

St Monica's News

Term 1 – Week 3 – 16 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

Let Go!

Dear God,

I let go of my need to be perfect, and I let You fill me with Your perfect love.
I let go of my ideas of fulfilment, and I let You fill me with what I truly desire.
I let go of what I think of myself, and I let You define my worth.
I let go of what others think of me, and I let You tell me who I am to You.
I let go of my appearance, and I let You shine through me.
I let go of my unreasonable standards, and I let You work through me.
I let go of my will for my life, and I let You reveal Your plan for me.
I let go of all my past sins, and I let You forgive me.
I let go of my reliance on myself, and I let You be my Redeemer.
I let go of how I view others, and I let You love them through me.

Amen

Staffing

As I will be away from next Monday until the end of the term the following staffing arrangements will take effect from Monday 20 February.

Acting Principal – Mr Patrick Ellis,
Acting Assistant Principal – Mrs Haley Stonham
Acting Coordinator – Mrs Monika Richards

Additional arrangements include

Mrs Louise Dykes will be in 6S on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3/4R on Thursdays and 1/2day Friday.
Mrs Hope Auth will join the staff to cover Mr Ellis' teaching load including literacy groups, 4B on Tuesdays and 4C on Thursdays.
Mrs Jodie May will work with 3M to provided Katarina her Early Career Release.

I know I leave the school in wonderful hands and look forward to hearing about all the learning that is going to occur on my return in Term 2.

Professional Learning

Tomorrow we have a number of teacher attending professional learning workshops either in Canberra or Sydney. Teachers who will be away include Mr Ellis, Miss Rheinberger, Mrs Stonham, Mrs McCann, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Vaughan, Mrs Richards and Mrs Sydney. We have managed to employ relief staff to cover classes.

Special Prayers

Please keep the Sharp family – Lachlan – 5/6M and Olivia – 4B in your prayers as their grandfather passed away last Saturday.



God Bless
Carmel Maguire
Principal

SAFE, RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNERS

LEARNING FOCUS Be Respectful Use our Manners

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



SOCIAL FOCUS Be Safe Play Safe Games

We play safely on the playground. This means we are considerate of others and play by the rules.



SCHOOL VALUE - Respect

RESPECT

To give respect to one another,
Is to care for them like a sister or brother.
It is to show someone that you really care,
To compromise, outlook, and always be fair.
To be respectful you shall show dignity,
Also speak nothing but the honesty.
You could be respectful to just about anyone,
A teacher, parent, or even a friend in a marathon.
To be respectful is to show forgiveness,
And not to laugh at someone's weakness.
Give a complement or two to make someone feel wanted,
It will make them feel special, unique, or gifted.
To give respect to someone else,
You have to learn to respect yourself.
To show respectfulness you have to learn,
To give everyone a chance or a turn.

Everyone has the right to be respected,
A friend, parent, teacher, refugee, the homeless on the street.
So don't forget to respect all,
Whether it is spring, summer, winter or fall.

- Author unknown



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacraments

Correction- SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

An error occurred at the Year 5 and Year 6 Parent Night on Monday. The Confirmation date displayed was incorrect. **The Confirmation Mass at St Monica's in 2017, is WEDNESDAY 26 JULY at 6:00pm. This date is correct on the school calendar and in this newsletter.**

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



A little about St Valentine...

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love." Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome. Archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honour of his martyrdom.



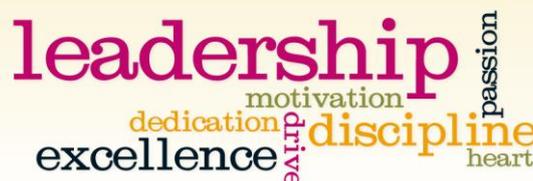
Many legends surround St Valentine and it is difficult to discern which have some validity. One story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. Another states that he secretly married couples so that the husbands couldn't be sent to war. And yet another states that he wouldn't worship pagan Gods...there are many reasons for his martyrdom.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Leadership

This year at St Monica's we have moved to change the structure of our leadership groups. This was in response to student and parent feedback in previous years. This year the Year 6 leadership groups consist of Sports, Technology, Hospitality, Sustainability and Social Justice. Year 6 leaders have now been placed in these groups based on their preferences. These leadership groups will meet regularly and support the school community in many aspects of school life.



The Student Representative Council (SRC) has been modified to now be a group of Year 3, 4 and 5 students. This allows the younger students an opportunity to develop their leadership skills before moving into Year 6. The Year 6 are no longer part of the SRC, as in their existing roles as leaders they contribute regularly to conversations about the direction of the school and how they can have a positive impact on the school community.

The students in Year 3, 4 and 5 are working on creating their SRC speeches and will present these speeches to their class during week 4 where their class members will vote on who they would like to represent them. Those not wanting to be a part of the SRC will prepare a speech introducing them to their class mates. All speeches will be assessed and feedback given by class teachers.

The SRC will meet regularly with either the Assistant Principal or Principal to discuss student issues arising from their class. Year 6 leadership groups will do the same each fortnight focusing on their leadership area of responsibility and will discuss that with the teacher in Year 5/6 who look after their group.

Parent Information Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our information sessions. I hope you are feeling a little more information about what we have in store for the children and our key initiatives for 2017. I very much appreciate the time the teacher have given to preparing their presentations. There is one more session to occur -

Time	February	Grade	Location
6.30	20 Monday	3 & 4	Hub

School Photos - Monday 27 February 2017

All children to wear their full summer uniform. Envelopes with money are due on Friday 24 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 has been sent home to all Kindergarten parents. All questionnaires are to be **returned to the school** in the envelope provided by **Friday 24 February 2017**. Information has been sent home to both parents who have a shared care responsibility. The medical checks are scheduled to occur at St Monica's during **Term 3**.

News from the Council Executive

The St Monica's Community Council met last week on Wednesday 8 February.

At the meeting we elected the new office bearers for 2017:

Chair – Evan Thomas, **Vice Chair** - Kathy Moir, **Secretary** - Evelyn David-Hoole and **Treasurer** – Craig Simpson.

Council Members – John Alston-Campbell, Gabrielle Blair, Lis O'Daly, Christopher Evans (Teacher), Patrick Ellis (Assistant Principal) Exofficiary Carmel Maguire (Principal), Fr Loi (Parish Administrator)

Invited guest - Keith Forrest (P&F Treasurer)

Council Executive would like to thank the gardening team who have kept the recently planted flowering cherry trees, herb and vegetable gardens sustained through the summer holidays. The Council is excited about the new school year and grateful to see more of the new interactive flat panels replacing the interactive white boards in classrooms allowing more teaching options.

There will be an **open community council meeting on the 28 March from 6:30 - 7pm** and Council would like to welcome anyone who is interested in attending. At this meeting we will be starting our discussion on the Vision for St Monica's for the next 3 year plan; we are keen to hear from you!! If you are unable to attend or have any concerns please feel free to email the community council: Council.StMonicas@cq.catholic.edu.au - this email is checked regularly by the Council Secretary.

Uniform

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. Black sneakers with white/grey logo (eg nike ticks) are not appropriate black school shoes. 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. Shaved lines (eg zig zags etc) are not permitted.

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.

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.

Parent Resources



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

Reminders & important information

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 10 days to 100 days](#). Forms are available from the office or via the app.

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

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. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Fete News!

Tombola - Friday 24 February will be an out of uniform day. Children may come to school in casual clothes in return for a bottle or jar (plastic please) filled with goodies for our Tombola stalls. Each child will receive one ticket per bottle they donate into a draw to have their pick of the tombola bottles to take home with them. (Ideas include hair accessories, stationery, lollies, stickers etc).

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. The class who collectively donates the most books each week receives a prize. **Last week's winner was 2L**. Well done!!

Chocolate Toss and Lucky Dip

We need your donations of chocolates for our Chocolate Toss – chocolate bars and blocks of chocolate. Please also send in any items suitable for Lucky Dip.

Raffle Tickets

Please continue to send in raffle ticket books once sold. If you require additional books please collect a book from the Front Office.

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.

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.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



School Assembly – Friday 17 February (tomorrow) Class and Star Awards from Week 1, 2 and 3 to be presented.

School Prayer led by 5D – Wednesday 22 February at 2.30pm Value Awards for Week 3 to be presented

Birthdays



Year 1	Mitchell D, Lachlan B, Mason N, Sophie S
Year 2	Anthony M
Year 4	Chiara W, Maddie N
Year 5	Sibel C

	Value Award – Respect	Class Award – Religious Education
KR	Brando B	Stella J
KMR	Ante P	Emma N
KRG	Nicholas P	Massimo S
1VH	Logan F	Annalene L
1S	Jack R	Mia D
2L	Bastijan P	Holly F
2S	TBA	TBA
2D	Anica P	Isabella P
3M	Riley Mc	Jack D
3W	Darcy B	Jessamine A-C
3/4R	Elyse S	Jack A
4B	Joshua R	Adrian S
4C	Sienna H	Fletcher A
5D	Blake O	Callie W
5E	Bailey A	Brooke M
5/6M	Anyieth A	Jess W
6M	Emily C	Anabelle H
6S	Bailey M	Carys M
M&M Star Medallions – Ainsleigh M (2S), Skyla L (3W), Jack R (3/4R)		

SPORT NEWS

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 were sent home last week.



ACT Oztag News

Our girls had a massive weekend in Coffs Harbour. What a weekend it was for every team representing the ACT in Oztag at the NSW State Cup. In extremely hot conditions they all made the ACT very proud. The St Monica's girl's teams did extremely well.

U12 Girls (Olivia R) made it through the round games undefeated and proceeded the quarter finals winning that and making it to the semi-finals. In extra time and five on five were knocked out - hard way to go out but gallant effort.

U11 Girls (Holli N and Montana M) won two games, lost 4 and draw 1, just missing out on a place in the finals.

U10 Girls (Annie R) won three and lost three, made it to the quarters and got knocked out there.

U9 Girls (Pyper M) won three and lost four games, just missing out on a place in the finals.

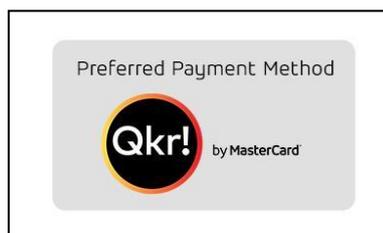
Go Girls!

CANTEEN CORNER

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

Roster for Term 1, Week 4

	Early 9:15am - 11:45am	Late 11:30am -2:30pm
MONDAY 20/2/17	Michelle Gaffey	Michelle Gaffey
TUESDAY 21/2/17	Evelyn David-Hoole	Evelyn David-Hoole
WEDNESDAY 22/2/17	Katrina Ciampa	Vacancy
THURSDAY 23/2/17	June Manning Anne Carew	June Manning Anne Carew
FRIDAY 24/2/17	Wilma Hird Jenny Fulivai	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.

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

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.

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.

Transport for NSW

Parents and guardians who live far from school or public transport can apply for the School Drive subsidy. This new scheme has replaced the Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy. There are School Drive Subsidy brochures available from the Front Office. Application for the School Drive Subsidy are now open at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive. If you have any questions please email schooldrive@transport.nsw.gov.au.

National Multicultural Festival - Bus Diversions

Due to road closures to allow for the National Multicultural Festival, stops 3356 (London Circuit Legislative Assembly), 3003 (London Circuit Commonwealth Bank) and stop 3004 (London Circuit after Akuna Street) will be temporarily closed from 10am on Friday 17 February until the first service on Monday 20 February. Individual schools affected by these diversions will be notified personally. Transport Canberra will be implementing diversions during this time, which may affect some afternoon school routes on Friday 17 February. We encourage you to view this information now available on the [Transport Canberra Website](http://www.transportcanberra.gov.au).