



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### AUGUST

Wed 7th	Voice of Youth School Final
Thurs 8th	Saint Mary MacKillop Mass - 11.40am
"	OPEN DAY - 10-11am For prospective new families
Fri 9th	Year 4 Excursion to Elizabeth Farm and Old Government House, Parramatta
Tues 13th	Mathematics Competition
"	Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival
Wed 14th	Voice of Youth - 10am - OLOL Seven Hills
Fri 16th	Year 5 Bathurst Excursion

#### 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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#### WITH THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ Council - Tree Authority
- ⇒ Creative & Practical Arts -  
AMCF National Songwriting  
Competition

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6TH AUGUST 2013

## From the Principal

### ENROLLING NOW FOR 2014

2014 Kindergarten enrolments are now due. Please collect an Enrolment Form from office or download off our website. Please pass this information on to anyone intending to enrol.

Dear Parents and Friends,

"Our children are the windows through which future looks through." Pope Francis.

These words were repeated at the Presentation Conference in Hobart last week. The conference was a great success and supported my resolve in ensuring the Charism of Nano Nagle continues to burn bright in our school.

Simply, Nano was a woman who gave everything to ensure a hope and future for the children of Ireland. Those who followed her took that 'Lantern of Faith' throughout the whole world and eventually to the community of St. Michael's some 50 years ago.

As Presentation People, we continue to 'Break down the barriers' that stop our children from being free, we continue to walk with Christ in "Loving and giving to one another."

#### Teaching and Learning

In all my career I have never worked amongst a more highly engaged and motivated community of professionals. At St. Michael's the level of consistent and explicit pedagogy is at the highest level.

In Year 2 we continue to utilise funding under the Focus 160 programme. This programme allows for the intensive level of intervention and support by our learning support team and extra leadership support in both the literacy and numeracy blocks.

As within all our programmes the monitoring of growth and analysis of student data is regularly undertaken ensuring future planning is always underpinned by clear understanding of students growth points.

In our K-1 learning spaces the newly refurbished spaces will be further improved by new lighting as well as sliding doors being designed for Kindergarten and Year 1. Over the next week a new compactus will be installed with over \$50k worth of reading books being covered and installed, for reading.

This week our professional learning will again focus on reading, with our literacy core team leading work in 'Guided Reading', Modelled Reading and running records.

We are currently planning our work in 'Co-Teaching' in agile flexible learning spaces. This work will include ongoing school visits and research.

Our primary block is on track for completion in October. This project will see the creation of one of the most dynamic learning spaces in our country.

Regards

John Laffan  
PRINCIPAL



## Assistant Principal Report

“Books, to the reading child, are so much more than books- they are dreams and knowledge, they are a future, and a past.”

*Esther Meynell, Noted English Writer*

### “Get Caught Reading”

St Michael’s Read-a-thon 2013

We are catching people reading all over the place at St Michael’s.

Reading has become contagious, everyone is doing it.

Our student leaders have been sneaking around our school watching and catching people participating in this interesting activity.

Have they caught **YOU** yet?

**Reading is:** fun, sad, confusing, exciting, continuous, infectious, scary, collaborative, dramatic, exclusive, inclusive, peaceful, raging, addictive.

**Reading is:** devouring a book, reading it from cover to cover and then starting all over again, it can be reading a recipe, car manual, rules of a game, tweets, blogs, emails, signs, information for fun about football or surfing, facts and figures, it can be relaxing, therapeutic, birthday cards, shopping lists.

It doesn’t matter what you read just

GET CAUGHT READING

St Michael’s read a thon starts in 2 more weeks

BE READY

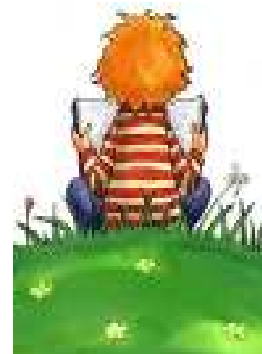
Sponsor card will go home next Monday after our official launch at whole school assembly Monday morning 9.30 in the church  
Come and see who has been



“CAUGHT READING”

will it be

**YOU?**



Helen Boyer  
**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

## RE News

### Gospel and Reflections for the eighteen Sunday of ordinary time.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.' Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'*

### Gospel Reflection

*One of the themes running through the gospels is that wealth can be an obstacle to entering fully into relationship with God. It is not wealth in itself that is problematic but rather valuing material riches above everything else and the constant desire to accumulate more and more. We have the story of the rich young man who asks Jesus what he must do to inherit the kingdom and Jesus tells him to sell everything he has and give away the proceeds. The young man goes away sad because he thought that with his great accumulation of wealth he'd be able to buy anything that he needed to gain the kingdom. We also have the saying of Jesus that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.*

*The parable in today's gospel depicts a man who has so much grain that he decides to build bigger barns to store it all. The parable follows Jesus' teaching that 'a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.' The point is about having more than we need. What good is served by one person having more than they need while others do not have enough to meet their needs? The rich man who had the abundant harvest could have stored up all that he needed and still been able to share the abundance with others.*

Liberation theology introduced the catch phrase, 'live simply so that others may simply live'. The call was for those in wealthier countries to simplify their wasteful and indulgent lifestyles so that others may be able to meet their most basic of needs.

### MARY MACKILLOP REFLECTION

On this coming Thursday we celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Of The Cross. Mary was a big-hearted woman full of compassion and love. In her time she felt and experienced the abundance of God's love for her. During her life in times of trials and tribulations she reflected and found refuge in the hospitable heart of God's love. She was a woman whose heartbeat was in unison with the heartbeat of God. In her life she became a heartbeat of God for our world.

Tom Crowley

**ACTING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR**

## Term 3 School Fees

Term 3 school fee invoices have been issued and payment is due by 19th August. If you have not received your invoice please contact the school office.

If you have any concerns regarding payment of school fees please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to make an arrangement.

## 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. 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.

## Sport

Congratulations to Marcus Farquharson who was selected to trial for the MacKillop Cricket team.

The Athletics team has been selected during PE lessons and notes will be handed out today. The Zone Carnival will be held on Tuesday, 13th August and congratulations to those students who will represent the school. We appreciate everybody's understanding as we were unable to have a carnival this year due to extreme wet weather. A "**Primary Fun Day**" will be held on Friday, 13th September to make up for the loss of our Athletics Carnival. More details to released soon.

NSWAFL will be visiting our PE classes next week to introduce boys and girls to the fundamental skills required to play AFL.

Regards

Mr Phillips & Mr McKimm

**PE TEACHERS**

## Canteen News

Thank you to the two mums on Thursdays roster who have volunteered to come in on Mondays to help Geny as well as their Thursday roster.

We still need **two** more volunteers to help on Mondays from 9.00-11.30am or longer for groups 1 & 3 (12th August and 26th August).

There are only 4 canteen duties until the end of the year. Hoping you can help Geny out on these days.

**250ml small water and Chicken Pies are no longer on the canteen list.**

Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford

**CANTEEN MANAGER**

## Library News

### PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following who have reached their reading goals and qualified for a certificate from the Premier

Akheera Kandula	2B
Marjan Khan	3B
Nathaniel Darmali	3L
Shanelle Raj	3S
Swaraj Parimi	4C
Joshua Lin	6C

**Closing Date :** Remember all reading records need to be completed online by **23<sup>rd</sup> August**. If you have any trouble doing this, please let me know early so that I can try to fix any problems.

### BOOK CLUB

Book Club orders close **TOMORROW, Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August**. Unfortunately we cannot accept late orders as this is an extremely time consuming task. Please remember to write name and class on all orders and on the envelope to make our job easier. Also please fill out the forms clearly – **DO NOT** just cut out pictures. I currently have an order for 3 items to the value of \$23 with no name or class. If you think it might be yours, please send me a note with the details of your order.

Mrs Bugahiar

**TEACHER LIBRARIAN**

## UNSW Science Competition

Last term 15 students from St Michaels participated in the UNSW Science Competition. All students performed well on the test with 2 students - Cassandra Schipp and Pavithran Visakeswaran receiving a credit and Joshua Pinto receiving a distinction. Congratulations to all students on their fantastic efforts!

## UNSW Computer Competition

Congratulations to all students who participated in the UNSW Computer Competition.

Distinction: Anthony Siderides

Credit: Natasha Khan, Ayon Bhaumic, Joshua Pinto





