Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:
for the beauty that the eye can see,
for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions at work,
who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:
for life and one more day to love,
for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbours and one more person to love
and by whom be loved,
for your grace and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise: to be with us,
to be our God, and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.
Year Six Graduation Ceremony

Hold On To The Memories
On Tuesday evening we celebrated a very important event in the life of our Year Six children. The evening commenced with a beautiful Mass 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 Fr Warrick, Kelly Boyton, Kelly Wiggett, Matthew Smith Smith, Susan Carswell and Carmel Reinberger for the preparation of the ceremony.

To the staff members who assisted, leading up to and on the evening, with the church banner - Robyn O'Rourke, booklets, liturgical movement - Matthew Smith, the Photostory and the CD of memories - Michael McDadden. A wonderful effort appreciated by the parents and children.

Thank you to all the Year 5 parents who contributed to a very successful Year 6 Graduation Supper and Fun Day. The response from Year 5 parents was fantastic and the donations of yummy food were greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Natalie Baccari who coordinated the graduation supper and her wonderful committee- Melissa Hay, Rachael Hind, Carolyn McPherson, Roslyn Emmerick and Gabrielle Blair. Thank you to the parents who helped set up and decorate the hall, prepared the food and cleaned up afterwards. Many hands made the job easy for everyone.

Special thanks to Rebecca Kelly for a stunning graduation cake and to Paul Mothersole who donated his photo booth for the evening with the children (and the teachers) taking home a very special, fun momento of the night.

The Year 5 Graduation Committee was very happy to support our Year 6 families so they could relax and enjoy this special night and are now eagerly looking forward to watching our own children graduate in 2015. Congratulations Year 6!

Dance Fever
This week the children performed a number of dances they learnt through our Dance Fever Program. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm on the children's faces as they performed.

School Magazine
Congratulations once again to Stephanie Stewart for the coordination of our fabulous magazine and the incredible effort by staff to develop the numerous class pages. A copy will be distributed to the eldest child in each family on Monday. Where families have already left for their Christmas break, their copies will be held at the front office to be collected in the new year. Additional copies can be purchased from the office for $25.

Candy Canes
The custom of giving Candy Canes with Christmas Cards is a lovely gesture. However, we have asked that the students keep the Candy Canes and eat them at home. We have worked hard to become a "healthy school".

Lost Property
Special thanks to Cathy Tippett who has taken time to go through our Lost Property before the end of school year. All labelled clothing has been returned to children.

Payment of School Fees is Now Due
As we still have in excess of $115 000 owing in fees I ask that all families finalise their School Fee account immediately. This will ensure we can settle our accounts by 17 December. Families paying by Direct Debit should also check that current payments will ensure fees are paid in full by the end of the year.

School Fees Information
We have designed a calculation sheet to assist you in setting up a Direct Debit arrangement to pay your 2015 school fees. Simply enter the number of children you will have attending St Monica's in the applicable white box and the sheet will break down the yearly cost into pay periods for you. There are simple explanations in small text boxes to the right of the sheet to help you.

The calculation sheet can be accessed via the school website, under Publications, Fee Related Information. There are simple instructions on the website regarding how to open the worksheet. To enter information into the worksheet you will be prompted to enter a password which is monica. We trust this will be a valuable tool to assist families in meeting their school fees commitments. Please contact Allison Walsh at the school office should you experience any difficulties using the worksheet.

Qkr! School Payments
St Monica's Primary School is moving with the times! We are excited to announce that we are introducing the Qkr! (pronounced – Quicker) app to make your life easier. Qkr! is a FREE app to enable mobile payment for school-based accounts in order to save parents time. The app enables parents to use their smartphones to pay for School Fees, Excursions and other items such as Year 6 Leadership Shirts, Walkathon donations etc. This will alleviate the issue of parents having to give their children cash or credit card details to carry to school. In time we will be expanding the items available on Qkr! for the convenience of parents. For those without access to a smart phone, a web-based version of Qkr! will be available soon.

Although the app is a MasterCard initiative, it enables payment from most financial institutions and major credit cards with Safe and Secure MasterCard Technology. For more information refer to the accompanying flyer with this newsletter. We are currently in the process of adding additional information to our Website under Publications.
How can KidsMatter improve children’s mental health and wellbeing?
Schools, with the full support of families and the community, are currently one of the best places to comprehensively support children’s mental health and wellbeing for the following reasons:

School is the most significant developmental context, after family, for primary school-aged children, with almost all children attending school at some time in their lives.

Through their role in supporting children’s learning and learning behaviour, schools play a crucial role in building children’s self-esteem and sense of competence. Conversely, when children’s learning and wellbeing needs are not met at school, their overall development and mental health may be undermined.

Schools can act as a safety net and assist in protecting children from circumstances that affect their learning, development and wellbeing.

School mental health programs have been shown to be effective in improving students’ learning and emotional wellbeing, and in treating mental health difficulties.

When teachers and school staff are actively involved in comprehensive mental health programs, the interventions can reach generations of children.

School-based interventions can provide students with experiences to strengthen their ability to cope with environmental stresses and help them to feel supported.

The Day we went to Governor General’s Sports Day
“On the day of the Governor General’s Sports Day we played heaps of sport, met lots of famous people like reps from the Darters, the Raiders, GWS Giants (AFL), the Brumbies and the Governor General Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, his wife. Later that day we had a sausage sandwich and apple juice for a snack. Then we saw Santa arrive with his elf in a navy helicopter and guess what – he gave us lollies in a white paper bag and they were delicious! We had a great day and we will remember it until ....... By Ainslee G (5M), Sally B (5/6C), Kayleigh K (5M)

Landscaping Plans for 2015
With our car park now complete I am hoping to call on the help of parents to assist with landscaping ideas and suggestions for the gardens at the front of the school and around our new playground. Ideas most welcome.

School Banking – all over for another year
Special thanks to Helene Tewari for her time and effort as School banking coordinator since her eldest daughter started school.

Canteen News
The canteen will be closed for lunch orders in Week 10. The only lunch orders available will be the Special Lunch Order on Monday 15 December.

Gardening
Many thanks to Peter Bridges for his recent help with weeding around the front of the school. Thanks to Robyn Jolly who has volunteered her time to work in the garden.

God Bless

Carmel Maguire
Principal

Looking for a Fundraising Coordinator
The Community Council are seeking a Fundraising Coordinator to plan and assist with our fundraising ventures in 2015. The Fete, Trivia Night and the Walkathon have their own coordinators so don’t think this is an onerous role! The Fundraising Coordinator works with a small committee of volunteers and prepares a Fundraising Plan for the school year to ensure our fundraising ventures are evenly spaced out. The Fundraising Coordinator liaises with the Coordinators of the Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day Stalls and assists with rallying volunteers and organising trestle tables and floats if necessary. The Fundraising Coordinator generally ensures that our fundraising ventures run smoothly. Our current Fundraising Coordinator is happy to do a hand-over with our new volunteer and will pass over a folder filled with ideas for fundraisers and can provide templates of documents as well.

Third Sunday of Advent Reflection  John 1:6-8, 19-28
In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus’ presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus’ presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus’ presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today’s Gospel, John 1:6-8, 19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus’ presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God’s love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal
Many thanks to all who have sent items in for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The hampers will be packed and distributed next week.
Sacramental Dates 2015
Sacrament of Eucharist:
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 25 February 2015,
7:00pm.
First Holy Communion Saturday 2 May and Sunday 3 May
2015.
Sacrament of Confirmation:
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 22 July 2015,
7:00pm.
Sacrament of Confirmation Tuesday 1 September (6:00pm) 2015
Archbishop Christopher Prowse will confer the sacrament.
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
(First Confession)
Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 23 September, 2015
7:00pm.
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday 24 November, Wednesday 25 November, Thursday
26 November: 6:00pm-7:30pm

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Second Rites of Reconciliation
The dates for Second Rites of Reconciliation are as follows
Thursday, 11 December, St Vincent’s Church Aranda at
7:30pm.
Tuesday, 16 December, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Charnwood at 7:30pm.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>Kinder Nativity</td>
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<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Staff Farewells - Assembly</td>
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<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Final Assembly &amp; Awards</td>
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<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Dec</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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AWARDS, PRIZES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Positive Attitude and Leadership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Lucia</td>
<td>Pyper</td>
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<td>KS</td>
<td>Scarlett L</td>
<td>Lilli</td>
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<td>KM</td>
<td>Alani</td>
<td>Sophie</td>
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<td>1D</td>
<td>Isabella S</td>
<td>Katie</td>
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<td>1R</td>
<td>Angelo F</td>
<td>Coco</td>
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<td>1S</td>
<td>Dion W</td>
<td>Jaidah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Nicholas I</td>
<td>Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2J</td>
<td>Georgia M</td>
<td>Claudia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>Ronald</td>
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<tr>
<td>3K</td>
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<td>Millie</td>
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<tr>
<td>3F</td>
<td>Lachlan F</td>
<td>Claire</td>
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<tr>
<td>3RG</td>
<td>Halle F</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>Dominic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4LD</td>
<td>Grace P</td>
<td>Noah</td>
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</tbody>
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M&M Star Medallions – Cooper W (KS), Aurelia S (KOR),
Ryan K (1S), Lucia J (1S), Joshua R (1R), Daniel Mc (2R),
Noah C (2D), Nicholas H (3F), Lachlan F (3F), Leo De
C (3RG), Ella Mc (5E), Joshua D (5/6C), Mattia B (5/6C),
Bayden N (5/6C), Jake T (5/6C), Tim G (6B), Olivia A (6B)

Awards to be presented at the final assembly on Monday 14
December commencing at 12.00pm

Rostrum Awards | Announced on the day
Pastoral Care & Christine Values
2 x Community Awards - Zed Seselja
1 x Academic Awards – Zed Seselja
National Representatives
Please advise if anyone been omitted
Softball | Stephen F (6B)
Cricket | Ryan W (6B)
Rugby League | Joshua K (6WS)
Soccer | Nikola J (6WS)
Oz Tag | Rory Scott (5E), Ben Mc (4LD), Noah M (4LD),
Jack M (4M), Ellie B (5/6C),
Olivia R (3RG), Miaela R (3F), Holly W
(3F), Charlia H (3F)
Swimming | Ben Mc (4LD)
Athletics | Chris M (5E)
Callisthenics | Ella Mc (5E)
Golf | Ryan U (4LD)
Cross Country | Gabby N (5/6C)
Mus & Corp | Hayden S (6B), Rachael P (6WS), Liam S (6B),
Olivia A (6B), Sam Mc (6WS)

Happy Birthday to the following children who
are celebrating birthdays this week.

Kindy | Geordan T
Year 1 | Sienna H, Jessica H, Isabella L

Parenting Ideas – Michael Grose

This year we have taken out a subscription with Parentingideas.

Our subscription gives us access to a range of Parent Tip Sheets
and the Parentingideas Magazine. Please visit our Website under
the Publications tab – Parenting Ideas

for access to material uploaded to date.

Community Council Email Address

Council Email Address – this was established to allow parents to
let us know areas of concern that they feel need addressing. As a
Community Council we can only represent you if we know what is
on your mind and as many of the council and you work, this
address is just another avenue of contact.

Council.StMonicas@cg.catholic.edu.au

The email will be checked regularly by Louise Dykes, Council
Executive Secretary. We look forward to hearing from you.
Canteen Corner

Canteen Capers 6258 4687 (c)
Samantha Manning: 6259 7240 (h)

Flexi Schools online ordering system is available for placing lunch orders. New to Flexi Schools – If your child has a lunch wallet you can select the option on the menu so a paper bag is not required. Special Lunch Orders are due back in tomorrow for End of Year Lunch. The canteen will be closed for lunch orders in Week 10. The only lunch orders available will be the Special Lunch Order on Monday 15 December.

General Community Information

ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme
The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide ACT residents on low incomes with financial support for students in Years 7-10. Application forms are available online at http://www.det.act.gov.au/schools/education/startingschool/financial assistance for families. If you require further information please telephone 6205 8262.

Questacon – Holiday Workshops
There are full day and half day workshops being held at Questacon in January 2015. Full day workshops on 12 & 13 January are for 3D Design and Rockets, half day workshops on 14-16 January are for Engineering, Building Robots and Mousetrap Racers. For registration and more information please phone 1800 889 995 or email bookings@questacon.edu.au.

A message from Brett Lee

We’re delighted to be running the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon in this, its 17th year. We’re proud of the fact that it’s the biggest event series of its kind in the world and even more so that it helps our own kids stay active and healthy.

The greatest challenges facing our kids today are obesity and mental health issues. Every year the research we do with parents confirms that around 91% of all kids’ self-esteem is improved as a result of participating in a Kids TRY event.

Kids TRYathlon is coming to Canberra on the 15th of February 2015! The kids tell me it’s one of the best days they’ve ever had so if you haven’t given it a TRY yet, you really should. My fellow TRY Hero ambassadors and I particularly enjoy giving every child a gold medal and seeing the big smiles on their faces.

Win $5,000 cash for your school

By encouraging students at your school to have their mum or dad register them to take part in Kids TRYathlon, there are great prizes for schools to win.

If 15 or more students from your school register for your local event, your school has the chance to win some great prizes. There is one major school prize of $5,000 cash towards a healthy initiative plus one of 13 trampolines from Springfree Trampoline valued at over $1,200 each. Furthermore, if you register your school and it has 15 or more participants, you will go in the draw to win a $200 Asics footwear voucher for yourself! There will be 3 Asics vouchers to be won per event.

CRICKET ACT HOLIDAY PROGRAMS
Sign up now to learn the skills to play Australia’s favourite summer sport!

MILO in2CRICKET- For boys and girls 5-8 years old, Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January 9am-1pm, Narrabundah Oval $60 includes participant pack!

MILO T20 Blast- For boys and girls 8-14 years old, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January 9am-1pm, Narrabundah Oval $99 includes participant pack!

For more information on how to register contact Matthew Paton on matthew.paton@cricketact.com.au or 0416 187 355.

Kidsoccer
A great way to experience the Kidsoccer difference – January Holiday Program for boys and girls from 3-12 years of age. Kidsoccer offers a unique program that ensures EVERY child – no matter what his/her starting point is – participates, develops and succeeds. Visit www.kidsfc.com.au
AS A SUPPORTER OF ST MONICA’S PRIMARY SCHOOL THE ATHLETE’S FOOT BELCONNEN DONATE $5 FOR EVERY PAIR OF SHOES BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL ALL YEAR ROUND.

Simply join our ClubFIT program and select the school of your choice when in store. ClubFIT also offers exclusive sales and a $30 voucher for every $300 spent.

FOR 1 DAY ONLY 17/01/2015

- $10 FOR EVERY PAIR OF SHOES PURCHASED DONATED BACK TO THE SCHOOL
- FREE COFFEE CUP FOR MUM OR DAD (LIMIT 1 PER FAMILY)
- 50 BONUS POINTS ADDED TO YOUR CLUBFIT ACCOUNT.

Come and join the carnival type atmosphere as St Monica’s Primary School have a special bonus day in store at The Athlete’s Foot Belconnen.

The Athlete's Foot
is our recommended footwear supplier.

BELCONNEN
Shop 19D/1 Westfield Belconnen
Phone: (02) 6251 6993