Dear Parents,

It was exciting to see everyone dressed up on Friday in the colours of the world to celebrate the Olympics. For many of our students, this will be their only chance to celebrate the Olympics at Primary School. The Olympics provides some great messages for our students to witness especially with everything else happening in the world today. Everyone coming together to celebrate, no matter what race, religion or country you are from and the dedication, passion and hard work that you need to put in to succeed. One Australian athlete said after their race, ‘it’s not about winning, it is about trying to win’, in other words, we need to try our best in all that we do, we need to have the drive to want to succeed, to push through even though things are tough, the end result is not as important as the process getting there. We don’t need a ‘gold medal’ to have self-worth, we need to know that we have tried our best, not given up and played fairly. Great messages for our students not only to transfer to their own sporting or arts events but to learning and life in general.

As we approach the middle of the term, many of our students start to become tired. We have had a busy few weeks of learning where we are encouraging all students to do their best. The second half of the term is often when playground issues become more evident. We would ask you to support us with working with children to firstly, ‘keep the small things small’ and secondly, if there is an issue, to report to a teacher. We all need to take responsibility for our actions and learn from our mistakes. A message we try to instil in our students is that we have no control over other people, we do however have control over the way in which we will respond to a situation. We thank you for continuing to support us in these sometimes, challenging areas.

Prayers

Please keep all those in need in our community in your prayers especially Kai G (5E) who is ongoing more surgery this week and Cooper N (KS) who was in hospital.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Patrick Ellis
Acting Principal

Stewardship is one of the Catholic Social Teaching principles. Stewardship teaches us all to recognise that our world and environment is ever changing and because of this change, we too, must change how we take care of it. Pope Francis has written what we must do in his encyclical Laudato Si: On the Care of Our Common Home. With the change in seasons and weather, it is the perfect time of year to be renewing your garden. What better way to talk to your children about caring for God’s earth. Giving children something to love, care for and look after gives them a sense of pride, especially when they can see the difference they are making and seeing something growing and changing. I will be doing this with my children in the coming weeks. Jay and Emily love choosing what we will grow – even if it means trying to grow watermelons! We discuss how lucky we are to have our own backyard with space for a little vegie patch and what we need to do to look after what we have been given. We all take it in turns to water and weed the garden. Every day we check the seeds for growth and the day we see a shoot popping out of the soil – it is a celebration! Being stewards of God’s creation teaches our children to be nurturing, hardworking and thoughtful care takers.
**The Feast of the Assumption of Mary**

Monday this week was the Feast Day of the Assumption of Mary. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary were taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. Mary’s assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus’ promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. St Monica’s celebrated the feast day on Wednesday with a Whole School Mass. Fr. Loi reminded us in his homily that Mary is mother to us all and takes our prayers to her Son, Jesus.

**St Monica’s Feast Day**

Next weekend is St Monica’s Feast Day. At school we will be celebrating the feast day with a Whole School Mass on Friday 26 August at 9:30 am. All are welcome to come and celebrate with us!

We will be concentrating on how St Monica used the power of prayer in her life. During the week classes will be decorating class prayer boxes. These prayer boxes will be taken home by the children from Week 7 as a way to deepen family prayer. Inside each box will be a small prayer cloth, cross, battery tea light and some prayer cards. When your child brings home the prayer box, you might like to use it to say a prayer giving thanks for a meal or a before bed prayer. If your family has a special prayer that you like to say or you find a prayer you like or even make a pray, please add it to the prayer box! What a great collection of prayers we will have!

Another way we will be following St Monica’s example, is by starting a St Monica’s Prayer Wall. This wall is located next to the ‘Year of Mercy’ and Values wall near Year 2. There will be different prayer focus’ and will be an opportunity to offer any special prayers we might have. Your family might like to write a prayer and pin it on the prayer wall or send it in via the prayer box.

The week will end with the Whole School Mass and buddy activity after mass. At Recess the children will stay with their buddies for a special morning tea. Each child will receive a piece of chocolate cake (or carrot cake if chocolate can’t be eaten). If your child cannot eat the chocolate cake due to allergies or dietary requirements, please contact your child’s teacher by Wednesday 24 August so alternate arrangements can be made.

**Sacrament of Confirmation Dates to Remember**

Preparation Day: Wednesday 31 August

Sacrament of Confirmation: Wednesday 7 September 6pm

**Save the Date:**

St Monica’s Parish will celebrate St Monica’s Feast Day Sunday 28 August at the 10am Mass followed by a multicultural morning tea in St Monica’s school hall.

**Confirmation**

Last week the Year 6 Candidates and their parents attended our Parent and Child evening. It was a wonderful evening together which focused on the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to us by God and we are called upon to share our Gifts with others. When we use our Gifts we see the Fruits of the Holy Spirit coming out. The fruits are the end result of using our Gifts. We explored this concept and watched a small clip from Kung Fu Panda. The scene is where Master Shifu trains Po and we see the change in Po as he uses his gifts and believes in himself. He finally gets the dumpling! Our Year 6 Candidates are like Po. They are preparing to confirm their baptismal promises as adults in the Catholic Church. Just a reminder to parents of candidates. Please remind Sponsors of their very important job they have to do before the preparation day. I have only received one letter in the mail so far. We would like all of them to be here at school by the Confirmation Preparation day to give to the candidates. White confirmation cards are coming in as well – thank you! Please send them in if you haven’t already.

Haley Stonham

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

** checkout the display!**

Step 1: Take a photo of yourself or someone else reading in the most unusual or inspiring place.

Step 2: Email your photo to Mrs Hind @ rachael.hind@cg.catholic.edu.au

Step 3: Check out the display!

**Book Week Parade**

Dress up as your favourite book character on

Wednesday 24 August.

The Book Parade will be in the School Hall at 9:15 am. Look forward to seeing your creative costumes!

Mrs Hind & Miss Brown

**GENERAL INFORMATION**
**Literacy and Numeracy Week**

In Week 7, we are celebrating Literacy and Numeracy Week at St Monica’s. We would like to invite family members to share and celebrate the wonderful learning that occurs at St. Monica’s by asking that you come along to our open classrooms during the following times.

- **Monday 29 August** – Kindergarten – 9.15-10.15
- **Tuesday 30 August** – Year 1 – 9.15-10.15
- **Wednesday 31 August** – Year 2 – 9.15-10.15
- **Thursday 1 September** – Year 5/6 – 11.30-12.30
- **Friday 2 September** – Year 3/4 - 9.15-10.15

During the week classes will be participating in a few special activities during literacy and numeracy learning time.

**LITERACY EVENTS:**

- **Six Word Stories** - teachers and students will be exploring just six words can make a story.
- **Read Alouds** - teachers, students and parents will be invited to read aloud their favourite book.
- **Publication Celebration** – students have an opportunity to share their published work with their friends, buddies and families during the open classroom time.
- **Reading Displays** - You might like to take a look at our fabulous reading displays. Students and parents have been invited to send in a photo for our ‘Catch a Reader display’. We also have a ‘Teacher’s Read too!’ reading display. These are located in our main corridor.
- **Read for Australia** - is a National Simultaneous Reading event that will occur on Friday 2 September in class. The 2016 ‘Read for Australia’ book is My Two Blankets, written by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood. It was the Winner of the 2015 Children’s Book Council Award for Picture Books.
- **Poem in your pocket** - Students are encouraged to write a poem to keep in their pocket which can be shared with family and friends during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.
- **Tony Bones Book Week Show** – 1 September
- **The Great Book Swap** - in Week 8 we will be holding this event. All funds raised go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and it encourages students to swap one of their favourite books for someone else’s for a gold coin donation.
- **Don’t forget our Read-a-thon is happening!** Our reading period is Week 6 & 7 and students are collecting sponsors to raise funds for our school.
- **Kinder Reading hour** will be held on Thursday 25 August in the Library after school. Come and share some books and puzzles with your parent/s.

**NUMERACY EVENTS:**

- **Catch-an-Idea** will be a chance to catch a maths moment! Whether you’re indoors or outside, looking at patterns or playing sports, in the kitchen or in outer space; maths helps make sense of the world! Students photograph a mathematics moment, caption it and share it (digitally or as a poster around the school). For example, take a photo of someone measuring ingredients, tiling a roof or a football player kicking a goal. Math is everywhere.
- **Who won it?** uses statistics in sport as a means of exploring data analysis.
- **Which way?** comprises four spatial activities focusing on directional language.
- **Thinkers are Winners** is a series of strategy games to help develop logical thought, mathematical reasoning and the ability to explain thought processes.
- **Maths Morning with Parents** – parents are invited to come in and play some new number activities with the students.

It would be great to see you during this special week.

_Bridgette McCann – Literacy Coordinator_  
_Cerryanne Kelly – Numeracy Coordinator_

**Olympic Tabloid Fun Day**  
**Mini Olympics**

A great day of fun was had by all. The opening ceremony was amazing. Thank you to Miss Mahoney for your organisation, to Mr Mac for leading events and to the Year 6 leaders for running activities. Congratulations to the winning countries (classes). Gold Medal – Greece (1OH), Silver Medal – Kenya (2D), Bronze Medal – Poland (5E). A great effort by all.

**Working Bee – Front Gardens – Saturday 3 September**

A group of parents and teachers have been busy this year drafting some preliminary plans for the school’s gardens and outdoor spaces, with input from Kathryn Scobie from “Good Food Gardens”. The first area to improve will be at the front of the school around the hall car-park. We are going to start the planting, digging and mulching on Saturday 3 September and it would be great to get as many helpers as we can to “make light work” of the task. Families will also have the chance to “adopt a tree” that will go into the garden, and families can help plant their tree on the day - more details to follow. So please pencil the 3 September into your diaries!

_Caroline Weller from the Garden Team_

**St Monica’s Chess Tournament**

St Monica’s will be holding a chess tournament for all interested players on Friday 9 September. The tournament will run for the entire day breaking for recess, lunch and Assembly. Please note entries are due back by 7 September. There will be no cost to enter. Forms are available from the App or Mrs Hind.
National Science Week
St Monica’s has been invaded by robots, drones and droids!!! Come and check out the display near the sliding doors to the foyer – the creations are amazing! Don’t forget to come dressed as a scientist tomorrow! Each class has prepared some amazing science and technology investigations. It is going to be a great day hypothesising, experimenting and questioning!

K-4 Talent Quest
This Term we will be celebrating the achievements of our Kindergarten to Year 4 students by holding a talent quest - St Monica’s Kids Got Talent!!.

Students are encouraged to enter as individuals or in groups and show off their talents in the Arts by performing a short piece in areas such as, music, drama, poetry, magic or dance. Each grade level will select students to participate in the Grand Final in Week 6 (Thursday 25 August at 12pm), where parents and friends will be welcome to come along. See your class teacher for entry forms and show off your talent!

Amanda Stewart – Coordinator

Kinder Reading Hour
Date: Thursday 25 August 2016
(Week 6-Book Week)
Place: Library
Time: 3.10pm 4.10pm
Grades: Kindergarten
Cost: Free!
Thank you to all the Kindergarten families who have already sent in their RSVP slips. We really appreciate it. If you are hoping to attend this wonderful afternoon of literacy, love and learning with your child in the library, please RSVP by tomorrow.

School Read-a-thon
Thank you to everyone who has started collecting sponsors to help us reach our $14000 target. We currently have just over $3000 in donations so keep working hard everybody! Cash and Qkr! payments have also started coming in which is wonderful. We have over 60 students who have set up their personal pages online. There is still time to set up your personal fundraising page at www.readathon.com.au
Our reading period will begin on Monday for Weeks 6 & 7. Students will be reading for at least 20 minutes a day at school and we are asking that they read for at least 10 minutes a day at home. If you need a new sponsorship booklet these can be found on the notes stand at the Front Office and also in the Library by request. Please return sponsorship money and prize selection to the school by 2 September 2016.

Happy Reading! - Mrs Hind

Australian Book Week Special Lunch
To celebrate Book Week and St Monica’s Feast Day there will be a Special Lunch on Tuesday 23 August. Special Lunch notes were sent home on Tuesday. Please return orders by tomorrow for ordering purposes. No late orders will be accepted.

Save the Date
Friday 19 August Yr 5/6 Movie Night
6 – 8pm
St Monica’s School Hall
Due to student safety we are limiting the number of adults to only those volunteering who must hold a current WWVP card. This night is for Year 5 & 6 children only – no younger siblings.

Parent help needed to Publish Student’s writing
The student’s at St Monica’s have been busily writing! Everyday students are participating in sustained silent writing. Students are working collaboratively with their peers and teachers to edit and conference their work.
In Week 7 during Literacy and Numeracy week we are going to invite parents to come in to our classrooms to participate in a ‘Publication Celebration.’ We are asking for parent help in publishing student’s writing.
Please see your child’s class teacher to offer assistance either by editing and publishing work with students during class time or by taking work home to publish. Thank you to the many parents who have already supported us with this. Much appreciated.
Bridgette McCann - Literacy Coordinator

Great Book Swap
After running our very first St Monica’s Great Book Swap last year so well, we are doing it again! The SRC are asking students to help make this year’s Great Book Swap a success by donating a book that they love but can bear to part with.

Wednesday 7 September is Indigenous Literacy Day and we will be holding the Great Book Swap. For a gold coin donation, the students will attend the book swap and choose a book to take home. When donating a book please consider the following. It needs to be:

- In a good state (no rips or tears)
- An appropriate book for students in primary school to read

Once you have found a book that you love and are willing to donate please deliver your book to the trolleys in the corridor between the library and Year 5 classrooms. All funds raised will be sent to ILF (Indigenous Literacy Foundation). The Foundation will use these funds to provide books to Indigenous children and families in remote communities. To find out more about the fantastic work of the ILF you can watch this short video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wJ8OcUXubI
Thank you for your continued support.
Community Council Email Address

Community 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@cg.catholic.edu.au

The email will be checked regularly by Evelyn David - Hoole, Council Executive Secretary.

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Belconnen Athletics Carnival
The results are in! Congratulations to following children who have been successful in making the Belconnen Team that will compete at the ACT Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 6 September:

**Ryan C** (4W) – 800m run and Discus. Ryan also achieved a Belconnen Region Record for his time in the 8-10 Years 800m Run

**Charlotte J** (5E) – Shot Put, **Riley L** (3/4RG) – 100m Sprint, **Layla R** (2D) – 70m Sprint and 100m Sprint. Layla also achieved a Belconnen Region Record for her time in the 8 Years 70m Sprint, **Amy R** (5K) – 800m Run and Long Jump, **Preston T** (5K) – Discus.

Well done to all the St Monica’s team. We are very proud of you all! The ACT Athletics notes will be coming home today.

ACT Schoolboys 12 years and Under Rugby Union Team
Congratulations to Noah M (6S), Jack M (6S) and Sam P (6S) who have made selection in the ACT Schoolboys 12 Years and Under Rugby Union Team. The boys will travel to Adelaide with the team to compete at the Southern States Tournament in October. Well done boys!

Brindabella Physie
Congratulations to Ruby S (3D), Grace P (6M), Skakai L (6S) and Charlotte F (6M) who competed last weekend at Canberra Interclub. The girls all danced beautifully and will now prepare for Champion Girl Competition to be held in September.

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**AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

| Birthdays | Kindergarten | Amelia H, Jack R |
| Year 1    | Amour A, Levi T |
| Year 2    | Micaela M, Isla B |
| Year 4    | Christian W, Shakira L |
| Year 5    | Nathan F, Sarah K, Oscar T |
| Year 6    | Shakaia L, Chad A, Jaiken B, Nicholas B, Lauren H |

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**Value Award – Stewardship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Award</th>
<th>Class Award – Written Presentation of Work</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Amelia B, Nathan M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KMR</td>
<td>Blake M, Grace S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRG</td>
<td>Tyler B, William J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1V</td>
<td>Tommy R, Annabelle F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Oscar G, Lauren F</td>
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<tr>
<td>1OH</td>
<td>Bailey G, Isabella P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2L</td>
<td>Josephine H, Luke W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2S</td>
<td>Cooper B, Isabella C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Charlotte P, Remy D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3R</td>
<td>Ria M, Dominic C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Elyse S, Alicia Mc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4RG</td>
<td>Gabriel H, Jett M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Jennifer C, Ronald K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Fiona M, Patrick E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Patrick H, Maddie S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5E</td>
<td>Charlie O, Tahlia A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Tara K, Eden B</td>
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<tr>
<td>6M</td>
<td>Christopher H, Phoebe O</td>
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<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Chad A, Ben Mc</td>
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**M&M Star Medallions**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Class Award – Written Presentation of Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4RG</td>
<td>Katie F (3/4RG), Paul S (4C), Daniel Mc (4C), Lily S (4C), Matthew P (4C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**CANCER CORNER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Roster for Term 3, Week 6</th>
<th>Early 9:15am - 11:45am</th>
<th>Late 11:30am -2:30pm</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 22/8/16</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 23/8/16</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
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<tr>
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**SPORTING NEWS**

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Flexi Schools online ordering system is available for placing lunch orders.

**FRIDAY LUNCH ORDERS only available via Flexi Schools ordering due to availability of helpers.**

Thank you

**Samantha Manning - Canteen Manager - 6258 4687**
Lost & Found
Mrs Hodgkin has found a small foreign coin collection. If this is yours, please contact her.

Interested in Playing Softball?
Any children interested in playing Softball (and teeball) in the coming Summer competition – Saturday mornings during Term 4 (2016) and Term 1 (2017). For more information please contact Mr Fletcher at school or mobile 0438 303 460.

On behalf of Woden Valley Youth Choir and its Artistic Director, Alpha Gregory, we have great pleasure in inviting you and your friends, to our Annual Concert. “Applause! Applause!”

DATE: Saturday 17 September
TIME: 7:30pm
VENUE: TIM MURRAY THEATRE, Canberra Grammar School, MONARO CRES, RED HILL
TICKETING: Adults: $25, Children U/12 and Concession: $20, Families: $80 (2 adults 2 children/concession) Bookings can be made through:
https://www.trybooking.com/MLTI
https://www.trybooking.com/218850