



NEWSLETTER

Term 4 – Week 8 – 1 December 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



Congratulations



On behalf of the community I would like to congratulate Miss Catherine de Bois on receiving a national recognition award as a Highly Accomplished Teachers by the ACT Teachers Quality Institute. Catherine was one of several teachers across Canberra who, following a stringent assessment process, was recognised for her skill and talent as a teacher. Well done Catherine.

SAFE, RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNERS

Learning Focus – Weeks 7-10

Be Respectful

Use our Manners

We say please and thank you, apologise when things go wrong and wait our turn.



Social Focus – Weeks 4-6

Be Responsible

Report things that don't make us feel safe

We all have the right to feel safe all the time. Nothing is so bad that we cannot tell someone about it.



Carols on the St Monica's Oval Tonight

Tonight the St Monica's community gathered on the oval to share Christmas Carols and enter into the Christmas spirit. Thank you to everyone who attended to make the evening so very special. It is only 25 days till Christmas. Many thanks to Mrs Amanda Stewart for coordinating the evening events.



God Bless

Carmel Maguire
Principal

SCHOOL VALUE - Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough,

and more. It turns denial into

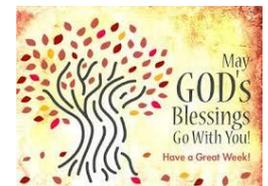
acceptance, chaos to order, confusion

to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a

stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings

peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." – Melody

Beattie



If you have moment in this busy week....take it and watch:
Grateful- A Love Song to the World

<http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=4460>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

End of Year Giving Mass

On Wednesday 7 December at 9.30 am the school community will come together to give thanks for the year and present our baskets of food for those in need in the Parish.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you, to all those who have already sent items in for the Christmas Hampers. Donations will be gratefully accepted up until Monday 12 December. This vital appeal provides Christmas supplies for those families and people in our parish that are struggling in many ways this Christmas season.

Mince pies, Christmas cakes, Christmas puddings, Tinned Hams, tinned fruit and vegetables, jellies, long life /boxed custard, biscuits and crackers, lollies, Christmas Stockings, Chips, Chocolate, soft drinks, tea, instant coffee, hot chocolate mix, jams, spreads, chutneys, gluten free items. The Conference is grateful for all donations but does request that items are not past their use by date.

An Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. As we light the candles of this wreath may its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son so that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Carmel Rheinberger – REC

GENERAL INFORMATION

Year 6 Graduation

Next Wednesday evening the Year 6 children will gather to celebrate their years of primary school with a Liturgy commencing at 6.30pm in the Church followed by supper prepared by the Year 5 parents in the Hall. Year 5 parents may drop off food and donations toward Graduation between 3.10pm and 5.00pm on Wednesday.

Year 6 Final Assembly

Year 6 will present their final assembly on Friday 9 December starting at 12.30pm. This is a fun celebration of their time at St Monica's.

Passing of the Light

On Monday 12 December at 12.30pm the Year 6 students will pass on the light of responsibility to the Year 5 students. Parents are welcome to attend.



Year 6 Fun Day

On Tuesday 13 December the Year 6 children will enjoy a "Fun Day". They will spend the morning at Skyzone and upon their return to school will have a movie and pizza afternoon in the hall.

End of Year Assembly Program & Staff Farewells

Our final assembly to present awards and to farewell staff leaving St Monica's will occur on Wednesday 14 December, commencing at 12.00pm in the hall. This will be the final assembly to present Awards, Stars, Pride Badges, Sport Medals and Shields.

Word of Thanks from the Council Executive

As the school year rapidly comes to an end, the Council Executive would like to give a BIG vote of thanks to all our parent/grandparent volunteers who help out throughout the year. St Monica's is fortunate to have numerous volunteers who give up their time to:

- work in classrooms,
- accompany class excursions,
- assist children borrow out weekly readers,
- serve in the canteen,
- assist in the library,
- run school banking,
- coordinate fundraising activities,
- accompany students who represent the school at various
- sporting activities,
- assist at whole school event including cross country, athletics
- and swimming carnivals and discos and movie nights,
- work on our gardens,
- provide food for kindy orientation, grandparents day and other
- school events,
- run the Uniform shop, and of course,
- Fete organisers and stallholders and their assistants.

We appreciate ALL the hours these volunteers put into the school and are grateful for their contributions towards a well-resourced and caring school environment for our students.

Dance Fever

Parents keen to see the efforts of our dance fever program are invited to watch the final session of the program in the hall on Tuesday 13 December – **9.00am – Kindergarten - Year 2** and **9.30am - 10.15am Year 3, 4 & 5.**

Candy Canes

Christmas is just around the corner and while the custom of giving Candy Canes with Christmas Cards is a lovely gesture, a reminder to parents that the giving and sharing of lollies at school is not permitted.



Semester Two Reports

With the end of the year fast approaching the teachers are busy finalising your child's school reports. The reports will be issued on **Tuesday 6 December 2016**. Should you be leaving prior to this date please let your child's teacher know, as soon as possible, so that Carmel Maguire can ensure it is signed off in time. While formal interviews will not be arranged the teachers will be available once the reports are issued to discuss any concerns you may have. We are currently finalising the best afternoon to make available for parents to request an interview if required.

School Structure 2017

Our school structure for 2017 will be as follows

Kinder x 3 classes	Year 1 x 2 classes	Year 2 x 3 classes
Year 3 x 2 classes	Multi-age 3/4	Year 4 x 2 classes
Year 5 x 2 classes	Multi-age 5/6	Year 6 x 2 classes

Teachers and Class Groups

It is that time of the year again where the hot topic becomes class lists and which teacher will be on which year level.

St Monica's has a fabulous reputation in the community for providing excellence. We have experienced and early career teachers. We have teachers with a passion for Maths, for Literacy, for the Arts, for Technology and the list goes on. Over 7 years at Primary School your child will experience a wide range of teachers and gain valuable skills and knowledge from each and every one of them.

We have been working on class lists for many weeks. This is not an easy job and takes a considerable amount of time. A range of factors are considered including gender balance, learning styles, learning difficulties, enrichment needs, work habits, social needs, health considerations, emotional needs, behaviour considerations and other relevant issues.

We aim for an equal spread of both positive and challenging characteristics. Every care is also taken to ensure that your child is placed in the best situation to enhance learning and social development. In some cases, advice is also sought from the Learning Support Teacher, School Counsellor, etc during this process.

As parents you cannot always shelter and protect your child or choose their teachers or friends for them. Your child may not get into the class they want or be with the friends they want to be with. Sure some students may not like a particular teacher, but how do they really know if they have never actually been taught by them. I do not know how many times a student (or parent) has been apprehensive about a teacher, only to find that they have had a great year. Life is full of disappointments, challenges and upsets. A big part of life is learning to deal with a range of people, whether it be other children or adults. It is about building skills and resilience that can be used in later life.

How your child responds to the news of their class teacher for 2017 will largely depend on your own response. Whether you are satisfied or not, you need to be positive and encouraging. If your child sees that you are upbeat, then they will be confident and optimistic about the future.

Children will be notified of their teacher for 2017 on Thursday 15 December at our "Meet the Teacher" morning.

40 Year Celebration

Next year St Monica's celebrates 40 years. We would like to convene a committee to help coordinate possible events to mark this occasion. If you would like to get involved, please let the front office know. We would look at convening the committee early in the year. Thank you to Evelyn David Hoole and Ellia Marando who have joined this committee.

St Monica's Connect Network

Being part of the **St Monica's Connect Network** is a great way to meet other families and be involved in the school community. It really would not require immense amounts of your time. A suggested idea could be families in a grade meet by the lake for a BBQ one evening. I'm sure you have lots of ideas to share.

We are looking for representatives from each grade to help connect our community. If this sounds like something you would like to be part of please let me know by emailing office.stmonicas@cq.catholic.edu.au. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Disco Coordinator/s for 2017

Angalea Turnbull has offered to take on the coordination of our disco for 2017. Thanks Angalea for your generosity. Thank you to Jess Whaler and Franca Field who have volunteered to assist Angalea.

School Banking

Tuesday 6 December 2016 will be the last day for school banking for the year. Thank you to Robyn Jolly, our School Banking Coordinator.

Year 5 & 6 Camp 2017

Next year all Year 5 and 6 students will attend camp at the same time. This camp will be taking place in Week 8 of Term 1, from Wednesday 22 March to Friday 24 March 2017 at Cooba Sport and Education Camp in Berridale, NSW. Participation in this school camp will provide the children with many wonderful experiences that focus on interpersonal skills including co-operation, team building, initiative and leadership.

Reminder - To secure a place for your child we require a deposit of \$100.00 due by **Friday 9 December 2016** and full payment by **Friday 3 March 2017**. If you have any questions please contact Patrick Ellis, Assistant Principal.

SMOOSH Care 2017 Bookings

A reminder to any current SMOOSH families who have not yet enrolled for 2017 please contact the SMOOSH office ASAP to enrol as places are limited. Current payments must be up to date before an offer of a place will be made for 2017.

Vacation Care

Vacation Care bookings for both our December 2016 and January 2017 programs are now open. A reminder to families that you can book & pay via the Qkr! App.

Automatic Deduction (Credit Card) for School Fees Payments

Currently families have the option of an automatic deduction from their nominated credit card as a way to pay school fees. We wish to advise that from April 2016 this option has ceased. Families currently using this arrangement may do so for the remainder of this year but new arrangements should be prepared for 2017. Families currently using this option are advised that deductions may not occur during school holiday periods. Other payment options are: Direct Debit (from bank account), BPAY, Credit Card (at office or by phone), QKR app, cash or cheque.

Canteen – Qkr!

We have now commenced using Qkr for Canteen Recess & Lunch orders as of last Monday. Orders for Special Lunch Days will also be available through Qkr.

Preferred Payment Method



For families currently using FlexiSchools, whilst the transition is in place orders will be accepted from either platform. You will be able to close your account and will have the account balance refunded by FlexiSchools.

Birthdays

Kindergarten	Anneliese L, Marquez P
Year 1	Bailey G, Antonia H
Year 4	Jorja J
Year 5	Rose M, Brynn F



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



No Whole School Assembly, tomorrow (Friday 2 December).

Value Awards for Weeks 7, 8 and 9 will be presented at our Final Assembly on Wednesday 14 December.

	Value Award – Thanksgiving	Class Award – Humanities and Science
KS	Jackson M	Vsevolod K
KMR	Blake M	Jack P
KRG	Luca C	Annalise S
1V	Ethan G	Holly F
1B	Gabrielle W	Siena D
1OH	Leila W	Liam S
2L	Charlize S	Samuel J
2S	Isabella M	Riley Mc
2D	Harry C	Mikayla T
3R	Lachlan M	Kate S
3D	Jack A	Ruby S
3/4RG	Lyndelle M	Matthew M
4C	Blake O	Annabel L
4W	Domenic S	Fiona M
5K	Holli N	Amy R
5E	Charlotte J	Nicholas H
5/6M	Eden B	Tyler M
6M	Riley K	Adrian M
6S	Jaycob S	Thomas O
M&M Star Medallions – Lexi R (2L), Laura G (2L), Clancy P (2L), Isabella S (3/4RG) – 2 nd star, Lyndelle M (3/4RG) – 3 rd star, Thomas O (6S), Chad A (6S), Samuel V (6S) – 3 rd star Pride Badges – Samuel V (6S)		

CANTEEN CORNER

Friday Lunch Orders only available via Qkr or FlexiSchools due to availability of helpers.

Roster for Term 4, Week 9

	Early 9:15am - 11:45am	Late 11:30am - 2:30pm
MONDAY 5/12/16	Rowena Thompson	Rowena Thompson
TUESDAY 6/12/16	Vacancy	Vacancy
WEDNESDAY 7/12/16	Evelyn David-Hoole	Evelyn David-Hoole
THURSDAY 8/12/16	June Manning Anne Carew	June Manning Anne Carew
FRIDAY 9/12/16	Tracy D'Ambrosio Samantha Cox	June Manning Wendy Regan

Thank you - *Samantha Manning* - Canteen Manager - 6258 4687

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

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.

2017 ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides financial assistance to low-income families with student (s) in Years 7 to 10 attending an ACT public, Independent or Catholic system school or are home schooled. To be eligible applicants must have a current Centrelink card or Healthcare card with means tested payment codes. The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme is an annual payment of \$750 per eligible student. To ensure eligible applicants receive payment by February 2017, applications must be lodged by **30 November 2016**. Applications received after this date will be processed as soon as possible, and paid February 2017 onwards. Applications received by 30 June 2017 may be eligible for a full year's payment. Applications received from 1 July 2017 to 27 October 2017 will be eligible for a half-year payment of \$375. If you require further information please call the Bursary Administrator on 62058262 or via email at: ACTSecondaryBursary@act.gov.au.

Christmas Community Event

A free family fun afternoon will be held on **FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER** at the Anglican parish of St Barnabas. Friends and family are invited to celebrate the start of the festive season and enjoy a free BBQ with free face painting; a free jumping castle and live music. There will be wonderful free craft activities for the children and a live nativity to get the family into the spirit of Christmas. Please come and join our Christmas Community Event at St Barnabas Church, 10 Charnwood Place, Charnwood, 3pm – 6pm.



Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT - Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm. Phone: 6287 3833

Canberra's 2016 Carols by Candlelight

Canberra's 2016 Carols by Candlelight will be held at Stage 88, Commonwealth Park on Wednesday 14 December 2016 commencing at 7pm.

The Woden Valley Youth Choir is so excited to present for another year. Bring a picnic dinner and your Canberra Times Carol sheet to be published in Canberra Times on Monday 12 December to this free family event.

The selected Charity this year is Palliative Care ACT. For more information visit our website: <http://wvyc.org.au/> or friend us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wvycact/>



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