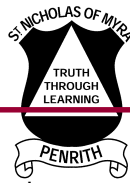


St Nicholas of Myra School Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 10th February we had a tremendous number of parents attend our Parent Group Chat. This group actively participates, plans and coordinates many fundraising events in the school throughout the year. Congratulations and thanks to the parents for volunteering for the different roles for this year!

To the parents who are unable to attend but support the schools events and help out in other ways we appreciate your continued support.

The theme for our Opening School Mass was "Be a servant to others." What a great theme to live by this year. During this Mass we witnessed our school leaders, sports leaders and student representative council members, take up this challenge to be of service to their school community. Congratulations to all of our leaders who were commissioned on Friday!

On Sunday 23rd of February, we celebrated 175 years of St Nicholas of Myra's Parish. The historical journey that this Parish has travelled is remarkable. The service of so many people over the many years is what makes the community so vibrant and strong. Many parishioners and guests commented on the beautiful joint choir and the children who helped to serve at the Morning Tea. I would like to thank the students and the parents who supported this act of service for others. One Parishioner commented on the fact he loved that the children of different ages were there in many ways, as they are the future and will inherit this parish. I thought this was a beautiful sentiment, celebrating the service of past people whilst looking towards the future servants of God here at St Nicholas of Myra parish.

I would like to thank the Kindergarten parents who were able to attend King Henry's dinner last night. It was a great opportunity to have some time to talk and get to know each other as we all start this journey of school together. Many friendships are formed over the years of school - what a great way to start!

The theme of celebration this year continues with a celebration occurring next week, Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is where the people of past, did not have McDonalds or fancy refrigerators for ice creams, so they would make pancakes as a sweet, cheap dessert to feast on. They would do this as a community, using their flour and sugar before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

As I reflect on so many of these great community engagements so early in the term, I am aware they come from the generosity of time, effort and a willing spirit. These events happen because many people use the gifts they have to help and we work together to "Be a servant to others."

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic

Principal



2014 School Leaders

Congratulations to Nevine Idris, Phim Bekee, Molly Walker and Lachlan Becroft our School Leaders for 2014.

2014 Sports Leaders

Congratulations to the following students for accepting the position of sport leader. For Hackett; Brady Wheeler and Samantha Madrajat, for Bradman; Joel Stevens and Kayla Teuma and for Freeman; Micaela Campora Kaal and Marc Spokes.

2014 Student Representative Council members.

Congratulations to the following students for accepting their representative role. Michelle Ghobreyal, Skye Haladus, Lucy Keane, Elle Moore, Lachlan Beattie, Bailey Thomson and Karla Kemister.

Term 1
Week 5
27 February
2014



FRIDAY—TOMORROW
ICE CREAM DAY \$1



Truth Through Learning

2014 Parent Group

Congratulations and thank you to the following ladies who compromise our Parent Group this year. We are grateful for your commitment to our school.

Chair: Vanessa Wheeler
Pastoral Care: Lidia Vlores
Treasurer: Sangeeta Guru
Canteen (Stocktake): Helena Steed
Secretary: Melanie Walker

2014 Parent Contact for each grade.

Congratulations and thank you to the following ladies who are our Parent Contact this year. We are grateful for your commitment to our school.

Kindergarten Blue: Jessica Portelli and Wendy Harvey
Kindergarten Gold: Josephine Simic
Year 1: Roshani Perera & Sangeeta Guru
Year 2: Lidia Vlores
Year 3: Vanessa Wheeler
Year 4: Leigh Parkes and Kaylene Smith
Year 5: Denise Prior
Year 6: Melanie Walker

Shrove Tuesday



Tuesday 4th March

\$1.50

Please have your orders
in by Friday 28 February.

Last day for orders
Monday 3rd March

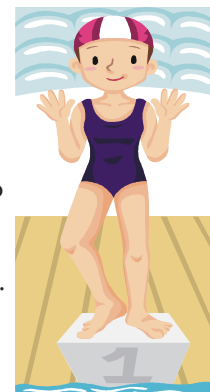
Last Sunday, 23rd February 2014 marked the 175 year anniversary of the St Nicholas of Myra Parish. This special year for our parish community was launched with a beautiful opening mass, presided over by Father Mathew and concelebrated with three other priests. This mass provided a unique opportunity for both the school and parish to come together as one Christian community. Also in attendance were members of our neighbouring school, St Mary Mac Killop and the Principal from St Josephs, Mrs Fran Jackson. The staff of St Nicholas, were represented in high numbers to show their support and anticipation for the year's coming events. Our school choir, alongside the St Mary MacKillop choir, participated by singing a melodic reflection hymn during the blessing of the children. Their efforts were recognised by a thunderous applaud at the conclusion of the song. Above all however, that should be noted from Sunday's Opening Mass were the meaningful and touching words of Father Chris D'Souza during his homily. Whilst Father Chris praised and acknowledged all who had contributed to the life of the St Nicholas of Myra parish, he also drew the congregation's attention to the concept of 'forgiveness'. He pointed out that progress in any community, family or work life, can only be achieved if forgiveness is at hand. It is by letting go of the past, mistakes and contradictions that a healthy community can grow. The parish of St Nicholas of Myra would not be what it is today, if it were not for the forgiveness and charitable approach of its past and present members. Last Sunday's service provided all those present with an opportunity to appreciate with gratitude, those who have contributed to the community and to forgive the mistakes of the past. The large crowds of parish members, students and families are a living testimony that the St Nicholas of Myra community is **grounded in faith, living in hope and growing in love.**



Congratulations to Lachlan Beattie, Lachlan Becroft, Stacie Becroft, Darcy Brown, Emily Keane, Brayden Parkes, Caleb Parkes, Jai Parkes, Jed Prior, Marc Spokes, Alex Stevens, Joel Stevens, Bailey Thomson, Harrison Walker, Molly Walker and Callum Wamsley, on their participation in the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival. The carnival was held at Glenbrook on Tuesday 25th February and the behaviour and sportsmanship displayed by our students was outstanding.

It was fantastic to witness the students enjoying the day, having a go and trying their hardest. A special congratulations and good luck to the following children on making it to the Diocesan Carnival, to be held this Friday at Blacktown.

Lachlan Becroft, Brayden Parkes, Jed Prior, Marc Spokes, Joel Stevens, Bailey Thomson and Callum Wamsley. Congratulations also to Marc Spokes for being placed as Nepean Zone 11 year boys Runner Up. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended on the day for your support and help. Thank you especially Mrs Becroft for time-keeping throughout the day, and Mrs Lennon who attended to Supervise the group.



Awards 14 February 2014



Birthday Cakes

At St Nicholas of Myra we enjoy celebrating children's birthdays. If you would like to bring in a cake it would be appreciated if all birthday cakes bought in were individual cupcakes or donuts. Individual servings make it easier to distribute to other children in a timely manner.

Communicating with the school regarding your child.

If you have a concern in relation to your child, please contact your child's teacher first. If you feel that the problem hasn't been sufficiently dealt with after contact with your child's teacher please contact the Assistant Principal or the Principal. If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to lodge a complaint and a compliant form are available from the school office or in the Compliant Handling Policy and Procedures. These documents can be accessed on the system website www.parra.catholic.edu.au.

Kindy – Blue Keoni Scrimmager Chelsea Sharpe Audrey Sullivan Lara White	Kindy – Gold Sophia Caruana Harmony Culley Lachlan Perrin Richard Reales	Year 1 - Blue Shelby Bac Isaac Brown Ellie Walker Peter Xiberras
Year 1 – Gold Monique Knight Jacob Perera Jeremy Portelli Nicholas Steed	Year 2 Emil Benny Ante Broz Alex Stevens Lilly Vlores	Year 3 Darcy Brown Emily Keane Elle Moore Brendenn Powell
Year 4 Joshua Busine Santina di Corrado Caleb Parkes Callum Wamsley	Year 5 Luke Busine Diab Finianos Georgia Hokin Klariz Tabar	Year 6 Micaela Campora-Kaal Nevine Idris Joel Stevens Kayla Teuma



**School Photos will be held on Wednesday 2nd April.
All children will wear full summer school uniform**

Reading at Home: Ways Parents can encourage good reading at home:

Reading practice at home is a great time where parents can help their children learn that reading is fun.

Tips to help Parents:

Be honest and supportive. Give specific, honest feedback to your child's attempts to answer questions or solve problems.

***If an answer or reasoning is correct,** praise your child in a way that is appropriate to his/her age and experience.

****If the answer is wrong,** do not be afraid to acknowledge that it is wrong, but be quick to point out the praiseworthy aspects of the answer. ("You tried hard; "You thought of a word that made sense.")

More Ways to Give Specific Praise:

Consider using some of the following terms as a way to show your praise and approval:

- Wow! Good for you...Keep it up. Way to go. Super! Look at your great progress....
- I like the way you are working. Good readers fix their mistakes.
- You figured it out! You should be proud... You make it look easy. Keep up the good work. Great answer.
- What great reading. That's it! Good thinking. You're doing better. Keep going. Fine reading...

By using praise Parents can help their children to see that it is good to be a learner and that reading is fun!!



Correspondence

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

- ☺ English-athon Information and Sponsor Booklet
- ☺ Ice cream Day
- ☺ Stage 1 Excursion—Arms of Australia Inn
- ☺ Pancake Day Order Form—Shrove Tuesday 4 March



Canteen

Canteen will be opened Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

Chocolate & Strawberry Milk (250ml)	\$1.00
Poppers (200ml)	70c
Water (600ml)	\$1.00
Pretzels (30g)	60c
Popcorn (25g)	\$1.00
Zooper Doopers (70ml)	50c

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.

Emmaus Catholic College

OPEN NIGHT
Wednesday 12th March, 2014

Come at 4pm for 1st tour and then presentation at 6pm OR come at 6pm for presentation then 2nd tour at 6.30 pm

Students and families from Years 5 and 6 are particularly welcome.

Enrolment Applications for 2015 will be available that evening.

For further details, please contact Mrs Biermann at the College on 9670 4588

87-109 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek



MARCH 2014

Week 6	Mon 3 Mar		Stage 1 Excursion—Arms of Austr
	Tues 4 Mar		Shrove Tuesday—Pancake Day
	Wed 5 Mar		Ash Wednesday
	Fri 7 Mar	9:45am	Whole School Performance—Barber of Seville
Week 7	Mon 10 Mar – Fri 14 Mar		CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
	Thurs 13 Mar		Newsletter Day
	Fri 14 Mar	12pm 2:15pm	Stage 3 and Early Stage 1 Mass—St Nicholas Church Assembly (Stage 1 Year 1 coordinating)
Week 8	Mon 17 Mar		St Patrick's Day
		7pm	Parent Group Meeting
	Thurs 20 Mar		Easter Raffle Tickets sent home
	Fri 21 Mar		ENGLISHATHON DAY
Week 9	Mon 24 Mar		Mother's Day Order forms sent home
	Tues 25 Mar	12pm	Feast of the Annunciation
	Wed 26 Mar	9 - 12pm	Cross Country (Years 3—6 only) - Jamison Park