

St Monica's News

Term 1 – Week 2 – 9 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



The cooler weather was a welcome relief this week, however we are gearing up for another very warm day tomorrow. This week cooling units were installed in the final four classrooms in West Wing, all were put to good use as the temperature started to rise today. The purchase and installation of the units will be covered by funds from our general school budget, raised through the School Levy.

Staff Professional Learning

Over the next two weeks a number of staff will be attending professional learning days that support the development of our school improvement plan and focus on student learning. On some occasions the teachers will be working at school or travelling interstate to attend a national conference.

Baby News

Congratulations to the Carey family on the arrival of their baby daughter Ava – sister for Sophie – 1VH.



Special Prayers

Please keep the Maher family – Cooper (6M), Montana (5D) and Pyper (3M) in your prayers as their great grandfather passed away on 28 January. Please keep the Lukic family – Annabel (5D) and Chontelle (2S) in your prayers as their grandmother passed away on Christmas Day.



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

God Bless
Carmel Maguire
Principal

Due to the expected very high temperature on Friday there will be no assembly as planned.

**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

Every child and every adult in St Monica's School is a special gift of God our Father.
Every child and every adult in St Monica's School deserves my respect.
I will do my best to show respect for everyone in my school.
I will cooperate with the children and adults in the school.
I will speak with respect to others.
I will play fair with others.
I will do my best to make others feel good about themselves.
I will treat everyone as I wish to be treated.
Thank you God our Father, for your gifts of people who love and help me.
St Monica, pray for us.



Respect starts with a simple smile and hello! Let us try to model this each day by acknowledging each other by a nod, a smile or a hello!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Opening School Mass

Yesterday we gathered in the church to celebrate our opening school mass. Many thanks to our choir who lead us with our music. Our readings spoke to us about letting our light shine, not hiding our talents and believing in ourselves. Fr Loi reminded us to always use our gifts wisely and to be "salt" for all those we encounter.

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

Parish School Of Religion

The Parish School of Religion commences its new year next Tuesday night at 6:00pm in the Hub area of St Monica's School. All students enrolled in local government schools and independent schools wishing to receive instruction in the catholic faith are welcome to enrol. Sacramental preparation is also offered as part of a yearly program through the School of Religion. Students moving from St Monica's to other local schools access Sacramental preparation through this program. Please let friends, relatives and neighbours know these details if applicable. Contact Fr Loi via the parish office 62583212 or Shirley Boag on 62584248.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tree Removal

On Monday 6 March there will be a Cherry Picker at 36 Montagu Place removing a large palm tree. This will occur between 7.30am and 3.00pm. Please ensure you are not parked or stopped in Montagu between these times as you may get trapped in.

Medications

Parents have been advised if their child/rens medications held at School are out of date and need to be replaced. In accordance with our Medication Policy all expired epipens are not to be used. We return all expired epipens to the local pharmacy for disposal.

School Photos - Monday 27 February 2017

All children to wear their Summer Uniform. Envelopes will be sent home on Monday 13 February.

Family Photos – As a fundraising opportunity, families can request a group photo with siblings to be taken on photo day. This is completely separate from individual student photos. The cost is \$15 per photo. Please enclose this money in a separate envelope marked **Family Photo with your family name clearly displayed**. Alternatively, payment may be made using our Qkr! App. If using Qkr just send in a note to confirm your request and method of payment.

Kindergarten Health Checks in 2017

The Kindergarten Health questionnaire and an information letter to parents will be sent home to all Kindergarten parent on Monday 13 February. All questionnaires are to be **returned to the school** in the envelope provided by **Friday 24 February 2016**. To ensure all parents are fully aware of the screening check we have organised to send home a copy of the information to both parents who have a shared care responsibility. The medical checks are scheduled to occur at St Monica's during **Term 3**.

Parent Resources



Please feel free to borrow from our range of parenting resources located in the Library.



School Fees

On Wednesday a fee statement was 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 by Thursday. **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.

Please note: Black school shoes are to be worn with the Summer uniform for boys and girls – the black canvas shoes or casual coloured shoes are not approved uniform. Socks displaying brands branded with logos should also be avoided.



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. **Friendship bracelets are not to be worn to school.**



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.

Family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the Exemption from School-Procedures. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as an absence for statistical purposes. Parents must complete the appropriate form if they are making travel plans for more than 10 days:- [Application for Extended Leave 10days to 100 days](#). Forms are available from the office or via the app.

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

To be eligible for teacher registration in the ACT, you must have a current Working with Vulnerable People General Registration card.

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. Children in years 3 – 6 received information regarding the new arrangements for this year. Please read the note carefully. 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. Swimming notes have been sent home today.

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.



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

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.

Fete News

Raffle Baskets in the Classrooms

Each year level has been given a washing basket to fill with goodies related to the themes below. The fete team would be so grateful if you could please purchase one or two items, related to your child(ren)'s theme, to place in the baskets which will then be raffled off at our fete on 4 March.

The themes are:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Kindergarten: | Cooking |
| Year 1: | Home & Garden |
| Year 2: | Easter Surprise |
| Year 3: | Games & Puzzles |
| Year 4: | Stationery |
| Year 5: | Easter Feast |
| Year 6: | Celebration |



Book Stall

Our book stall is looking for your second-hand books – children's books, novels, fiction, non-fiction etc. Send your second-hand books in with your child to their classroom.

Cupcake Bake Off flyer has been sent home to all families today. Items for Lucky Dip and Chocolate Toss can be left at Front Office. Please continue to send in raffle ticket books once sold.

School Banking

School banking will be every Tuesday.

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.

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.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



General School Assembly tomorrow Friday 10 February has been cancelled. Awards will be handed out next Friday

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



Kindergarten	Esther L
Year 1	Mitchell B, Amelia B
Year 2	Liam S, Daniel I
Year 3	Luke W
Year 4	Marin J, Mya A
Year 5	Ryan G, Hayley S

	Value Award – Respect	Class Award – English
KR	Zarah L	Isabella H
KMR	Sienna R	Ellie H
KRG	Sarah R	Xavier Mc
1VH	Willem A-C	Annalise S
1S	Violet P	Jessica Mc
2L	Anthony M	Bella P
2S	Ainsleigh M	Dale S
2D	Giuseppe C	Antonia H
3M	Lilli P	Josephine H
3W	Lucija P	Angelino S
3/4R	Scarlett L	Cooper B
4B	Katie R	Connor L
4C	Dion W	Emily S
5D	Nicholas I	Hayley S
5E	Fiona M	Lily S
5/6M	Clara A	Ellen C
6M	Rose M	Bailey R
6S	Hannah B	Kai G
M&M Star Medallions –		

SPORT NEWS

Oz Tags

Best of luck to the following girls competing in the Oz Tag finals in Coffs Harbour on the weekend – Olivia R (6S) Holly W (5/6M) Montana M (5D) Annie R (4C) and Piper M (3M)

The ACT Weetbix Tryathlon is on this Sunday, 12 February



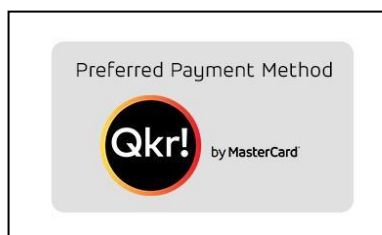
Once again we have a large number of children entering the Weetbix Tryathlon. To encourage school spirit the large school shade structure will be there for all of the St Monica's families to use. A large eskie with cold water will be available. Please bring some fruit or nibbles to share with other members of the St Monica's team. Good luck to all of our students who have entered. Swim, ride and run your hardest. Most of all have fun! Go St Monica's!!

CANTEEN CORNER

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

Roster for Term 1, Week 3

	Early 9:15am - 11:45am	Late 11:30am -2:30pm
MONDAY 13/2/17	Vacancy	Vacancy
TUESDAY 14/2/17	Carol Lynch	Evelyn David-Hoole
WEDNESDAY 15/2/17	Michelle Gaffey	Michelle Gaffey
THURSDAY 16/2/17	June Manning Anne Carew	June Manning Anne Carew
FRIDAY 17/2/17	Samantha Cox Tracy D'Ambrosio	Tracy D'Ambrosio 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.

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.

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

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

Marymead's 50th 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 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.

Parenting Courses for 2017

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Parents and Carers of children aged 2-10 years are invited to BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS a parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation which will be presented by CatholicCare commencing MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is 3 hours per week over a 3 week period.

THE JOURNEY THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

Program for parents of Adolescents will be offered by CatholicCare commencing MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2017 from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is 3 hours per week over a 3-week period. This course is suitable for parents of children in Primary School Years 5+6 and Secondary School Years 7-12. Bookings are essential please contact 1800 068 698 free call.