



# NEWSLETTER

Term 4 – Week 1 – 13 October 2016

*At St Monica's we are a vibrant Catholic community that works collaboratively to empower its members to be inclusive learners, custodians and citizens*

## A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

### Inclusion



Dear Parents/Carers

#### A Prayer for Positivity

Holy Spirit

Banish our spirit of criticism;

Replace it with a spirit of affirmation.

Help us to see the glass that is half full;

The essay that is half written;

The answer that is half correct.

Help us to see the many students with their hands up...

Not just the few who are shouting out!

Banish our spirit of self-resignation;

Replace it with a spirit of determination.

Help us to be bold and tenacious;

To believe in ourselves;

To believe in our colleagues;

To believe in our God;

To believe that all things are possible.

Banish our spirit of procrastination;

Replace it with a spirit of energy and action.

Help us to get ourselves organised,

So we can do the things we said we would do.

Give us a sense of purpose and direction;

Help us to praise students and co-workers who keep going...

Even when the going gets tough!

The ACT election is now just a few days away. The election has provided an important opportunity for us to raise the issue of fair and sustainable territory government funding for St Monica's Primary School. As an ACT Catholic school we receive the lowest levels of state/territory government funding of any catholic school in Australia!

Did you know that for each dollar of territory government funding going to a student in an ACT government school your child here at St Monica's Primary School receives just 17cents.\* By choosing to send your child to St Monica's Primary School, as a Catholic school in the ACT, you are saving the ACT taxpayer more than \$152 million per year.

#### What We Have Asked For:

1. **Provision of land in new growth areas to provide parents a choice for a Catholic Education**

Catholic Education is the second largest provider of school age education in the Territory after the ACT Government. Catholic Education needs to be given priority allocation of suitable land to allow choice in education for the new communities and for Catholic Education to continue to play its significant role in meeting the Territory's need for school age education.

#### 2. Meeting the needs of students with disability

Between 2009 and 2016, the number of students with disability attending Catholic schools increased by 83%. Parents choosing Catholic schools are seeking Territory Government financial support to ensure a student with a disability receives the same level of support regardless of the school they attend;

#### 3. A commitment to progressively increase recurrent funding by 2020

Catholic Education seeks a commitment to increase recurrent funding from the ACT Government to 25% of the average cost of educating a student in an ACT Government school with an annual 'cost of living' increase in funding for Catholic schools proportionate to increases in ACT Government schools.

#### Why Are These Commitments Important?

Achievement of these commitments will ensure a sustainable base for Catholic Education into the future.

At a school level the additional funding will assist to provide additional resources to meet school and student needs such as student support services, students with disabilities, information and communication technology costs and student wellbeing. It will also mean that increases to school fees and levies would be minimised.

Today the Catholic Education Commission have also published for all schools the response from all the major parties to the commitments listed above. I would urge you to consider the positions of the parties and if elected what their policies will mean for our school.

**The responses will provide a very real policy difference for Catholic Education**

\*ACARA MySchool Website, February 2015

God Bless

Carmel Maguire

## SAFE, RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNERS

### Learning Focus – Weeks 7-10

#### Be Responsible

##### Questioning

Asking thoughtful questions about your learning helps you understand and improve.



### Social Focus – Weeks 7-10

#### Be Safe

##### Stay in Bounds

We need to be in the right place at the right time.



## SCHOOL VALUE - Forgiveness

**Forgiveness** by Jonathan Williams

Forgive me, Lord because today...

I wasn't kind,

I wasn't patient,

I wasn't gentle,

I wasn't thoughtful,

I wasn't generous,

I wasn't loving,

Forgive me Lord.

365 Children's Prayers John Garratt Publishing 2011.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thank you to all parents who attended last night's Parent Information Evening. If you were unable to be there last night, materials will be sent home with your child today. Commitment Masses for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held this weekend. Please bring your white commitment card and mauve pledge card with you. (There will be a few spares in the church foyer.) Fr Loi will call families to the altar after the homily. If you cannot attend this weekend, you may attend next weekend.

### Important Dates:

Commitment Masses: Saturday 15 October,

6:00pm St Monica's Church, Sunday 16

October 10:00am St Monica's Church

Home groups Week 1:17 October- 21 October

Home Group Week 2: 24 October-28 October

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesday 16 November

St Monica's Church. 6:30pm



### October is Mission Month!

Catholic Missions supports many communities around the world that would otherwise not receive any.

**At St Monica's School this year we will celebrate Mission Week with a children's Mission Mass on Wednesday 26 October followed later in the day by our Mini Mission Activity.**

This year money raised on Mission Day could provide the following:

\$25 provides meals for 4 children for one week

\$67 Provides school uniforms for 10 children from rural areas of Cambodia.

\$150 Provides education for one year, for 12 children who come from disadvantages communities

\$264 provides 4 children with a push bike to enable them to ride to school.

Let's aim high and raise enough money to send a hundred children to school for a year!!!

This year the focus for our Mini Mission Fete will be participation. There will be a variety of activity/games "stalls" for the children to participate in. Cost of activities 20cents-\$1.00 eg. Three legged races, egg and spoon, parachute, colouring in stand, disco, guessing games, ten pin bowling... etc.

Carmel Rheinberger - Religious Education Coordinator



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Families New To St Monicas

This week we welcome the Goodger family to St Monicas – Maddison – 5K and Bethanie – 2L.

### General 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 SMOOSH. 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 SMOOSH 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.
- Kindergarten children are currently being picked up from their classroom by an adult or by an older sibling.

**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 and 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 area as the children are walked to the car. Please watch your children very closely.

### 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.

### Sport Uniform Days Term 4

Class	Days of Week
KS, KMR, KRG	Tuesday, Thursday
1B, 1V, 1OH	Tuesday, Thursday
2S, 2L, 2D	Tuesday, Thursday
3R	Tuesday, Thursday
3D	Tuesday, Friday
3/4RG	Tuesday, Friday
4C, 4W	Tuesday, Thursday (note change of day)
5E, 5K	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
5/6M	Tuesday, Friday
6M	Tuesday, Friday
6S	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

### Medical Updates

Please ensure that the school is informed of medical conditions relating to your child/ren so that our school records reflect accurate information. It is imperative that this information is kept up to date at all times.

### Lollies and Birthday Treats

In line with the St Monica's healthy food policy we ask that parents avoid sending in lolly bags as a classroom birthday treat.



The key reason for this initiative introduced midway through 2015 was that on occasions teachers were distributing up to three bags of lollies bags per child as birthday treats. While the teachers asked the children to take the lollies home, the temptation was often just too much for the younger children to resist.

As parents you select what your child brings to school for morning tea and lunch; at school it is our responsibility to care for all children and monitor that they do not share or eat foods that may have an adverse effect.

**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.

### Contact Details

The school must be provided with update phone details to ensure staff can contact parents in an emergency. This can be done via our school app, via email or telephone the office.

## Signing a child into and out of school

A child arriving to school after the morning bell must be signed in at the office by an adult. Children should not be signing themselves in. During the day children are to be signed in and out via the office as this is now an official school record. Children leaving prior to 3.10 must also be signed out unless a prior arrangement has been made ie catching an early bus. Where a child is catching an early bus parents are to advise, in writing, of the arrangements which are maintained in the office and classroom.

## Updated Bus Information

Gungahlin Bus Station Platform 1 Hibberson Street (stop ID 7002), will re-open from Monday 17 October 2016. The Stop is currently relocated on Gozzard Street near the Raiders Club, while construction on [The Marketplace](#) takes place.

We ask students and parents to please plan ahead and use [NXTBUS](#) to track real time of their awaited service.

A list of dedicated school services travelling through Gungahlin Marketplace are seen below.

**808 – St Francis Xavier College**

**469 – Ngunnawal Primary, Gold Creek High School, Gold Creek Primary School and Holy Spirit Primary School**

**574 – Emmaus Christian School, Merici College and Daramalan College**

**618 – Brindabella Christian College and Lyneham High School**

**410 – St Francis Xavier College, Melba High School, Copland College and St Monica's**

**808 – John Paul College**

**580 – Mother Theresa Primary School and Harrison Primary School**

For further information or to view online timetables please visit the [Transport Canberra website](#).

## Working With Vulnerable People Cards (WWVP)

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



**Please check your expiry date as some cards are due for renewal**

## SMOOSH Enrolment for 2017

This is a reminder to all families who access our SMOOSH Care program. All SMOOSH accounts must be up to date by the end of October before an offer of a place in our 2017 program will be confirmed. We have a high demand for places and must ensure our program is consistent when offering places. This is the policy in other School Age Care Centres. Enrolment forms for 2017 will be distributed early November.

## 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.

## Supporting Children Competing at National Level

The Council Executive is interested to hear from families on the issue of providing financial support for children who are representing the ACT at a National event. Unfortunately, Catholic Schools are not provided with any formal funding to support children participating in such events. Any support would need to come from P&F funds. Each year School Sport ACT (SSACT) Levies a school, calculated on the census number of students in Years 3 - 6 for the SSACT Membership. The current membership cost is \$2:30 per student which is paid by the school. In 2017 this cost will increase to \$4.25. Children participating in regional events will pay \$8.00 per child participation fee in 2017; an increase of \$1.00. Evan Thomas, a member of Council, is happy to hear from families interested in discussing this issue. Please email you name and best contact, to the school office by next Tuesday, and I will advise Evan of your interest.

## Boorowa Carnival Arrangements

On Friday 21 October 2016 children from St Monica's will be participating in the Boorowa Touch and Netball Carnival being held at the Boorowa Showground. All children travelling on the bus will need to be at school no later than **6.45am**. The bus will be leaving at 7am promptly. The bus will return to St Monica's at 5.00pm.

**Please note for parents driving to Boorowa:** Due to the recent heavy rain in the area there is limited parking at the Showground so please be prepared for delays and allow 30 minutes for the walk to the Showground. Due to the dampness of the ground it is requested that **no unauthorised vehicles enter the showground**. Gate 1 will have limited parking for approximately 30 cars. Limited parking on Ballyran Road, parallel parking only, unsuitable for turning vehicles. Parking for cars will be in Scott St, Queen St, South St and Market St – please park nose in. There is no parking in driveways or on nature strips. Limited parking behind St Patrick's Church.

Children are reminded to bring plenty of food and water for the day. A canteen will be operating on the day with a variety of hot and cold food and drinks. It is essential children **bring hats** and **sunscreen** because the majority of their day will be spent in the sun. No zinc cream please. Maybe, pack something warm, like a blanket, in the event it turns out to be a cool day. In the case of extreme wet weather conditions the organisers will place an announcement on **Canberra ABC radio** and we will let you know via the School's website and an alert will be sent via the school App. Many thanks to all the parents and teachers who have volunteered to assist with managing and umpiring, and to Miss Amanda Winne and Miss Catherine du Bois for their organisation and coordination of our teams. Good luck to all attending.

## 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. **Payment is due.**

# St Monica's Trivia Night



28 October 2016

6:30 for 7 pm

\$130 for table of 10 or \$15 per person.

**Book your table ASAP. Fliers will be distributed today.**

**Ticket enquiries to Felicity Magnussen on 0409 657 955.**

**Donations to Emma Howlett, via the Front Office, would be gratefully accepted!**

## 7th Annual St Monica's Writing Competition



Entries are now sought for our annual writing competition. Students are invited to enter poems or short stories of no more than 500 words. Please hand in your typed entries to the Library by Friday 4 November (Week 4). We look forward to reading your fantastic stories and

poems.

Mrs Hind & Miss Brown

## School Banking

Beginning Week 2 school banking will now be on **Tuesday**.

## 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](mailto:Council.StMonicas@cq.catholic.edu.au)

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

## Birthdays



Kindergarten	Lillian F
Year 1	Zac C
Year 2	Amber M, Cooper B
Year 3	Annie R
Year 5	Claire R, Olivia W, Anjeli R-G, Jess W, Josh C,
Year 6	Marissa C, Marko J

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



No School Assembly tomorrow (Friday 14 October).  
Whole School Prayer led by 1B  
Wednesday 19 October at 2.30pm.

	Value Award – Forgiveness	Class Award – Thoughtfulness & Manners
KS	Emilia H	Eamon F
KMR	Lachlan T	Anneliese L
KRG	Marquez P	Violet P
1V	Dale S	Liam K
1B	Darius C	Oscar G
10H	Zoe O	Zac C
2L	Ella K	Archie E
2S	Arabelle S	Darcy B
2D	Tulli H	Chloe P
3R	Gabrielle C	Dion W
3D	Lucia J	Imogen H
3/4RG	Gabriel H	Sibel C
4C	Millie W	Daniel E
4W	Fiona M	Liam E
5K	Tulli H	Chloe P
5E	Lachlan F	Grace F
5/6M	Tyler M	Ashton C
6M	Marissa C	Dimitri B
6S	Franko S	Sara C
<b>M&amp;M Star Medallions</b> – Charlotte J (5E) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Sam Mc (4C), Emily C (5K), <b>Pride Badges</b> – Ruby S (3D), Eve M (5E)		

## SPORTING NEWS

### Track and Field

Congratulations to Jessica H (5/6M) and Ryan C (4W) who are in the ACT 12&U Track and Field team heading to Sydney in November.

### Brindabella Dance Festival

Congratulations to Zara D (4C) who competed in the Brindabella Dance Festival during the school holidays and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10u Jazz Solo Open (highest division) and received a Highly Commended in the 10u & 12u Hip Hop Duo. Zara also competed in a dance troupe placing 1<sup>st</sup> in 12u Jazz against 16 other dance groups, 1<sup>st</sup> in the 12u Contemporary, 1<sup>st</sup> in the 12u Broadway and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 12u Hop Hop. Great results and amazing dancing. Well done Zara.

## 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 4, Week 2

	Early 9:15am - 11:45am	Late 11:30am -2:30pm
<b>MONDAY</b> 17/10/16	Vacancy	Vacancy
<b>TUESDAY</b> 18/10/16	Carol Lynch	Carol Lynch
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 19/10/16	Evelyn David-Hoole	Evelyn David-Hoole
<b>THURSDAY</b> 20/10/16	June Manning	June Manning
<b>FRIDAY</b> 21/10/16	Wilma Hird Jenny Fulivai	Wendy Regan June Manning

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.



### Karate

**Footy is over Summer is coming  
now is the time to join**

**No contracts: pay as you go  
Family specials**

Children who train in karate  
are less likely to be bullied and  
school work and class behaviour can improve

**classes continue during school holidays**

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

North side classes in:

Evatt  
Florey  
Fraser  
Harrison  
Kaleen



other classes: all around Canberra, Queanbeyan, Cooma Yass

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

**Learn self defense**

**karate for all ages**