

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 1 Week 9
2015

SAVE THE DATE

School Disco

Friday

27 March

5:30–7pm



Easter Hat
Parade & Raffle
Prize Draw
Tuesday 31
March
2:30-3:10 pm

Holy Week Prayer
Reflection
Thursday 2 April
Rotational Times

Term 2

Term 2 Resumes
Monday 20 April
All grades

Naplan
12-14 May

School Photos
Wed 20 May



The Aunty Peach Show

School Trivia Night
Sat 20 June



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,
What a wonderful start to the year! So much to be grateful for and feeling blessed. This Term has seen us participate in a wide range of activities.

Catholic Culture

Quality Catholic Schools Survey for parents, Years 5 and 6 students and staff.

Meeting with Stuart Ayres

Catholic Schools Week

Stage 1 Assembly

Twilight Tour

2015 Kindergarten Dinner

Parent Information Session about Religious Education, English and Mathematics

Open Classrooms

Opening Liturgy

Project Compassion

Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday

Opening School Mass

Cheers and Tears Morning Tea for the new Kinder Parents

Parent Group Meetings

Fun Food Days

Fish Fingers

Spring Rolls and Fried Rice

Pancake Day

Extra Curricular

Easter Hat Parade (Tuesday 31 March 2:30pm – 3:10pm)

Disco (Friday 27 March 5:30 – 7pm)

Flash Mob by the Dance Troupe

Mother's Day Mufti Day (Gold coin and donation)

GRIP Leadership Day for the Student Leaders

Fun Learning Events

End of Term Awards Assembly

Writeathon

Stage Assemblies from Stage 1B and Stage 3

Fun Sporting Events

Cross Country

Zone Swimming Carnival

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

NSW Swimming Carnival

Faith Formation Days/Events

Holy Week Liturgy (2 April)

Staff Development Day

Diocesan Education Mass for Teachers

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Patricks

St Josephs



Thank you for making this beginning term such an exciting wonderful faithful learning community! I wish you all a safe holiday and I cannot wait to see you again for another super term of learning and fun!

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal



2016 Enrolments

Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten 2016. If you have a child who will turn 5 before the 31 July, 2016 you are invited to collect an enrolment package from the school office and apply for enrolment. If you know of families in the area looking for a quality Catholic Education for their child –please let them know that we are currently accepting enrolments. If you currently have a student already attending St Nicholas, you too will need to complete an enrolment package within the same time frame. We are

accepting enrolment packages at any time however our Enrolment period for interviews will commence from Monday 20 April to Friday 15 May.

Fish Finger Day Profit

Thanks to Vanessa Wheeler and Lidia Vlores for organising our Fish Food Day. A great fun food especially during Lent. We made \$66 profit.

Catholic Culture

Principal's Lunch

Congratulations to the following students for being good learners, having beautiful manners, always using compound sentences, using descriptive language when writing and constantly following the five core values of St Nicholas of Myra.



Quality Catholic Schools Survey 2015

Thank you to all of the selected parents who have completed the survey. The survey needs to be completed by 5pm on Friday tomorrow. (Yes this date has been extended) Our Year 5 and Year 6 students and staff have all completed the survey. The survey should provide us with some good data about what we do well and how we can improve.

Faith Formation

Staff Development Day

This year is the Gospel of Mark. The staff participated in a faith forming day with Father Joe and Father Chris De Souza. Here we were able to dig deeper into the theology around the Gospel of Mark, The Stations of the Cross and open up the scriptures further. This was a valuable time learning with and from each other about our Catholic Faith.



Write-athon

What a fantastic day we had for our Write-athon! Students rotated through different activities, with different teachers in different classrooms. Writing activities ranged from poems to recounts, from labelling pictures to writing stories and many more in between. It was such a pleasure to be able to see students engaged in and thoroughly enjoying writing all day.

All of the writing from the day was sent home for you to be able to celebrate your child's success and hard work. The day

concluded with a trivia competition about writing and an assembly. Thank you to all students and teachers for their participation and hard work on the day. As this is our major fundraiser for the year, please return all sponsorship cards and money to the office as soon as possible. Thank you!



Reading and Writing at Home

Opportunities for reading and writing at home are endless but the most important thing to remember is to keep it as a fun and enjoyable time. We need to foster a love of reading and writing and not make it a chore.

Perhaps on the weekend you could read the comics from the newspaper with your child and have a go at creating a comic strip together about the adventures of your family. This is another great way to continue to build the connection between reading and writing.



Cross Country

Last Tuesday 17th March we were blessed with ideal running weather for our annual Cross Country event held at Jamison Park. Congratulations to all students who followed the marked track to complete their race- It was a long way! (8/9/10 yrs 2km, 11/12 yrs 3km)

A big thank you to the parents who helped on the day, both walking the children to and from the park and as marshals on the track.

A big congratulations to the following boys and girls who have now qualified to compete in the Diocesan Cross Country, to be held Tuesday 5th May at Eastern Creek. We wish them the very best of luck.

8/9 Boys

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Jai Parkes | Levi Briggs | Christopher Kumarelil |
| Ante Broz | Liam Wamsley | William Ezekiel |

8/9 Girls

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Raphaila Idris | Alex Stevens | Nikea Powell |
| Skye Haladus | Riley Dowling | Nyibol Meshwang |

10 Boys

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Harrison Walker | Charbel Finianos | Christian Finianos |
| Zane Madrajat | Chris Nicholopolous | Pino Jahn |

10 Girls

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Stacie Becroft | Adak Mapieu | Darcy Brown |
| Brianna Haladus | | |

11 Boys

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Moses Ezekiel | Callum Wamsley | Biar Biar |
| Dylan Lestal-Braid | | |

11 Girls

Bonnie-May Wheeler

12 Boys

Yousha Majdoub
Matthew Busine

12 Girls

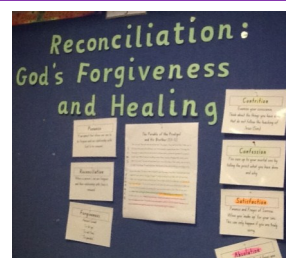
Jade Altman

Sacraments of Reconciliation

Congratulations once again to all the children who presented themselves for the Sacraments of Reconciliation last week. It has been noted that the number of children making their sacraments does not match with the number of students on the grade.

For whatever reason your child has not participated in the programme it is important to note that through Baptism they already started on the journey.

By participating in the programme they are continuing the journey that you as parents already chose for them. They are then able to fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church and the celebrations we have as a school. We nurture, plan and prepare our children for many things and their spiritual life should be part of this as well. Please do not hesitate to phone the Parish to make arrangements or to speak to our Religious Education Coordinator Miss Pascale Joseph.



Teachers are Learners Too!

Monash University Project

Miss Westbrook, Mrs Lloyd and Miss H attended a maths learning day for Stage 3 students in regards to fractions and decimals. They listened to Professor Peter Sullivan about the importance of using challenging mathematical tasks to develop students hard thinking, solving problems in multi ways and to develop persistence. Many activities are being implemented into the learning space from this learning day.

On Friday 20th March Callum Wamsley competed in the NSWCPSS Mackillop Swimming Trials, he placed 2nd in the 50m freestyle, awarded a Silver Medal and now will compete at the NSW PSSA 2015 STATE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS on Wednesday 25th March at Homebush. On Friday he also placed overall 5th in the 50m Breast / 6th overall in the 50m Back / 10th in the 100m Freestyle and 13th in the individual medal.



Zane Madrajat the soccer player. I have been playing for Richmond Kangaroo's for 5 years. I wear shin pads as you can get kicked in the shins many times during a game and it hurts.

Soccer boots are very important, to help me with my running and kicking.

Our team trains once a week for 2 hours. I love playing, but most of all I love

winning with my friends and team mates. The only thing I don't like about soccer are cheaters!



At St Nicholas of Myra we have a 'No hat no play' policy. If your child has forgotten their hat we DO NOT have spares in the office.

All children need to remember to bring their hats to school. They should be clearly labelled.



Correspondence which has been sent home in the past fortnight or with this newsletter includes:

- ☺ Easter Raffle Prizes Wrapping Day
- ☺ Mother's Day Mufti Day
- ☺ School Disco
- ☺ ICAS Competitions—Yrs 3-6
- ☺ Mother's Day Stall Pre-Order Forms
- ☺ Holy Week Prayer Reflection



Easter Egg Raffle

Thank you to the St Nicholas Community for the donation of eggs. Lidia Vlores, Vanessa Wheeler, Clare Fidler, Leigh Parkes, Alma Mallunxa, Hamssa Abou-Kheir and Anita Steed had a wonderful time gathering all the eggs and wrapping and creating some amazing baskets for our raffle. And they didn't eat one egg!!

Thank you so much.
Enjoy and good luck!



National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
Last Friday 20 March was National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. At St Nicholas, we try to encourage everyone to take effective Bystander Action. Bystander's have the power to play a part in helping to identify bullying and helping to minimize how long it goes on for. Bystander's do not need to take responsibility for the Bullies actions - they need to make their own actions count.

There is strength in numbers; Bystanders can combat bullying issues by showing their disapproval towards bullying behaviours by

- ◇ **Direct action -**
 - o Take the victim away from the bully - just walk up and walk away together
 - o Tell the bully to stop - you can use **SWISH** - and remember **asking for help is a right** you have in our school and any school
 - o Don't laugh - the bully will see this as you agreeing with their behaviour
- ◇ **Get help** - this can be through **SWISH** or it can be getting support from your peers to stand up against the bullying. Sometimes Bystanders think that what is happening is funny and they laugh, encourage or accept what is happening this can lead to feeling powerless, guilty or anxious about what is going on - we can activate our children to make their actions count.

STAND UP!
PREVENT BULLYING NOW!
SPEAK OUT!

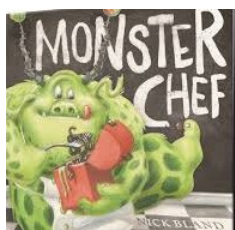
Becoming Bully-Proof

- ★ Stop, Walk and Talk
- ★ Find Allies
- ★ Create A Safety Zone
- ★ Develop Healthy Social Skills
- ★ Respect Others
- ★ Communicate Clearly

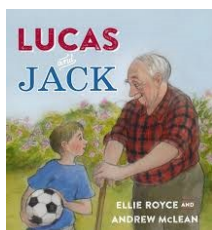
Bully-Proofing Your Child For The School Year: Heidisongs.com

<http://www.eyesonbullying.org/bystander.html> this website aims to assist in Bully prevention.

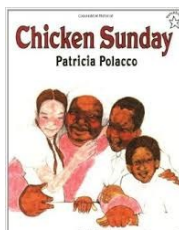
The students of St Nicholas will be participating once again in the 2015 Premiers Reaching Challenge. More information will be sent home with the children in Term 2. Below are the books we have shared in the Library this fortnight.



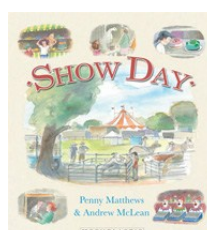
Stage 1



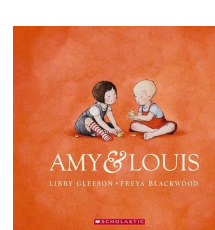
Stage 1



Stage 2



Kinder



Kinder

Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park
provides Catholic Education
for girls in Years 7 – 12

Enrolling now for 2016

For further information contact the College on 4737 5506.
Applications close 2 April, 2015

St Nicholas of Myra Parish
326 High St Penrith
4721 2509

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am &
6:00pm

Weekday Masses:
Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 6:45am, 9.30am
Wednesday 6:45am, 9:30am
Thursday 9:30am



28th Annual Penrith Working Truckshow
Sunday 29th March 2015 - 8am-5pm
Australia's Best Value Family Day

Held At:
MUSEUM OF FIRE
Learn, Don't Burn

Fun and Excitement!

The Best In Country Music ARTIST NETWORK
McAlister Kemp, The Wolfe Brothers, Kaylene Bain, Jared Porter, Plus much more!

- Direct access from Penrith Station
- Unlimited FREE amusement rides all day (20 rides)
- Concert sound & full stage
- Specialist trade stalls & displays
- Entertaining games & competitions
- Free Balloons & Fairy Floss
- Free face painting
- BBQ, drinks & beer tents
- Major prizes & trophies
- Price includes entry to Museum

Adults \$30 up to 5 Children FREE with paying adult
Children under 10 \$10 (12 & under \$5)
Sydney Classic & Antique Truckshow on 31st May, 2015 (See website for more details)

Held at Museum of Fire, 1 Museum Drive, Penrith. Phone: (02) 4731 3000
The Museum is a registered charity and all funds raised are directed towards saving our families from the dangers of bushfire through the best of all, common sense.

www.pwts.com.au

2015 STATE ELECTION

With less than two weeks before the state election, I urge you to contact your local MPs and candidates to talk to them about the importance of capital works funding for Catholic schools in western Sydney.

Without capital works funding for Catholic schools, it will be difficult to meet growing enrolment demands for Catholic schooling. This will place an even greater burden on the tax payer if places for these children need to be found in government schools.

Recently, our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby met with Minister Adrian Piccoli to urge him to consider the needs of the 25% of children and young people who attend Catholic schools in western Sydney. Although the meeting was positive, no commitment to capital works funding was made. I urge you to email your local STATE member, Stuart Ayres, and STATE opposition candidate, Emma Husar, to tell them that capital works funding is an important issue for you in the upcoming election.

- ☐ Labor Emma Husar emma.husar@nswlabor.org.au
- ☐ Liberal Stuart Ayres penrith@nsw.liberal.org.au
- ☐ Independent Jackie Kelly jackie@jackiekelly.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

Local Council infrastructure charges are placing an unfair burden on Catholic schools, incurring substantial additional costs. Over the past three years, the Sydney-based dioceses paid \$18.5 million in levies and bonds - almost cancelling out the entire capital funding provided by the NSW Government for all Catholic schools. In the Parramatta Diocese, developments at Westmead incurred an additional \$464,000 in local council infrastructure charges. This is money that could have been invested in the schools themselves, to benefit students – the cost of five teachers.

Talking sign notices:

Make your vote count – How does your party support Catholic education?

This State Election – vote I for Catholic education

Every vote counts because every child counts

Non-govt schools receive just 12% of all capital funding