



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### JUNE

Tues 18th	P & F Meeting - 7pm ALL WELCOME
Wed 19th	MUFTI DAY
Mon 24th	Reports sent home
Tues 25th	Primary Athletics Carnival  Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wed 26th	Parent/Teacher Interviews
"	UNIFORM SHOP CLOSED
Fri 28th	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Pupil Free Day

#### JULY

Mon 15th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Tues 16th	Students return to school for Term 3
Wed 17th	UNIFORM SHOP CLOSED
Wed 24th	Uniform Shop re-opens for business

#### 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:  
stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

#### UNIFORM SHOP IS OPEN Wednesday mornings 8.15am - 11.00am

If you are unable to come to the Uniform Shop during these hours you can place an order and pay at the office and your items will be sent home with your child.

VOLUME 2013 — ISSUE 9

18 JUNE 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.

**PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Tuesday/Wednesday, 25th & 26th June**

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY: Friday, 28th June 2013**

**PUPIL FREE DAY: Monday, 15th July 2013**

Dear Parents and Friends,

Last week I spent some important time alone, reflecting on our community and all of the points of influence and impact that were requiring action:

- Reports and Assessment
- Quality Catholic Schooling Project 2013
- Ensuring momentum of 2013 Goals in Literacy, Numeracy and Formation
- 2014 Enrolments
- 2014 Staffing
- Building and refurbishment
- Budget projections
- Student Welfare and well being
- Teacher capacity and professional development
- Tracking vulnerable students in literacy and numeracy
- Resourcing needs in Literacy and ITC
- Parent Forum 'Understanding Co-teaching in Agile Flexible Learning Spaces'
- Parents and Friends
- Supporting Fr Peter and Sr Grace

Each and everyone of these areas require high levels of expertise in problem solving, coordination and communication. There are times when it is important to 'close the door' and reflect, plan and start to prioritise. But that of course is only a small piece of the puzzle, the door can't stay closed for long.

Within our community of St. Michael's there is an incredible depth of expertise, experience and energy that will ensure the success of all the above challenges. One of the many gifts my position offers me is the people of our community who are constantly trying to give their best for the sake of our children and their wholistic growth.

So let's have a closer look at some of our immediate opportunities.....

#### Quality Catholic Schooling Project 2013:

As part of the Catholic Education Office initiative in seeking feedback from Parents, Students and Teachers as to the Catholic Culture, Staff Climate, Student Attitudes, and Parent Opinions a comprehensive survey was again undertaken earlier this year. Over the next two terms I will be providing survey results and implications. Importantly I will seek your advice and feedback in respect to future actions supporting our communities needs.

One area that I would like to share comes from our **Senior Students**.

Our students placed, **teacher empathy, purposeful teaching, stimulating learning and learning confidence, in the top 25% of Australian schools.**

### **Building and Refurbishment**

In week 8 our building is taking real shape with the pouring of slabs and brick work showing first signs of the buildings exciting curves.

Our K-2 team are preparing learning spaces for new carpets, painting, joinery and doors.

Our school, in a very short time, will provide our children with learning spaces that support and promote the finest teaching and learning opportunities.

### **PARENT FORUM**

We have now conducted two Parent Forums investigating Co-teaching in Agile, Flexible Learning Spaces.

We have learnt more about why schools are changing, not only in their design, but in the way teaching and learning is looking and sounding like.

Our children are growing up in a very different world, a world that provides so much potential for linking to information and it provides the technology to share our thoughts and learning. Our new learning spaces support cooperative and collaborative learning and teaching.

Our forum addressed concerns of furniture and acoustics. I am so impressed by our students who effectively demonstrated how learning can take place in a variety of settings using a variety of furniture designs.

We are continuing to grow from good to great.

At our next forum we will focus on our new building and how it will be fitted out in terms of ITC and furniture.

Regards



John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**

## **RE News**

### **MUFTI DAY**

**Wednesday, 19th June 2013**

### **St Michael's reaching out to those in need in Peru**

I have been given the great honour of being selected as a Group Leader for World Youth Day in Rio in July 2013.

As part of my pilgrimage with over 200 young people from schools and parishes, along with Bishop Anthony and several priests from the diocese, we will be involved in an immersion program in Lima, Peru. Here we will meet Fr Arthur who is Parish Priest of the Parish of Medalla Milagrosa and Apostol San Pedro at El Agustino. This is one of the poorest and most needy areas of the world. Fr Arthur administers to 20,000 of the poorest of the poor, most of which squat on the barren hillside of El Agustino. The parish provides food, clothes and a basic education to these people in the shanties.

The Immersion Program sees some of our group going up the hillside to help build new houses for these people while the rest of us go into schools and orphanages to help in anyway we can.

I would like to give Fr Arthur a donation towards the wonderful work he does from the St Michael's community, therefore:

**We will be having a Mufti Day to raise money for Fr Arthur and the people he supports on Wednesday, 19th June 2013. Please feel free to donate more than a gold coin.**

I hope you support this most worthy cause.

Anne Easton  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR**

## Assistant Principal Report - Urgent Attention Required

### KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

We ask for your support in not picking children up from school during school hours unless they are sick or there is a family emergency or need.

In keeping our children safe, we will in future, be asking for identification from each person unknown to the office staff before we allow your children to go home with them. For example sometimes when a child is sick and you are unable to collect them you may wish to ask a neighbour, friend or relative to come to school for you. If this is the case please inform the office staff as to who will be picking your child up and let this person know that they will need to provide some form of identification on arrival at the school office. This also helps casual office staff or staff members who are unfamiliar with families.

We know you will support us in keeping our children safe.

### TEACHING and LEARNING in TRIADS

Each week on a Monday and Tuesday, Mr Laffan and I work alongside class teachers and students in K-2 in what is called a TRIAD.

The TRIAD is formed in this case by the Principal, Lead teacher and Classroom teacher. We work together as a team to improve the learning outcomes for each student.

On Mondays we are part of the Literacy Block. We have been working with teachers and students particularly in the reading component on Mondays.

Prior to the lesson we work with the teacher in the planning process. Then in class time we work with many children and at the end of each lesson we provide feedback to the class teacher, who in turn feeds back to Mr Laffan and I about the successes of the lesson and the areas that may need to be supported.

For Mr Laffan and I, this has been a very rewarding experience. We are able to see first hand what is happening in the classrooms for the children. We are able to plan with teachers and have professional conversations about individual students in each class. These TRIAD visits also provide an opportunity for Mr Laffan and I to co-teach within classrooms.

Other TRIADS exist within our school. The leadership team are constantly visiting classes on instructional walks to support and build teacher capacity.

Even though the challenges have been presented to us this Term through the building project, I can confidently say that this Term has been very rewarding and that business as usual has certainly been the case in all learning areas.

It is very exciting for Year 1, Kindergarten and 3B students and teachers as they prepare for the refurbishment of their classrooms. Thank you to all teachers for the effort they have put into, not only the teaching and learning, assessment and reporting and parent teacher interviews next week, but also in their spare time, packing every single object in their classrooms into boxes ready for removalists.

### HOLIDAY FUN

Remember to read either to your child, with your child or have your child read independently for at least 15 minutes each day. Reading is just like any skill we learn we need to practice, practice, practice.

We thank you, parents, for the support you have shown to us throughout Term 2. We wish each family a safe and happy holiday and look forward to continuing our work with your wonderful children next Term.

Helen Boyer

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

## 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.

## Uniform News

### Uniform Shop— CLOSED FOR STOCKTAKE / INFANTS BLOCK RE-FURBISHMENT

Due to our half yearly stocktake, **Wednesday 19 June 2013** will be the last day of trade for the Uniform Shop for this Term. Also, for your information, the Uniform Shop will be packed up and moved into storage while the Infants Block is being refurbished over the school holiday period, so the last day that we will be able to accept orders is the **Wednesday 19 June 2013**. The shop will re-open for normal trading on **Wednesday 24th July 2013 (Term 3 Week 2)**. 8:15—11:00 am.

We thank you for your patience during this time and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Regards

Amanda Hart

## Canteen News

Please use the **PINK price list** as we have had a lot of wrong prices on lunch orders in the last few weeks. Thank you to all the canteen helpers for Term 2 and for the donations that have been sent in to the canteen. Hope you all have a safe and restful holiday and I am looking forward to working with you in Term 3.

Jan Crawford

**CANTEEN MANAGER**

## P & F News

### WOOLIES EARN & LEARN PROMOTION

Thank you to everybody who has saved their Earn & Learn Stickers and either dropped them in the box at Woolies Prospect or dropped them at school. At this stage the response has been fantastic. If you still have some stickers at home, please drop them at school, as the more we have the more we can support your child's learning.

### PRE-SCHOOLERS MORNING TEA

St Michaels Pre-schoolers morning tea. 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.

Regards

**Justin**

0488033066

**P&F Team**

Justin Bear, Jackie Coleman, Marisa Khan & Tash Scanlon

## Sports News

Congratulations to Eric Tripathi who has been nominated for the Blacktown Advocate Junior Sports Star award and recently had an article about him included in the paper. We are all very proud of his dedication to tennis and we will continue to cheer for him in each and every tournament that he enters.

All students should have by now, brought home a note regarding the School Athletics Carnival. Please ensure that these are returned as soon as possible with it occurring next week on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Parent help and support is, of course, most appreciated and welcomed.

Thank you to Ms. O'Brien who recently ran our school internal Netball tournament. More information will be relayed to students selected to represent the school at the Diocesan Netball Gala Day, early next Term.

Please feel free to share with us at any time, any successful sporting stories that are occurring for students within our community. We would love to hear them and share them. This doesn't necessarily mean coming first, making representative teams or winning a premiership but also achieving 'personal bests', 'having a go' or maybe even achieving something rare e.g. like a half century in cricket.

Please contact us at [emckimm2@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emckimm2@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Mr. McKimm / Mr. Phillips

**PE/SPORT TEACHERS**





