Dear Parents,

I cannot believe I have been away for over six weeks. I had a wonderful trip travelling around the west coast of Canada and Alaska. I also thoroughly enjoyed the two weeks I spent in Denver getting to know my beautiful nephews aged 4 and 5 years old; such a precious time.

Congratulations to Mr Patrick Ellis and the members of the Executive team on their leadership during my absence; the school never missed a beat. I have loved hearing about all the wonderful activities that have been occurring to promote Science Week, Book Week, St Monica’s Feast Day and Literacy and Numeracy Week. I am aware that there has been a high level of sickness across the staff and students with classes being split due to the limited availability of relief staff; an issue currently encountered by all our schools.

During my absence the NAPLAN results were distributed and the annual parent, teacher and student surveys were completed. General feedback will be provided to our community once the staff and Council Executive have had time to analyse the results and comments. The feedback will provide valuable information to assist with the development of our new strategic and annual improvement plan. Thank you to the 181 parents who provided feedback to the survey.

Entry Driveway Garden
Thank you to Graeme May and his team for beautifying our driveway entry. The new plants will add a touch of colour to the school entry in time for Spring.

Prayers
Please keep the Marcantonio family – Adrian (6M) and Victoria (5/6M) in your prayers as their grandfather passed away last week. Please keep the Miinin family – Amber (2D) in your prayers as her grandfather passed away last week. Please keep Tyler S (2D) in your prayers as he is recovering from surgery in hospital.

Enjoy the week ahead.
God Bless

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere158107.html

At St Monica’s we are a vibrant Catholic community that works collaboratively to empower its members to be inclusive learners, custodians and citizens.
World Youth Day

For the first three weeks of this term I was lucky enough to travel to Poland for World Youth Day. This is the single largest gathering of Catholics in the world - all at the request of Pope Francis to celebrate Mass and learn about the theme of this year’s WYD ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy’.

I must admit that I did think Poland was an interesting country to be gathering in to discuss Mercy, a country with such a long and bloody history which was so obvious in the places we saw. In Warsaw almost literally every building and historical site is a replica or recreation; as the original was destroyed in the fighting of the Warsaw Uprising. In Krakow the museums are full of stories and images of valiant but futile defensive actions and last stands of the Polish Army. At Auschwitz we walked under the gate that lied to untold thousands – ‘ARBEIT MACH FREI’ - “Work sets you free”

However, it was not the past of Poland that was most obvious when you travelled; it was its faith. Everywhere you went you faith the Catholic Church and what it had done for the country through war and occupation was obvious. The Polish experience of faith is quite different to the Australian one. Wherever we went there were nuns and monks, priests, shrines, holy sites and Cathedrals, all magnificent to look at. At the first place we celebrated Mass, the Temple of Divine Providence in Warsaw there were Relics from seven Saints gathered there, and the construction on the Temple wasn’t even finished yet! This is the experience of the Polish Catholic Church - Saints to look up to and a rich and proud history to celebrate.

Our experiences with the Pope began at the Papal arrival - he spoke about the importance of being engaged with our world – not letting sloth, apathy of disinterest stop us from making a difference, both in our Church and the wider world. I believe that he wants a Church that is Christ like – that seeks out the downtrodden, the neglected and the hated and brings them a message of hope and the Good News of Christ. I believe he wants this done practically – making time in our lives for charity like St Vincent De Paul, the sacraments and prayer.

The Pope called all those at WYD to stop being “couch-potatoes” (his exact words). This is a message that he wants shared across the globe. I often pray for my students that the seed of faith planted by their parents, by our schools and by their teachers might grow and bear much fruit to God’s Glory. This is the prayer and message that I have brought home from WYD:

Get up, and do something with your life so that others may see Christ at work in you.

Chris Evans – Year 5 Teacher

Prayer Wall

The Prayer Wall has started and is a way we are strengthening prayer at St Monica’s. It is located on the wall next to the Learning Centre. We can offer up our special intentions and pray for different reasons, reflecting what is happening at our school.
**School Read-a-thon**
A big thank you to everyone who has been collecting sponsors for our School Read-a-thon. We have received over $6000 in online donations and are also collecting cash donations and Qkr! payments. Our goal is $14000 - let’s see if we can get there by the end of the week!

**Please return your blue Read-a-thon booklet to the Front Office by tomorrow** in order to receive your prize as soon as possible. Happy reading!

MRS HIND

**Father’s Day – Kindergarten**
Dear Kinder Dads
To make your FATHER’S DAY even more special, your Kinder child would love you to visit their classroom tomorrow Friday 2 September to spend some precious Daddy time together. They would love to share what they have been doing in class and give you some extra reasons (as if you need any) to be very proud of them. Keep an eye out for your invitation in your child’s school bag.
Come along anytime between 8:30am and 9:15am. We will be eager to welcome you. - The Kinder Teachers and Students

**Father’s Day Stall**
Show your Dad (or someone special) how much you love him this Father’s Day. Find the perfect gift at the Father’s Day stall. The stall will be held tomorrow Friday 2 September set up outside the Canteen in courtyard from 9.30am onwards. All gifts between $2 - $8. If you are able to help on the stall for an hour or two in the morning please contact Michelle Bowman on 0416162543.

**School Garden Working Bee – postponed until 17 September due to rain forecasted this weekend**
St Monica’s families are invited to help us welcome Spring at the St Monica’s garden working bee on Saturday 17 September from 10am onwards. We will be mulching the garden around the hall carpark and planting an avenue of beautiful blossom trees. We would greatly appreciate help in moving and spreading soil and mulch, and planting the trees.

There will be a sausage sizzle for lunch and it should be a really fun community event. If you are able to help on the day please bring along shovels, rakes, gloves and wheelbarrows if you can. If you are able to come along and help please RSVP to Lis O’Daly on edlisodaly@gmail.com or 0413 320 522.

We are also offering families the opportunity to “adopt” their own tree, help to plant it and watch it grow! We currently have 10 trees ready for adoption at $50 each. If your family is interested in this, please contact Lis at the above email address. Five trees have already been adopted!

**ACT Election and Catholic Education**
On Tuesday evening I attend the first of a series of election meetings. On Tuesday the Director of Catholic Education outlined the three key election commitment we are seeking from the various political parties as we move into the ACT election period.

1. **CHOICE:** Provision of land in new growth areas
2. **NEED:** Equity in education for students with disability
3. **PARTNERSHIP:** A commitment to fairer recurrent funding by 2020.

**Interesting facts**

Catholic schools educate more than 18,000 children – one in four ACT children in 32 schools across the Territory.

The Catholic sector is the second largest provider of school education in the ACT and has played a vital role in educating Australia’s children within the Catholic tradition for 84 years.

Catholic schools are committed to accessibility and affordability. Catholic school systems need funding certainty to ensure services can be maintained. Freedom of choice through funding certainty must be retained.

By choosing a Catholic school education parents and students in Catholic schools already save the ACT taxpayer more than $152 million each year.

**Community Meeting to learn how the local political candidates will be supporting Catholic Education**

St Monica’s is in the YERRABEE ELECTORATE. Candidates from all three major parties in this electorate have confirmed their availability to attend a meeting to be held on MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER – GOOD SHEPHERD, AMAROO – 7pm-8pm.
Parents and friends are welcome to attend

**Restorative Practice**

Circle times are important part of Restorative Practices. Circles can focus on many things such as prayer, learning, social, behaviour, home experiences to name a few. Regular circle time experiences allow for a comfortable space for when things go wrong. These circles are called Restorative Circles.

There are agreements for Restorative Circles. Every person freely acknowledges their part, take turns to speak, answers questions clearly, does not speak about another person and is respectful at all times.

Circles provide a place of safety, a sense of equality and a physical environment where all can be seen and heard.

**Trivia Night – Friday 28 October 2016**

Trivia is back in 2016! Block out the date in your diaries and book in the babysitter. The annual trivia night is back. We have new hosts on board for 20-sixteen so let’s harness last year’s awesomeness and show them how it’s done!!! More details to follow in the next few weeks….

In the interim, if you are able to donate any items for the silent auction please contact Emma Howlett on 0413 660 585.
Advice to Parents

- Talk to your child about not being pressured into sharing or doing something online they are not comfortable with.
- Make sure your children only have people they know and trust as online friends and contacts.
- Know that it’s never ok to meet someone they’ve met online in person without taking along a trusted adult.
- Let their friends know if their account has been hacked. The hacker might try and access the profiles of friends too, or send them nasty messages under your child’s name.
- Research or download the apps, games and websites your child uses so that you become familiar with how they work. The ThinkUknow website has lots of tips for apps.
- Only download apps from the official stores, such as Apple’s App Store or the Android marketplace. Illegitimate app stores or app websites may contain pirated apps or malicious software (malware).
- Before you download and install an app, check which features of your device (such as the GPS function) the app wants permission to access. Disable any features which are unnecessary for the app to access.
- Check the classification, as these can be a good indication as to whether the content and functionality is suitable for children. Be aware that classifications are sometimes set by game or app developers and not independently assessed.
- Many apps contain in-app purchases which can lead to a hefty bill if you or your children aren’t careful. It is a good idea to disable in-app purchases.

Sharing content online

- Young people need to be aware that they may be committing a crime when taking, receiving or forwarding sexual images of themselves or friends who are minors. This applies even if all participants are willing.
- Even if a teenager is happy to send or receive a message from someone, once it has been sent you lose control of it. Anyone could come across or find the images, such as future employers. Even worse, the images could still be out there when you have kids of your own.
- There are practical steps that can be taken when content is shared, these steps are explained on the website of the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.
- These acts can represent the production or distribution of child pornography material, and those participating can be charged with child pornography offences. Creating or accessing child pornography is an offence, even if you are a child yourself.
- Child pornography offences have a maximum penalty of fifteen years imprisonment.
- Not only could a teenager be charged with child pornography offences, but that image can never be deleted and it could end up anywhere - even in the collections of online sex offenders.
- More information about staying safe on Facebook and online in general is available at www.thinkuknow.org.au
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.

Kinder Reading Hour
Thank you to our Kinder families who attended Kinder Reading Hour last Thursday afternoon. How wonderful it was to see families reading stories, doing puzzles and colouring in together.

Term 3 School Fees
Term 3 school fees were due last Friday 26 August. This week reminders were emailed or sent home to all families with an outstanding balance (except for those on a direct debit arrangement). Please make every effort to pay Term 3 school fees as soon as possible.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Whole School Prayer – Wednesday 7 September led by 2D at 2.30pm (Week 7 Value Awards presented)

School Assembly tomorrow – Friday 2 September led by 3D (Weeks 5,6,7 Class Awards and Stars presented)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Award – Service</th>
<th>Class Award – Creativity - Arts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>James D</td>
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<td>KMR</td>
<td>Sophie B</td>
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<td>KRG</td>
<td>Drew G</td>
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<td>1V</td>
<td>Emma S</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>Jye L</td>
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<td>1OH</td>
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<td>2L</td>
<td>Lucia M</td>
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<td>2S</td>
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<td>2D</td>
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<td>3R</td>
<td>Dion W</td>
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<td>3D</td>
<td>Isabella L</td>
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<td>3/4RG</td>
<td>Ryan S</td>
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<td>4C</td>
<td>Apajok A</td>
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<td>4W</td>
<td>Hayley S</td>
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<td>5K</td>
<td>Nathan F</td>
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<td>5E</td>
<td>Taeya H</td>
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<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Connor S</td>
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<td>6M</td>
<td>Ebony T</td>
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<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Mia S</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;M Star Medallions –</td>
<td>Archie S (1V), Caydence L (3R),</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chiara W (3D), Patrick H (5K)</td>
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Birthdays
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Lachlan T, Indiana H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Chloe D, Harry C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Owen L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Katie W, Hannah D-H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Eden B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Michael M</td>
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Soccer News
Last week Marko J (6M) and Jaycob S (6S) went to Perth to compete in Boys National Titles U 12-13 years in Soccer. They competed against every state and territory and won 1 game against Victoria. They had a wonderful time. Well done boys!!

The Roster for Term 3, Week 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY 5/9/16</th>
<th>Early 9:15am - 11:45am</th>
<th>Late 11:30am - 2:30pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 6/9/16</th>
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<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY 7/9/16</th>
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<th>THURSDAY 8/9/16</th>
<th>June Manning Anne Carew</th>
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<th>FRIDAY 9/9/16</th>
<th>Wilma Hird Jenny Fulivai Alissa Kilpatrick</th>
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Flexible Schools online ordering system is available for placing lunch orders. Friday Lunch Orders only available via Flexible Schools ordering due to availability of helpers. Thank you - Samantha Manning - Canteen Manager - 6258 4687

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Interested in Playing Softball?
Any children interested in playing Softball (and tee-ball) 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.

Questracon Holiday Workshops
Every school holidays we deliver a series of design and innovation workshops at the Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre in Deakin. These holidays, our workshops will cover topics like app design, creating wacky vehicles, Computer Aided Design, domino-effect machines and robotics. Workshops are suitable for students aged 10 to 15. For more information visit website – www.questracon.edu.au

Western District Junior Cricket Club
Register now to play Junior Cricket this summer with Wests. Register by 9 September to guarantee a place in one of our teams. To register visit the website http://www.westsjuniors.act.cricket.com.au
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.