

# St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 4 Week 3



## Dates for the Diary:

### Friday 1 Nov

12:00pm—All Souls &  
Saints Day Parish Mass  
Stage 2 and Year 6

### Monday 4 Nov

Early Stage 1 Post  
Office Excursion

### Tuesday 5 Nov

Melbourne Cup Day

### Wednesday 6 Nov

2020 Kindergarten  
Transition  
9:30 - 11:00am

### Thursday 7 Nov

Westwords  
Stage 2  
9:00am - 12:00pm  
World Teacher's Day  
Lunch  
11:00am - 12:00pm

### Friday 8 Nov

12:00pm Parish Mass  
Stage 1 attending  
  
1:10pm Fruitbreak  
Year 6 Fundraiser  
Ice cream Day

2:30pm

Whole School  
Assembly coordinated  
by Early Stage 1 in  
**Stage 3 Learning Space**

### Saturday 9 Nov

6:00pm Fr Joe  
Installation Mass

### Monday 11 Nov

10:45am  
Remembrance Day

### Wednesday 13 Nov

2020 Kindergarten  
Transition Call back

### Thursday 14 Nov

Westwords  
Stage 2 9am - 12pm  
Gymnastics Gala Day

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Here's a piece of fiction that is probably reality in the lives of quite a few people. Rachel is a teacher, dedicated to her profession and to the children she teaches. Rachel is single, childless and approaching mid-life. As the years have gone by, she has become more frustrated at having no children of her own. She views her life as a transit lounge for a procession of children who come into her classroom, are taught by her but then move onto other classrooms to a life away from her; they simply pass through her life.

Rachel has a sister, Stacey, and one day confides her frustration to her. Stacey is not as sympathetic as Rachel might have wanted, as Stacey says that her life is not so different to her sister's. Her children, too, consume her life and, as they grow older, become more independent as they move through her life and move onto their own lives. Rachel and Stacey are characters in Margaret Laurence's novel, *A Jest of God*.

The reality for Rachel and Stacey is the reality for all of us who have children. They are never really ours like possessions; they are given to us for a short period of time during which we are asked to nurture and care for them. Henri Nouwen in his book, *Reaching Out*, puts it this way: "It belongs to the Christian message that children are not properties to own and rule over, but gifts to cherish and care for. Our children are most important guests, who enter into our home, ask for careful attention, stay for a while and then leave to follow their own way. Home is the place where they can be encouraged to listen to their inner selves and develop the freedom that gives them courage to eventually leave their home and travel on."

Our children are really not ours, we are only their guardians. Like for us, God is the real parent and God's love and care for them will always be greater than ours. Moreover, God has the power to touch the heart of our child and break through to our child in a way that we, as parents, often cannot. God can reach into places where we cannot reach. God is always there with a love more patient and strong than is our own. This can be of great consolation to us, if our children ever stop listening to us, turn their backs on us, reject our values and even turn away from everything we stand for. God, they cannot walk away from.

God's partnership with us comes to the surface every now and then and one such occasion is when our children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Prior to the first Confirmation, Jesus' disciples were in no-man's-land. Jesus had gone from them and there was a void in their lives. For ten days after the Ascension they gathered together waiting for something to happen, as Jesus said it would. They had ten days to go over the past three years when Jesus had been the centre of their lives; ten days to reassess their own lives and be supportive of one another.

Our children, through our example and the preparation they receive at school and parish, also have time to consider their lives, to become aware of the Seven special gifts of the Spirit and the practise of the fruits of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23. When the disciples, on the first Pentecost day, received the Holy Spirit into their lives, they were changed forever and they in turn changed the lives of thousands of other people.

Likewise, our children, when they receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, will receive the potential for change. God is now with them, with the fullness of his presence, as they move ahead in their own individual lives. God will always be there, when perhaps we are not, with a love patient and everlasting.

Congratulations to the students and their families for making their Confirmation!

Peace and Joy  
Anita Knezevic  
Principal

## Catholic Culture

### Father Joe

On Saturday 9 November at the vigil Mass (6pm), Fr Joe will be formally installed as the Parish Priest of St Nicholas. The Very Rev. Bishop Vincent Long will be installing Fr Joe at this Mass. All are welcome to come and attend this special occasion for the Parish Community. It would be lovely to see students and their families at the Mass.

### Welcome

We welcome Fr Jobi (new assistant Priest) and Jacinta Paulo (new parish secretary) to our St Nicholas community. Fr Jobi has celebrated Mass with our students towards the end of last term and when our students attend Parish Mass on Fridays. We work closely with the Parish and look forward to working with Fr Jobi and Jacinta in the future.

### OCCtober

The teachers of St Nicholas decided that this year they would participate in Mission Month by making christmas boxes for children around the world as part of OCCtober (Operation Christmas Child). Teachers chose a boy or girl to buy for and filled a box full of goodies which were collected and sent overseas to children in need. Thank you to all the teachers who participated in bringing joy this Christmas.



### Remembrance Day

All are welcome to attend our prayer service to commemorate Remembrance Day. The prayer will take place in the school grounds under the blue shade cloth on Monday 11 November at 10:45am until approximately 11:00am.

### Assembly Week 4

This term, 2019 Kindergarten will be leading us in our Assembly for Week 4 (Friday 8 November) in the Stage 3 Learning Space at 2:30pm. I am sure you look forward as I do to this celebration of achievement and learning.

### Parent Group

**Week 6: Monday 18 November 2019** - This is where we accept and self nominate 2019 Parent Group Roles and Stage Representatives. We also set The Fun Food Days for Term 1 as well as organise who will assist the major fundraisers each term. By the Parent Group Roles (Chairperson, Pastoral Care and Secretary) being a one year commitment it allows others to step in and and also ensures many people are represented across our school community.

# Catholic Culture

## Catholic Mission Workshops

On Thursday 17 October Dorothy from Catholic Mission came to our school for the day and ran various workshops with the students. In this Month of Mission, we are called to reach out and help others and Dorothy gave our students an experience of how children around the world live and the importance of mission. Read the students reflections and comments below.

1	<i>I learnt that blankets can provide shelter for people around the world. Harmoni</i> <i>I learnt that we can help other people by donating clothes and money. Scarlett</i>
2	<i>I learnt not to waste water or food because some people in the world don't have clean water or food to eat. - Travis</i> <i>I learnt that I can help others to make their lives better. I can pray, donate and fundraise to help Catholic Mission. - Hannah</i>
3	<i>It made me feel that we should help the charity. I learnt that other people don't have shelter, clothing and food. -Liana</i> <i>I learnt that the poor people in the world don't get as much shelter, food, medicine and things to do as us. I can do Socktober the charity day to help the poor. - Leo</i>
4	<i>We learnt that many kids in other countries have to work and don't have a good education. We liked that Dorthey told us real stories of what they have done to help people in places that need help. - Emara, Matthew and Lachlan</i>
5G	<i>On the day of Catholic Mission I understood that we should always appreciate the stuff we had because there are people without anything at all. I learnt that if we donate we can make a difference for other people and it is great to do it. We learned a little more about what it was like to be poor. Richard</i>
5B	<i>It made me realise that there are a lot of people in the world, especially children who are less fortunate than me and I should be grateful for what I have.- Anita</i>
6	<i>It was very cool how we got to do a role play and it made us understand what's happening for poor people. We should be grateful for what we have. - Maree</i> <i>It made us be aware that children in the world aren't as lucky as we are. I enjoyed doing the role play. - Katherine</i>

Dorothy was delighted at the responses from our students and sent this email after her visit.

*Thank you for organising the Mission Day last week. I hope the students got something out of the sessions. On Saturday and Sunday I spoke at all the Masses in the Parish and as I told the students that if they came to mass and saw me they should tell their parents and come and greet. I had a few coming up even kindly too and the parents saying that the children had talked about what they had learnt about Sr Stan and Catholic Mission in Ghana. I look forward to working with your school next year. Kind regards and in prayer for mission as we journey through the Extraordinary Missionary Month this October.*

# Religious Education

## Confirmation

Congratulations to the following students who completed their Initiation into the Catholic Church on Thursday 17 October making their Confirmation. These students have said YES to continuing their Catholic faith.

Julian Falzon	Ricahrd Reales	Bonnie Rigo	Anita Steed
Bay Hill	Nathan Howden	Chelsea Sharpe	Paul Suluape
Isabella Surene	Hayley Teuma	Liam Wamsley	Charlene Abelgas
Nellie Archer	Savannah Attard	Shelby Bac	Mia Barrett
Lylah Clarke	Harmony Culley	Joseph Ezekiel	Ian Geraldez
Jayden Harvey	Rachel Idris	Ethan Joines	Isabella Kassouf
Keeva Le Maire	Lilah Lestal-Braid	Nishelle Nagaretnam	Verity Rodrigues
Te Aroha Wharerau-Daniels			



## Prayer for Confirmation Candidates

Spirit of God, grant me:  
 The gift of wisdom  
 To see the world through your eyes,  
 The gift of counsel  
 To make difficult decisions,  
 The gifts of knowledge and understanding  
 To use my mind to know you and to love you,  
 The gift of fortitude  
 To have the courage to live in the faith  
 Despite the difficulties and disappointments,  
 The gift of piety  
 To be able to express my special love  
 And commitment to you,  
 And the right kind of awesome fear  
 That makes me pause to wonder and revere  
 God's Love.  
 Amen.

# Kindergarten Transition

We commenced our first 2020 Kindergarten Transition morning. It was so lovely to see the children play, read and count! Look at how wonderful their parents were in their learning as well!



# General News

## **Summer Uniform**

Full summer school and sports uniform is compulsory from now until the end of the year. Thank you for your continued support with our students showing respect and pride in their school.

## **SWEAT and WET weather**

As in winter when it is rainy (wet weather) we keep the students inside; as is the same in summer when the weather is too hot. Each day is determined at the point in time as we also need to care for not only our students but also our teachers wellbeing and safety as they are outside on duty. Thank you to the parents who pack a water bottle and extra drinks on warmer days. This is where the students wearing the hats is paramount as well as the application of sunscreen prior to arriving at school.

## **Refunds and Notice Period**

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated. Leaving Year K to 11 Students pay fees based on a pro-rata 40 week year and Year 12 Students pay fees based on a pro-rata 30 week year. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment, that is, the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance.

The requirement for a terms notice (10 school weeks) is recognition by the family of the commitment to assist with funding of the School by having their child take a place that could have been offered to another family. Unless the student is present for the August census or the student is able to be replaced mid-year, which is unlikely, the loss of the student will most certainly result in the loss of significant government funding. Thus, a term notice provides the school with an opportunity to replace the student within the next term. Special circumstances that would warrant a waiving of this notice, include:

- Moving due to employment transfer
- Sale of house
- The student has been offered full time employment
- The student has been offered an apprenticeship

\*Naturally this policy cannot cover every circumstance and parents are invited to discuss such matters with the Principal for individual rulings.

## **Final receipting for 2019**

The final day for receiving any monies for 2019 is Friday 13 December 2019. No monies can be received over the counter in the office from this date. Therefore there will be no canteen in the last week of school and no purchases of bags, library bags or tab ties.

## **Enrolments for 2020**

We understand that family circumstances alter and that children sometimes need to change schools. If you know that you will not be attending St Nicholas of Myra in 2020 please advise the school and complete a notification of leaving form that is available from the school office. You are reminded that concerns regarding financial difficulties is not a reason for seeking another school, as the Catholic Education Office and St Nicholas of Myra can and will assist families with meeting these costs when genuine financial difficulties arise.

We have healthy enrolments for most classes in 2020, with some children on waiting lists, so in fairness to these families we ask you to let us know if you are changing schools. If you know of anyone considering a Catholic school education for their child at St Nicholas of Myra from 2019, in any grade, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible to assist us with our planning.

# General News

## Kiss & Go

We are very fortunate to have a Kiss & Go drop off point at our school. To ensure the safety for all our school community and neighbours we all need to follow the rules:

- Children to get out of the car KERB side only. Parents are not to leave their vehicle.
- Please do not park or block our neighbouring driveways.
- Please do not start queuing up before 3:05pm to collect your children. It creates double parking which is a fineable offence. Police and Rangers patrol the area and fines may be issued.



## Fun Food Day—Sushi Day

Thank you to all our students who participated in our Fun Food Day –Sushi Day held today (Thursday 31 October). A Special Thank you to our wonderful coordinator, Mrs Nicole Rebernik and helper Mrs Helena Steed who counted, picked up and served out yummy Sushi Rolls to our students. We raised a total of \$74.50.

## Westwords

In Term 4, Stage 2 is lucky enough to be working with a professional author in Term 4 once a week with the company WestWords. The project will be running for the first 5 weeks of the term and has already started off with a bang! The students are working hard on the way they craft stories, different features of texts, and getting feedback from a professional author. In the weeks to come, they will also have an opportunity to be working alongside a professional Illustrator.

We look forward to seeing the student's creative writing develop and to the students' turning into authors.



# Extra Curricular

## Swim School

The school swimming program, held at Nepean Aquatic Centre, is taking place in Week 8 of Term 4 (Monday 02/12/19 to Friday 06/12/19). This is a change in structure to previous years where the students attended a two week program with shorter lessons. The program is run by fully trained instructors who are employed by Nepean Swim and Fitness.

During the program, students will be assessed in regards to their ability and placed into specific groups catering for their needs, with all lessons running for 60 minutes. Teachers will be attending and also offer supervision at the pool as well as organising students at school and on the return journey. Students will be travelling to and from the pool by bus and this is included in the cost of the program. Please find below an outline of departure and arrival times as well as what your child/children will be required to wear and bring to school each day.

Dates: Monday 2 December – Friday 6 December 2019

2019 Itinerary: School – Nepean Aquatic Centre - School

School Means of Transport: Bus

	Leave School	Return to School
K-2	11:50am(Lesson 12:25 pm- 1:25 pm)	2:00 pm
3-6	12:50pm (Lesson 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm)	3:00 pm



- Students are to wear their swimmers to school, with their school uniform over the top.
- Students need to bring to school, in a separate bag; underwear to change into, a t-shirt to wear to the pool over swimmers, towel, goggles (if desired) and thongs (or the like) as footwear must be worn to the pool.
- Students will change out of their wet swimmers and back into their underwear and school uniform upon returning to school.
- A plastic bag is needed to place in wet items.
- **LABEL** all items worn to school and brought in the bag – including shoes, socks, underwear, towel and goggles
- Sun block is NOT required as the centre is an indoor facility.
- All students are required to dress and undress themselves so please practise and encourage independence at home.

Please complete the permission note and the Enrolment/Assessment form attached and return them to your child's teacher no later than **Friday 15 November 2019**. Nepean Aquatic Centre would like Parents and Carers to accurately complete the Enrolment/Assessment form as this will assist with the organisation of groups.

# Stage 2 Excursion

On Friday 25 October, Stage 2 took a step back in time and explored various points along the Nepean River. We learnt about how the Aboriginal people used the land and river and why the river was of such importance to them before European settlement.

Our first stop was Yarramundi Reserve, where we admired the flourishing landscape along the river. The most exciting part was seeing a gigantic fish swimming in the water.

After that, we drove to Tench Reserve and completed some silent sketches on the landscape. It was great learning about the history of the river area.

Thank You to Mrs White, Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Conde for their assistance on the day.



# Sporting News

## 2020 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials are OPEN

ALL 2020 Team Sport Trials are OPEN, however, the Summer Sports of BASKETBALL & TENNIS registrations close for these sports only on Monday 11th November as these trials will be held in November 2019.



All other sports trials will be held in Term One & Two in 2020.

Any Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2020 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above-average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2020 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports: AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union, Softball, Tennis & Touch football. The sports of Diving & Golf will be held at the MacKillop level.

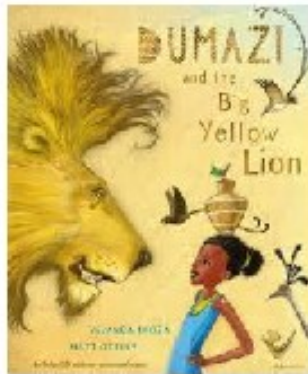
To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed below.

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2020 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria, therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

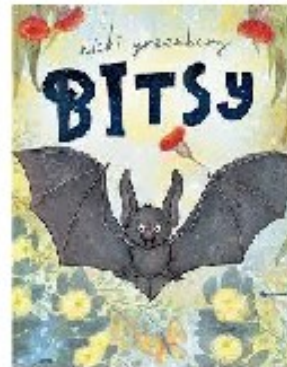
Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by the child's school. In order for the child to attend the nominated trial or event, this may come down to the discretion of the school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports, only 2 students per school can be nominated. All fields and especially **"Representative Experience"** **MUST** be completed.

**Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.**

# Look what we have been reading in our Library!



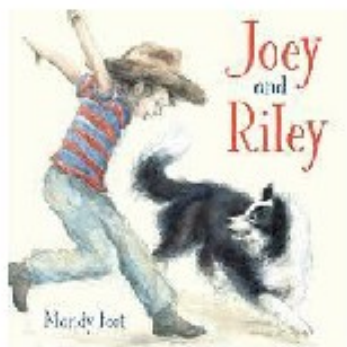
Will the Lion eat Dumazi!



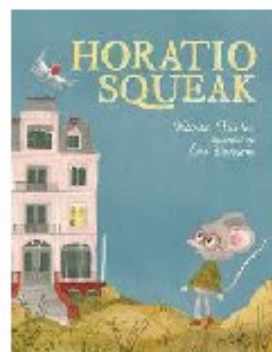
Why do bats only fly at night?



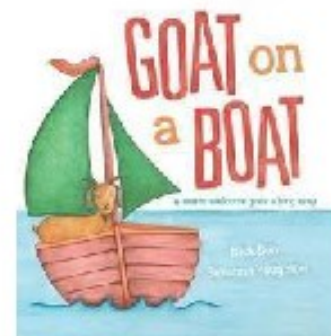
Who is Miss Franklin?



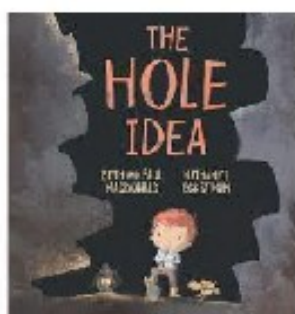
A dog is a man's best friend!



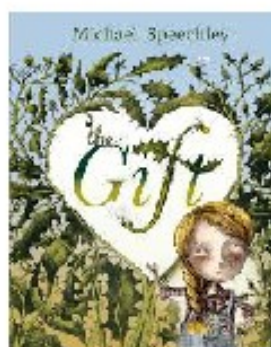
Not all cats want to eat mice



Everyone is welcome.



Sometimes you need to dig deep to find an idea



A gift of kindness goes along way



Guess who came before the black sheep!

## Correspondence

- ☺ Sushi Note
- ☺ Socktober
- ☺ Xavier Day—Year 5
- ☺

## 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



## Patron Saints

YOU CAN CALL ON

ALTAR SERVERS St. John Berchmans		HEADACHES St. Teresa of Avila
ANIMALS St. Francis of Assisi		THE INTERNET St. Isidore of Seville
BANKERS St. Matthew the Apostle		JOY & HUMOR St. Philip Neri
CHILDREN St. Nicholas of Myra		LOST ITEMS St. Anthony of Padua
COMEDIANS St. Genesius		MOTHERS St. Monica
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS St. Thomas the Apostle		PAINTERS & ARTISTS St. Catherine of Bologna
DANCERS St. Vitus & St. Philemon		POLICE OFFICERS St. Michael the Archangel
DENTISTS St. Apollonia		SCHOOLS St. Thomas Aquinas
DESPERATE SITUATIONS St. Jude		SCIENTISTS St. Albert the Great
DOCTORS St. Luke		STOMACH PAINS St. Erasmus (Elmo)
FATHERS St. Joseph		SWIMMERS St. Adjutor
FIREFIGHTERS St. Florian		TRAVELERS St. Christopher

Dial a Saint - Sometimes you just need to call on a Saint!



On Sunday, 8 September 2019, the Lestal-Braid family stepped out in memory of their Grandmother who recently passed away of Kidney Cancer.

The Big Red Kidney Walk attracts thousand of people across Australia to support and raise awareness and vital funds to support families affected by kidney disease.

Well done!