

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 1 Week 3
2016

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday Feb 18
Stage 1 Excursion
Australian Arms Inn

Tuesday Feb 23
Zone Swimming
Carnival
Glenbrook Pool

Friday Feb 26
Diocesan
Swimming Carnival
Blacktown Pool

Parish Mass
Stage 1

Thursday March 3
School Photos



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Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

What an amazing start to this week – with Shrove Tuesday pancakes, Opening School Mass and Commissioning of Leaders and Ash Wednesday the beginning of our Lenten Season as well as the commencement of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is these community acts of joyful and solemn prayer that bring us together as a Catholic faith filled community.

Thank you for attending our Opening School Mass, unfortunately I was unwell and unable to attend. During this Mass we welcome any new families, our Kindergarten students, new staff and of course our current families to our St Nicholas of Myra Catholic community. From the feedback I received upon my return, were comments that it was a beautiful Mass and commissioning ceremony of our Leaders, Sports and SRC as well as our new staff.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following leaders:

School Leaders:

Taliah Cini
Mariah Nicholopoulos
Owen Smith
Jasmine Teuma



Sports Leaders:

Bradman
Dylan Lestal Braid
John Antoun
Freeman
Sean Egan
Andre Galea
Hackett
Kolbi Prior
Callum Wamsley



Student Representative Council

Stage 1
Odessa Gibbs
Isla Fletcher
Isabella Surene
Stage 2
Andrew Mrsic
Peter Xiberras
William Brown
Stage 3
Emily Keane
Ethan Cruz



We commenced our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday yesterday and I would like to thank all of our parents and carers who joined our faith community.

The Season of Lent is upon us again and it is a time for us to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. It may be better not to give up something but to take on something, to build up our spiritual muscles.

There are often two approaches during Lent. The first is to give up something; perhaps chocolate, ice cream, gossiping etc. The second approach is to do something like; clean your room without being asked, find peace within relationships, eat your vegetables with joy, to be a friend to someone you wouldn't normally etc.

During this Lenten period, whether it is the first or second approach that is taken it is the act of sacrifice or thoughtfulness for another.

Lent is about mindfulness, reflection, consideration and prayer to renew our relationship with God. When I found this image and I thought provided an alternate way to see God in your life's moments.



"Father in heaven, may Your love be the foundation and motivating force for my life. Help me to step out of my sheltered life and take Your love to other people in a way that is personal to me. Amen."

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic



Welcome Kindergarten 2016

Catholic Culture

Kindergarten Cheers and Tears

Thank you to Helena Steed and Clare Fidler organising just a beautiful spread and parent survival show bags for our new families.

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day

Thank you to Clare Fidler and Lidia Vlores for organising the pancakes for our students to feast upon before our Lenten journey began – this year it required a very quick turn around as Lent is quite early. I would also like to thank all the parents who helped in the canteen on the day.

Parent Group

Thank you to the parents who attended our first meeting on Monday night it was great to see some new members join for this year.



2017 Kindergarten Enrolment

We are beginning our enrolments for next years Kindergarten. We invite and welcome you to come and collect an enrolment form as soon as possible as interviews will begin soon.

A Pope Francis Quote

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.

Transition and Learning with MAIs

Thank you for your support with the MAI Interview times, this helps the teacher and student have some one on one time as well as the teacher learning about their mathematical knowledge.

Transition to High School

During Term 1, we have our local high schools come to introduce themselves and visit our Stage 3 students. This is the beginning of transition for our students as they finish their Primary years. Page 6 of the newsletter lists their open days and information nights.

Parent and Teacher Partnerships

This year we decided to host an information evening, St Nicholas of Myra has previously held these nights. The timing of this evening is the same as when we hold our Parent Chats from year to year - it is often early in Term 1 and usually around Week 3. Thank you to those parents/carers who attended and who also completed the Evaluation Survey as this will help us to ascertain a future direction. The results of this will be published in the Week 5 newsletter. Please send in any evaluations by the end of this week so these can be included.

Parent and School Communication

This year the newsletter will be emailed out to all families. This was a decision made in consultation with all parents via the Term 2 2015 survey. The results of this survey were also published in Term 2 and from Term 3 2015 there have been subsequent reminders about ensuring the office has an email address for this years change.

The main sources of information are the **school newsletter** published every fortnight and the **Skool Bag App** is also a place where we send reminders. If you are having any difficulties when using this **Skool Bag App** please ring 1300 661 031 or email them at support@skoolbag.com.au.

These two avenues are the main sources where information is shared. Other information notes will be emailed and any/all permission notes will be sent home on paper.



CRICKET NSW
AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE HEROES

Visit by Cricket NSW

Last Wednesday and Thursday, St Nicholas of Myra was privileged to receive a visit from Cricket NSW. This **FREE** session was to give all children from K-6 a 'snapshot' of cricket in a 90 minute session. The cricket basics of batting, bowling and fielding were covered with the addition of St 2 and St3 being able to experience a T20 game. With the music pumping, the children rotated through the activities, having great fun in the process. We would like to thank Cricket NSW for giving our students this opportunity. What a great way to kick off our sporting year!

Mrs Michelle Hinchliff



PARENT GROUP - Help Needed!!!!

At St Nicholas of Myra we have a Parent Group body who meet twice a term to organise special events for the children and parents and coordinate various fundraising initiatives throughout the year for our school. There is usually a group of two or three people listed as the main contact people for each class so that when these events occur they can then contact the other parents in the class and help to organise them.

We are in need of some extra contact people for the following classes: Year 1, Year 2 Blue, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. You won't be alone in this role as there are already others there to support you. If you are able to put your name down to be a contact person for any of these classes or if you'd like to be an extra contact person on another class please let me know as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding this role please also feel free to contact me.

Thanks for your help
Rebecca Lloyd

Dear Parents and Carers
Please, please label all
of your child's
belongings.

Our lost property bin
is over flowing with
towels from swimming,
school jumpers, jackets, hats, drink
bottles, lunch boxes and toys.



We will be placing the bin outside the
gates near the office in the afternoon
of next Wednesday 17th and Thursday
18th February.

This is an opportunity for you to collect
your child's belongings. Thank you

School Fees 2016

School fees were posted on 9 February 2016. You will receive:

- Term 1 tax invoice/statement
- Direct Debit Request
- Direct Debit Request service agreement
- BPAY payment guidelines
- Full fee details for 2016
- Frequently asked questions

If you have not set up a direct debit payment plan or made any arrangements, Term 1 fees will be due by 3 March 2016.

If you feel you may have difficulty in meeting the due date please contact the school office on 47212623 and speak with Rhonda Shirvington

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

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. 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.

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.



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



- ☺ Raffle Ticket Consent Form
- ☺ Welcome Back to 20176
- ☺ Pancake Day Order Form
- ☺ Student Acceptable Use of ICT
- ☺ Invitation to Opening Mass
- ☺ Parent Information Evening
- ☺ ICAS 2016
- ☺ Curriculum Overviews
- ☺ Stage 1 Excursion to Australian Arms Inn
- ☺ Project Compassion Boxes
- ☺ Catholic Schools Guide

School Times

What time does morning supervision commence?

8:30 am

What time does school commence?

9:00 am

When do children eat lunch? **11:00 – 11:40 am**

When do children have fruit break? **1:10 - 1:40 pm**

What time does school finish? **3:10 pm**

Reporting Absences



School Absences

When your child is absent, on his/her return to school please send a note explaining the reason. 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 3 days or the absence is recorded as unexplained absence. Notes should be written and signed by the parent/carer and should be dated.

An e.g. of letter below:

✂

Date: _____

Dear _____ **(teacher's name)**

_____ **(child's name)** of _____ **(class)** was away from school

from _____ **to** _____ **for the following reason:**

☐ Illness ☐ Medical Appointment ☐ Funeral ☐ Family Event ☐ Other

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

Parent/Guardian

(Parents, please note that if the absence is for a holiday from 10 to 100 days, then you are required to submit an application for extended leave. Thank you for your cooperation.)

Canteen Price List

MILK 250ML S/berry & Choc	\$1.50
MOOSIES Bubblegum & Choc	\$1.00
POPCORN	\$1.00
PRETZELS	\$1.00
POPPERS	\$1.00
WATER 600ML	\$1.00
ZOOPER DOOPERS	50C

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

St Dominics College
Open Day
Sunday 6 March 9am to 2pm
All Welcome to attend



At St Nicholas of Myra we have a 'No hat no play' policy. If your child has forgotten their hat we **DO NOT** have spares in the office. All children need to remember to bring their hats to school. They should be clearly **LABELLED**.



Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park provides Catholic Education for girls in Years 7 – 12

Enrolling now for 2017

An **Open Night** on Monday 7th March from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm includes information sessions, displays, performances and tours.

All considering enrolment in 2017 are invited to attend.

For further information contact the College on 4737 5506.

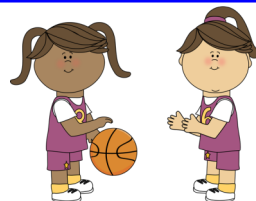


Faith, Courage, Tolerance

St Nicholas Netball Club 2015 Registration

Tuesday 9th February 6-8 pm
Jamison Park Netball courts upstairs in Netball complex

New players need Birth Certificate and two passport size photos
Information Ring 0427606605 or email stnicholasnetball@gmail.com
Check information on our website
Register online before attending the Registration Night
Registration Forms will be on website <http://stnicholasnc.nsw.netball.com.au/>



Emmaus Catholic College

OPEN NIGHT
Wednesday 9th March, 2016

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

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

87-109 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek

Further reading about ASH WEDNESDAY February 11, 2016

Michael Fallon MSC

Today we enter the season of Lent. The word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for Spring - 'Lenchten', for in the northern hemisphere it is spring and the days are beginning to 'lengthen'. As the winter ice melts, the Church in Europe and North America prays for the warmth of the Holy Spirit to enter our cold hearts, to liven them up in preparation for Easter. In the southern hemisphere, the seasons are reversed and we have to adapt the symbolism. After the heat of summer, perhaps we can pray for the grace of God's Spirit to come with the gentle autumn rains to purify and refresh our hearts.

We begin today with a ritual of ashes. The symbolism is obvious. The author of the ancient story of the creation of Adam recognised that we human beings are complex. On the one hand we belong to the fragile, corruptible and mortal reality of nature. God moulded the human body (the body of *Adam*) from the dust of the *Adamah*, the red earth. We are 'dust', but we are more than dust, for God breathed into this dust his breath, the breath of life, his Spirit. The ashes are what happens when we are consumed by the fire of the Spirit (and for us it is the Spirit of Jesus, the fire of Pentecost). When we die and return to dust, our life-breath returns to God. We pray that God will breathe his life into us again, as he did to Jesus, and draw us into the embrace of eternal life. Now, as we begin our preparation for Holy Week and Easter, we focus on the fragile, sinful, broken part of our being, and we focus on our need for the fire of God's Spirit to reduce to ashes all in us that is not open to life.

We do not begin Lent by focusing negatively on ourselves. We begin where Jesus began: 'The Kingdom of God is at hand, so repent!' We begin with a profound act of faith in the desire of God to pour his Spirit into our hearts, to renew us with the fire of his Spirit. If God's love reduces parts of our lives to ashes, so be it, for it must be necessary for him to renew the face of the earth. When Jesus' heart was broken, life poured out for the healing of the world. Our hearts, too, need to be broken. They need to be purified. In accepting the ashes we are indicating our willingness to undergo whatever God knows is needed to set our hearts on fire.

In our ordinarily busy and perhaps cluttered lives there is little space for experiencing our deep yearning for communion with God. Fasting has been a traditional way of reminding ourselves to go without certain external pleasures so that we can create some space in which to feel our hunger and thirst for God.

In the First Reading the prophet Joel tells us that it is time for us to turn away from sin, to embrace life. He also tells us that the way to do this is to turn to God with all our hearts. The Jews had a ritual of tearing their clothing as a sign of sorrow. Joel declares that it is more important to tear our hearts. He wants us to experience the pain that sin has caused ourselves and others and to turn towards the One for whom we long, the only One who can truly give our hearts peace. If we follow his advice we will find that we will learn to hate the sin that takes us from our heart's desire.

Jesus in the Gospel also invites us not only to fast but also to turn our attention in a special way to the needs of our neighbour and to spend time in prayer. The question we might ask ourselves as Lent begins is: What is God gracing me to change? Where is God's love calling me to grow? We are not the ones who are going to do the purifying. We are too scared to do it, and we haven't the wisdom to do it well. We are branches of the vine that is Jesus and it is God who does the pruning. God loves us with an everlasting love and he will certainly be offering us the grace today, and throughout Lent, to find the courage to let him purify our hearts.

We have seen new growth come after a forest fire. Let God's love reduce what needs to be burned to ashes such as we wear upon our foreheads today. Out of this purification, only beautiful things will grow.

In the Second Reading Paul urges us not to put off responding to the invitation of grace. Now is the right time. God is offering to save us now from sin. Do not sit in silence and watch Jesus walk by. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, let us invite him now into our hearts. Let our main resolution for Lent be to make space in our day to be alone with God - giving him this time in order that he may love us with his Spirit and awaken us to the areas which he wants to purify.

We have all been through days when not the slightest breeze can be felt - and yet we look at a poplar tree and we see the leaves quivering. There is a movement of air but too gentle to be otherwise observed. Lent is a time to look gently into our heart, praying that we may pick up the slightest movement of grace - and, when grace is calling us, to alter our behaviour. That is the area of Lenten resolution. Each day God himself calls each one of us closer to himself. Let us resolve today to listen to his call and to follow him, however painful the journey may feel. Then, when Holy Week comes, we will be ready to walk the way of the cross with Jesus and experience once again and more profoundly the grace of new life in Christ - the grace of Easter.