



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 4

20 MARCH 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH

Mon 26th Primary Assembly - 6E/6J presenting - 2.15pm

Tues 27th Stage 1 Liturgy

" Reconciliation 5W/5S

APRIL

Mon 2nd Infants Assembly - 2H presenting - 2.15pm

" Stage 2 Mass

Wed 4th NSWPPSA - Swimming - Homebush

Thurs 5th NSWPPSA - Swimming - Homebush

" School Closes for Holidays

TERM 2 - APRIL

Mon 23rd School Resumes for Term 2

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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EXTRAS GOING HOME IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ National Assessment Program
- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Parent Communication Survey
- ◆ Project Compassion Fundraiser

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



From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

As Father O'Shea reminds us, "We are getting to the end of Lent and we know that Easter is near. We also know that Good Friday is near, and we think more often and more directly about the dying of Jesus. Last weeks Gospel tells us something we have often heard, that the "grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die, if it is to bear fruit". If it doesn't it remains alone. We think of Jesus' death in those terms.

Likewise, our lives mingled with the Life of Jesus, brings us Eternal Life. Our lives lived out with Christ brings clarity to our purpose, a life based on Love for One Another.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS of Loving One Another

This year we celebrate our **GOLDEN JUBILEE**, 50 years of **teaching and learning**, 50 years of **building community**.

On Friday, 14th September we will celebrate our past with a Dinner/Dance and Reception.

During that week we will hold a **Festival of St Michael** where our children will participate in a variety of activities and events.

So, I need to know from you what you would like to participate in. Please complete the slip below and return so we can bring planning closer.



Our family would be interested in celebrating St Michael's Jubilee by:-

- Attending the St Michael's Dinner/Dance on 14th September
- Purchasing a St Michael's Rose
- Providing Recipes and purchasing a St Michael's Cookbook
- Purchasing a St Michael's Coin

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



RE News

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ..."

In the Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Lent, Jesus is described as the greatest gift of love that God gave to us. He is the *"light come into the world"* and faith in him means everlasting life. The choice is ours - to live in that light or in the darkness.

This week's Project Compassion story comes from the Philippines. Conflict, greed and exclusion have destroyed the peace and security of many indigenous communities, and have forced them into isolation and poverty.

Programs supported by Caritas Australia have opened up new opportunities for these indigenous people - supporting them as they protect their traditional lands, address the humanitarian crisis and engage with other groups in the community to contribute to the process of peace-building.

We are being called to lend our support to this work. When we respond with compassion, we enter into a partnership with Caritas Australia to help build the just and compassionate world that God desires. Perhaps the one who works for justice, in order to have peace, is doing as the gospel today is saying: *"..whoever does what is true comes to the light in order that the light may show that what he, or she, did was in obedience to God"*

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

From the Assistant Principal

MATHS A FOCUS AREA FOR 2012

At our recent Coffee Club and Meet the Teacher events we shared with parents different ways to support children in their early understanding of Maths. Here are some ideas to assist in preparing children for High School Maths. These ideas are adapted from an article by Associate Professor Janette Bobis from the University of Sydney.

Children who believe in their own ability to solve problems and succeed will have the confidence to achieve.

Being confident with fractions is an important stepping-stone for understanding probability, scale, ratio, proportional reasoning and algebra.

Understanding multiplication doesn't necessarily mean knowing your tables or adding and adding until you get the answer, actually understanding what multiplying numbers means, makes children more powerful thinkers.

Knowing the number system. Children need to be able to understand place value, what is the value of 5 in 359, what does the 5 really mean?

Estimation "A child who can estimate will quickly know whether the answer makes sense or not, without having to do the exact calculation." Says Janette.

Finally mental computation, can your child work out problems in their head? A child who can do this understands place value can use different strategies and has a good knowledge of basic facts.

Join us at our next coffee club in term 2 to learn more.

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY

Last week 50 children, all staff and 60 parents completed the Quality Catholic School survey. Thanks to all who were involved in completing this survey and we look forward to sharing the results of this survey in term 2. Any parent who has not yet completed their survey could you do so by the 23rd March, if you have are having difficulty with this survey or have any questions please contact the school immediately, your opinions are important to us.

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.

Awards:

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our Primary Assembly on 12th March 2012:

3B

Sara Santa Maria
Angela Chdid
Andrew Roseby
Jamie Murray

3C

Adrian Scanlon
Sophia Sogora
Noah Pomente
Leelah Williams

3D

Lorenzo Estil
Annamaria Sofocleous
Anthony Abouhamad
Katrina Schipp

4C

Aaron Abbas
Shreya Prasad
Peter Barisic
Sahil Punjwani

4E

Sarah Sepulveda
Helen Aberra
Ashleigh Witteveen
Emerson Barlow Szoke

4M

Catherine Makarous
Veronia Abdelseed
Eric Tripathi
Tobey Lewis

4S

Luke Osborne
Christian Canales
Eleni Mavris
Paulette Hourany

5K

Francesca Maiurana
Opia Inyasio
Briana Car
Lachlan Stack

5P

Keanna Vale
Anton Bellett
Caleb Gara
Vanessa Lozada

5W

Jason Wormleaton
Marcus Correia
Emmanuel Ratnarajah
Kassandra Schipp

6A

Ernest Reec
Jayden Thomas
Jasmine Wormleaton
Monique Salazar

6E

Hannah Walker
Jumana Khan
Nicholas Galea
Matthew Graham

6C

John Bayeh
Rachel White
Claudia Alessi
Breyton Smith

6J

Eden Randall
Britney Faatau
Angelo Gunatilaka
Andrew Kaskanoitis

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our Infants Assembly on 19th March 2012:

KC	KB	KS	KW
Christian Koong	Isabella Pezzano	Isabelle Grills	Nathaniel Preclescu
Jesse Felipe	Samantha Hourany	Joelle Chdid	Riley Xerri
Joshua Sammut	Rafy Abu Ganaba	Adam D'sa	Georgia Bonello
Veronica Marincic	Christopher Abdelseed	Charlie Foord	Natasha Luiz
1G	1M	1O	1P
Brianna Mareschi	Riley De Luca	Aiden Galea	Annabelle Spiteri
Noah Osborne	Liam Dever	Joachim Tabone	Damian Lloyd
Oliver Bicanic	Anabella Castilo	Emily Abbas	Nikshay Nand
Montanah Terkildsen	Nikhil Saldahna	Avo Topajikian	Bishoy Sefeen
2L	2G	2H	2S
Hannah Witteveen	Roen Dantoc	Emily Bonello	Gerard Abadines
Hunter Newsome	Joel Femia	Joshua Pinto	Jordan Beavis
Liam Cruz	Jason Singh	Ioanna Hatzianeou	Viktoria Vidovic
Afrin Zahan	Jamie Brown	Jevon Stanic	Ante Zlentic

Car Parking Safety

Parking is only allowed:

On Reservoir Road

In the Church Carpark

On Orwell Street

Please do not park in the area behind the Presbytery and at no time are you to park in the Pete's Place School which is next to the school.

Children travelling by car are to be collected from the waiting area outside the Father Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre after school.

PLEASE NOTE: children are not permitted to go alone to the carpark or to the church.

*****THIS RULE IS FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD AND YOUR COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED*****

STAFF CAR PARK IS FOR STAFF ONLY - parents are not permitted in this carpark at any time. Gates are locked between 2.30pm and 3.15pm and the gates WILL STAY LOCKED until 3.15pm with no exceptions to this rule.

School Website

Did you miss our Assembly or other events at our school? Go to our Galleries on our website to see photos of these events! Did you misplace a note that was sent home? You can now print off another one off the website! Do you need a copy of the Canteen Price List? You can now view/print off the website! www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au Visit our website soon! While you are visiting you should sign up for **E-NEWS** to receive latest updates.

St Michael's - Catholic Early Learning Centre

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.

Catholic Early Learning Centre St Michael's Parish - Cleaner/Groundsman required

The Catholic Early Learning Centre at St Michaels Parish requires a Cleaner/Groundsman to clean and maintain the Preschool and its gardens. Cleaner/Groundsman experience is required and an ABN is essential. For further information please contact:

Donna Harding, Director, Catholic Early Learning Centre, St Michaels Parish, Phone 8814 8406

Sport

CROSS COUNTRY

This years Cross Country will take place on Thursday, 29th March. It will commence at approximately 9.30am and conclude by 11.00am. Any parental assistance would be greatly appreciated. 9's & 10's will complete 2km and 11's & 12's 3km. So keep up the training!

RUGBY LEAGUE

Congratulations to Hayden Hunter for trialling successfully for the Parramatta CEO 11 years representative side. A huge achievement as over 60 boys from the Parramatta Diocese participated. A future NRL star in the making!

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is on the 21st March this year and has a Sport/Games focus. In PE & class time we have been having a great time participating in sports from almost every continent in the world!

Jeff Phillips
PE TEACHER

Uniform Shop

Trading hours are **Friday 8.15am to 11.00am** for the remainder of the Term.

We now have in stock Girls Tights and Boys Ties.

Just a reminder that we are only allowed to have 2 customers at the uniform shop at one time. If you do not have a number we ask you to please wait on the silver seats downstairs.

If our trading time does not suit you, you are welcome to place an order and it will be filled and sent home with your child. We can only accept cash or cheque for these orders.

Please watch this space for stock as it arrives.

Cassandra Powell
UNIFORM SHOP ASSISTANT

Canteen

TWIST & DRINKS are out of stock and won't be in until Term 2. Term 1 2012 Orange Price List went home in the last newsletter. Any wrong prices will be substituted to the nearest amount even if this means they receive a sandwich. If an item is missed out of your child's lunch order or if anything is wrong please ask your child to come to the canteen on the day it is wrong so we can fix it on the day.

We still need volunteers for Tuesday - Group 2 starting 24th April and Friday - Group 1 starting 18th May. If we can't get anyone for these groups we will not be able to open the canteen for recess and lunch. Please come and see me at the canteen or ring me at home and leave a message. The roster is every four weeks. I hope we don't have to disappoint the children.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER
 Home Phone: 9622 5703

P & F News

On Saturday 5th May the P&F will be holding a family portrait day at St Michaels. The cost for a family portrait is \$15.00, and for this, each family will receive a beautifully framed 10x13 colour print and a keyring. Flyers with more information will be coming home soon.

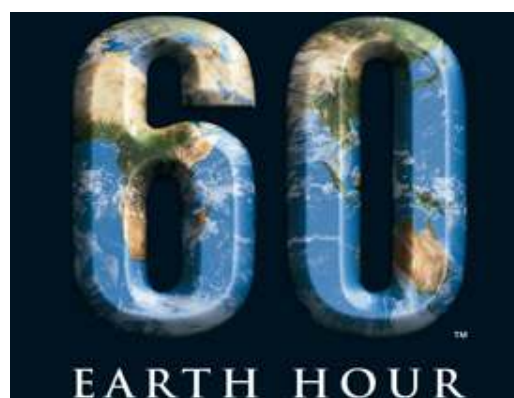
A big thank you to those who have mentioned St Michaels while shopping at the Good Guys Prospect. We have received \$55.00 in gift vouchers that will go towards technology for the school.

Jenny Warn
P & F PRESIDENT

Friends of our Earth

EARTH HOUR: Earth Hour is held each year at 8:30pm on the last Saturday in March. During this hour you are encouraged to **'Switch off your electricity'** including lights, computers, TV, DVD etc. This year it is on Saturday 31st March.

Earth Hour is a WWF initiative, which symbolises the collective power of individuals, businesses and governments to reduce our environmental impact on this one and only planet we call home. From its beginnings in one city in one country - Sydney - Earth Hour has grown to millions of people in over 5000 cities across 135 countries, a truly global community committed to creating a more sustainable planet. **Want to get involved?**



The first step is **signing up** to show your support. www.wwf.org.au/EarthHour

Next step, planning something fun for the evening! In 2012 communities around Australia are encouraged to throw a local "Earth Hour Unplugged" event, a great way to celebrate the night and help raise funds for WWF.

St Michael's will be having their own EARTH HOUR on Friday, 30th March during school time.

At the end of the day, Earth Hour is not about saving an hour's electricity, it's about uniting people to protect the planet. And the best thing? Each one of us can be a part of it.

Kind regards

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH TEAM

Library

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE:

Congratulations to Vanessa Abouhamad of 5S who is the first reader from St Michaels to finish the PRC for 2012. Well done Vanessa. Your name, along with anyone else who finishes, will go in the draw for monthly prizes.

We have 388 students from St Michaels registered for the Challenge this year. Now the REAL challenge is to encourage those students to keep reading the required number of books. In the past only about half of those who registered actually completed the challenge. Let's make 2012, the National Year of Reading, our best year ever, while enjoying great stories. Last week I gave out **passwords and instructions** to registered students. If you did not receive a password, but would still like to take part, please see me by Friday 23rd so that I can do all new registrations at the one time.

NATIONAL YEAR OF REDING 2012:

I would like to share the following quote about reading that shows how good literature enables us to develop our imaginations, and escape from the humdrum of our lives to "become" someone else, even if for a short time.

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies" said Jojen. "The man who never reads lives only one."
From **"A dance with Dragons"** by George R. R. Martin.

WORLD MATHS DAY AND WORLD READ ALOUD DAY:

Both of these events were celebrated with much enthusiasm last Wednesday 7th March. Armed with passwords, our children enjoyed the challenge of competing against students from countries all around the world to answer maths problems and score points.

Our top three scorers were:

Swaraj Parimi	3C	1300 pts
Michelle Lin	6J	445 pts
Erik Yu	2G	400 pts

Several students also took part in the World Spelling and World Science activities.

The top 3 students overall taking part in all 3 activities were:

Swaraj Parimi	3C	1319 pts
Raja Alanson	2S	1286 pts
Geraldine Vella	5W	964 pts

Classes were engaged with wonderful stories throughout the day in the Library. Our senior students proved that we are never too old to share a picture book. Many children are now hoping to borrow the books and share them with parents.

Look for photos of both these events on the School

<http://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/> and Library websites
www.stmblibrary.wikispaces.com

BOOK CLUB:

I would like to thank Mrs Annie Pinto and Mrs Mary Anne Galea for the hours they spent recently counting money and collating orders for Issue 1 of Book Club. This takes a lot of time, and benefits students who order, and the Library, because we earn free points to choose new books. I have several orders in the Library that have no name on the forms, so I cannot send them to the children. If you ordered a book and have not received it, please send a note to the Library with the name of the book you ordered and I'll see if it matches with those I have left over.

Judy Buhagiar
 TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

Before and After School Care

Sincere thanks for your survey responses. I met last week with the Catholic Education Office officials. At this meeting we confirmed the location and facilities that support our application. We are now in the final stage where your responses will give great weight to our application. I am confident that this application will be supported and that our after hours centre will open its doors in the near future.

SMS Reminders

The school will be commencing this form of communication for Reminders and/or Upcoming Events. Please make sure that you keep your contact mobile information up to date with the school. We will be sending our first SMS in the next couple of days. This message will be sent to the mother's mobile number that we have on record. If you do not receive an SMS from St Michael's this week please contact the office to update your mobile number.

Lost Property

Lost property is a source of great distress to a young child and a source of frustration to parents. There is a lost property bin located in the student foyer in the office.

PLEASE ensure that all of your child's property is clearly labeled (tracksuit tops as well as bottoms). The chances of the lost item finding its way home are significantly increased if there is a name attached.

Medication

If your child required medication (prescribed medication only) during school time, parents are asked to complete an "Authorisation for Prescribed Medication" form (available from the office), otherwise the medication cannot be administered. Over the counter medication will not be given unless prescribed by a doctor and the medication is labeled with doctors name and dosage. It is important that you notify the school office during the year of any changes to address, telephone number, either home and / or business, and emergency contact person. We are unable to contact parents when children are sick or hurt if our records are not updated.

