



# Staying in Touch

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South  
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Dear Parents,

Last Sunday, 11th November 2018 we acknowledged the Centenary of the Armistice, ending the conflict of the First World War.



At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the invading forces back. In November the Germans called for an armistice - the suspension of fighting, in order to secure a peace settlement.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. More than 330,000 Australians served overseas during the Great War. More than 60,000 of them had died.

Australians across the country marked the Centenary of the Armistice and observed one-minute's silence at 11am in memory of those who died or suffered in the First World War and all wars and armed conflicts since.

For us as a people of faith, it is a time to commit again to the *God of Peace* and recognise the effects that conflict has on each of us, our families and our world. Living our faith in action, the principles of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching recognise that:

"Peace is built up day after day, in the pursuit of an order willed by God, and can flourish only when all recognise that everyone is responsible for promoting it. Peace is the fruit of Justice and the fruit of Love."



Today is **World Kindness Day**. World Kindness Day is celebrated annually on 13th November. Today the students were asked to make the world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds and pledging acts of kindness. As a school that prides itself on the Gospel values with our motto '**Love one another as I have loved you - John 13:34 not only through words or speech but with action and in truth.**' **1 John 3:18**, today is an important day to remind us of our duty as Catholics who walk in Jesus' footsteps everyday.

World Kindness Day was first launched in 1998 by The World Kindness Movement, an organisation formed at a 1997 Tokyo conference of like-minded kindness organisations from around the world. There are currently over 28 nations involved in The World Kindness Movement. The mission of the World Kindness Movement and World Kindness Day is to create a kinder world by inspiring individuals and nations towards greater kindness.

## TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The St. Michael's Twilight Swimming Carnival will take place on Wednesday 28th November at the Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre, 35 Jersey Rd, Emerton between 4-6pm. Students in Years 2-5 who can swim 50m are encouraged to return their note. Please see Mrs Cristy Budd if you have any questions.



## SWIMMING PROGRAM 2019

In Term 1, Years 1-6 will attend a 5-day compulsory intensive swimming program at the Aquatic Safety Training Academy, 78 Best Road, Seven Hills. This will involve 60 minutes of daily instruction by qualified teachers. Due to our late booking we are not able to include the cost in the school fee statement and we will provide more details early next year. 1



## YEAR 5 LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

At this time of the year, we are both looking back at the great year we have had and look forward to what is coming in 2019. On Thursday, 29th November, Year 5 will hold their Leadership Development Day. The focus of the day is to explore what good leadership looks, sounds and feels like and to deepen the students understanding and skills to help them become the leaders of St. Michael's in 2019.

Students will look at the character strengths of leaders and different situations where they would need to call upon these strengths and look at famous people and how they built resilience to overcome hurdles. In groups, the students will also participate in cooperative games that highlighted leadership qualities and the importance of teamwork.

In preparing for the selection of our 2019 school captains and nomination for leadership teams, representatives from our current leadership teams will speak with Year 5, sharing their insights into the different roles and importance of student leadership at St. Michael's.

Over the coming week, the process for electing our 2019 captains and the nominations for our leadership teams will take place. We have no doubt that each of the students from Year 5 will be great leaders in whichever position they hold.

## SEMESTER 2 REPORTS and PARENT/ TEACHER INTERVIEWS

The teaching staff at St. Michael's are working together to write your child's Semester Two report. School reports will be sent home on Monday 10th December (Week 9). In the envelope there is a letter explaining the A-E grading system used in Years 1-6. Please take the time to read through the report with your child, discussing their successes and possible goals for 2019.



**Year 5 Parents** – Your will need to keep your child's report handy, as they are required for high school enrolments in 2020.

**Teacher Interviews** – Interviews are available for any parent who has concerns or questions about any aspect of their child's report. Please make an appointment via the office to see your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sue Veling

**PRINCIPAL**

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Wed	14th Nov	Year 3 Excursion to Auburn Botanic Gardens
Thurs	15th Nov	Year 5 Grade Mass in classroom - 11.30am-12.30pm
Mon	19th Nov	School Assembly - 9.00am
Wed	21st Nov	P & F AGM - 6.30pm
Thurs	22nd Nov	Year 1 Excursion to Wannabees
Fri	23rd Nov	St Michael's Rides Night
Mon	26th Nov	School Assembly - 9.00am
Wed	28th Nov	Twilight Swimming Carnival - Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre, Emerton - 4pm-6pm
Thurs	29th Nov	Year 5 Leadership Day
Thurs	29th Nov	Year 4 Grade Mass in classroom - 11.30am-12.30pm
Mon	3rd Dec	School Assembly - 9.00am
Wed	5th Dec	Step Up Kindergarten 2019 - 9.30am-11.30am



Wed	5th Dec	Parent Helpers Morning Tea - 10.30am-11.00am
Thurs	6th Dec	End of Year Mass - 9.30am-10.30am
Mon	10th Dec	School Assembly - 9.00am
Tues	11th Dec	BIG DAY IN - Year 6 Fun Day
Wed	12th Dec	Step Up Kindergarten 2019 - 9.30am-11.30am
Wed	12th Dec	Parent organised Year 6 Dinner - 6.00pm-10.00pm - Atura Prospect
Fri	14th Dec	Year 6 End of Year School Assembly - 2.00pm
Mon	17th Dec	School Assembly - 9.00am
Mon	17th Dec	Year 6 Graduation Mass - 7.30pm-9.30pm
Tues	18th Dec	Meet the Teacher and Orientation for new students - 11.30am-1.30pm
Wed	19th Dec	Final day for students

## DATES FOR BEGINNING OF 2019:

Mon	28th Jan	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tues	29th Jan	Years 1-6 MAI student testing - 1/2 hour appointment Kindergarten 2019 Early Years Assessment - 1 hour appointment
Wed	30th Jan	Years 1-6 MAI student testing - 1/2 hour appointment Kindergarten 2019 Early Years Assessment - 1 hour appointment
Thurs	31st Jan	Years 1 - 6 commence school Kindergarten 2019 Early Years Assessment - 1 hour appointment
Fri	1st Feb	Kindergarten 2019 Early Years Assessment - 1 hour appointment
Mon	4th Feb	1st day for Kindergarten - 9.30am-2.30pm
Tues	5th Feb	Kindergarten whole school day begins - 9.00am-3.00pm

**CONGRATUATIONS** to the following children who are receiving the **SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION**.  
Please keep these children in your prayers:

<i>Alexia Abela</i>	<i>Carmella Aquino</i>	<i>Arlyn Arciaga</i>	<i>Wilow Atila</i>
<i>Elizabeth Attard</i>	<i>Allison Attard</i>	<i>Gabriella Azar</i>	<i>Lachlan Bax</i>
<i>Jaliyah Casipit</i>	<i>Thomas Clarke</i>	<i>Denise Clavo</i>	<i>Bastien Clews</i>
<i>Emily Coleman</i>	<i>August Cyreszko</i>	<i>Cooper Debono</i>	<i>Emiliano Dimopoulos</i>
<i>Eamon Dizon</i>	<i>Leah Esangga</i>	<i>Georgia Estrada</i>	<i>Jacinta Estrada</i>
<i>Chelise Fernandez</i>	<i>Bridie Furey</i>	<i>Caitlin Furey</i>	<i>Jarryd Gordon</i>
<i>Bianca Grima</i>	<i>Demiana Hinien</i>	<i>Taya Hurcum</i>	<i>Charlotte Jemison</i>
<i>Armani Karam</i>	<i>Julianne Lemi</i>	<i>Alexander Lepa</i>	<i>Lucas Marquez</i>
<i>Aiden Medina</i>	<i>Nayomi Mouawad</i>	<i>Ethan Nilon</i>	<i>Giuseppe Novella</i>
<i>Aiden O'Connor</i>	<i>Flyn O'Neill</i>	<i>Kaleb O'Regan</i>	<i>Isabella Palmer</i>
<i>Joseph Perry</i>	<i>Maddison Porter</i>	<i>Sienna Rae Truscott</i>	<i>Peyton Regner</i>
<i>Emily Ridout</i>	<i>Anne-Marie Saba</i>	<i>Darcy Said</i>	<i>Joshua San Luis</i>
<i>Lachlan Satorre</i>	<i>Nicholas Serra</i>	<i>Lucas Valenzuela</i>	<i>Jasmine Vella</i>
<i>Marko Vidovic</i>	<i>Heath Warren</i>	<i>Charlise Warren</i>	





## MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

10<sup>th</sup> November 2018

To the community of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,

Our community of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is called at all times to share and grow our faith in Jesus Christ. Our priestly ministry seeks to serve this mission, so like the widow of this week's Gospel, we can offer the gift of our whole life as a faithful disciple.

A key aspect of our discipleship, is our willingness to *listen to what the Spirit is saying* as is evident in our journey towards Plenary Council. Pope Francis has been promoting greater listening and dialogue in our Church since the start of his papacy and Bishop Vincent likewise encourages this practice in our Diocese.

At Mary Queen of the Family Parish we seek to model this listening and dialogue in our community and through our collaborative leadership. Through this listening, our goals of *Welcome, Grow and Act* have come to life. An opportunity now arises for an expansion of our parish leadership model.

Bishop Vincent has appointed a team of priests to serve our parish, including Fr Regie Lavilla MSP, (moderator) and Fr John Paul Escarlan. A third priest and member of the team will be appointed shortly. All three priests will reside at the presbytery in Allawah Street.

What is different about this team of priests? Most commonly, a Parish Priest is appointed and any assistant priests directly support the Parish Priest. In this alternative team model, one of the priests is the "moderator" (essentially the team leader or the 'first among equals') and each priest in the team will have equal responsibilities and rights for the pastoral care of the parish.

Bishop Vincent has introduced this team of priests because he recognises our parish offers a strong example of collaboration in our existing leadership and through our ongoing listening and dialogue. He wants to support our current efforts through our goals of *Welcome, Grow, Act* and this new team of priests has been briefed on what is currently happening in our parish, our plans and dreams, and is keen to support and build upon what is happening already.

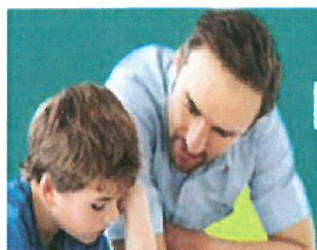
Fr Luis and I would like to express our thanks for the privilege of sharing ministry over the years.

I warmly welcome Fr Regie who will be joining us from 8 December, and commences his ministry officially on 1 January. Fr John Paul will arrive at the beginning of the New Year.

Let us pray for Fr Regie and Fr John Paul as they prepare to join our community, and pray for one another as we prepare to step forward into the next stage of our journey of faith.

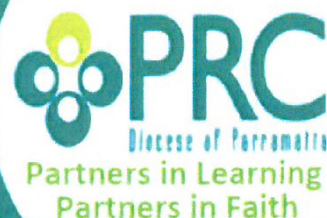
Fr Peter Confeggi  
Parish Priest





Parents Representative Council

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## NEXT GENERATION SCHOOLS



### What is the new normal for education?

Greg is at the coalface of designing and establishing the new normal for preschool to post school learning. He believes we need to adopt a continuum model of education, challenging educators to use time in creative and innovative ways. He'll explain how parents, teachers and enterprise partners can transform learning so that each student understands their strengths and capabilities. Greg is an educational leader with heart. He is passionate about enabling students to discover their strengths and find their purpose in this changing world.

**Our guest speaker for the evening is:**

**Mr Greg Miller**

Principal and Educational Leader

Register FREE now: [www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)

**Monday, 19 November 2018**

**Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start (approx. 2 hours)**

(Term 4 – PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our speaker session)

**at St Luke's Catholic College, Lot 1104, Frontier Ave, & Northbourne Dr, Marsden Park**

Tea, Coffee and light snacks will be provided and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

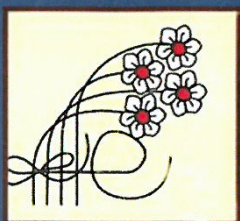
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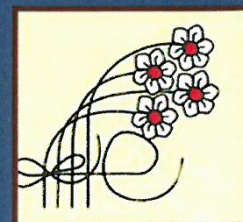


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# insights

## Why developing empathy in your child matters

by Michael Grose



Parenting is a socialisation process during which parents develop in their children and teenagers the skills and attitudes that will enable them to fit into the different groups they encounter. These groups will exist inside the classroom, in friendship groups, during sports and leisure activities and elsewhere.

This socialisation process needs to begin from a young age.

Initially, most kids believe that their world and everyone in it revolves around them. “I want” is their mantra. Patient, firm parents will continually remind children that they need to think of others. “It’s your brother’s turn.” “Nana doesn’t feel comfortable listening to that language.” “Think about how your behaviour affects others.” These are the types of appeal to a less self-centred approach that many parents make.

The socialisation process operates on two levels. On one level its focus is on teaching and helping kids to follow social rules or conventions that exist to help them get along with each other. At a deeper level successful socialisation develops empathy in a child or young person.

Empathy – the ability to understand how another person is feeling or how they respond to a behaviour or an event – is the basis of all respectful relationships. Without empathy it’s impossible for someone to enjoy a relationship based on respect and equality. It’s easy for a person who doesn’t practise empathy to reject, bully, intimidate or hurt someone else.

### **Empathy learned in childhood carries on to adult life**

Empathetic adults enjoy better personal relationships and experience less stress. They also make better leaders who are more likely to get the best out of people than self-centred, result-focused leaders.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that empathy, if neglected in childhood, can be difficult to develop in adulthood. In some adults it takes a traumatic event or a ‘road-to-Damascus’ moment for them to adopt an empathetic perspective.

So, rather than wait until adulthood, let’s focus on developing empathy in your children and adolescents. There is a good chance they will benefit very soon in terms of enjoying better friendships, improved wellbeing and more success at school. Here are five ideas to get you started:

1. Model empathetic behaviour. Be kind even though the person in front of you in that queue is slow.
2. Read fiction stories to kids or encourage them to read fiction. People who read fiction score highest on tests that ask them to infer other people's thoughts and emotions.
3. Praise kind and compassionate behaviours. The behaviours that parents focus on, even with teenagers, are those that tend to expand, so bring their empathetic behaviours to the fore.
4. Validate your child's feelings. When a child shares difficult stories or emotions let them know you understand, without offering solutions or advice.
5. Invite your child to walk in someone else's shoes. Occasionally ask your child a question like, "What would it be like to be feel tall like Tanya?"

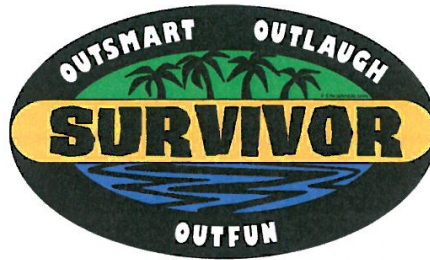
Empathy is too important to wait until adulthood so make it a priority to develop a sense of 'other' in your child from an early age.



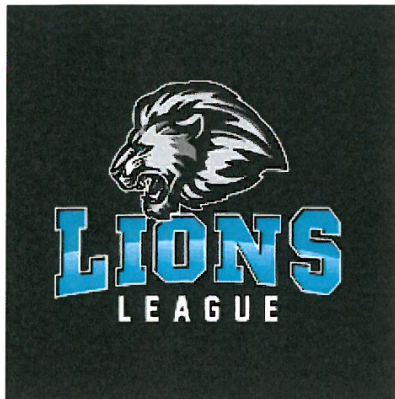
## Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*.





**A HUGE thank you to the following companies and members of Parliament who have generously donated to our 2018 SURVIVOR-A-THON**

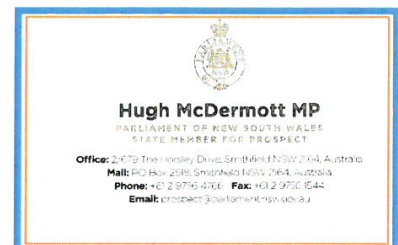


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