

St Nicholas of Myra School

PO Box 265, Penrith 2751. Phone: (02) 4721 2623 Fax: (02) 4721 0141
Email: stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website: <http://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au>

Term 3 Week 3
2015

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 31 July
Stage 3

2:30pm Assembly
ALL WELCOME

Sat/Sun

2 August

Confirmation
Enrolment Masses
all weekend

Wed 5 August

Stage 1 Liturgy
2:30pm

Friday 7 August

Mary MacKillop
Liturgy 9:30
(HALL)

Nepean Zone
Athletics Carnival

Sat 8th Sun 9th Aug

Confirmation
Group Session 1

Tuesday 11 August

ICAS Maths Comp
Stage 3 Liturgy

Saturday 29th
August



Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Thank you to the many families who visited us last Friday for Grandparents Day. It was a respectful liturgy and a lovely afternoon tea provided by Year 3 families – thank you! We give thanks to all of our Grandparents for the love and care you show our children.



Grandparents
are simply amazing
**They have a heart of gold
and always have time for
their Grandchildren**

You will NEVER outgrow the
loving arms of your Grandparents

Grandparents have the experience and knowledge that come from surviving a great many years of life's battles and hopefully, they have the wisdom to know when to share this experience and knowledge with their grandchildren. Jimmy Carter once observed that, "Because grandparents are free to love, guide and befriend young people without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out beyond pride and fear of failure and close the gap between generations."

Besides being the keepers of family traditions and history, grandparents provide grandchildren with examples of hard work and family loyalty. Grandparents' stories contribute to family identity by sharing knowledge about relatives, important events, family traditions, the grandparent's childhood and the childhood of the grandchild's parent. As these stories are passed on, the grandchild can gain a positive image of their place within the family and a positive image of ageing.

When we become parents, we automatically give our parents a new position in life, that of being grandparents. At the same time, we give our child the added security of belonging to an extended family. The relationship between grandchild and grandparent can be very life-enhancing: a grandchild can bring love, energy, optimism, laughter, youthfulness and sometimes purpose to the life of their grandparent. At the same time, a grandparent can provide maturity, knowledge, stability, a wise ear and unconditional love to a grandchild.

Nowadays, being a grandparent might not be as simple as you would like due to divorce, remarriage or geographic distance. However, whether you are a grandparent, step-grandparent or even a grandparent raising a grandchild, you are an important person in your grandchild's life.

"God, Father of us all, we are thankful for our life and for the privilege to be parents and grandparents. We pray for patience, guidance and wisdom to use our life's role, for our own benefit and the benefit and enjoyment of our extended family. Amen."

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

**The bond between
Grandchildren and
Grandparents is one
that is so strong, it
can never be broken.
They hold each
others hearts forever**

Parent Results from Term 2 Survey

I would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to complete this survey, we had 50 surveys completed.

The following results are:

- in favour of a healthy school canteen to provide lunches and would be used from twice to five times a week by most respondents
- in favour for Newsletters, Curriculum Overviews, Information Based Notes to be emailed online starting ***from next year. Please be aware that we would accommodate families who do not have any internet access, so no one misses out on information about the school.*** Almost all respondents were in favour for this to occur and would support this change.

Most respondents would like further information sessions about: ***(these are in order of popularity)***

- Building resilience
- Cyberbullying
- Bullying

Other areas named:

- how grouping works in open classrooms,
- more information and guidance on how to improve the child's learning and what can parents do to help
- group based learning, skills and level of each student
- another respondent would like these information sessions at night etc

Suggested areas for further improvements:

- gardening projects, environmental education
- more information in newsletters about property, taking care of identifying it if it is not theirs
- more consultation with parents regarding big decisions
- more opportunities for parental involvement
- more communication on what they are doing in class prefer grades separated – similar to the Kindergarten Weekly Newsletter

Areas the respondents felt the school was doing well:

- information provided by the school app is excellent, sending emails notification and reminders
- students participating more in events i.e. assembly, liturgies, more activities, captivate, soccer and netball teams etc
- creating an active school community
- the facilities seem to be improving
- parent teacher communications
- equality and fairness
- Easter parade and Christmas Concert
- dance, drama, music and art
- I like it the way it is!
- fundraising is always a good idea, way to bring in funds, explore other ways of fundraising, apart from the chocolate drive and trivia night was great!
- supportive environment, very supportive for my child's learning - Thank you.
- the culture of belonging and inclusiveness through days like the A-thon when kids work in K-6 teams
- creating an active school community
- "In our case, the school is going above and beyond, for which we are extremely grateful."

From these responses, there are some areas, which we as a school and parent group can investigate ways forward. We are always looking for ways to further improve and address the needs of our community. I am very thankful to all respondents for their feedback.

2016 Kindergarten Information Nights and Sessions

I would like to thank our St Nicholas of Myra families who are so positive about our school to family and friends. A school's image and reputation is reflective of all of us: parents, students and staff.

During my interviews, many people commented on the 'good things'

they have heard about our school from other people. It is a credit to our whole school and parish community at St Nicholas of Myra - so thank you very much!

So please warmly welcome our new families and for some, reunite with existing families when we meet on the following dates this year:

Term 3

Monday 7 September 2015 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the School Hall.

Term 4

Wednesday 14 October 2015 9:30 - 11:00 am in the School Hall.

Wednesday 21 October 2015 9:30 - 11:00 am in the School Hall.

Wednesday 28 October 2015 9:30 - 11:00 am in the School Hall.

Countdown to
Kindergarten

NEED SOME HELP OR HAVE A QUESTION?? Who Do I Contact?

For classroom-based matters relating to your child's well-being and learning please contact your child's teacher by contacting the school office to make an appointment or sending a note. They are in the best position to help you and your child. The next point of contact is Mrs Lloyd.

For general information the ladies in the office can usually help. If they can't they will direct you to the most appropriate staff member.

After having explored these avenues, if you still require further assistance an appointment can be made with Ms Knezevic.



How can I make an appointment ?

By writing a note to your child's teacher or the relevant staff member or by contacting the ladies in the office who can pass on a message to the relevant staff member for you.

Please do not approach a teacher on the run or whilst they are on duty.



I have been doing gymnastics for 3 years at YMCA Penrith. I train 3 hours a week. There is a lot of equipment used such as crash mats, mini tramps, rings, bars, foam and pea bars. It is an individual and team sport. We travel to different place to compete in competitions which I really enjoy.

Front flips are my favourite. Gymnastics develops strength and stronger muscles. Give it a try I am sure you will enjoy it! **Darcy Wheeler Yr 4**



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

- ☺ Partial Absence Information
- ☺ Fun Food Day



Internet Facilities Upgrade

This week, we have had the NBN cabling installed to our school. In the following weeks, this will be connected. This will improve our internet and Wi-Fi speed throughout our school.

Technology Fee

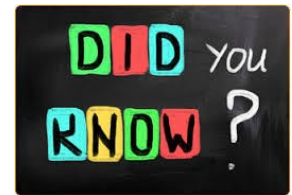
Last year, we had conversations and discussion with parents and the parent group regarding a Technology Fee. Thank you for your support with this fee, from the fees collected to date we are able to purchase over \$6000 worth of ipads for our students learning. These will be ordered and purchased for our students to use this term. Thank you again for your support with this fee!

Major Events for Term 4

- Monday 23 November - Friday 4 December Swimming Program (over two weeks)
- Friday 4 December: Christmas Concert, time to be advised but in the evening
- Sunday 6 December: St Nicholas of Myra's Feast Day
- Monday 7 December: End of Year Assembly (in the morning 9:15), Family Picnic Lunch to celebrate St Nicholas of Myra's Feast Day, followed by Talent Quest from 11:50 pm.
- Friday 11 December: Year 6 Graduation and End of Year Mass, time is usually in the morning, time to be confirmed
- Friday 11 December: Year 6 Graduation Dinner at the White Swan
- Tuesday 15 December: Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 16 December: Last Day for K- 6 students

We have a major fundraising event each term?

- Term 1 usually an English learning related - 'athon' i.e. Write -a-thon,
- Read-a-thon, Spell-a-thon etc
- Term 2 was Trivia this year
- Term 3 Bunning BBQ - we still need some helpers!!
- Term 4 Christmas Raffle



These Fundraising events are spent on the children either for their learning resources or on the playground.

Did you know?

Have you ever wondered about Questions? When teaching, questions are a powerful tool to help children think and respond. Questioning is used throughout the day to help our students think and to provide a pathway for them to find the answer themselves rather than be 'told' the answer. Questions can be thick and thin, convergent and divergent, low and high.

Questions are the most powerful trigger for reflection:

Thinking questions get thinking answers...

Detail questions get detail answers...

Justifying questions get defensive answers...

Often we can ask closed ended questions, such as; Did you enjoy school today? This requires only a yes or no or a one word response. If we change this question to what is something that you learnt today, what was one thing that was funny today, tell me about the book you read today?

It requires a statement, phrase or perhaps even a story.

**Bunnings BBQ - we need your help !
Saturday 29th August**



We have some very generous offers of help in both the preparation for the BBQ and for some of the times, however, we need your help on the day with your time. In previous years, we have had a great day where parents are rostered on to a time period. This allows for the load to be shared as well as considering family commitments on the weekends as well. We often run this fundraiser because we raise a great deal of money for our children, it is also being a witness to our local community by celebrating our school community as well a fun day.

**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

Fun Food Days

Fun Food Days are provided from the voluntary nature of our parents who take the time to organise, order, prepare and serve this food. We are very fortunate to be able to provide this in most terms each even week (once a fortnight Weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8). The due dates are adhered to, as the food items need to be ordered to ensure delivery for the fun food day. The notes are sent home usually on a Wednesday and are due on the Friday.



Here are the following fun food days for Term 3

- Week 4: Pie and Sausage Roll Day note was sent home today? Yesterday?
- Week 6: Chicken Burgers
- Week 8: Wedges

Year 6 Graduation Fundraisers this term are:

- Billy G's Cookie Dough
- Week 10: Chocolate Crackles and Honey Joys.

On Thursday 23rd July, Stage 2 participated in the Soccer Gala Day. Each team played eight games. The girls' team had a slow start to the day, drawing one game and losing two. They then started to work well as a team and won four straight games to finish the day in second place. The boys had two teams for the day. The gold team scored some outstanding goals and finished the day with four wins, three draws and one loss to finish the day in second place. The blue team also finished with four wins, three draws and one loss to finish the day in second place, showing great teamwork along the way. Thank you to the parents who came to support and help organise the teams. Congratulations to all the players on their fantastic results, their outstanding sportsmanship and their supporting of each other.

