



Dear Families of St Nicholas of Myra,

Reflecting on the holidays we had joyful occasions, Christmas, New Years Eve and Australia Day; all of these special events are about families laughing, playing and praying together to make many wonderful memories which we need to treasure. Being in a family gives us a sense of identity and belonging. I am very pleased to not only welcome back our existing families of St Nicholas but also our new staff and Kindergarten families who are joining St Nicholas of Myra's school and parish community - WELCOME!

We have had a positive start to the new school year. The children have settled well into their new classes and it is clear we are very blessed to have dedicated staff members at our school. As I walked through the classrooms today it was great to meet and see the students being active learners and reconnecting with their friends.

I would like to personally thank the students, staff and parents for the warm welcome that I have received during our Mathematical Interview times this week. These Mathematical Interviews not only assist the teacher in getting to know your child's mathematical understanding it is also a time for the student and teacher to begin a rapport with each other in a personalised manner. Students who did not receive an interview over the past two days will be completed during school time.

A huge thank you must go to the many parents and caregivers for the commitment and support you showed by being on time for these interviews to occur. This truly demonstrates the importance of parent, student and teacher partnerships. These partnerships are a living example of the school motto "*Truth through Learning*" is and I look forward to our continued work together this year.

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic
Principal

Teaching Staff 2014

Early Stage 1

Kindergarten Blue: Miss Daniella Biasi
Kindergarten Gold: Mrs Nicole Smith

Stage 1

Year 1B: Mrs Lisa Cutajar
Year 1G: Mrs Megan Mann
Year 2: Mrs Virginia Fortunat (Monday – Wednesday) and
Mrs Janelle Walker (Thursday / Friday)

Stage 2

Year 3: Mrs Ros Cole
Year 4: Mr Adam Simpson

Stage 3

Year 5: Miss Nicole Hoare
Year 6: Miss Pascale Joseph (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
Mrs Janelle Walker (Wednesday)

Religious Education Coordinator (**REC**) Miss Pascale Joseph

Learning Support:	Mrs Suzanne Bannister
Reading Recovery Teacher:	Mrs Genevieve Lennon
Library Assistant:	Mrs Sue Masters
Japanese Teacher:	Ms Anne Buttigieg
Sports Teacher:	Mrs Michelle Hinchliffe
School Counsellor:	Ms Vennessa Goode
Assistant Principal:	Mrs Frances Manning

2014 School fee billing is underway. Term 1 fees are due on the 7th March 2014.

We are pleased to be able to offer you a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) for your 2014 School Fees. If you would like to accept this offer please complete the Direct Debit Request Form or the BPAY Form which will be included with your fees and lodge with Catholic Education Office before the 21st February 2014. Our preferred payment is Direct Debit, however alternatively you may elect to use BPAY but you would need to set this up via your Bank so the first payment occurs by the 7th March 2014. Please contact Mrs Rhonda Shirvington on 4721 2623 or email rshirvington@parra.catholic.edu.au if you have any queries regarding your account or if you wish to discuss payment arrangements with the Principal.

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
- ☺ Book covering

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/child-protection-training>

Kiss n Ride and Traffic Procedures

With school back this week, the 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 carparks
- Children must always alight from the car from the **LEFT** hand side
- The driver **MUST NOT** leave the car
- Plan to leave home earlier so your child isn't rushing to get out of the car if running late



Please be aware of road signs to avoid parking penalties. Do not block or park neighbouring driveways.



To improve traffic flow. Please drive around to the end of the round-about to drop your child off. They then alight on the left and walk through the side gate.



Children always alight from the LEFT hand side of car

EMU Maths and the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)

At St Nicholas of Myra School we are continuing to work using the EMU Program in Maths. EMU stands for **EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING.**

The EMU program focuses on children enhancing their mathematical understanding through rich mathematical experiences.

Children are actively involved in 'hands on' mathematical learning.

- They use equipment to assist in developing mathematical knowledge,
- They share and listen to the learning of their peers and;
- They reflect on and record their understandings in a supportive, fun and challenging environment.



During the first two days of this term, children's mathematical understanding was assessed by teachers through Mathematics Assessment Interviews. This is a one to one interview with a student, which takes approximately 30 minutes. This information gives teachers detailed information about children's number knowledge. Teachers are then able to provide more targeted learning opportunities to enhance student learning.

The interviews were a valuable opportunity for teachers to learn about each student and a great way to begin the new year; focusing on the individual skills and abilities of each child in an effort to provide the best learning opportunities throughout the year.

Thank you to all parents for your support of this important component of our maths program. The MAI testing this year ran very smoothly and teachers were very excited about the amount of information they gained through the interviews. Further information will be communicated to parents and the EMU program throughout the year.

Thank you for sending your child to school looking so smart in their uniforms. At lunchtime we saw an amazing range of lunch boxes, containers and drink bottles. In the classrooms lots of new stationery, pencil cases, a mini office works.

Please, please, make sure all items are labelled, including all clothing, hats, school bags, pencil cases, stationery, drink bottles, containers, lunch boxes etc. This will save you money and your child unnecessary anxiety about losing their belongings.

**LABEL
YOUR
CHILDS
BELONGINGS**

2014 SCHOOL TIMES

What time does morning supervision commence?	8:30 am
What time does school commence?	8:55 am
When do the children eat lunch?	11:00 am
What time does school finish?	3:15pm.



I strongly encourage you to talk with your children in terms of their time at school **starting at 8:30am.**

This play and socialisation time before school is really important and very helpful as the children settle into each school day.

ALL children being on time is critical and helps ensure a positive start to the day's learning!

ALL children arriving after the bell must be accompanied by an adult to the school office to be signed in for the school day.

Attendance at school is a legal requirement and where consistent or major absences occur this is reportable to the relevant authorities.

Taking your child home early creates gaps in their learning. They also miss the opportunity to receive important information and notes from their teacher that are given out at the end of day. So it is only in **extreme** circumstances that you collect your child early.

Correspondence

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

- ☺ Catholic Outlook
- ☺ Bus passes
- ☺ Year 2 letter



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

Catholic out of school hours care is available at St Nicholas of Myra.

For further information please contact Ben 0418 260 386

Or visit

COSHCSStNicholasPenrith@parra.catholic.edu.au



MEDICATION

Parents are required to complete a Medication Administration form before medication can be administered at school. School personnel are only permitted to give medication prescribed by a doctor. They are unable to give Panadol or any other paracetamol. 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 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).



- ☺ 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 office in

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

If you ARE NEW TO THE SCHOOL and would like the newsletter emailed to you in the future, could you please complete the form below.

Parent Group Meeting

On Monday 10th February 7pm there will be a meeting for our parent group. The parent group is open to all parents interested in fundraising for our school. The meeting generally lasts an hour and will be held in the school hall. Please be punctual as the gates will be closed at 7pm. Thank you

NEWSLETTER REQUEST

My email address to receive the newsletters is _____

OR

I would prefer a paper copy sent home with my child

Childs name & class _____

(please return to school office)