

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 4 Week 6
2015

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 20
November

Parent Helpers
Morning Tea
11am—11:40am

Monday 23
November
SWIMMING
PROGRAM
BEGINS

Thursday 26
November
Watermelon
Day

Friday 27
November
Parish Mass
Kinder & Stg 3

Gingerbread
House Making
4-6pm
6-8pm

Friday 4
December
Christmas
Concert
5pm
Concert 6pm

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

This commemorative day holds a special place in my heart. This year I wanted to further explore some key questions around this day.

Why 11.00 am on 11 November?

The armistice or end of hostilities in the First World War was actually agreed to at 5.00am on 11 November. However, it took another six hours before all fighting units received word that the armistice had been agreed that fighting should cease. Germany surrendered unconditionally. It was felt that the time when all hostilities finally stopped was the more appropriate time to remember the service and sacrifice of men and women involved in World War I. This day was named Armistice Day from 1918 and so we remember at 'The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month'.

Are Armistice Day and Remembrance Day the same?

Yes. 11 November was originally known as Armistice Day because it was on that day that the armistice occurred. An armistice is when opposing sides agree to stop hostilities against one another. At this time, fighting ceases, guns are unloaded and put away. Although hostilities ended, the peace treaty was not signed until the following year, on 28 June 1919. After World War II the Australian and British Governments decided to change the name of the day from Armistice Day to Remembrance Day. In the United States 11 November is now known as Veterans' Day. At the times these changes took place, governments were looking for a way to also remember the service and sacrifice of men and women who had served during World War II. It was decided to remember the men and women from both world wars on the same day.

Since the armistice was a specific event at the end of World War I it was considered better to have a name that would include both wars and so Remembrance Day came into existence.

Yesterday we remembered ALL Australian men and women who served in war and peacekeeping activities. These include World Wars I and II, Malaya, Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, Iraq, East Timor Afghanistan and nearly 40 other peacekeeping activities.

What happened after the armistice was agreed to?

When an armistice is agreed to, people can't just pack up and go home. They have to dismantle all the supplies and equipment used in warfare, and arrange for the return of troops and equipment to their homelands.

For those in places like France and Belgium where much of the fighting during World War I took place, there was much reconstruction to begin. The landscape had been destroyed in many places, the soil polluted, and unexploded bombs had to be found and destroyed.



The land had to be made suitable for farming once again. In addition, as many photographs from the time of World War I so clearly illustrate, many homes, public and historic buildings had to be partially or totally rebuilt. Power and water supplies had to be restored. Transport had to be repaired and made usable again.

Many of the things people used in their daily and community lives had to be restored or rebuilt. However, this reconstruction was the easy part in so many ways. Families had lost fathers, sons, uncles and other relatives. There were the sick, wounded and permanently disabled to consider. Service men and women had to adjust to civilian life again and learn to live with the memories they brought back.

Some memories, but not all, were ones they wanted to keep. Often they only wanted to remember friendships they had made, times when 'tall poppies' were brought back to reality, and humorous and emotionally touching moments. If they could, they tried to forget the hardships and the continuous deprivation, stress and tension that accompany service in a war zone.

People immediately began to think of ways to remember the service and sacrifice of so many Australian men and women. War cemeteries were created. Towns and cities began building local war memorials, planting avenues of honour and dedicating new buildings (especially public halls) to service men and women.

In 1919 the two minutes' silence was introduced on Remembrance Day. In 1920 Remembrance Day took on greater significance when an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey in London and another at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Australia waited until 1993, the 75th anniversary of the Armistice, to bring an unknown soldier home. At the same time that this reconstruction and readjustment was happening and people were trying to restore life to its normal routines, the Allies began considering the Peace Treaty and what they wanted from Germany.

I hope you have found these few questions interesting and clarifying.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic



christmas raffle!!

Donations for our Christmas Raffle would be very much appreciated. Maybe you may know of a business who would like to donate.
Thank you



2016 Newsletters and Information Notes
In the beginning half of the year, we sought feedback from Parents and Carers who overwhelmingly agreed to move to online newsletter and information based letters. This transition will be beginning from Term 1 next year.

Major Events for Term 4

- Friday 20 November 11:00—11:40am THANK YOU Parent Helpers Morning Tea
- Monday 23 November - Friday 4 December Swimming Program (over two weeks)
- Friday 4 December: Christmas Concert, from 5pm. Concert commences 6pm
- 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
- Monday 14 December 'Rock Around the Clock' Musical Performance 1:40pm
- Tuesday 15 December Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 16 December: Last Day for K- 6 students



STAGE 2 MADAGASCAR FUNDRAISER TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

LUNCH & FRUITBREAK HALF ICE BLOCKS

All monies raised go towards a present to give to Madagascar

50c



50c

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

😊 Christmas Celebration



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
Friday 6:45am, 12:10pm

Though our school didn't win a medal or ribbon, we still achieved many skills. The lesson is that no matter if we won or not, we still had a tremendous amount of fun.

Michaela Merkas

I had allot of fun doing gymnastics. We got to learn new skills and spend time with our friends at the gymnastics competition. This was my last year doing the gymnastics competition and I really enjoyed it. **Jade Altman**

At the gymnastics competition we all tried our very best and even though we didn't win we did achieve a lot of skills.

Georgina Child

The gymnastics day was really fun our school did a fantastic job but we didn't win anything. At least we had a go. I loved the gymnastics day.

Mariah Nicholopoulos

