



# St Monica's News

Term 1 – Week 1 – 2 February 2017

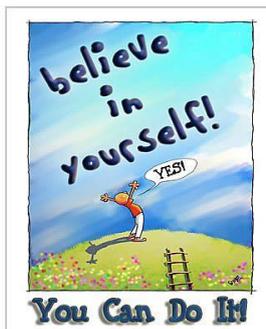
*At St Monica's we are a vibrant Catholic community that works collaboratively to empower its members to be inclusive learners, custodians and citizens*

## A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

# Believe in Yourself

Dear Parents/Carers

If you believe,  
you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."  
Mt 21:22



### Reflection: New Year, New Beginnings

I didn't really enjoy school, but one thing I did get excited about at the beginning of each new year was the prospect of a new clean exercise book. I always pledged to keep it neat and tidy and use my best handwriting. It was a chance to make a new beginning. Study harder, get better results and all in all be a number one student! Of course by week two, my new book was as scruffy as my old one and I had slipped back into my old routine of scrawly handwriting, and homework done at the last minute!

A lot of schoolwork is done on computer now but a new school year still affords us the opportunity to start again. It offers us a chance to renew our commitment to one another and to God, to give our best, in our planning, our friendships and our prayers. It gives us a chance to begin again. To renew our determination, not just to think about ourselves but about the wider world. For many of us, who are well beyond our school years, the start of a new year does mark the start of a new season and new opportunities.

Making a new beginning isn't just about trying harder, or even working harder. God wants us to have fun as well. God wants to bless us through our friends and colleagues, to refresh us through Scripture and to renew us as we take time out from our everyday life to enjoy the things that excite us. It's hard not to get ground down by the evens of daily life. It's hard to keep the sense of anticipation a new school year can bring. Tiredness creeps in.

Jesus knew about busyness. Healing and teaching, he got exhausted. So early in the mornings he would find a quiet spot and pray. Amidst all the rush he knew he needed to step aside to recharge his batteries, and renew his relationship with God. Maybe as a new school year gets under way, we could follow Jesus' example. Perhaps we could make a moment each day to pray. Perhaps choose a prayer you like or simply sit in the silence and allow God to speak to you.



This year our school theme is all about building on our strengths and being confident in who we are! We are all looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year.

God Bless  
Carmel Maguire  
Principal

**SAFE,  
RESPONSIBLE  
AND  
RESPECTFUL  
LEARNERS**

**LEARNING  
FOCUS  
Be Responsible**

**Self-Concept  
Believe in your own  
ability. Know that  
you can do it if you  
try hard.**



**SOCIAL FOCUS  
Be Safe  
Sun Safety  
When we are  
outside, we need to  
wear our hats.**



## SCHOOL VALUE - Respect

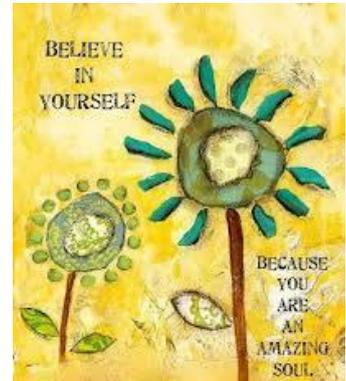
### RESPECT

What better place to learn the true meaning of RESPECT than in our own families! It is at the knees of our mothers and fathers that we learn powerful lessons about listening to others, sharing, taking turns and helping those in need. The safe haven of home is also where we learn that we cannot truly love others until we love and respect ourselves. The school is no substitute for the blessing of a nurturing, faith-filled and well-disciplined home. In January, we celebrated the feast of the Holy Family, therefore, over the next three weeks, let us turn our thoughts to how our own family can mirror the same patience, devotion and kindness that was characteristic of the family relationships between Mary, Joseph and Jesus. In so doing, we will be reinforcing the messages of the school in cultivating the value of respect.

You might like to say this prayer at home during the next three weeks.

### PRAYER FOR RESPECT

God our Father,  
 I know that I have much to learn from other people  
 Who reflect your image and likeness in different ways.  
 Inspire me to respect others fully as my equals  
 Seeing and loving in them, what you see and love in them.  
 Amen.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Opening School Mass

Next Wednesday 8 February we will join together with St Monica's parish to celebrate our Opening School Mass. We come together to place our hopes and dreams and aspirations for the year ahead before the Lord and ask for His blessings on all our endeavours. You are most welcome to join with us.



### Sacramental Dates

Please note the change in schedule for First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year.



#### 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:** Wednesday 26 July 6:00pm, St Monica's Church



#### 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

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Parent Information Evenings

To inform parents of new initiatives, policy updates and provide strategies to support your child at home, the teachers will be hosting a series of **Parent Information Sessions**. These evenings are a crucial way in which we communicate with parents. I look forward to your attendance.

The teachers go to great lengths to ensure you are well informed. Please make every effort to attend as this sets the scene for the year and provides you with the opportunity to clarify and ask questions.

Time	February	Grade	Location
6.30	13 Monday	5 & 6	Library
6.30	14 Tuesday	Kinder	Library
6.30	15 Wednesday	Yr 2	Hub
7.15	15 Wednesday	Yr 1	Library
6.30	20 Monday	3 & 4	Hub

## Staffing Arrangements Currently Organised for 2017

Principal	Carmel Maguire
Assistant Principal	Patrick Ellis
RE Coordinator	Carmel Rheinberger
Coordinators	Haley Stonham, Amanda Stewart
Kindergarten	Carmel Rheinberger – 3 days & Kirsty Godschalx – 2 days Bridgette McCann – 2.5 days & Emma Russell – 2.5 days , Yvette Rosenfeld
Year 1	Jacinda Vaughan – 3 days & Helen Houghton – 2 days, Lynne Sydney
Year 2	Mira Lustica Ted Dunstan Amanda Stewart
Year 3	Amanda Winne, Katarina Markovic
Multi-age 3 & 4	Monika Richards
Year 4	Susan Carswell - 4 days & Patrick Ellis – 1 day, Clare Battye
Year 5	Christopher Evans, Catherine du Bois
Multi-age 5& 6	Michael McFadden
Year 6	Haley Stonham – 4 days & Louise Dykes – 1 Day, Elizabeth Mahoney
Library	Rachael Hind
Classroom Support Teacher	Denise Duck - 3.5 days, Jacinda Vaughan – 2 days, Bridgette McCann – 1 day, Emma Russell – 1 day
Learning Support Assistants	Esme Byrne, Kelly Levi, Shane Starkey, Sonja Vocisano, Sharon Friend, Lauren Murphy
Music, Dance Drama	Sarah Anderson – 4 days
Japanese	Anne Hodgkin – 2 days
Office Administrator	Stephanie Flynn
Finance Officer	Allison Walsh
Maintenance	Peter Hales
Canteen	Samantha Manning
SMOOSH	Acting Director – Kate Turner, Assistant Director – Sarah Davidson
Chaplaincy	Bob Fletcher – 10 hours per week
Catholic Care Counsellor	Morena Minero de Gonzalez

### Starting up again - Q&A with the Principal – Monday 15 February between 2.20 – 3.10pm

To connect with families and promote improved communication I have set aside some times so that parents can drop in for a coffee and chat. The gatherings will be informal and held in the staffroom, little ones are welcome. To gauge interest please let the office staff know by morning tea on Monday 15 February if you plan to drop in. Q&A Coffee sessions will be advertised regularly in the newsletter.

### School Fees

On Monday a fee statement will be sent to all families who have not finalised their 2016 school account. This will also include those families paying via regular payments. Families are required to settle their 2016 accounts immediately. Should this be an issue please contact the Principal to discuss payment options. The 2017 accounts will be emailed out in Week 3. **Please ensure your email account details are up to date.** Due to pricing and delivery changes with Australia Post accounts are not posted home.

### 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 1VH.
- 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 should not be used 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 & 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.

**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 updated 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.

Working with Vulnerable People

Got your new card? What now? Update your TQI profile

Log on to the TQI teacher portal and go to MY PROFILE

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**

## Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival is booked for Thursday 23 February 2017. Please include the date in your calendar as we need your assistance on the day. As indicated last year this will be a competitive carnival only. The carnival will be for **children from Year 3 – 6 who nominate to compete in a swimming event, the competent 8yr old Year 2 children who can swim 100 metres and the non-swimmers in Years 5 and 6**. All other children will remain at school for a fun water day of activities. Information will be sent home next week and will be available on the website.

## 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@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.stmonicas@cg.catholic.edu.au). Looking forward to hearing from you.

## Reminder - Foods to Avoid

As our community strives to provide a safe and healthy environment for all children I am writing to request your assistance.



As you are well aware St Monica's, like many schools today, promotes a nut free environment due to the increasing number of children suffering a range of allergic reactions, some even life threatening, if they come in contact with foods or creams that contain a nut base. Please pay particular attention to the information printed on the wrappers of snack foods such as muesli bars etc because often they contain "traces of nuts".

This year we have a student in Year 2 who our school management we have asked **form** to school for their lunch or snack sandwiches, hard boiled eggs or egg eggs when used in the cooking of cakes do not present a concern.



has a **severe allergy to eggs**. For the safety of the child and to assist that the Year 1 & 2 children, at this stage, **do not** bring **eggs in any** time as the children sit in a common area for eating. This includes egg salads and mayonnaise which has an egg base. Please note that -

We all agree with the primary message of our Social Wellbeing Program that "Kids Matter." Please remind your child/ren that they should **never share food at school**.



This is in line with our school rule - Be Safe!

## Champions' Reading Challenge

To encourage our students to keep reading the St Monica's staff will once again challenge all of our students to read **12 books** by the end of Term 1. Students are required to record the books they have read on this sheet, with an adult signing off on each of the books they have read. Any type of book can be recorded, including readers, fiction, non-fiction, picture books and chapter books. Students can complete the recording of their sheets during Library lessons or at home and additional sheets can be picked up from the Library. When each student completes the challenge they are required to place the sheet in the box in the Library. All students who enter will be in the draw for gift vouchers from **Book Passion** which will be drawn at the final assembly in Term 1. Students can enter more than once. Good luck!



Happy reading - Mrs Hind

## Uniform Shop Update

As from next Monday 6 February 2017 the Uniform Shop will be open on Monday mornings between 9am-9.30am and on Tuesday afternoons between 2.50pm and 3.20pm. If you are unable to attend shop during these times you may submit your order through Qkr and your child's order will be delivered back to their classroom.

## Canteen News

The Canteen can provide gluten-free jaffles/sandwiches for students with gluten intolerances or allergies. Parents will be required to provide a loaf of gluten free bread which will be labelled and stored for your child in the freezer. Orders for gluten-free jaffles/sandwiches can be placed through Qkr. Please note that the Canteen also has Mrs Mac's gluten-free sausage rolls available every day too.

## 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

School banking will commence Tuesday of Week 2.

## Year 5 & 6 Camp 2017

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 - **Full payment for camp is to be paid by Friday 3 March 2017**. If you have any questions please contact Patrick Ellis, Assistant Principal.

## Book Club

Book Club Issue 1 pamphlets will be sent home early next week. Book club provides parents with the opportunity to purchase children's books at a reasonable cost. Please submit orders by LOOP system by Wednesday 15 February 2017.

### Extra-Curricular Activities - Chess - Expression of interest

Sydney Academy of Chess is looking at running chess coaching at your son/daughters school, St Monica's Primary School. The classes will be held once per week.

Chess is a valuable activity for children, developing their logical thinking skills, concentration and discipline, as well as being a source of much enjoyment! What better way to combine learning and fun!

These classes begin with an interactive lecture by one of our experienced coaches. During the second half of the lesson children play games against each other, putting newly learned strategies into practice. As the term progresses and the children become proficient in all the basics, the lectures will move on to more complex ideas such as strategy, middle game ideas and chess technique.

The cost for the coaching is **\$7 per child per lesson**. There are approximately 8-10 lessons during each term.

If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity, complete the flier available on the App today.

### Birthdays



Kindergarten	Isabella H, Jett S, Sophia R
Year 1	Luca C
Year 2	Samantha S
Year 3	Elspeth S, Xara G
Year 4	Dominic C, Zoe O, Coco B, Lillian B
Year 5	Ryan C,

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



No Whole School Assembly tomorrow (Friday, 3 February). Leadership Ceremony (Year 6) in Church at 1pm.

Value Awards for Weeks 1 & 2 will be given out in Week 3 at School Prayer on Wed 15 February at 2.30pm.

	Value Award – Respect	Class Award – Thoughtfulness and Manners
<b>KR</b>	Lane D	Zarah L
<b>KMR</b>	Toby Mc	Jemima B
<b>KRG</b>	Adriano M	Freya S
<b>1VH</b>	Alex A	Eamon F
<b>1S</b>	Marley B	Jack G
<b>2L</b>	Lily H	Liam S
<b>2S</b>	Amour A	Chontelle L
<b>2D</b>	Annabelle F	Joshua Mc
<b>3M</b>	James Mc	Cooper W
<b>3W</b>	Archie E	Elspeth S
<b>3/4R</b>	Anjelo F	Harry C
<b>4B</b>	Kate S	Dominic C
<b>4C</b>	Sean B	Gabrielle C
<b>5D</b>	Phoebe W	Matthew P
<b>5E</b>	Jack H	Sibel C
<b>5/6M</b>	Brynn F	Ryan G
<b>6M</b>	Madeline S	Cooper M
<b>6S</b>	Nathan B	Lara Mc
<b><u>M&amp;M Star Medallions –</u></b>		

Thank you to our amazing holiday watering crew, coordinated by Caroline Weller, who kept our garden and trees alive during the holidays.

Your efforts have been very much appreciated

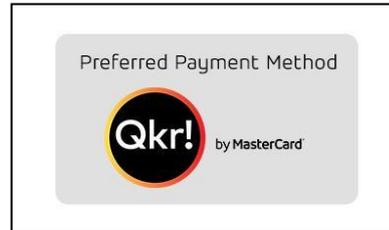


## CANTEEN CORNER

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

### Roster for Term 1, Week 2

	Early 9:15am - 11:45am	Late 11:30am -2:30pm
<b>MONDAY</b> 6/2/17	Vacancy	Vacancy
<b>TUESDAY</b> 7/2/17	Carol Lynch	Evelyn David-Hoole
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 8/2/17	Katrina Ciampa	Vacancy
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9/2/17	June Manning Anne Carew	June Manning Anne Carew
<b>FRIDAY</b> 10/2/17	Jenny Fulivai Wilma Hird	June Manning Wendy Regan



**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.**

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

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### 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.

### Marymead's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

As part of Marymead's 50th Anniversary celebrations we will be holding a Family Fun Day at Marymead's Narrabundah site on Sunday 26 February from 11am to 3pm. There will be a jumping castle and lots of free activities for the kids, a sausage sizzle and soft drink for gold coin donations, entertainment and more, so please come along and enjoy a day with the Marymead Community!

### Rhythmic Gymnastics at Harrison

Elementz Rhythmic gymnastics is happy to offer recreational and competitive Rhythmic Gymnastics programs for children 2yrs and older. Elementz prides itself in offering high-quality, dynamic programs that fuse the fundamentals of dance and gymnastics with ropes, hoops, balls, clubs and ribbons. Rhythmic Gymnastics is our passion and we firmly believe it promotes flexibility, strength, coordination and body awareness, working independently and in teams, self-discipline, fun and friendship. Classes are on every day! Call today to arrange an obligation free trial class or enrol. For more information go to our website [www.elementz.com.au](http://www.elementz.com.au) or telephone 61128460 for more information.

### Volunteers Needed to Help Run Nellie Hall at Melba

Nellie Hall at the Melba shops is run by a committee of volunteers on behalf of the community. In 2017 there will be openings for new volunteers without whom the hall may be handed back to the government and no longer be used for community groups. Please think about joining the committee and helping to keep the hall operating as a community facility. Meetings are currently held quarterly. If you are interested, please contact Andrew on 0423023351 after hours.

