Kindergarten Pet Incursion

Kindergarten were visited by Dr Robert Zammit and his very colourful pink poodle Monday morning! Dr Rob spoke to the children about the needs of living things and how to care for many different sorts of animals.

Kindergarten were also able to get up close with a Peking duck, Chinese chicken, Himalayan guinea pig and a lop ear bunny rabbit.

Religious Education News

On April 8th, 2015 I set out on a pilgrimage of faith, with 40 of my fellow Religious Education Co-Ordinators from the Parramatta Diocese to Jordan, Israel and Italy. On departure I had no idea of the impact this would have on me and my understanding of the Scriptures, but I do know that the person who left Australia on that day was very different to the person who returned. To have the opportunity to celebrate Mass every day and have at least one of the readings take place where we were standing was very powerful and incredibly moving.

I would like to share some of these experiences with you over the next few weeks.

Day 1: Arrived in Jordan.
This country was known as the “Land of the Old Testament”. It has been inhabited since the stone age. However, as a country it is only 65 years old, becoming independent from Britain in 1946.
It is a vast desert and we travelled up to a place called Mount Nebo where we looked into the valley below. This was the place where Moses led the Chosen People towards the Promised Land.
The Franciscans have a beautiful little chapel where we celebrated our first Mass. It was quite warm, about 26°C and we opened the windows only to hear the birds singing. The chapel was simple in design and decorated with ancient mosaics. A very moving experience for our first day – God was truly present with us.

Leanne Ryan
Religious Education Coordinator
Our St Monica’s Parish & School Fete is fast approaching and we need your help in the following ways:

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Parents from all grades needed to help for 2 hour shifts on fete day:

*Kindy, Year 1 & 6 Parents,
Treasure Island is always a popular children’s stall with hair spray, tattoos, sand art, lucky dips and more…

*Year 2, 3, 4 & 5 Parents,
Food stalls are always popular on fete day:
Year 2: Nachos; Year 3: Corn & Lemonade
Year 4: Sweet Treats; Year 5: Hotdogs

Volunteer slips can be returned to the school office by Friday 24th July. (Please see your child’s fete folder for stall information)

**Without parent volunteers, these stalls will not be able to run on fete day!**

**STALL CO-ORDINATORS:** We are in need of coordinators for:
Yr 2: Nachos  Yr 4: Sweet Treats  Yr 5: Hotdogs
If you are interested in coordinating one of these grade stalls, please email the fete committee or let Vanessa in the office know.

**FETE SET UP:** Friday 31st July - Anytime from 8.30am onwards in the hall (1 hour or whatever you can spare)

**STALL DONATIONS:** Can be sent into class until Wednesday 29th July. Please see your child’s fete folder for information on donations.

**PRE-PAID RIDES, LUNCH ORDERS & RAFFLE TICKETS:** Please return by Friday 24th July.

**CHOCOLATE WHEEL DONATIONS:** If there are any businesses or families out there who would like to donate prizes to the chocolate wheel please feel free to drop them off at the school office

**WHITE ELEPHANT & BOOK STALLS:** A perfect opportunity to clean out cupboards and find any good items that you no longer require which could be donated to two of our most popular stalls (Please see your child’s Fete information folder for more details)

**JAMS, PICKLES, RELISHES & CHUTNEY:** Are you able to cook any items to stock our popular Old Fashioned Food Stall?

**BASKET & PRIZE WRAPPING:** Monday 27th July from 2.10pm in the school hall

**FINAL FETE MEETING:** Please come along to lend a hand…
Thursday, 30th July at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room
Please enter via the Church Car Park

All enquires can be emailed to: stmonicasfete@gmail.com

Sincere thanks for your ongoing support, the Fete Committee.
Do you live Out of Area for Buses?

PRIVATE VEHICLE CONVEYANCE (PVC)
A private vehicle conveyance subsidy is available in areas where there is no public transport available. A subsidy may be paid towards the cost of providing transport by private motor vehicle. PVC is paid per child, not per vehicle, and on the basis of the distance each day of the one-way journey from home to school or the bus pick up point. If you qualify for this subsidy, forms are available at the office.

SEMESTER 1, 2015 Private Vehicle Conveyance: Transport for NSW has been reviewing PVC subsidy claims for accuracy because it has introduced a new computer system and this has caused a delay. This has also deferred for a short time, the attendance days collection process for all schools. We understand this overall will lead to a delay of several weeks compared to the usual processing time. Transport for NSW has advised us they are apologetic for the inconvenience.

Sacrament of First Eucharist
Please be aware that there was a misprint in last week’s newsletter. The Parent night is Tuesday July 28 not Monday July 27 as stated. Sorry for the inconvenience.

St Monica’s Gymnastics Programme
Our Gymnastics component of the PDHPE syllabus is into week 2 of the programme. There are still a number of outstanding accounts for this fun activity for the children. Please finalise any payments due to the office ASAP.

Thank you
OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on August 3, 2015.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1222 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Seminar – Understanding Family Law – Two Sessions
CCSS Solo Parent Services are holding two sessions for our Seminar on “Understanding Family Law”. The seminars on the following dates will cover the topics below:

**Wednesday 22nd July** – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Divorce/Separation and Children’s needs.

**Wednesday 12th August** – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Settlements/Property.

**Venue for both Seminars**: DAC, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown  
**Time**: 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
**Cost**: $7.00 per session  
**Registration Essential**: Solo Parent Services - Eileen or Rita -  
**PH**: 9933 0205  
**EMAIL**: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

Younger Widowed Support Group
Held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for anyone who at a younger age has suffered the death of their spouse or partner. This is aimed for people under 55 with or without children.

**Next Gathering**: Tuesday 21st July.  
**Time**: 7pm – 9pm  
**Venue**: CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown  
**Cost**: $5.00  
**Details**: Solo Parent Services – Eileen or Rita -  
**PH**: 99330205  
**EMAIL**: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on August 3, 2015.

Tour the College and discover why A Mercy Education is treasured for life and enjoy a “comfortable cup of tea” with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2017 limited places 2016.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1222 to reserve your place or obtain further information.