

St Nicholas of Myra School

PO Box 265, Penrith 2751. Phone: (02) 4721 2623 Fax: (02) 4721 0141

Email: stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website: <http://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au>

Term 4 Week 7
2016

SAVE THE DATE

Fri 25 Nov
12pm Parish
Mass S3 & ES1

2:30pm
Assembly
(ES1 coordinating)

Mon 28 Nov
Swim
Program Begins

Thurs 1 Dec
Fun Food Day
Cheese & Bacon
Roll or
Croissant Day

Mon 5 Dec
Online Booking
for 2017 MAI
opens

Tues 6 Dec
St Nicholas
Feast Day
7:30am Thank
You Helper
Breakfast

9:15am Liturgy

Thurs 8 Dec
Newsletter Day

Fri 9 Dec
Christmas
Concert 5pm

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

This first Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical Year (Year A). Each season has its special grace and on this Sunday we begin the season of Advent in which we prepare for Christmas and await for Jesus to be born again into our lives, our families, our Church and our world. Saint Augustine summed up the mood of this season well when he prayed: 'You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you'. Our hearts are made for God. Our souls long for communion with God.



During Advent we are meant to taste this restlessness and this longing, to take stock of our lives, to check our direction and to await with expectation the special grace that God promises to offer us at Christmas. Many of the Advent readings recall the longing of generation after generation of the people of ancient Israel, who experienced a special covenant with God and who longed for the Messiah whom they believed God would send them.

We Christians believe that God fulfilled that promise in the person of Mary's child who said to his friends: 'Many have longed to see what you see and never saw it, to hear what you hear and never heard it' (Luke 10:24). Whatever else we might do in preparation for Christmas, let us not forget Jesus' coming. Let us renew our resolve not to be distracted from it by all the razzmatazz that surrounds what has become largely a secular holiday with little or no reference to Jesus.

Other Advent readings focus on our longing for the final coming of Christ in glory. We are advised to avoid useless speculation about the manner and timing of what we customarily refer to as 'the end of the world', but we also know in faith that God has promised 'a renewed creation'. Part of the challenge and privilege of being a human being is to make our contribution to building a better world, a home where human beings can live in dignity and justice, as we nurture each other in love. While we work here to honour the trust Jesus placed in us when he asked us to 'love one another as I have loved you', we know that, ultimately, for us as for Jesus himself, our longing is for the life that is beyond death: the life of communion with God we speak of as 'heaven'.

Advent reminds us to look forward to this, for the whole of creation, for ourselves and for those we love, as we prepare and pray for that final personal 'coming of the Lord.' Advent reminds us of the past, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem and revealed the wonder of God's love in this world. Advent directs our eyes to the future, to the coming of Jesus in glory to take each of us to himself at the moment of our death and to transform the whole of the created universe into a place of communion with God.

But Advent is primarily about the present. The Church is pleading with us be vigilant to the many ways in which Jesus, through his Spirit, is coming into our lives now, filling our hearts with grace and inviting us to a closer union with God and to a more loving relationship with others. Jesus came with a mission to transform this world by revealing God's loving design and by inviting everyone to join him in responding to the inspiration of God's Spirit to be instruments in this world of God's love. Advent invites us to examine the quality of our commitment to this mission.

So, on this First Sunday of Advent, we might ask: What are my deepest longings? for myself? for those I love? Jesus was obviously able to delight in sinners like us when they gave in to their longing and accepted his invitation to believe, and to cry out for release. The Advent liturgy wants us to focus on this longing and this hope. What role does this yearning have when we come to make decisions about ourselves, about our family, or about the contribution we can make to society? Are there any steps I can take to go beyond habit and routine and to engage myself on a deeper search for communion with God and a more faithful response to God's inspiration?

Let us listen to the advice of Saint Gregory of Nyssa, a mystical theologian of the fourth century: 'The person who wants to see God will do so in the very fact of always following Him. The contemplation of God's face is an endless walking towards Him ... There is only one way to grasp the power that transcends all intelligence: not to stop, but to keep always searching beyond what has already been grasped'(In Canticum Canticorum, Homily 2,801).

Let us keep searching and committing to responding to God's special grace... the deeper our longing the more God can pour his love into our hearts.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

Exciting news for the 2017 Parent Group

Chairpeople – Emma Williams and Sarah Lestal
Pastoral Care – Jim and Janet Mueller
Canteen – Helena Steed
Treasury Report – Anita Knezevic

Stage / Grade Representatives:

Early Stage 1 Felicia Meyer/ Joseph Hadchiti/ Clare Fidler

Stage 1 Year 1: Lauren Baker
 Year 2: Hamssa Danil/ Vanessa Karadimas

Stage 2 Year 3: Helena Steed (if needed)
 Year 4: If there is anyone who would like to assist Helena for Year 4 that would be much appreciated. Please just email the office your expression of interest.

Stage 3 Year 5: If there is anyone who would like to assist Sarah for Year 5 that would be much appreciated. Please just email the office your expression of interest.
 Year 6: Sarah Lestal

This year's Parent Group have raised over \$7000 for our school. With this money we have been able to purchase School Gymnastics uniforms, part purchase of the PBS4L pencils and some more playground equipment for the students still to come.

Thank you to Lauren Baker and Emma Williams for providing the refreshing and nutritious Watermelon, we were able to raise \$24.80

Our last Fun Food Day a Cheese and Bacon Roll or Croissant Day is on 1 December.



Please note that school banking will be processed Friday 9 December instead of Tuesday 6 December. Please send in your books on this day. Thank you!

*Friday 9 December
5pm*

*Our Christmas concert is
welcome and open to all families
to attend.*



- Remember to complete your form so we can ensure there are enough sausages for one and all!
- Remember we sell the students Christmas ornaments, slushies, keyrings, ice blocks and drinks from the canteen.



You have to be in it to win it - get your raffle tickets to be in the draw to win:

First Prize: Family pass to Luna park and a 4.5 kg Toblerone
Second Prize: Hoyts movie tickets & Dinner Voucher
Third Prize: Board Game Pack

Plus:

- Smiggles Voucher
- Officeworks Hamper
- Star Buffet Lunch for 2 people—Penrith RSL
- 2 Adult Passes for Taronga Zoo or Dubbo Zoo
- Family Pass to Museum of Fire,
- White Water Rafting Certificate x 1
- 1 month swimming lessons (can be used at either Eva Bory Swim School or Nepean Aquatic Centre)
- 10 visit Aquarobics pass (Aquarobics held at Nepean Aquatic Centre only)
- 10 visit public swim pass (can be used at either Eva Bory Swim School or Nepean Aquatic Centre)

If you are able to donate a prize to our raffle that would be much appreciated or if you are able to donate an hour of your time on the night to help with the canteen, a stall or BBQ please see or contact Mary in the office.



Monday 12 December will be the final day for our Canteen. I would like to thank and acknowledge all of the following people for their help with our school canteen for the year!

Randa Abdou
 Rachelle Carter
 Joanne Culley
 Emma Williams
 Clare Fidler
 Wendy Harvey
 Carmen Kukac-Broz
 Rosemary Polistina
 Helena Steed
 Agnes Suluape
 Keeley Surenné
 Karyn Versteegan
 Lidia Vlores
 Theresa Wamsley
 Katrina Wearne
 Nicole White



PBS4L Skill of the Week



This week we are continuing to work on being **respectful** when the second bell rings.

At this time; we stop speaking, we raise our hand and we sit in lines.

This shows the teacher on duty that we are ready to listen and ready to go back into a learning session.





On Thursday 10th November Kindergarten took part in a FANTASTIC incursion for their Science and Technology unit, On the Move. The afternoon involved several activities. Students designed their own billy carts (our little engineers), built them from scratch (our little mechanics) and of course raced them at the end of the day!! Students learnt the names of new tools, were able to draft their designs and had fun at every stage of the process. They were especially pleased to be able to share their learning with the parents and carers who could join us for the afternoon. The incursion was the first step of many in the science program. Thanks to this experience, students created some really innovative billy carts in class. All of which was made out of recyclable materials. Thank you to all parents, carers and other family members who assisted in collecting items for this classroom project. This unit has given them some great learning opportunities and the journey continues to the end of this school year.



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

- 😊 Helper Thank You Breakfast
- 😊 Christmas Raffle 2016 Note
- 😊 Raffle Tickets
- 😊 Christmas Celebration Help Request
- 😊 Swimming Carnival Permission
- 😊 Fun Food Day - Cheese and Bacon Roll or Croissant Day



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

SPECIAL DATE for the DIARY

Tuesday 13 December will be our End of Year and Graduation mass. The mass will be held at 9:30am in the church. Also on this day will be the End of Year Awards Assembly at 1:30pm. This assembly will also be held in the church.



The Talent Quest will also be held on this day after lunch in the school grounds. All parents and carers are welcome to join us!

**Sacramental Program
First Reconciliation 2017**

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Nicholas of Myra Parish will be in Term 1 next year.
To be eligible for First Reconciliation, children must be in year 3 or above and must be baptised.

*Parents wishing to enrol their children in the program must attend an Information meeting, which will be at St Nicholas of Myra Church on **Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 7.00pm.***

Further information regarding the program will be given at this meeting.

If your child has not been baptised, and you wish to enrol them in the program, please contact our Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas 4721 2509

First Reconciliation



Together in Jesus



Hobbysew have kindly donated ribbon to our school for teachers to use in their classrooms.

They are located at:

Shop 5 Skipton Arcade
541 High Street Penrith
4731 3061

They also hold children's sewing classes too!

PENRITH

Cinema
IN THE
Park

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER

THE JUNGLE BOOK

TIME: 6pm until late,
movie commences at dusk.

WHERE: Victoria Park, St Marys.

FEATURE FILM: 'The Jungle Book'

Kids activities & food for sale.
For more information phone 1300 736 836.

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/events

FREE EVENT