Dear Families,

The 2014 school year has started well at St Monica’s and it is a joy to see so many children happily sharing their holiday news and catching up with their classmates. It has been a calm and smooth start and in every learning space that I visited last week, children were focussed and attentive. This is testament to the routines and expectations that have been put in place by the teachers. I congratulate all children and teachers on the positive start to the year.

On Thursday last week, we welcomed our Kindergarten children and again, their first day went without a hitch! Our Year 5 children were just wonderful in the way that they greeted, welcomed and accompanied the Kinders to their classrooms and I congratulate them on their maturity. My thanks also to Mrs Pols, Mrs Holt, Mrs McKay and Mrs Smith for making the first two days of Kindergarten happy ones.

On Wednesday morning I shared this prayer with the children to mark the beginning of the school year:

God of Light,

ALL: God of Light

Jesus calls us to let our light shine.

ALL: Jesus calls us to let our light shine.

We have lots of gifts and talents,

ALL: We have lots of gifts and talents,

Many we do not even know about yet.

ALL: Many we do not even know about yet.

May we remember to let our lights shine during the year in our words and actions.

ALL: May we remember to let our lights shine during the year in our words and actions.

May we encourage others to do the same.

ALL: May we encourage others to do the same.

We make our prayer through Jesus our teacher and saviour.

ALL: We make our prayer through Jesus our teacher and saviour.

Amen.

Cameron Lievore
Principal

“Beginning the New School Year” – Whole School Mass

Families are invited to join us for our first whole school Mass at St Monica’s Church next Friday, February 7th commencing at 12.30pm. We would love to see you there!

Mrs Leanne Ryan – RE Coordinator
To support the safety of children and school organisation the following issues need to be communicated.

- **Kiss and Drop**: Please farewell children in the Covered Learning Area. All adults must sign in at the office and receive a “Visitors Badge” before passing this point. This is not just a school rule, but a directive from the Catholic Education Office, due to Child Protection Legislation.

- **Appointments**: If you need to speak with your child’s class teacher, please make an appointment through the school office. We want to assure you that every effort will be made to accommodate requests for meetings at a mutually agreed time and day.

- **Mobile Phones**: The use of mobile phones by students is not permitted on school property. If your child is in need of a mobile phone for parental contact after they have left the school grounds, the phone must be turned off and kept in their school bag or given to their class teacher for the day. Please discuss this matter with your child.

- **Morning Arrivals**: Supervision commences at 8.20am. Students arriving before this time will need to sit on the seats between the Canteen and Library with their school bags. Bourke Street gate (near the Year 6 classrooms) will be opened at 8.30am for STUDENTS ONLY entry. This is NOT an entrance for parents. If you wish to accompany your child onto the school grounds, please use the Francis Street entry. Bourke Street gates will be locked at 8.50am.

- **Punctuality**: Parents are reminded of the importance of having your children at school on time. School commences at 8.50am, all students should be at school by 8.45. I want to stress that late arrival to school means that your child/children are missing important information communication, either at assembly or within class. Late arrival to class also creates a great deal of disruption. If your child is arriving at school after the 8.50am bell, the parent, or adult who has brought the child to school must accompany the child to the office to complete and sign a late note. Once this has been attended to and signed by the office staff, the child will proceed to class. It is a legislatave requirement that schools record all partial and full absences from school. All absences from school must be explained in writing.

- **Afternoon Pick-up**: Parents please wait in the COLA until the 3.10pm bell when children can be collected from the central court yard area, in front of the K-2 classrooms. Please be considerate of children catching buses and teachers already on bus duty. The Bourke Street gate near Year 6 classroom will also be open at 3.10pm for the pick-up of children. Children will still be sitting in their after school positions and parents must walk in to collect them. This gate will be closed promptly at 3.20pm, when remaining children will be moved to the COLA area. All children should be collected from school before 3.30pm. After 3.30pm the gates will be locked.

**PLEASE NOTE**: As a matter of safety, no preschool child is permitted on the play equipment at anytime.

- **Road Safety**: As you are aware Francis & Bourke Streets are major traffic areas and parents must escort all children across the crossings. Please discuss road safety with your children.

- **Parish Car Park**: STUDENTS ARE NOT TO ENTER SCHOOL VIA THE PARISH DRIVEWAY. We know that you will support this as it is for the safety of your children. The Parish driveway is closed from 8.30am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 3.30pm.

- **Labels**: Please label all clothing and items belonging to your child. The beginning of a school year means many new items all look the same to the children if they are not labelled.

- **Student Banking**: Takes place on Monday of each week.

- **Newsletter**: In 2014 the Newsletter will be published fortnightly. On the alternate week an update will be published with Diary Dates, Canteen Roster, Cake Raffle Roster and any other dates and issues that need to be communicated for that week. This Update will only be available on our website. If you have subscribed to the Newsletter and already receive it by email, you will also receive the Update via email.

To subscribe to the School Newsletter go to: [www.stmonicasrichmond.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasrichmond.catholic.edu.au)

- **Clarification**: If you are not sure about any school event, activity, procedure, learning etc. I encourage you to please take the time to seek clarification with class teachers, specialist teachers or office staff, as opposed to relying on hearsay or someone else’s interpretations or perceptions.

- **Uniforms**: Our school uniform gives the children a strong sense of identity and adds to their positive self-esteem as they take pride in their appearance. However, I would like to give a gentle reminder that the correct uniform does not include surf style shorts, jewellery or coloured hair. Shoes should be the correct black school shoes and all children require the correct school hat. St Monica’s school bags are mandatory and can be purchased from the school office. For sport and PE, children are expected to wear correct joggers that are predominantly white. For health and safety, Vans and similar styles of light, canvas shoes are discouraged.
- **Uniform Shop**: All School uniform items are available at: Brynorms, 328 Windsor Street, Richmond. 45782860. Library Bags, Hats & School Bags can be purchased at the school office. The Secondhand Uniform Shop opening hours are listed in this Newsletter.

- **Swimming Carnival**: Our Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 21st February for Years 1-6 at Richmond Swimming Pool. Further details relating to this event will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

- **Bus Passes**: All bus passes have been sent home via your child today. If you applied for a bus pass and did not receive it please contact the office.

### 2014 SCHOOL FEES

School Fees Statements will be sent out this week. All arrangements made for payments of fees in previous years, need to be re-assessed, as situations change. If you had a previous arrangement with the Principal, and believe that your financial situation hasn't changed then we ask that you please make an appointment to discuss your situation for 2014. You will also note that accompanying your School Fees Statement is a break down of payments, for Direct Debits or Bpays, either of these is acceptable. Bpays need to be set up by yourself with your banking institution. Direct Debit will be set up by CEO when documentation is returned to them. We still accept cheques, cash or over the phone Credit Card payments. Please note that school fees for Term 1 are due March 7, 2014.

### LIBRARY BORROWING DAYS

**MONDAY** Year 4, Year 1, 5B  
**TUESDAY** Kindergarten  
**WEDNESDAY** 3W, Year 6  
**THURSDAY** 5W, Year 6, 3B  
**FRIDAY** K-6 Gold, Year 2

### K-6 SPORT DAYS

Below is the list of the sports days for all classes at St Monica’s in Term 1. All other terms will be listed in the newsletter in Week 6 of each term. Please note that there will be no Sport on Friday in Term 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4 Blue</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 White</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPORTS IN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA PROGRAM (SISA)

The program will started on Monday, February 3. On Mondays, each class will be allocated a time and given 45 minutes of sports skills based on the Board of Studies PDHPE curriculum. SISA will work mainly in the curriculum areas of active lifestyle, flexibility, mobility, movement, gymnastics, fine and gross motor skills, nutrition and safe living. The fee for the program will be $45 per child for the first and second children. Subsequent children are free. This fee is payable by Friday April 3, 2014.

Mary Clark - Assistant Principal

### SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS – TERM 1- 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 - 8.30am to 9.00am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fridays:</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31st</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14th, 28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3rd, 17th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any enquiries please call Yvonne on: 0400479833

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

February 7th - 6pm to 9pm

We would like to invite all parents and students to our annual Family Fun Night to be held in the school grounds from 6pm to 9pm. This is a great opportunity to meet with new parents or to catch up with friends after the holidays. So pack dinner, chairs and picnic blankets and join us for a fun night of games and music. The P & F will be selling ice blocks and drinks on the evening.

We look forward to meeting you all. In keeping with this being a family orientated evening, we ask that it is alcohol free.

The P & F Committee

### 2014 TERM 2: SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

- 21-22 March, 2014: Enrolment Forms available every weekend Mass until Enrolment Ceremonies
- 3-4 May, 2014: Enrolment Ceremonies at Vigil and Sunday Masses
- Monday, 5 May, 2014: Parent Night starting at 7.00pm
- Sunday, 11 May, 2014: Sacramental Groups begin. 4 weeks duration
- Tuesday, 10 June, 2014: Reconciliation available – 7.00pm
- Tuesday, 17 June, 2014
- Wednesday, 18 June, 2014
- Confirmation Ceremonies – commencing at 7.00pm
2014 TERM 3: SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST

- 21-22 June, 2014: Enrolment Forms available every week-end Mass until Enrolment Ceremonies
- 19-20 July, 2014: Enrolment Ceremonies at Vigil and Sunday Masses
- Monday, 28 July, 2014: Parent Night starting at 7.00pm
- Sunday, 3 August – 29 August, 2014: Sacramental Groups begin. 4 weeks duration
- Tuesday, 2 September, 2014: Reconciliation available – 7.00pm
- 6 – 7 September, 2014
- First Eucharist at Vigil and Sunday Masses
- 13 – 14 September, 2014

2014 TERM 4: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- 13-14 September, 2014: Enrolment Forms available every week-end Mass until Enrolment Ceremonies
- 11-12 October, 2014: Enrolment Ceremonies at Vigil and Sunday Masses
- Monday, 20 October, 2014: Parent Night starting at 7.00pm
- Sunday, 26 October, 2014: Sacramental Groups begin. 4 weeks duration
- Tuesday, 25 November, 2014: Reconciliation Ceremonies
- Wednesday, 26 November, 2014: 5.30pm and 7.00pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: To students who celebrated their birthday over the holidays and next two weeks.

Jayanna Andary   Olivia Gatt
Brayden Carr     Samuel Kemble
Daniel Bugeja    Joshua Brown
Morgan Seward    Olivia Byrne
Nicole Cabale    Riley Hale
Conner Hale      Patrick Horne
Amber Walker     Emma Merrick
Will Berger      Ellee Saab
Lidia Hoffman    Jack Palmer
Mia Garrick-Popata Ella Camilleri
Lincoln Duncan   Paige Stokes
Klancy Godsell   Ashton Hawkett
Emmmie Pecar     Brianna Grubisic
David Rielly     Danielle Costa
Emily Xerri      Bianca Magazzu
Isaac Spiteri    Sienna Bugeja
Bryce Rielly     Lawson Doyle
Kayla Semaan     Kate Ballard
William Purday   Ella Kelly
Ashley Brown     Travis Hargrave
Claudia Jackson-Barratt Taylah Hodgson-Harvey

HEADLICE: Unfortunately we have already had reported cases of headlice within our students. Please check your child/children’s hair and treat accordingly. Thanks for your support with this ongoing problem.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 1, 2014 Annual General Meeting  Mon 3 March 2014 - 7pm - iPAD Awareness (bring your iPAD)

Term 1, PRC Presentation: The Transition to High School: Helping your child to build resilience & navigate change - Wed 26 Mar 2014

Term 2, 2014 General Meeting - The Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Fisher - Mon 2 June 2014

PRC Reflection Day - Rev Father Richard Leonard - Sunday 18 May 2014

Term 2, PRC Presentation: Senior Subjects & UAC Choice Selections - Help for Senior Students - Tues 17 Jun 2014

2014 SCHOOL TERMS

Term 1 – Tuesday 28 January to Friday 11 April
Term 2 – Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June
Term 3 – Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September
Term 4 – Tuesday 7 October to Friday 19 December

P & F Meeting - AGM Agenda

Wednesday, 12th February 2013 -7.00pm

Meeting to be opened by school principal – Cameron Lievore
Outgoing P & F committee members to be thanked, all positions to be declared vacant and elections for following positions;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Positions</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Chair meetings and liaise with School Principal and Parish Priest, Attend PRPC Meetings; prepare agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President:</td>
<td>Assist president and preside as chairperson in absence of president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary:</td>
<td>Take minutes and keep record of minutes, distribute agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance Secretary:</td>
<td>Assistant to Secretary take minutes in their absence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>Handle all P &amp; F Finances and report at all general meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance Treasurer:</td>
<td>Assist treasure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub Committee Representative:
- Parent Support Network Group: Liaise with staff as to social networking
- Fete co-ordinator: Co-ordinate fete along with fellow committee members
- Fundraising Committee: Organise fundraising events throughout the year ie slice drives, mothers/father’s day stall
- Grounds Co-ordinator: Liaise with Groundsman and report at general meetings
- Uniform Co-ordinator: Running of 2nd hand uniform shop and liaise with Brynorms

Parents Representative Council: Attend meeting for Parramatta diocese @ Blacktown (Monday evening) and report back at P & F General Meeting.