



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### AUGUST

Wed 21st	Principal's Award Morning Tea
Fri 23rd	Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Tues 27th	4O & 4E Excursion to Blacktown Heritage Centre
Wed 28th	Father's Day Stall
Thurs 29th	4M & 4C Excursion to Blacktown Heritage Centre
Fri 30th	Father's Day Liturgy

#### SEPTEMBER

Fri 6th	Kindergarten Excursion to Taronga Zoo
	Year 3 Excursion to Lessons Afloat

#### 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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#### WITH THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Rollercoasters
- ◆ RE News - World Youth Day
- ◆ Read-a-thon Sponsor Page
- ◆ Faith in Marriage
- ◆ Blacktown Library Information

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20TH AUGUST 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.

Dear Parents and Friends,

#### 2013 READ-A-THON

**Get caught Reading.....**what a challenge. As you would be aware, our school culture is not one of money making event followed by money making event. In fact, our school falls at the bottom end of 'school based fees', within the diocese.

In 2013 we have already spent over \$60,000 on reading books and storage units to support our Early Intervention and Primary programmes. We continue to increase our Information Technology programme and are preparing to spend well over \$100k on technology for our new learning centre. This year we have contributed to the refurbishment of our K-1 learning spaces with new furnishings and storage spaces.

As you would be aware, Catholic schools can only survive through 'Local Contribution'. In short, our yearly A-THON is a source for putting into the hands of our children, vital tools for learning. I invite you to give whatever you can, and invite friend and colleagues to support us in building up the most important resource, 'the book'.

#### BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

This week I will meet with representatives of our P & F leadership team. One of our important agenda items will be the formation of 'Parent Reps' within our school. For us to grow from good to great will require the ongoing building of strong parent school and parish relationships.

Parent Reps have the promise to be a proactive response group, with supporting the Vision and Mission of our School, their major Goal.

**To Engage.....**to bring action to all our hopes and dreams. Engagement in parents working with parents, teachers and members of our parish in bringing to life the dreams of all our community, in making our school a great school. Engagement will look a lot like last week, where parents were working on reading resources, working one to one with readers in ES1 and supporting major events such as our Athletics Carnival and Year 4 Excursions.

**To Empower.....**where parents will continue to be supported in their understanding of current trends in education. We need to make time to share new techniques in all key learning areas including Religious Education and Information Technology. In regards to Religious Education and Faith renewal, there are many of us who are hoping to create a parent RE group, supporting both prayer and understanding around our faith. As we continue to grow in our understanding of Co- Teaching in agile, flexible learning spaces, we need to share our understanding with all members of our community.

**To Reflect.....**These are critical moments of feedback. How is....this going? What do you think needs to change to make it better? Why don't you think .....is working? Do you think we could have done this another way? Reflection is the critical moment of transparency and will be the result of trusting relationships.

None of the thoughts are mine, they have come from listening to many of you who have taken the time to share your hopes and dreams. Our community is a strong one. Our children's success and positive attitudes are often referred to by visiting educators and guests to our community. I know that continuing to look to ways of building stronger bonds between school and home is a key issue.

This week more of our teaching teams are spending professional learning time visiting successful agile learning spaces. The key issues around these visits is on Co-Teaching, looking closely at successful models and frameworks.

I will be meeting with all key players in confirming IT needs, ensuring we have high levels of capacity to support the rapid changes in IT.

In teaching and learning, we will continue our work in Literacy and Numeracy with Teacher educators and team leaders working with teaching groups, reviewing student results and planning individual programmes.

This Wednesday we will review our Year 4 Religious Education task and feedback to teachers and students, our collective findings.

Leaders making a difference...

Finally I welcome back our Pilgrim, Mrs Easton. Anne as you know was a team leader at the World Youth Day. I know that Anne's experience will be shared in many ways over the coming weeks and year. I also wish to acknowledge Mr Tom Crowley, Mrs Jennifer Coope and Miss Charlotte Gourlie who have all accepted leadership roles over these last weeks. We are indeed blessed by the depth of leadership within our school Community.

Regards



John Laffan  
PRINCIPAL

## Assistant Principal Report

### Parents don't be alarmed but be alert! A fever has taken over St Michael's School

Yes that's right! READING FEVER has begun in the form of our READ-A-THON.

Students have been collecting sponsors to raise money. Teachers and Secretaries have been searching out sponsors prizes.

Now it is up to the students to start reading.

Students will be rewarded for the amount of time spent reading over the next 2 weeks. The class that reads the most hours will win a BBQ with Mr Laffan and Mrs Boyer.

When children bring in their money that sponsors have given them, they will receive raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize drawn in Week 9.

Each lunchtime over the next 2 weeks, school staff will read to students in the playground. This time can be added to their totals.

You can encourage this fever to rise by:

- ⇒ Encouraging your child to turn off the TV and read each evening a little more than usual.
- ⇒ Reading to your children.
- ⇒ Listening to your child read every night.
- ⇒ Reading as a family.
- ⇒ Catching your child or yourself reading and email the photo to the school's email address ... [stmichaelsblkn@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsblkn@parra.catholic.edu.au)
- ⇒ Taking your child to the local library: **Blacktown Library** is free to join. It gives your access to many great books to borrow plus access to ebooks eg Sunshine online and Busythings which has learning games and activities such as problem solving, numeracy, creative development to name a few (see information sheets enclosed with this news-letter). To access these, parent or children need to be members of the library (your membership number allows you to access these). Contact the library for more information.

Yes we do want to raise money but we also want the children to enjoy reading and develop a love of reading. Please help us help your children.

**BOOK WEEK** coincides with the commencement of our READ-A-THON. This week is also Book Week: The Children's Book Council of Australia has nominated their theme as "Read Across the Universe". For more information on winning books and honour list go to <http://cbca.org.au/winners2013.htm>. Some great books here for your children to read.

#### ICAS WRITING

Congratulations all the students who participated in the ICAS writing competition.

**A very special congratulations to Joshua Pinto and Pavithran Visakeswaran from Year 3.**

#### YEAR 6 - VOICE OF YOUTH

Two weeks ago, we conducted the Year 6 Voice of Youth finals. 12 students presented well constructed and researched speeches, with poise and conviction.



We congratulate the finalists:

***Jorge Capati, Pinak Sharma, Remy Nijjar, Blake Bano, Majorie Laquian, Annabel Darmali, Nicholas Bear, Luke Barber, Montanna Farquharson, Hannah Harvey, Mayure Lazarus, William Gafa***

From this fine group of speakers, Nicholas Bear and Montanna Farquharson, were chosen to represent St Michael's at the cluster final at Seven Hills. We are very please to announce that Nicholas who spoke about "Dreamers" was the overall winner of Voice of Youth and will now represent the cluster at the next level of public speaking and Montanna who spoke very sincerely about children with Leukemia won the Social Justice award.



#### PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Each year in Term 3 we conduct St Michael's Public Speaking Competition. We believe that all children should be given the opportunity to develop their skills of speaking in front of an audience. Each child in each class over the next few weeks will present a speech to their class. One child from each class will finally be selected to present their speech to parents and friends of St Michael's. This competition is organised by our student leaders, Nicholas Bear, Montanna Farquharson, Luke Barber, Esconda Fozi, Joshua Lin, Annabel Darmali. Presentations will be in Week 10 on the following afternoons from 2pm. All welcome.

Monday: ES1  
 Tuesday: Stage 3  
 Wednesday: Stage 1  
 Thursday: Stage 2

Helen Boyer

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

## Term 3 School Fees

Term 3 school fees were due on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Thank you to those who have already paid.

If you have any concerns please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to discuss making an arrangement for payment.

## 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 term's 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.

### Sport

Unfortunately this year St Michael's was unable to hold its Annual Athletics Carnival due to extreme weather conditions and thus decide Age Champions and Champion House for this year. However, despite this, we still needed to select a team to attend the Zone Athletics Carnival, so events were run during school P.E times and the following students were selected for the Zone Carnival held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August:



Girls:

**Hannah Bopf, Melissa Correia, Claudia Estrada, Jessica Figueroa, Fifita Fungavi, Beatrice Gara, Opia Inyasio, Georgia Koutoulas, Marjorie Laquian, Vanessa Portelli, Harmony Rhodes, Nosa Shata, Ava Sowsun, Nikayla Tighe, Gerladine Vella, Jordan Walsh Leelah Williams, Brianna Yu**

Boys:

**Andre Angulo, Baanghy Butros, Peter Cinya, Matthew Dudgeon, Lorenzo Estil, Joel Femia, William Gafa, Blake Graham, Hayden Hunter, Jing Lual, Darius Meina, Johnathon Miranda, Jeremy Morton, Andrew Roseby, Jeorone Salvador, Sayer Touto, Ashton Williams, Ayden Williams, Jimmy Whelan**

Geraldine Vella and Matthew Dudgeon lead the team as Athletics Captains on the day and their leadership and guidance to younger students was most appreciated along with the help of Mrs. Warn who came along on the day as team manager.

Highlights from the day included, but were not limited to:

**Nikayla Tighe Zone record 800m  
Senior Boys Relay Team 1<sup>st</sup> by a long way  
Geraldine Vella Senior Girls Age Champion Runner Up  
Jimmy Whelan 11 Years Boys Age Champion Runner Up  
Matthew Dudgeon Senior Boys Age Champion Runner Up**

The following students have now been chosen to represent Blacktown Zone at the Parramatta Diocesan Athletics Carnival on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August:

**Andre Angulo, Baanghy Butros, Matthew Dudgeon, Joel Femia, Fifita Fungavi, Blake Graham, Hayden Hunter, Opia Inyasio, Jeremy Morton, Vanessa Portelli, Nikayla Tighe, Gerladine Vella, Jimmy Whelan, Ayden Williams**

Regards

Mr Phillips & Mr McKimm

**PE TEACHERS**

## Canteen News

We URGENTLY we volunteers for Mondays 9-11.30am or all day if possible as Geny was by herself yesterday from 11.00am. Please help us out if you can.

If you are unable to make your rostered day please phone us as early as possible so that we can try and get a replacement.

We also need reserves who can come in at short notice. Please ring me on 9622 5703 or Geny on 9621 2558. Thank you to the two mums that helped Geny till 11.00am when she had no one come on yesterday's roster.

Jan Crawford

**CANTEEN MANAGER**

## Lost Property

**We have a huge amount of lost property.** If your child has lost an item of clothing please check the lost property box which is located in the student foyer.

## Library News

### PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have told me they are finished their Reading Challenge.

Joachim Tabone 2B

Jarrold Zammit 2G

Damian Lloyd 2X

Shannon Gibbins 3B

Matthew Wormleaton 3B

Matthias Barrett 3L

Emma Depares 4E

Tushar Puthran 4E

Ashleigh Southam 4E

Andrew Roseby 4M

Nicholas Ward 4M

Caitlyn Gibbins 6A

***All other readers have only until the end of this week to complete their reading. All books should be entered by Sunday, 25th August.***

### CHESS - GR8 news!!

Our A Team finished first in their division in the recent Inter-school Chess Competition, 3 points ahead of the second placed team. Congratulations to all players.

Congratulations also to our B Team players. Although there were a lot of beginners, they all tried their best and showed improvement throughout the competition. They finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place out of nine, but I'm sure they will do much better next year.

### ***A special mention about a special player....***

**Andrew Roseby** from 4M has been playing tournaments against players from all around NSW. Often the players are much older than him. He has achieved a score of 514 for these matches, which places him 13<sup>th</sup> in NSW for the Under Ten age group. He tells me he often plays for six hours at a time usually in his school holidays. It is hard to imagine how much concentration and stamina that would be needed for such long times.

Well done Andrew.

Mrs Bugahiar

**TEACHER LIBRARIAN**

## Family Support



### 1 2 3 Magic & Emotion Coaching

Effective Discipline for children 2-12 years

Date: Thursday, 22nd August, 29th August, 5th September

Time: 10.00am-12.30pm

Cost: \$15.00 to cover materials. (Please call to discuss if financial difficulties).

For more information contact:

**Catholic Care - Penrith**

**Contact: 4721 5331**

## P & F News

### FATHER'S DAY STALL

Father's Day will soon be with us. This is fantastic as it provides us with a dedicated time to especially focus on thanking and loving our Dads. September is the month when we get to thank, celebrate, and acknowledge our Dads, Grandfathers, Uncles and all those who are the Dads in our lives.

The students Father's Day Stall will be held on **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August**. There will be a great range of gifts available from \$1.50 to \$9.00, so you're sure to find something great for Dad. All students will have time throughout the day to attend the Father's Day Stall.

Any parents who can attend and help out on the day, even for ½ an hour, please let Tash know via email; [cykophotography@bigpond.com](mailto:cykophotography@bigpond.com)

### CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Thank you to those who attended the initial meeting to discuss the Class Representative proposal at the end of last term. We had 19 people attend, with another few unable to make it that night, yet who are still keen to be involved. This is an amazing turn out. This shows that parents do wish to be involved with their children and are willing to help. I know that thank you in words is never, simply, thank you. We have the base group to begin the process.

We will soon have the next meeting to take the first step to work with the class Parent Representatives, with the view to having these parents helping in their children's classrooms soon.

It is an exciting step in the evolution of the P&F. Thank you for your support, and I ask that you be involved as your time permits. It is a great journey to be a part of your children's growth at school.

**Next P & F Class Representative Meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th September - ALL WELCOME.**

Kind Regards

**Justin Bear**

President P&F

0488 033 066

## Student Leaders Report

### YEAR 1 - Integrated Unit

In Year One's integrated Unit, they have been learning about CHOICES IN OUR LIVES. Some choices they have been looking at are SAFE AND UNSAFE CHOICES. They have been looking at how you'll be safe in the sun and unsafe in the sun, and safe around water and unsafe around water etc.

One more main choice Year One has been looking at is HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY FOOD. They have been placing food on a food pyramid that contains three sections. They are, at the bottom is EAT MOST, in the middle is EAT MODERATELY and at the top is EAT ONLY A LITTLE.

Year One has also been looking at different parts of the body that can be affected when making right and wrong. Year One has been working hard, concentrating and always trying to MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES AT SCHOOL!



