



St Nicholas of Myra

TRUTH THROUGH LEARNING

Term 1 Week 3
10 Feb 2022

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians whose land we educate our students

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Welcome Back!

What a great start to Term 1!

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping us all safe in being so willing and flexible. We ask that you continue to test your children twice a week (Monday & Wednesday) in the morning before attending school and if there is a positive result notify the office and isolate following NSW Health advice.

Our Parent Group is pivotal and important for many of the events that make our school a community. *If you would like to be a part of this meeting please email the school so we can then send you a link. Thank you to 2022 Parent Group for starting off with great momentum! We have organised many fun items for our first Term. We are still looking for a Kindergarten Parent Representative to join us for two meetings a term on Zoom Monday mornings from 9:10 - 10:10 am. We are a good, fun and kind bunch - think and pray about it!*

This newsletter is dense with more organisational information which I deliberately left until now as the COVID-19 communication took precedence and was constant for you all.

As I have walked around and in/ out of the Learning Spaces the children are very settled, especially our Kindergartens and the learning has already well and truly commenced! The chatter, laughter and noise of the students has breathed life and great joy into our school!

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal



St Nicholas of Myra Primary School Higgins Street Penrith 2750

p: 02 4752 3300 e: StNicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au





Communication Processes

Updating your details

If you have changed address or have a new phone number, please notify the office with your new details.

Skoolbag

Please install the free SkoolBag App to your phone or a device.

The **Term 1 Calendar** outlines school events.

The **Curriculum Overview** (this outlines the learning that will occur for this term and one is shared each term) will be distributed in Week 3. This is where you can find out what your child is learning for the term.

School Newsletters are emailed out every odd week; the first week of each Term is Week 1, 3, 5, 7, 9. Sometimes the end of Term Newsletters are postponed in order to include other celebrations. When this occurs you will be notified.



Who to contact?

If you have any concerns about your child throughout the year, **your child's teacher/s should be the first person you contact.** *The other teachers on the stage are available, as well as the Leaders of Learning.*

The Leaders of Learning are allocated to every stage in the school. In addition to facilitating learning in a particular area of the school, they also coordinate a stage of classes. They support the learning of the stage students in all areas including academic, social and emotional by working alongside the teachers in all matters. Leaders of Learning can be contacted if there is a matter that needs further attention *after* working with the classroom teacher/s.

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1: Miss Hannah Khalifeh

Stage 2: Mr Simpson

Stage 3: Mrs Khoury

For more serious matters or where work with the Leader of Learning needs to be escalated, please contact Assistant Principal: Miss Kirsty Reynolds and/or the Principal at any time over the course of the year.

All matters involving Child Protection issues need to be addressed directly to the Principal, or in my absence the Assistant Principal or the Appointed Delegate.

How to make an appointment time?

We kindly ask that you email the school in order to make an appointment. If you are able to provide a few dates and times this will assist Teachers or Leaders of Learning to work around their duties and professional meetings requirements as well.

Whole School Assemblies

At this point in time our whole assemblies will be shared via video by the nominated Stage in order to minimise co mingling of cohorts. During these assemblies we share the stage's learning and the presentation of awards to celebrate achievements. We are very much missing this whole school celebration gathering and we look forward to the time we can celebrate as a school community again.

How to install the SkoolBag App

Instructions for parents



SkoolBag



For Apple Users

From your iPhone/iPad, Go to the Apple App Store and search for "SkoolBag".

Download the free SkoolBag app.

Open the App and add your school(s) and you're ready to go!

Choose your grade/grades and "allow notifications".

For Google Android Users

From your Android device, ensure you have an account in the Google Play Store.

Go to Google Play Store and search for "SkoolBag"

Download the free SkoolBag app.

Open the app, add your school(s).

Choose your grade/grades and "allow notifications".

For more info visit skoolbag.com.au



General News

Sport Celebrations

Welcome to sport for 2022! This year we are looking to celebrate the students at St Nicholas of Myra and their sporting achievements outside of school. If you would like your child/children to feature in the newsletter for sporting extracurricular activities, please send through a picture of your child and a short blurb about their successes to the school email. We ask that the photographs sent through are of your child only, unfortunately we cannot accept or publish team photos or photos featuring other persons.

We look forward to celebrating these achievements with your children!

Thank you for your support!!
Laura Beirne



Birthdays

We are very happy to celebrate birthdays in our school. If you choose to send in something for your child's stage or friends, please ensure that these are store purchased and in individual-serving wrapped portions (lollypops, donuts etc) obviously keeping in mind we are a nut aware school) so there is reduced risk to our children. This is a temporary measure during COVID-19. We will keep you updated on any further changes via the school newsletter. Each stage's curriculum overview will have the quantity required.

Medical Plans and Medication



If your child requires any medication please ensure their plan and medication is up to date and a copy is given to the school. Please ensure you contact the office as we do have a medical form that needs to be completed as well certain requirements around the packaging of the medication. If you are unsure please contact the office via email and they will be able to respond to your query.

Uniform

Students are to wear full summer uniform for this term. Any changes to this will be communicated when required in the Newsletter. Please email the school office the size and uniform item you require, this will allow the Office Staff to organise this for you and send it home with the student or at a pre arranged time. Please ensure all your child's items are clearly labelled.

Kiss and Drop Process in the mornings and afternoons

Thank you to the Parents/ Carers for sharing your safety concerns around Kiss and Drop over these past two days. Below is a friendly reminder of the process to ensure we are keeping one another safe as well as not creating unsafe situations by not following the Roads Rules indicated on the road by the painted lines or parking signs.

Essentially, the 'Kiss and Drive' zone allows for only a two minute period where a vehicle can be stationary and children may be dropped off or picked up (according to school procedure). The driver **MUST NOT** leave the vehicle. Some people have been parking in the zone for much greater length of time and getting out of their vehicles to walk children to the entrance gates in the morning. This is unsafe and inconvenient for other drivers. We are very fortunate to have a well developed 'Kiss and Drive' zone that operates smoothly when all concerned follow correct procedure.



School Photos Monday 7 March



School Times & Attendance

The School day has been altered as per NSW Health requirements in relation to COVID-19 requirements. Each Stage has been given play areas in order to reduce mingling.

| School Times | Infants | Primary |
|--|---|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 Morning Play | School Gates are opened at 8:30 am Morning supervision commences from 8:30 - 9:00 am | |
| First Learning Session | 9:00 - 11:10 am | 9:00 - 10:30 am |
| Lunch Eating times are in Learning Spaces | 11:00 - 11:10 Eating Time 11:10 - 11:40 am | 10:30 - 11:00 11:00 - 11:10 Eating Time |
| Second Learning Session | 11:40 - 1:10 pm | 11:10 - 12:40pm |
| Fruit Break | 1:10 – 1:40 pm | 12:40 - 1:10 pm |
| Third Learning Session | 1:40 - 2:50 pm | 1:10 - 3:10 pm |
| School Finishes | 2:50 pm | 3:10 pm |

Morning Arrival

Playground supervision commences each day at 8:30am and Parents/Carers are requested not to drop children off for school prior to this time. If, for an unforeseen reason your child does need to be at school before 8:30am they are required to sit near the office door and steps. School starts at 9:00 am each day – please ensure your child arrives on time for school, as late arrivals can be very disruptive to the learning of all concerned! Remember the catch phrase of “On Time for Five to Nine”.

The car park gates are closed at 8:30am and are reopened at 9:00am to ensure families can walk safely through the car park area. Parents may walk with their child to the internal gate or use the kiss and drop line in the mornings.

Arriving Late

ALL children arriving after the bell must be accompanied by an adult to the school office to be signed in for the school day. Attendance at school is a legal requirement and where consistent or major absences occur this is reportable to the relevant authorities.

Leaving Early

Taking your child home early creates gaps in their learning. They also miss the opportunity to receive other important information and notes from their Teacher that are given out at the end of the school day. So it is only in extreme circumstances or specialised appointments that you should be collecting your child early. An adult is required to come to the school office in order for the child to be collected and signed out for the school day.

Afternoon Dismissal has returned to previous times

All students are dismissed via the school and church's car park. The car park gate is closed at 2:50pm to ensure pedestrian safety until 3:30pm. Obviously we encourage masks and/ more importantly keeping the 1.5m distance during carpark.

Limiting Interruptions to Learning Time

Our Teachers will be maximising every opportunity for learning this year and as such we want to limit interruptions as much as possible. Our friendly Office Staff will pass on messages, arrange interview times with teachers for you, have forgotten items (like lunches and hats) delivered to classrooms but will limit the number of interruptions to the learning spaces – this will benefit all our learners. We understand that not all communications are appropriate in email however when you are able to do this greatly help the Office Staff.



Learning

Thank you for booking these interview times at the beginning of the year. WHY we start with MAIs and Kindergarten Best Start:

- so you can meet and introduce yourself with the teachers and students 1:1.
- this time with the teachers/students is vital in creating an environment of trust, positivity and interest in who they are, what they have done during the break as well as numeracy and literacy knowledge.
- this 1:1 is an opportunity for us as educators to be an observer of not just their knowledge but strategies, how they answer, hold themselves when faced with more difficult problems to solve as well as their receptive and expressive language.
- valid annual data collection time period for conceptual knowledge to inform the school on the continual learning.

Thank you also for your support in purchasing, labelling the student requisite items as well. We know being organised allows the learning to take place with greater ease.

Every year, as a Staff we analyse all of the data sets we collect in Religion, Literacy and Numeracy. This year our learning goals are in Formation, Literacy and we sustain and refine our Numeracy goal.

Formation Goal: For students to know, connect and apply the Gospel of Luke to their lives in order to flourish.

Why this Goal: In keeping with the CEDP priority in Religious Education, St Nicholas of Myra will be continuing to implement inquiry in RE 2022. We have decided as a Staff to use the language in the goal as it links to our previous work on the 3 senses, surface, deep and transfer learning as well as the head, heart and hands. We are looking to form through knowing (head), connecting (heart) and applying (hands) our students, staff and community through the use of the Gospel of Luke as we are Year C of the Church.

Literacy Goal: To extend our middle to top students writing across all Key Learning Areas.

Why this Goal: Data has shown patterns of challenge for middle to top students who become stuck on the same writing progression for a learning year. The data has shown that the students working towards stage are consistently achieving a year's growth. Students who are in our middle to top writer need to articulate what their next steps are in writing beyond a surface level. In 2021, all staff recognised the value in growing our middle to top writers and we want to continue this growth.

Numeracy Goal: To extend the middle and top students to understand, apply and transfer a range of skills and strategies to integrate when Working Mathematically.

Why this Goal: Data has shown patterns of challenge for middle to top students in NAPLAN and MAI testing. Students have been progressing into bands 4 and 6 at a slower rate than expected. We have increased the amount of students from the bottom bands into the middle bands and now the focus is to continue this progression into the top bands.

We continue to have interventions at St Nicholas of Myra to support students who are not currently achieving benchmark, including withdrawal programs and those that occur within the classroom. The main focus for these students will be developing their mathematical reasoning skills in order to know, apply, integrate and transfer these skills and strategies across all mathematical strands.

Student Led Conferences (SLCs) Week 5 Monday 22 - Thursday 24 February 2022

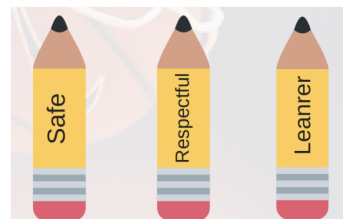
Student Led Conferences is an example of how we value Parents as the child's first educator. This zoom time is for your child to share their learning goals with you and the teacher. If you have other questions or concerns about your child please make an alternative appointment. For working families we provide a late night allocation on Tuesday 22 February.

PBS4L

After our fantastic school competition, last year the Mascot winners were celebrated and announced. Last year we were able to visually finalise our Kookaburra which we will be revealinglook out for the signs for the next exciting event for our mascot

PBS4L Playground Initiative

PBS4L is Positive Behaviour Support for Learning. It is a school wide positive behaviour support approach that aims to develop both social and learning outcomes. It supports teaching school expectations in which students strive to "Be Safe," "Be Respectful" and "Be a Learner."



At lunch and fruit break, students receive a token when they are seen to be following playground expectations. Students place the token into their stage box outside of the office. When receiving a token, teachers will name the observable behaviour. Some of these observable expectations may include;

- here is your token for being safe when you were walking on the concrete
- you were being respectful when you took your turn to be out
- you were being a learner when you asked about the rules before playing
- you were being respectful when you included John into the game
- you were being respectful when you handed the ball back
- you were being respectful when you put your rubbish in the bin

Each fortnight there is a new playground initiative. The initiative encourages students to be safe and respectful on the playground by following a focus expectation. Students receive a double points token from teachers on duty when they are seen to be following the expectation.



This fortnight, the PBS4L playground initiative is: **I am Safe on the playground.** The stage with the most tokens at the end of Week 6 will receive reward time towards an activity of their choosing for their stage.

2023 and 2024 Kindergarten Enrolments and Catholic Schools Week Twilight Tours

Each year in Catholic Schools Week (CSW), we hold two twilights tours one at 4:00 - 4:30 pm and the other at 6:00 - 6:30 pm. This year it will be held on **Monday 7 February 2022.**

COVID practices will be put in place and we require all adults to wear a mask during this tour. Each person will be required to sign in and we are limited to a size of 30 people. You will be required to register via a QR code and show proof of vaccination. If you are unwell or have any symptoms we ask you to keep everyone safe by refraining from attending.

We accept enrolment applications at any time.

However it is after our Twilight Tours, when we begin making appointments for the 2023/24 Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews. The School Enrolment Officer will contact you to make an interview time with one or both parents and the enrolling child attends. COVID check-ins and practices are in place. Again you are required to wear a mask during this enrolment interview.



Current St Nicholas of Myra families who have a child commencing school in 2023 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.



Formation

Understanding Faith Online Resource

We are able to use an online resource to support our Religious Education. Students do have access to this site at home as well as at school. Why not check it out for yourselves..... <https://primary.understandingfaith.edu.au/log-in>

username: ceo.parra.1896

password: 32findJUMP

Opening School Mass and Comissioning of Leaders

Our Opening School Mass will be held on Tuesday 1 March at 11:45am. At the conclusion of this Mass the School Leaders, Sports Leaders, Student Representative Council (SRC) and Mission Team will be commissioned and receive their badge. More details will be provided closer to the date on who can attend the Mass in line with current restrictions.

Sacramental Program

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Sacramental Program Reconciliation

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on our website, stnicholasofmyra.org.au

on

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

and close on

Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 4.00pm

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Trivia / Movie afternoon and Reconciliation

To be eligible for First Reconciliation,
Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised



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

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



Building Child Safe Communities - Volunteer Undertaking

Building Child Safe Communities
Created by Helena Roumanus, last modified by Lisa Menzies on 27 Oct 2021



In Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP), we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. Parents and Carers are encouraged to become involved in our schools in many important ways such as supporting classroom learning, being part of advisory groups, excursions, incursions, mentoring programs, coaching sporting teams and supporting other extra-curricular activities, canteen support and other kinds of help.

A range of checks and undertakings are required for people who work for or provide services to CEDP. These checks reduce potential risk and form part of our strategy to build child safe communities.

CEDP has launched a new *Building Child Safe Communities form and online training module that all volunteers are required to complete.*

The purpose of this training is to inform you of the standards of behaviour and other requirements that must be adhered to when volunteering for CEDP.

The undertaking should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and the training module approximately 10 minutes. Once the form and training modules are submitted, an automated email will be sent to you within two business days to confirm the status of your submission.

The undertaking form will expire within two years or when your Working With Children Check expires (if applicable), whichever is sooner. At that time you will need to complete the undertaking form and training module again. You will receive an automatic reminder email when this occurs.

Further information on the new online form and training module can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au and clicking on *about us/building child safe communities*.
Or alternatively, on our website:

<https://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/Parental-involvement>

Within the form you will also find help sheets and a video tutorial to assist you.

Thank you in advance for your support.

School Counsellor Appointment from CEDP

Jordan days are to Monday, Thursdays and (odd week) Fridays. This is an extra day of support per fortnight to our families compared last year from CEDP.

At times, there can be misunderstandings about counselling support. Sometimes it can be a weekly times which then may phase out to 2 or 3 check ins over a term. Sometimes it may be for a short period of weekly times due to the loss of a loved one in the family. This is all ongoing and adjusted based on the students needs and the professional judgment of the counsellor. The counsellor communicates with you on needs basis to check in and keep you updated. The Learning Space is called and the child is asked to go to the office by the teacher. We try to make this process as discreet as it can be for the child. If you require our school counsellor's support the process is as follows:

- To request this support you can send an email to the school addressed to the Principal Ms Knezevic. If you are concerned about confidentiality we recommend in the Subject Heading - place **CONFIDENTIAL and SENSITIVE** to the Principal and Counsellor. Our Office Staff will then directly forward this to the Principal without reading the details.
- Sometimes the Stage Teachers may suggest this support as well. The teachers will have the conversation with you and as Parents if you are open to this support.
- Following this, a Counsellor's form will be sent home in either an envelope or emailed as an attachment.
- The Counsellor will always speak with you first before seeing the child.
- The Counsellor will commence seeing the child.

School Fees

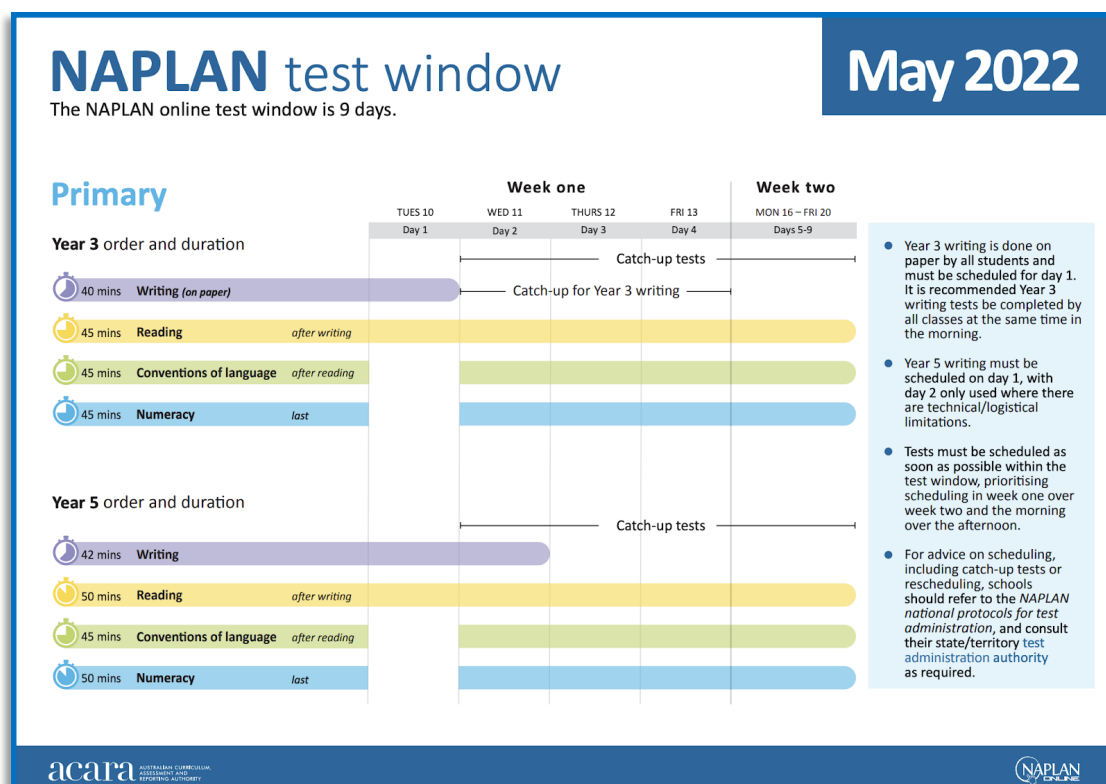
A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment, that is, the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance.

The requirement for a terms notice (10 school weeks) is recognition by the family of the commitment to assist with funding of the School by having their child take a place that could have been offered to another family. Unless the student is present for the August census or the student is able to be replaced mid-year, which is unlikely, the loss of the student will most certainly result in the loss of significant government funding. Thus a term notice provides the school with an opportunity to replace the student within the next term. Special circumstances that would warrant a waiving of this notice, include:

- Moving due to employment transfer
- Sale of house
- The student has been offered full time employment (High School)
- The student has been offered an apprenticeship (High School)

School Fees Statements will be sent out anytime from Monday 14 February 2022. Payment arrangement details will be included with the statements. Any questions please contact the school office.

If your circumstances have changed or if you require any support with School Fees at any time throughout this year please contact the school office and speak to Rhonda Shirvington (from Monday 21 February)





Correspondence

- Rat Distribution
- Welcome Back Email
- Exciting News
- Week 3 Distribution of RAT
- Curriculum Overviews
- Parent Calendar Term 1

Nutrition Snippet

NOODLE CAKES



Ingredients

Olive oil spray
 1/2 400g packet Singapore noodles
 3 eggs
 1 tsp reduced-salt chicken stock powder
 125g tin corn kernels, drained
 1 spring onion, thinly sliced
 2 zucchinis, grated & liquid squeezed out
 1/4 capsicum, deseeded & chopped
 6 cherry tomatoes, halved

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Spray a 12-hole muffin pan lightly with oil.

Place Singapore noodles in a large heatproof bowl and cover with boiling water. Stand for 1 minute and separate with a fork. Drain well and cut into 10cm lengths. Place back in the bowl.

In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs and chicken stock powder together well. Mix through the corn, spring onion and zucchini and capsicum. Pour over the noodles and mix.

Divide evenly into the prepared muffin tin. Top each with a cherry tomato half, seed side up. Bake for 15 minutes or until cooked through and golden. Cool in the pan for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

For more recipes visit:
healthylunchbox.com.au



As the onsite provider of outside school hours care, we invite all children to enjoy our programs

St Nicholas of Myra

36 Higgins Street, Penrith NSW 2750

Ambrose School Age Care supports working families needing childcare outside of school hours – but our activities are so cool, every child is invited to join the fun!

Our programs focus on a holistic and well-rounded view of the child with opportunities for creative, inquisitive and active play, a focus on health and well-being and opportunities to grow and build confidence.

They're also a great way to make friends and most importantly – have fun!

We are a fully accredited Service operating under the National Quality Framework and have been assessed as an Exceeding service against the National Quality Standards (Feb 2020) so your child is in safe hands.

Our Opening Hours

Before School Care: 7.00am – 9.00am

School Care: 3.00pm – 6.30pm

Pupil Free Days: 7.00am – 6.30pm

Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibility.

| Session | Time | After 85% Child Care Subsidy* | After 50% Child Care Subsidy* | Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Morning | 7.00am – 9.00am | \$3.85 | \$10.50 | \$20 per session |
| Afternoon | 3.00pm – 6.30pm | \$5.77 | \$15.75 | \$30 per session |
| Pupil Free Days | 7.00am – 6.30pm | \$11.55 | \$31.50 | \$60 per day |

*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can provide up to 85% of the cost of your childcare fees. External party charges for in-service workshops and excursions may apply.

All educators working directly with the children hold a valid working with children check and there is always an educator rostered who is qualified in first aid, asthma, anaphylaxis and CPR.

ENROL NOW, VISIT: ambrose.org.au/enrol/

Call: 0418 260 386

Email: stnicholasofmyra@ambrose.org.au



Learning for life

Nutrition Snippet

PIMP UP POPCORN



Swap a packet of chips out of the lunch box and go for plain popcorn.

- Make it at home or buy plain popcorn.
- To add variety to the lunch box, mix with some dried fruit to make Poppletang.

For these recipes and more: healthylunchbox.com.au  Cancer Council Healthy Lunch Box

Nutrition Snippet

HOW TO PACK A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX



Starting 'big' school is a huge deal even for parents as it may be the first time packing a lunch box.

Learn how to pack a healthy lunch box [here](#)

healthylunchbox.com.au

