

St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY

Tues 21st	ICAS - Computer Skills
Wed 22nd	National Simultaneous Storytime
"	Panther Trophy - Rugby League
Tues 28th	Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day
Thurs 30th	Whole School Assembly in Church - 9.30am
Fri 31st	2X & 2B Excursion to Old Rouse Hill School

JUNE

Wed 5th	ICAS - Science Competition
Fri 7th	2G & 2L Excursion to Old Rouse Hill School

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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Blacktown South 2148
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Fax: 9622 6902
Website:
www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
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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 7

21 MAY 2013

From the Principal

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2014

Please collect an Enrolment Form from office or download off our website.

Dear Parents and Friends,

Getting to know St Paul

One of our major Goals in 2013 is to grow in our faith through gaining a deeper understanding of St Paul and his letters.

Mrs Easton and our RE team will continue to share Paul's letters and his teachings.

Pope Benedict wrote of Paul:

"Christ's passion led him to preach the Gospel not only with the word but also with his very life, which was ever more conformed to that of his Lord."

Allow yourself some quality time in reading over Paul's works.

What are they saying to you?

- ⇒ *"In him we live and move and have our being."*
- ⇒ *"Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent for I am with you."*
- ⇒ *"Don't be alarmed, there is life in him."*

ST MICHAEL'S GOALS - ON TRACK

Formation: St Paul

⇒ Mrs Easton is planning our next meeting in following St Paul's life and impact of his writing.

Numeracy:

- ⇒ Tracking all students through the Maths Assessment Interview followed by consistent approach to teaching through Warm-Ups, Rich Learning Tasks and Reflections.
- ⇒ All grades now have mobile data walls with all students skill levels plotted.

Literacy:

All teachers have now completed professional learning in Guided Reading and Running Records.

PARENTS OF ST MICHAEL'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Sincere thanks to the following parents whose efforts meant that our children could enjoy the Mothers Day Stall: Justin Bear, Natasha Scanlon, D Biggs, Marisa Khan, Leanne Cash, Savanthi Dias, Lucia Wormleaton, Kamilia Wagenknecht, Jo Stack, Melissa Spiteri, Maryann Galea, Danielle Grills, Rebecca Walker, Lee-ann Dever, Kristen Gardoll, Donna Dudgeon.

CELEBRATING LEARNING IN AGILE AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES - PARENT FORUM

Last Thursday we hosted the first of many Parent Forums looking into 21st Century teaching within newly designed Learning Spaces.

We looked at the management of 'work noise'. This has been a concern for all of us and this being the case our work in the Father Kevin Dadswell Centre has been an important test case as students and their teachers learn new ways of working in concert with one another. As a result we are confident that **Decibal levels** within the FKDLC support creative forms of learning.



When is **open learning not open learning** the answer is when it is **Agile and Flexible**.

At St. Michael's we will never support open learning spaces. We are currently building a 3.5 million school that represents world wide understanding in contemporary learning spaces. Our design provides a variety of space configurations supporting a variety of learning needs.

Furniture was another important topic for discussion. All children will have space for personal equipment and all children will enjoy seats, desks, cushions, benches, carpets, outdoor furniture and even grass to work, discuss, make and plan.

Probably the most important part of our forum was in seeing successful teaching and learning taking place in our FKDL.

Our Next Parent Forum date is 13th June at 9.30am if you would like to be a part of this forum please ring the office.

Our next whole school assembly will be held on Thursday, 30th May at 9.30am in the Church. All welcome.

Regards



John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal Report

Another quote from the Australian Curriculum

The study of English from Kindergarten to Year 10 should develop a love of literature and learning and be challenging and enjoyable. It develops skills to enable students to experiment with ideas and expressions, to become active, independent and lifelong learners, to work with each other and to reflect on their learning.

Stage 1 stage statement pp 19:

Students read and view imaginative, informative and persuasive texts. They use an increasing variety of skills and strategies, including knowledge of text structures, context, grammar, punctuation, word usage and phonics to make connections between texts and between their own experiences and information in texts. Students read with developing fluency and intonation short texts with some unfamiliar vocabulary, simple sentences and images.

Level 2 "Early Readers":

At this level students pay more attention to the details of print. They have come to realise that printed letters and words represent the sounds and words of oral language. Students begin to understand the forty four sounds in the English language translate into letters (a, f, g, t, r) and letter clusters (eg. th, ch, wh, er, ir).

At this stage they

- ◆ understand concepts of print.
- ◆ learn how to substitute letters to make new words (eg **band**, take away the /b/ and put in /h/ read the new word **hand**).
- ◆ can break words into smaller parts so that they can decode them (eg think th-i-n-k)
- ◆ develop the acquisition of high frequency words and so fluency and comprehension develop.

At this level it is important that students are encouraged to activate prior knowledge of the topic (title) and begin to anticipate what the text may be about, predict the vocabulary that may be encountered.

The books students are exposed to at this level, should contain a variety of supports such as relevant story lines, repetitive and predictable text, illustrations, large print and predictable placement of text.

"Reading must always be viewed as a meaning – making process: it is not just decoding." (Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Child and Family Program, 1998, p70).

This is such an exciting time of a child's learning as they engage in reading with purpose and meaning. It is now that they begin to develop a love of reading.

Congratulations to all students who have been successful in their sporting achievements so far this year.

Parents it is important for us to continue to remind you to send in a note explaining your child's absence. This note should come with your child on each day of return after an absence.

Congratulations and a huge "thank you" to all parents for your support of our afternoon dismissal. It is a lovely opportunity to say "Hi" to parents as they pass through the drive through pick up. Thank you also to Parish members and Nagle teachers and students for your understanding and support.

Bag tags have been produced to help parents, teachers and student to remember the correct way to leave the school each afternoon, and are especially handy for younger students who may have different procedures each day.. If you require “bag tags” please contact the school office. Bag tag requests are sent home on Fridays.

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday. The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition, the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover, it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the Disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, who animated the Disciples to spread the Gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church. For the weeks following the death of Jesus, the Disciples had lived in fear and confusion, not fully understanding what had happened and not really knowing what to do. When they realised that the Spirit Jesus had breathed upon them was really present and urging them to action, they finally had the courage to begin the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them: to spread the Good News of Jesus and continue to realise his message in the world.

Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

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.

School Fees

Term Two school fees invoices have been issued and payment is due by the 3rd June. If you have not received your invoice please contact the school office. If you have any concerns regarding payment of school fees please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to make an appointment.

Absences from School

ABSENCES

Please note that a letter is necessary for **ALL** absences. For legal reasons, notes must be sent to school explaining each of your child’s absences. However, if a child is going to be away from school for more than two days, please telephone the school. In this way we may be able to continue to support your child’s learning.

LEAVE EXEMPTION

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason other than illness or school related events ie sports day etc. you must apply for an exemption in writing with a full explanation of the reason for leave which will then be processed by the principal and an approved exemption will be supplied to you.

This also includes holidays of any length, even if it is only one or two days. These forms are available from the office.

If the absence from school is longer than 20 school days a copy of travel documents will need to be supplied to support the request for exemption. If an absence from school is longer than 100 school days then the request will need to be supported by an explanation and copy of relevant travel documents. This application will be processed by the Principal/Assistant Principal and forwarded to the Diocesan Office. A copy of the “Guidelines for Exemption from attendance at NSW Catholic Systemic Schools” in its entirety can be sourced from the school office.

Library News

PRC:

Congratulations to the following students who have finished their reading and now qualify for a certificate from the Premier of NSW.

Marina Ibrahim – 2B

Brianna Mareschi – 2B

Madelyn Attard – 3B

Shannelle Raj – 3B

Melissa Correia – 4C

Alisha Depares – 5P

Chess:

St Michael's has 2 teams playing in the NSW Junior Chess League competition. The students play after school on a Friday afternoon. After 2 rounds, our A Team has scored 7 ½ points out of a possible 8. This is a great result. Most of the team has played in this competition before, and their experience shows.

The B Team, which has players that are nearly all new to the competition, has scored 3 ½ out of 8. However they are learning with each game and thinking about their attacking and defending moves. I'm sure there will be lots more wins in the matches to come.

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER LIBRARIAN

Canteen

Please take **small water** and **Chicken Pies** off the price list as these items are **NO LONGER AVAILABLE**.

On Fridays we need 2 volunteers from 9.00am-2.30pm (full day) or mornings 9.00am-11.00am as two mums have returned to work. This will be every four weeks. Fridays are our busiest day and we need the extra help. Please contact me at the canteen or at home on 9622 5703 and leave a message and I will ring you back.

Please remember to put the amount of money enclosed on the lunch order.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Sports News

On Tuesday May the 7th Mr Phillips accompanied a wonderful group of athletes to the Parramatta Diocesan Cross Country. Those athletes were:

8/9 Years - 2km

Andrew Roseby
Shannon Gibbins
Peter Cinya
Seth Williams
Jadd Ghourizi
Saber Sader
Vanessa Portelli
Shanelle Aorton
Victoria Vidovic
Maddison Wright
Lambi Shanta
Jasmine Rossi

10 Years: 2km

Thomas O'Callaghan
Tobey Lewis
Jing Lual
Thomas Hurst
Miguell Gara
Julio Salgado
Nikayla Tighe
Melissa Correia
Leelah Williams
Avigalle Mendoza
Amelia Xiberras
Lily Hardman

11 Years

Riley Marsh
Seandan Arias
Blake Graham
Jimmy Whelan
Darius Meina
Tyren Miller
Nosa Shata
Claudia Estrada
Susan Sogora
Naro Sanga
Ashley Femia

12/13 Years

William Gafa
Marcus Correia
Matthew Dudgeon
Nicholas Bear
Hayden Hunter
Jason Wormleaton
Geraldine Vella
Jessica Figueroa
Aglaya Papadokokolakis
Moya Inyasio
Opia Inyasio

They were wonderful ambassadors for our school and we are proud to announce that Thomas O'Callaghan and Vanessa Portelli have been selected to represent the Diocese at the next level in June and we wish them the best of luck.

Congratulations must also be extended to Hayden Hunter who has been selected in the MacKillop Rugby League team and will be travelling to Dubbo soon to play. We wish him all the best.

Gala days will be happening this week in Boys Rugby League and next week in Boys Football. We will give you updates on these days in the next edition of this newsletter.

Also Miss O'Brien will be running a school Netball tournament in the coming weeks to select a school team to compete at a gala day in Term 3. This tournament is open to boys and girls as we hope to select mixed teams.

Mr McKimm / Mr Phillips

PE/SPORTS TEACHERS

