



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TERM 4

2013 - ISSUE 16

29 October 2013

OCTOBER

Wed 30th	Principals Award Morning Tea
Thurs 31st	1C / 1R Excursion

NOVEMBER

Tues 5th	Parent Tours of new Open Learning Spaces
Wed 6th	Kindergarten 2014 Parent Information Night - 7.30pm
Thurs 7th	Parent Tours of new Open Learning Spaces
Fri 8th	Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day

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
stmichaelsparish.com

From the Principal

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff Development Day - Friday, 8th November
 Kinder Parent Information Night - Wednesday, 6th November - 7.30pm
 Year 6 Canberra Excursion - Wednesday/Thursday, 13th & 14th November
 Kinder Orientation - Thursday, 21st & 28th November

Dear Parents and Friends,

Last week I had the pleasure of working with an enthusiastic and proactive group of parents. Under the leadership of our Parents and Friends Executive, Volunteer Class Reps looked closely at how parent classroom support can make a difference in student learning outcomes.

The parent teams also looked at other important initiatives in building school community. The range of topics included; Family Fair, Social Gatherings, Christmas Carols, Open Days, Parent Feedback Forums (looking at uniforms as one topic) and Parent Learning and Spiritual Forums.

An ongoing goal for us will be 'to continually seek bridges between school and home'.

As a result of our meeting:

Tours of New Learning Spaces

Tuesday, 5th November and Thursday, 7th November - there will be tours into our new learning spaces. All parents are invited to visit what I believe will be the finest learning spaces in Australia. The times for tours, 9.30 am, 12.30pm and 2.15pm on each day. Also on Tuesday, 5th November we will conduct a twilight tour commencing at 5.45pm.

Reading in classroom Seminars

Tuesday, 5th November and Thursday, 7th November - These seminars will support 'Parent Reps' work in our Literacy Blocks. Parent workshops will commence at 1.30pm on each day.

To register for tours or seminars please complete the slip attached on last page of newsletter.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

When we gather in prayer, when our children celebrate the love of God and Grandparents, the reality of our true purpose becomes so clear. We have all been born spiritual beings. Our journey is to become fully human. Through "Loving One Another" our true human self will grow. The life begun by our grandparents is a true celebration of God's constant invitation to see, know and experience him. In such a place we become truly "One".

LEARNING SPACES ... ALMOST THERE ...

As you read this, over 1/2 kilometre of carpet is being laid and window fittings are being fitted. The most contemporary light fittings and sound modification techniques are being installed. Our agile learning spaces will support the finest educators in ensuring all children's learning potential is achieved. We are almost at the end of a 3.5 year planning phase, our teachers and children are well prepared to continue their 'love of learning.'

Our next few days will see the completion of landscaping and final orders made for furniture. 2014 teaching teams will continue their planning together. We are using our work in the new English curriculum to support our work in co-teaching and collaborative learning.

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



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LOVE ONE ANOTHER

From the Assistant Principal

Over the next few newsletters I will explain to you some of the rich learning initiatives that we as a staff have put in place to make sure that no child at St Michael's is "invisible".

This week my focus is on "Putting Faces on the Data". *Sharratt & Fullan - Putting Faces on the Data* was our inspiration. This year at St Michael's and across all schools in the diocese there has been a focus on "Putting faces on the Data".

What does that mean?

Putting Faces on the Data sets the expectation that **every child CAN and WILL learn.** (Greg Whitby 2013)

This strategy is about personalising the learning so that there is success for all not just some.

With this in mind we need to determine, not just that every child has learned, but to make sure that classroom teaching is effective. We need to ensure that each child is learning and that we are able to track their growth through ongoing assessment and developing learning plans that promote success.

Data walls allow us to **Put Faces on the Data** by creating visual charts of all students' progress and provide an opportunity for **rich conversation among teachers.**

When students are levelled on the wall - as being below, within, or beyond their year level - teachers can see who is lagging, who is stuck, and who is succeeding. Teachers can discuss with each other what is needed to **MOVE ALL - EACH AND EVERY STUDENT - FORWARD.**

Teachers are able to have professional conversations about "how can we move all our students forward? How can we extend the thinking of these high-achieving students?" At this point **teachers own all the FACES.**

At St Michael's, teachers used professional learning time to develop our data walls. We have one wall in the staff room for reading and each teacher has a class data wall for students in Numeracy in the areas of counting, place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.

Teachers use these data walls to track student growth, and they will be one of the measures used when determining grades for reporting. Our "Putting Faces on the Data" initiative will support our teaching and learning when we move into our amazing new spaces. Very exciting times ahead at St Michael's.

Next newsletter

What is Case management? How do we move all students forward?

NO HAT NO PLAY! Remember that children must wear their hat to school each day and put it on every time they leave the classroom. Please support this action.

Teachers are now preparing class lists for 2014. If you have any concerns in this area please note your concerns in a letter addressed to Mr Laffan.

Reports will go home prior to the end of the school year. There is no formal time allocated to parent teacher interview. If necessary please make an appointment time to see class teachers before the end of the year.

Class orientation for 2014 will be on the last day of school. This is when children meet their new class and teacher.

Next Monday at 9.30 is whole school assembly. All welcome. Venue to be confirmed.

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

This week we celebrate the feasts of All Saints (Nov 1) and All Souls (Nov 2). They can be seen as something of a twin feast that celebrates all those who have died. With the feast of All Saints we celebrate all those who have died and have entered into direct and immediate communion with God in heaven. With the feast of All Souls we celebrate and pray for those who have died but have not yet entered into that direct communion with God.

Much of the significance and meaning of the feasts of All Saints and All Souls has been overtaken by the popular celebration of Halloween. The feast of All Saints was also known as All Hallows Day – in the Old English language hallow means to sanctify or make holy. The day before, October 31, was All Hallows Eve(ning) and the name over time became shortened to Halloween. In early Christian tradition, it was believed that souls were released from purgatory on All Hallows Eve for 48 hours and the dressing up and celebrations were to both placate and confuse the wandering souls.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Mufti Day last week for the Bushfire Appeal it was through your generosity that we were able to raise \$3000. We surely do live out our motto of 'Love One Another'.

Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Sport

PSSA Cricket Trials:

Congratulations to Montanna and Marcus Farquharson who have been selected to trial for NSW PSSA Cricket Teams. We wish them the best of luck.

Combined Catholic Primary Schools Water Polo:

Lily Hardman will be trialing for this team and we wish her the best of luck.

REMINDERS:

1/ Parramatta Diocesan Trials Info and Dates including Term 4:

Students in years 4 and 5 are eligible to trial for various representative Parramatta Diocesan sport teams. Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the Director of Parramatta Diocesan Sport Margaret Thornton, which explains very carefully the process for nominating. A copy of this letter has also been sent home with year 4 and 5 students who wished to collect a note and has been discussed in detail with them.

Please read the details very carefully and understand that at this stage, students are merely expressing an interest to try out and St Michael's will ultimately decide who attends once we have been informed by the Diocesan who has nominated. Students who are permitted to attend will be notified a week out from the event that they are trialing and should understand that you should have some previous representative experience in your sport before considering applying for Parramatta Diocesan Teams.

2/ Term 4 Swimming Carnival:

Competitive swimmers should note that we are holding our school swimming carnival this Term on the 3rd of December after school at Nirimba Pool between 4:30pm and 7:00pm.

Please mark this date in your calendars with more details to follow shortly.

I have also enclosed Team Sports Trial information further in this newsletter for current Year 4 and Year 5 students who may be interested.

Elliott McKimm

PE TEACHER

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop's last opening day for 2013 will be **WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2013** so that we can carry out our end of year stocktake. Unfortunately, we will not be able to process any uniform orders after this date. However, the Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday 22 January 2014 from 9 am to 12 pm for back to school uniform purchases. We apologise for any inconvenience and should you have any queries, please contact me on 9622 9910.

Amanda Hart

UNIFORM SHOP MANAGER

From the Office

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.

2014 Kindergarten Enrolments

We are coming to the end of our Enrolment process for Kindergarten for 2014. If you have, or are aware of a child who requires enrolment for 2014, please contact the office **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to collect an Enrolment Application so that they can be included in the upcoming Parent Information Night and Orientation Days.

Indigenous Awards Night

On Wednesday, 22nd October we went to Our Lady of Lourdes School, Seven Hills for the Aboriginal Awards Night. Students and their parents from St Michael's who attended this night shared a meal before the awards were handed out.

Then a group of young people entertained us with a traditional welcome dance, followed up with a dance about native animals. This was very enjoyable to watch.

The spokesperson from the Parramatta Diocese gave a speech and then started to hand out awards. Children from all schools in school from Kindy to Year 12 receive awards for having achieved certain goals.

The student who are in Year 6 received an award and a keepsake to celebrate their graduation from primary school.

The night was very exciting and entertaining and we felt happy and proud to be a part of this celebration of our education.

Written by Tyren Miller, Ireland Rhodes and Aaron Collings

P&F News

CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Thank you to all who attended the meeting last week, it was a great turnout of enthusiastic parents with great ideas and passion to build our school community.

Over the coming weeks, there will opportunities to:

- ◆ Attend parent class helper sessions held by the school to teach us how to assist your child's teacher in the classroom.
- ◆ Tour the new buildings.
- ◆ Two of the upcoming opportunities where you can meet your fellow parents from your child's class, say g'day and share some time.
- ◆ St Michael's under the stars Family funday
- ◆ Students Christmas Carols evening

Please look out for any notes your Class Parent Reps send home with your child.

Be involved, enjoy them growing.

FUNDAY

The Funday will be held Friday the 15th November. It is very important to pre-buy your tickets as this is the only way we can order more rides for the event. The tickets will be on sale on the 6th and 7th of November from outside the church before school at 8.00am-9.30am then from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

The more tickets that are pre-sold, means the more rides we can have. Buying tickets on the night cost you more and does not support providing more rides for your child.

On the evening, the food options will be - Coffee van, BBQ, pizza, ice cream, mini donuts & Dip'n dots

P&F GENERAL NEWS:

The P&F will be funding the purchase of a portable shelter for the students to use at events such as netball carnivals, when they represent the school. The Father's day stall raised \$2,000 which will help support our children, thank you for supporting the stall. We also hope that every dad's enjoyed their gifts selected with much love and fun by your children.

The school was recently able to 'buy' sport equipment with thanks to all your hard work collecting the Woolworths Earn & learn tokens, thank you. A special mention to Mrs Grills who recently spent many hours sorting, washing and distributing the lost property back to our children. Many thanks for a job well done and without request.

Your school community is full of amazing and friendly parents, just like you. So when you meet each other, say g'day to a fellow St Michael's parent.

Kind Regards from the P&F Team:

Jackie Coleman, Vice President

Tash Scanlon, Secretary

Marisa Khan, Treasurer

Justin Bear, President (0488 033 066)

Library News

BOOK COVERING

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who offered to cover Library books. I had so many offers, I ran out of books. However, I have kept all names on a list so I can ask you next time. What a wonderful community of helpers we have at St Michael's.

Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER LIBRARIAN

Creative and Practical Arts

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE 2013

As the CAPA staff we are delighted to announce that we will be holding a Performing Arts Showcase on Thursday, 5th December. The showcase is an opportunity for students who are gifted and talented within the Creative Arts including Music, Dance and Drama to show their skills and be congratulated for their efforts in from of the whole school.

Currently we are holding auditions and students will be notified in the coming weeks as to whether they will be performing within the showcase. We wish all students the best of luck in their auditions and cannot wait to see all of the talent St Michael's has to offer!

Semi-Finals:

Congratulations to the following students:

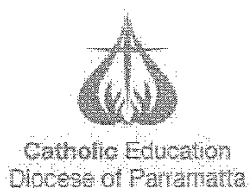
Week 5 (Primary)

Group	Class(es)	Day and Time	Performance Area
Sara Santa Maria and Leilah Williams	4O	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Nicholas Ward and Andrew Roseby	4M	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Porsha Rouss	4C	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Gune, Sharon and Cherise	4C	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Kyle Zammit	4M	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library

Week 6 (Primary)

Group	Class(es)	Day and Time	Performance Area
Sonia	5O	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Emerson, Sarah, Ivana, Ashleigh and Mika	5O/5S	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Megan	5S	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Ashleigh G (Taylah and Salihah)	5A	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Ryan Santa Maria and John E	5A	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library
Susan, Flavia and Caitlin	5A	Tuesday Lunch - 1.35pm	Inside Library

Miss Orenstein and Miss Weeks
CAPA TEACHERS



All correspondence to:
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margaret.thornton@parra.catholic.edu.au

Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2014 Information For Parents of **current** Year 4 and Year 5 students

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2014 are invited to participate in the Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Primary School team sports trials during Term Four in 2013 and Term One in 2014. To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports.

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014
Basketball	Open boys & girls	19 th November 2013	Friday 25 th October 2013
Cricket	Open boys & girls	1 st November 2013	Wednesday 16 th October 2013
Diving	10/11yrs girls & boys & 12/13yrs girls & boys	Term One 2014	Registration via CSSS in 2014
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2014	Registration via CSSS in 2014
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014
Netball	Open girls	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014
Rugby League	Open boys & 11yrs boys - NB. No State team selected for 11 yrs	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014
Rugby Union	Open boys	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014
Softball	Open boys & girls	21 st November 2013	Friday 25 th October 2013
Tennis	Open boys & girls	8 th November 2013	Friday 25 th October 2013
Touch	Open boys & girls	Term One 2014	Friday 7 th February 2014

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on the "About Us" tab and scroll down to the "PDCPSSC Registration Form".

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2014 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport and when completed, click **SUBMIT**.

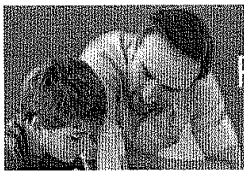
Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. **Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience"**.

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

\$5.00 trialling fee is payable on the day for after school trials & \$8.00 trialling fee is payable on the day for half day and full day trials.

This is to be paid to your school once your child has been approved to attend.



Parents Representative Council
 SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



Term 4 General Meeting

Guest Speaker

As part of our Term 4 General Meeting The PRC welcomes

Dr John DeCourcy

Director of Strategic Accountabilities Services, CEO Parramatta

Presenting

Gifted and Talented Education in Catholic Schools

Date	11 th Nov 2013	General Meeting Time	7pm – 9:30pm
Location	Diocesan Assembly Centre (DAC), Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian Street, Blacktown		

About Dr John DeCourcy

2012 Brother John Taylor Award winner, Dr John DeCourcy is the Director of Strategic Accountabilities Services from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. He has had nearly 60 years in Catholic education as a student, a teacher, a principal and an administrator.

He and his wife Sue have four daughters, all of whom are graduates of Catholic schools.

John's groundbreaking work in Higher School Certificate (HSC) Data Analysis has had a profound influence for the Catholic and government sector. His work has made a fundamental change to the understanding of student performance, student achievement and teacher practice, gaining national and international recognition for its quality and contribution to learning and teaching in Catholic secondary schools.



Dr John DeCourcy is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders. He has held leadership positions in Catholic education for more than 25 years, serving as Principal of Holy Family High School and St Andrew's College, Marayong. He has had a long, distinguished and successful career in Catholic Education bringing 41 years of experience in education to his role.

The PRC has been very fortunate to be able to welcome Dr John DeCourcy at our Term 4 General Meeting.

BISHOPS OFFICE

Diocesan of Parramatta Bushfire Appeal

The Diocese has launched an emergency appeal to assist people who have been affected by the NSW bushfires. St Thomas Aquinas Parish at Springwood is one of the areas that has been hardest hit.

This appeal is for cash donations only. Donations can be made through CatholicCare Social Services Parramatta. A video appeal by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP is on CatholicCare's website where you can make an online donation: www.ccss.org.au

If making a donation by cheque, please make your cheque payable to CatholicCare Social Services - Bushfire Appeal and post to: Bushfire Appeal, PO Box 2023, North Parramatta, NSW, 1750

Receive updates on the Bushfire Appeal via Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCSSParramatta

St Patrick's Cathedral Open Day: 3 November

Everyone is welcome to drop in and find out more about the Catholic tradition of Christianity and the award-winning St Patrick's Cathedral. Hosted by the Commission of Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue.

Open Day Program

- ◆ Solemn Sung Mass at 11am with Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop of Parramatta, presiding
- ◆ Following Mass, Q and A in the Cathedral Hall on topics specific to Catholic Christianity
- ◆ Tours of the Cathedral and organ recitals.
- ◆ Free sausage sizzle followed by Devonshire teas prepared by CWL Parramatta
- ◆ Cloister expo with Church ministries, including Catholic Education Parramatta, CatholicCare Social Services, St Vincent de Paul Society and institute for Mission.
- ◆ Concludes at 3pm with Solemn Sung Afternoon Prayer

St Patrick's Cathedral is at 1 Marist Place, Parramatta, opposite Prince Alfred Park. Plenty of parking is available. For more information contact the Cathedral Office tel (02) 8839 8400 or visit www.stpatscathedral.com.au

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ATTENTION: Mr Laffan

I / We are interested in attending the following:

Tours of New Learning Spaces

Tuesday, 5th November

- 9.30 am
- 12.30pm
- 2.15pm
- 5.45pm

Thursday, 7th November

- 9.30 am
- 12.30pm
- 2.15pm

Reading in classroom Seminars

- Tuesday, 5th November at 1.30pm
- Thursday, 7th November 1.30pm

Name: Eldest Child's Name:

..... Class:

