Dear Parents,

Last weekend was Child Protection Sunday. As the care and protection of our children is so very important I found this reflective prayer to share with families.

A Prayer for Stronger Communities, Safer children

Gracious God you said let the children come to me: 

We ask you God to strengthen and guide all in our Catholic communities. Grant us wisdom in our time to make decisions that protect children and the vulnerable. 

May our families and communities, through love, generosity, commitment and patience build stronger communities safe for children. 

Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience they will need for their life’s journey. 

We ask you God to help our Catholic communities to be resolute in building a community where our children both flourish and are safe. 

Amen

With the term rapidly coming to a close the teachers are noticing that the resilience of the children, to deal with the very small day to day issue, is low. This is attributed to tiredness and the level of sickness around the school. We all need to be gentle with each other in our words and actions.

Thank You

The Gaffey family would like to pass on their sincere thanks to the St Monica’s School Community for your prayers over the last few months. It has been a tough journey for them all and they appreciate everyone’s support.

Enjoy the week ahead.
God Bless
Carmel Maguire

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop said frequently “Never see a need without doing something about it”. This perhaps is the true call to service.

Sometimes we can be disheartened by the world around us or bogged down in the ordinariness of our daily lives and miss the many opportunities and times in our lives when we are, or could be of service to others.

Service does not have to be grand, often it can be tiny and unnoticed by any other than the one completing the action. Of course there is always one who notices…God. The Corporal works of mercy give an idea of how to direct our energies in service of others:

- **Feed the hungry**: Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing less groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need.

- **Give water to the thirsty**: Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.
Shelter the homeless: Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.

Visit the sick: Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish/community/neighbourhood who has a sick loved one.

Visit those imprisoned: donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison

Bury the dead: Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one.

Give alms to the poor: Skip the morning latte and donate that money to a charity like St Vincent De Paul.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

School Garden Working Bee – 17 September
St Monica’s families are invited to help us welcome Spring at the St Monica’s garden working bee this Saturday 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.

Years 5 & 6 Concert - Pirates and the Currybean
The excitement is building for our Year 5/6 concert ‘Pirates of the Currybean’ to be presented next week on Tuesday 20 September at 12 noon and Wednesday 21 September at 6.30pm. For families planning to attend the evening show we have arranged the Jacko’s Pizza Van to be at St Monica’s on to sell pizza and soft drinks, if you would like to purchase some for dinner. The van will be available between 5.00pm-6.15pm. Pizza slices are $3 and drinks $2. Students in Year 5/6 might like to purchase something when they are dropped off.

Information to Year 5 & 6 regarding the costumes for the 2 performances are as follows:

**Tuesday 20 September**
Students are to arrive at school dressed in their school uniform. Hair and makeup can be done prior to arriving at school. They will be provided time to change later in the morning and touch up their makeup prior to the matinee session. The students will changed back into their school uniform and leave their performance clothes at school.

**Wednesday 21 September**
Students will take their performance clothes home on Wednesday afternoon. They are to be dropped off at school by 6pm in their performance clothes. They will need to have their hair and makeup done prior to arriving at school. Final costume touch ups will be added at school. Doors will open at 6pm. Note there is no formal seating allocation. After the performance students will be required to return to their classrooms to drop off any borrowed costumes, props or accessories.

**SMOOSH Care will operate out of the Hub (East Wing - Year 3 & 4 Classrooms) next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the mornings and afternoons due to the concert**

**LAST SPECIAL LUNCH FOR THE TERM**
The canteen will be holding a special lunch for the whole school to celebrate the Year 5/6 concert. The lunch will be held: **Tuesday 20 September**
Orders will be on flexischools only.
Please see the Skoolbag App for the information note.
Orders must be submitted before 9am Friday 16 September

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Year 3)
Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) will commence in Term 4 for Year 3 students at St Monica’s. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Catholic Sacrament. All children who are baptised Catholic (Year 3 and above) are eligible to enrol in the program. If your child is not baptised or baptised in another Christian faith and you wish for them to make their first Reconciliation, you must contact Fr Loi to discuss the matter.

The children will receive the Sacrament on 16 November. Children must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before they can be eligible to make their First Holy Communion in Year 4.

All children enrolled in Year 3 will complete the Reconciliation program in class. Enrolment forms and Home group Information (a component of the program) were sent home today. Extra copies of the enrolment forms will be available from the foyer.

**LAUDATO SI’**
Last Saturday the staff of St Monica’s spent the day at the National Arboretum, reflecting on Pope Francis' encyclical “Laudato Si’- Care for our Common Home”. We were lead in this day by Anne Gowen, Curriculum Officer from Catholic Education. We explored the meaning of the title: which comes from St Francis of Assisi and simply states” Praise be to you My Lord” and Chapter One which looks at the current state of our home – planet Earth. The Pope leaves no issue alone-addressing our throw away culture and the impact this has on our world and those most vulnerable – it’s poor. Whilst the rain fell and the wind blew we came away inspired, refreshed, keen to make a difference and take action.

Carmel Rheinberger
Religious Education Coordinator
Japanese Choir Performs at Spence Community Fair
This Saturday a group of children ranging from Year 1 to Year 6 with the St Monica’s Japanese Choir will sing at the Spence Community Fair. You are invited to come along and listen to them singing some children’s songs in Japanese. They will sing at 1.15 pm. You can also enjoy the many other activities of the Fair at the Community Centre in Curley St Spence from 10am to 2pm.

School Read-a-thon
A big thank you to everyone who supported our recent School Read-a-thon. Our total raised for our school is $16766 which is a fantastic effort. A small percentage on the money raised will be used by the company for the purchase of the prizes. We are expecting delivery of the prizes in the first week of Term 4. A big well done to Hena and Mya Lomu who raised $763.67 each!

Thanks again for your wonderful support. Don’t forget to keep reading! - Mrs Hind

Kinder - Year 2 Swimming
Children from Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 will participate in the Gungahlin Leisure Centre Swimming Program during Term 4. The program is for 8 days during Weeks 5 and 6 of Term 4. Dates are Week 5 Tues 8 Nov to Fri 11 Nov and Week 6 Tues 15 Nov to Fri 18 Nov. Children will be transported there and back to school by bus. Cost for 8 lessons and travel is $100 per child. Permission notes have been sent home to families.

Uniform Shop
Summer uniform items are now available for sale in the Uniform Shop. Hats are for sale in the Front Office – Bucket Hats - $5, Slouch Hats - $12, Legionnaire Hats - $10.

School Banking
There will be no school banking next week (Week 10). School banking will resume on Monday, first day of Term 4.

St Monica’s Chess Tournament
The annual St Monica’s chess tournament was held on 9 September – well done to the 32 students who entered, and congratulations to the winners of the senior (Hannah D-H and Lachlan S) and junior (Angelo S) chess competitions.

Leading scorers for the Seniors (Years 4-6): 7 points – Hannah D-H (4W) and Lachlan S (5E); 5 points – Ryan L (5K), Nicholas I (4C) and Andrew H (5/6M); 4 points – Anthony F (4RG), Patrick E (4W), Anton den H (4C).

Leading scorers for the Juniors (Years 1-3): 6.5 points - Angelino S (2D); 6 points - Mary D-H (2S); 5 points - Aiden O’B (2L); 4.5 points – Peter M (2S); 4 points – Luke B (2D), Liam S (10H), Xavier M (10H), Rose N (2S), Tyler N (2S).

Years 5 & 6 Showcase – Celebration of a Nation
On Tuesday the students in Years 5 and 6 presented their History Grasps Task showcase.

Throughout this term, the students have been studying 20th century Australian history. In particular, they learned how some people made an important contribution to our way of life.

The students were asked to tell the story of one of these significant Australians. They dressed in role and presented information through objects, posters and digital displays.

Parents, relatives and friends were invited to visit the classrooms and talk to the students about their character and their achievements.

By all accounts, the students impressed with the quality and depth of their presentations. Many visitors walked away with a deeper understanding of those outstanding people who have helped make Australia such a wonderful country.

Well done to all those students who took part.

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.

Vacation Care - SMOOSH
Vacation Care bookings are filling up fast. To secure your booking please book and pay via the Qkr App or contact the Smoosh Office.

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@cq.catholic.edu.au

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

Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Jakob K</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Oscar G, Evan L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Zoe K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Sam A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**W**hole School Prayer – n/a  
**School Assembly** tomorrow – Friday 16 September led by Mini Vinnies. Awards presented are  
- Week 9 Class Awards and Stars  
- Chess certificate  
- Week 9 Value Awards  

**Awards and Achievements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Award – Service</th>
<th>Class Award – Reader of the Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS Faith K</td>
<td>Joel M</td>
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<tr>
<td>KMR Jack P</td>
<td>Logan F</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRG Bella P</td>
<td>Sophie S</td>
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<td>1V TBA TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1B Siena D</td>
<td>Shaye S</td>
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<tr>
<td>1OH Zoe O</td>
<td>Ador D</td>
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<tr>
<td>2L Isobel C</td>
<td>Jack R</td>
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<td>2S Ava S</td>
<td>Scarlett L</td>
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<tr>
<td>2D Sophie S</td>
<td>Max W</td>
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<tr>
<td>3R Joshua R</td>
<td>Mackenzie B</td>
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<tr>
<td>3D Haylie F</td>
<td>Jasper M</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4RG Sophie T</td>
<td>Riley H</td>
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<tr>
<td>4C Lily S</td>
<td>Sam B</td>
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<tr>
<td>4W Clara A</td>
<td>Christian W</td>
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<tr>
<td>5K Chanty H</td>
<td>Katie H</td>
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<tr>
<td>5E Sam A</td>
<td>Johnny R</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6M Lauren H</td>
<td>Paige W</td>
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<tr>
<td>6M Robbie W</td>
<td>Christopher H</td>
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<tr>
<td>6S Brooke A</td>
<td>Hannah C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;M Star Medallions</td>
<td>Giorgia M (2L), Kate S (3R)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sporting News**

**ACT Athletics**  
The school has not been advised of any results to date for the ACT Athletics carnival held on 6 September.

**Canteen Corner**

*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.*

The Roster for Term 3, Week 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early 9:15am - 11:45am</th>
<th>Late 11:30am - 2:30pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>19/9/16</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>20/9/16</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
<td>Carol Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>21/9/16</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22/9/16</td>
<td>June Manning</td>
<td>June Manning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/9/16</td>
<td>Anne Carew</td>
<td>Anne Carew</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>23/9/16</td>
<td>Jenny Fulvai</td>
<td>Wendy Regan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wilma Hird</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Thank you - Samantha Manning - Canteen Manager - 6258 4687

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**Community Information**

**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.

**Questacon 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.questacon.edu.au

**MapMates - Twilight Series**  
Join the fun! Come along to the Blue Sparks' October orienteering event - MapMates. Held Wednesday evenings for four weeks, MapMates teams will work together, learning new skills as they navigate around the safe, graded courses, set in various bush parks around Canberra. The emphasis is on fun and adventure! Come along to the welcome event on Wednesday 12 October 2016, from 5pm. The series starts on Wednesday 19 October 16. For more information, or to register for the series, see [http://act.orienteering.asn.au](http://act.orienteering.asn.au) - look for the MapMates symbol.

**Explosion Youth Conference - St Francis Xavier College Florey** – 27-30 September  
Explosion Youth Conference is open to all high school aged young people from around the Archdiocese and beyond. Participants will have an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith through seminars and workshops as well as experience Christianity, the Church and the Sacraments as never before. There will be time to meet other young people through sports, games and free time. Cost : $130 first participant, $100 subsequent siblings. For more information visit [www.explosionconference.org.au](http://www.explosionconference.org.au) or email youth@cg.org.au.