



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 6

1 MAY 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY

Tues 1 May	Diocesan Cross Country—Eastern Creek Parent Team workshop
Thurs 3 May	OPEN DAY 9:30—11:30 am
Mon 7 May	Primary Assembly 3S & 3D 2:15 pm
Tues 8 May	Stage 3 Mass
Fri 11 May	Mothers Day Liturgy
Sun 13 May	MOTHERS DAY
Tues 15 May	NAPLAN— Language Conventions & Writing 9 am & 2 pm Parent Workshop—Maths
Wed 16 May	NAPLAN—Reading
Thurs 17 May	NAPLAN—Numeracy
Fri 18 May	Walk Safely to School Day
Thurs 22 May	Stage 3 Rugby League
30 May	P & F Meeting 2:00pm

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
www.stmichaelsparish.com
+++++

EXTRAS GOING HOME IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Uniform Shop—Price list/ Order form
- ◆ Term 2 Planner
- ◆ Maths Challenge

155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown South 2148
Ph: 9622 9910
Fax: 9622 6902
Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

St Michael's Celebrating 50 Years of "Loving One Another"



From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

Welcome back to Term 2!! I look forward to continuing our work together. During my time away from St Michael's, I was struck by the amount of literature focusing on Education, Private versus State Education and finance etc.

Along with all of the standard arguments and obvious positions of bias, I was interested in the compelling data to do with you.

"Student success, School success is dependant upon proactive Parent Involvement"

At St Michael's in 2012 we are striving to see ALL students reaching acceptable GROWTH POINTS in Mathematics. In Term 2 our teaching teams will continue to:

- Develop skills within our Professional Learning Programme called "Extending Mathematical Understanding"
- Work co-operatively in planning and implementing programmes of work
- Closely tracking all students through the Mathematical Assessment Interviews
- Share all findings, reflections and evaluations with the School Leadership Team

Now, what about you? How can you ACTIVELY, regularly support growth of ALL students at St Michael's?

Some suggestions.....

- Take time to read all publications from the School
- Tap into all information on our website
- Diary up all coming events where teaching/learning in Mathematics is being offered
- Work closely with your children during HOMEWORK TIME.
- "Talking number" - Using Mathematical language is a key skill.

Each fortnight we will publish some relevant information. I urge you to use this knowledge in working with your children. All our children need our support particularly in developing deeper understanding of NUMBERS, their VALUE and RELATIONSHIP with other NUMBERS.

Our children need skills in MENTALLY working with numbers and MANIPULATING different materials to support their thinking.

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

WE WON'T IMPROVE OUR GOALS
WE WON'T SEE ALL STUDENTS GROWING....
UNLESS
WE WORK TOGETHER

RE News

In Sunday's gospel we heard the story of the Good Shepherd.

John, the gospel writer's, use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people but – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep.

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

From the Assistant Principal

Why is Mathematics important?

In addition to its practical applications, the study of mathematics is a valuable pursuit in its own right, providing opportunities for creativity, challenge and leisure.

If our children are to be prepared for life in the twenty first century, they need to develop relevant mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding. Mathematics is important because it :

- is a powerful tool for solving problems within and beyond mathematics
- is a significant part of the cultural heritage of many diverse societies
- provides students with a powerful, precise and concise means of communication
- supports concurrent learning in other key learning areas
- builds a sound foundation for further mathematics education

(Board of Studies: Mathematics K-6: Parent Support)

Maths can be fun so keep looking for ways to have fun with Maths.

Thank you to all the children and families who gave me their "Real Life Maths in the Holidays" photos. So far I have received photos from: Anthony Simic 4C, Sinead Beavis 4C, Adam D'Sa KS, Justin Lopez 5P, Cherise Hailey Bartolome 3B, Isaiah Espero KS, Leelah Williams 3C, Isabella Grills KS, Annabel Damarli 5S and Nathaniel Damarli 2L, Brooklyn Stack 1M, Georgia O'Callaghan 1O and Jamie O'Callaghan 1G, Elenis Mavris 4S, Rayleen Kaur 4C, Hayley Vella 4C, Emily Borg 1P, Anuroop Dhillon 4C, Alisha Depares 4C and Ryan Depares KB, Akheera Kandula 1O, Brianna Mareschi 1G, Esconda Fozzi 5P and Claudia De Bartolo 5P.

Anytime children use mathematical understanding outside the classroom feel free to share the experience with Mrs Boyer in the form of photo, powerpoint, written response, or anyway you would like.

SOMETHING NEW!!!!

Each newsletter Emme Emu (EMU stands for Extending Mathematical Understanding) will have a challenge for children and parents to complete. Please see insert for this week's challenge.

Be as creative as you like with your response and show it to your class teacher and classmates.

Just a reminder that as of Monday 14th May all children should be in full winter uniform.

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

STAGE 3 GIRLS SOCCER GALA DAY

On Tuesday the 3rd of April, Mrs Lawson and I took 16 Stage 3 girls to represent our school at the Parramatta Diocese soccer gala day.

Year 6: Tianna, Ashleigh, Brianna, Shanna, Scovia, Cassandra, Hannah, Alexandra, Jasmine & Rahiel

Year 5: Montanna, Geraldine, Rafaela, Caitlyn, Nancy & Claudia

They played 6 matches throughout the day where they won 1, drew 3 and lost 2.

The girls played with great integrity and pride for our school and we are very proud of them. Many teachers from other schools commented on how well behaved and what great sportmen the girls were always coming on the field with a team cheer and off the field cheering for themselves and the opposition.

The girls formed a team knowing a little about each other and left feeling like close friends.



A special thank you to Ashleigh, Geraldine, Montanna and Claudia's mum's and Brianna and Hannah's Dad's who assisted with transport without parents who support us we cannot have activities like this! By Mrs Seblic

Notice of Intention to Remove Student 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.

School Fees

School fee invoices have been issued and are due by 25th May. If you have any concerns regarding your fees please contact Robyn Hoogenvest.

St Michael's - Catholic Early Learning Centre

The Catholic Early Learning Centre St Michael's Parish, 62a Orwell Street, Blacktown South is a service for preschool children 3 to 5 years.

For enrolment and further information please contact Donna Harding CELC Director on telephone number 8814 8406 or email donna.harding@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Uniform Shop

Trading hours are **Friday 8.30 am to 11.15am** for the remainder of the Term.

Winter Jackets and Library bags have now arrived.

Price List/Order form is included with the Newsletter.

Just a reminder that we are only allowed to have 2 customers at the uniform shop at one time. If you do not have a number we ask you to please wait on the silver seats downstairs.

If our trading time does not suit you, you are welcome to place an order and it will be filled and sent home with your child. We can only accept cash or cheque for these orders.

We understand your concerns regarding current opening times and are reviewing this and will advise when a decision is made.

Cassandra Powell
UNIFORM SHOP ASSISTANT

Canteen

Welcome back! Hope you all had a restful holiday and are ready for a busy term!

Twist & Drinks are not available any more. Thorpedo drinks are out of stock.

We are trying to contact the new supplier.

Two mums went back to work during the holidays and we need one Monday and one Tuesday volunteer to replace them on the roster. Please contact me at home or at school if you can help. Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER
Home Phone: 9622 5703

P & F News

The next general P&F meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 May at 2:00 pm in the library.

Thank you to all the parents and friends who have booked a family portrait for this Saturday. Could you please ensure your payment is returned to School before 2nd May. We still have a couple of appointment times left, so if you are wanting to book a photo session please call me ASAP on **0407480429**.

The Mothers Day Stall will be held on Wednesday 9 May. All students are welcome to purchase 1-2 gifts on the day. Gifts will range from \$2.00 to \$7.00. If any parents or friends are able to assist on the day, please call or text Maree on 0422500356. All help is very much appreciated.

Jenny Warn
P & F PRESIDENT

Friends of our Earth

Waste Watchers Wednesday

On Wednesday the 2nd May 2012, St Michael's students and teachers will be collecting all lunch box waste. This is to help educate our community and raise awareness about waste and how as we as individuals, can reduce the amount of waste we generate.

Choosing products that have less packaging results in less waste that you have to dispose of.

What will happen?

- After children eat their recess and lunch they will be asked to bring their waste to the 'sorting area'. They will place waste into specific categories.
- The categories include:
 - Recyclable waste
 - Compostable food scrap waste
 - Non recyclable waste



No children will handle any other waste apart from their own

This day will create awareness of waste at St Michael's.

This is in preparation for our waste **Free Wednesday** the following week.

There will be no playground bins on either of these two Wednesdays.

Thank you for your support!

Friends of Our Earth Team

NANO NATURE NUTURERS MEETING

Week 3— Monday 7th May 3.15pm Father Kevin Dadswell Open Learning space.

Come and talk about new ideas to help make St Michael's more environmentally friendly.

ALL WELCOME!!!

Kind regards

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH TEAM

Library

Premier's Reading Challenge

Passwords for all students are to be reset. Students will be able to log on to the PRC website using their existing password until 4th May. The website will be unavailable from 5th – 7th May. From 8th May only the new password will provide access.

I should receive the new passwords some time in the next week. As soon as they arrive, I will send them to students. As I am too busy to sort who has completed the challenge from those still reading, all students will receive the new passwords even if you have already entered all your books.

Don't forget to let me know when you do finish the Challenge so that I can put your name in the newsletter, add it to the Library website (<http://stmblibrary.wikispaces.com/Premier%27s+Reading+Challenge>), and enter it in the monthly draw for a book prize.

Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed the challenge

Marina Ibrahim	1O	Krystal Sultana	3S
Akheera Kandula	1O	Ashley Galea	4E
Brianna Mareschi	1G	Eunice Cruz	5K
Dhruv Mali	2H	Marcus Correia	5W
Pavithran Visakesewaren	2S	Mariah Correia	6A
Andrew Roseby	3B	Jonathan Tabone	6J
Lucas Tabone	3C		
Melissa Correia	3D		
Annamaria Sofocleous	3D		
Anthony Abouhamad	3D		
Tushar Puthran	3D		

All of these names were added to the draw for the book prize for April, and the winner is Montanna Farquharson, 5P, who can come to the Library to select her prize.

National Year of Reading

Quote for this week : **“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”** — [Margaret Fuller](#)

Chess

The Inter-School Chess competition run by the Junior Chess League of NSW will commence this week. We have 3 teams who will play against other schools on a “Home and Away” basis.

Good Luck to the following students who have registered to take part :

Team 1 : Izak Xiberras, Luke Eckersley, Eldrin DeLeon, Garry Ho, Kalebh Pearson.

Team 2 : Eric Tripathi, Ryan Santa Maria, Aidan Tong, Jayden Thomas, Jonathan Tabone.

Team 3 : Briana Yu, Anton Bellett, Sahil Punjwani, Andrew Suhaili, Lucas Tabone, Andrew Rosebury

Book Covering

At the moment, there are quite a few books that need covering. If you are able to help, please call in to the Library before or after school.

Mindquest 2012

Mindquest is a 2 day program for Gifted and Talented students, and those with well above average ability with a special interest. Courses include Maths, Science, English, Drama and more.

Date : 16-17 June.

Where : Glenwood High School

Cost : \$165

For more information, call in to the Library before or after school.

Judy Buhagiar