lunchtime    ☐ After School