

St Nicholas of Myra School

PO Box 265, Penrith 2751. Phone: (02) 4752 3300 Fax: (02) 4752 3399

Email: stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website: <http://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au>

Term 1 Week 9 2021



Thurs 25 March

7pm First
Reconciliation

Fri 26 March

2:15pm End of Term
Assembly

4pm - Qkr app
Raffle Tickets close

Mon 29 March

2pm Easter Hat
Parade and
Raffle

Tues 30 March

Captivate Drumming

Wed 31 March

Sydney Zoo
Excursion Notes
Due
Kinder and Stage 1

Thurs 1 April

HOLY THURSDAY

9:30am Holy Week
Reflection

LAST DAY OF
TERM 1

Fri 2 April

GOOD FRIDAY

Sat 3 April

Easter Saturday

Sunday 4 April

EASTER SUNDAY

TERM 2
COMMENCES ON
MONDAY 19 APRIL

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

We wish you a holy, safe Easter break!

With Covid restrictions lifting, it has been really nice to have Parents help us with various school community and sports activities this term so thank you for your support now and in the coming terms.

Last Sunday, the Gospel reading was about Jesus explaining His destiny to Nicodemus. He knew that His future involved pain and sacrifice, and ultimately death, for the good of all. Jesus was loved by His Heavenly Father (God and His earthly father Joseph) and Mother Mary, but knew what was required. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (Jn 3:15).

This Sunday's Gospel we hear about Jesus being troubled over His soon to be passion. We all have times when we feel troubled. Maybe it's because of sorrow and loss, maybe it's because of seeing someone we love suffering. It's painful, it's challenging, but it is also unavoidable, just like Jesus' destiny.

As we continue through our last few weeks of Lent, I ask you to remember that Jesus endured the cross because He knew that His death would reveal the depths of God's love for us. Let that love surround and sustain you over the next few weeks.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic

Principal

Holy Week Reflection

On Thursday 1 April (Holy Thursday) we will be having our Holy Week reflection at 9:30am on the playground. The Stage 3 students will lead the school through prayer and dramatisation of the events of Holy Week.

As an outside event there is a requirement for 1.5m social distancing between adults so chairs will be placed out and these cannot be moved to ensure the distancing is at the 1.5m requirement.

If weather is inclement, the event will be recorded and will be shared with parents/carers. Parents/carers will be notified of cancelled events via email and Skoolbag.



**LAST DAY OF TERM 1 is THURSDAY 1 APRIL 2021
(Holy Thursday)**

TERM 2 COMMENCES ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021

Catholic Culture

Mother's Day Wrapping

Thank you to Nicole Rebernik, Krishni Arokianathan, Hamssa Danil and Alma Mallunxa who sorted and wrapped our Mother's Day donations from the St Nicholas community. We cannot wait to see the exciting gifts at the Mother's Day Stall.

Year 6 Graduation Fundraiser

Thank you to all the families who supported the Year 6 Fundraiser - Spaghetti Bolognese Day raising \$87.50. Thank you to Hamssa Danil for all the organisation of this event and to Hamssa Danil and Clare Fidler for picking up and delivering lunch to our students on the day.

Easter Egg Raffle and Wrapping

As has been the tradition here at St Nicholas of Myra School, we draw the raffle prizes of assorted baskets of Chocolate Easter Eggs at the Easter Hat Parade. This year we will be drawing this raffle, which commences at 2pm on Monday 29 March 2021 throughout the Easter Hat Parade.

Raffle Prizes include:

1st Prize: \$100 Gift Voucher for Napoli Pizza Bar, Springwood and a large basket of assorted Chocolate Easter Treats

2nd Prize: \$40 Gift Voucher for The Baker's Wife, Springwood and a basket of assorted Chocolate Easter Treats

3rd Prize: \$20 Gift Voucher for The Baker's Wife, Springwood and a basket of assorted Chocolate Easter Treats

All Gift Vouchers for the Napoli Pizza Bar and The Baker's Wife have been generously donated by Hayley Baker, Aunty to Xavier and Angelo Isaac.

There are quite a number of extra smaller prizes. Thank you to those families in our school community who donated chocolate treats towards our Easter Raffle.

Raffle tickets can only be purchased via the Qkr! app - cost is:

3 tickets for \$2
or
1 book of 10 tickets for \$5

Please note: NO RAFFLE TICKET BOOKS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME - All raffle tickets must be purchased via the Qkr! app.

Raffle tickets will be automatically produced by the **Qkr!** app in the name of the person purchasing the tickets via the app ie your name

If you would like the tickets (either 3 for \$2 or the whole book of 10 tickets for \$5) to be produced in another person's name, please complete the section indicated below in the app with the name of the person and their phone number.

Raffle tickets via the Qkr! app are now available to be purchased and **will close tomorrow at 4pm (on Friday 26 March 2021).**

A **big thank you** to Nicole Rebernik and Krishni Arokianathan for sorting and wrapping all of the Easter Egg prizes.

We hope to have an 'eggscellent' time!!!



Extra Curricular

PBS4L- The Yard Performance

On Tuesday 16 March, students watched a performance from Shaun Parker & Company called The Yard. The performers create a theatrical world about life in the Australian school yard. The dancers take the students on a visual experience dealing with social issues. Afterwards, the performers broke down the scenes and asked pupils about what they saw. Their responses showed that they were engaged with the themes of the presentation. Here is what some students thought about the performance:

- **Olivia (Year 1)** - I liked that I got to be included in one of the tricks. The message in the performance was about being kind to all people. The one with the red jumper was dancing differently and the others weren't including him.
- **Thomas (Year 2)** - I liked that dancers used lots of tricks to share a message about being kind and including others. It's something I can remember when I play in the playground with my friends.
- **Molly (Year 3)** - From backflips to somersaults and cartwheels to handstands. Having a fun time oohing and ahing. "This is so surreal," "How is he keeping that bike on his head, guys?" The Yard is a dance crew that is telling children to say NO to bullying through cool tricks and moves! It only takes one person to invite someone to come and play. Libby invited David to their group by playing basketball. The group perform all around Australia and at all different schools. My rating is a five star rating because they are good performers and have good communication without using words. I recommend anyone to watch The Yard.
- **Sofia (Year 5)** - I liked it because there were a lot of tricks and it gave out a good message. The message is about anti-bullying and inclusion and it related to our PDH topic that we learnt this term - How does empathy, inclusion and respect affect ourselves and others?
- **Mina (Year 6)** - It was a very inspiring and captivating story because it got us to stop and think about what we are doing and how our actions are affecting others. I really liked the performance because of the storyline and the talent.
- **Brenden (Year 6)** - I liked the performance because there was a lot of talent. I especially liked it when one of the performers balanced the bike on his head. The meaning of the performance was anti-bullying and the scenarios were very relatable to what we see on the playground.



Extra Curricular

Midnight Gang Excursion

Last Friday, Stage Two and Three walked to the Joan Sutherland Centre to see the Midnight Gang. The play was lots of fun and gave the children a wonderful taste of professional theatre. We also got to ask the cast a few questions about how they made the show and what it is like to be an actor.

It was an excellent day and the children received a number of compliments about their manners and behaviour. Thank you to all the teachers who helped walk the children down safely and to all the parents and carers who prepared the students for wet weather!

Stage 3

The Midnight Gang was really captivating and the actors showed us a different aspect of the story. My favourite part was when they were all trying to find Tom. It was a great excursion and experience. Mina, Year 6

The play was fun and enjoyable. It was cool how the actors played different roles and moved really fast. Maryam, Year 5

The play was surprisingly funny and the characters were hilarious. I liked when Tom was crying when his head hurt. Xavier, Year 5

Stage 2

I liked the show because it was very funny. It was also fun to walk down to the theatre. I'm glad we didn't get wet! Jadey, Year 3.

I thought the show was amazing and the best I've ever seen in my life. I loved the part when Tom was going crazy and saying "No, no, no!" Noah, Year 4



Learning

Student Learning Goals

How are you children heading with their Student Led Conferences goals?

Now is a great time to check in and ask how your children feel they are progressing with their learning goal/s. Here are some questions;

- How are you going with your goal?
- How do you know you are almost there or achieved it?
- Why are you proud of the progress you are making?
- What could help you to progress further with your learning goal?

every learner
every day 

Attendance Concern Letters & Student Attendance Plan Meetings

Whilst some students individually are achieving very positive attendance rates, others are having difficulty maintaining an attendance level above 90%. As per CEDP Absenteeism processes and procedures, *Attendance Concern Letters will be issued to students early next term who have an attendance rate that is classified as emerging absenteeism (<90%).*

The attendance of students who receive a *Attendance Concern Letter* is monitored by Mrs Vella, our *Attendance Family Liaison Officer*. If an improvement in attendance is not evident, parents may be contacted to arrange a time to meet to develop a *Student Attendance Plan*.

If you require any assistance or guidance with improving your child's attendance please make contact with the school.

PBS4L Playground Initiative

Through Weeks 7-10, the PBS4L playground initiative continues to be: I am respectful when I listen to a teachers instruction the first time. The stage with the most tokens at the end of week 7 and 10 will receive reward time towards an activity of their choosing for their stage.



Congratulations to **Stage 2** who were the winners for the Week 5-7 round of the playground initiative! The students in Stage 2 voted on how to spend their reward time in their stage group.



Learning

Where to go if you have concerns about your child's learning or you would like to know how they are travelling in their learning?

Education is a partnership between home and school. Learning looks and feels different for everyone. An analogy I like to use is when babies learn to crawl/walk. Each child does this in their own time; some are early, some do this later, some don't crawl at all. However they each meet their milestone in their own way. They also do it in their own style; some do it with one leg in the air, some do it like a gecko, some crawl backwards first and again some go straight to walking.

Learning is like this analogy, we want our children to love learning, continue to try especially when it is hard and to show their learning growth or improvements. As parents support in different ways when your child is learning to crawl (some walk behind, ensure they are on the soft surfaces, show your child how to crawl on the floor next to them, clap or hug or kiss them when they have etc). This is similar to the support teachers offer in the classroom; different ways at different time for all students at their point of need.

So if you at any stage have questions, concerns or worries bubbling please:

Make an appointment with the class/stage teachers by emailing the school with your concerns and some different times you are available. This will allow the teachers to prepare and perhaps show work samples to address your concerns.

It is ok to ask and share your concerns. What is not helpful is:

- comparing between siblings or other children in the same stage either at this school or other schools.
- having conversations with everyone else except the teacher/s.
- not acting on these concerns in a timely manner.
- to have the mindset of 'catching up'.
- comparing it to when you went to school. So much has changed; the curriculum, the pedagogy (the way we teach), the expectations on parents, students and teachers, the global connectedness and finally not to mention the technological impact.

This last weekend I just finished a book called Range by David Epstein. This book is about how to be successful in the twenty first century; it explores learning, analysing different people, eras and types.

The following quote is directly from Range which I found apt when thinking about children's learning following on with some meetings from parents about their child's concern..... "Approach your own personal voyage and projects like Michaelangelo approaches a block of marble, willing to learn and adjust as you go, even to abandon a previous goal and change directions entirely should the need arise. Research on creators in domains from technological innovation to comic books show that a diverse group of specialists can not fully replace the contributions of broad individuals. Even when you move on from an area of work to an entire domain, that experience is not wasted. (2019 p.290)".

This quote highlights that all learning is valuable and the most important aspects for primary children are to be loving faith filled people who are curious learners, have a go even when it's hard and keep improving from their last goal. The positive habits and mindsets of being a good learner are critical.

Sport

Cross Country 2021

On Wednesday the 22 of March, all primary students and students turning 8 years of age participated in the 2021 St Nicholas of Myra Cross Country. The students completed a number of laps and followed a marked track which started at the artificial grass and then continued onto the grass, past the classrooms and around the school grounds. The students completed a 2 or 3 kilometre race. Well done to all the students for their efforts and participation!

Also a special thanks to our sports leaders who assisted with setting up the event and parent helpers, Mr Brown, Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Rebernik, Mrs Howden, Mr Herrero, Mrs Kassouf, for all their assistance during the races.

Students moving on to represent St Nicholas at the 2021 Diocesan Cross country are:

8/9 Years Girls- Maddison Herrero, Sophie Edwy-Smith, Harmoni Hill, Lilah Surene

8/9 Years Boys- Max Faapoi, Lachlan McIntosh, Nicholas Falzon, Joey Hadchiti, Zain Danil

10 Years Girls- Amisha Nagaretnam

10 Years Boys- Dominic Kassouf, Travis Howden, Adrian Burdanowski

11 Years Boys- Xavier Isaac, Zac Herrero, Mark Danil, Nox Hill

Senior Girls- Skyla Hill

Details of the carnival will be confirmed at a later date.



Gala Day Update

The 2021 sporting gala days for Stages 2 and 3 will be going ahead in Terms 2, 3 and 4. The gala days include soccer, touch football, basketball and gymnastics. Due to the changing nature restrictions and organisation of the different facilities, dates are not as yet confirmed. Once these dates are confirmed, they will be communicated. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Religious Education

200 Years of Catholic Schooling

Did you attend St Nicholas of Myra or know of someone who did? The Mission Team are looking for ex students to interview about their experience of attending St Nicholas of Myra. We are also looking for old photographs of the school. Please contact the office if you are able to help our Mission Team.

Project Compassion

Fifth Week of Lent (school week beginning 22 March)

Halima is raising her two children in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, arriving at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima with shelter, cooking equipment, hygiene and sanitation training. She took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.

Halima aspired to "Be More" and is proud that she is able to earn a small income, while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community.

· In the Cox's Bazar district, women and children make up 78% of the total refugee population where 52% of children are aged 0-17. ([UNHCR](#))



Watch a short film about Halima's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

Holy Week (school week beginning 29 March)

As we enter Holy Week, we continue to reflect on the lives of people vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and how we can respond through supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal.

Let us take time to remember the life and teachings of Saint Oscar Romero. His many lessons include: live a simple life, commit to bringing peace to the world, speak the truth and of course aspire not to have more, but to be more. Some words from what has become known as the Oscar Romero prayer;

"We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

THANK
YOU



Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Campaign. Your generosity will work for the freedom of those living in poverty, challenge unjust structures, and empower people to work for a sustainable way of life.

Please donate to Project Compassion either using our Qkr! App or online via the Caritas website at lent.caritas.org.au

Heart Day



On Wednesday 24 March the Mission Team organised Heart Day. A day to give generously and raise awareness for Project Compassion 2021. Thank you to the students who participated in the various activities on the day.

Congratulations to Amos and Harrison in Year 2 who guessed the closest amount of cups of rice for the infants competition and Allanah in Year 5 who won the primary guessing competition.

We were able to raise \$509.00 which will be donated to Project Compassion.



RE around the Rooms Kindergarten

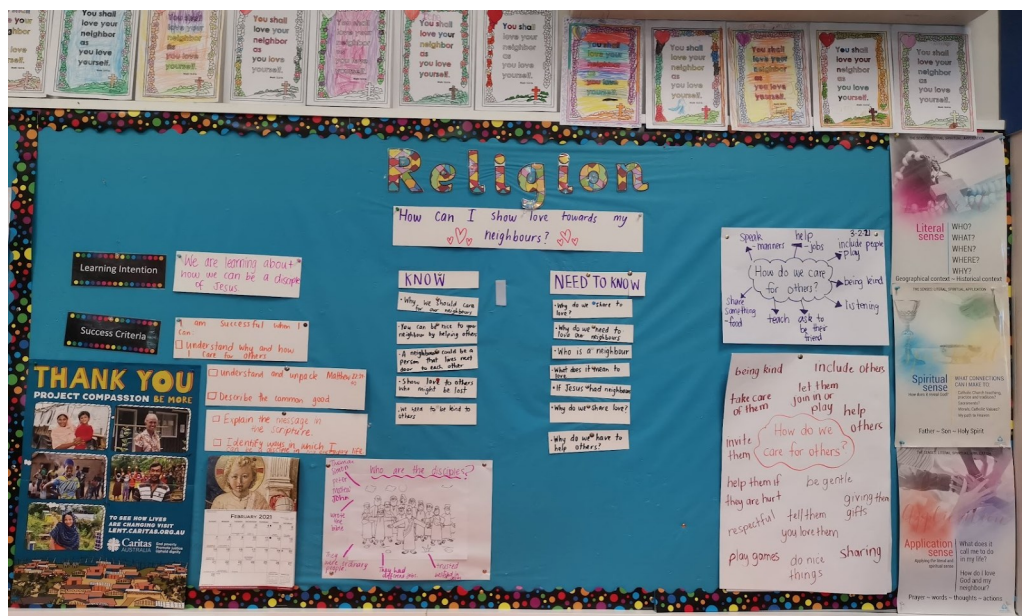
Kindergarten have been learning about Jesus and what it means to develop a friendship with Him. We have learnt that Jesus was a friend to everyone showing respect and love to all people He met while He was on earth. Jesus blesses the Children and The Parable of The Lost sheep were introduced to the children and key elements of being a good friend and maintaining friendships were discussed and applied through a range of activities. We are currently learning how we can follow Jesus' example by treating people with love and kindness in our lives.



Stage 1

Stage 1 have been inquiring about the question: 'How can I show love towards my neighbour?'

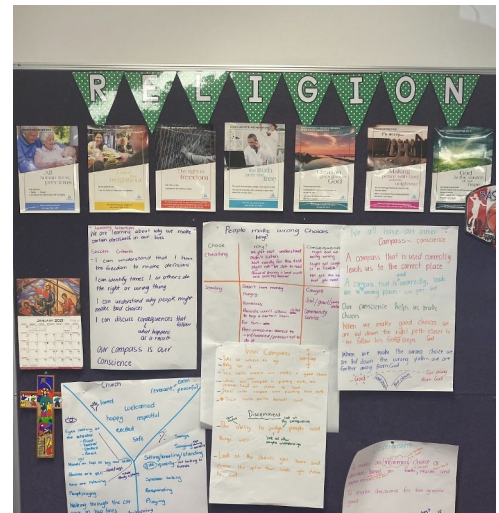
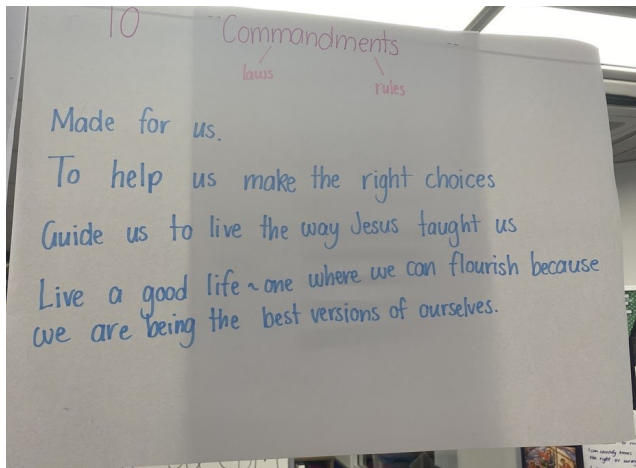
The students have enjoyed investigating scripture passages where Jesus taught people how to live as disciples in their everyday lives and how we can apply these messages to our lives. Currently, students are creating a persuasive poster to display around the school to teach others about treating others with dignity and respect.



Religious Education

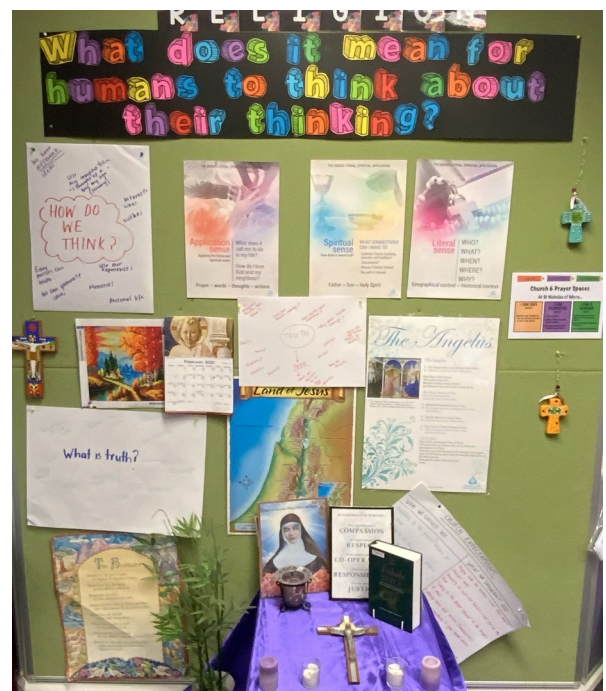
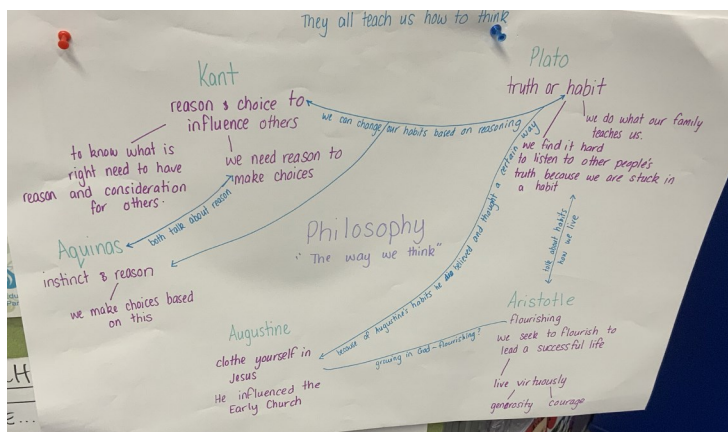
Stage 2

This term, Stage 2 have been learning about why people sometimes do the wrong thing. They have been investigating how good and bad choices lead to different consequences and how this affects their relationship with God. The students have explored various scenarios which have encouraged them to use their conscience and discernment. They have looked at scriptures; including the 'Widow's Offering' and the '10 Commandments' to help them develop an understanding for how they can use scripture to guide their decisions in life. Students are beginning to create videos which promote good choices in different areas of our school which they will share with different stage groups.



Stage 3

This term, Stage 3 has been learning about what it means for humans to think about their thinking. Students have researched different classical and contemporary philosophers and how their thoughts have influenced the way people think and make decisions today. Students are currently working on creating their own philosophies based on the philosophical thinking of different philosophers.



Mascot Workshop

PBS4L Mascot Design Workshop

The winning students of our PBS4L Mascot Competition were invited, with a friend, to a workshop with Julie and Josh from the CEDP Jarrara Indigenous Education Unit. During this time, the students learnt about Aboriginal Culture through their beautiful art. They looked at different forms, techniques, symbols and colours. The students were then given the opportunity to create their design of the Kookaburra using what they had looked at and discussed.

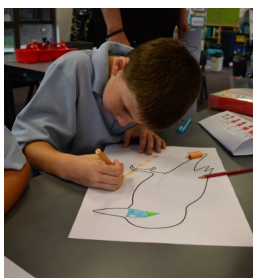
Byron (Year 4)- I liked how we were able to learn about the Indigenous symbols and their meaning. I was then able to use these in my design of the kookaburra mascot.

Billy (Year 5)- I really liked being part of a group friends and people I can talk to. I enjoyed being able to reflect with others on their art. Julie and Josh taught us more about the Aboriginal culture.

Hannah (Year 4)- I liked how we were able to get some symbols and ideas from Josh and Julie. I really enjoyed how we were able to colour in and design a kookaburra.

Nox (Year 5)- I liked how we were shown many kinds of Aboriginal words and art. We learnt about the Aboriginal tribes. This learning inspired me to put some of these ideas in my mascot.

Rome (Year 1)- I liked doing the drawing of the kookaburra and learning about the Aboriginal art like the hand prints.



Awards Week 7

Gold Awards

2	Levi FENECH
5	Abby MCINTOSH
5	Ashton GALEA

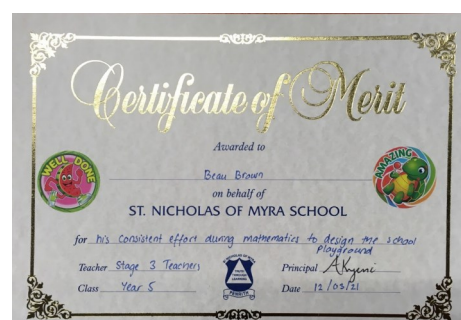
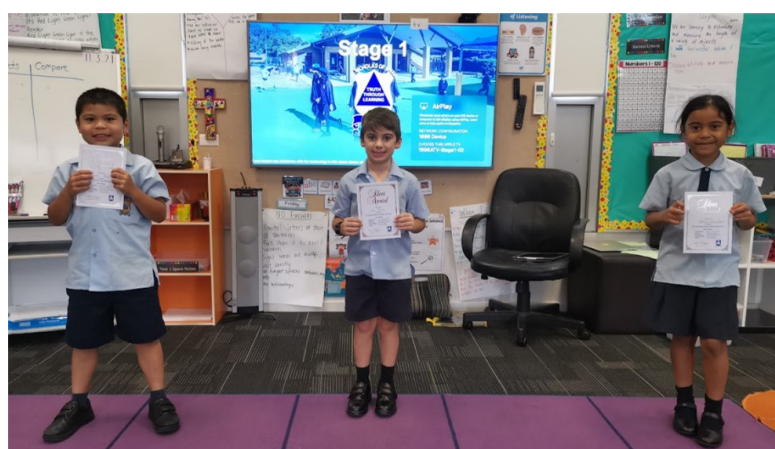
Silver Awards

K	Nerissa ROZARIO
1	Juleina LOTONUUBROWN
2	Levi FENECH
2	Michael REALES
3	Max FAAPOI
3	Sophia YANG
5	Abby MCINTOSH
5	Ashton GALEA
5	Xavier ISAAC
6	Odessa GIBBS



Merit Awards

K	Annabella NGUYEN
K	Lyla COFFILL
K	Nerissa ROZARIO
K	Siddhu PRAKASH
1	Emily WANG
1	Lincoln STEEN
1	Natalie ROZARIO
1	Vivien CHANPOWSEE
2	Amos INGEGNERI
2	Esha NATH
2	John WOOD
2	Sophie EDWY-SMITH
3	Brayden WATTS
3	Harmoni HILL
3	Max FAAPOI
3	Sophia YANG
4	Hailey LAU
4	Nevaeh-Rae SULUAPE
4	Noah EDWY-SMITH
4	Zain DANIL
5	Abby MCINTOSH
5	Beau BROWN
5	Dominic KASSOUF
5	William DOUGLAS
6	Benjamin DELA PAZ
6	Isabel MRSIC
6	Mark DANIL
6	Skyla HILL





2022 Kindergarten Enrolments

Thank you to Parents who have already handed in their enrolments form and attended their enrolment interview!

Appointments and acceptances have been made for 2022! The School Enrolment Officer will contact you to make an interview time **once you have submitted your enrolment application.**

On the day of your interview, we ask that one or both parents and **the enrolling child attends.** COVID check ins and practices are in place. Again if you would like to wear a mask during this enrolment interview that would be preferable.

Current St Nicholas of Myra families who have a child commencing school in 2022 are encouraged to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Enrolment forms can be found online at - <https://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/02-Form-A-Enrolment-Application.pdf> or in the school office.

Correspondence

- ☺ Covid Update
- ☺ Easter Raffle Ticket
- ☺ Kiss and Drive Procedures
- ☺ Reminder—Easter Egg Donations
- ☺ Message from Bishop Vincent Long re Holy Week and Covid
- ☺ Premier's Reading Challenge
- ☺ End of Term Assembly - Friday 26 March

St Nicholas of Myra Parish

326 High St Penrith
4721 2509

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 6:45am, 9.30am
Wednesday 6:45am, 9:30am
Thursday 9:30am
Friday 6:45am, 12:10pm

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Sacramental Program

1st Holy Communion

Preparation for the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion will commence with a **parent meeting** on **Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.00pm.**

If you wish to enrol your child in this program it is essential that at least one parent/carer attend.
This meeting will be held in the Church.

To be eligible for First Holy Communion,
Children must be in year 4 or above and must be baptised



*All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish
Ph:4721 2509*

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au