

St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

20th Kindergarten BBQ
5.30-7.00pm

22nd Zone Swimming
Carnival - Mt Druitt
Pool

25th Colour Captains
presented with
Badges at morning
assembly

27th GRIP Leadership
Conference - Student
Leaders

MARCH

1st Reconciliation 6A/6C

8th Reconciliation 6E/6T

11th CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK

" Year 5 - Faith Sharing

13th Year 5 - Faith Sharing

15th Reconciliation 5A/5O

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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VOLUME 2013—ISSUE 2

19TH FEBRUARY 2013

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

This week all parents have been invited to attend Parent/Teacher/Child meetings. These meetings have been planned to build:

- ⇒ positive proactive relationships between school and home
- ⇒ deeper understanding of our students needs, hopes and Goals
- ⇒ a clearer view as to how you can work with your child in supporting learning needs

If you were unable to attend these meetings I invite you to make an appointment with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We must all understand that our Children's academic success is dependant on the level of involvement we give to their education.

"The higher the hopes and the expectations of parents with respect to the educational attainment of their child the higher the student's academic achievement" (Ho 2005).

Last week teachers worked on the writing of our Implementation Plan for 2013. This plan contains our Goals and Strategic Plan. The Implementation Plan links our work with Diocesan initiatives in Formation, Numeracy and Literacy. Today I will meet with Mrs Anna Dickinson to review our Goals, I will share the outcomes of this meeting in my next newsletter.

The 21st Century Learning Spaces are on there Way...

Today 7 building companies will table their quotations for our Primary School rebuild and our Refurbished K-2 Block. This project will mean that before this term is out we will be vacating our current primary block. We will be moving into Nagle DEMOUNTABLES...On site DEMOUNTABLES our School Library and the Ursula Companion Centre.

Yes, life will look a little different but **Learning** and **Teaching** will not miss a beat. Not one minute of learning will be lost during our preparation for building or during the building project.

The learning spaces that we will be creating will ensure our children, *"Will be agile, flexible and fluid in spaces that will encourage creative and critical thinking, and free students to communicate clearly about the task at hand"*.

Our new learning spaces will support, whole class explicit teaching, small group interaction, one to one learning support intervention, teams meeting and working together using a variety of technologies.

Over the coming weeks we will provide opportunities to talk and listen to one another more...we will examine our future plans and work together in understanding the opportunities created by this new way of teaching and learning in 21st century learning spaces.

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



Assistant Principal Report

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Since the beginning of the term, our year 1 teachers and curriculum leaders have attended professional learning in ways to improve outcomes for our students in literacy and numeracy. This has all been because we are a FOCUS 160 school. What does that mean? Focus 160 means that as a whole school community we are committed to providing 100 minutes of sound literacy learning, 60 minutes of effective numeracy activities and 30 minutes of Religious Education for EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY.

This week students and teachers have taken time to set goals in these three areas of Numeracy, Literacy and Religious Education. We have asked you to support our students, your children, in attaining their goals. I encourage you to put these goals in a prominent position in your home and ask your child how they are going in achieving their goals, contact your child's teacher to find ways you can help your child. When one goal is achieved then set another. Together we will grow our children.

ATTENDANCE

Parents if your child is away sick, it is a legal requirement you contact your child's teacher to explain the absence, usually in the form of a letter. We understand that at times this can be difficult but it is very important. If there is a problem with sending a letter of explanation then please contact the school office. If you are planning to take your child on an extended holiday or period away from school then you must also notify the Principal of the school.

GATES

There has been some confusion noted in regard to the opening and closing of gates at St Michael's. The gates in the Church car park are opened at 6.30am. This is for access to COSHC. The gates at the end of the Church driveway are opened at approximately 7.30am. Both these gates are closed after 9.00am and not opened again until 2.45pm (unless there is a special celebration at the school). Please note supervision for students commences at 8.30am. If you need to leave your child prior to 8.30am please contact Ben at COSHC. Also supervision for students after school concludes at 3.30pm, contact Ben at COSHC if you need your child minded after this time. The children receive breakfast and afternoon tea at COSHC and can be supervised with homework activities in the afternoon.

It has also been noted that most parents do the right thing and care for our children in the areas around the school. We are concerned for the safety of all children and ask that all parents observe safe and appropriate practice when dropping off and picking up children. The drive through on Reservoir Road is just that. To ensure that cars are not queued up along Reservoir Road, please do not park and get out of your car in the drive through. Also please keep cars off the diagonal yellow lines as these are there to act as a pedestrian way for children and parents who either walk to school or choose to park and walk their children in. It is dangerous to double park on Reservoir Road or pull into the driveway and then reverse out onto Reservoir Road. Police patrol cars do monitor the traffic flow and illegal parking around our school. Thank you to all the parents who constantly do the right thing to keep our children safe.

DRIVE THROUGH AND PICK UP

We are currently in consultation with Father Peter, the Parish and the P and F in trying to determine safer drop off and pick up for our children. If any parent has a safe, reasonably priced and logical suggestion, please let me know. Thank you We appreciate all you do to support us in our work with your children. Looking forward to meeting our kindergarten parents at the "Welcome BBQ and Disco" this Wednesday.

Helen Boyer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

In next Sunday's gospel we hear about the Transfiguration event that appears in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their se-

quence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're half asleep and we're told Peter doesn't know what he's saying when he starts talking about building tents. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is. What a great reading for the season of Lent!

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

Office

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING BILLING

Parents to assist us in the correct billing for your child if you have students in more than one catholic school please check that all your details e.g. address, contact details etc. have been updated and are the same for all school. As the CEO uses this information to match students from the same family in different schools. One of the initial checks that could be done is check the mailing details on the statements coming from the school, all information needs to be exactly the same including the mailing title.

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.

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.

Canteen

Could we please have all **VOLUNTEER notes** back as soon as possible as we still need **5 people for Mondays** and **3 for Fridays** 9am to 2.15pm once a month. If you can help please come to the canteen and return your form or call me 9622 5703 after 4.00pm. Leave a message and I will return your call.

The new **PINK PRICE LIST** for 2013 went home last fortnight. Please use this one as all wrong prices will be substituted to the nearest price. There are no Juices or Moosies Ice Blocks in lunch orders as they melt with the hot food.

Please come and help us as the children love to see their parents and we need all the help to have their lunches out on time as we have over 700 children in the school.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

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.

