Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

During the past two weeks religious and political leaders throughout the world have joined in prayer for the innocent victims on the MH17 flight.

We remember the people who have died and their families who are grieving their loss.

The Malaysian airline disaster, the continuing Palestinian Israeli conflict, the fighting in Syria and the current persecution of Christians in Iraq, have all highlighted the importance of our ongoing prayer for peace.

Blessed are You source of life
Who help us to bring light where there is darkness
Healing where there is brokenness and
Peace to all of the earth’s inhabitants

The teachers at St Monica’s are continually engaged in professional learning experiences that build our capacity to provide quality education for our students. Last week our Stage 2 and Stage 3 teachers attended a numeracy professional learning day that provided the teachers with some practical strategies to use with their students during the warm up, rich task and reflection time in their daily numeracy block. The teachers revised growth points in the domains of counting, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They also explored ways to ask questions and give specific feedback that promotes thinking and learning for the students.

This year all the teachers are reading the text, “Visible Learning for Teachers-Maximizing Impact on Learning” by John Hattie. By synthesising over 50,000 studies related to achievement in school-aged students Hattie conducted the biggest ever evidence-based research project in education. Hattie stresses that teachers need to know their impact on their students. Expert teachers are not limited to specific teaching strategies. Rather, they regularly focus on evaluating the effects they have on students and adjust their teaching methods accordingly. When teaching and learning are “visible” that is, when it is clear what teachers are teaching and what students are learning, student achievement increases.

This afternoon at our staff meeting we will continue our conversation around Hattie’s research. The theme of our meeting is ‘How do teachers need to prepare their lessons?’

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O’Donnell
Principal
ST MONICA’S NEWS

Minecraft
A number of parents have expressed concerns over the number of hours that their child/children spend online in
Minecraft. The link below allows parents to explore Minecraft in relation to the Australian Government site on
Socialising Safely Online: http://www.cybersafetyhelp.gov.au/easyguide/minecraft This alternate link also explores
a parent’s perspective on Minecraft- http://minemum.com/minecraft-parents-things-to-love
Minecraft is used in many schools as a tool for teaching and learning. It is used mainly in creative mode and on most
occasions the students are encouraged to build and collaborate with peers in a local online environment.

Thank You! The school community would like to thank Mr Seepersad (Samika, Year 2) for his very generous
donation of school supplies for students at our school.

Term 3 School Fees—due Tuesday 19 August (Week 6)
Term 3 School Fees have now been sent out by the Catholic Education Office. Unless you have an arrangement with
the school, these fees are due and payable on Tuesday 19 August. If you are experiencing financial difficulty
please contact the school immediately so that a meeting can be arranged with the Principal.

Sausage Sizzle - Thank You
Thank you to Neil Joseph, Paul Hossack, John and Simone Lewis, Gulshan Muttoo, Tiffany Cooper, Julie-Anne
Gorrell, Rebeca Assaf, Vesna Furjanic, Kathy Basha, Cathryn Crowle, Trish Forsyth, Mark Kandalaft and Telly
Stathopoulos for their help on the day. $405:55 was raised towards more technology for the Learning Space.

Social/Welcome Team

Staff Development Days
At the beginning of the year Friday 8 August was scheduled as a Staff Development Day. This Staff Development
Day date was rescheduled to Monday 14 July (Day 1 of Term 3). Friday 8 August will be a normal school day
and all students are to attend school.
The next scheduled Staff Development Day will be Tuesday 7 October (Day 1 Term 4) Students do not attend
school on this day.

Pow Wow Please note that Pow Wow will not be meeting next Monday 4 August as they are invited to attend the
Book Character Parade.

National Literacy & Numeracy Week
National Literacy & Numeracy Week will be held on 25 – 31 August. This is a collaborative approach by all
school communities to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all children.
During NLNW students will have the opportunity to be involved in a range of literacy and numeracy
activities in the classroom and with other children across the school. Throughout the week there will be oppor-
tunities for students to read their favourite book and participate in numeracy activities in groups. For this to be
successful, each child will need to bring in their favourite picture book (or short story) to read and discuss and a
water bottle on Wednesday 27 July.
The week aims to recognise locally the achievements of the students and the work of teachers, parents and
members of the community who support young people to develop strong literacy and numeracy skills.
For any further information, please check out the NLNW website: www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au
Michelle Rosewell & Denelle Gardoni

Happy birthday to the following students and staff who will celebrate birthdays in August.

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<tr>
<th>Jessica Stoker</th>
<th>Eddie Tran</th>
<th>Natalia Domanska</th>
<th>Alby Giles</th>
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<td>Ahmad El Merhabi</td>
<td>Ainsley Mitchell</td>
<td>Samika Seepersad</td>
<td>Vris Patel</td>
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<td>Madeline Smith</td>
<td>Michael Farah</td>
<td>Christian Comello</td>
<td>Kobe Puyat</td>
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<td>Behshad Rohani</td>
<td>Joshua Albayeh</td>
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Staff: Mrs Hanna, Mrs Ungsuprasert and Mrs Abood
BOOK CHARACTER PARADE AND BOOK FAIR  
Monday 4 August 2014

A reminder that our Book Character Parade and our second Book Fair of the year will be held on Monday 4th August. The Parade will start at 9am. The Book Fair will be held after the Parade and the students will be able to attend the Book Fair with their parents or later in their class groups. The Book Week theme this year is ‘Connect to Reading’, and we encourage the students to come dressed as a book character they have connected with! We emphasise that the character MUST be from a book and not just the child’s favourite movie (although some movies have been made about books).

A letter to parents was sent home yesterday with more information about the Parade and the Book Fair. The note may also be found under School Notes on the school website. A Book Fair Garden flyer was also sent home yesterday with students. Mrs Sharon Boulous

GRANDPARENTS THANK YOU

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us on Friday 25 July, to celebrate the feast day of St Anne and St Joachim. Everyone enjoyed a very reverent and prayerful liturgy that was planned and organised by our Christ-centred leaders. We are glad you were able to join us to celebrate Jesus' grandparents, and how special grandparents are in our lives.

Michelle Rosewell, Acting REC

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Parents are requested to please check that their children are wearing their own uniforms. Quite a few students have recently lost labelled items of clothing which have not been returned. Could you please check your children’s clothing and return any articles which do not belong to them immediately. There are many jackets and other articles in the lost property bin which have faded names due to frequent washing. Please ensure that your child’s name is clearly labelled on their uniform. Thank you.

Catholic Education Office
Terra Sancta College to become St John Paul II Catholic College from Term 1, 2015

In response to feedback from the school community and particularly the Year 12 Students, the timeline for Terra Sancta College for the name change to St John Paul II Catholic College, Nirimba and Schofields will now be Term 1, 2015.

This new date will allow the current Year 12 Students to graduate under the name Terra Sancta College and allow the school community to prepare for the transition that will see the college maintain its fine heritage and tradition as a basis for 2015 and beyond.

The NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) has been advised of the new commencement date and a formal renaming ceremony will be celebrated by Bishop Anthony in first term next year.

Congratulations to Mrs Abood on her nephew Matt Abood winning a Gold Medal for swimming in the 4 x 100 metre relay team at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL NOTE

Parents are reminded that the Afternoon Dismissal note that was sent home yesterday is due back at school by this Friday 1 August. The form can be downloaded from the school website. Go to School Notes—Whole School Notes. Thank you.

Staff Development Days

Term 4

Tuesday 7 October (Week 1)
Thursday 18 December (Week 11)
Friday 19 December (Week 11)
WRITE4FUN
The 2014 Schools Writing Competition is NOW OPEN! Write4fun encourages students to read and write through these FUN competitions that are EASY to enter! There are great prizes for winning entries. The quickest and easiest way to enter is online at www.write4fun.net

Alternatively you can see Mrs Mason for an ENTRY FORM and mail in your entries to PO Box 2734, Nerang DC, QLD 4211 (one entry form per entry) OR email your poem/story to enter@write4fun.net OR fax to (07) 5574 3644. There is NO THEME! Stories can be on any topic and in any style. Entry is FREE and the closing date is Sunday 31 August 2014. Happy writing!!  Mrs Mason

Merit Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards this Term. Well done!!

ES1: Michael Farah
Year One: Alexander Azar, Summer Ierfino, Sakina Kunambi, Neave Sciaccia
Year Two: Gene Kneipp, Isabel Menjivar
Stage Two: Jessica Chapman, Maurice Haddad, Philip Joseph, Jack Talty
Stage Three: Debra Chirchir, Nash Hawkins, Jayme O’Donnell

Stage Three Camp
Please note the correct date for the Stage 3 Camp this term is Tuesday 2 September to Wednesday 3 September (Week 8, Term 3). A note regarding the camp has been sent home with Stage 3 students today.

Enrichment Workshops for Primary Students at UTS
The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are again hosting a series of innovative workshops for Year 3-6 students on 10 August and 26 October this semester. For further information and a full list of workshop sessions, timetables and registration details, please visit www.inspirationeducation.com.au  Mrs Mason

Student Attendance Term 2  Our goal is for every student to attend school every day, on time and ready to learn. If your child is sick they should be kept at home until they are well enough to return to school.

In Term 2, 91 students attended school every day. Congratulations to the following children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S2A AUGUSTINE</th>
<th>S2B MCKINNON</th>
<th>S3A MORAN</th>
<th>S3B KEOGH</th>
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<td>Levi Bryant</td>
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<td>Samira Hekeik</td>
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SEASONS FOR GROWTH – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM
CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is running the Seasons for Growth Program for adults commencing on Tuesday 5th August 2014. This small group Program runs for five consecutive Tuesdays and is open to anyone grieving the death of their spouse or partner. See Notice Board for Flyer.
Venue: CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown.
Date/Time: 5 Tuesdays from 05th August 10.00am – 1.00pm.
Cost: $80.00. Information and Registration Ph. 9933 0205 or email: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au

SEMINAR - MANAGING FAMILY FINANCES
CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is holding a Seminar for anyone interested in gaining greater understanding on how to manage on reduced finances. This Seminar will cover topics on tracking your spending; prioritise your finances, Money Plans and how to make your money work for you. The night is held on Tuesday 12th August, 7.30pm-9.30pm at CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Trish Nowland (CCSS Financial Counsellor).
Further details and Registration PH: 9933 0205 Email: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au