

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 1 Week 7



Friday 15 March

Cross Country
Permission Notes Due

Kindergarten Dinner
Notes and Money Due

12pm Stage 2
Parish Mass

Sunday 17 March

St Patrick's Day

Thursday 21 March

School Cross Country
Years 3—6

Harmony Day

Friday 22 March

12pm Stage 3 and
Early Stage 1
(Kindergarten)]
Parish Mass

2:30pm Assembly
(coordinated by
Stage 1)
All Welcome

Tuesday 26 March

6pm Kindergarten
Parents' Dinner

Thursday 28

March

Newsletter Day
Fun Food Day—Fish
Finger Day

Friday 29 March Staff Development

Day (Pupil Free
Day)

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Last week we began the season of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, we replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. During Lent, we take up practices that help us to become aware of and responsive to the needs of others. The three traditional practices of Lent are; prayer, fasting and almsgiving. A commitment to these practices during Lent leads to an awareness of God and conversion of the heart.

To me, God and compassion are one and the same. Compassion is the joy of sharing. It's doing small things for the love of each other- just a smile, or carrying a bucket of water, or showing some simple kindness. These are small things that make up compassion. Compassion means trying to share and understand the suffering of people (Mother Teresa, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta).

As a school community our theme for the year is Kindness just as Mother Teresa emulated in her life. Each week, at school, we have a focus on how we can be kind to one another. Jesus was a model of kindness and we ask our students to walk in His footsteps. Lent is an important time for us to consider the ways we are showing acts of kindness to each other. A few simple acts of kindness you could adopt this Lenten season include:

- holding the door open for someone
- doing a chore/job without someone asking
- leaving a letter for someone
- smiling at people
- leaving a thank you note or saying 'thank you'
- volunteering
- donating to project compassion.

Think about some ways you can show kindness to each other this Lent; in your families, in your workplace and in our school community. Hopefully, this Lent we will be able to lead our children to a better understanding of compassion and how they can exercise this virtue in their lives. Sometimes reading the prayers of another person can lead us to personal prayer so maybe the following could have the same effect:

"Lord, even when the world around us is swirling and broken, thank you for being true, kind and a foundation to lean on. Today, we boldly and humbly approach you asking for your kindness to meet us. Amen".

Nicole Khoury

Religious Education Coordinator (REC)



Catholic Schools Week

Truth Through Learning

Catholic Culture

Catholic Schools Week

Open Learning Spaces

Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and carers who joined us for our open learning spaces during Catholic Schools Week.

Twilight Tours

We hosted 2 wonderful tours where we were able to meet new parents and demonstrate the way we learn, our parish and school community and the way in which we live our motto, "Truth through Learning." I really appreciated the effort made from our new parents. Thank you for being open to our school and visiting us to see who and what we do and believe in for the our future generations.

Fun Food Day

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day

Thank you to the parents Claire Fidler, Nicole Rebernik, Isabelle Bac, Nada Tamer and Helena Steed who organised, calculated and delivered delicious pancakes for our Catholic Shrove Tuesday. We were able to raise \$200.95 out of your generosity and kindness.

Learning

Personalised Plans (PPs Meetings)

These Personalised Planning meetings will occur during Weeks 8 and 9 of this term. A letter will be sent home to invite you to attend and have input into these meetings.

Student Learning Goals

How are you children heading with their Student Led Conferences goals?

Now is a great time to check in and ask how your children feel they are progressing with their learning goal/s. Here are some questions;

How are you going with your goal?

How do you know you are almost there or achieved it?

Why are you proud of the progress you are making?

What could help you to progress further with your learning goal?

This great info-graph found on Twitter; raises the key message that getting something wrong or failing is what helps us to learn, ignites our curiosity and assists us to build resilience.

Failing is not a 'bad' thing if we learn from the "MIS takes" to have deeper learning. When we are learning to ride a bike without training wheels, we wobble, we fall off, we hold onto the balance for a micro second, and put our feet on the ground from side to side. All of these moments are 'failing', we don't celebrate those moments, we clap the persistence when the child keeps on getting on the bike for that final - YAY I am riding my bike moment!



Learning

NAPLAN

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress. At the classroom level, it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress.

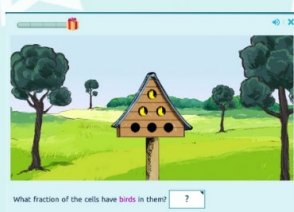
This year we will be participating in NAPLAN Online tests. The testing period is from Tuesday 14 May until Friday 24 May. Please see the table below which explains when these tests will occur. NAPLAN Online tests will need to be taken in a specific order. Individual students are not permitted to sit the online tests after Friday 24 May 2019.

Test	Duration	Order	Details
Writing	Year 3: 40 minutes Year 5: 40 minutes	To be completed in the first two days	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test on day one only
Reading	Year 3: 45 minutes Year 5: 50 minutes	To be completed after the writing test	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts
Language conventions	Year 3: 45 minutes. Year 5: 45 minutes	To be completed after the reading test	This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	Year 3: 45 minutes. Year 5: 50 minutes	To be completed after the conventions of language test	This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability

St Nicholas of Myra Matific Competition



Complete all types of missions



The more you get correct, the more points you receive

Weekly winning class receives a trophy to display

St Nicholas Matific Competition

Starting in week 8, we will be running a St Nicholas of Myra Matific competition. Each week, Mr Simpson will look and see which class has the most points and will announce the winning class at Monday morning assembly and in the fortnightly newsletter. The winning class will receive a Matific trophy to display for the week. Results will be collated and every 5 weeks. The class who wins the award the most times will receive an extra special reward.

Good luck, and start completing those missions.

Every 5 weeks, the class that wins the most weeks, gets a special reward



General News

2020 Kindergarten Enrolments

Please ensure you complete your 2020 Kindergarten enrolment forms sooner than later. Particularly if you have a sibling as we don't have any list or knowledge of this on our files, therefore we need you to send in your forms as soon as possible, as I fill and accept positions from the enrolment interview.

Thank you to our wonderful families for speaking so kindly about our school. Our reputation in the community is a reflection of all of us, by the way in which we speak and treat one another, wear our uniform, participate in the parish, community and school events. Thank you for your constant positive support and partnership.

Staff Development Day (SDD) - Friday 29 March 2019

This will be held in Week 9 on Friday 29 March 2019. There will be no staff from the Primary School on site as our learning is offsite this year. Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC) are offering places for this day but all applications must be received by 1pm on Friday 15 March

Evacuation Procedures - Safety

Each year and each term we practise our Evacuation Procedures. This term we rehearsed our lockdown off the playground procedures, where the students are explicitly taught what to do and they were able to complete this with great success. Later this term, we will hold a lockdown off the playground without them being aware so we can see how they can apply this in action when it is not expected.

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 e.g. Newsletters. Photographs may also be used in publications to promote the school in newspapers and other media. When you enrolled your child, you ticked and 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



Concerns regarding the most recent Momo Challenge have been named by different parents. Thank you for bringing these to our attention.

Any time a viral challenge occurs we must engage in often difficult and open conversations. These conversations can often link well to our school expectations of safety and respect as well as our school values of responsibility, compassion and respect. The most important thing to do is to have the conversation with your child,

even if it is "I am not sure I will do some research and get back to you about this online viral challenge". By avoiding the conversations we can allow 'miss truths' to become reality.

Often we feel helpless as we don't know where or what these are and how it is being accessed.

The Australian Government has an e-safety website; <https://www.esafety.gov.au> which we recommend parents to use which can assist you when these items arise.

There is currently a statement issued regarding the Momo challenge (just type it into the search bar and it will appear). We often use this site as a point of reference. The big key message to parents is if in doubt, say 'no' until you know more, disconnect the device, if the messaging is not positive or productive switch it off, participate in the games and monitor at home particularly online messaging through games. In some games, the messaging component can be turned off. If you feel you need to learn more about what to do please use the government link below to assist it has parental tips as well as places to go to report or find support.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-the-office/resource-centre/brochure-parents-guide-to-online-safety>

Religious Education

Project Compassion

Thandolwayo, a 12-year-old girl in Zimbabwe, would walk seven kilometres each day to collect contaminated water for her family. She then went to school exhausted from hours fetching and carrying water. It looked like she would never realise her hope of finishing her education and becoming a nurse, until a Caritas Australia supported project created access to clean water helping Thandolwayo to stay at school and achieve a future full of hope.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 to provide clean water and a future full of hope for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.

Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through the Project Compassion boxes sent home last week, in each classroom or using Parish boxes and envelopes. You can also donate by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Project Compassion 2019 Prayer

Creator God, You are our constant hope! In the season of Lent, you call us to prayer, fasting and love of those most marginalised. As a community of faith and courage, let our gifts to Project Compassion be symbols of hope and solidarity with our one human family. Accompany us as we journey with Jesus to bring 'good news' to all creation and ready our hearts to work for the common good of all your people. We ask this in Jesus' name AMEN.



Project Compassion in our School

The Mission Team have worked hard to think of ways we can support Project Compassion. Each week the Mission Team will be organising an event to raise money to be donated to Project Compassion and awareness for others in our global community.

- Week 7 Friday 15 March; Movie Friday - Bring a coin and come and watch a movie at lunchtime.
- Week 8 Monday 18 March - Friday 22 March; Colouring In Competition - Bring in a coin and participate in the competition, held at lunch times all week on the playground.
- Week 9 Water Relays; Bring in a coin and participate in water relays at lunch time.
- Week 10 Movie Friday; Bring a coin and come and watch a movie at lunchtime.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation-Family Sessions

First Reconciliation will commence in the Parish Hall on the weekend of 16 March at 4.45 pm followed by 6pm Mass or 17 March at 8.45am followed by 10am Mass. At least one parent must attend with your child.

Mrs Nicole Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator



The Adopt-a-School program is a long-term social commitment to the Penrith district school community that incorporates Panthers players and places them in local primary schools to serve as mentors and role models for students.

As part of the program, Panthers players visited Stage 3 Students at St Nicholas.



Attendance H.E.R.O. (Here Everyday Ready On-time) Awards



Attendance

Attendance H.E.R.O. Awards

Congratulations to the following students for earning a H.E.R.O. (Here Everyday Ready On time) Award for full attendance at school for Weeks 1 to 5.

Congratulations to Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 3 for leading the way with over 90% attendance!

		Attendance Level %			
		2019	Week 7		
Amos INGEGNERI	K	Kindergarten	92.8%	Domenic CONDE	4
Andros SOURLAS	K			Jeremy KENNEDY	4
Anna DISSANAYAKE	K	Year 1	93.3%	Mina KEDIS	4
Daniella TAMER	K	Year 2	83.3%	Odessa GIBBS	4
Esha NATH	K	Year 3	92.3%	Audrey SULLIVAN	5B
Harrison DONALDSON	K	Year 4	85.1%	Benjamin WALKER	5B
Henith BELLAMPALLI	K	Year 5	72.1%	Jayden HARVEY	5B
Jacob ALLEN	K	Year 6	86.7%	Joseph EZEKIEL	5B
John WOOD	K	Overall School Attendance Level = 85.5%		Lara WHITE	5B
Max DYKE	K	This is 4.5% below the CEDP target of 90%.		Nash NEILL	5B
Michael REALES	K			Chelsea SHARPE	5G
Olivia ARMITSTEAD	K			Isabella SURENNE	5G
Sophia ZHAO	K	Angelo ISAAC	2	Julian FALZON	5G
Sophie EDWY-SMITH	K	Everlyn STEEN	2	Keeva LEMAIRE	5G
Thomas FALZON	K	Hannah REBERNIK	2	Marina BROZ	5G
Tvaritha VINOTHKUMAR	K	Joseph HADCHITI	2	Richard REALES	5G
Alfonzo MICALLEF	1	Nevaeh COULTON	2	Ryan CAMPORA-KAAL	5G
Deante MERENDA	1	Zain DANIL	2	Verity RODRIGUES	5G
Knox CURREY	1	Travis HOWDEN	2	Andreas PHILLIPS	6
Lilah SURENNE	1	Abby MCINTOSH	3	Benedict DELA PAZ	6
Megan BAC	1	Allanah WALKER	3	Elle RIETKERK	6
Michael NAGARETNAM	1	Angela DANIEL	3	Ellie WALKER	6
Molly LEMAIRE	1	Beau BROWN	3	Elyssa GREENTREE	6
Nabhya SINGH	1	Christian FALZON	3	Evie GIBBS	6
Nicholas FALZON	1	Ethan COSTELLO	3	Hayden KENNEDY	6
Samara COULTON	1	Sophie WEARNE	3	Isaac BROWN	6
Simone HARVEY	1	Xavier ISAAC	3	Katherine FAUSTINO	6
Sophia YANG	1	Zachary HERRERO	3	Monique KNIGHT	6
				Nellie ARCHER	6
				Shelby BAC	6

Correspondence

- ☺ 2019 Raffle Ticket Consent form
- ☺ Easter 2019 with Chocolate Awareness (2 sided)
- ☺ Cross Country (Yrs 3—6)
- ☺ Lowes Sale (via email)
- ☺ Kindergarten Science Note

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



INTO THE DEEP
LEADING FOR MISSION
Parent Retreat Day

"Do not be afraid"
LUKE 5:10

DATE
MAY 1 2019

TIME
9.30 – 2.30

VENUE
ST JOSEPHS
RETREAT
CENTRE

33 BARINA
DOWNS RD,
BAULKHAM
HILLS

CLICK TO REGISTER

Join parents from the Paramatta Diocese in a day of personal TRANSFORMATION as you nurture faith through reflection, small group discussion and creative activities.

Explore the concept of WITNESS as you interact with Scripture, God, Self and Others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Donna Dempsey • 0407597426 • ddempsey1@parra.catholic.edu.au



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta