



UPCOMING EVENTS:

2015

MARCH

Wed 4th	MUFTI DAY—Gold coin donation P & F Meeting— 6.30pm
Mon 9th	OPEN DAY—school tour for prospective families— 10-11am
Tues 10th	10-11am Literacy Open Classrooms Sacramental Information Night— Enrolment forms given out
Wed 11th	Sacramental Information Night— Enrolment forms given out
Thurs 12th	10-11am Numeracy Open Classrooms Sacramental Information Night— Enrolment forms given out
Fri 13th	10-11am PE/CAPA Open Classrooms

STAFF

DEVELOPMENT DAY
Monday, 16 March

St Michael's Church
Orwell Street
Blacktown South

MASS Times: Sat. Vigil - 6.00pm
Sun, 8am, 9.30am, 6pm
Weekdays: 8am
Wednesday Evenings - 7.30pm
1st Friday 7.30pm
Phone: 9622 9149
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155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown South 2148
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stmichaelsblkn@parra.catholic.edu.au

St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

2015 - ISSUE 3

3rd March 2015

From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

MUFTI DAY

Wednesday, 4th March

Gold coin donation for Easter Raffle

For me, one of the great Gospel moments in our Lenten Journey is the story of "Jesus in the Desert". I invite you to find the time to take this reading and go find your own "desert place". As we read through this Gospel, it's easy to see why it is the one piece of Christ's life that contains so many truths and invitations to "turn around" and accept that, "Now is the time".

The desert journey is for Jesus a time for facing 'evil'. But these demons or wild beasts are not the wild four legged kind they are like the 'inner demons' that we can sometimes struggle with, *self doubt, blind spots and moments of blocking God out at times*. And during these darkest times for Jesus, God's response was, "Angels were sent and ministered to him".

And when the Journey was complete, when Jesus experienced the Good and Bad he was able to see clearly that, "Now is the time ... The Kingdom of God is at hand." The Kingdom of God is at hand". The kingdom is not going to happen when I leave this world it's happening in the *NOW*. So then as *beloved daughters and sons* how will we **now** choose to live the life our God invites us constantly to live. Richard Rohr
This week at St. Michael's we will complete all of our 'Faces on the Data.' This matches student faces with reading levels and Math's growth points. We will be communicating all student Personal plans with parents, but my invitation is to you. Please be vigilant in staying 'connected' with your child's teacher, share your feedback, concerns and questions.

I would like to share with you some of my goals:

- In 2015 I will investigate effective methods of supporting targeted "vulnerable" students by creating a Framework of 'Professional Learning' incorporating, analysis of data, connecting all teachers with Diversity team, TE's, system support and lead mentors/stage coordinators.
- To investigate the level and impact of differentiation of learning in our 2015 Science and H.S.I.E. programmes.

"Love One Another"

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school age are legally required to attend school. Schools are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

There are some times when your child might be absent to go to:

- A special religious ceremony
- Is required to attend a serious and/or urgent family situation
- Is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness



Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

Why is arriving at school on time important?

Arriving at school on time:

- Ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- Helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore
- Reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school with a parent accompanying the child to the office or with a written note.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

If the leave is less than 10 days then you need to write a letter to the class teacher. Leave of more than 10 days requires an Application for Leave form to be completed and approved by Mr Laffan. Any absences will appear on your child's school report.

All absences require a note when the student returns to school. Currently we are waiting for 150 notes to be returned. As mentioned, the class roll is a legal document and we would appreciate your support in ensuring these notes are given to class teachers. We would appreciate if your child is going to be away for more than 2 days unexpectedly that you ring the office so that the class teacher can be informed.

We appreciate your support in this important matter.

Kind regards,
Katherine McKay

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

In last Sunday's Gospel we heard about Jesus being transfigured or transformed. This is a very appropriate Gospel for Lent. How can you transform yourself this Lent? What will you do to transform yourself? Will your transformation continue after Lent?

Why not try St Michael's Coffee Club as an opportunity to spend time reflecting on some of the Gospels of the Sundays in Lent. Join me for a coffee and spend some time reading, reflecting and responding to the scriptures of the Gospel. Everyone is welcome to join us:

When: Thursdays 12th March, 19th March and 26th March

At: 9.30am till 10.15am in the Staffroom

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2015

The 2015 Sacramental Process for Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown will be held across our one parish, which is two Churches (St Patrick's and St Michael's) and the state schools within the Blacktown area. If you are interested in preparing your child/children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation, could you please complete the forms, which have been given to your child/children last year or contact the Parish Office for a form. For those children who are already registered in the process from previous years (2013 and 2014), please also complete the form as we begin our new process in our new parish. Forms can be returned to St Michael's or St Patrick's Church office, emailed or posted ASAP. Please do not return these forms to school. If you didn't receive the form please contact the parish office. All contact details are on the form. You will be contacted in the new year with further details about our information sessions to explain the new format for the Sacramental Process. We look forward to being with you and your children as they continue their sacramental journey.

Sr Grace Roclawaska and Lisa Bright

Sacramental Team Leaders

Mary Queen of the Family Parish

Phone 96221125



Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Office News

Attention all Parents Notice of intention to remove students from St Michael's School

The Catholic Education Office has developed a Policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this states that

"A terms notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be paid. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term."

This means that unless the school receives a term's notice no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition.

Notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment. In this circumstance the requirement for 10 weeks notice will be waived.

Sport

SWIMMING:

Age Champions from our School Carnival

Please accept our humble apologies as we made a few errors when we initially published the list of age champions. The amended list of age champions is as follows:

Male Junior Champion: Zack Hardman
 Male Junior Runner Up: Nikhil Saldanha
 Male 11 years Champion: Andrew Roseby
 Male 11 Years Runner Up: Lorenzo Domingo
 Male Senior Champion: Kyle Zammit
 Male Runner Up: Lucas Tabone

Female Junior Champion: Beatrice Gara and Ella Moggridge
 Female Junior Runner Up: Jamie O'Callaghan
 Female 11 years Champion: Hannah Witteveen
 Female 11 years Runner Up: Vanessa Portelli
 Female Senior Champion: Jordan Walsh
 Female Runner Up: Nikayla Tighe

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all swimmers who represented their school with such pride but a special mention to Zack Hardman who was crowned Junior Boys Champion.

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

We had the following students progress from the Zone Carnival to represent Blacktown at the Diocesan Carnival:

Zack Hardman
 Beatrice Gara
 Vanessa Portelli
 Andrew Roseby
 Nikayla Tighe
 Kiarna Tighe
 Jordan Walsh
 Ella Moggridge
 Hannah Witteveen

CONGRATULATIONS:

We would like to congratulate OWEN EVANS in 5A who will be participating in the Little Athletics State Championships for Hurdles on 21st March 2015. Good Luck!

Regards
 Elliott McKimm & Jeff Phillips

PE TEACHERS



Child Protection—Diocese of Parramatta—Parent Volunteers

It is a Diocesan requirement that parents who volunteer at school must complete the CEO Online Child Protection Module. This training is available online at:

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au> and **MUST** be completed every two years.

Click on Child Protection Training

Click on For Volunteers

Read instructions and click on start the module

If you are not sure whether you need to update your Child Protection, please contact the school office

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following children who received an Outstanding Achievement in Term 1 2015:

KM Dooree Chung Sophie Burr	KR Kaleb O'Regan Bridie Furey	KH Xavier Fenech Jasmine Vella	KW Gabrielle Azar Rey Pila
1D Joseph Ghattas Charlotte Cousens	1G George Hatziandreou Ericka Brillo	1S Alexia Minas Tanush Oberoi	1C Sean Casulla Jayliah Casipit
2E Eliza Amper Rafael Vidovic	2S Cameron Birch Aboula Mau	2K Keanen Busuttil Jan Lopez	2L Ben Aberra Samantha Goyena
3C Ruby Basha Eklaya Saini	3X Brooke Dudgeon Christian Koong	3B Jesse Filipe Tabitha Cilia	3S Antoni Arshilo Charlize Chiha
4E Brooklyn Stack Akheera Kandula	4M Marina Ibrahim Paavan Mondeddu	4G Joachim Tabone Angelica El Rassi	4S Rocealiza Urqueza Joel Said
5A Olivia Fletcher Brendan Fares	5L Ante Zlendich Isabelle Makdesi	5C Viktoria Vidovic DM Clavo	5S Shaun Blaje Olivia Sultana
6W Matthew Markovic Krystal Sultana	6P Natasha Khan Mitchell Eckersley	6E Luke Vermeulen Keira Randall	6L Mohammad Syed-Zaidi Nykoth Aguer

Library

Premier's Reading Challenge. (PRC)

There seems to be some confusion regarding the Premier's Reading Challenge. Here are a few points to help clarify what has to happen.

- ♦ Reading can commence immediately, but the website will not be open until early March, so you will need to keep a written record of the books you read.
- ♦ Infants children have to read 30 books, or listen to someone reading to them. Primary students need to read 20 books.
- ♦ Reading has to be finished by August.
- ♦ **To help sort my records, could you please fill in the form below if you wish to take part – even if you have already given your name. Return the form to the Library.**
- ♦ I will send a password reminder to students who have taken part before.
- ♦ I will send a new password to new students as soon as I get them. (This usually takes a little while)

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER LIBRARIAN

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Attention: Mrs Buhagiar

Name _____ Class _____

- ☐ I have taken part in the PRC before
☐ This is my first Challenge

Catholic Schools Week—Open Classrooms

Monday, 9th March	10-11am—Open Day for prospective new families ... please let neighbours and friends know to come along to have a look at our school
Tuesday, 10th March	10-11am—Literacy—all welcome
Thursday, 12th March	10-11am—Numeracy—all welcome
Friday, 13th March	10-11am—PE/CAPA—all welcome

Canteen News

Thank you to all the volunteers for your support. Your rosters are going out this week.

Sometimes when the canteen is very busy items can be missed. Parents could you please ask your child to come to the canteen on the day that items are missing from their lunch order.

Please put the amount tendered on lunch orders or envelopes.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

St Michael's Playgroup

The St Michael's Playgroup runs every week on a Wednesday at 9.30am to 11.00am except during school holidays. It is held in the St Michael's Church Meeting Room and is open to parents/grandparents/carers with babies to pre-school age children. The children enjoy, playing with toys, doing craft and sharing morning tea whilst the adults can mingle and chat over a cup of coffee. It is a good opportunity to relax and spend time with our children as well as meeting others. For more information please feel free to contact Shane Marie Tabone on 0404 508 494.

World's Greatest Shave

The reason why I am participating in the "World's Greatest Shave" and shaving my hair, is because I want to help support people with Leukaemia and help support research into this horrible disease. My aim is to raise at least \$560. Some things that this money can help with is—\$58 can provide free transport to someone who is too ill to drive before and after Chemotherapy, \$120 can fund a Scholarship to give essential support to a major blood cancer research project for one day. My amount of \$560 can give a regional family a free place to stay close to treatment in the city, for one week. I am hoping that I can reach the amount of \$560, but I am praying that I can raise lots more.

By Uttiarna Sharpley—4E

I am doing the "World's Greatest Shave" because I know it's for a good cause and I am helping scientists/doctors research for leukemia cancer which is another way of serving like Jesus did. How much am I hoping to raise \$300-\$500.

By Mitchell Eckersley—6P



International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS)

At St. Michael's the students in Years 3-6 are given the opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

These are **NOT** compulsory but provide an opportunity for your child to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. Students who participate will each receive a Certificate and a detailed Results Letter indicating which questions they answered correctly, identifying the skill tested in each question and indicating the percentage of students across Australia who answered each question correctly. Our school will receive a comprehensive report on each competition.

If you would like your child to participate they must complete a Competition Entry Form available from the student foyer. Closing date for entries is Thursday, 2nd April—No late entries will be accepted after this date.

St Andrew's College Open Day

Where: St Andrew's College, Junior Campus
 When: Tuesday, 10th March 2015
 Time: 9.00am, 9.30am or 11.00am

St Andrew's College is offering parents and students the opportunity to tour the college. The Open Day will be held on Tuesday, 10th March. To assist with the organisation of the day, parents are required to book on one of the tours by telephone Leanne Potts on 9626 4000. Tour times are 9.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am.

Pre Enrolment Meeting

Parents are also invited to attend our Pre-enrolment Meeting on Tuesday, 28th April at 6.00pm. The meeting will be in the Holy Family Hall on the Junior Campus.

Bishops Office

Inside the March issue of Catholic Outlook

- * Band of brothers on the path to priesthood
- * Welcome Geoff Officer – new diocesan Chief of Operations & Finance
- * World Day of the Sick Mass
- * Pope Francis' strong message to Church on child protection
- * Institute for Mission graduation and commissioning
- * Feel-good fashion at Vinnies Rouse Hill
- * News from our Catholic schools

Catholic Outlook Readership Survey – closes 1 March

Top 50 responses – \$50 vouchers

Our diocesan magazine, Catholic Outlook, is conducting a readership survey for you to provide valuable feedback about the publication.

We want to know what you like about the publication.

What would you like to see more or less of?

How relevant is the editorial content?

How can we best improve Catholic Outlook?

To answer these and other questions in the 10 min survey go to: www.parra.catholic.org.au/catholicoutlook

Catholic Education – did you know:

On average, it costs about \$13,000 per year to educate a child in a NSW school. In most Catholic schools, school fees cover less than one-quarter of this cost. The rest comes from taxpayers like you! This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs – to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Walk the Camino! 20-day pilgrimage

León to Santiago de Compostela (31 May to 19 June OR 13 September to 2 October). Catholic Mission's pilgrimage balances walking and simple hospitality with silence, personal reflection-prayer. Small group led by an experienced guide, Sr Veronica Rosier OP. Details: www.catholicmission.org.au

Called by Name – Discernment Weekend Retreat

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer weekend retreats for women aged 18-35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. This retreat is a one-to-one encounter. It includes prayer times, talks and accompaniment. It is a great opportunity to have a lived experience with the sisters. "Is God calling me to religious life?" If this is a real question for you, this retreat is for you.

Date: last weekend of every month. RSVP a week before the retreat.

Cost: donation.

Venue: Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong.

Details: Sr Margaret tel (02) 9626 9200, 0420 754 727, margaretcfsn@gmail.com

Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

Chisholm Cottage provides 'a home away from home' for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women's League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel 02 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta Open Day on 1 March

Discover what a Mercy education can do for your daughter at the OLMC Parramatta Open Day. A Mercy Education is treasured for life.

Date: Sunday 1 March from 10am-2pm. Principal's welcome at 10am and noon.

Details: www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

Faith at the Fiddler on 5 March

Parishioners are warmly invited to the first Faith at the Fiddler for 2015. A presentation by Kevin and Helen Wagner will focus on practical strategies to facilitate a real encounter for parents and youth with the person of Jesus Christ. It is this living encounter that can best draw our families into a lived and vibrant practice of the Catholic Faith.

Date: Thursday 5 March from 5pm-7pm.

Venue: The Mean Fiddler Rouse Hill (Greenway Room), cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill.

Details: Steven Buhagiar (02) 9840 5743, 0400 694 512, sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au

World Day of Prayer on 6 March

The theme for the World Day of Prayer is 'Jesus said to them "Do You Know What I Have Done to You?"' (John 13:1-17). This year's worship celebration was prepared by the women of the Bahamas.

For more information and to download free resources visit: <http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>

Lent Retreat Day on 14 March

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer retreat opportunities for women aged 18-35 who are seeking to deepen their spiritual life. Join the sisters for a day of Lenten reflections and prayers followed by a social gathering. Lunch/dinner will be provided.

Date: Saturday 14 March, from 9.30am to 5pm. No charge but RSVP essential by 11 March.

Venue: Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong

Details: Sr Margaret tel (02) 9626 9200, 0420 754 727, margaretcfsn@gmail.com www.csfm.org.au

Interfaith Workshop on 22 March

Listening with open hearts and minds: new directions in the dialogue with Muslims

Recent world events have highlighted the need for greater understanding amongst the different religions. Although people have been communicating across religions and cultures for centuries, harmony and peace remain beyond our grasp. This workshop offers the opportunity to learn and understand more deeply about the Qur'an and Islam.

Date: Sunday 22 March, from 2pm-4.30pm.

Venue: St Francis Xavier Church hall, 17 Mackenzie Street, Lavender Bay, North Sydney (close to station).

Cost: \$25; \$20 concession, includes afternoon tea.

Details Eremos Institute www.eremos.org.au

Recital by international organist Hans U Hielscher on 12 March

Dr Hielscher will play a varied program of music by 20th Century composers on the fine 1898 Norman & Beard Organ in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, from 7pm-8.30pm (approx.). Repertoire will include a Toccata on *Amazing Grace* (Pardini), Variations on *Frere Jacques* (Hielscher), and other musical gems. Admission by donation (suggest \$5-\$10). Tickets at the door. Details: Cathedral music office tel (02) 8839 8433.



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL *Parents & Friends Association*

Parents and parish members working together to develop a stronger community within our school

P&F NEWS:

The P&F committee have been very busy organising many events for the coming weeks and we are hoping that all of our families become involved and share in the building of our school community. As you are aware our first P&F General meeting will be held in the staff room on Wednesday 4th March starting at 6.30pm. Come along and meet other parents and find out what is happening in our school. Light refreshments will be served.

FUNDRAISING:

Lunch order Bags:

What a great response we had with this fundraiser. We sold 77 Bags, raising a total of \$270. A big thank you to all of you who ordered these, your orders have been delivered and will be distributed later this week.

Bunning's Cake Stall:

Our cake stall will be held this coming Sunday 8th March at Bunning's Blacktown starting at 9am and concluding when we sell out.. We would love donations of your favourite cakes, cookies, slices, muffins etc, to sell at our stall. Please clearly provide the ingredients of your baked goods, so people are aware for allergy reasons. We will also provide for your use, cardboard cake boxes to assist in transportation to the stall. If you require a cake box, come and see us at:

- The P&F meeting on Wednesday evening.
- The drop off zone on Thursday and Friday Morning and Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your support!!

Facebook Group:

We are finally setup on Facebook and growing strong. Head over and check it out for information about our upcoming events and other information.

school.<https://www.facebook.com/groups/STmicksPF/>

Easter Mufti Day:

I am so glad that the children of our school are reading our letters we send home as they were able to pin point the test in the mufti day note.. The Mufti day will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2015 not 2014 as previously advertised. All children are free to wear what they please on this day. Remember if it is your sports day to wear sport shoes. A gold coin donation is asked to help fund our Prizes for our Easter Raffle.

Drop Off Zone Volunteers:

We have had a wonderful response to our call for volunteers. We have finalised the rosters which begins tomorrow. There is still time to volunteer so if your interested come and see us in the morning or return the note with your child. We really appreciate your support in this important matter.

Easter Raffle:

You all would have received your note about Raffle ticket Privacy. Please return these as soon as possible as we are not able to go ahead with our raffle if these are not returned.

Disco:

Seeing how successful our school disco was last year, we have decided to hold another one at the end of this month. It is a great opportunity for the children to socialise and have fun together. It is also a great way to build community spirit within our school. More information will be out shortly.

Upcoming Dates for your calendars:**March**

4th - Mufti Day
4th P&F meeting
8th -Bunning's Cake Stall- Blacktown
27th- Easter Card entries due
27th-School Disco

April:

2nd - Easter Raffle Drawn and
Easter Card winners announced at school assembly

May:

6th- Mothers Day Stall

P&F General Meeting

Wednesday 4th March 6:30pm

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Opening Prayer—Emma Moore
3. Presidents Report—Jackie Coleman
4. Principals Report—John Laffan
5. Treasurers Report—Marisa Khan
6. Fundraising
 - Lunch Order Bags
 - Stuck on you
 - Bunnings Cake stall
 - Disco
 - Easter Raffle
 - Mother's Day
 - Other future Fundraising
7. General Items
 - Car drop off zone
 - Volunteers
 - Assemblies
8. Other Items

