



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012 - ISSUE 1

7 FEBRUARY 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

Wed 1st	Kindergarten commence 9.30am-12.30pm
Mon 6th	Kindergarten commence full days
Wed 8th	Primary Swimming Carnival
Thurs 9th	Year 6 Excursion to Art Gallery
Mon 13th	P & F Meeting - 7.00pm
Wed 15th	Kindergarten BBQ 5.30-7.00pm
Fri 17th	Opening School Mass
Wed 22nd	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
"	Kindergarten Information Night for Parents 6.30-7.30pm
Fri 24th	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival - Mt Druitt
Mon 27th	Whole School Assembly - 2.15pm
Tues 28th	Student Leaders Conference
"	Years 1-6 Parent/Child introduction to teacher meeting - 3.30 & 6.30pm

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:

- ◆ Library
- ◆ Catholic Early Learning Centre - St Michael's Parish - OPEN DAY

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stmichaelsblkn@parra.catholic.edu.au

From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

Welcome back one and all to our 2012 year of formation i.e. Spiritual Growth and a deeper understanding of best practice in the teaching and learning of Mathematics.

In ensuring success in these two areas the creation of goals helps ensure a clear direction and focus.

My Goals in Teaching & Learning states,
"To ensure the success of our 2012 Implementation Plan (Mathematics & Formation) through my active participation in planning with Core Team Leaders, in critical monitoring of all targets and milestones and in tracking of Growth Points."

What will my role look like... "active participation" - already we have set definite dates for assessment of all children using the M.A.I. testing tool.

Secondly, we have begun training new teaching staff in the skills to administer this testing tool. On our first **Staff Development Day: 9th March** we will be inviting

children to attend school so that we can accomplish our Goal of assessing all children throughout Terms 1 & 2.

"Monitoring of all targets and milestones in tracking Growth Points".

This means we will analyse and plan with the results from our testing. Using the data with teams of teachers interpreting results and collaboratively planning. This is the key to our Growth.

Within this planning the need to give and receive ongoing **Feedback** will add to this **Cycle of Learning**.

Finally, in this year of **Formation** we all will continue to strengthen

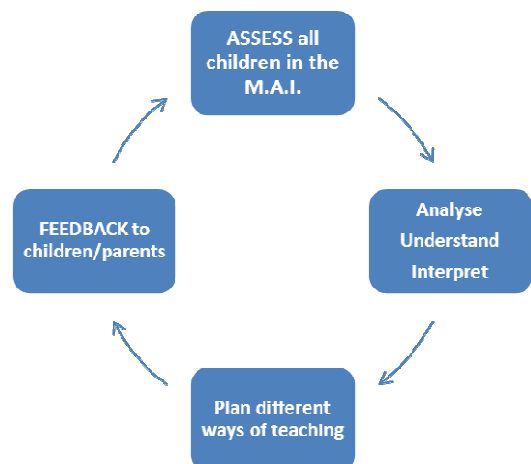
our relationship with our **GOD** who constantly invites us to a **loving, life giving relationship**.

My Goal:
"To continue to build a strong community based on our Motto of "Love One Another". A community united by faith, purpose and belief."

To achieve all we can for our children we must accept our collective responsibility.

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



RE News

In next Sunday's Gospel Jesus heals a man with leprosy. To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society. Rather than seeing the disease, Jesus saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

From the Assistant Principal

At St Michael's we are very aware of the role parents play in partnership with our school to improve the learning outcomes of their children. In this section of the newsletter I will inform parents of the opportunities that are available to them throughout the term.

Coffee Club: Our first coffee club meeting coincided with the first day of Kindergarten. Mr Laffan spoke of the charisma of Nano Nagle, "we must see community as the source of identity and cohesion." Our next coffee club will be on Tuesday March 13 where we will learn more about agile learning spaces, as well as looking at draft plans for proposed buildings.

Kindergarten BBQ: In building community we will be hosting our Welcome to Kindergarten BBQ and Disco on Wednesday 15th February, 5.30 – 7.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and have lots of fun with your children.

Meet the teacher:

- Kindergarten parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher and find out more about the learning that will take place this year on Wednesday 22nd February - 6.30-7.30pm.
- Years 1 – 6 parents will have the chance to meet their child's class teacher on Tuesday 28th February. On this night teachers will be available to meet you in 2 sessions - Session 1, 3.30-4.30pm and Session 2, 6.30-7.30pm.

Swimming Carnival: Parents are also welcome to come along and cheer their children on at our Swimming carnival tomorrow Wednesday 8th February.

As a staff member of St Michael's for the past 17 years I am excited to continue my work with this vibrant community in my new role of Assistant Principal. Thank you for the warm welcome to the role and the many messages of congratulations.

Helen Boyer
Assistant Principal

Thank You

Swimming Carnival: Some important information for tomorrow's Swimming Carnival:

Please ensure children are at school by 8:45am. You could assist teachers by writing your children's age on the back of their hand. The correct age is what they turn on their birthday in 2012. Ensure children bring bottled water & encourage them to drink it throughout the day. Thanks for your support!

AFL: In PE all this week students will be participating in an AFL Auskick workshop by the Greater Western Sydney Giants staff. This is a sample of what students can experience by participating in our after school program. Each Monday from the 13th Feb to 5th March from 3:15 - 4:45 the Auskick program will take place at a cost of \$40 per person. Participants receive expert coaching as well as a pack which includes a ball, backpack, cap, CD & much more. Please note parents must be in attendance to supervise their children.

Representative Trials: During 2012 the Parramatta Diocese Primary students are invited to participate in the Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Primary School team sports trials. To facilitate this, Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports: AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Diving, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer, Softball, Tennis & Touch. Contact Mr Phillips ASAP on JPhillips6@parra.catholic.edu.au

Jeff Phillips
PE TEACHER

Thank You

We would like to thank all parents who sent in their Woolworths Dockets in the Earn & Learn Promotion last year. Because of your generosity we received 37 books for our Library.

Attention all Parents - Notice of Intention to remove students from St Michael's Primary 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.

Uniform Shop

New trading hours for 2012 are Tuesday 12.45pm to 3.30pm and Friday 8.15am to 11.00am.

Tracksuits have arrived and will be available for purchase by Friday 10th February.

The 2012 Price list is now available and can also be found on the school's website.

EXTRA TRADING HOURS: To assist working parents the Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday, 22nd February from 4.00-7.00pm.

2012 School Fees - Flexible Payment Plan

In 2012 the Catholic Education Office will offer all families the opportunity to pay their school fees over either 6 monthly, 13 fortnightly or 25 weekly payments.

You will receive a detailed explanation of this process with your first school fee invoice early in Term 1 2012. Please ensure you read this information carefully. Payments can be made by setting up a regular bpay payment or a bank direct debit. Flexible Payment Plans will replace current arrangements set up for families who are not in financial hardship.

P & F News

The first P&F meeting for 2012 will be on Monday, 13th February, at 7.00pm in the Staffroom. We welcome all parents and friends to come along and join in sharing your ideas and feedback, as part of the St Michaels community.

The Coffee Club was a great success and will be on again on the Wednesday 13th March at 9.10am. The time has been bought forward to allow parents to drop their children off and head straight in for a cup of coffee and a chat. We would appreciate any parents and friends attending to bring a plate to share.

This year St Michaels is once again part of the 'School Is Cool' promotion, which is run by the Good Guys at Prospect. All you need to do is mention St Michaels when making a purchase, and you will earn gift vouchers for the school. A big thankyou to those who purchased items in December last year. Your purchases have allowed us to purchase a new digital camera for the school. So thankyou again and happy shopping.

We look forward to a wonderful year!

Jenny Warn
P & F PRESIDENT

Canteen



Welcome back to 2012. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful holiday.

We will be using Term 4 2011 Price List until the end of February when the new Price List will be sent home. You can also find it on our Website.

Please send your Canteen Volunteer Forms back as soon as possible as I would like to roster out by the end of February. As we have over 740 children in the school we need all the help we can get to have the lunch baskets out on time and to serve the children at recess and lunch time in the 20-25 minutes we have to serve them.

If you only have a couple of hours to spare I am sure we can use you. Come and see me at the canteen or ring me at home on 9622 5703 and leave a message and I will ring you back. Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Community

SOCCER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

St Patrick's Soccer Club has been coaching children of the Blacktown district for over 35 years. We coach boys and girls from 6 yrs old and we have an excellent reputation for offering a great environment for everyone to play this fantastic sport.

Registration Dates

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 14 February 2012 between 5.30 pm and 7.00 pm.

Where: Anne Aquilina Reserve, Eastern Road, Doonside (directly across from Blacktown Olympic Park)

If you would like more information about St Pat's Soccer Club or have any questions about registration, please go to our website stpatsoccer.com or call Silvana Martignago on 0422 747 235.

CATHOLIC CARE SOCIAL SERVICE:

- Separation and Divorce Recovery Program - Booking essential - phone Sr Eileen Quade on 9933 0205
- Bereavement Support Group - Bookings essential - phone Sr Eileen Quade on 9933 0205
- 1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching - Parent Course - Learn to manage difficult behavior in children 4-10 years - Bookings essential - phone Gill Evans on 9845 2005

Community

Welcome back to school and 2012. We hope you had a restful holiday.

This year Friends of Our Earth has returned and is bigger and better. To start our year you are warmly welcome to attend:

NANO NATURE NURTURERS MEETING
MONDAY 5th March 2012
3.15PM
Fr Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre
ALL WELCOME



The meeting will include teachers, parents and other carers to discuss environmental issues that impact on the St Michael's community.

Previous issues and ideas discussed include Climate Club, McCains Bar Code competition, recycling, lost property waste and gardens.

Come and support our school and share your ideas. Light refreshments will be provided.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Kind Regards

Friends of our Earth Team