



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012 — ISSUE 19

27TH NOVEMBER 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER

Fri 30th 2013 - Sports Colour Captains Voting

DECEMBER

Mon 3rd Infants Assembly - 3C & 3B - 2.15pm

Sat 8th St Michael's Parish - Christmas Carols

Tues 11th End of Year Mass - 9.30am

Thurs 13th Parent Helper's Morning Tea - 10.50am

Mon 17th Whole School Assembly - Year 6 presenting - 2.15pm
Year 6 Celebration Day - Hoyt's Cinema

Tues 18th Year 6 Graduation Mass - 7.30pm

Wed 19th Final day for STUDENTS

Thurs 20th STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Fri 21st STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

JANUARY

Thurs 31st Students in Years 1-6 return to school

FEBRUARY

Mon 4th 2013 Kindergarten commence

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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Blacktown South 2148
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St Michael's Celebrating 50 Years of "Loving One Another"



From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

Due to health issues I will be taking leave commencing 3rd December. My surgery whilst important is not serious and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the challenging times that my family has faced this year, your prayers have been very welcomed.

I'm pleased to announce that Mrs Helen Boyer will again assume the role of Acting Principal and Mr Tom Crowley will step into the Acting Assistant Principal role, Miss Kerrilyn O'Brien will move to the Acting Coordinator position. I sincerely thank and congratulate these great educational leaders.

This week we meet with CEO Leaders in reviewing our 2012 Goals and Implementation Plan. At this meeting our Leadership Team will review our work in **FORMATION** and **MATHEMATICS**.

In 2012 our results show consistent growth of all children's skills in Mathematics. This growth is due to a consistent approach by all teachers at St. Michael's. This work has in turn been supported by high levels of Professional Development and a Budget which has grown resources for all children.

This year has also seen success in our **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** in 2012 we have undertaken a series of professional learning opportunities around our **FAITH RENEWAL**.

This work has had at its focus the understanding of the **GOSPEL MESSAGE**. This work has in turn supported our teaching of Scripture through a strategy known as 'Exploring Scriptures'. I feel very proud of our work, however I know that we have another aspect of our work that I want to improve in 2013.

In 2013 I want to improve the connection between school and home. I will need your support in developing more effective communication networks. In 2013 we will be commencing a **building program** for primary classes, I want to work closely with you in understanding the **WHY** we are doing what we do. I know that your level of trust in our work is high, however I know that our children's success is dependent on your active participation.

I believe in our potential to provide our children with the **FINEST QUALITY** of **EDUCATION** but this potential will only be realized when our level of participation and support is maximised. I have no doubt that because of our care for our children that this potential will be realized

REFLECTION:

After leaving Athens we travelled to Corinth. I was always amazed at the distances Paul travelled and the job that was in front of him. After all, to bring any kind of change requires so much for all, but to navigate change around beliefs that shaped whole civilisations is indeed a miracle.

“The Lord is the Spirit. And where the Spirit of The Lord is present, there is freedom. All of us, then reflect the glory of The Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from The Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory”. Paul’s Letter to Corinthians.

So then as we prepare for Advent, Paul is reminding us that we have been born with the Spirit, Our work is to continue to become fully human.

Regards,



John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



Assistant Principal Report

MATHS-A-THON

Thank you to all Parents, relatives and friends for your kind donations to our Maths a thon. We were able to raise \$8300 to go towards increasing our resources for Maths. We have already spent \$40000 in purchasing Maths equipment this year and this will allow us to purchase more equipment for the children. Thank you must also go to the children and teachers for their work in completing the Maths a thon. Week 5 was certainly a wonderful time of Maths fun and learning at St Michael’s. Thank you to all. Also there was much excitement last Friday when the prizes were distributed to some lucky children. The children who brought in the most money in each class received the first prizes then all other children who brought in money went into a draw for the remaining prizes.

The following children raised the most money in their class:

Jelaine Magayaga	KS	Melody & Joshua Attard	KB
Kyle Zammit	3S	Harrison Coleman	KW
Jarrood Zammit	1G	Alexander Stanley-Dawson	3D
Natasha Khan	3C	Gabrielle Gumatay	4E
Jayden Cassar	1O	Madison Bopf	6E
Laren Henry	6J	Joseph Gaid	KC
Damien Lloyd	1P	Paige Hodgson	4C
Hannah Witteveen	2L	Ava Roach	2S
Geraldine Vella	5W	Kathryn Ydia	6A
Ella Suarez	1M	Alexander Hannah	2G
Andrew Roseby	6S	Summer Daly	2H
Ryleigh Marsh	4M	Rachel Brown	5P
Roshel Gonzales	5S	Nicholas Bear	5K
Jake Pearce	4S	Hannah Dickinson	6C

We would also like to thank our sponsors of the Maths a thon for their kind donation of prizes for the children:

Academy Photographer	AMF Bowling	Australia’s Youth Self-Defence Karate
Blacktown RSL	Blacktown Workers Club	Blake Education
Bloomin Books	Central Books Supplies	Jan Crawford, School Canteen
Dominie Books	Featherdale Wildlife Park	Hoyt’s Blacktown
Ken Gates Tennis Coaching Academy	Manly Sea Life Sanctuary	Scholastic Australia

Parents will shortly receive an invitation to a parent helpers morning tea. We have needed the support of our parents on many occasions this year and you always give of yourselves so willingly. We thank you for your generous gift of time. If you have assisted us in any way at all this year, in the classroom, on excursions at carnivals, or in any other way please feel welcome to attend this morning tea at the school on Thursday 13th December at 10.45.

Please be reminded that our Reservoir Road gate will always be closed from 10.00 am till 3.30 pm each day. If you are using the Church car park please be sure to take care. It is not a drop off and pick up zone but a parking space for you to leave your car and collect your child. Some parents are driving through this area to pick up children of an afternoon and this is a concern for the safety of our children.

Also for your convenience we have a teacher on duty from 3pm till 3.30pm so that your children can wait for you to arrive. Children must be collected from waiters by 3.30 and children should not be waiting unsupervised in the Church area.

Please note there is no parking for parents in the “staff car park”, street and church parking is available.

Our focus is always the welfare and wellbeing of all of our children. We thank you for your co-operation.

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

REMINDERS:

Please send in items for our St Vincent de Paul Hampers by next Wednesday, 5th December 2012

WYD Raffle Tickets and money need to be returned SOLD or UNSOLD on or before Friday, 7th December 2012

Last Sunday marked the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was a threat. Claiming kingship was claiming authority and power that would inevitably lead to challenging the authority and power of Rome and, more directly, its representative in Palestine – Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to last Sunday’s feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority. When we think back to Jesus’ teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status – the first – in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king?

Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

From the Office

2013 Resource Fees

Resource Fees for 2013 are now due. Thank you to all our families who have paid. If you have any concerns please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to make an arrangement for payment.

P & F News

Dear Parents,

The next Parent’s Group meeting will be **Wednesday the 12th December, 7pm** in the staff room. It will be great to meet you there.

The Parent’s Group met recently and held the Annual General Meeting to choose the office bearers for 2013 as well as to plan for the future.

It was agreed that the format of the Parent’s Group will be reviewed so that we can ensure that all the focus and effort will continue to be for the benefit of the children. To this extent, it is envisaged that the format of the Parent’s Group will transform throughout 2013.

At present, one possible format is to focus on the class groups and have class Parent Representatives for each class.

The basic aim is to simply provide a way for parents to be directly involved with your child’s class, to help and also to enjoy the experiences of your child as they grow and learn.

I’m aware that we have many parents who are and wish to continue to be involved in their child’s school. By having class based groups, it is thought that parents can be involved in flexible ways that suit everyone’s busy lives.

Your thoughts and ideas on how the Parent Group may take shape in the future are welcomed. Please send your ideas to stmichael-spandf@gmail.com.

Congratulations to the Parents Group for 2013:

- Jackie Coleman – Assistant President
- Rebecca Walker – Assistant Secretary
- Annie Pinto – Assistant Treasurer
- Tash Scanlon - Secretary
- Marisa Khan – Treasurer

I thank you each for your renewal of help to our school for next year.

A very big thank you to outgoing Chair Jenny Warn, for her efforts and leadership during 2012. It is a great commitment and you performed it with great skill and energy. Your efforts are warmly appreciated.

On behalf of the parent Group, we look forward to working with you all and invite you to be involved in your child's school life.

Kind Regards

Justin Bear – P & F President

Library News

Chess – School Championships

Throughout this term students have been participating enthusiastically in our school Chess Championships. After some very tough rounds, we now have our winners.

Year 6 : Kaleb Pearson

Year 5 : Jeremy Morton

Year 4 : Eric Tripathi

Year 3 : Andrew Roseby

The grade winners then had to play against each other to find the School Champion for 2012. The winner, after a very hard fought game that took 4 days to complete, is Andrew Roseby from 3B.

Congratulations to all who took part, and especially to our grade winners and the School Champion, who will receive their trophies before the end of term.

Metropolitan Primary Schools 1 Day Competition Finals

After finishing 2nd in the recent Zone 1-Day playoffs, 3 of our Year 3 boys were invited to take part in the Metropolitan Finals held last Sunday. Andrew Roseby, Andrew Suhaili and Lucas Tabone competed all day against other finalists, many of whom were much older, and came from all over Sydney.

Book Covering

There are still quite a lot of books in the Library waiting to be covered. If you are able to help covering some of these books, please call in to the Library to either cover them in the afternoons while you are waiting for your children, or collect some to take home. All covering materials are provided.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the ladies who have covered hundreds of books throughout the year, A BIG THANKYOU to Mrs Xiberras (Izak 6E and Amelia 3B), Mrs Galea (Nicholas 6E and Tianna, 6J) Mrs Galea (Aiden 1O, and Ashley 4E) Geraldine Vella's (5S) Grandmother and all the other parents who have helped by covering books this year.

Book Club

A HUGE thankyou to Mrs Annie Pinto who has spent hours over the year helping with Book Club each term by counting money, tallying orders and entering orders online so that your children get the books they want with each issue of Book Club. Annie has been ably assisted by Mrs Maryann Galea and Mrs Margaret Depares. Thankyou ladies. The Library has been able to get extra resources as a result of your efforts.

National Year of Reading 2012

As the year draws to a close, I hope many more students and parents have caught the "reading bug" and will find lots of good books under their Christmas trees. This week all students will receive a book mark to remind them of how much fun they can find in reading.

A few Reading quotes to think about as we finish the year :

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." — Joseph Addison

I love that books let me imagine, allow me to escape, permit me to dream.

I love books and I love 2 read. Christopher Cheng (author)

"It's easy to be blasé about reading and books – easy to take them for granted. Yet when I think about it, reading to me is the key to so much. The key to a wider reach of information, a path to learning, the joy of entertainment and the exciting of the imagination. It's just so much fun." William McInnes, Australian actor and author and patron of the National Year of Reading.

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance. Confucius

One of my greatest sources of pleasure is reading. I knew at a very young age that reading for me was the ultimate source of freedom. With knowledge, you have the potential to reach great heights in every phase of life—from childhood through adulthood."—Oprah Winfrey.

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

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.

Creative & Practical Arts - Update

Year 3 parents are invited to a Christmas performance of 'Christmas is Here Again'. The classroom performance will showcase our students skills in acting, dancing and singing. For specific times see over.

We are currently collecting ICE CREAM CONTAINERS to make 'soldier hats'. If you have any spare containers that are white and square in shape, please send them with your child to school to drop in the CAPA classroom.

Kind Regards,
Miss Orenstein
Creative and Practical Arts Teacher

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

Please make sure you are using the **GREEN PRICE LIST - Term 4**. Any wrong prices will be substituted to the nearest item on the menu. As we are nearing the end of the term we will be running out of hot food items so please put a second choice on lunch orders. Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

Uniform Shop: Normal trading hours are Every Friday 8.30am - 11.15am.

Extra trading days scheduled as follows:

- ◆ Wednesday 23rd January 2013 10.00am - 2.00pm
- ◆ Tuesday 29th January 2013, 9.00am - 2.00pm

Uniform Shop will be opened on Thursday 20th December 2012 instead of Friday 21st December 2012 due to stocktake.

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at the **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on 19th November 2012:

3B	3C	3D	3S
Tahlia Lewis	Mitchell Eckersley	Mariam Abdelmasih	Brandon De Les Reyes
Nikayla Tighe	Aaliyah Khoury	Michael Mansweto	Lorenzo Domingo
Hayden Eato	Julio Salgado	Prosha Rouss	FJ Thompson-Sciberras
Crisa Benicarlo	Diya Patel	Alex Stanley-Dawson	Reese Sto Domingo
4C	4E	4M	
Alisha Depares	Taliyah Behrens	Jessica Yew	
Angelina Malak	Ashley Galea	Samantha San Luis	
Ronald David	Harry Attard	Avigalle Mendoza	
Haeley Soriano	Aubrielle Zafra	Breydon Koong	
5K	5P	5S	5W
Lucas Groom	Keanna Vale	Vanessa Abouhamad	Mele Uate
Charlie-Rose Bartlett	Claudia De Bartolo	Moya Inyasio	Achol Mau
Emily Hartsuyker	Ramey Abu Ganaba	Paul Miranda	Froilan Basco
Vincent Zaccheo	Thomas Sultana	Jason Dent	Naro Sanga
6A	6E	6C	
Ernest Reec	Ivan Radacic	Nikhita Kumar	
Kalebh Pearson	Eldrin Deleon	John Bayeh	
Kathryn Ydia	Thea Abdelseed	Breyton Smith	
Joanne Candor	Aaliyah Pereira	Cassandra Murray	

Congratulations to the following students who received a **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT** at the **WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY** on 5th November 2012:

KB

Weri Inyasio
Samantha Hourany

KS

Jian Borja
Annastasia Parnis

KW

Nathaniel Predescu
Mia Young

1G

Janelle Vella
Karl Tongol

1M

Anika Kumar
Moriah Urmenta

1O

Conner Warren
Ella Daniel

1P

Nikshay Nand
Mitchell Tauro
Bishoy Sefeen

2L

Afrin Zahan
Andre Cruz

2G

Erik Yu
Madelyn Attard

2H

Emily Bonello
Olivia Sultana

2S

Raja Alanson
Leilani Balewai

3S

Maddison Scerri
Vincent Aquino

3C

Julio Salgado
Japleen Devgan

3D

Preyana Prasad
Tushar Puthran

3B

Jamie Murray
Angela Chdid

4C

Anthony Simic
Paige Hodgson

4E

Lily Hardman
Gabrielle Gumatay

4M

Jessica Yew
John Elomina

4S

Paulette Hourany
Sage Angary

5K

Dev Saldanha
Rafaela Safadi-Egg

5P

Caleb Gara
Valentine Sultana

5S

Pinak Sharma
Erin Minett

5W

Matthew Dudgeon
Emmanuel Ratnarajah

6A

Shanna Raj
Domadius Meina

6E

Nathan Aberra
Marcelle Sader

6C

Sargun Saddhar
Utkarsh Sharma

6J

Arrienne Falsetta
Jonathan Tabone

YOUR LOCAL JUNIOR AFL CLUB WANTS YOU IN 2013!

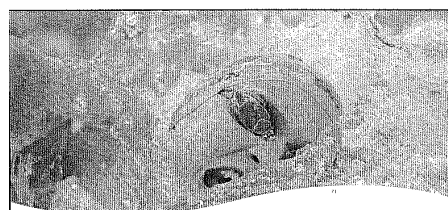
AFL is a fun and safe way to stay fit, have fun and meet new friends.
Your local club caters for boys and girls aged 5-16 years.

Visit aflnswact.com.au/sundayfooty
and register your interest by Monday 17 December 2012
and you will go in the draw to WIN the latest iPad!

Permit no. LTPM/11/00868. For full terms and conditions visit aflnswact.com.au



For more information contact 02 8867 7400



Aquatic Safety Training Academy
78 Best Road, Seven Hills

Club Nights

Every Friday

6:30 pm Life Saving

7:30 pm Swimming

Contact: Maria Tiems

0413 044 582

Email: enquiries@royalslc.com.au

www.royalslc.com.au