



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 3

5 MARCH 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH

Fri 9th	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Maths
Mon 12th	Patrician Brothers' visit Year 6 boys Nagle College visit Year 6 girls
"	Primary Assembly - 5P/5W presenting - 2.15pm
Tues 13th	9.15am - Coffee Club - Agile Learning Spaces
Mon 19th	Infants Assembly - 2S/2H presenting - 2.15pm
Mon 26th	Primary Assembly - 6E/6J presenting - 2.15pm
Tues 27th	Stage 1 Liturgy
"	Reconciliation 5W/5S

APRIL

Mon 2nd	Infants Assembly - 2H presenting - 2.15pm
"	Stage 2 Mass
Wed 4th	NSWPSSA - Swimming - Homebush
Thurs 5th	NSWPSSA - Swimming - Homebush

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

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EXTRAS GOING HOME IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Funding for Australian Schools - The Gonski Review
- ◆ Canteen Price List

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



From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

As we approach our half-way mark in Term 1, I could not be more satisfied with clear direction and progress.

Our **"Formation"** and celebration of our relationship with God is realized daily in our own building of relationships with our children, teachers, parents and the wider community.

Our **"Mathematics/ Numeracy"** Goal has been actively supported by:-

- ⇒ Professional learning experiences involving Teachers, Children and Parents.
- ⇒ Purchase of \$10,500 in resources.
- ⇒ Ongoing **Mathematics Assessment Interview** for all children.

OUR STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY this Friday, 9th March will see the entire teaching team working with over 100 primary Children and the MAI.

SCHOOLS FUTURE:

This week we continue to investigate 21st Century Learning Spaces and designs with our budget guidelines

clearly determining scope of work. In short we can't carry out all that has to be done. This means we probably have two options:

1. Infants Block, Entrance and Admin.
2. Primary Block.

Two major issues in our debate include:-

1. K-2 Block requiring extensive work to bring it up to 21st Century teaching standard.
2. 3-6 Block provides a "more bang for our dollar" given the larger numbers of students benefiting from this project.

The reality is in 2012 we will be creating **Agile, Flexible Learning Spaces** that support the needs of learners in the 21st Century.

Let me know what you think by meeting with me at our next **COFFEE CLUB** on **Tuesday, 13th March at 9.15am.**

Help all our children to improve in their **Mathematical Understanding.**

Some Key Issues:-

1. Create high quality

learning environments that are welcoming, safe and functional.

2. Respect the dignity of all learners by ensuring high expectation for all.
3. Support growth of **"Highly Effective Teachers"** (and keep supporting growth of parents knowledge and understanding).

In the Classroom and at Home our children need us to:-

1. Focus on one important Maths Idea at a time (quality not quantity).
2. Make the focus known to the children.
3. Support thinking with "talk" ask questions:-
- why did you do it that way?
- what were you thinking when you did that?
- is there another way you can do it?
4. Make the investigation **FUN.** Enjoy the experience of being in the Learning Moment.



REFLECTION ON LENT

Our senior leader of Religious Education in the school is Mrs Easton. During 2012 Anne will work closely with Fr Robert and all staff in understanding Jesus within the Gospel of St Mark.

One of our Key Resources is "Reflections on Sunday's Gospels" by Father Kevin O'Shea. I invite you to take the time to sit and reflect with Fr Kevin. First of all read "The Healing of the Little Girl" Mark 5:21-43.

Jesus touched her (dead as they all thought she was, in some kind of coma, perhaps epileptic...). He took her by her hand. He held her up. He spoke to her. Talitha koumi. Little girl, rise up. Let the excitement in me be in you, and in you let it turn into resurrection. It can mount up, like the grain in the parable.

The words here are very secondary to the touch. Aristotle said that touch was the foundation of all the senses. Teresa of Avila said there were four kinds of water - rain, river, storm and well - and that in baptism we had to touch them all and let them all touch us.

When Jesus touched these women, did he feel perhaps as if he had touched his mother who had given him this life?

What we have here is a new way of seeing spirit in flesh, and flesh made spirit. Words are gestures are gestures, gestures are gestures and they communicate when love, and its inner power to raise up, is transferred from one person to another. Mark calls this faith, and it is faith in this transference.



Bishop Anthony Fisher discusses conscience, relationships and law in relation to the modern-day controversies surrounding stem cell research, abortion, transplants, artificial feeding and euthanasia, using case studies to offer insight and illumination. What emerges is a reason-based bioethics for the twenty-first century; a bioethics that treats faith and reason with equal seriousness, that shows the relevance of ancient wisdom to the complexities of modern healthcare scenarios and that offers new suggestions for social policy and regulation.

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

RE News

Lent is a time of transformation. We look to prayer, fasting and almsgiving - the traditional practices of Lent - as ways by which we can experience it in our lives.

In the Gospel for last Sunday, when Peter, James and John are alone with Jesus, they experience something that renews and invigorates their commitment to follow His example. They see Jesus in conversation with Moses and Elijah and then he is transfigured before their eyes. *'His face was shining like the sun and his clothes were dazzling white.'* A voice from a cloud announces: *"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"*

For the disciples, this moment is a defining one. They see Jesus linked with Moses, who delivered the ancient Hebrews from slavery and oppression and with Elijah, the prophet of the people. They see clearly their mission to bring the Good News to the poor, and freedom to the oppressed. And the work is waiting for them. *'Get up and do not be afraid,'* Jesus tells them and he leads them back down the mountain to do that work.

The Project Compassion story this week comes from the Thai-Burma border and is also about transformation. Khin and her family escaped the poverty, violence and instability in Burma by crossing into Thailand. Once there, they and many other refugees and migrants found that life was still difficult. They faced the daily struggle of making a living in a country where language and cultural differences made them feel alienated.

A program supported by Caritas Australia and its partners has established community-based learning centres - particularly for the children of migrant workers - in Ranong province, Thailand. In this way, communities have their right of access to education so they can adapt to life in Thailand with hope and dignity and plan for a more stable future.

If we want peace, we must work for justice. This program *is* working for justice. We can recognise the call to be partners in this work. We can support such opportunities for those who have experienced conflict and displacement. We can, like the disciples, *'get up and be not afraid'*. The work is waiting for us, too.

This season of Lent is a time for us to recommit to it.

Mrs Anne Easton, **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

From the Assistant Principal

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.

As another matter of safety we insist that all children leave the school grounds with a parent or carer.

If you park on Reservoir Road, Kurrajong Crescent, Orwell or Heapy Streets or the Church car park please leave your car and collect your child and escort them back to your car. These streets and the car park are very busy and dangerous places for unescorted children.

The safety of your child is of utmost importance to us.

Helen Boyer
Assistant Principal

Awards:

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** at our Whole School Assembly on 27th February 2012:

1G Calvin Cabuay Cindy Zhao	1M Brooklyn Stack Andre Arredondo	1O Tyra Abdalla Jav Callingao	1P Angelize Estil Kayla Zerafa
2L Rory Walker Rebecca Salman	2G Seth Williams Joel Femia	2H Matthias Barrett Beatrice Gara	2S Brendan Fares Alana Milic
3B Andrew Suhali Amelia Xiberras	3C Natasha Khan Andrei Figueroa	3D Caitlyn Lee Shaun Cabuay	3S Gune Inyasio Sharon Nogueiro
4C Haeley Soriano Anuroop Dhillon	4E Sevasti Kotrolos Aidan Tong	4M Sarah Smith Tobey Lewis	4S Jerissa Valmeo Dhyan Bhavsar
5K Vishal Kumar Angel Handa	5P Montanna Farquharson Joshua Lin	5S Annabel Darmali Keenan Tamayo	5W Geraldine Vella Alexandria Guiliano
6A Kathryn Ydia Japhet Elias	6E Izak Xiberras Tianna Armstrong	6C Ella Cyreszko Aaron Cairns	6J Scovia David Laren Henry

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our Infants Assembly on 5th March 2012:

KC Riley Walker Jia Chung William Pelias Steve Kuku	KB Charlize Chiha Tabitha Cilia Ryan Mangabat Weri Inyasio	KS Ronash Alves Alexander Pearce-Amato Isabella Young Angelina Koolbanis	KW Leo Wang Indiana Newsome Makayla Robinson Taushaun Kuo
1G Jazmine Valmeo Jarrod Zammit Neve Walsh Paavan Mondeddu	1M Matthew Borg Emma Santa Maria Cleonnie Lellis Harrison DeLuca	1O Zac Rae Truscott Prisha Sharma Fredritz Brillo Aariz Ahmed	1P Xander Casipit Alexis Rossi Malakai Toms Olivia Marchione
2L Ciara Haddad Rebecca Pearce-Amato Nathaniel Darmali Arvin Tecson	2G Treyveon Rajwani Shannelle Raj Olivia Fletcher Ayouk Mow	2H Ella Moggridge Dhruv Mali Marianne Athanasopoulos Samuel Regan	2S Raja Alanson Taylah Biegel Anthony Siderides Adarsh Varma

St Michael's - Catholic Early Learning Centre

It is with great pleasure that we announce the commencement of the new Catholic Early Learning Centre St Michael's Parish, 62a Orwell Street, Blacktown South. The new service for preschool children 3 to 5 years was officially opened on 27th February 2012.

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

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any clarification or further information.

Catholic Early Learning Centre St Michael's Parish

Cleaner/Groundsman required

The Catholic Early Learning Centre at St Michaels Parish requires a Cleaner/Groundsman to clean and maintain the Pre-school and its gardens. Cleaner/Groundsman experience is required and an ABN is essential.

For further information please contact

Donna Harding, Director
Catholic Early Learning Centre
St Michaels Parish
8814 8406

Sport

2012 BLACKTOWN ZONE SWIMMING RESULTS

On Friday the 24th the skies were clear and the weather was superb! A rather hot day saw our swimmers swim some great times!

Lily Hardman was crowned the Junior Girls Age Champion smashing 4 zone records in the process, one by 20+ seconds! Daniel Hertel won the Senior Boys Age Championship proving difficult to beat in any of the swimming disciplines. Our team competed with great spirit & sportsmanship flying the St Michael's banner proudly. Thank you to the parents who came along and supported our swimmers and a special thank you to Mrs Dudgeon who assisted on the day.



The team consisted of:

Matthew Dudgeon	Lily Hardman	Max Cyreszko	Ashleigh Vella
Nicolas Bear	Aglaya Papadokokolakis	Daniel Hertel	Hayley Vella
Gary Ho	Ashley Femia	Daniel Kucheruk	Jacintha Jarosz
Thomas O'Callaghan	Ella Cyreszko	Andrew Roseby	Ashleigh Witteveen
Lorenzo Domingo	Nikayla Tighe	Joshua Lin	Michelle Lin
Ashton Williams	Caitlyn Gibbins	Christian Williams	

The next stop was the Diocesan carnival once again at Mt Druitt only this time the weather was terrible! Our students endured the conditions & performed quite well. Lily Hardman once again picked up the Age Champion Honours & broke a Diocese Record in the process! Daniel Hertel was a standout again claiming the runner up Senior Boys Age Champion. Our team was as follows:

Matthew Dudgeon	Lily Hardman	Hayley Vella
Nicolas Bear	Aglaya Papadokokolakis	Jacintha Jarosz
Max Cyreszko	Ashley Femia	Ashleigh Witteveen
Daniel Hertel	Ella Cyreszko	Joshua Lin
Daniel Kucheruk	Nikayla Tighe	Michelle Lin
Andrew Roseby	Ashleigh Vella	Caitlyn Gibbins

Jeff Phillips
PE TEACHER

School Fees:

Term 1 School Fees are due on Thursday 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.

Uniform Shop

NEW Trading hours are **Friday 8.15am to 11.00am** for the remainder of the Term.

We now have IN STOCK Girls Blouses and Boys Long Sleeved Shirts and Trousers. Please watch this space for updates of stock as it arrives. Be aware that there is now a number system where you are required to get a number off the hook inside the stairwell in the Infants Block and proceed upstairs to the Uniform Shop. If there are no numbers you are required to wait until a number is available as we are only permitted to have to 2 customers in the Uniform Shop at one time. Thank you for your assistance.

THE UNIFORM SHOP WILL BE OPEN this Friday (STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY)

Cassandra Powell

UNIFORM SHOP ASSISTANT

Hair Styles

Recently there have been a few hairstyles that do not fit within the school policy. With regard to hair our dress code states:

Hair styles should be appropriate to the school setting, e.g. extreme colours or cuts are not permitted. Shoulder length hair or longer must be tied back with a navy blue scrunchie/hair elastic. The Uniform Shop has the school approved and appropriate hair accessories available.

Lost Property

There are a lot of items in LOST PROPERTY. Please check and see if any of the items belong to your child.

School Website

Did you miss our Assembly or other events at our school? Go to our Galleries on our website to see photos of these events!

Did you misplace a note that was sent home? You can now print off another one off the website! Do you need a copy of the Canteen Price List? You can now view/print off the website!

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Visit our website soon! While you are visiting you should sign up for **E-NEWS** to receive latest updates.

Nagle College

Nagle College invites you to their **OPEN EVENING**. View student work, tour the college, see demonstrations and performances, speak with staff on **TUESDAY, 20th MARCH 2012**. Displays open at 6.00pm, Principal's address at 7.15pm.

Canteen

NEW PRICE LIST is going home with the Newsletter and is also on our Website in the Parent/School Notes section. If your child goes home sick and doesn't let the Canteen know there is **NO REFUND** as most times the lunch comes back after eating time and has to be thrown out.

We still urgently need 1 Tuesday and 1 Friday volunteers and 3 people who could come in 9.00 to 11.30am on Fridays either mums or dads. Thank you to the one mum for Friday and the mums who were already on the roster that I couldn't change who answered the last newsletter call for help.

Thank you to the parents that have sent in donations. If you are unable to help in the canteen please consider sending in a donation (eg. Tins of Salmon (small), Cheese Slices, cleaning products) as these donations keep our prices down.

Please call me at home on 9622 5703 or call into the canteen and see me or Geny. We don't want to disappoint the children. The canteen roster will go out this week. Thank you for your support.

Twist & drinks are out of stock until next term.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Student Leaders Report

On 28th February 2012 the Student Leaders attended the Impact Leadership Conference at the State Sports Centre, Homebush. This was our learning. A good leader needs to follow the school leadership principles which are:

- ◆ Take opportunities
- ◆ Impact others
- ◆ Be observant
- ◆ Move forward
- ◆ Set goals

If you do all 5 of these you will be able to drive the "Leadership Bus".

There are 4 different types of people in our society which are the participators, spectators, whingers and saboteurs. We all need to be participators. We can help others be motivated by knowing who they are, telling them why we do things, earn their trust, lead by example and show them how to act.

We will try to put our learnings into practice during 2012.

Liann, Jonathan, Laura, Lancelot, Hannah, James
STUDENT LEADERS

Friends of our Earth

Clean Up St Michael's Day

Due to bad weather we were unable to go ahead with 'Clean Up St Michael's Day' last Friday. The clean up will still go ahead. Each class will get the chance this week to 'clean up' a designated area of the school grounds. Protective gloves will be worn.



FRUVENU Fantastic cooking website

A great website to visit at home with your children is FRUVENU www.fruvenu.com.au It shows you ways to enjoy cooking and help you make healthier food choices. It includes recipes for simple meals using fresh living fruits, vegetables, seeds, dried foods and minimal processed and packaged foods. Bon appetit !!

Keep watching this space.....

In coming weeks news about Earth Hour and ways to reduce packaging and waste at school!!

Kind regards

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH



Library

Premier's Reading Challenge: The website for registrations is now open, so I will register students this week. As soon as I receive passwords, I will send them to the students with instructions about how to enter records online.

National Year of Reading: The theme for the month of March is "THINK". Readers could approach this with the sense of thinking about the wonders around us. Alternatively, you might like to "think" to solve a problem. Some of the childrens' books in our Library are well worth reading by adults. Parents, please feel free to call in to borrow something for you to read.

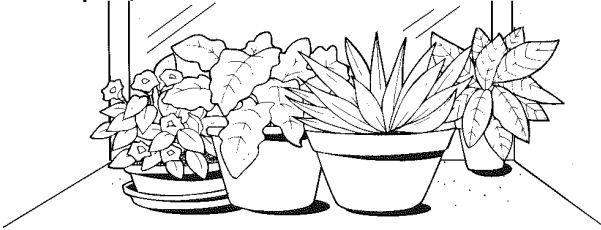


Library Bags: There are still many students who do not have a Library Bag. It is school policy that each child should have a bag to help look after the books they borrow. The bag should be a material bag. The \$1 bags you get at the supermarkets are ideal.

Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

ANGELA'S POTS

Angela has 8 pot plants.



2. If 2 pots are kept outside, how many are kept inside?

List the different ways Angela can arrange her plants inside and outside.

Inside	Outside

Dear Parents,

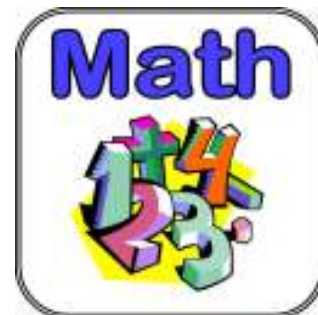
Please invite your child to read this problem. After your child has read the problem invite your child to **THINK** about:

- ◆ What is the problem asking?
- ◆ How will you solve the problem? (Remember the **thinking** and **talk** are as important as the problem)
- ◆ For primary children make the numbers 38 pot plants and (12 pots outside)
- ◆ **HAVE FUN!!!**



PARENT SUPPORT in TEACHING

We need your support



We are inviting you to nominate for in-class teaching support at St Michael's.

We will train you and develop your skills.

Can you commit to half-an-hour a week or more?

✂-----

Parent in class Teacher Support

Dear Mr Laffan

I am able to assist St Michael's and the children by volunteering my time to assist in the classroom.

Name:

Child's Name:

Class:

Contact No:

