



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2013—ISSUE 10

23 JULY 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JULY

Wed 24th Uniform Shop re-opens for business

Wed 31st Life Education commences

" English Competition

AUGUST

Wed 7th Voice of Youth School Final

Thurs 8th Mary MacKillop Mass

" OPEN DAY - 10-11am For prospective new families

Fri 9th Year 4 Excursion to Elizabeth Farm and Old Government House, Parramatta

Tues 13th Mathematics Competition

" Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival

Wed 14th Voice of Youth - 10am - OLOL Seven Hills

Fri 16th Year 5 Bathurst Excursion

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 - for kids whose families are changing

⇒ Term Planner

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,

In the words of some game show host "Touch Down."

By the time we got to work on Monday, removalists had finished Mr Kutnjak's great work and returned the FKDLC and all other learning spaces as well as uniform shop back to normal.

What a start to term 3. What an incredible year. We have been confronted with many challenges, we have been asked to look at our pedagogy, our status quo, our old ways of doing things and through all of this we have grown stronger. As Churchill once said, "When you are walking through hell, just keep walking." In the scheme of things we know our challenges have all been 'doable', because we have never been alone in creating the necessary solutions.

At this stage I want to acknowledge Miss Salib, Mr Xuereb, Miss Long, Miss Gourlie, Mrs Samojlowicz, Miss Cox, Miss Doherty and Miss Galea for accommodating all our 'nomads' for the week. On Monday and Tuesday, of last week I found groups of our mums at the gate, they were concerned of the impact on learning for their children. This was a reasonable concern. At 9.06am on each day I invited them to walk with me along the K-2 block. They couldn't believe the high levels of student engagement and the brilliant teaching that was going on, "business as usual". This simple moment highlights the capacity and skill shown by teachers at St. Michael's. Put simply we are moving from 'Good to Great'.

So then, where to next.....

BUILDING 2014

This week we will meet with our architect, builders and system team in confirming IT capabilities within all learning spaces. Miss Gourlie, Mrs O'Leary and Mrs Coope will bring their knowledge and experience to the meeting as we plan the next phase of this exciting adventure.

Block B will continue to come under the spotlight with new furniture, display boards and lighting still being planned.

This week we should receive a 3 dimensional plan of our 2014 project. I have asked for these to support Mrs O'Leary and the Leadership Team as we continue to understand how our new learning spaces will be worked.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

This week there are two major professional learning opportunities. On Wednesday we welcome Ms Karren Ferranti from the CEO. Karren our TE will be working with all members of the Literacy Core Team. As leader of Pedagogy, Mrs Boyer has introduced Karren to our Focus 160 goals and strategies. On Wednesday we will support our teaching team and their understanding of *guided reading, running records, modelled and shared reading.*

At this weeks staff meeting, Mr Crowley will lead us in " Following in the footsteps of St. Paul. This week we will have the opportunity of reflect on Paul's Letters to the Galatians and what it is we are being asked to do as a response.

FOCUS 160

This week our Year 2 team (including all learning support, Miss Squadrito, Mr van der Walle, Miss Long, Mrs Boyer and myself) are again meeting system requirements in delivering data of all vulnerable students in reading and numeracy. Our obvious task, is supporting Year 2 in managing collection and recording of data. Mr Crowley and Mrs Boyer will be working with Stage 2 in planning of numeracy Triads.

REFLECTION

The Human Dignity of Asylum Seekers comes before National Interests

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office call for Australia's asylum seeker policies to be inspired by the centrality of human dignity and the obligation to care for our brothers and sisters who, in their desperation, ask for our welcome and assistance.

"Each and every one of us must rise above indifference and have the courage to open our hearts to asylum seekers, to listen to their hopes, to empathise with their despair, and to welcome them into our community." said Bishop Gerard Hanna, Australian Catholic Bishop's Delegate for Migrants and Refugees.

"Our thoughts and active involvement is accompanied by our prayerful support for these people who have endured so much in the hope of making a life for themselves in Australia and who will now be denied this opportunity" said Bishop Hanna.

"An alternative way to prevent tragedies at sea is to accept more refugees from source countries and provide the possibility and the hope of reaching Australia through a regular legal pathway" said Fr Pettena National Director of ACMRO and Consulter of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

Regards



John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal Report

What is the goal of reading...

Comprehension

The ability to understand, reflect on, and learn from text. To comprehend a text a child needs to build on prior knowledge and experience to expand language skills, vocabulary development and promote and develop higher order thinking skills.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to be able to read fast accurate and effortlessly. Children make their reading sound like "talking". To enable children to read fluently it is necessary that the text they read are at the appropriate level, that they have scanned the text to determine any unknown words prior to reading and that they have thought about, predicted what the text might be about by looking at the title pictures or headings prior to actually reading the text.

Motivation to read

Children need to be actively engaged in the reading process. They need to be supplied with a variety of media and texts for example, books, poems, pictures, charts and other resources that capture their attention and interest. Students need to see themselves as successful readers.

Over term 2 I have included useful information about learning to read. At St Michael's we place a great deal of energy and teaching and learning time into ensuring that all children are provided with quality instruction and maximum opportunity to read. To make this goal real we have recently purchased \$50000 worth of reading books for students to use during guided reading and reader's circle sessions.

To pay for these books we will need your help. In weeks 6 and 7 of this term we will be holding our annual a-thon to raise funds for our school. This is the only major fundraising event conducted by the school.

This year we will be holding a READ-A-THON

"GET CAUGHT READING"

Gotcha! Caught you reading again.

There will be more information to follow over the next few weeks so start collecting the books your children will be reading and be read to over this 2 week period. Start alerting grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbours and friends that we will be asking for their sponsorship and or donations to support our children.

We may not be able to raise the whole \$50000 but with your help we will certainly give it our best shot. Thank you in anticipation.

A must read in this newsletter is our student leaders section. Each week they will be presenting an article about the teaching and learning in a grade. They are also responsible for launching our READ-A-THON at whole school assembly in week 5.

Helen Boyer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

Reflecting on the Word of God

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 10:38-42

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.

Gospel Reflection

Last week's Gospel's passage is, at its heart, all about hospitality. This theme has featured in the gospel readings for the last couple of weeks. It is a theme that the writer returns to over and over again throughout the gospel to reinforce not only the importance of welcoming the message of Jesus, but also the extravagantly generous hospitality and welcome that God extends to all people.

This week's gospel passage can be a problematic one. Jesus is dining at the house of Martha and she busies herself trying to be a good host and serving her guest, while her sister, Mary, simply sits and enjoys the company of Jesus. Martha complains about her sister's apparent laziness and finds herself chastised by Jesus.

On the surface, Martha is doing the right thing: providing hospitality for her guest. Yet Mary is the one whose actions are affirmed. Like in the parable of the Good Samaritan last week, the gospel writer reminds us that being preoccupied with one's duty – even in service of God – is not what God desires. Martha has forgotten that the guest is also a gift! Having welcomed and shown appropriate hospitality to her guest, Martha should have then accepted the gift of the guest.

When we welcome a guest into our house, we can be too worried about impressing the guest with lavish hospitality and our best serving ware, rather than relaxing and enjoying the company of the guest. Like Martha, we can overlook the fact that God is present when we welcome a guest.

Excerpt from a commentary by Greg Sunter



Theme of WYD RIO 2013

"Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28: 19)

The theme of WYD Rio 2013 summons young people of Brazil and of the world to take a call to mission, living as witnesses of the Risen Christ.

Taken from the end of Matthew's gospel, the context of the theme is to respect the Resurrection of Christ. The disciples, who until then were frightened and locked inside for fear of the Jews, encounter Christ, the victor over death.

The encounter with Christ Risen encourages all to the living of this mandate. Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and witnesses! Peter and John believe and testify when they see the strips of linen and the cloth! The disciples of Emmaus recognize Christ in the sharing of bread and testify that Christ lives!

It is in this context that Christ gives the mandate: Go! Go because He is alive and he walks in front of his friends. Go because Christ is victor and remains with each member of the Church. Go and announce the resurrection!

This is what the theme of WYD Rio2013 seeks to generate in the heart of every young pilgrim. It motivates each participant to let the light of the Risen Christ dissipate the darkness of fear and doubts that paralyze. It encourages young people to be missionaries even in situations of conflict, in countries where Christians are persecuted, amid a secularized world that does not want to live Christian values

WORLD YOUTH DAY PRAYER

Oh Father, You sent Your Eternal Son to save the world, and You chose men and women, so that through Him, with Him and in Him, they might proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to all nations. Grant us the necessary graces, so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the joy of being the evangelists that the Church needs in the Third Millennium may shine in the faces of all young people.

Oh Christ, Redeemer of humanity, the image of Your open arms on the top of Corcovado, welcomes all people. In Your paschal offering, You led us, by the Holy Spirit, to encounter the Father as His children. Young people, who are nourished by Eucharist, who hear You in Your Word and meet You as their brother, need Your infinite mercy to walk along the paths of this world as disciples and missionaries of the New Evangelization.

Oh Holy Spirit, Love of the Father and of the Son, with the splendor of Your Truth and the fire of Your Love, shed Your Light upon all young people so that, inspired by their experience at World Youth Day, they may bring faith, hope and charity to the four corners of the earth, becoming great builders of a culture of life and peace and catalysts of a new world. Amen !

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday 22nd & Wednesday 24th July

Thursday 8th August

Friday 30th August

Year 3 children making their First Reconciliation

Mary MacKillop Mass at 9:30am in St. Michael's Church

Father's Day Liturgy

Tom Crowley

ACTING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

Term 3 School Fees

Term 3 school fee invoices have been issued and payment is due by 19th August. 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 arrangement.

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.

Uniform News

The shop will re-open for normal trading tomorrow, **Wednesday 24th July 2013** from 8:15—11:00 am. Reminder: If you are unable to come into the Uniform Shop during the open hours you can place an order via ORDER FORM and when the order has been processed it will be sent home with your child.

Regards
Amanda Hart

Canteen News

We URGENTLY need 4 volunteers for Monday to help. If you could spare 1 day a month (5 canteen days in total). We only have 1 person helping Geny on Mondays. If you can only spare 9am to 11.30am instead of a full day we would be really grateful for any help you can provide us. Please ring me on 9622 5703 or Geny on 9621 2558 and leave a message or call in to the canteen.

Please use PINK pricelist. Reminder that St Michael's is a NUT and EGG free school.
Hoping you can help Geny out. Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Library News

CHESS

Our 2 chess teams are still enjoying mixed success. The A team is leading their division by 1½ points after round 5 according to the results at <http://www.nswjcl.org.au>. Then last Friday they achieved a "clean sweep", winning 4-0 against the 2nd placed team. Well done.

The B team has done well with several inexperienced players. They are coming equal 4th in a very close competition, only 6 points behind the leading team. Last Friday the team achieved a great result, winning 3 out of a possible 4 points.

The main point is that all players are improving and enjoying playing against other schools.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have now completed their reading for the Premier's Reading Challenge

Moriah Urmeneta	2G	Shaun Blaje	3L
Amelia Xiberras	4M	Sharon Nogueiro	4C
Vincent Aquino	4C	Montanna Farquharson	6A
Nathaniel Darmali	3L		

For all students who have not finished, a reminder that all reading records need to be completed online by 23rd August if you want to qualify for a certificate this year. If you have any trouble accessing the site, or problems with passwords, please let me know as soon as possible.

Mrs Bugahiar
TEACHER LIBRARIAN

Sports News

The Inter School Netball Gala Day will be held on Tuesday the 20th of August and we will be sending four teams (10's, 11's, 12's and Senior Boys). A huge thank you must be extended to Miss O'Brien who organised our school tournament, selected our teams and is coaching three out of the four teams. This effort is most appreciated and all teams will be training very hard in the lead up to the tournament.

Congratulations needs to be extended to Marcus Farquharson who has been selected in the Australian under 13 Indoor Cricket team after producing some outstanding performances at the State Titles in the holidays.

Mr. McKimm / Mr. Phillips
PE/SPORT TEACHERS

Student Leaders Report

YEAR 3

Year 3 have been learning about Multiplication and Division in Maths. Their learning goal is to use efficient strategies in Multiplication and Division. By doing this, they used their imagination to work out different ways to complete the task. Some ways to work out their task is by visualizing maths problems with pictures and by using the reversal strategy. All students think different solutions to show their way of working out the question.

MAJOR SUBJECTS

Some other subjects Year 3 are learning about are handwriting, spelling, grammar and H.S.I.E. In handwriting, they are learning to do cursive writing and are preparing for running hand writing. Grammar is very important for Year 3 students as they are learning to edit their work, and re-reading to look for plurals, nouns, verbs, compound and complex sentences. And finally, in Religion, Year 3 are learning and preparing the Sacrament of initiation.

As we walked around Year 3, we saw a very high standard of progress in every student's work in all subjects. Good job and keep it up Year 3.



By the Student Leadership Team

Student Achievements

My name is Blake Bano and I attend St Michael's, Blacktown South. I am 11 years old and I play the Double Bass. I have been playing the double for a year now and I have made it into the Captivate Orchestra and the St Michael's Orchestra. During this year I have travelled Sydney doing concerts with my orchestra. I have performed at the (Dame Joan Sutherland at Penrith) and I am going to perform at the (Eisteddfod at Penrith Competition). Every Wednesday I go to St. Andrew's Primary School at Marayong to practise and learn with the Captivate Orchestra. I would like to thank my teachers (Mr Phil Rooke and Mr Brian Strong) for teaching me the bass.



My family would like to share an event last Friday night when our daughter, Marjorie Laquian (6E) sang the Australian National Anthem at a Dinner with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for a Fundraising Campaign for Ed Husic. She did not only make her family proud but her school as well. There will be more Press releases from the different local community papers indicating St Michaels Primary School, Blacktown South for Marjorie. Thank you once again for supporting our daughter.

"There is something special when you can contribute to your community using your gift. Having the courage to sing in front of the Prime Minister of Australia and nearly 600 high profile guests is an honour." as quoted by Tina Bangel, One Voice School of Music.

Best Regards,
Joseph & Marideth Laquian



FUNDRAISING CHOCOLATES will be on sale in the foyer and staffroom to support Marjorie's journey.

