Dear Parents and Friends,

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Leanne, Christophe and Harry Duval on the arrival of their daughter and sister, Amelie Nicole Monique, last Thursday. Mother and daughter are doing well!

Last weekend and next, a number of the children in the Parish received their First Communion, one of the Sacraments of Initiation. This is a very special occasion for the children as they receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time. Congratulations to all the children involved.

As the weather is quite warm, the students may wear summer uniform for these last 2 weeks. However, I do ask that you ensure your child is in the correct uniform and wears it with pride. Unfortunately, many children are wearing shoes which are not part of the uniform. School shoes are to be black and able to be polished (ie. Not black sports shoes) and sports shoes are to be predominately white. I ask your co-operation in this matter.

NAPLAN: We have been advised that NAPLAN reports have been delayed and are now expected on October 14th.

Thank you for your continued support as together we can provide the best education for your child/children.

Mrs Legrand

FROM THE REC........

The Gospel reading from last Sunday tells us that Jesus said, “Before building a tower, the wise man sits down and works out the cost to ensure he has enough to complete it. Otherwise, if he begins and cannot finish, onlookers will make fun of him. In the same way, no one can be my disciple unless he gives everything he has to following me.” The price of discipleship is weighty. Following Jesus is not a part time occupation; it’s not a hobby just for the occasional Sunday or when a sacramental program is coming up. Jesus wants our total commitment.

Mrs Leanne Ryan - Religious Education Coordinator
Roync Simmons
Shield

“On September 3rd, 11 students travelled to The Kingsway at St Marys to play the Grand Final Day of the Roync Simmons Shield. It was a very hard competition and we lost all of our games. We had lots of fun playing with our friends on the day and we showed fantastic sportsmanship. Here are the results:

St Monica’s vs Marayong PS 4 - 10
St Monica’s vs Oxley Park PS 8 - 18
St Monica’s vs Holy Family CPS 6 – 16”

By Ben Zahra (3W) and Jackson Piggott (4W)

QUESTACON

“Dear Mum,
Hi mum I’m still safe and alive. I went to Questacon in Canberra it was extremely exciting and fun. There were so many games and activities and I learnt a lot of scientific facts for once. But Questacon wasn’t just the only thing that was there. There was the War Memorial, the Parliament House and so much more!!! But today I’ll tell you more about Questacon, in Questacon there were so many people even though I wasn’t surprised. First I went into a gift shop, there was fascinating things there, WAS, until another 2 schools came along. I told myself I must get something I’m at Questacon!! So I bought myself 2 boomerangs. After the gift shop everyone had to hand in the toys and booklets to the teacher. The room, which was dark and smelt funny. As I looked around me I spotted a ginormous line of people lined up in the ginormous line. As I was waiting the line shortens!” So I went up, held on to the pole, said the Hail Mary, said the Our Father, said the Angelus, said Grace and I could have kept on praying until I got interrupted by the guy next to me said “Will you just let go already!” So in my head I counted to 3,2,1 and I let go. For a second I thought I was flying and crashing down when I hit the rock bottom. Once it was done, I stripped out of the suit and got out of there like it was a bombsite. As fast as I could, I picked up my shoes-there was no time to put them on, sprinting out of the room knocking down 3 kids on the way and freedom I’m out of the room.

Then there was the 2nd and 3rd floor but don’t get me started on that. So this is the end of my letter mum, I’m sorry I couldn’t tell you about 2nd and 3rd floor it was just too dramatic!

I bet you’re having the time of your life without bye, love, your favourite child James.”

James Kerri 6W

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY PENRITH OBSERVATORY

WHAT’S ON IN SEPTEMBER

Family Astronomy Night –
Saturday, 14 September (7pm – 9pm)

Astronomy from Antarctica:
Bitter cold, total isolation, and a 6-month night ...... perfect conditions for astronomy! Why and how do we do astronomy from Antarctica?

School Holiday Kids Astronomy Programs
Kids Fun Day - Wednesday 25 September (10 am – 12 noon)
Rocket Launches - Come along and find out the latest information on rocket launches.

Kids Astronomy Nights –
Saturday 28 September (7pm – 9 pm) - Rocks from Space
Saturday 5 October (7pm – 9pm) - Exoplanets and life elsewhere: Which ExoEarths should we search for life?

These nights also include a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University’s 0.6 metre and 0.25 metre telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

Cost:
$15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family.

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online:
Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au

LYN LEGRAND’S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION RSVP

Just a reminder that Lyn Legrand’s Morning Tea and Mass is on Wednesday, September 18 at 10am. If you are wishing to attend please fill out the tear off below and return to school. Thank you

I / We ______________________ would like to attend the Morning Tea and Mass for Mrs Legrand.

Number attending

WEEK 9 DIARY DATE
Children in Year 2 will be attending the Parish Mass on Wednesday September 11th at 9am. You are most welcome to join them.
CAKE RAFFLE
Week 10 – Thursday 19th September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Blue</th>
<th>2 White</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>2 Blue</th>
<th>3 White</th>
<th>3 Blue</th>
<th>4 White</th>
<th>4 Blue</th>
<th>5 White</th>
<th>5 Blue</th>
<th>6 White</th>
<th>6 Blue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curtis Vanderburg</td>
<td>Mia Shannon-Brown</td>
<td>Vicky Saliba</td>
<td>John Scicluna</td>
<td>Joel Piggott</td>
<td>Jarrod Tangye</td>
<td>Travis Owens</td>
<td>Madelyn Sultana</td>
<td>Imogen Myers</td>
<td>Lachlan Taylor</td>
<td>Amber Walker</td>
<td>James Xerri</td>
<td>Nicholas Sultana</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS to Sophie Parisi (Yr 5), Mason Bullock (Yr 5), Bianca Azzopardi (Yr 4) and Imogen Myers (Yr 4) on their grand final win with Colo Netball Club. These girls have been undefeated since 2011.

CANTEN ROSTER
Thank you to the following parents who will be working in our canteen this week. We appreciate the time and effort you give to our students. If you are unable to attend on your rostered day in the canteen, please contact Lyn on 45885405

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, September 11</th>
<th>Jasmine Taylor, Lisa Xerri &amp; Christine Apap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 13</td>
<td>Maria Barclay &amp; VOLUNTEER NEEDED PLEASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 16</td>
<td>Mardi Mantell &amp; Rebecca Lawson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To students celebrating their birthday this week:
Justice Norman
Nicholas Zakræjcek
Ben Zahra
Mary Godsell
Lily Sims
Vanessa Attard
Georgia Rowan
Madelyn Sultana
Maya Hoffmann
Tiffany Kojic
Travis Owens
Aaliyah Mansour

HEAD LICE: We have continuing outbreaks of head lice at the school. This is a cause for concern and your child may be affected, as head lice are extremely contagious. We ask that parents please inspect their child’s hair and treat accordingly in order to eradicate the problem.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED
CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is offering another 7 week “Post Separation Recovery Program” for those who are separated or divorced. Each Session includes input, small and large group sharing and time for personal reflection on aspects such as grief, dealing with intense emotions, learning lessons from the past, redefining yourself, forgiveness, setting goals and moving forward. It has proved to be a very effective “recovery” program for those who have experienced the breakdown of their marriage relationship. Commences 7.30pm Wednesday, 23rd Oct. at Blacktown. For registration and further details: Ph. 9933020 or soloparentministry@css.org.au

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED
CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is holding its second fortnightly Bereavement Support Group Session on Wed 18th Sept. for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. The topic for this Session is “Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief”. Venue: St Finbar’s Parish Centre, 46 Levy St. Glenbrook from 10.30 – 12.30. This is an opportunity to gain some information about the grieving process and to support each other during this most difficult and painful time. Details and Registration: soloparentministry@css.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

Sr Eileen Quade rsm

Turn off the TV or computer and get active

- Set a limit on the amount of time children watch television or spend on the computer. Two hours a day is the maximum. Too much screen time limits physical activity.
- On the weekend, live life instead of watching it on TV. Find a new place to hike, bike or run. When you hear “I’m bored” – think of something active to do.
- During the winter months, avoid allowing children to watch too much TV or play video games. Encourage active play, which builds social, mental and physical motor skills.

Why reduce television time?

- Studies have shown we use less energy watching TV than sitting still
- TV influences the food choice of kids – Australia has a high rate of food advertising during children’s viewing hours
- TV replaces time a child can be active and enjoy physical activity
- There is an association between TV watching and being overweight
- 40% of children 5 – 12 years report watching an average of two hours or more of television or videos a day.
Catholic schools funding agreement and 2014 Diocesan Primary Fees

Dear families,

School Funding Agreement Signed
On 23 July, the National Catholic Education Commission signed the Australian Government’s Better Schools Plan (otherwise known as Gonski) on behalf of all Australian Catholic systemic schools. We are now confident this agreement will ensure no Catholic school is worse off under the new arrangements and that Catholic education systems will maintain their autonomy and ability to distribute funds according to local need. These arrangements will progressively deliver increased Commonwealth funding to the Catholic sector and will ensure greater clarity for our system and schools to plan ahead.

Upcoming Federal Election
This agreement is, of course, dependent on the outcome of the next federal election and whether the Federal Coalition will support the plan, if elected. I would encourage you to contact your local federal Liberal Member of Parliament (if you have one in your electorate) or the Opposition Education Spokesman, Christopher Pyne, to ask for their support of the Better Schools Plan.

2014 Diocesan Tuition Fees
Despite not knowing the outcome of the election we would like to give parents certainty for the 2014 school year. Bearing in mind the educational inflation rate of 5.8% and the financial pressures facing families, the Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council has approved the following fees for 2014.

In 2014, Kindergarten tuition fees will remain unchanged. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have kept our Kindergarten tuition fees at the same level recognising the additional costs young families face with children commencing school. Tuition fees for Years 1 – 6 will increase by 3.9%. While this increase is less than the educational inflation it is necessary to help meet the rising educational costs for each child. Sibling discounts, which benefit over 60% of families, will remain the same for 2014 (as per the table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition Fees Paid in Terms 1, 2, &amp; 3</th>
<th>1st Child</th>
<th>2nd Child</th>
<th>3rd Child</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten (no increase)</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1 – 6 (3.9% increase)</td>
<td>$332</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td>$166</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$429</td>
<td>$321</td>
<td>$214</td>
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No tuition fee payable for 4th or subsequent children

Diocesan Building Levy
The building levy supports the capital works of all Catholic schools in the diocese and is payable per family. In 2014, the building levy will be increased by $24 per annum to $669 per family.

Financial assistance
We can help assist families experiencing financial hardship through the Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund, the Byallawa Co-contribution scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and fee concessions. Families can apply for a scholarship at the time of enrolment in a primary or secondary school by speaking with the principal of their chosen school. For families with children already enrolled in Catholic schools, principals have the discretion to defer or reduce fees if a family is experiencing financial hardship. The process is confidential and will not disadvantage students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding fee changes for next year, please contact your school office for further clarification. If, at any time, you experience financial difficulty please arrange to speak confidentially with your school principal.

For the latest information on school funding arrangements visit our blog [www.perra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding](http://www.perra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding)

Yours sincerely

Greg Whitby
Executive Director of Schools