



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We, as a school with a parish community are celebrating a significant anniversary. Thinking about the word anniversary, I decided to investigate the etymology (that is the study of the origin of words) . I discovered it derived from

Latin *anniversaries* ‘returning yearly,’ from *annus* ‘year’ + *versus* ‘turning’.

But more intriguing to my investigations was the fact that the word, ‘anniversary’ was first used for Catholics feasts to commemorate saints.

Understanding more about this word it makes sense that the parish community is not only commemorating the saint name given to our parish but also sharing in the jubilee of 175 years of St Nicholas of Myra. Australia is still a young country and 175 years of Parish history is very significant.

This significance should be celebrated! Therefore I would like to warmly invite you to attend this special historical Mass being held at 10am on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The Opening Mass and celebration will tell the story of St Nicholas of Myra Penrith Parish from its beginning in 1893 to the present day. Light refreshments will be available after Mass in the school hall. Our school choir is combining with St Mary MacKillop’s to sing during the Mass.

I look forward to seeing the many families from St Nicholas of Myra School attending their Parish Mass on such a significant occasion.

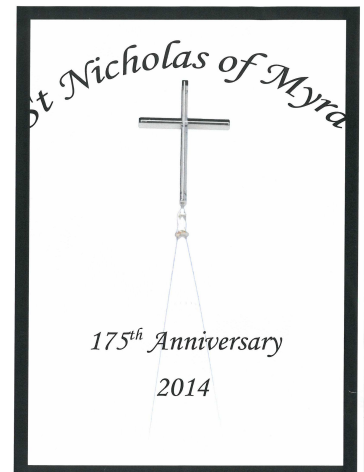
If you would like to read more about the history of St Nicholas of Myra Parish I would encourage you to visit the following website: <http://www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au/about-us/our-history/parish-history>

***We would also love to see you all at our first assembly tomorrow (Friday 14th February) commencing at 2:15pm in the school hall.***

Peace and Joy

*Anita Knezevic*

Anita Knezevic  
Principal



## Religious Education



### What is God saying to us? (Matthew 5:17-37)

In this Sunday's Gospel Matthew accounts Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew explains how Jesus came not to abolish the Law of Moses that the Jewish people had been following for centuries, but to fulfil the scriptures. God's Law can be thought of as a set of rules that we follow in order to show our love and respect for others. We are taught through this week's scripture passage that we fulfil the Law by going beyond the minimum and the expected. The Law is fulfilled when we respond with love in all that we do. Jesus challenges us to go beyond the minimum in all things. Our role is to listen to Jesus and to live like him.

*What can you do to go beyond the minimum in the next week?*

*Pascale Joseph*

*Religious Education Coordinator*

The children are enjoying visiting our Library space located in the school hall.

All children **MUST** have a library bag to be able to borrow each week. These are available at the office for \$10 or a strong plastic bag is acceptable.

Thank you to all those wonderful parents who have taken books home to cover.

More volunteers are required for covering as the school has just taken delivery of readers.

You may collect the books and contact from the school office.

A big thank you to all the St Nicholas Community for supporting the Scholastic Book Club. With the bonus points we have received, this has enabled the school to add to our wonderful collections of books and resources.



### School Absences

**There is no need to ring the school when your child is absent, unless it is a extended period of time or your child has a contagious disease.**

When your child is absent, on his/her return to school please send a note explaining the reason, so that the official State Attendance Rolls can be marked accurately. It is a requirement of roll marking that all absences, both whole day and part day, are explained by a parent/carer in writing. These notes should be received by the student's teacher within 7 days or the absence is recorded as unexplained. Notes should be written and signed by the parent/carer and should be dated. The date of the absence and the reason for the absence should be clearly shown. Absences are also recorded on school reports at the end of each semester.

#### Leave

If you plan to take your child out of school for any reason e.g. an extra holiday, please remember to apply for an "Guidelines for Exemption from Attendance at NSW Catholic Systemic Schools". These forms are available from the school office. Parents and Carers are required to complete this form. A copy of your travel documents are required if it is more than 20 school days.

### Complaint Handling Policy

If at anytime, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to contact the school and make arrangements to speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or the principal, to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and a professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

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 complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures. The documents can be accessed on the school website

[www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au) or system website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

## CURRICULUM NEWS:



### **EMU MATHEMATICS:**

At St Nicholas School, we are working on the EMU Program in Mathematics. **EMU** stands for **EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING.**

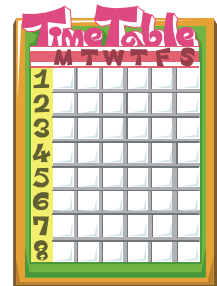
The EMU program focuses on children enhancing their mathematical understanding through rich mathematical experiences.

Children are actively involved in 'hands on' mathematical learning. They use equipment to assist in developing mathematical knowledge. They share and listen to the learning of their peers and they reflect on and record their understandings in a supportive, fun and challenging environment.



### **How Can You Support Your Child in MATHEMATICS at Home?**

- Show an interest in your child's school work;
- Expect your child to succeed;
- Share a positive attitude towards Mathematics with your child;
- Support your child's interest in Mathematics;
- Talk about Mathematics and solving problems;
- Be prepared to discuss mathematical ideas;
- Point out how Mathematics is used every day;
- Ask your child what they have learnt in Mathematics;
- Be positive about your child's efforts and encourage them to practise skills; and support the school's Mathematics program!



Frances Manning  
Acting Assistant Principal

### **Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to all those children who participated at the swimming carnival that was held in December, 2013.

**Boy Champion**  
**Boy Runner-Up**

**Callum Wamsley**  
**Marc Spokes**

**Girl Champion**  
**Girl Runner-Up**

**Molly Walker**  
**Stacie Becroft**



The day would not have been possible without the help of parents and family. A BIG thank you to all. Good luck to the Zone Team which will be announced in next week.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

At Lithgow Swimming Carnival held on the 8th & 9th February, Callum Wamsley swam his personal best time of 36.76 achieving 2nd place in the 9 year old boys 50m Freestyle, awarded a Silver Medal. He is now eligible to compete in the 50m Freestyle at the upcoming "Speedo Sprint Series".

Callum will be representing Glenbrook Swimming Club at NSW Country Championships on the 22nd & 23rd February. He will be competing in the following team events with the 12 year olds boys.

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay

4 x 50m Medley Relay



## Correspondence

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

- ☺ Parent Chat Interviews
- ☺ Term Overviews
- ☺ Help needed for 125 Years of St Nicholas Parish Stages 2 & 3
- ☺ Year 2 Covering Books Note
- ☺ Team Sports Trial Note

## Canteen

The 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.

### How to Choose a Children's Book of the Right Reading Level

The 5 Finger Test is a great way to select appropriate books for your child to read. The test provides you and your child a quick and easy way to gauge the difficulty of a book.

It is quick test you can use in the library or book store before you make a selection.

1. Open the book to any typical page that you or your child wish to read. Have your child begin reading.
2. As your child reads, count the number of words your child doesn't know or has difficulty reading with your fingers.

Now use the number of fingers to help you decide if this is a good book for your child to read by themselves.

## XAVIER COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

Monday 10th March, 2014

5.00pm - 7.30pm

Information Session 7.00pm

Applications close Friday 11th April, 2014

[www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au)

## St Dominic's College Information Evening

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2014, commencing at 7.30pm

Open Day on the 30th March, 2014 between 10am and 3pm.

[www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)

## Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park

Provides Catholic Education for girls in Years 7—12.

Enrolling now for 2015

Open Night

Monday 3rd March, 2014

6pm to 8:30pm

Includes information sessions, displays, performances and tours. All considering enrolment in 2014 are invited to attend

For further information contact the College on 4737 5506

