



NEWSLETTER

Term 4 – Week 2 – 20 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

With Term 4 well underway, planning for 2017 is becoming a key focus. In the coming weeks the teachers will commence forming the class groups for 2017. When considering class placement, the teachers will consider the following: gender balance; learning styles; learning difficulties; enrichment needs; work habits; social needs; health considerations; emotional needs; behaviour considerations and other relevant issues.

Much care and deliberation occurs when forming our class groups. Teachers are highly professional and have the main responsibility for placing their current students in the most appropriate class for next year. Where appropriate, advice will be sought from the Learning Support Teacher, School Counsellor, etc during this process. Parents should advise their child's teacher of any issues or friendships concerns.

We aim for an equal spread of both positive and challenging characteristics when forming a class group. Every care will be taken to ensure that your child is placed in the best situation to enhance learning and social development.

All children are considered for placement in a multi-age class as that is a part of our school structure. We are now keeping a record of all children who are placed in a multi-age class to ensure placement in a multi-age is shared fairly from year to year across all families.

Confidential concerns should be brought to my attention in writing by Friday 4 November even if raised in previous years. As Principal, I will make the final decision on all class placements.

Students will be informed of their class placement for 2016 on the Thursday of the last week of school and provided the opportunity to spend some time with their new class teacher.

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

It is important to be able to forgive. Sometimes you have to make the decision to forgive- and this is not always easy. Face what happened. Let your feelings out. Cry, kick a can, write or draw about it. Open up your heart and give the person who has hurt you a chance to explain. It is possible that he or she did not mean to hurt you. Report what happened. Tell the person who hurt you how you feel. Get help from a trusted adult/ friend (if you are an adult). Imagine how the other person might feel. Value the other person. Try to see what is good in the other person. Then do something nice for him or her, if you can. This is the hardest part, but will make you stronger. Erase what happened from your mind. Forget it. Only remember what you learned. 1B lead us in a very reflective prayer yesterday. They reminded us all of the importance and necessity of forgiveness in our daily relationships. Thank you 1B.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thank you to all who attended last weekend's Commitment Masses. If you were unable to be there, Fr Loi will be happy to see you this weekend.



Important Dates:

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

A reminder that the program cost \$20 (covers certificates, printing etc). Payment can be made to St Monica's School via cash, credit card, QKr. If your family belongs to the Parish Planned giving- there is no cost.

Mission Week

Next week is Catholic Mission Week. Our school will participate in a variety of class and school events across the week.

Monday-Tuesday will involve class activities from the Catholic Mission website

Wednesday- Crazy Sock Day – (\$2.00 donation for wearing socks and to participate in the Tabloid activities)

To SOCK IT TO POVERTY! Students are asked to wear a pair of different coloured socks for the day.

- Football socks
- Coloured socks
- Stripy socks
- Spotty socks
- Spider man socks...



SCHOOL MASS Mission Week- 9:30 St Monica's Church all welcome

Mission Fun Tabloid Activities: 12:45-1:30pm

Classes will run a selection of tabloid activities for all to join in.
Thursday: Day of Reflection- writing prayers.

FUNDRAISING GOAL: Cambodia is the target area for Catholic Missions this year. All money raised will be directed to Catholic Mission's programs here. \$150 provides education for a year for 12 children from disadvantaged, impoverished families. That is about \$12:50 per child. Let's aim high- can each class raise enough to send 5 children to school for a year?

LET'S SOCK IT TO POVERTY!

Carmel Rheinberger - Religious Education Coordinator

GENERAL INFORMATION



On Friday 14 October, a special group of students in the Choir and Japanese Choir left on the bus to Floriade. The students and teachers were left awe-struck by the beautiful flowers and the lively, fun atmosphere. After their amazing performance, the group walked around to look at the vibrant flowers and amazing attractions from AMAZING cellists and violinists to green people blowing bubbles on stilts! Unfortunately, all too soon it was time to leave back to school. I am sure these teachers and students had a morning they will never forget.
Article by Elena S (6S).



Thank You's

During the holidays Peter Fleming has fixed our pathway near the Year 1 & 2 playground, the seating around one of the large trees near the oval and edged the front garden. Looks great!

To the parents who have spread the bark under the play equipment, **I am very grateful**. We have a little more to go; moving some to under the Kinder play equipment. Do we have one of two willing Kinder parents. Please contact the office.

To our gardening team lead by Cathy Tippet and Caroline Weller, for the extra plants that keep appearing in our carpark garden and the work carried out to improve our veggie patch.

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.

Annual Parent Survey results

The report received was a collation of 181 responses from our parents.

This parent satisfaction survey at St Monica's Primary School EVATT K-6 was undertaken in August 2016. Invitations containing a link to the on-line survey instrument were sent to all parents. The survey remained open for 14 days. Parents who had not completed the survey were sent a reminder three days before the survey closed.

181 parents of our 316 families completed the survey (57% completion rate).

Kindergarten 17.5% 49 Year 1 13.2% 37 Year 2 16.1% 45
Year 3 12.9% 36 Year 4 13.6% 38
Year 5 14.6% 41 Year 6 12.1% 34

Parents were asked to express their satisfaction in response to a number of statements. Their responses were scored as follows:-

Strongly disagree 0
Disagree 1
Neither agree nor disagree 2
Agree 3
Strongly agree 4

The average score for each statement is colour coded for quick reference. 0 to 1.9 2 to 2.9 3 to 4

Parents who expressed dissatisfaction were asked a follow up question seeking further information about the issue of concern. Their responses were included in the final report.

Parents were asked to identify the year level or levels in which they had a child attending. Where parents had students in more than one year level, their responses are included in reports for each of these year levels.

Parent Satisfaction Survey Summary Overview

The numbers represent the School Average

Executive Summary

3.2 This is a good Catholic school.
3.3 My child is happy going to this school.
3.2 The school is a safe place for my child.
3.2 The staff at this school take an interest in my child.
3.3 My child's / children's teachers and other staff at this school make me feel welcome.
2.9 Religious Education is taught well at this school.
3.1 Prayer is important at this school.
2.9 Communication between the home and school is good.
3.2 I know what is happening at the school and coming events.
3.1 I can make contact with my child's teacher or other staff easily.
2.9 The school responds quickly to my concerns.
3.3 The school Principal and other leaders in the school are approachable.
3.1 The school Principal and other leaders in the school are committed to the best possible education for my child.
3.4 My child's teacher is approachable.
3.1 Parent teacher conferences are helpful at this school.
3.1 I am happy with the quality of teaching my child receives.
3.0 This school takes a balanced approach in providing an all-round education.

3.1 The school has high expectations of student engagement and behaviour.

3.1 This school is well-equipped.

3.0 I am happy with the school's facilities.

3.1 I am happy with my child's access to technology in the school.

3.0 I am aware of the school initiatives (KidsMatter, Restorative Practices, Reading focus).

2.6 The school manages behaviour incidents restoratively.

3.2 The school website and Skoolbag app are effective communication tools the school uses.

Further details will be published following our next Community Council Executive meeting on 2 November outlining parent comments both positive and areas for improvements.



How thinking affects feelings

Understanding that what we think affects how we feel and how we behave helps children and adults learn effective ways of managing emotions. As shown in the following examples, unhelpful thoughts can lead us to feel bad about ourselves and can stop us from doing what we want to do. Helpful thoughts lead to more positive feelings and effective behaviours.

Ben thinks: *I'm so dumb – everyone is better at school than me.* Ben feels frustrated and hopeless, and he gives up on doing his homework (behaviour).

Sharni thinks: *I'm never going to make any friends at this new school.* Sharni feels worried and sad, and she refuses to go to school (behaviour).

Rachael thinks: *I wrote a good story in class yesterday.* Rachael feels proud and confident, which helps her to write the next story (behaviour).

Challenging unhelpful thinking

Unhelpful thinking is very common in both children and adults. Often we don't notice it because the thoughts happen automatically. By listening to the things children say about themselves and their experiences, parents can learn to notice and gently challenge children's unhelpful thinking. The best way to do this is to help children think through the reasons why they think a particular way. Saying things like "I can see how you might think that, but maybe there's another way of looking at it," or "Let's see how we can check that out," are very useful for helping children change their unhelpful thinking. It can help children to know they are not wrong to have unhelpful thoughts (everybody has them), but that learning to identify and change unhelpful thinking is a way of managing their feelings better.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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 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.

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.

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.

Term 4 School Fees

Fees for Term 4 were invoiced this week. All families should receive a statement either by email or via the children's notes. **School fees are due by Friday 18 November.** Families leaving the school at the end of this year should ensure their fees are paid in full before the end of December. For any leaving families with a Direct Debit arrangement, the debit will continue until a zero balance is reached.

Contact Details

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

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.

Swimming Carnival 2017 – Change in approach

Following an analysis of the number of children involved in our annual swimming carnival this year and the availability of family members to provide support on the day, the Council Executive have supported the following proposal.

- Only children aged 8-12 years competing in a 50m, 100m and 200m swimming event will be permitted to attend. All children in Years 5 and 6 to attend as part of their leadership role and those Year 5 and 6 students who pass the water safety test, will have the opportunity to compete in 25m events. This will streamline the carnival events and may encourage more or the older children to participate.
- All students remaining at school, including the junior school, will take part in a water fun day and activities at school.

Generally, at the carnival the non-swimmers or those who do not pass the swimming competency test, held on the day, spent most of the carnival time sitting in the stands and visiting the canteen. The school has also had to employ additional casual staff to assist with supervision.

Data used to inform decision

Swimming Carnival Statistics Response 2016

Grades	50m events	25m event	Only Novelties	Did not attend
3 & 4	30	39	27	19
5 & 6	50	20	37	19
Students	80	59	74	38
%	31%	24%	30%	15%

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

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.



	Numbers attending	Number Not attending	Still waiting for a reply
Kinder	55	2	-
Year 1	51	4	-
Year 2	58	4	-

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.

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

School Banking

School banking now occurs on **Tuesday** each week.

Advertising in our 2016 School Yearbook

We are seeking the support of local businesses to advertise in our Annual School Yearbook. Our Yearbook contains photos, events and stories from our students and staff and is a wonderful pictorial representation of the year. The St Monica's Yearbook is distributed to over 370 families within the school community, in the Belconnen Area, at the end of each school year.

To help subsidise printing costs we are seeking sponsorship from businesses in the form of advertising. If you would like to advertise in our 2016 Yearbook, please email your advertisement (PDF) or phone the school if you require more information.

Details are as follows (All prices are GST Inclusive):

Outside Back Cover	A4	\$	300.00	
Inside Front Cover	A4	\$	250.00	(Sold)
Inside Back Cover	A4	\$	250.00	(Sold)
Full Page	A4	\$	150.00	
Half Page		\$	90.00	
Quarter Page		\$	60.00	

The 2016 yearbook will be sent out the week beginning 12 December. **Deadline for inclusion is Friday 25 November 2016**. All advertisements need to be in electronic form - PDF please.

Another option is through financial sponsorship where your business name will be listed with other businesses that have provided financial support.

If you require further information, please contact Allison Walsh by email: allison.walsh@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Updated Bus Information

Gungahlin Bus Station Platform 1 Hibberston 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](#).

St Monica's Trivia Night



28 October 2016
6:30 for 7 pm

School Hall

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

Book your table ASAP.

Ticket enquiries to Felicity Magnussen on 0409 657 955.

Donations to Emma Howlett, via the St Monica's Front Office, would be gratefully accepted!

Thank you to Ray White Belconnen Real Estate for their generous donation of \$250 to our Trivia Night.

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

Year 1	Jye L
Year 2	Alexandra B
Year 4	Kai K, Lachlan R
Year 5	Alicia R
Year 6	Lachlan K, Charlotte F, James B



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



No School Assembly tomorrow (Friday 21 October).

No Prayer Assembly (Wednesday 26 October).

	Value Award – Forgiveness	Class Award – English
KS	Cooper N	Zachary H
KMR	Mya L	Grace S
KRG	Oliver V	Indiana H
1V	Chontelle L	Jacob M
1B	Juliet P	Keir F
1OH	Yianni K	Mia M
2L	Lexi R	Aiden O
2S	Emma T	Ava P
2D	Tyler S	Zoe K
3R	Fletcher A	Coco B
3D	Angelo F	Connor L
3/4RG	Marin J	Riley H
4C	Byron P	Zara D
4W	Callie W	Clara A
5K	Emily C	Olivia W
5E	Ryan H	Lachlan S
5/6M	Bailey R	Lauren H
6M	Ashlyn D	Cohen E
6S	Thomas O	Jaycob S
M&M Star Medallions – Madeline N (3D), Dylan R (6S) – 3 rd star, Imogen R-G (6S) – 3 rd star, Franko S (6S) – 3 rd star, Shakai L (6S) – 3 rd star, Alison F (6S) – 3 rd star, Abbi F (6S), Paige S (6S)		

Pride Badges and Special Lunch

On Monday I will call the children together to elect the best day for our special lunch. Badges will be issued next week at Assembly.

SPORTING NEWS

Oztag – Nationals

Sam P (6S) and Ben Mc (6S) competed in Nationals for Oztag in Coffs Harbour last week. They made it to the ¼ finals. Well done boys!!

Nationals Touch Football

Congratulations to Jack M (6S) who will be competing in Nationals Touch Footy in Perth next week.

Hip Hop Dance

Sienna H (3R), Dita S (3D), Imogen H (3D) and Annie R (3/4RG) competed at the World Supremacy Hip Hop Battlegrounds in Sydney. This group placed 1st in Canberra, 2nd in Australia and 4th in the world. An amazing result for the youngest crew ever to attend. They also competed in the Brindabella Dance Competition for Jazz Troupe u/10 and Hip Hop u/10. They placed 1st in Jazz Troupe and 1st in Hip Hop. A winning streak. Well done girls!!

CANTEEN CORNER

Canteen Online Ordering

Flexi Schools online ordering system is available for placing lunch orders. **Friday Lunch Orders only available via FlexiSchools ordering due to availability of helpers.**

BIG NEWS! During Term 4 the Canteen will initiate the move from FlexiSchools to Qkr. This means that ALL school payments may be made within a single payment platform. Whilst the transition is in place, orders will be accepted from either platform. Families currently using FlexiSchools will be able to close their account and will have their account balances refunded by FlexiSchools.

Roster for Term 4, Week 3

	Early 9:15am - 11:45am	Late 11:30am -2:30pm
MONDAY 24/10/16	Vacancy	Vacancy
TUESDAY 25/10/16	Carol Lynch	Carol Lynch
WEDNESDAY 26/10/16	Evelyn David-Hoole	Evelyn David-Hoole
THURSDAY 27/10/16	June Manning Anne Carew	June Manning Anne Carew
FRIDAY 28/10/16	Tracy D'Ambrosi Samantha Cox	June Manning Wendy Regan

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.

Marymead

Marymead Auxiliary is hosting a Spring Morning Tea in the gardens of Government House, Yarralumla. The Morning Tea will be held on **Wednesday, 26 October** from **10am to 12noon**. To raise funds for Marymead a charge of \$25 will apply. Please bring a chair or rug, and enjoy a wonderful morning spent amongst the beautiful gardens of Government House. There will be morning tea, craft, preserves, a raffle and entertainment. To RSVP to the event, please contact Libby Amiel on 6296 6596 or email Libby at libri@homemail.com.au, by Friday 21 October. On **Saturday, 5 November** the Annual Marymead Fete will be held at Marymead's Narrabundah site from 9am to 1pm. The Fete will have the usual great variety of stalls and entertainment including books, clothing, toys, raffles, dancers, face painting and lots, lots more. You will enjoy a great day out with the family while supporting Marymead.

The Bite-sized Circus

The Bite-sized Circus (Littlest Show on Earth) is being held at Watson on Friday 4 November at 7pm, Saturday 5 November at 11am, 2pm and 7pm and Sunday 6 November at 11am and 2pm. Book online early www.bite-sized.com.



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 defence

karate for all ages