



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2011—ISSUE 20

13 DECEMBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Mon 12th | Year 6 Assembly - 2.15pm |
| " | Reports & Portfolios sent home |
| Tues 13th | Moving Day Farewell to Year 6 Year 6 Graduation Mass followed by P & F Supper |
| Wed 14th | New student orientation 2012 class orientation |
| Fri 16th | Term 4 Concludes for all Students |

JANUARY

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| Mon 30th | Years 1-6 students return to school |
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FEBRUARY

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Wed 1st | Kindergarten commence 9.30am-12.30pm |
| Mon 6th | Kindergarten commence full days |

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

CHRISTMAS MASS

Children's Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve at St Michael's Church

Three practices on 10th, 17th & 23rd December at 2—3 pm. Any children who would like to take part as angels, Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, wise men or shepherds are most welcome. Children's Choir participants also welcome to attend

EXTRAS GOING HOME IN THIS ISSUE:

◆ P & F News

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Blacktown South 2148
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Fax: 9622 6902

Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblkth@parra.catholic.edu.au

From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

On behalf of all my colleagues at St Michael's I wish you a happy, holy and peace filled Christmas.

This is a time of great Joy and Celebration. As a community we acknowledge the gifts and blessings we have through the lives of our children. In 2011 we have seen them all grow and develop new skills and understandings.

During this time it is important for all of us to reflect on our relationship with God. This is a time to be aware of God's constant love for us and in Christ's invitation to follow him, to "Love God" to "Love One Another".

Once again I wish to acknowledge my colleagues, the staff of St Michael's are unique in their talents and united in their Goal to ensure that all our children are Engaged, Empowered and are Reflective.

I wish Mr Siciliano, Mrs Hillard, Mrs Gaid and Miss

Rafidi every success in their new schools and thank them for all they have given to our community.

I invite you to take the time to read the following extract from Lectio Divina.

"A new beginning, with a new relationship with Jesus"

Getting to know Jesus in a new way, at a deeper level is just like getting to know anyone. We begin by spending more time with a person. We pay attention to them. We get to know their story more completely. Eventually, we become more and more curious and more and more fascinated by how the person acts, what motives that person and how he or she thinks. Of course, the key here is not only to learn more about Jesus, but to come to really know him, to experience a relationship. It is easy to imagine that Jesus knows me. It is more difficult to imagine that I am in a relationship with Jesus, and we know each other and

there is something special about this relationship.

For example, some of us will get to know Jesus and become really fascinated by his mother and father and that will shape our sense of who he is and our relationship with him. Some of us will come to love the way he chooses and interacts with his disciples. Many of us will learn a great deal about Jesus from how he tells stories and reveals things about God and about the Kingdom of God. Still others of us will become engaged by how Jesus interacts with, and heals sinners and sick people. Perhaps we will identify with this or that story which will characterize our particular relationship with him.

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



RE News

Last Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

My wish for all families at St Michael's is that your Christmas is filled with joy and peace. That it is a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus with your family and friends.

Would you like to visit The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem? A virtual tour of the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus, has been opened by Bethlehem town authorities this Advent. Those of us unable to make a pilgrimage in person, will also be able to see all the major attractions: the churches, culture and history of Bethlehem. The site also has information about church services and events taking place over Christmas, and information about the hospital, children's homes and other charitable projects there. You can even make a donation and light a candle in the Nativity Church online.

Go to www.obethlehem.com

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

From the Assistant Principal

Dear Children, Parents and Friends of St Michael's Primary School,
The time has come for me to say thank you to all the community for the seven years I have spent at St Michael's as Assistant Principal.
I would like to thank the children for their contagious passion for learning and their welcoming personalities. As I move on to my next school, I would like to leave you with a wish and a prayer for all children parents and teachers:

- ◆ I wish you joy, laughter, success and happiness
- ◆ I wish for you to enjoy great learning and meet wonderful people along the way.
- ◆ I wish that you continue to remember every day how very precious you are, and that there this no one more special, unique or more beautiful than you.

*"So I leave my boats behind! Leave them on familiar shores!
Set my heart upon the deep! Follow you again, my Lord!"*

Thank you for all the great memories from 2005 to 2011.

Michael Siciliano
Assistant Principal



2012 Classes

On Wednesday children will meet their 2012 teachers. As the office roll over, which includes transfer of data, was completed this week, parents are once again asked not to request teachers for their child's teacher in 2012. As always, parents are encouraged to contact class teacher and stage teacher whenever matters arise which will effect their child's learning. Please see below, the list of class teachers for 2012.

| Class | Teacher | Class | Teacher | Class | Teacher |
|-------|--|-------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| KB | Mrs Cherie Baddock | 2L | Miss Kathryn Long | 5K | Mrs Karen Foxe/Mrs Karen Valeri |
| KC | Miss Debbie Cox | 2S | Mrs Lisa Sebelic | 5P | Mrs Harlane Petersen |
| KS | Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz | 3B | Miss Sue Bodle | 5S | Mr Peter Spicer |
| KW | Mrs Colleen Walsh/Mrs Maree Grainger | 3C | Mr Tom Crowley | 5W | Mr Coley White |
| IG | Miss Josephine Galea | 3D | Miss Stephanie Doherty | 6A | Mrs Anne Marie Abrahams |
| IM | Mrs Michelle O'Leary | 3S | Mrs Elaine Said | 6C | Mrs Jennifer Coope |
| IO | Miss Kerrilyn O'Brien | 4C | Miss Paula Cassar | 6E | Mrs Anne Easton |
| IP | Mrs Miranda Portelli/Mrs Marcia Keenan | 4E | Mrs Norma Eid | 6J | Mrs Joanne Lawson/Mrs Julie Readi |
| 2G | Miss Charlotte Gourlie | 4M | Mrs Michelle Mastrosa | | |
| 2H | Miss Elise Hammond | 4S | Mrs Angela Siracusa | | |

Student Leadership Team 2012

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as our Student Leadership Team for 2012:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| School Captains | Liann Aquino | Jonathon Tabone |
| Vice Captains | Laura Santa Maria | Lancelot Garcia |
| Student Leaders | Hannah Dickinson | James Antonios |

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as Sports Captains for 2012:

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Red | Michelle Lin & Daniel Hertel | Gold | Arrienne Falsetta & Andrew Amabile |
| Blue | Mariah Correia & Laren Henry | Green | Georgia Tabone & Aaron Cairns |

Awards

Chess 2011

Congratulations to our 2011 Chess grade champions.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Year 6—Kiano Pomente | Year 5—Kalebh Pearson | Year 4—Joshua Jbarat | Year 3—Eric Tripathi |
| Infants—Shaun Cabuay | School Champion 2011—Kalebh Pearson | | |

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our Primary Assembly on Monday, 5 December 2011:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 3D Shreya Prasad Daniel Cutlac Caitlin McCabe Lilly Hardman | 3G Ashleigh Witteveen Anuroop Dhillon Celine Benicarlo Sarah Smith | 3S Megan Collings Isis Pearson Benito Montalbano Matthew Cirjak | 3W Darius Meina Avneet Sanghera Bailey Williams Alisha Depares |
| 4C Jorge Capati Nicholas Bear Keanna Vale | 4E Jason Dent Opia Inyasio Thomas Curak Nansy Koko | 4M Pinak Sharma Kristina Markovic Teagan Dever Angok Lual Majok | 4S |
| 5K Rolan Gonzales Brittney Williams Andrew Amabile Rachel White | 5B Sargun Saddar Ivan Radacic Mariah Correia Michelle Lin | 5P Joanne Candor Aaron Cairns Monique Salazar Simrani Prasad | 5S Connor Scerri Michelle Besterwitch Kathryn Ydia Garry Ho |
| 6E Joseph Cruz Bianca Cirjak Chloe Smith Rachael Melbourne | 6J Christopher Simic Grace Regan Tabitha Lisciotto Danielle Lu | 6E Lachlan Scott Teigan Muscat Jacob Currie James Salman Aaron Prasad | |

Canteen

Please make sure that you put a sandwich or wrap substitute on lunch orders as we are almost out of all Hot Food.

Next year we will have a limited hot food list as lunch is at 10.50am and it will most likely be Nuggets, Pies, Sausage Rolls and Corn Spinach & Ricotta Rolls plus sandwiches and wraps. Thank you to all Year 6 that have helped in the canteen during the year. Thank you to all mums and dads for your help. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe Holiday.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Library News

Free e-books available— Pearson Education are offering free access to selected e-books and related activities for the month of December. A range of age appropriate books is available. No login required. A fun way to keep the children reading. <http://pear.sn/sh17FG> A final big THANK YOU to all those who helped in the Library throughout 2011. Best wishes to all for a safe and happy Christmas. **There are still a number of children who have Library books at home. These must be returned before the holidays. Parents, could you please help children find and return books as soon as possible.**

Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER LIBRARIAN

Friends of Our Earth

WIRES (Wildlife Information Rescue Education Service) - In Year 3 we had a special visitor; Lucy the Blue Tongue lizard. One of the students had found her in the bush and they were looking after her. This is a great reminder, especially during these Christmas school holiday period, that if you find any injured wildlife call WIRES on 1300094737 even your local vet is a safe place to surrender any animals. If you are unsure, do not try to handle the animal, call WIRES first as improper rescue can hurt or distress the animal. Wild animals are not used to being handled and are very susceptible to stress. If handled improperly, they are likely to struggle and hurt themselves even more. WIRES aims to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian Wildlife and inspire others to do the same. As our school year draws to a close the Friends of Our Earth team celebrate.

During 2011 we had a successful Climate Clubs team and we had more children labeling their school property to help reduce waste at our school. We had a fantastic Family Fun Day where we sold seeds and seedlings and planted beans, carrots, and many other vegetables. We won the Bird Conservation Grant for our school Darug Garden and purchased many new gardening items including a new compost bin for the infants area through the McCains veggie patch barcode promotion. We look forward to bigger and better next year!! Merry Christmas. See you in 2012. Kind regards, **Friend Of Our Earth Team**

Uniform Shop

We have taken delivery of our new school jumpers. These are knitted navy jumpers with the school emblem embroidered. They are available now for purchase at \$47.00.

Extra Trading Hours

2011

Wednesday 14 December 2011

8:30 am to 3:15 pm

Friday 16 December 2011

8:30 am to 3:15 pm

2012

Tuesday 24th January 2012

9:15 am to 3:15 pm

Wednesday 25th January 2012

9:15 am to 3:15 pm

Friday 27th January 2012

9:15 am to 3:15 pm

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

Just a reminder that the Year 6 Graduation Mass is being celebrated in the Church tonight at 7:30 pm. All families are invited to supper at the conclusion of the Mass and any parents that may be able to assist as helpers on the night would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations

Hi! My name is Laura Robertson of 6J. I was asked to share some special news with you all. For the past year I have been in the Australian Youth Choir & performing at various events. Recently, some students of their choir were given the opportunity to audition for a tour of Europe for 2012.

I am extremely excited to say that I have been accepted and will be travelling to London, Florence, Venice, Vienna & Rome. I will be overseas for 3 weeks from the end of May and I can't wait! I am so lucky to be able to have this opportunity and I will not waste one moment of it. Europe here I come!

