VALUE - Respect

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.

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

Dear Parents

Inclusion

A PRAYER
Lord, let me be just what they need.
If they need someone to trust, let me be trustworthy. If they need sympathy, let me sympathise. If they need love, (and they do need love), let me love, in full measure.
Let me not anger easily, Lord but let me be just. Permit my justice to be tempered in your mercy.
When I stand before them, Lord, let me look strong and good and honest and loving as I look to them.
Help me to counsel the anxious, crack the covering of the shy, temper the rambunctious with a gentle attitude.
Permit me to teach only the truth. Help me to inspire them so that learning will not cease at the classroom door.
Let the lessons they learn make their lives fruitful and happy.
And, Lord, let me bring them to You. Teach them through me to love You.
Finally, permit me to learn the lessons they teach.
Amen

Our Kindergarten Team

Mrs Lynne Sydney (KS)
Mrs Bridgette McCann (KM)
Mrs Yvette Rosenfeld (KRG)
Mrs Emma Russell (KRG)

St Monica’s Staff

We have had a very busy start to the year. Our new staff and students have all settled in and are looking forward to the year ahead. This year we have adopted a theme of inclusion as the focus of all we do. This will involve shining a spotlight on the way we work with each other, a review of our policies and the implementation of several approaches to ensure we are a vibrant Catholic community that works collaboratively to empower its members to be inclusive learners, custodians and citizens.
Baby News
Congratulations to the Davies family – Marcus (4W) on the arrival of baby Lincoln born 5 January.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.30</td>
<td>8 Monday</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>9 Tuesday</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>4C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30</td>
<td>10 Wednesday</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>11 Thursday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>11 Thursday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The teachers go to great lengths to ensure you are well informed. Please make every effort to attend as this sets the scene for the year and provided you with the opportunity to clarify and ask questions.

Our Brain’s Post-it Note
Working memory is our ability to remember and manage information. The best way to think of working memory is as the brain’s ‘Post-it note’. We make mental scribbles of bits of information we need to remember. In addition to using it to remember information, we also need working memory to process or manage that information as well. Working memory is critical for a variety of activities at school, from complex subjects such as reading comprehension, mental arithmetic, and word problems to simple tasks like copying from the board and navigation around school.

One question I often get asked is whether working memory is the same thing as short-term memory. No, it is not. Here is an example of the difference. Imagine that you are driving to a new school for a meeting. You lose your way and stop at a store to ask for directions. You may repeat the information to yourself over and over again as you walk back to your car so you don’t forget. At this point, you are using your short-term memory to remember the directions. Now you get back inside your car and start driving. As you recite the directions to yourself, you look around and match them to the road names. Is this where you make that right turn? Where do you make that second left? Now you are using your working memory as you are applying or using the information that you were given.

It is much the same in the classroom. When you give a student a set of instructions, they use their short-term memory to repeat it to themselves. However, by the time they get back to their desk and have to carry out the first task in the set of instructions, chances are that if they have poor working memory, they will have forgotten what to do. The process of repeating the information and then carrying out the individual steps relies on working memory. Think of working memory as ‘work’-ing with information to remember. The Try It box gives you an example of a working memory test.

Try It
Read these sentences and decide if they are true or false:
1. Bananas live in water: True or False
2. Flowers smell nice: True or False
3. Dogs have four legs: True or False

Now, without looking at those sentences, can you remember the last word in each sentence in the correct order? If you were able to remember them, congratulate yourself. Your working memory is like that of an average 10-year-old. This test is an example of the Listening Recall test from the Automated Working Memory Assessment. It measures verbal (auditory) working memory. Verbal memory is synonymous with auditory memory. In tests like this, the sentences are presented orally and the student repeats the required information out loud.

Taken from “Improving Working Memory” by T Packiam Alloway

Starting up again - Q&A with the Principal – Monday 15 February between 2.20 – 3.10pm
To connect with families and promote improved communication I have set aside some times 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 by morning tea on Monday 15 February if you plan to drop in. Q&A Coffee sessions will be advertised regularly in the newsletter.

School Fees
Tomorrow a fee statement will be sent to all families who have not finalised their 2015 school account. This will also include those families paying via regular payments. Our records indicate we have $70 000 still owing. Families are required to settle their 2015 accounts immediately. Should this be an issue please contact the Principal to discuss payment options. The 2016 accounts will be emailed out in Week 3. Please ensure your email account details are up to date. Due to pricing and delivery changes with Australia Post accounts will no longer be posted out.

New School Bell and Eating Times
Following a discussion with the staff to provide the optimum learning opportunity for the children we are trialling new bell times for this term. This trial was approved by the Council Executive at the end of last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.25</td>
<td>Playground supervision commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>Warning Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.55</td>
<td>Children line up and move to their classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Classes commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Eating Break 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Eating Break 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>Following a supervised eating time children commence playing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>Warning Bell – Children move to class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Pack Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children have been encouraged to bring two small snacks to sustain them during the longer sessions.
As with all change it may take a little while to get into the routine however many schools are moving in this direction. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Canteen Arrangements - Flexischools

Even though we have changed the bell times the children can still order their lunch through the canteen, to be eaten at the commencement of the second break at 1.30pm. If ordering via Flexischools orders must be processed by 9.00am.

Flexischools lunch orders only on Fridays

Please note – With the limited number of parents now available to assist in our canteen on Fridays, we will only be accepting lunch orders processed via Flexischools. Friday is traditionally the big day when parents opt to order their child’s lunch and we need to find ways to streamline the process for our Canteen Manager. By opting for orders via flexischools this will eliminate the time given to collate manual orders that is very time consuming.

Reminders & important information

Starting time is 8.55am 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 8.25am and NO STUDENT should be at school before 8.25am. Students arriving before 8.25am are unsupervised unless they are enrolled into SMOOISH. Teacher supervision concludes at 3.30 pm. All supervising teachers wear a bright orange vest to be easily identified while on duty.

Outside school hours (8.25am – 3.30pm), 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 SMOOISH or catching a designated school bus are to assemble near the big white gate near 1V.
- Parents who park on the basketball court or hall car park are to walk down to meet their child/ren 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 near the Year 1 & 2 play equipment. 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 are picked up in the car park at Copland, catch the route bus near the high school or 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, please should refrain from waiting in the building at the end of the day as it can get very congested at bell time.

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.

No Drop Off or Parking Zone in Montagu Place

We have been advised by ACT Traffic Police that due to the existing ‘No Stopping’ signage in Montagu Place we are not permitted to use this area as a ‘Stop, Drop & Go’ Zone between 8.30am-9.30am and 3.00pm-4.00pm.

ACT Traffic Police will be monitoring this area.

We remind parents & carers that the Chomley St car park is a great option for dropping off and collecting the children. There are plenty of parking spaces and we have a teacher accompany the children and wait with them until they are collected. Access to the Chomley St car park is via Keenan Street, off Copland Drive. As this is a popular area to park parents are reminded to supervise your children as you walk to the car. Teachers have already raised serious concerns about parental supervision in the pickup as are the children as they are walked to the car. Please watch you children very closely.

Correct School Uniform is to be worn at all times. While we have relaxed the rule relating to sport shoes children are not permitted to wear the bright fluoro styles to school. 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 ipods 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 off for our school records. Emails are also acceptable. Class Rolls are checked each morning by 9.00am and again at 3.00pm. Rolls are a legal document and must accurately reflect a child’s reason for non-attendance.

Please note

We have currently sold out of our new sport shirts.
Children should not be signing forms. This includes all children suffering a range of allergic reactions. Select the ‘normal’ food at school.

It is in line with our school rule that these children sit in a common area for eating eggs in any form. This year we have a student in Year 1 & 2 who has a severe allergy to eggs. For the safety of the child and to assist our school management we have asked that the Year 1 & 2 children, at this stage, do not bring eggs in any form to school for their lunch or snack time as the children sit in a common area for eating. This includes egg sandwiches, hard boiled eggs or egg salads and mayonnaise which has an egg base. Please note that - eggs when used in the cooking of cakes do not present a concern.

We all agree with the primary message of our Social Wellbeing Program that “Kids Matter.” Please remind your child/ren that they should never share food at school.

This is in line with our school rule - Be Safe!

Swimming Carnival
Our swimming carnival is booked for Friday 19 February. Please include the date in your calendar as we need your assistance on the day. Children from Year 3 – 6 attend and competent Year 2 children who can swim 100 metres. Information will be sent home next week and will be available on the website.

Year 5 & 6 Camp
Our Years 5 & 6 students and teachers will be heading to Cooba, an outdoor Education Centre north of Cooma on Wednesday 9 March and return on Friday 11 March 2016. Having visited Cooba on several occasions I know the children will have a fabulous time. Final payment is due by Friday 26 February 2016.

St Monica's School App

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 to reminders’ button. You will receive a confirmation email from Skoolmail containing a link to activate the service. From there you can select the messages you would like to receive via email and submit.

School Banking
School Banking will begin next Monday afternoon (Week 2). Information packs are available for families interested in this program.

Extra-Curricular Activities - Chess - Expression of interest
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, complete the flier available on the App today.

In School Music Tuition
In school tuition lessons between 8.30am – 3.00pm will only be offered to children in Year 2 and above. This decision has been 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.

Unfortunately we had a change in teacher for our Musicorp program. This year Samuel Thompson will be teaching the children. Music Corp lesson commence next Tuesday. Enrolment for new students will be available next week.

Book Club
Book Club Issue 1 pamphlets will be sent home early next week. Book club provided parents with the opportunity to purchase children’s books at a reasonable cost.

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@cq.catholic.edu.au

The email will be checked regularly by the Council Executive Secretary. We look forward to hearing from you.

God bless

Carmel Maguire
Principal

RE NEWS

Welcome back to the new school year. Tomorrow morning we celebrate our Opening School Mass. You are most welcome to join at 9:30 in the church. We look forward to this special time with Jesus as we pray for God’s blessing on our community for the year ahead.

Our School theme this year is INCLUSION. This theme dovetails beautifully with The Year of Mercy which Pope Francis declared last year. In term one the overarching theme for classes is “We are the face of Christ” Who will you show the face of Christ to today and in the week ahead? A quote which I found particularly inspiring follows below.

“We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion.”

— Max de Pree

Archbishop Christopher will concelebrate Mass with Fr Loi at St Monica’s on Saturday night. You are most welcome to attend.

Lent commences on Ash Wednesday: St Monica’s School will attend Mass at 9:30 Wednesday 10 February. All children from Year 1 –Year 6 will receive the Ashes at this Mass. You are most welcome to join us.

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? This year Project Compassion celebrates fifty years since its first campaign. 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 2016
Sacrament of Eucharist:
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 24 February 7:00pm, School Library
Home Groups Week 1: 29 February- 4 March
Home Groups Week 2: 7 March- 11 March
Preparation Day Wednesday 27 April
First Holy Communion Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May 2016.

Sacrament of Confirmation:
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 20 July 7:00pm. School Library
Parent and Child Evening Thursday 11 August 7:00pm School Library
Sacrament of Confirmation Tuesday 7 September (6:00pm)
Fr Tony Percy Vicar General will confer the sacrament.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: (First Confession)
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 12 October, 7:00pm.
School Library
Home groups Week 1:17 October- 21 October 28
Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 16 November St Monica’s Church.

AwardS, prizes and achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>CLASS AWARD Thoughtfulness &amp; Manners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Faith K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KMR</td>
<td>Sophie B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRG</td>
<td>Indiana H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Scarlett B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1V</td>
<td>Holly F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10H</td>
<td>Mia M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2S</td>
<td>Cooper W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2L</td>
<td>Giorgia M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Sarah R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3R</td>
<td>Gabrielle C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Samuel G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4RG</td>
<td>Sophie T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Patrick E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Daniel Mc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Halle F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5E</td>
<td>Hannah B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Tara K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6M</td>
<td>Riley K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Ben Mc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Happy Birthday to the following children who are celebrating birthdays this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Luca C, Blake M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Samantha S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Elspeth S, Xara G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Dominic C, Zoe O, Coco B, Lillian B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Ryan C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Brooke A, Tara K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPOTTING NEWS**

It is that time of year when many families are making decisions regarding a sporting activity for their child/ren. To help families we will make this a regular feature each week.

At St Monica’s we encourage and support participation in a number of sports. If you are involved in a sporting club and would like to welcome new teams or individuals, please provide details to be published in future newsletters to help current and new families with sport selection.

**Netball:**
The registration process for the 2016 Winter season is about to commence. We usually have St Monica’s based teams from Year 2 to Year 6 which are affiliated with various local clubs. If you would like further information, please contact one of the following (depending on what grade your child is in).

- **Comets Netball Club** is a local netball club in Canberra’s northside. It caters for mostly students from St Monica’s in the age group of 7 (turning 8) to 12 year olds. Registration for this coming season is on Friday 19/2 from 3 - 4pm outside the canteen near the window and on Saturday 20/2 from 9 - 11am on the blacktop. Registration fees are $170 for the season, plus a small fee each week for umpires for the season. The season starts with grading on Saturday 19/3 and finishes with Grand Finals in September. For any enquiries please email cometsnetballclub@yahoo.com.au.

**Year 4 Netball** – we currently have a number of girls interested in joining the Ginninderra Netball Club (GNC) and would welcome any new players. Please contact Antonella Lukic on 0433 873 707 or Marita Whitfield on 0447 517 557.

**Rugby League:** TBA
**Oztag:** TBA
**Soccer:** TBA
**AFL:** TBA

**CANTEEN CORNER**

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></th>
<th>Early 9:15am - 11:45am</th>
<th>Late 11:30am - 2:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 8/2/15</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 9/2/15</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 10/2/15</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 11/2/15</td>
<td>Anne Carew</td>
<td>June Manning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 12/2/15</td>
<td>Jenny Fulivai</td>
<td>Wilma Hird</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you - Samantha Manning- 62584687

**GENERAL COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**Merici College** invites you to their 2016 International Women’s Day Dinner with guest keynote speaker Amy Coombe – Wednesday 9 March 6pm for 6.30pm. The event will be held in the Bridges Restaurant with a three course menu and welcome drink provided by Yr 12 Hospitality students. Cost $50 pp. BYOG. RSVP to Ros Parisi by Wed 2 March ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au, 62434178. Payment by Fri 4 March, Finance 62434107.

**GKR**

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.

GKR 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:
- Franti
- Harrison
- Holt
- O’Connor

Other classes: all around Canberra, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Bredbo, Yass

Contact Wendy 0406 375 091
wendy.gkr@gmail.com

Fitness with Purpose: self defence for all ages

**Building Confidence through Dance and Friendship**

**New Members Welcome!**

Contact us today for your free lessons
0433 214 324
brindabella.ballets@gmail.com
http://brindabellaballetec.org