

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 1 Week 5
2016

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 26 Feb
Diocesan
Swimming
Carnival

Tuesday 1
March
Xavier College
Visit Stage 3

Wednesday 2
March
Mothers Day
Orders Due

Kindergarten
Dinner
RSVP's
due

Thursday 3
March
SCHOOL
PHOTOS

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Confidence

In 2009, the wire-framed spectacles that helped distinguish the image of Mahatma Gandhi, came out of a private collection and went up for auction. Thankfully they, along with Gandhi's sandals, pocket watch and eating bowl, were purchased by a wealthy Indian businessman and gifted to the Indian Government for public display for **\$1.8 million**. Gandhi led the people of India to independence through non-violent means and had a strong belief in the ability of each individual to be able to achieve personal goals if they put their mind to it. "If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."

It's for sure that if we live without confidence, we will fall short of our potential. When we don't believe that something is possible for us, we will not take the steps necessary to succeed. The newly-weds in the Marriage Feast of Cana story, as told in John's Gospel, are a great example of confidence in action. They had run out of wine and had gone to Mary to tell of their embarrassment. They had confidence in Mary; she was a mother so she would understand their difficulty and would be able to help them.

Mary responded to this confidence placed in her by placing her confidence in her Son, "They have no wine". So confident was she in her Son that she went to the waiters and said to them, "Do as He tells you". The outcome, as we all know, was that in a short time the wine flow was restored to an unexpected quality level, "Why have you kept the best wine till last?"

The Cana story has a strong reference into our lives in as much as, if we have confidence in Mary like the newly-weds, we can entrust our worries to her as they did. We can also entrust to Mary our decision making and any internal worries that might be affecting us. If we turn to her, we turn to Christ and as St Paul tells us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13. Once we have confidence in ourselves, we can draw upon the strength of others to assist us and, for Christians, Jesus is the strength that will carry us through any situation in life.

Confidence comes from being honest with ourselves and accepting who we are with our imperfections, limitations and things that we cannot change – and then getting on with life. However, as we get on with life, we need to be aware that God's Spirit is always available to us: "For the Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid, but to be wise and strong." Tim. 2. 1:7

Similar to Cana, help for us is only a request away: "God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in times of trouble." Ps. 46:1

"Lord, be our strength in our uncertainty; help us to trust You in everything we do. Help our families of St Nicholas of Myra have confidence in their strengths and times of vulnerability. Amen."

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal



Catholic Culture

Quality Catholic Schooling

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2016.

QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

From 12 -23 March all staff, approximately 50 students from Stage 3, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

If you are selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Vella regarding any operational or procedural questions.

2017 Kindergarten Enrolments

It is that time of year when we begin meeting new and our existing families for 2017 Kindergarten enrolments. Please come and collect a new enrolment form from the office or you are able to download this off the school website, once you have returned this form an appointment will be offered for you and your child to meet the Principal.

We will be having an open afternoon school tour during Catholic Schools Week in Week 7 Monday 7 March 2016. The first tour is from 4:30 to 5PM and the second tour is from 6:30 to 7PM.

Enrolments for children in other Stages are also welcome throughout the school year. If you know of anyone please feel free to direct them to complete the same enrolment form which can be collected from the office or downloaded from the school's website.



- ☺ Have you a new your email address?
- ☺ Have you changed address?
- ☺ Do you have a new telephone number?
- ☺ Have your emergency contact details changed?
- ☺ Has your child's medication changed?

If YES, please notify the school in writing or email stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au
Thank you

MEDICATION

Parents are required to complete a Medication Administration form before medication can be administered at school. School Staff are only permitted to give medication prescribed by a doctor. They are unable to give Panadol or any other Paracetamol, unless prescribed by your doctor. Medication should be sent in the original container with the child's name, dosage and time of administration clearly marked. A letter is required from the doctor stating the type of medication prescribed the dosage and the time it is to be administered.

Many doctors agree that medication that is to be given **three** times a day does not need to be administered at school. It can be administered: morning – breakfast; after school; before bed at night.

No children are to carry medication in their bags (with the exception of asthma relievers).

SCHOOL PHOTOS THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY SUMMER UNIFORM TO BE WORN

Kinder-Year 2 Students to bring joggers to change into for their sports lesson

World Youth Day 2016

It is with great joy that we announce that Miss Hannah Khalifeh will be representing St Nicholas of Myra at this year's World Youth Day. As a pilgrim, Miss Khalifeh will be travelling to Krakow, Poland, as well as the Philippines for some missionary work. Whilst Miss Khalifeh has taken part in WYD in the past, this experience will no doubt bring with it deeper spiritual and emotional connections for her. We will be holding different fundraising events as a school and hope that you can support us for WYD 2016.



Lent during the Year of Mercy

This Lenten season is an opportune time for families to come together in prayer. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy we invite all members of our community to participate in some form of extra prayer this season. Lent is a time of cleansing for the heart and soul. Through the various works of mercy, God invites us to be more forgiving and more sensitive to the sufferings of others. According to Pope Francis works of mercy are *"a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty."* In particular, he identified that *"in the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited."* Which of these could you adopt over the course of this Lenten season?

Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Bury the dead
- Shelter the homeless
- Comfort the sick
- Visit the imprisoned



Would you like to volunteer and help at the school? There are many ways you can help

- 😊 Canteen
- 😊 Special food days
- 😊 Reading
- 😊 Excursions
- 😊 Swimming & Athletics Carnivals

It is a school requirement that all Volunteers must complete 'Child Protection Training'. A very easy user friendly online training module is now available to volunteers. To use the module please go to the link below. You **MUST** complete this module to be eligible to volunteer. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing your name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school. A notification of your successful completion of the module will be sent via e-mail to the school and also to you.

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>

On Tuesday 23rd February, under hot and sunny skies, we had a team of 16 swimmers compete in the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival which was held at Glenbrook Pool. Our team consisted of

Ella Becroft
 Stacie Becroft
 Breanna Haladus
 Hayden Kennedy
 Christopher Nicholopoulos
 Mariah Nicholopoulos
 Brayden Parkes
 Jai Parkes
 Caleb Parkes
 Kolbi Prior
 Samuel Simmons
 Lily Vlores
 Callum Wamsley
 Liam Wamsley
 Gabrielle Xinos
 Alex Stevens



We had a fabulous day and achieved some amazing results! All our swimmers tried their very best and are to be congratulated on their efforts and behaviour on the day. Special mention goes to Callum Wamsley who was awarded Senior Boys Champion on the day!

We now have 11 competitors advancing through to the next level for both individual and relay events. This is the Diocesan Swimming Carnival which is being held this Friday. We wish them the very best of luck!

Yesterday, our school participated in an extended silent reading session during literacy. The length of the sessions varied, depending on the stage. For example, Stage 2 were silent for 30 minutes, while Kindergarten was silent for 10 minutes. The purpose of these sessions was to raise awareness of people living in poverty who are unable to speak up for their rights. As a school, we raised money for Project Compassion (our Mission focus this term) by giving up our voice for a certain period of time. In the next coming weeks, the Mission team will be leading other events and sessions to raise money and awareness for Project Compassion.

Miss Daniella Biasi





Stage
One

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ARMS
MUSEUM

Learning: FACES Reports

As many of you would already be aware St Nicholas of Myra began using a new Student Information Database called FACES halfway through last year. This database allows us to take daily attendance and keep personalised records and information on each child. It also allows us to create each student's half yearly and yearly reports. All schools in the Parramatta Diocese are now using this database for student records and reporting.

When you receive your child's half yearly report towards the end of Term 2 it will look slightly different to the reports you have had in past years. While it might look different all the same elements will be included. All Key Learning Areas will be reported on. Stages 1, 2 and 3 (Years 1- 6) will receive an A – E grade and Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) will be graded against a descriptor scale. The government mandates this grading format and we have no option to make a change to the grading scale for Stages 1, 2 and 3. Learning behaviours, student effort in each Key Learning Area, further school involvement, awards and attendance will also be documented on the reports.

Staff are currently working collaboratively to decide how this report will look. We will also be drawing upon the results of the Parent Survey on reports from previous years to include your feedback and ideas where possible. If you have any further feedback you would like to offer in regards to reports please feel free to write an email or send a letter to the office. We will endeavour to accommodate any suggestions or changes if they are possible.

We look forward to sharing these “new look” learning reports with you shortly and hope that you find the changes to the system as beneficial as we have.



Science-athon
How exciting!
Happy Experimenting
Please return your card and
money from 14 March
To 29 March



Helping your child have success at school—have a quick hug and kiss goodbye and think about the following to plan for success:

1. Ask your child about 3 good things that happened at school
2. Let your child know where you will pick them up
3. Plan something nice together (it could be reading a book or having a snack)
4. Make sure your child has a good sleep routine

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

- ☺ Easter Raffle Request for Donations & Hat Parade
- ☺ Chocolate Awareness this Easter (Note and Brochure)
- ☺ Easter Raffle & Easter Hat Parade
- ☺ Mother's Day Pre-Order Form
- ☺ School Photos Individual Envelopes
- ☺ School Photos Family Envelopes
- ☺ School Photos Explanation Note
- ☺ Term 1 Calendar



A Note From School

Procedures!

- Return notes and monies in a sealed envelope or plastic zip bag with your child's name and subject e.g. JOHN SMITH Year 2 Excursion
- Your child is to give ALL notes to their classroom teacher
- They are then put in the class message bags and sent to the office.

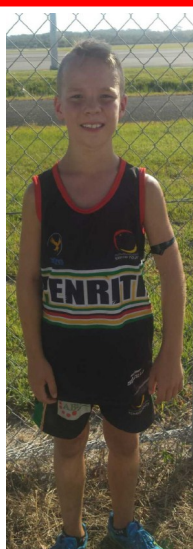
Please send notes in by their DUE DATE



GOLD AWARDS

Fantastic. The following students received their 2015 Gold Awards from PRC. They were a little late coming. These children have participated in the PRC for 5 consecutive years. Well done!

**Breanna Haladus
Charbel Finianos
Christian Finianos
Mae Price
Lucrecia Carter
Bonnie-May Wheeler**



After Jai's regular touch football season he was eligible to try out for the district touch side. Jai was one of 10 selected from 30 children to represent Penrith at the Junior State Cup held in Port Macquarie. The event is played over three days with finals being played on the third day. The team won both their games on the Friday and all but the last game on the Saturday. These results left them in second spot in their pool. On Sunday they won their first game but lost the second which knocked them out.

All in all it was a great weekend with 35 teams contesting for the cup which left Penrith in the top 8 for the state.

At St Nicholas of Myra we enjoy celebrating children's birthdays. If you would like to bring in a cake it would be appreciated if all birthday cakes bought in were individual cupcakes or donuts. Individual servings make it easier to distribute to other children in a timely manner.
Thank you



Congratulations to the following children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge during the holidays. It is great to see these children still enjoying their reading during the holidays!

Ante Broz
Marina Broz

Isabella Kassouf
Isabella Surenné

Lucy Keane
Lilly Vlores

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE Academic and Trade Training Centre (TTC) Enrolling now for 2017

Open Morning: Sunday 13 March 2016
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Meet the Principal, staff and students
Tours of the College facilities
TTC information for senior study
Enrolment packages available

Enquiries: 4735 3211
Address: 75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains
Email: mccarthy@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au

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

We are looking at setting up a page to advertise local business, to gathering support for our Local community.

The cost to advertise would be \$100 per term. The size of each add is a business card size.



If you are interested in advertising your business in our newsletter, please email your business card to stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Photographs and Videos



At times during the year, St Nicholas of Myra students have the opportunity to be photographed and videoed. These photos and videos may be used as part of grade assessments, be uploaded to the school website or placed in school publications such as the Parent Handbook.

Photographs may also be used in publications to promote the school in newspapers and other media. When you enrolled your child, you gave us permission to do this. If you wish to withdraw this authorisation and consent, you need to notify the school in writing or email stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Kiss n Ride and Traffic Procedures

Safety of our children on the way to and from school is paramount in all our minds. Safe pedestrian, safe driving habits and parent-carer role modelling of safe behaviours will contribute much towards the safety of our children. Please be considerate of our neighbouring businesses by not blocking their driveways or parking on their premises. Higgins Street is patrolled by the local police and rangers on a regular basis, therefore you need to be aware of traffic and parking regulations to avoid fines.

- Do not park across driveways or enter neighbouring businesses car parks
- Children must always alight from the car from the **LEFT** hand side
- The driver **MUST NOT** leave the car
- Plan to leave home earlier in the morning so your child isn't rushing to get out of the car if running late
- In the afternoon please do not start to queue up Higgins Street before 3:10pm. Make sure your **family name** is on the dashboard of your car. This helps staff on duty to have children prepared and ready to get into their correct car.



every day counts

Information courtesy of the Queensland Department of Education and Training



MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Ok reasons to stay home from school



sick



natural disaster



It's **NOT OK** to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, go on holidays

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even **1 day** can make a difference

1 day off school each fortnight

=

Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten
It's where good habits begin



ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

each **1%** increase in student attendance

may relate to **2-3** NAPLAN scale score points*

*based on historical data



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Get involved in your child's school

Promote the importance of school

Get to know the teacher

Go to school events

Read the school newsletter

Be organised at home

Supervise homework

Ask about your child's day

Volunteer to help at school