

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 1 Week 7
2015

SAVE THE DATE

Staff Development Day

(Pupil Free Day)

Friday 20 March

Fri 13 March

WRITE-ATHON

Fish Finger Notes Due

Mon 16—Fri 27

March

Write-athon

Money due

Tues 17 March

Cross Country

Yrs 3— 6 (and Yr 2 turning 8)

Tues 17 March

7pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thurs 19 March

Fish Finger Day

Fri 20 March

Quality Schools Surveys Due

Hot Cross Buns

Fundraiser Due

Staff Development Day

Mon 23 March

11am—Principal's Lunch

Thurs 26 March

Mother's Day Mufti Day (Donation and Gold Coin)

8:30—11am

Easter Egg Raffle Prizes Wrapping Day

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to Catholic Schools week for 2015! - where coming together is a beginning and working together will bring success. We hope that we can all work together to create an open and caring environment, where parents and staff are of one mind to encourage all students to practise positive school habits.

Research tell us that if parents and carers are involved and become committed to school decisions, student achievement will improve and student behaviour will be cooperative; this will lead to the enjoyment of high quality education. Teachers are professionals with training and experience and their actions whilst guided by professional codes of conduct more importantly create a rapport with their students. Parents know their children better than anyone and when shared, this knowledge can be an invaluable resource in the progress of children's education.

It is important that parents and teachers have good communication opportunities. Productive communication is about speaking and listening actively and respectfully and about not making assumptions or having minds made up before conversation has commenced.

Conversation is not simply an exchange of words but about listening and hearing. If problems arise, they do not have to be stumbling blocks; they can be opportunities to work together to find positive and creative solutions – solutions that will benefit children.

Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity for which I am thankfulthe many parents and carers opening up the conversation about their child, their learning and faith experiences. I am truly grateful for the active participation we had for our opening Catholic Schools week liturgy on Monday afternoon. I sincerely thank the Parents and Stuart Ayres for making the time to visit our school and have an open conversation about the need for Catholic Funding commitments from the State Government. Our open classrooms on Tuesday afternoon were filled a vibrancy from the parents and carers who visited to share in their child's learning. This was followed with a 2015 Kindergarten Parent Dinner. Today we had a Parent Information Session about learning in Religion, English and Mathematics, followed by a Stage 1 Liturgy. Later in this evening, we will have a **Twilight Tour for 2016 Kindergarten Enrolments from 6:00 – 6:30pm**. Tomorrow the students will be actively engaged in a Write-a-thon finishing our massive Catholic School Week as a whole school community with a Stage 1 Assembly.

We hope that throughout the year, our community will continue to come together to participate in and volunteer at a variety of school functions, activities and events, including celebrations of our Catholic faith. In this way relationships are formed and positive attitudes developed that give positive input to our children over time. It is said that a child's life is like a piece of paper, on which every person leaves a mark. We hope all marks left during the year will be indicative of respect, care and encouragement.

Central to the very existence of our school is the integration of faith and culture transmitted in the various subjects that comprise the curriculum. In this way we hope that our students will learn how to follow Christ within Australian culture. Our school has a supportive community of teachers, parents, carers, Parent Group, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of our school in celebrating Catholic Schools Week this year.

"Lord, as we come together to continually form our school community for this year, empower us to be generous, confirming and obliging. May the gifts of Your Spirit be alive and practised in every aspect of our school life, as we live it together. Amen."

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic

Principal

Catholic Culture

Thank you to the Parents who raised \$255 from Pancakes to begin the Lenten Period. During the forty days of Lent, the Parents from the Parent Group have made a conscious effort to have vegetarian options available for Fun Food Days. For the Spring Rolls and Fried Rice Day, I would like to thank Grace and James Karnchanakul for hand making 130 Vegetarian Spring Rolls (phew!) and Helena Steed and Claire Fidler for assisting on the day. We raised \$93. Today we also ran a special Fairy Bread day to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. From this day we made \$122. I would like to thank Sarah Lestal, Vanessa Karadimas and Lynzie Wharerau for making this an option at Fruit Break today.



The **GRIP** Student Leadership Conference is unique in that it concentrates specifically on training student leaders for their role as SCHOOL LEADERS. The style, topics, and content of the conference focused on what the students can do RIGHT NOW. Michaela, Bailey, Levi and Lucrecia along with Ms. Knezevic attended. It was a fantastic day. Our Student leaders came away from the conference with a clear vision, a solid understanding and dozens of ideas which they can share with the students of St Nicholas of Myra.



Photographs and Videos

At times during the year, St Nicholas of Myra students have the opportunity to be photographed and videoed.

If you do not wish for your child/children to appear in images in the Newsletter, the school website or videos please address a letter to the Principal.



On Monday 2 March 2015 Stage 3 had Antarctic explorer, Mr Chris Olson visit!

When I walked in the door the first object I saw was an orange tent on fake snow. - **Caleb Parkes**

Mr. Olson slept in his tent when he was in Antarctica. He showed us pictures of his three trips to Antarctica and what the sights he saw. - **Joshua Busine**

We talked about all kinds of animals but mostly about penguins. Mr Olson said "The largest penguin in the world is the emperor penguin". - **Georgina Child**

Mr Olson showed us videos that he had taken on his trips. He showed us a photo of a place called 'Mawson's hut'. He and his colleagues went there to rebuild it. - **Talia Welfare**

We got to hold rocks, wood and a nail from Mawson's hut and ice spikes. Some Stage 3 students dressed up in clothes worn in Antarctica too. - **Luke Busine**

The incursion ended with the stage touching some Antarctic ice. It felt slimy and cold, eww! We witnessed Mr Olson, some other kids and Miss Westbrook break some ice with a pick axe. This experience was really fun for me and it's something I'll never forget. - **Klariz Tabar**



Quality Catholic Schools Survey

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2015, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

As this is the fourth year of the survey, it will enable us to track our progress on those areas identified from past findings and included in our school planning. From 9-20 March all staff, all students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report in May to inform their planning.



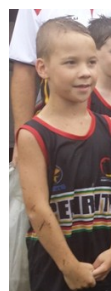
THIS SURVEY has been sent home with some students on Monday this week. If you are selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation, as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement. I would personally like to thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Swimming News



On Friday 27 February, Callum Wamsley and Breanna Haladus represented the Nepean Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival held at Blacktown Pool. Breanna came 10th overall in 50 metres backstroke. Well done Breanna. Callum was placed 2nd 100m Open Freestyle/1st in 50m Freestyle/1st 50m Backstroke/3rd Open Individual Medley. Achieving these amazing results, Callum was awarded 11 years Boy Champion. A big congratulations to Callum. He will now compete at the NSW CPS Swimming Trials which will take place on the 20 March at Homebush.

Jai Parkes in year 3 was selected in U10's to represent the Penrith district in touch football at the Junior State Cup held at Port Macquarie. The event was ran over 3 days with the finals to be played on the Sunday. Jai and his team mates played 6 games winning 3 of them. The weather was appalling and made conditions difficult for the boys to play. The last day was cancelled due to the fields being flooded, though all in all it was a good weekend with all the boys playing exceptionally well.



My name is Darcy Brown and I am in year 4. I attend Alive Performing Arts Centre participating in Acrobatics. It is a Team sport. I train each Wednesday afternoon for 1 1/2 hours. I wear a leotard as my uniform. The main equipment used is a mat. I get to do lots of exciting things. I recommend for all students to have a go at Acrobatics it is so much fun.



Teachers are Learners Too

On Monday, we had Stage Teachers work in teams with EMU Specialists and the English Coordinator to interrogate the data collected from the students. During these different times, teachers were deeply engaged in the data for their class to plan for their next learning.

Wet / Sweat (Hot) Weather

As you may know if it is raining during any of our breaks from learning the children are supervised inside their learning space. We also stay inside if the weather is extremely hot (sweat). These procedures in extreme weather conditions keeps everyone safe and dry!

Raffle Ticket Consent Forms

If you have any outstanding notes please be returned by Friday 13 March 2015, we appreciate your prompt response.

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

These national tests will provide information on how Australian students are performing in the areas of numeracy, reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation).



- NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum and will assist teachers in identifying student strengths and weaknesses. By analysing results along with information from teacher judgments and work samples, teachers can adjust teaching strategies to provide appropriate support.

The aggregation of student results from the NAPLAN provides schools with an overview of current achievements for groups of students and contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of their performance. The analysis of aggregated results assists school planning and can be used to monitor literacy and numeracy development over time.

From 2015 there will be two writing prompts: one prompt for Years 3 and 5; and a different prompt for Years 7 and 9. Previously, there was one prompt for all year levels.

The change has been made following consultation with content and assessment experts as well as with states and territory representatives and other educators and researchers. It was concluded that the NAPLAN writing assessment would be better served by two writing prompts, one for Years 3 and 5 and a different one for Years 7 and 9.

The move to two prompts should have no impact on how teachers prepare their students for the NAPLAN writing test, with students still required to write the same sorts of responses. Both writing prompts will be on the same type of text – either narrative or persuasive – students will not have a choice of genre. The genre will be revealed on the day of assessment.

Timetable for National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy 2015

	Tuesday 12 May 2015	Wednesday 13 May 2015	Thursday 14 May 2015
Year 3	Language conventions <i>40 minutes</i> Writing <i>40 minutes</i>	Reading <i>45 minutes</i>	Numeracy <i>45 minutes</i>
Year 5	Language conventions <i>40 minutes</i> Writing <i>40 minutes</i>	Reading <i>50 minutes</i>	Numeracy <i>50 minutes</i>

Below are the books we have shared in the Library this fortnight. There are some children who still have many books at home. Could you please check your child's bedroom and return these books.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



Library Visits	
Kinder	Wednesday
Year 1	Thursday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Thursday



Project Compassion 2015 focuses on Food for Life. It throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world's poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life. Thank you for your ongoing support.



CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE
Faith, Courage, Tolerance

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

2015 STATE ELECTION DID YOU KNOW?

The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Catholic out of school hours care is available at St Nicholas of Myra.

For further information please contact Ben

0418 260 386

Or visit

COSHCSStNicholasPenrith@parra.catholic.edu.au



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

Friday 6:45am, 12:10pm

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, Kaylens Rain, Jared Porter, Darren Barry, Chrissie Lamb, Mark Shay, 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 3 Children FREE with paying adult
(Under 16, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Logos: GULF WESTERN OIL, WALCS, MUSCAT, OWNER DRIVER, deals on wheels, CLANCY'S, POWER, The Tough Australian.

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 fire while preserving the heritage of a long gone era.

Sydney Classic & Antique Truckshow on 31st May, 2015 (See website for more details)

www.pwts.com.au