



# NEWSLETTER

Term 4 – Week 9 – 8 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

Last night we celebrated a very important event in the life of our Year Six children. The evening commenced with a beautiful celebration followed by the presentation of certificates, a journey down memory lane and a fabulous supper. The children are now ready to continue their journey onto high school. We congratulate them and know that their achievements and accomplishments at St Monica's will follow them and empower them to become successful members of our society in the future.

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone who made the evening a wonderful occasion for the children and their families.

To the staff members who assisted, leading up to and on the evening: Haley Stonham, Elizabeth Mahoney, Michael McFadden, Patrick Ellis and Carmel Rheinberger. Congratulations to Michael McFadden for the memorable Photostory. A wonderful effort appreciated by the parents and children.

Congratulations to Stephanie Stirling, Melanie Maher, Michelle Hawke who coordinated the graduation supper. Thank you to all the helpers – Louise Dykes, Emma Neame, Allison Hutcheson, Louise Kerr, and Megan Sharp who helped throughout the day and on the evening and those who prepared the food and cleaned up afterwards.

### Governor General's Day

On Friday 3 December, 24 wonderfully respectful and responsible students from years 3-6 were selected to visit the Governor General's 'Fun Day', held at his amazing property in Yarralumla. Sporting organisations held sessions for the kids to try different sports and activities. There was hockey, cricket and AFL. Obstacles courses, hula-hooping and bean-bag throwing. There was even a huge snakes and ladders game painted on to the grass. The students really loved playing tips on the lush green grass! With so much to do, we were glad to sit and enjoy a barbeque lunch, juice and jelly. The highlight of the day would have to be the special guest arriving in a

helicopter, landing right in front of us on the Governor General's lawn! We will keep the guest a secret in case you are lucky enough to go another year! Thank you to Cathy Tippet, Tony Jadric and Alan Harrison for coming along with us and sharing a fabulous day together.  
(Louise Dykes)



God Bless

Carmel Maguire  
Principal

## 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 7-10

#### 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.



## SCHOOL VALUE - Thanksgiving

### THANKSGIVING

Feel the warmth of the day on your face.  
Catch the rays of the new morning grace.  
Eat your bread with heart full of praise  
And be grateful for sacred days.



**Thank God for the blessings of your life.  
Every joy, every sorrow, every low and every rise,  
Bring it all to the table, the blessing that you are  
And bring it with a grateful heart.**

Hold your hand out to all those you meet.  
Be someone to that someone in need.  
Living bread to the ones you are with,  
Be grateful for all they give.  
Taken from 'THANK GOD' Jen Charadia (At The Well)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### THANKSGIVING MASS

Yesterday we gathered with Fr Loi to celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass. Fr Loi spoke to the children about saying 'Thank you' and being grateful for all the gifts we have. He talked about his time working in a hospital where he saw many people whose health was poor. Fr Loi asked us to be especially grateful for our continued good health and the systems that enable us to care for those who require it.



So we all say together 'THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING!'

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Two of our Mini Vinnies Team members, Franko S and Dylan R made a presentation (of the items donated) on behalf of the school to the St Monica's St Vincent De Paul Conference. Mrs Kelly Grzywacz accepted on behalf of the Conference and told us they would be packing over 50 Hampers this year. Your donations do make a difference!

If you have not already contributed and would like to do so, we will continue to collect items up until Monday 12 December.

### Sacramental Dates for 2017

#### SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST:

**Parent Information Evening:** Wednesday  
29 March

**First Communion Commitment Masses:** Saturday 1 April  
6:00pm Sunday 2 April 10:00am

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 17 June Sunday 18 June



#### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

**Parent Information Evening:** Wednesday 10 May

**Confirmation Commitment Masses:** Saturday 13 May  
6:00pm, Sunday 14 May 10:00am

**Parent and Child Night:** Wednesday 25 May

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** TBA Wednesday 26 July or  
Wednesday 2 August



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

**Parent Information Evening:** Wednesday 11 October

**Reconciliation Commitment Masses:** Saturday

14 October 6:00pm, Sunday 15 October 10:00am

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation:** Wednesday  
22 November



### ADVENT

At this very busy time it is good to step back and think about the season we are in... Advent; a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. The following links offer some short video reflection on Advent.

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent>

<http://adventreflections.com/sign-up-advent>

(Bishop Robert Barron)



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Canteen in Week 10

**The canteen will be closed for lunch orders in Week 10.** During Week 10 there will only be window sales at recess and lunchtime.

Special Lunch Order Day is on Monday 12 December. Orders have now closed for this.

### 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.



### 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.



### 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.**

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

## Awards presented at the final assembly

<b>Citizenship – Rotary Club</b>	Announced on the day
<b>Pastoral Care &amp; Christian Values</b>	Announced on the day
<b>Academic Awards – Senator Zed Seselja</b>	Announced on the day
<b>National Representatives</b> <b>Please advise if anyone has been omitted</b>	
<b>Tennis</b>	Ryan L (5K)
<b>Rugby League</b>	Noah M (6S), Jack M (6S), Ben Mc (6S), Sam P (6S),
<b>Touch Football</b>	Jack M (6S)
<b>Rugby Union</b>	Sam P (6S), Noah M (6S), Jack M (6S)
<b>Soccer</b>	Marko J (6M), Jaycob S (6S)
<b>Oz Tag</b>	Montana M (4W), Annie R (3/4RG), Taeya H (5E), Holly W (5E), Katie H (5K), Olivia R (5K), Sam P (6S), Ben Mc (6S)
<b>Swimming</b>	Olivia R (5K), Jessica H (5/6M)
<b>Athletics</b>	Ryan C (4W), Jessica H (5/6M)
<b>Golf</b>	Ryan U (5/6M)
<b>Cross Country</b>	Ryan C (4W)

## 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

## Class Teachers 2017

Kinder	Mrs McCann & Mrs Russell Miss Rheinberger & Mrs Godschalx Mrs Rosenfeld
Year 1	Mrs Sydney Mrs Vaughan & Mrs Houghton
Year 2	Mrs Lustica Ms Stewart Mr Dunstan
Year 3	Miss Winne Teacher to be advised
Multi-age 3/4	Mrs Richards
Year 4	Mrs Carswell Miss Battye
Year 5	Miss du Bois Mr Evans
Multi-age 5/6	Mr McFadden
Year 6	Mrs Stonham Miss Mahoney

## Staff News

Tomorrow will be Mrs Sally Gervink's last day at St Monica's as she is taking up a part time position at a school in Googong in 2017. I wish Sally all the best and thank her for the contribution she has made to St Monica's and looking after the Kinder children in KRG

Next week we will farewell Miss Sonia Brown who has worked with Mrs Rachael Hind in our library this year. Sonia completes a twelve month contract while Rachael took Reading Recovery sessions. Rachael will be returning to the library fulltime in 2017.

Mrs Robyn O'Rourke has decided to access her long service next year so has opted to do relief teaching in Term 1.

Mrs Denise Duck will be away next week as she is having surgery on her knee. We wish her a speedy recovery.

## 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.



## Multi-age Classes

All children are considered for placement in a multi-age class as it 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.

## Class Sizes

Next year we will only have two classes in Year 1. This is currently due to the number of children in the cohort which determines our staffing allocation provided by Catholic Education. We are very mindful of the larger classes in 2017 and are currently putting in place structures and programs to support the needs of the children.

Current CE policy has a ceiling on class sizes at 30.

## 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.

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 Carmel Maguire know by emailing [office.stmonicas@cq.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.stmonicas@cq.catholic.edu.au). Looking forward to hearing from you.

## Disco Coordinators 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.

## 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.

## School Banking

There is no school banking in Week 10. School banking will resume in Term 1 of 2017.

## 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.

## Year 5 & 6 Camp 2017

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.

## Birthdays

Kindergarten	Luca S
Year 1	Chase M, Julie P
Year 2	Jack D
Year 3	Anton den H, Sienna H
Year 6	Samuel V



## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



**Year 6 Final Assembly tomorrow (Friday 9 December) commencing at 12.30pm.**

Star and Pride Badges, Class Awards for Week 8 and Week 9 and Values Awards for Week 7, 8 and 9 will be presented.

	Value Award – Thanksgiving	Class Award – Reader of the Term
<b>KS</b>	Faith K	James D
<b>KMR</b>	Amelia H	Jessica Mc
<b>KRG</b>	Luca S	Indiana H
<b>1V</b>	Samuel G	Isaac P
<b>1B</b>	Madison R	Scarlett B
<b>1OH</b>	Alex C	Rohan G
<b>2L</b>	Lachlan B	Chloe D
<b>2S</b>	Cooper B	Jack D
<b>2D</b>	Layla R	Sophie S
<b>3R</b>	Sophia M	Brock T
<b>3D</b>	Owen L	Bowen D
<b>3/4RG</b>	Jackson G	Ryan S
<b>4C</b>	Matthew P	Nicholas I
<b>4W</b>	Brooke M	Phoebe W
<b>5K</b>	Ellen C	Leo D
<b>5E</b>	Eve M	Millie A-C
<b>5/6M</b>	Jessica H	Andrew H
<b>6M</b>	Jaiken B	James B
<b>6S</b>	Brooke A	Shakaia L
<b>M&amp;M Star Medallions</b> – Xara G (2L), Olivia S (3/4RG), Tom P (4C), Blake O (4C), Marissa C (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Ashlyn D (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Cohen E (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Charlotte F (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Sinead H (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Sophie H (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Marko J (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Noumi M (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Phoebe O (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Grace P (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star, Amarlia R (6M) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> star		

## Pizza Lunch with Ms Maguire

Children who are receiving their **Pride Badges** at the last Assembly on Wednesday 14 December will be having Pizza lunch with Ms Maguire on Thursday 15 December. Those children are allowed to wear casual clothes on the day.

## CANTEEN CORNER

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

Next week is cleaning week in Canteen. If you are able to help out please let Sam know.

For families currently using FlexiSchools, you will be able to close your account and have the account balance refunded by FlexiSchools.

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

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

### 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/>

### 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](mailto: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**



## 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  
Floreys  
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**