Holy Week Celebrations

St Monica’s School will commemorate the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary, on Wednesday March 23rd at 11:30am in the Church. This is a prayerful and reflective time and you are invited to come and join us.

Please keep in mind that this is a particularly special time in our church’s year. If you are able to bring your children along to any of the ceremonies during Holy Week and Easter it is a unique opportunity for the children to be part of something that only takes place at this time of year in the Church.

- Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
  Thursday 24/3 at 7:30pm

- Stations of the Cross
  Friday 25/3 at 9:30am

- Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
  Friday 25/3 at 3:00pm

- Easter Vigil Mass
  Saturday 26/3 at 7:30pm

- Easter Sunday Mass
  7:30am 9:00am and 6:00pm

Alleluia Mass

We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with the school community on Wednesday March 30 at 11:30 am in the church. Please come and join us.

HOLY WEEK
School Fees
Flexible Payment Plans and advice of Bpay payments received up until 14th March have now been entered by CEO and processed for payments to commence. If you have set up a Bpay arrangement through your banking facility you should advise the school. Overdue reminders will be sent out if the school has not been advised of arrangements which have been set up individually or for a different amount from the paperwork sent out with your statement. If forms were sent into CEO to set up Flexible Payment Plans or Bpay arrangements, but not for the correct amount, e.g. a BPAY payment of $20 was offered but payment authorised was $19.95 - this will not be identified and as such not entered as a payment arrangement. For more information please don’t hesitate to contact the office for further clarification.

Kindergarten 2017 Enrolment
For parents wishing to enrol their child in Kindergarten for 2017, applications are now being accepted. Interview times are being timetabled and conducted with the aim that they will be completed by the end of next term. If you have any relatives or friends considering enrolling their child at St Monica’s in 2017, now is the time to remind them to pick up their applications from the school office.

Parking around School Grounds
We have been advised of a number of incidents regarding people being booked for illegal parking around Claremont Rd (the lane way off Bourke Street). Attached are some general parking rules from NSW Roads and Maritime for your information. Please note the highlighted rules that refer to our school zone.

General parking rules
You must not stop your vehicle (that is, bring it to a stop and either stay with the vehicle or leave it parked) in the following circumstances:

- Double parked (that is in the road alongside a car that is parked)
- On or across a driveway (unless dropping off or picking up passengers for no longer than 2 minutes)
- On or across a footpath
- On a median strip or traffic island
- On motorways
- In a clearway
- On footpaths and nature strips
- At a BUS STOP or within 20m before and 10m after a BUS STOP or between a BUS ZONE, TAXI STAND or TAXI ZONE signs
- In a safety zone or within 10 metres before or after a safety zone
- Within an intersection
- In a slip lane

- On or within 20m (before) or 10m (after) a pedestrian crossing, marked foot crossing or children’s crossing (unless a sign allows you to park there)
- Within 20m of an intersecting road at an intersection with traffic lights unless a sign allows you to park there
- Within one metre of another vehicle parked in front or behind (does not apply when angle parking)
- Within 10m of an intersecting road at an intersection without traffic lights unless a sign allows you to park there (see image)

Attention All Defence Force Families
Please come along and join fellow defence families for morning tea.
Thursday 7th April
At 9:00am, in the school hall
RSVP to Ainsley McNichol
by 31/03/16
amcnichol@parra.catholic.edu.au
"Reading Magic" by Mem Fox

How is your read aloud going at home? Does it look like this?

Our next instalment from Mem Fox comes from chapter three; "Birth, Brains and Beyond"

Did you know that;

"The foundations of learning to read are set down from the moment a child first hears the sounds of people talking, the tunes of songs, and the rhythms and repetitions of rhymes and stories. Children who have not been regularly talked to, sung to or read to aloud from birth find life at school much more burdensome than they otherwise might. In particular, learning to read becomes a major stumbling block rather than a surprising delight.” (p15)

Experts say that children need to hear a thousand stories before they can learn to read. How many stories has your child heard at home?

Enjoy your reading time.

Mrs Clark will be participating in the World’s Greatest Shave by having her head shaved on Wednesday 30th March at a special assembly at 2.30pm to raise money for research that will aid the treatment of this disease for people in our community who are suffering from Cancer. The World’s Greatest Shave specifically targets blood cancer like Leukaemia and Lymphoma

Year 6 students will be involved in a “Wacky Wig Competition”. To enter a wig in the competition it will cost a gold coin donation. The Children will be provided with a wig unless they prefer to bring one from home. This wig will be converted into a Wacky Wig throughout the weeks leading up to Wednesday 30th, by the children, and they will be paraded at the special assembly on the day. To be a part of the assembly and watch Mrs Clark lose her locks, we are asking for a GOLD COIN DONATION.

Mrs Clark hopes to heighten the awareness of this very drastic disease and assist those on our school community who are struck by this drastic disease in a small way. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthwhile cause can go onto the World’s Greatest Shave website and donate with credit card or you can send your donation to the office in an envelope marked World’s Greatest Shave. If you require a receipt please see the office an official receipt will be issued. Thank you.

Mary Clark

Canteen Roster

Wed 23/3/16  Adele Sherriff & Nicole Wright
Friday 25/3/16  Good Friday
Monday 28/3/16 Easter Monday
Wed 30/3/2016  Alex Bourke & Anne Maree Higgins

Cake Raffle Roster

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Community News

PENRITH OBSERVATORY
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

WHAT’S ON IN APRIL

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS
Saturday 2 April (8.00 pm – 10.00 pm)
Saturday 16 April (7.00 pm – 9.00 pm) – The Lives of Stars
Where do stars come from and where do they go?

KIDS’ SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS
Thursday 14 April (10.00 am – 12 noon) – All Kinds of Aliens
Thursday 21 April (1.00 pm – 3.00 pm) – Rockets
Make and launch your own paper rockets and watch water rockets and a solid fuel rocket being launched

In addition to multimedia presentations all programs will include a 3D astronomy movie and either safe viewing of the sun (day program) or viewing of the night sky through the University’s telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

To book and pay for tickets visit the “What’s On” page at westernsydney.edu.au/observatory

COST OF ASTRONOMY NIGHTS: $18 for adults, $12 for children/concessions or $50 for a family
COST OF WORKSHOPS: $15 per person

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
Letter to Parents

In May 2016 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 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 10-12 May 2016.

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<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
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<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
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<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require and measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 13 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 of 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 [www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/ParentCarersupport/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/ParentCarersupport/index.html).

Handbook for Principals NAPLAN 2016
The Rotary Club are asking for our support to assist in the smooth running of the 2016 Hawkesbury Show. All we ask is for a few hours of your time.
Volunteers will assist with traffic navigation and parking. Volunteers will be paired up and briefed on their duties plus given refreshments during their shift. Volunteers need to be over 18 years of age. Shifts are completed in 4 hour blocks. Each volunteer is fully insured during the shift.
Hours worked by all parents and friends of the school will be totalled and converted to a donation presented to the school from Rotary. Every group of 10 volunteers can potentially raise $1,000 for our school which all our children can benefit from.
The Rotary Club have volunteered in previous School and Parish Fete’s; it would be great if we could show our support to them.
If you are available to assist please complete the slip below. Please return by Friday 1st April.
Thanking you in advance

St Monica’s P & F Committee

Hawkesbury Show Fund Raising
I am available to assist at the Hawkesbury Show; please circle:

Preferred Day: Friday Saturday Sunday

Preferred Time: 8am - 12noon 12noon – 4pm 4pm – 8pm

Name: ___________________________ Contact No: ___________________________

Child/Children: ___________________________ Year: ___________________________

Email address: ______________________________________________________________