

St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH

Fri 8th	Reconciliation 6E/6T
Mon 11th	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
"	Year 5 - Faith Sharing 7.00pm
Tues 12th	Open Learning Spaces 9.30-10.30pm 12.00-1.00pm 2.15-2.45pm
Wed 13th	Open Learning Spaces 9.30-10.30pm 12.00-1.00pm 2.15-2.45pm
"	Year 5 - Faith Sharing 7.00pm
Fri 15th	Reconciliation 5A/5O
Mon 18th	Year 5 - Faith Sharing 7.00pm
Wed 20th	Year 5 - Faith Sharing 7.00pm

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

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

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
Email:
stmichaelsbktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

ENCLOSED IN NEWSLETTER:

- ⇒ New Primary Agile Flexible Learning Spaces
- ⇒ Harmony Day
- ⇒ Nagle Open Day
- ⇒ PRC - Tips for the Teenage Tightrope
- ⇒ Parent Community - Getting Connected

VOLUME 2013 — ISSUE 3

5TH MARCH 2013

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

St. Michael's is on the move but **its still all about the children**, it's always going to be about the learning and the teaching.

In 2013 we realize our dream to build Learning Spaces that support the educational revolution that has been sweeping the world. Throughout the Australian educational landscape agile, flexible learning spaces are now the norm.

Our new primary learning spaces will, "enable teachers to work together differently, to learn and practise new skills together, and to readily access resources to support the teaching and learning relationships."

Our new design will allow us to use a mix of media and locations, flexible student and teacher groupings, and improved access to a variety of resources. In 2013 I have spoken about **connections**. Through our new designs we will be connecting student centred learning, leading teacher practice and innovative learning spaces.

As 21st.Century Learners we focus on 'higher order thinking' and on 'students as researchers'. We will provide an immersion and rotation in diverse learning activities.

Flexibility means we will be building spaces that support whole class explicit teaching, small group cooperative learning, one to one teaching and learning, presentations and reflection. Our spaces will foster **active learning and positive relationships**.

I know you must have questions. I realise that Education is in seemingly, a constant **revolution**, but the care of children, in the hands of expert teachers, will ensure success for all our students at St. Michael's.

I'm excited about this project, I believe our children deserve the world's best learning environments with great teachers working in harmony to deliver best practice.

I invite you to return any questions you might havePlease look over our primary block plans enclosed with this newsletter.

This project will also provide the necessary funds to re-carpet and paint existing K-2 learning spaces...

At the end of term 1 the following changes will occur:

- ⇒ In Week 9 - Monday, 25th March - Year 5 will relocate to our refurbished demountables on site situated behind our K-2 block.
- ⇒ Tuesday, 26th March - Year 6 will relocate to the Nagle demountables situated immediately behind the Nagle hall.
- ⇒ Week 10 - Tuesday, 2nd April - Year 2 will all be located in the Father Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre and Year 4M and 4C will move into the library and 4E will join 4O in the Ursula Companion Centre.
- ⇒ Year 3S will move into demountable directly behind Kindergarten and 3B will move to the upstairs classroom at the end of the K-2 block.

As a matter of safety and to support our move, I will be requesting an extra pupil free day on **Friday, 12th April. This is to be confirmed.**



Celebrate Education Week at St Michael's

Visit Open Learning Spaces during next week on:
Tuesday, 12th March and Wednesday, 13th March

You are invited to visit Learning Spaces and join in the learning.

Learning Spaces will be open from:-

9.30 - 10.30am

12.00 - 1.00pm

2.15 - 2.45pm

Come on CELEBRATE Learning at St Michael's

Regards



John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal Report

If your child is away from school...

It is a Board of Studies requirement that any child's absence must be recorded on the Roll. It is necessary for parents or carers to provide a note on the day of the child's return explaining why they were away, including the date of absence on the note.

Class Rolls are a legal document which must be accurately maintained by teachers. Any unexplained absences are noted and followed up by Auditors from the Catholic Education Office when Class Rolls are inspected.

Students arriving **late** to school must be **accompanied by a parent or carer** to the **front office** so that the **parent NOT the child** can fill in the late note and explain this lateness. All children are expected to be at school to start learning at 9am sharp.

Please collect your children promptly at 3pm. If this is difficult for you please phone COSHC and they will be able to support your needs. COSHC 0419 554 302

CHILD PROTECTION

All teaching and volunteer staff need to complete Child Protection Training. If you wish to support our school by being a volunteer, then this training must be completed before you can help. You only need to complete the training once every 2 years and if you have any questions please contact Lynne Campbell in our office.

We would love you to help us and we will help you with the training if you need us to.

WHAT IS GUIDED READING?

Guided reading is a strategy that helps students become good readers. The teacher provides support for small groups of readers as they learn to use various reading strategies (context clues, letter and sound relationships, word structure, and so forth) "In **Infants** grades children are **learning to read** and in **upper grades** they are **reading to learn**."

Guided reading is our priority this term in all classes. Students are all matched to texts for this session, text that they can read with 90 – 94% accuracy. The book is introduced, by looking at the pictures, finding tricky or familiar words, activating prior knowledge of the topic. Then each child reads quietly while the teacher listens and coaches the child to use the strat-

egies taught during modelled reading. At the conclusion of the reading sessions questions are asked of the children about the story to check for comprehension.

As a parent you can help your child by listening to them read each night. Another way to help your child is to just read to them or even tell them a story, they will love it. The more we foster a love of reading in the home the more we will support our children in becoming successful readers.

We would love a collection of photos of families reading together. If you have a photo of your child reading with you or you reading to your child, please send it to the office. These can then be displayed around our school or on our facebook page. **HAPPY READING EVERYONE**

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

In next Sunday's Gospel, we will hear the story of the 'prodigal son'. We will be presented with a powerful image of God's love for us. The younger son demands his inheritance, and leaves his family for a life of debauchery in a distant land. Reduced to poverty, he remembers the goodness of his father and goes back home. What shocks us is the totality of the father's welcome and the reinstatement of his son as a full member of the family. He healed his lost son through his love and generosity.

The story conveys an eloquent image of what God the Father is like: how he is waiting for us 'to go back home' and to be received into his loving arms. It's a love extended to every member of the human family. To love our neighbour is no longer an option for us. If we understand who God is and who we are, we must allow God's love to flow through us to others – and not just in words but in effective action.

A story from Project Compassion comes from a slum on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, where there is little opportunity for education for young people. Seventeen year old, Vannak, is an exception – he is a skilled silk screen printer – who learned his skill at the Youth Empowerment Project run by Caritas Australia's partner, *Youth for Peace*. Since it was founded in 1999, *Youth for Peace* has helped 50,000 disadvantaged young people to take charge of their lives.

Through our participation in Project Compassion we are making a difference in the lives of many disadvantaged people in other countries. We are all united as family. We can all be part of healing in the 21st Century!

Taken from Caritas Australia website.

A reminder regarding Confirmation for children in Years 5 and 6– this week is the final date that Sister Grace will accept applications as the program begins in the next few weeks. There will not be another opportunity for Confirmation this year.

Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

Office News

Term 1 School Fees are due on Friday 8th March. Please ensure payments are received by this date. Thank you if you have already paid. If you have any concerns please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to discuss making an arrangement for payment.

ICAS Competitions

If your child in Years 3-6 and wishes to participate in the ICAS competitions please complete only **ONE** entry form per child. No late entries can be accepted as competition forms are ordered in preparation for the day. **THE LAST DAY FOR ENTRIES IS WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL.**

Uniform Shop News

New trading day— Wednesday 8:15am to 11:00 am

Orders can be placed via order form through the office outside of these hours. Order forms can be collected either on our website or at the office. We accept cash and cheque via payment envelope or EFTPOS in person.

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 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.

Canteen

Thank you to all who have returned their volunteer forms. We still need **one** Friday helper and **four** Monday helpers. If you haven't returned your form or can help please ring me and leave a message on 9622 5703 or call in to the canteen, if you would like to come and see how the canteen runs you are more than welcome to come in anytime or if you know one of the helpers please come in with them. Dads are also very welcome. We are **UNABLE** to reheat any food sent from home as it is a WHS Regulation.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Sports News

What a busy start we have had to the sporting year for St Michael's full of achievement, effort and good sportsmanship.

Swimming:

Our School Carnival was held on Tuesday the 12th February and the Age Champions were:

	Junior	11Years	Senior
Champion	Lily Hardman Andrew Roseby	Ashleigh Witteveen Max Cyreszko	Caitlyn Gibbons Mathew Dudgeon
Runner Up	Ruby Bowden Zack Hardman	Claudia Estrada Joshua Lin	Aglaya Papadokokolakis Nicholas Beer

And the **Champion Colour** was **RED!!!**

After our school carnival, 25 wonderful athletes were chosen to represent us at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival Summary (22nd Feb). Those athletes were:

Beatrice Gara	Shannon Gibbins	Aglaya Papadokolakis
Ashley Femia	Andrew Roseby	Max Cyreszko
Lily Hardman	Thomas O'Callaghan	Ashton Williams
Zack Hardman	Vanessa Portelli	Ruby Bowden
Hannah Witteveen	Nicholas Bear	Matthew Dudgeon
Joshua Lin	Skye Reily	Ashleigh Witteveen
Caitlyn Gibbins	Jayden Tighe	Erik Yu
Kyle Zammit	Claudia Estrada	Louise Francisco
Jordan Walsh		



The highlights of the carnival were:

Junior Boys Runner Up: Andrew Roseby
Junior Girls Champion: Lily Hardman

Records Broken by Lily Hardman in 100m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly and 200 IM

The following students were then selected to represent Blacktown at the up coming Diocesan Carnival and I look forward to reporting back to you their progress in our next Newsletter:

Beatrice Gara – 8 years 50m Freestyle

Caitlyn Gibbins – 12 years 50m Breaststroke

Aglaya Papadokolakis – 12 years 50m Backstroke

Ashley Femia – 11 years 50m Butterfly

Andrew Roseby – 9 years 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly, 200m IM

Max Cyreszko – 11 years 50m Backstroke

Lily Hardman – 10 years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, 200m IM

Thomas O'Callaghan – 10 years 200m IM

Ashton Williams – 10 years 50m Freestyle

Zack Hardman – 8 years 50m Freestyle

And all of our Relay Teams:

Junior Boys: **Zack Hardman, Ashton Williams, Thomas O'Callaghan, Andrew Roseby**

Junior Girls: **Lily Hardman, Vanessa Portelli, Ruby Bowden, Hannah Witteveen**

Senior Boys: **Max Cyreszko, Nicholas Bear, Matthew Dudgeon, Joshua Lin**

Senior Girls: **Skye Reily, Ashleigh Witteveen, Caitlyn Gibbins, Ashley Femia**

A **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to Lily and Zack Hardman who have now progressed to the NSWCPSS Swimming Trial at Homebush Friday, 22nd March and we wish them lots of luck.

*Lily was also named the **Diocesan Junior Girl Champion** which is a wonderful achievement.*

Congratulations too:

Eric Tripathi (Tennis)

Montanna Farquharson and Marcus Farquharson (Cricket)

Lachlan Stack (AFL)

Who will all represent Parramatta at up coming MacKillop Trials in their respective sports.

Gala Days:

This year will be for Years 5 and 6 students in the following sports on the following dates:

Girls Football Tuesday April the 9th (1 Team)

Mixed Touch Football Friday the 12th of April (2 Teams)

Boys Football Tuesday the 28th of May (1 Team)

Netball – To Be Advised

Interested students should listen carefully at morning assemblies to hear more information.



On the weekend I went to a Karate Competition. I competed in 3 events. In those 3 events I came 1st in Sumo, 2nd in forms and 3rd in point Sparring. I went up against 2 boys and 1 girl.

(Written by Mackenzie Jones in 4E)

Elliott McKimm

PE/SPORTS TEACHER

Community News

St Andrews College Open Day

Where: St Andrews College, Holy Family Campus

When: Tuesday 12th March

Time: 9:00am or 9:30am

St Andrews College is offering parents and students the opportunity to tour the college. The Open Day will be held on Tuesday 12th March. To assist with the organisation of the day, parents are required to book on one of the tours by telephoning Leanne Potts on 9626 1999.

P & F News

Recently the Kindergarten students enjoyed their first disco at school. With the parents eagerly watching, there were some excellent steps happening on the dance floor. It was great to meet a few more parents. I also thank all the parents for giving me a few minutes of their time to provide the latest on the P&F.

A very big thank you to a few parents who helped with cooking and serving the BBQ, it is always appreciated.

Your children need a positive P&F group, and the next stage in your child learning is for parents to be involved.

Therefore I invite you to offer your help as a Parent Representative for your child's class. Please complete the form enclosed in this newsletter and return it to the class teacher. On behalf of the parent Group, we invite you to be involved in your child's school life, help them learn. If you have any questions about being a Parent Representative, please call me.

The school benefits from your spending, so if you're looking to buy any electrical products (fridges, computers, etc) try The Good Guys Prospect. When you do, please make sure you mention St Michael's South Blacktown for the Skool is Kool promotion.

If you have any questions about being a Parent Representative, please call me.

St Michaels Pre-schoolers morning tea is held every Wednesday morning from 9.30am to 11.00am in the St Michaels Parish meeting room. All children from newborn to 6yrs are welcome and will be involved in playtime and craft activities. Bring a small plate to share for morning tea.

If you have any questions please call Penny Tabone on 0402341986. See you there.

Kind Regards
Justin Bear
President P&F
0488033066

Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge: Requirements for this challenge are getting more complex and time-consuming, so at first we suggested no longer participating, and running our own St Michaels Challenge. However, some parents have pointed out that their children were aiming for a Gold certificate which comes after 4 years of Reading, or a Platinum certificate after 7 years. Therefore I have decided to co-ordinate the Challenge again, but only for those students who have participated before. I WILL NOT TAKE ANY NEW REGISTRATIONS. Those students who wish to take part in 2013 can use the same user name and password as last year. If you cannot remember it, see Mrs Buhagiar. You can start reading now, and access to the website is available from March 1st.

Chess: I have been told of an online Chess site that students may be interested in if they cannot compete in the after school competition. Individual students can register to play live online games. Registration is \$15 per child. Go to www.chesslings.com for more information.

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PARENT REFLECTIONS and RESPONSES

Things I would like to know more about... (eg. Why is co-teaching a good thing?)

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Name:

Contact No:

