

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 1 Week 7
2017

SAVE THE DATE

Fri 10 Mar

Congratulations to
Miss Nicole Hoare
& Mr Chris Khoury
on their Wedding

Mon 13 Mar

Collection of
Easter Eggs for
Raffle

Quality
Catholic Schools
Survey period
Begins

Thurs 16 Mar

Fun Food Day
Fish Fingers
Money to
Project
Compassion Caritas

Fri 17 Mar

St Patrick's Day
Wear green mufti
Donation of gift
and gold coin for
Mother's Day

12pm
Stage 2 Parish
Mass

2:30pm
Assembly led by
Stage 1

Tues 21 Mar

12pm—Stage 3
Reconciliation

Wed 22 Mar

Cross Country
Jamison Oval

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Last and this week we are celebrating our Catholicity in many different ways. We celebrated with a feast for Shrove Tuesday to mark the beginning of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Lent and Holy Week are integral to our faith. Over the remainder of this term I will be exploring Lent in four key parts; Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving and the Symbols of Lent. These are resources I located from Understanding Faith. They are easy to read and share with your family after dinner or before bed.

Part One: Adjusting our Lives!

During the Ash Wednesday Mass in 2014 Pope Francis explained that Lent is a time to adjust your life, to get closer to the Lord. He explained prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



Prayer is the strength of the Christian and of every believing person.

Fasting helps us to grow in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him.

Almsgiving is when things are given to someone without expecting anything in

return.

- Pope Francis 2014, available at: www.en.radiovaticana.va

Prayer

Prayer was very important to Jesus. He prayed to God the Father privately many times. He also prayed with his apostles. Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before he died.



When we reflect on the cartoon titled, 'Talking to God'. The man in the cartoon thought he was talking to God. He was disappointed because he didn't think God answered him. The man forgot that prayer is more than talking to God. It also involves listening to God. If the man had listened to God he would have learnt that God answered every one of his prayers.

Lent is a special time for talking to God but it is also a special time for listening to God. When we talk to God He speaks to us in our hearts. All we have to do is listen to our hearts.

When we pray to God during Lent we make a special effort to accept that we are not perfect. We tell Jesus that we have been selfish and unkind at times. We tell him that we are sorry and that we want to do better. And we learn from Jesus what we have to do by listening to what he has to tell us.

Jesus is pleased when our prayer is sincere and when we listen to God. He said to his friends:

When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long.

- Matthew 6:7

Our prayers can be short, but they must come from the heart.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic

Morning Drop Off



Children dropped off prior to 8:30am (time at which school grounds are supervised), must be seated outside the gates waiting for school to open. Please ensure your children are aware of this requirement.

It has come to our attention that the procedures around dropping of and collecting of children from the 'Kiss and Drive' zone are not being adhered to and are causing some concern in relation to the safety and convenience of our children and families as well as the residents of Higgins Street.

Firstly, please **DO NOT** block or park across resident's driveways.

Essentially, the 'Kiss and Drive' zone allows for only a two minute period where a vehicle can be stationary and children may be dropped off or picked up (according to school procedure). The driver **MUST NOT** leave the vehicle. Some people have been parking in the zone for much greater length of time and getting out of their vehicles to walk children to the entrance gates in the morning. This is inconvenient for other drivers.

We are very fortunate to have a well developed 'Kiss and Drive' zone that operates smoothly when all concerned follow correct procedure.

Afternoon Pick Up

We have received a visit from LAC Traffic Police Officer expressing their concern of parents continually double parking in the afternoon. We have been warned that fines will be issued if this continues.



End of day school bell is 3:10pm. So, please do not start to line up in your cars before this time. Some parents and carers are there as early as 2:50pm which is not necessary.

We advise you to not arrive at school till after 3:10 to collect your child. Or alternately park and walk to collect your child from school. Teachers are on duty with the children until 3:30pm.



Could you please pass this information onto all family members and carers that may collect your child from school.

Learning News

PBS4L Skill of the Week

I am safe.



This week we are focusing on playing safely with each other on the playground:

*I will keep my hands and feet to myself.
I will play where the teacher can see me.
I will walk on the concrete.*

Mangahigh Maths Ninja Challenge

From 6 to 17 March, Students in Years 1 to 6 will be participating in the Maths Ninja Challenge on www.mangahigh.com. Mangahigh is a games-based maths program which has activities linked to the curriculum. Every child has received their login and password from their teacher this week.

Students earn points by completing an activity and earning either a Bronze (1 point), Silver (2 points) or Gold (3 points) level in that activity. At the end of the challenge, students who have earned more than 100 points will receive a real medallion based on their achievement:

- Earn 100-149 points to receive a Bronze Medallion
- Earn 150-199 points to receive a Silver Medallion
- Earn 200+ points to receive a Gold Medallion



There are also prizes for the top three schools who earn the most points throughout the competition. These are:

1st- \$2000 Officeworks voucher
2nd- \$1000 Officeworks voucher
3rd- \$750 Officeworks voucher



Religious Education News

Origin of Shrove Tuesday

A long time ago people could only eat certain foods during Lent. They were not allowed to eat eggs and butter. And they couldn't drink milk. People did all this to tell God that they were sorry because they had made bad choices.

On Shrove Tuesday, people used up all their eggs, butter and milk. They made pancakes. Today, many families make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. This gets them ready for Lent.



Fun Food Days

Thank you to the following parents for organising our Shrove Tuesday Pancakes: Emma Williams, Nicol Hadchiti and Hamssa Danil. We were able to raise \$190.77 for the school but also celebrate in a long standing Catholic tradition of feasting before Lent.

Catholic Culture

Disco

Thank you to the following parents for their help prior and on the evening of our school disco!

Felicia Meyer, Agata Burdanowski, Emma Williams, Cynthia Busstra, Cathe Cohen, Nicole Rebernik, Katrina Wearne, Michelle Aurisch, Chatsaran Archer, Lauren Turner, Sara Sullivan, Lauren Baker, Rachael Galea, Liarne Canning, Jenny Harms, Claire Vella, Zahra Zabolizadeh, Jeff Reitano, Janelle Walker and any other parent and carer who may have assisted on the night. We were also able to raised \$1030 for our school.

Quality Catholic Schooling

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2017.

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 13 -24 March all staff, approximately 45 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.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic School Week Celebrations - no wonder why we are exhausted!!

We are Catholic every day of every week however, this week creates a space for us to celebrate our faith and appreciate the community in which we live, pray and learn. What a super week with our beautiful liturgy led by Stage 1 and their teachers. We also showed our appreciation and thanks to Father Joe in his last liturgy at our school.



On Monday evening, we had a terrific fun night with many of our parents as together we learned to deepen our faith through scripture, make meaning when we visual our reading and the thinking of our writing as well as how learning to visualise helps us to abstractly think in Mathematics. We also had a super fun Project Based Learning activity where we had Stage 3 students reflect and share their learning with our parents. A huge thank you to our stars, Georgia, Charbel and Christian Finanos as well as Lilly Vlores. I would like to thank our staff who not only stayed back to lead this learning but who also prepared this for our community.



Catholic Schools Week

STEPPIN' INTO STEM-ATHON DAY

Yesterday we had a 'Steppin' into Stem-athon' day where our students were broken up into mixed age groups and rotated around the different learning spaces completing science, technology, engineering and mathematical experiments/challenges. This day was filled with fun, laughter and hard thinking (often shown by the poking out of the tongue by many students !) I would like to thank the parents who volunteered to assist throughout this day: Lauren Baker, Hamssa Danil, Helena Steed, Clare Fidler, Lauren Turner, Melissa Hansen, Cathe Cohen, Melissa Howden, Nicole Hadchiti and Lidia Vlores

I would also like to thank our staff who stayed back on many occasions to organise the smooth running of this fundraiser; Nicole Smith, Daniella Biasi and Ros Cole. I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who support our school not just in its learning but also in the fundraising, every little bit helps our students receive further resources for all Key Learning Areas. This is the major fundraising event for this term, so we appreciate any amount you are able to give to our students and school.



Achievements

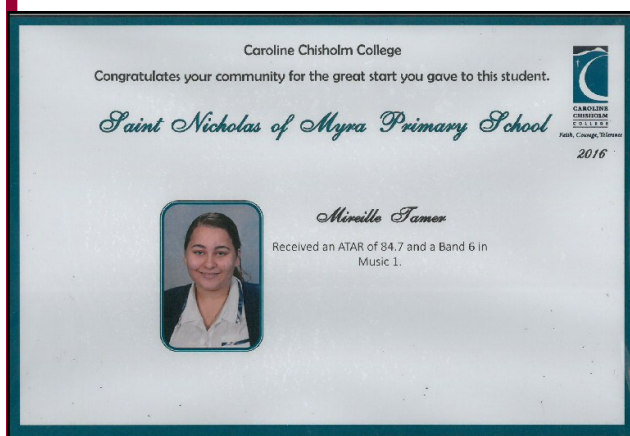


Liam Wamsley competed at the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival last week.

Liam had some outstanding results on the day. 4th place 50m Butterfly, 3rd place 200m Individual Medley.

Liam now qualifies for the NSWCPs on Wednesday 22 March in these events.

Well done and congratulations Liam. **We will be all cheering for you!**



An excerpt from a letter received from the Principal of Caroline Chisholm, Greg Elliott.

“This framed certificate acknowledges the work that you and your teachers have done in preparing students for success in high school. Our graduates from 2016 achieved wonderful results in the Higher School Certificate and we are mindful of the fact that their learning journey started well before they walked through our gates in Year 7.

The foundations of their success can be found in your school.”

Congratulations Mireille Tamer



Congratulations to the following students who were recognised for completing the Executive Director's Reading Challenge over the summer holidays.

Each student received a special certificate signed by Mr. Whitby, the Executive Director of Catholic Schools in the Parramatta Diocese.

Talya Arokianathan, Emil Benny and Isabella Surenné.

General News

Congratulations

It is fitting in a spiritual sense that a teacher of many years here, Miss Nicole Hoare is receiving the sacrament of marriage tomorrow afternoon. A beautiful faith filled end to our Catholic Schools Week. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Nicole Hoare and Chris Khoury on their nuptials tomorrow and we wish them a long, healthy, happy, faith filled marriage.



Infectious Diseases in Schools

Children are at increased risk of some infectious diseases because they have not yet developed immunity to them, they tend to gather in groups, and they may have difficulty with some aspects of hygiene. The link below takes you to a great FACT SHEET on a range of Childhood Infectious diseases.

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/infectious_childhood.PDF

Here are a few examples:

Chicken Pox Time from exposure to illness 10 to 21 days, usually 14 to 16 days.

Symptoms Slight fever, runny nose, and a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister and scab.

Do I need to keep my child home? Yes, for 5 days from the onset of the rash and the blisters have dried.

How can I help prevent spread? Immunise your child at 18 months of age. Immunisation is recommended for children at 12 years if they are not immune.

Head Lice Time from infestation to eggs hatching Usually 7 to 10 days.

Symptoms Itchy scalp, white specks stuck near the base of the hairs; lice may be found on the scalp.

Do I need to keep my child home? No, as long as head lice management is ongoing.

How can I prevent spread? Family, friends and classroom contacts should be examined and treated if infested. Clothing and bedding should be washed in hot water.



Influenza Time from exposure to illness 1 to 3 days.

Symptoms Sudden onset fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches.

Do I need to keep my child home? Yes, until they look and feel better.

How can I prevent spread? Careful hand washing, especially after coughing, sneezing or wiping your nose. Immunisation is recommended for children with chronic illnesses.

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

- 😊 Head Lice Note
- 😊 Cross Country Permission Note (Yrs 3-6)
- 😊 Captivate Permission for Rehearsal (selected students only)
- 😊 Fish Fingers Order
- 😊 St Patrick's Mufti Day
- 😊 Easter Egg Raffle and Hat Parade
- 😊 Chocolate Awareness
- 😊 Catholic Outlook

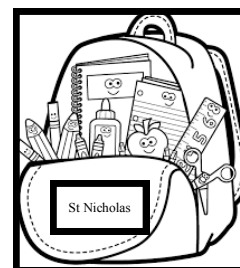


Uniforms

Thank you for sending your children to school looking so smart in their uniforms.

We at St Nicholas of Myra take pride in our appearance and uniform. When we are on a bus or walking in public we are representing our school.

It has come to our attention that some children are carrying a variety of coloured and branded back packs. The St Nicholas of Myra blue back pack is part of the school uniform and all students must be using these. From next week reminder notices will be sent home with students.



These are available for purchase at the school office \$40.



Predominately white sneakers are required on sports day, once again too many black and multi coloured sneakers are being worn.

Maintenance and Facilities

Our Real Grass as opposed to our fake (artificial grass)!

To our safe and respectful students and our families thank you for your patience regarding the rejuvenation of our grass area. This week we laid new turf in the previous garden corner and in some other areas. We love having the real grass however it needs to be nourished and nurtured when needed. I am sure we all cannot wait until we can have 2 playing rectangular playing fields!!

2018 Kindergarten Enrolments are filling fast!

I love this time of year where I get to meet new families coming into our school community and the opportunity to reconnect with existing families. Thanks to so many of you, the parents, for the positive endorsements to your friends and family as we have had many referrals to our school this year! I have 22 enrolment interviews over this week and the next! Therefore if you have a sibling please put in your application as soon as possible as the 31/32 spaces are filling quickly. How exciting and what great news for all of our school!



National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2017

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2017 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 9-11 May 2017.

TUESDAY 9 MAY	WEDNESDAY 10 MAY	THURSDAY 11 MAY
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)	Reading test	Numeracy test
Writing test		

In the numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be one numeracy test with two parts: Part A calculator is allowed and Part B where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 12 May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day. Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they:

- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, **or**
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the school principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support>

Community News



SPIRIT OF ANZAC
CENTENARY EXPERIENCE

A free travelling exhibition that tells the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War, featuring artefacts from the Australian War Memorial.

BOOK FREE TICKETS NOW AT
WWW.SPIRITOFANZAC.GOV.AU

We will be hosting free children's activities at the Experience from 17 - 21 April. Find out more and register your interest at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/sydney/activities

International Convention Centre Sydney
15 - 27 APR 2017

PRESENTED BY: 

FINRA TOUR DATES

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

DIVINE MERCY LENTEN REFLECTION

St Nicholas of Myra Parish Hall 326 High Street
PENRITH NSW

25 MARCH 2017 Saturday 9am-4pm

THIS REFLECTION PROCLAIMS JESUS' INCONCEIVABLE MERCY, HIS WONDERFUL PROMISES AND THE SPECIAL GRACES AVAILABLE ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Talk: Calvary & Mercy

Rev John Rizzo

Xavier College Open Night

Tuesday 14 March from 4:30—6:30pm

Ninth Ave Llandilo

Prospective students & families are welcome to attend



ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 7, 2018 Information Evening

Wednesday 22nd March, 2017

Session 1:
3.45pm Register for tour
4.00pm Tour of the facilities
5.00 - 5.30pm Address by the Principal

Session 2:
5.45pm Register for tour
6.00pm Tour of the facilities
7.00 - 7.30pm Address by the Principal

- Tours will begin at 4.00 and 6.00pm sharp to enable visitors to view all of the College facilities.
- Prospectus and enrolment application forms will be available on the night.

Enquiries: Sandra O'Brien, Enrolments Secretary 4754 8907

St Columba's Catholic College 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood 2777
Phone: (02) 4754 1022 Email: stcolumbas@parra.catholic.edu.au
Web: www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Bookings are not required. Please register at the College Library upon arrival.



LOWES

EXCLUSIVE OFFER TO
ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS

20% OFF
SCHOOLWEAR
AND EVERYTHING ELSE

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH
INSTORE & ONLINE

*Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only. Styles and colours may vary from store to store. No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount. Excludes gift cards. Offer ends midnight (AEST) 16/3/17. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.