

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 4 Week 10
2015



2016 DATES

Wed 27 January
8:00—11:00am
MAI Interviews

Thurs 28 January
8:00am—4:30pm

Friday
29 January
Years 1-6
8:30-3:10pm
Students
Return to School

Kindergarten
9:30am-2:00pm



Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

What a way to end a school year – with our super Christmas Concert, End of Year Awards Ceremony, St Nicholas of Myra Feast Day, Picnic Lunch and Talent Quest!

St Nicholas of Myra is the Patron Saint of: children, fishermen, merchants, sailors, bakers and dock workers. When we reflect on all of these images they are service occupations. Parenthood and teaching are also service vocations. As we lead up to Christmas how can we be of service to one another?

Prayer to St Nicholas of Myra

O good St Nicholas, you who are the joy of the children,
put in my heart the spirit of childhood,
which the gospel speaks, and teach me to seed happiness around me.
You, who feast prepares us for Christmas, open my faith to the mystery of Godmade man.
You, good bishop and shepherd, help me to find my place in the Church and inspire the church to be faithful to the gospel.
O good St Nicholas, patron of children sailors, and the helpless, watch over those who pray to Jesus, your Lord and theirs, as well as over those who humble themselves before you.
Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem, when true joy and peace are found.
Amen.

I would like to thank you, the parents and carers for your ongoing support, sometimes sadness and laughter. It is the journeying through these tides of highs and lows that make us a boutique, family school. I thank you for your trust in my decision making this year and the years to come.

Our Parent Group continued with the four formal roles of Chair person, Treasurer, Pastoral Coordinator, Canteen Coordinator and our Parent Representatives. I would like to thank these parents for their commitment they have shown for all of our students throughout the whole of this year. I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the following people; Chair person Sarah Lestal, Treasurer Vanessa Wheeler, Pastoral Coordinator Jim Mueller, Canteen Coordinator Helena Steed.

I would like to thank the staff who are great individual teachers who when they come together to teach are just dynamic and full of life and learning. This year we say thank you and good luck to Mrs Mann who will be teaching Kindergarten at St Thomas of Aquinas. On behalf of the St Nicholas of Myra community we wish you all the best.

Miss Westbrook has been at St Nicholas of Myra in various roles over the past 3 years and we thank her for sharing her gifts and talents with many of our students. Our Lady Queen of Peace at Greystanes is very fortunate to have you next year. On behalf of the St Nicholas of Myra community we wish you all the best.

I would also like to thank Father Mathew, Father Joe and their Pastoral Team for their ongoing spiritual and faith support to our school and myself.

Finally I would like to thank the students for stretching their thinking, persisting when learning became hard, for being great encouragers and sportspeople and for reminding me what is important in their lives. This time we have, as they grow and learn is precious. Children always have a way of bringing you back down to earth!

This special season of Advent and the example of St Nicholas have beautiful messages of faith, joy, prayer and peace. I sincerely wish all of these for you all this Christmas. Have fun family and friend time and I can not wait to see you all again in one piece next year. I would like to finish with this prayer.

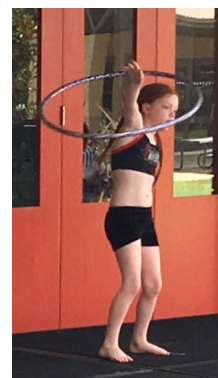
*O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.
The days have passed quickly, O Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and holy days,
The exams, holidays, breaks, and assemblies,
All have come forth from your hand.
While we trust that your purposes have always been at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate
Just what you have been up to in our school.
Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,
And bless us, according to your will,
With the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams.
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as you have done this past year.
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.
May we continue to grow
In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives.
Amen*

I wish a very Merry Christmas and Safe Happy New Year!

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

Talent Quest

I would like to thank all of the students who auditioned, rehearsed and performed at our Talent Quest, there was a wide variety of acts! Thank you to the parents and carers who supported this very entertaining show by being another audience for these upcoming performers! I would like to thank Mrs Nicole Smith, Miss Kristen Inskip and Miss Daniella Biasi for organising this event and Mrs Lisa Cutajar for being our MC. It was a great way to celebrate the different talents of our students.



2016 Staffing Announcements

I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Linda Higham and Miss Hannah Khalifeh for continuing their learning support roles into next year.

Early Stage 1

Nicole Smith (Reading Recovery) and
Pascale Joseph (EMU Leader)
Learning Space: The current Kindergarten

Stage 1

Year 1: Kristen Inskip
Year 2G: Erin Giumelli
Year 2B: Nicole Hoare (EMU Leader)
Learning Support Person: Hannah Khalifeh
Learning Space: The current Stage 1 space

Learning Support Team

- Michelle White
- Linda Higham
- Hannah Khalifeh

Reading Recovery Specialist: Second year
training: Nicole Smith

Stage 2

Year 3B: Daniella Biasi
Year 3G: Adam Simpson (EMU Specialist)
Year 4: Lisa Cutajar (EMU Specialist)
Learning Support Person: Linda Higham
Learning Space: The renovated space of the
current Stage 3.

Stage 3

Year 5: Nicole Bray (EMU Specialist)
Year 6: Ros Cole
Learning Support Person: Michelle White
Learning Space: The current Stage 2 spaces.

EMU Specialist:

- Infant EMU trained: Lisa Cutajar
- Middle Years trained: Adam Simpson
- Infants and Middle years trained: Nicole Bray



ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA SCHOOL - 2015



Southern Cross Colour Studios 0245 773 308

Staff

Back Row: Megan Mann, Vennessa Goode, Jocelyn Westbrook, Suzanne Bannister, Nicole Smith, Daniella Biasi, Nicolette Spyrou. **Middle Row:** Lisa Cutajar, Rhonda Shirvington, Susan Masters, Adam Simpson, Michael Threlfo, Michelle Hinchliff, Kristen Inskip, Linda Higham. **Front Row:** Rita Bellman, Ros Cole, Pascale Joseph, Anita Knezevic, Rebecca Lloyd, Nicole Hoare, Mary Vella. **Absent:** Chris Harpley, John Attard, Genevieve Lennon, Sharon Cooling.

Transition Morning (Promotions Day)

On Monday 14 December, the students will experience a transition to meet their new teachers and be in their learning space. During this time, the students will also be receiving their Resource Requirements.

As we move towards the end of the year, it is really important that we keep on being successful learners. The holidays are an opportunity to rest and to have family time at a more leisurely pace. Every minute counts in the final weeks and we need your help to keep our children at school everyday until the end of term.

Talk to your children about the importance of why you value learning, share with them what makes an effective learner. Here are some pointers:

- be actively engaged in the lessons
- use trial and error to make mistakes to work through the learning
- learning is hard at times and that is okay
- ask questions to your peers and your teachers
- learn from others and with others
- ask for feedback from your teachers on how you can improve
- use your initiative, persist and be willing

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. During this time of change it is important to normalise the feelings that can be experienced by students who may feel anxious about change. The benefit of a smaller school is that many students know and learn with many different teachers which make this a great life skill practised and learned early. As we know when the students transition to high school they see many different teachers throughout a day.

To help out with a positive end to 2015 we would encourage you to try and use the following at home:

- Encourage good eating and sleeping routines
- Ask for one thing they learned today
- Ask for one thing they enjoyed on the playground

HAVE YOU BOOKED? *(another part to our Transition)*

Today, you would have received an online booking note for the beginning of next year. This is an annual beginning conversation where the teachers meet the students in a one to one setting and do some fun literacy and numeracy activities. These activities are used to inform and help teachers start the learning immediately at the student's point of need.

e Newsletter - 2016

Just a friendly reminder that next year we are going paperless for the newsletter. So if you have changed your email address please email the office so we can ensure a smooth transition. We thank you for this support.

School Banking

Has ceased for 2015. Please do not send your child's banking in.

2015 Award Recipients

Christian Living:	Lachlan Mueller Lachlan Perrin Hayley Teuma Katherine Faustino Nikea Powell Emilmariya Benny Lucas Dankha Jasmine Teuma Jade Altman
Academic Achievement:	Emara Aurisch Richard Reales Harmony Culley Jacob Perera Andrew Mnsic Lucy Keane Raphaila Idris Callum Wamsley Klariz Tabar
Academic Growth:	Isabel Mnsic Keeva LeMaire Ellie Moen Peter Xiberras Isaac Brown Zena Madrajat Gabrielle Xinos Erika May Ansali Georgie Dunn
Outstanding Effort:	Matthew Fidler Amrita Karki Chelsea Sharpe Monique Knight Isabelle Sharpe Breanna Haladus Kolbi Prior Jasmine Culley



Stuart Ayres
Recipient:
(All rounder)
Matthew Busine

Fiona Scott
Recipient:
(Community Spirit)
Bailey Thompson

Museum of Fire
recipient:
(All rounder)
Michaela Merkas



Christmas Concert

I would like to thank the staff, parent helpers, Outback Steakhouse and Santa Claus for making an appearance on this special evening. The atmosphere throughout the night very much reflected the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Raffle

I would like to thank the school community for raising over \$700 from Christmas Raffle, this money goes towards school resources for the students. We have an unclaimed prize **Orange Ticket A58** in the name of **BEN**.

I would like to thank Helena Steed for collecting all of the different prizes from local businesses. Thank you goes to Lidia Vlores and Clare Fidler for taking the time to wrap all of our prizes for this annual raffle.

Our Christmas Craft raised \$627.10 – this money will be split between the school and a charity. I would like to thank the students and teachers for their handiwork and creativity in taking such care to make lovely mementos for their families.



2016 is coming soon

What are some of the exciting things we can look forward to next year? The following are just some of the developments to make 2016 a year that will again be full of diverse and enjoyable learning experiences for the children and ourselves!

The Year of Mercy

Further work in making connections between scripture, prayer and sacraments for the students

Further work on improving our reading and writing in Literacy

Further work in Numeracy

Many opportunities for parents to learn and get involved

More technology than ever before

New musical experiences for the whole school

Construction of an improved learning space

This is just naming a few - with all our regular programs and special events continuing in 2016!

Are you leaving the St Nicholas of Myra Community at the end of this Term?

PLEASE –

Ensure all Library Books are returned to the Library.

Return all Reading Books to the class teacher.

Ensure that all school fees have been paid in full – see the ladies in the office.

Collect all of your child's exercise books – these can be used at your child's new school.

If you will not need your child's uniform or library bag, you can donate them to the Uniform Shop.

Notify us in writing of the name of the school your child will be attending, new contact details and the date of last day at St Nicholas of Myra (a government requirement)

Please note: This does not include students in Year 6 moving onto high school as we already have this information.

CHANGE TO BUS PASSES

From Term 1, 2016 paper bus passes will be replaced by the new School Opal card. As with the current School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) students will be eligible for free travel as follows: Years K-2 (Infants) – no minimum distance from their school; Years 3-6 (Primary) – 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further from school. Applications can be made via a new online application process.



Many students with a current SSTS pass won't need to reapply, as a new pass will be issued automatically. This will be either a School Opal card or a school travel pass if the student needs to travel outside the Opal network to get to school.

However, you will need to complete an application form if:

- Applying for SSTS for the first time
- Enrolling in kindergarten
- Progressing from year 6 to year 7
- Changing name, school and/or address
- Requesting a new additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation

If a student doesn't qualify for a free travel pass, they may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term. Application for 2016 School Opal Cards and SSTS passes starts from Monday 2 November. To apply online, please go to:

<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply>

Earlier this term, Stage 2 held an ice-block day to raise funds in order to purchase a gift for families and communities living in Madagascar. Stage 2 raised \$140 and purchased 2 laying hens for families, 1 pig, 1 bike for a student to go to school and medications and supplies for a whole community.

Thank you to all the students who supported Stage 2 throughout this cause.



VOLUNTEER READING HELPERS

I can be a reading helper – please put my name on the roster and contact me.

- ◇ I have completed the Child Protection Training Module for Volunteers.
- ◇ I will complete the Child Protection Training Module for Volunteers.
- ◇ I will have my details on a contact list so I can find a replacement for my day if needed and notify the school of the changes.

Name _____ Contact Phone Number _____

Email: _____

Please Tick Days and then the Times Available:

Monday

9:00 – 9:30 am

9:30 – 10:00 am

Tuesday

9:00 – 9:30 am

9:30 – 10:00 am

Wednesday

9:00 – 9:30 am

9:30 – 10:00 am

Thursday

9:00 – 9:30 am

9:30 – 10:00 am

Friday

9:00 – 9:30 am

9:30 – 10:00 am

Please Tick Frequency:

Daily

Weekly

Fortnightly

Monthly

On behalf of the St Nicholas of Myra students we thank you and look forward to your assistance with our learning!

CANTEEN 2015

A huge thank you to the many parents who have assisted in the Canteen over the past year. A very special thank you to Helena Steed who has coordinated the Canteen again this year. Without the support of dedicated families who volunteer in the Canteen, we would not be able to open our doors three lunch times a week.

Please note that the last day of the Canteen for this year will be Friday 11th December and the Canteen will be closed on Monday 14 December, for cleaning. As always, we will also be looking for volunteers that can assist in the Canteen – if you are able to assist in 2016 please complete the slip below.

2016 SCHOOL CANTEEN

Our Canteen is run by volunteers and we are in desperate need of NEW volunteers to assist us. If you are available please complete and return the slip below ASAP. The canteen opens only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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CANTEEN HELPER

I can assist in the Canteen – please put my name on the roster and contact me.

- ◇ I have completed the Child Protection Training Module for Volunteers.
- ◇ I will complete the Child Protection Training Module for Volunteers.
- ◇ I will have my details on a contact list so I can find a replacement for my day if needed and notify the school of the changes.

Name _____ Contact Phone Number _____

Email: _____

Please Tick Days Available:

Monday 10:50 -12:00 am

Wednesday 10:50 -12:00 am

Friday 10:40 -12:00 am

Please Tick Frequency:

Weekly

Fortnightly

Monthly

On behalf of the St Nicholas of Myra students we thank you and look forward to your assistance with our filling our tummies with yummy treats!