A very special thank you to the parents who supported the school swimming carnival last Friday. The number of helpers was simply amazing. Thank you to Belinda Tyrrell for all her organisation, it ran very smoothly. Days such as these show how wonderful a community we have at St Nics. Congratulations to all the students who participated, cheered and displayed wonderful sportsmanship. Congratulations to the 28 students who will be representing the school at diocesan level in Moree next week.

In this newsletter you will find important information regarding Working With Children Checks. I encourage anyone associated with the school to complete this screening and forward all relevant documentation to the school.

Tonight is our Parent Information Evening. We will meet very quickly in The Hub (please note this change of venue) at 6.30pm and then move to the learning areas. It is vital to your child’s education that a positive relationship exists between home and school and that communication between the two is regular and constructive.

On Monday evening the first PT&F meeting was held for the year. It was fantastic to see so many people attend and support our PT&F Executive and especially new Kindergarten parents. This augurs well for another great year of family involvement and support of the school in 2017.

A reminder that parents can fill in the student absentee form located on the landing page of the school website when your child has been away from school.

This sentence began an article in the recent Australian Teacher Magazine. “Teachers from a rural Colorado school district are set to be allowed to carry guns to school”. The mind boggles.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ENROLLING NOW
arm.catholic.edu.au

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
GREAT LEARNING
GREAT COMMUNITIES
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
Thursday, 16th February 2017 - 6.30pm

Our Parent Information Night will be held on Thursday, 16th February 2017 commencing at 6.30pm sharp in The Hub. Please note our change of venue to start the night.

We highly recommend ALL parents to attend this evening so that you can be fully informed of your child’s education and the teacher’s expectations at St Nicholas School in 2017.

ICAS EXAMS
Year 4, 5 and 6 students

Letters have distributed to all Year 4, 5 and 6 students earlier this week regarding ICAS Exams.

This year our Year 4, 5 and 6 students from St Nicholas School have the opportunity to sit for the University of New South Wales ICAS Exams. ICAS is the largest independent competition and assessment program for schools in Australia. One of the major benefits of ICAS is the recognition from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) with each student receiving an individual report as well as a UNSW certificate of acknowledgement for participation. These certificates make valuable additions to student portfolios. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE EXAMS ARE NOT COMPULSORY AND YOU MAY WISH TO DO AS MANY AS YOU WISH OR NONE AT ALL.

Permission slips and payment are due by Friday, 24th March 2017. Unfortunately, late payments will not be accepted.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS - Years 1 to 6
Monday, 20th to Friday, 31st March 2017

Teachers are currently preparing times for Parent/Teacher Interviews. Letters will be distributed over the coming two weeks giving parents details on booking their time online.

MAJOR ROADWORKS - CARTHAGE STREET

Please be aware that major roadworks are being carried out in Carthage Street out the front of St Nicholas School over the coming three weeks beginning Saturday, 25th February 2017. Please take care, be patient and drive while considering the safety of all. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

As part of our quest to keep our beautiful school environment clean and tidy we have set up a large lost property box in the undercroft near the canteen. Each afternoon any clothing, containers, drink bottles etc left lying around the school will be put in to this container. Each Friday this container will be sorted – any item with a clear label will be returned to the owner. However, any item that is unlabelled and has not been claimed will be thrown into the bin or if clothing, put into the clothing pool. Parents can play an important role in this process by:

• Making sure your child’s belongings are clearly labelled
• Talking to your child about taking responsibility for their belongings
• By encouraging your child to be accountable if they lose their belongings.
OPENING SCHOOL MASS YRS 1 - 6

Our first school Mass for the year will be held tomorrow Friday 17th February at St Nicholas Church at 9.30am. Our new School Captains and House Captains will be formally commissioned at this Mass and all parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to join us. Our new Kindergarten children will not be attending this Mass and will instead enjoy a calm and quiet morning with their teachers back at school. Years 1 – 6 will walk to the church and back to school after the completion of Mass. We will be keeping a close eye on the weather and alternative transport arrangements will be made if there is inclement weather. ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 1 TO 6 ARE ASKED TO WEAR THEIR FULL SUMMER UNIFORM.

FAMILY MASSES

Family Masses for this term will be held on Sunday, 5th March (hosted by Kindergarten and Yr 6) and Sunday, 2nd April (hosted by Year 1 and Year 5) at St Nicholas Church at 9.30am. All families are encouraged and welcome to celebrate these Masses with our community and Parish.

SACRAMENTS

This year our Year 3 and Year 6 students will be involved in Sacramental Programs for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation respectively. These are important events in the life of our students, school and parish and we look forward to sharing these occasions with our children. For new students enrolling at St Nicholas School in 2017, if there is a Sacrament that they have missed receiving please contact Mrs Dunst as soon as possible.

The following dates have been set aside for these special events:
First Reconciliation (Year 3) – Wednesday 21st June
First Holy Communion (Year 3) – Saturday/Sunday 24th & 25th June
Confirmation (Year 6) – Saturday/Sunday 2nd & 3rd September

Please mark these dates on your family calendar.

SCHOOL AGE BAPTISM

This year the School Age Baptisms (children from Kindergarten (5yrs old) to Year 6 (11yrs old)) will be held on Saturday, 11th March at 11.00am at St Nicholas Church. There is a Baptism preparation session which parents (without exception) will need to attend on Saturday, 4th March at 2pm at the Parish Meeting Room. You will need to make contact with Fr Joe asap and express your interest (Presbytery phone number is 67662228). At least one parent must be catholic and one godparent must also be catholic.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS – WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH (WEEK 6)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. To celebrate this occasion the school will be hosting a Mass in the undercroft area (under The Hub). All students will be attending this Mass. The Mass is scheduled to begin at 9am. Parents and friends are warmly welcomed to join us at this Mass.

ADVANCED NOTICE: FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FRIST HOLY COMMUNION (YEAR 3 STUDENTS)

Frist Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation and program will begin early in Term 2 for our students and parents in Year 3. This will include a Parent Information and Enrolment Session at St Nicholas Church on Wednesday, 29th March at 5.30pm or a repeat session on Saturday, 1st April at 1.30pm. At least one parent is required to attend one of these sessions.

God of courage,
your strength enables us to overcome any
difficulties. May your Holy Spirit of courage give us
bold hearts to proclaim your love.
Amen

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your strength enables us to overcome any
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Amen
SHROVE TUESDAY
Tuesday, 28th February 2017
is Shrove Tuesday (widely known as Pancake Day). The PT&F with the help of Mini Vinnies (the junior school group of St Vincent de Paul) will be serving pancakes during first break. All proceeds will go to Caritas to help others in need.

Pancakes are 50c each
There will be a gluten-free, egg-free, nut-free and dairy-free options.

We need parent helpers between 10am and 12noon to help cook and serve. If you are unable to cook but could help by making batter, please contact Mrs Patrice McMullen on 0427 399495 or via the PT&F Facebook page.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
Mr Stefan van Aaholt

As an ongoing endeavour to continue to create an even safer school environment for our children, I encourage all parents, grandparents and carers to undergo a ‘Working With Children Check’. This is a relatively straightforward process and is free for volunteers. If you do not have access to the internet this can be completed at school.

I encourage all parents, grandparents and friends to complete this process. Your WWCC number is valid for 5 years.

I trust you recognise this process not as a burden but as a commitment by St Nicholas School to keep all children safe.

Log onto www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au. Click on the blue tab “The Working With Children Check: Start Here” Complete the details and submit the form. Take a print out of the form to any NSW RTA. Provide St Nicholas School with a copy of your NSW Working With Children Check number and your date of birth for validation. Keep a record of your number. You may be asked for it an any time.

FRIAR’S TUCKSHOP NEWS
Mrs Colleen Harding
Canteen Co-ordinator
charding@stnicholastamworth.catholic.edu.au

VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Week Beginning Monday, 20th February 2017. Early shift 9.30am to 11.30am. Late shift 11.30am to 1.30pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Person(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Caroline Tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Wendy Filla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jo Cupples and Helen Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Lisa Buko (early shift)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kerrie Bruce (late shift)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Rebecca Zigic (early shift)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Billy Leary (late shift)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VOLUNTEER VOUCHERS
Vouchers are now given to our valued volunteers at Friar’s Tuckshop. Each parent/carer will receive a $5.00 voucher for their child/children to go towards their next canteen purchase. These vouchers are only to be used for lunch orders.
LIBRARY NEWS
Mrs Julie McGuirk
Teacher Librarian
jmcguirk@stnicholastamworth.catholic.edu.au

LIBRARY LOVERS DAY
On Tuesday St Nicholas School celebrated Library Lovers Day. Many students came through the door, cut out hearts and wrote down their favourite book, author or what they liked about their library.

Terrific responses despite the state of our aging and, at the moment dusty library. The students are maintaining their enthusiasm for the space.

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY - THURSDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 2017
World Read Aloud Day motivates children, teens, and adults worldwide to celebrate the power of words and creates a community of readers taking action to show the world that the right to literacy belongs to all people. World Read Aloud Day is all about spreading a love for reading. World Read Aloud Day is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries thanks to people like us who participate and spread the word across the globe!

Parents read aloud regularly to your children, you will all love it.

PARENT LENDING LIBRARY
Parents we have a range of books which you are permitted to borrow. The newest additions to this collection is an assortment of Andrew Fuller books purchased after his Wellbeing workshop last year. The titles include “Tricky Kids - Transforming conflict and freeing their potential”; “Unlocking Your Child’s Genius” and my favourite holiday read was “Tricky People - How to deal with horrible types before they ruin your life”. Extremely insightful.

Should you wish to have a browse through or borrow from this collection please see Mrs Grady at the front office.

BOOK CLUB
Orders have now closed. Thankyou.

2017 Library Leaders
PT&F NEWS
Mrs Margo Taggart
President
stnicholastptf@gmail.com

A big thank you to all the parents who joined us for our first PT&F meeting for 2017. As a school we are very lucky to have such a committed, enthusiastic group of people.

MEET, GREET AND EAT
Friday, 24th February 2017
Undercroft - 5.30pm

This is a wonderful St Nicholas School tradition. A great opportunity that brings together school families both old and new and a great way to celebrate the start to a new year. The night will be full of music, fun, mini stalls, and a full BBQ. The evening will commence at 5.30pm, concluding approx 8pm.

The PT&F committee have pre-arranged each year to host their own 'stall'. We are seeking help from the parents to assist on the night running the stalls and to kindly donate goods to the below list, specific only for your child's school year.

- Kindergarten Glow sticks and bubbles
- Year 1 Slices, cakes and tea / coffee
- Year 2 Drinks, soft drinks, Juice, water
- Year 3 Girl and Boy lucky dips
- Year 4 Lolly stand
- Year 5 Beauty parlor - hair chalk, face paint, tattoos.
- Year 6 photo booth (props only) and ice cream stand (gold coin to go to purchasing of goods)

The PT&F will set up and decorate the area and each stall from 4.30pm. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

For any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Margo Taggart on 0427 167 282 or email stnicholasptf@gmail.com.

Margo
DONATIONS NEEDED

The first PTF Function for 2017 ‘Meet, Greet and Eat’ is to be held in the NEW Undercroft on Friday 24th February commencing at 5.30pm.
A fun night of food, stalls, music and mingling.
Each class year will be responsible for holding a stall and we are calling for donations.

Kindergarten: Glow Sticks and Bubble Wands
Year 1: Slices and Biscuits
Year 2: Drinks (Water, Soft Drinks and Juice)
Year 3: Luck Dip (Boys and Girls)
Year 4: Lollies and Lollypops
Year 5: Beauty Salon (Face Painting, Hair Chalk and Tattoos)
Year 6: Photo Booth, Ice-Cream Stand and Guessing Jar
(Year 6 Students - Gold Coin for icecream purchase and photo props)

PLEASE SEND IN ALL DONATIONS WITH YOUR
CHILD NO LATER THAN
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Keen to help out with MEET, GREET and EAT?
We’d love to hear from you. Just detach and send in to your child’s teacher and we’ll be in touch.

NAME:  

CHILD'S YEAR:

CONTACT NUMBER:

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the night. For more information call Janine Power 0488 480 505 or Belinda Hanlon 0437624413
FOR THE DIARY....

23rd February  -  Diocesan Swimming Carnival
22nd March    -  Polding Swimming Carnival

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A huge thank you to all those parents and teachers for your assistance at our swimming carnival on Friday. The day
would not have run so smoothly without you volunteering your time so generously. Well done to Mackillop on the
first house win for the year. Congratulations to the house captains on their first challenge of the year. I think you will
all agree that Riley, Cruz, Campbell, Eddie, Abigail, Grace, Josie and Claire did an awesome job leading their teams.
The final points score was as follows:


Junior Girl Champion – Tilani Smith - Mackillop \ Junior Girl Runner up – Alice Fahey - Dominic
Junior Boy Champion – Hugh Burnett – Dominic \ Junior Boy Runner up – Cruz Hamlin - Dominic
11yr Girl Champion – Maisie Wilde - Ozanam \ 11yr Girl Runner up – Annie Kelly - Dominic
11yr Boy Champion – Jordan Hamlin – Dominic \ 11yr Boy Runner up – Ben Sleeman - Mackillop
Senior Girl Champion – Molly Smith – Mackillop \ Senior Girl Runner up – Grace O’Mullane - Mackillop
Senior Boy Champion – Sam Sleeman – Mackillop \ Senior Boy Runner up – Joey Kelly - Mackillop

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the Diocesan Swimming Carnival to be held in
Moree on Thursday 23rd February - Tilani Smith, Alice Fahey, Harriet Wilde, Maisie Wilde, Molly Smith, Annabel
Kelly, Cruz Hamlin, Hugh Burnett, Jordan Hamlin, Sam Sleeman, Joey Kelly, Hugh Gallagher, Grace O’Mullane,
Abigail Taggart, Ella Gallagher, Thomas Wheatley, Seamus Ryan, Logan Fuller, Jack Mitchell, William Penberthy,
Lauren Barnes, Amelia Traill, Anna George and Lachlan O’Mullane, Eddie Willis, Josie Gerathy, Campbell Alder-
son, Ben Sleeman and Will Fahey. We wish these students the best of luck and know that they will represent St Nich-
oslas Primary School with pride. Mrs Angela Wilde will be the accompanying teacher on the day. Students will need
to make their own way to Moree and back.  We also had 2 records broken on the day ....Tilani Smith broke the 9yr
50m Freestyle record set in 1993 and Maisie Wilde broke the 11year 50m Butterfly record set in 1989.

FUTSAL

There are still some teams that are unable to complete their registration as there are fees outstanding. Please send
in your team fees by the end of this week so that all the registrations can be completed. Games began on Monday.
Please check the Northern Inland Football website for game times - www.northerninlandfootball.com.au.

CRICKET

Please check the Tamworth Junior Cricket Association website for the draw each week -  www.tjca.nsw.cricket.com.
au.

BASKETBALL

Teams are still being finalised for the 3/4 and 5/6 divisions. There will be no games for St Nicholas School students
this week. A note will go home to all players next week.

NORTH COMPANIONS SOCCER

Registrations are now open for 2017. North Companions Club welcomes new players. Register online at www.
myfootballclub.com.au. For further information please contact Matt Shepherd on 0414 729 777 or Julia Farina on
0411 761 441. Email northcompanionsfc@northernlandfootball.net.au.
TOUCH FOOTBALL
The competition begins this Monday 20th Feb. Friday is the last day for signing up. Students will be notified of their teams on Friday.

POLIND SUMMER TRIALS
Grainne and Seamus Shepherd recently represented the Armidale Diocese in the Polding Trials for tennis. Grainne played amazing tennis and had the tournament of her life, making the play-offs and finishing 6th overall (top 5 players go to the State Finals). Seamus gave it a great effort despite not playing his best tennis, missing out on the playoffs by losing in an epic 4-3 encounter in his final pool match. It was a great day and well organised. Well done Grainne and Seamus.

CONGRATULATIONS SAM ANDERSON
Last Friday, 10th March Sam Anderson travelled to Newcastle for the Polding Cricket Trials. Sam was successful in being selected for the NSW Catholic Primary School Cricket Team and will now travel to Orange in November to represent at State level. Congratulations Sam on such an outstanding achievement - the next Mitchell Starc in the making!!

RUGBY - TAMWORTH TRI-COLOURS
Inviting all players (boys, girls, mums and dads) to come and try VIVA 7’s. Play in your age group (U9, U12, U14, or Opens) or play with mum and dad in a mixed age group. In a 7 week competition commencing 6pm on Friday afternoons at Farrer MAHS, 17th February until 31st March. Players will play 2 x 15 minute games (7 minute halves) each week. Stay for a sausage sandwich and a cold drink. $70 registration and insurance (includes playing top). Register online at www.VIVA7s.com.au or contact tamworthtricolours@gmail.com for more information.

COLLEGIANS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE & COLLEGIANS WARRIORS FOOTBALL CLUB
Registration Day Saturday, 25 February 2017
11.00am to 2.00pm at Tamworth Minor League Fields Club House, Plain Street, Tamworth. Children a little unsure if they would like to play rugby league can come along and participate in the development skills obligation free. Registration is $110 for the first child. Sibling discounts available - $105 for the second child and $100 for any other children from the same family. This includes insurance, shorts and socks, ground fees and presentation day. Further details, please contact Donna (0409779466) or Sarah (0447311298).

OXLEYVALE ATTUNGA FOOTBALL CLUB
Registration Dates: 11th February 10am to 1pm / 4th March 10am to 1pm / 18th March 10 to 1pm. Location: Tamworth Shoppingworld near Sanity Music. Registration Fees: 5-7yrs $110 / 8-11yrs $140 / 12-18yrs $160 / 19 plus yrs $290. Further details, please contact Matthew Bridge on 0411037953 or email the club on ovafc@northerninlandfootball.net.au.

TAMWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB
Registration Dates: 25th February 9am to11am / 4th March 9am to 11am / 11th March 9am to 11am at Sportspower in the Atrium Shopping Centre or register online at www.myfootballclub.com.au (you will need your FFA number).
CHILDREN'S GOLF CLINIC

2017 PROGRAM
STARTS IN MARCH
THURSDAY AFTERNOON'S
CHECK WITH PRO SHOP FOR TERM DATES

JUST $5 PER CLINIC
EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

COME AND TRY
PHONE 6765 9980
FOR MORE DETAILS