



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 15

18 SEPTEMBER 2012

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### SEPTEMBER

Wed 19th	STUDENT JUBILEE CELEBRATION DAY
Thurs 20th	Public Speaking
Fri 21st	Stage 2 Touch Gala Day
"	SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR HOLIDAYS

#### OCTOBER

Mon 8th	SCHOOL RESUMES FOR TERM 4
Thurs 11th	Year 6 Graduation Photo retake
Thurs 18th	Year 1G & 1P Excursion to Penrith Lakes
Fri 19th	Year 1M & 1O Excursion to Penrith Lakes
Mon 22nd	Primary Assembly - 6C & 6A - 2.15pm
Sat 27th	SPRING FAIR

#### 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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#### Notes going home with this Newsletter:

- Jubilee Celebrations - Photo Page
- Nationally Consistent Data Collection - Information

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



### From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

Last Friday we "CELEBRATED" and gave thanks to God for all that we are at St Michael's. Our celebrant, Fr Chris deSouza and Fr Peter Confeggi led us in our Eucharistic celebration, it was a Life Giving moment in our 50 years.

I sincerely thank Mrs Easton, our Religious Education Coordinator for her leadership in preparing this Eucharistic Liturgy. Our children read, sang and danced, united in faith, united in "Loving One Another".

Following our Mass, hundreds of education leaders, Principals, past members of our school community and of course many of our current parent community enjoyed viewing our photo gallery and spent time sharing stories.

The CELEBRATIONS continued into the night with parents and friends of St Michael's gathering to enjoy each others company, a great meal and of course more stories from the past. Sr Cecelia our guest speaker shared the history of the Presentation Sisters and the story of Nano Nagle. I congratulated Mrs Bright, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Boyer for their leadership in coordinating this night. Today in 2012 we continue that story, Our story is unique, it makes our school "unique".

I hope that we will continue to grow together for the sake of our children. I want to impress upon you that our relationship requires active participation. I invite you to actively support our children's learning particularly in fostering:-

*A love of reading and greater confidence in using Mathematics in their lives.*

In 2012 I invite you to reflect on how you can make a school a better place. I invite you to look for a need and do something to support that need.

I will continue to seek out ways to bring us closer, ways that will support a strengthening in school and home relationships.

Together we will grow our community, together we will support our children in ensuring success and growth for all.

As you know I have been invited to participate in a Pilgrimage in following the footsteps of St Paul. I believe that this time will support my ongoing faith development and look forward to sharing my renewed understanding of St Paul and his teachings.

Following my Pilgrimage I will be taking three weeks long service leave and return in Week 4. Mrs Boyer will assume the role of Acting Principal and I will announce the Acting Assistant Principal later in the week.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I thank you for all of your support and personal prayers over the last term.



**There will be imminent closures to the days the Canteen will open next term and a reduced menu if we cannot get parent helpers in the canteen. Please if you can spare an hour or so on any day please call into the canteen and see Jan or ring her at home on 9622 5703. Thanks for your help.**

Regards,



**John Laffan**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Assistant Principal Report

Thank you to all who were able to participate in our Jubilee celebrations last Friday, what a wonderful day it was. This week we celebrate with some cultural experiences to compliment the curriculum outcomes for students. "Animals of the Dreaming" and "Afro Beat", will perform on Wednesday for the children and their teachers.

Congratulations to teachers and students for taking part in our annual Public Speaking Festival. Special congratulations to the following children who presented their speeches at our stage assemblies. The following children will receive a Certificate of Participation in Public Speaking:

<b>Luke Fletcher - KB</b>	<b>Dita Dunkley - KW</b>	<b>Alisha Micallef - KS</b>	<b>Breeanna Moon - KC</b>
<b>Sammy Sader - 1G</b>	<b>Mariah Urmeneta - 1M</b>	<b>Joachim Tabone - 1O</b>	<b>Madeline Tabone - 1P</b>
<b>Olivia Fletcher - 2G</b>	<b>Joshua Pinto - 2H</b>	<b>Rory Walker - 2L</b>	<b>Anthony Siderides - 2S</b>
<b>Michael Kinsella - 3B</b>	<b>Luca Tabone - 3C</b>	<b>Jordan Roman - 3D</b>	<b>Krystal Sultana - 3S</b>
<b>Paige Hodgson - 4C</b>	<b>Salihah Khan - 4E</b>	<b>Ryan Santa Maria - 4M</b>	<b>Mika Lansley - 4S</b>
<b>Luke Barber - 5P</b>	<b>Jeremy Kennedy - 5S</b>	<b>Jacob Borg - 5W</b>	<b>Eunice Cruz/Angel Handa - 5K</b>
<b>Thea Abdelseed - 6E</b>	<b>Jason Barrack - 6A</b>	<b>Utkarsh Sharma - 6C</b>	<b>Rolan Gonzales/Laren Henry - 6J</b>

Next term we commence our work in Focus 160, that means that we are committed to **every child every day** receiving at least 100 minutes of literacy, 60 minutes of numeracy and 30 minutes of Religious Education. This term Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Learning Support teachers have received specific training in the teaching of Literacy for these grades and early next term the same teachers will be inserviced further on the teaching of Numeracy. This is a K-6 project. More information next term as we move into this model.

## RE News

'But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It was asked in Sunday's Gospel. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith. Our answer no doubt changes over time as we grow in understanding and as we experience the ups and downs of life, but nonetheless, just like Peter in the gospel passage, our answer remains a clear statement of our faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role model? A friend? God made flesh? The Word come down from heaven? Nobody? Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man of God? The Messiah?

Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, 'Who do you say I am?' It's confronting because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live. 'Who do you say I am?' You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. It doesn't ask 'Who do you say I was?'; it asks, 'Who do you say I AM?' The very question asks us to recognise that Jesus was not just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago but rather someone who continues to be a presence in our lives today. And he stands before each and every one of us today and asks that same, demanding, confronting, purposeful question: 'Who do YOU say I am?'

Anne Easton  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

## Office News

Please advise the school office if you have children attending Catholic Schools in neighboring schools and/or diocese as you may be entitled to a sibling reduction.

Also please advise the office if you have children who are leaving another Catholic School during this year as this will affect your billing.

Please note the school office hours are Monday to Friday **8.30am to 3.15pm**.

### Notice of intention to remove students 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.

## Library

### Premier's Reading Challenge

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we had our best year so far with 161 students completing the Challenge.

The best result came from Year 1 who had 68 readers,

Next was Year 2 with 25 readers, followed by Year 3 – 18 readers, Year 5 – 17 readers, Year 6 – 16 readers; and

Year 4 – 13 readers. Kinders only had 4 readers this year, but as students are new to the school when the challenge starts in March, many more join in when they reach Year 1.

Well done to all who persevered to the end. Certificates will be available at the end of Term 4.

Judy Buhagiar  
**TEACHER/LIBRARIAN**

## Friends of our Earth

### SPRING FAIR

**PLANT STALL** - The Spring Fair is fast approaching and Friends Of Our Earth team will be holding another 'Plant Stall'. This was a huge success last year.

Green Thumbs look out for a beautiful selection of succulents and other plants which will be available for purchase on the day. If you have any plant off cuts that you would like to donate please contact Miss Gourlie (2G) or Mrs Abrahams (6A). The more plants, the merrier!!!



### LABELS

Just a gentle reminder to make sure all children have their hats labeled as we come into the warmer months. A school hat is part of the school uniform. Also remember to keep labeling jackets and jumpers. Thank you.

**FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH: MEETING** - All warmly welcome to attend the Friends of Our Earth term meeting which will be held in Term 4, Week 3. **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October at 3:15pm** in the Father Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre. We discuss all things environmental that could be of benefit to the St Michael's school community. Pencil it in your diary!! All welcome to attend.

## Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC)

We now have before and after school care at St Michael's. If you require the services of our Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC) enrolment forms are available from the office or call Ben on 0419 554 302 for more information.

## Canteen

I wish you all a happy. Safe and restful holiday. Thank you to the 6E canteen helpers for Term 3 and all the parent helpers. Thursday helpers please ring Geny on 9621 2558 if you can't make your Thursday rostered day. Looking forward to working with you again in Term 4.

Jan Crawford  
**CANTEEN MANAGER**  
 Home Phone: 9622 5703

## Catholic Early Learning Centre (CELC)

The Catholic Early Learning Centre St Michael's Parish, 62a Orwell Street, Blacktown South is a service for preschool children 3 to 5 years. For enrolment and further information please contact Donna Harding CELC Director on telephone number 8814 8406 or email [donna.harding@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:donna.harding@parra.catholic.edu.au).

## Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop will be open on Thursday this week from 8.30am-11.15am. When students return to school for Term 4 they will wear their full summer uniform.

## P & F News

### Woolworths Earn and Learn

The order was placed this week for the Earn and Learn Promotion. Thanks to the parents of St Michael's we were able to order \$4500 of essential mathematics equipment for the school. We can expect delivery in February next year and this will benefit all our children.

### Spring Fair

The ride passes are still on sale at a discounted rate of \$25.00 each. On the day of the fair the ride passes will increase to \$30.00 each or \$6.00 per ride. You can purchase ride passes every afternoon this week outside the Open Learning Space between 2.30 and 3.00pm. If you have booked a stall all monies need to be received by the 12th September.

Jenny Warn  
**P & F PRESIDENT**

## Community News

### A3 Performing Arts Holiday Programmes: *Looking for something fun to do these holidays?*

Join a3 - australian arts alive as we present two exciting school holiday programmes for girls and boys in Kindergarten to Year 8. Sessions focus on building performing arts skills and activities include singing, drama, dance, craft and magic.

**Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 October at Epping West Public School, Epping.** Contact a3 - australian arts alive for more information [www.aspagroup.com.au](http://www.aspagroup.com.au) or 9922 6733



