

St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

Mon 2013 Kindergarten
4th commence

Tues Primary Swimming
12th Carnival

Wed Ash Wednesday
13th

Wed Parent Information
13th Night

VOLUME 2013—ISSUE 1

5TH FEBRUARY 2013

From the Principal



Dear Parents and Friends

In 2013 our work with all members of our community in writing GOALS will form a focus point for our work together.

Children, Parents and Teachers will all be invited to write Goals supporting the success of Learning Outcomes.

"If we create goals and harness our ambition and passions, we will realize our dreams".
(Stevens)

At St. Michaels we believe that becoming a great school, is all about, "Having a common intellectual mission". As you know our Vision speaks, of 'Engagement, Reflection and Empowerment'.

"Great schools lead community conversations that result in important Goals...including Powerful Learning Experiences, Excellence in communication and Informed / Involved communities".
(Teacher thought)

In week four we are planning our Parent/Student/Teacher Goals Night.

At this night we will work together on :-

- * Establishing learning outcomes
- * Reviewing Draft Student Goals
- * Working with each other in understanding the Goals
- * Deciding how we as Parents can support our children's learning.

At St. Michael's we recognise the importance of Living out our Beliefs that :-

We all must have high expectations and that early and ongoing intervention are essential Parent and Community involvement is essential in supporting student success. Shared Responsibility and Accountability means a Strong, United Community.

I invite your FEEDBACK in regards to these proposed meetings.

Reflection

In my first address to the children, I spoke of "The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes".
..."And when it grew, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the hour is now late, send them away, to go into the country and villages round and about and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."

We can all remember the end of this famous event 'All gathered were fed.'

This story has so much to consider, it speaks not only of Jesus' compassion for his "Flock", but of the relationship between Contemplation and Action.

Seeing that they are weary with work, Jesus urges them to retreat to "a lonely place" where they might "rest a while". So off they go, seeking only a quiet interlude in their active lives.

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
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ENCLOSED IN NEWSLETTER:

- ⇒ Canteen Volunteers
- ⇒ Child Protection Training
- ⇒ Term Planner
- ⇒ Uniform Shop Price List/
Order form

When Jesus and his disciples seek contemplation, they ironically evoke more action.

The story tells us that contemplation and action cannot be separated the way that we separate work and vacation. Action will always set up the need for contemplation. But true contemplation is never a mere retreat. Instead, it draws us deeper into right action by getting us more deeply in touch with the gifts that we have to give, with our need to give them, with the people and problems that need us. As the story shows, Jesus and his disciples cannot take a vacation from the reality of their lives, from the consequences of that reality for the people around them. The deeper they go into contemplation, the more clearly their true work emerges.

Regards



JOHN LAFFAN
Principal

Assistant Principal Report

How can I help my child at school?

You can impact on your child's future just by sending them to school regularly and on time. As Michael Grose (parenting educator) says apart from the academic component of school, children need to be mixing and socializing with their peers. Not interacting with peers can lead to social isolation and low self esteem.

Children need to be at school on time too. Chatting and playing with friends before school is an important connecting time. Being on time allows children to be ready to make the most of the peak period for learning in the morning block. We understand that illness or unavoidable family commitments may occur, but these should not be too regular. Regular on time attendance should be the norm.

It is a Board of Studies requirement that all absences must be explained by parents. Class rolls are legal documents and are maintained by class teachers and checked regularly by auditors. Unexplained absences will be followed up. Children arriving to school late or being picked up early must be signed in or out by a **parent** at the office.

At St Michael's we are very concerned about the safe dismissal of students each afternoon. We have staggered departure times to ease the congestion of parking but we need your support to make this exit from the school safe for all.

Infants children are dismissed at **2.50** please collect your child promptly and leave the school grounds as soon as possible.

Primary children are dismissed at **3.00**.

There is a teacher on duty each afternoon and we ask that if for some reason you are delayed, that you arrive to collect your child by 3.20, if this is not possible we would appreciate a phone call from you so that we can reassure your child that you are on your way.

Children do become distressed when parents are late to collect them.

REMINDER: The gates of the school are locked between 10am and 2.45pm each day. Please use pedestrian gates in Reservoir Road and enter via the school office between 10am and 2.45pm.

PARENT HELPERS

Throughout the year we need your help: Excursions, sporting events, swimming carnival, athletics carnival, canteen and as helpers in the classroom. To be a helper at St Michael's all persons over the age of 16 must complete the following every two years:

- ◆ Complete online Child Protection Module - <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection/training/child-protection-training/child-protection-training.aspx>
- ◆ Complete Declaration

During week 3 (next week) we are available to assist you in these areas. Please see note regarding Child Protection Training enclosed in the Newsletter.

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. The name of the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, comes from the old custom of blessing ashes and marking the foreheads of the people with ashes on this day. The ashes are prepared by burning palms from the preceding Palm Sunday. The duration of Lent has varied greatly during the Church's history. Lent now begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days. This does not include the six Sundays during the period of Lent, as each Sunday celebrates Jesus' Resurrection.

The forty weekdays of Lent represent the period which, Jesus spent in the wilderness during his temptation, (*Mt 4:2; Lk 4:1*). During Lent, we are called to confront ourselves honestly, to remind ourselves that as humans we are fragile and that we are not the source of our own salvation. To receive the blessing and liberation which, God constantly offers us, we need to accept our human condition with the humility and trust of Jesus in the desert. Thus Lent's liturgical colour, violet, symbolises awareness of sin and readiness for conversion. Through Baptism we become one with Christ and covenant people. As Christians, within whom the Holy Spirit dwells, Jesus calls us to continuing conversion and repentance throughout our lives. Lent is a time in the liturgical year designated by the Church as particularly appropriate for the penitential practices of prayer, self-denial and almsgiving.

Taken from Sharing Our Story

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

P & F News

Dear Parents & Students,

On Monday, we shared a wonderful morning tea with many parents of Kindergarten students on their first day for 2013.

It was fantastic to meet some new parents, catch up with some returning ones and hear how Kindy 2013 settled in on their first day, all with tea and biscuits.

A very big thank you to the School leaders for their early set up help. Also a special thank you to Rebecca, Leanne, Steve & Brett who were there to help serve and welcome parents. Mr Laffan and Mrs Boyer asked me to pass on their appreciation for your friendly and welcoming efforts. Your help was very much appreciated and it was great to work with you.

Pre-schoolers Morning Tea—Penny Tabone will be running it again in 2013. Her Mobile No is 402 341 986 It's on a Wednesday morning from 9.30 to 11.00. Playtime, craft then morning tea.

With regard to the next Parents Group meeting, there has not been set a date for the next meeting as yet. This is because we are busy working in the background on the proposed new Parent Group structure. More to come soon we hope.

On behalf of the parent Group, we look forward to meeting you. Come along and be involved in your child's school life as much as you can be.

Kind Regards

Justin Bear

President P&F

Library News

Welcome back to another year of excitement and fun with reading. All children will have a set day to borrow with their class.

Mondays : KS, 2L

Tuesdays : KC, KH, 1C, 1R, 4M, 5S

Wednesdays : KW, 3B, 3L, 3S, 4C, 5P

Thursdays : 1G, 1D, 2G, 3F, 4E, 5A, 6T

Fridays : 2B, 2X, 4O, 5O, 6A, 6C, 6E

All children are expected to have a cloth Library bag to look after their books. A school Library bag can be purchased from the Clothing Pool. Alternatively, you can use a "green" bag bought at one of the supermarkets.

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC)

We now have before and after school care at St Michael's. If you require the services of our Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC) enrolment forms are available from the office or call Ben on 0419 554 302 for more information.

Catholic Early Learning Centre (CELC)

The Catholic Early Learning Centre St Michael's Parish, 62a Orwell Street, Blacktown South is a service for pre-school 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.

Canteen

Welcome back for 2013, I hope you had a good holiday.

Volunteer note is going home with this newsletter. Could you please return them as soon as possible. Please consider helping in the canteen as we need lots of help to get lunches out on time. Any time that you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

We will be using the green price list from last year for February this year.

Looking forward to working with lots of new mums, dads and grandparents as well as the parents returning from last years roster.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Uniform Shop: Normal trading hours are Every Friday 8.30am - 11.15am.

School Bags now available. We are currently out of stock of library bags and size 6 Sports Polo shirts. EFTPOS is available for ordering either in the Uniform Shop or at the School Office but not available over the phone.

School Fees:

Term One School Fee invoices have been issued and mailed on Friday 1st February and payment is due by 8th March. If you have not received your invoice by Friday 8th February, please contact the school office. You may have received an offer for the Flexible Payment Plan and if you wish to take up this offer by Direct Debit, the form needs to be returned to the Catholic Education Office by 17th February. All fee payment arrangements made directly with the school in 2012 are now due to be reviewed. Please contact Robyn Hoogenest to request the appropriate documentation to be sent to you.

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.

