



St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 4 Week 7
2014

SAVE THE DATE

Whole School Assembly

Friday 21st November
2:30pm Hall
coordinated by Kinder

Christmas Concert

Friday 5th December
2014 5:30pm BBQ and
6:30pm Concert

175 years Parish Closing Mass

7th December 10am

Thank you Morning Tea

for Volunteers
Monday 8th December
11:00am - 12:00pm

End of Year & Graduation Mass

Wednesday 10th
December 9:30am

End of Year Assembly

Friday 12th December
9:30 am

Talent Quest

Friday 12th December
12pm

Graduation Dinner

at The White Swan
Friday 12th December
6:30 pm

Swimming Carnival

16th December

2015

Start Dates
See Page 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

I always love this time of year when we welcome our 2015 Kindergartens to our school. This week we welcomed our new and existing families. To see our new students join in looking excited, anxious at times and very satisfied with their poppers and chips after two days of orientation was most joyous. This time also serves as a reminder on just how much our 2014 Kindergarten children have grown and learned at school. I am so proud of our 2014 and 2015 Kindergartens!

As new 2015 Kindergartens arrive so we farewell our Year 6 class. Their beautiful Graduation Invitations on one side contained their Kindergarten photo and on the opposite side their Year 6 photo. This highlighted the circle of time and how precious time is each and every year. Take the time this weekend to look at your school photos and share yours with your children as well.

Last week we celebrated Remembrance Day. This year, the 11th November marked the 97th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute's silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. I was so proud of our students with the reverence they demonstrated during our ceremony.

This Remembrance Day was extra special for me as I was privileged to visit ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli (which is off the peninsula in [Turkey](#)) on my pilgrimage earlier this term. ANZAC Cove in Turkish is *Anzak Koyu*, it became famous as the site of World War 1 landing of the ANZAC on 25 April 1915.

Although the weather was windy and overcast we were blessed to still be able to board a boat to experience ANZAC Cove from the water where our Australian soldiers entered this rugged land. We stopped in front of ANZAC Cove and said a prayer for the many lives lost and affected from this ruthless war but also the call and need for peace – peace in our hearts, minds, homes, schools and communities.

Upon returning on land what struck me immediately was a Turkish memorial, which is on your left as you walk to Ari Burnu point. On this memorial are words sent in 1934 by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, President of Turkey, to an official Australian, New Zealand and British party visiting Anzac Cove:

Those heroes that shed their blood, and lost their lives ...

You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore, rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies

And the Mehments to us where they lie side by side,

Here in this country of ours.

You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries ...

Wipe away your tears.

Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.

After having lost their lives on this land, they have

Become our sons as well.



This sign reminds us of the cost of war, the real need for peace and forgiveness. We then moved to ANZAC Cove where we were able to read more information about this site. Here you also gain a perspective on how vulnerable our soldiers were landing at the foot of the hills and from vast open waters.

From here we moved on to the Lone Pine where we were fortunate to celebrate a Mass inside a tomb, in front of the memorial of the Unknown Soldier. We were able to finish our intimate Mass with a procession of a wreath, which we laid at the foot of the Unknown Soldier.

This whole experience moved me greatly and demonstrated to me the importance of Reconciliation as it is evident in its purest form at this site. The respect shown to all of the lives lost from all perspectives is evident and lived through its monuments and atmosphere. We are so fortunate to not have to sacrifice our lives and creature comforts that we often become accustomed to in society. I often hear the phrase, "that's a first world problem" and sometimes we can lose perspective on the sacrifice of lives lost and the cost of hatred and war over peace.

So I just want to thank and acknowledge all of the people before me who have made my life easier and better because they were willing to give their life for another and for our great country Australia. Being here deepened my understanding of true Reconciliation and how Jesus' message is more relevant than ever before.

What are we willing to sacrifice for another? For peace? Are we willing to seek forgiveness from one another?

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

Yellow Mufti Day Tomorrow!

The purpose of this mufti day is raise money for the Cancer Council. As we are heading into Summer, it is important to revisit the Sunsmart actions we need to take during school and holiday times. Daffodil merchandise will also be on sale until it is all sold. All items \$3. Further information can be found at <http://www.cancercouncil.com.au>.

Tips for ending the year on a happier note.

As we all know this time of year is when children become more tired and irritated and very ready for both holidays and the next step in the learning journey. It is a time when they find it easy to remember and talk about the negative times at school and to forget the things they are learning or the fun experiences they are having. To help out with a positive end to 2014 we would encourage you to try and use the following at home:



- ☺ **Encourage a good sleep routine**
- ☺ **Ask for one thing they learned today**
- ☺ **Ask for one thing they enjoyed on the playground**

Hopefully this will help everyone have a positive end to this year.

Teachers are Learners Too!

Just like the students in our school are continuing their intense learning right until the last day of Term 4 so are our teachers!

Yesterday, Miss H and Mrs Fortunat attended a Project Based Learning (PBL) Day focused on "Building your own class project." This day looks at why teachers collaborate in the design and development of projects that encourage deeper learning through solving real world problems. We look forward to their shared insights with the staff from their learning day.

Today, Mrs Cutajar is attending a Road Safety Course. You may remember that in Term 2 we sent home very important safety brochures from the Roads and Traffic Authority from NSW. We look forward to her shared insights from this day!

Today I am attending a day with Sherry A Weddell and Miss Joseph will be attending a similar day tomorrow. Sherry Weddell is an author whose text we have studied this year as a Leadership Team called, "Forming Intentional Disciples – a Path to Knowing and Following Jesus." This text has given many insights about the need for Catholics to be intentional in and with their faith. It is a text that reviews the Church in its current context and lays out a challenge to transform the parish from the inside out.

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



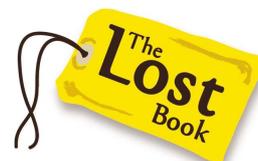
For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the App

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
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Book Club

The last Scholastic Book Club brochures for the year have been sent home. Parents, if you would like to purchase anything from the catalogue to use as Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers, we can arrange for books to be held at the office for your collection, rather than sending them home with students. Please write these instructions on your order form if you'd like to take advantage of this. Thank you for supporting Book Club this year.



Library Books and Home Readers

The end of the year is fast approaching. Could Mums, Dads and Carers please check at home and in your child's bag for any books that may need to be returned to school. Thank you.



Thank you to the School Community for supporting the Southlands Community Rewards Program. Our school originally received a \$100 Woolworths gift voucher for being one of the first schools to register. With the help of parents and carers by placing their receipts in the barrel, we were able to raise a further \$265.67. **Well done!**

Reports

End of year reports will be sent home in week 10, on Thursday 11th December.

The grades and comments in the reports reflect student achievement and work habits in terms 3 and 4. Whilst there are no compulsory parent-teacher interviews for the end of year, you are very welcome to contact your child's teacher should you wish to discuss the report.

Writing tips...

At the 2015 Kindergarten Orientation morning this week, we watched a great clip on 'Becoming a Writer'. The video is especially useful for those with young pre-school children or children who are in the early stages of writing.

The video and further information can be accessed at:

csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/edu/staff/profiles/lecturers/noella-mackenzie



Correspondence

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

- ☺ Raffle ticket consent form & list of prizes for Christmas Raffle
- ☺ Christmas Celebration and Concert Invitation
- ☺ Helper Request for Christmas Celebration and Concert
- ☺ Let's Go Kids brochure
- ☺ Kids Tryathlon brochure
- ☺ Stage 1 Excursion—Australian National Maritime Museum
- ☺ Sunsmart Day—Yellow Mufti Day
- ☺ Swim School Programme
- ☺ Prayer/Reflection—Advent Prayer Group
- ☺ 2015 Parent Group



Christmas Raffle Donations

A & T Direct Excavations (A&T Wamsley)
2 x \$50 Smiggle Vouchers
Christmas Platter & Lolly Jar

Penrith RSL
Voucher for 2 at Star Buffett

Penrith Golf & Recreation Club
18 Holes of golf for 4 adults including
2 motorised carts

Lakeside Restaurant
\$100 Dinner Voucher

Australian National Maritime Museum
Family Pass

Canteen will be opened Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

During the term there will be special food days e.g. hot dog days, pie & sausage roll days, noodle days etc. A note will go home to all families when these days will occur.

Zooper Doopers	\$0.50
Moosies	\$1.00
Chocolate (250ml)	\$1.50
Jelly Cups	\$0.50
Water (600ml)	\$1.00
Pretzels (30g)	\$1.00
Popcorn (25g)	\$1.00

Photographs and Videos

At times during the year, St Nichols of Myra students have the opportunity to be photographed and videoed. These photos and videos may be used as part of grade assessments, be uploaded to the school website or placed in school publications such as the Parent Handbook. Photographs may also be used in publications to promote the school in newspapers and other media. When you enrolled your child, you gave us permission to do this. If you wish to withdraw this authorisation and consent, you need to contact the school office.



Start Dates for 2015

The 2015 school year will begin with Maths Assessment Interviews (MAI) for all students K-6. Interviews are between one student and their teacher and will run for approximately 30 minutes. Times for interviews will be booked through the same online interview booking site used for the parent teacher interviews after the half yearly reports. More information on the booking process will be sent home in a separate note tomorrow.

Tuesday 27th January: 12pm – 4:15pm MAI Testing K-6

Wednesday 28th January: 8:30am – 4:15pm MAI Testing K-6

Thursday 29th January: School resumes for students in years 1-6
9am – 3:20pm MAI Testing Kindergarten only

Friday 30th January: School begins for Kindergarten students (9:15am-2:45pm)