



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 8

29 MAY 2012

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### MAY

Wed 30th	MUFTI DAY - Gold Coin donation - Beanie & Scarf Day
"	P & F Meeting 2:00pm in Staffroom
Thurs 31st	Year 2 Excursion to Rouse Hill House

#### JUNE

Fri 1st	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (Pupil Free Day)
Mon 4th	Primary Assembly - 5K & 5S presenting - 2.15pm
Wed 6th	ICAS Science Competition
Mon 11th	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tues 12th	Year 2 Excursion to Rouse Hill House
Fri 15th	Sacred Heart Mass - 9.30am
"	NSWCPA - Cross Country - Eastern Creek
Mon 18th	ICAS Writing Competition
"	Infants Assembly - KB & KW presenting - 2.15pm

**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:

- Emme Emus's Maths challenge
- Blacktown City Council Tree Authority
- Canteen Price List

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



### From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

### MUFTI DAY, Wednesday, 30th May Gold Coin donation for Blankets for St Vincent de Paul "Beanie & Scarf"

### FRIDAY, 1st June STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Pupil Free Day

On this day all members of staff will travel to the Marist Retreat House in Mittagong.

This day will be a day of prayer and reflection. Our theme is centered around "Knowing Jesus" and looking particularly at those moments of "vulnerability".

Throughout the day we will have time to reflect on the message of Jesus Christ to us as individuals when we are feeling vulnerable.

Through this day of Reflection and communal Prayer one of our core Goals will be advanced and that is, our "Spiritual Growth" as a Catholic community through ongoing formation and renewal.

Through this work our ability to strengthen our students and our own understanding of **Grace...** will grow.

This year is the "Year of Grace". I invite you to spend some time individually and as a family in sharing this prayer.

#### Gracious God,

**You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.**

**We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh, from Christ.**

**You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.**

**Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationships be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.**

**With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.**



**ENGAGING IN LEARNING:**

As you are aware our focus in 2012 is **NUMERACY**. When I say our focus, this work combines Professional Learning and Teacher Capacity Building with extensive tracking of **GROWTH** for all our children.

The development of children's deep understanding in Mathematics is continually advanced through varying **Mathematical experiences** and extension of **Mathematical Language**.

Our Goal involves a consistent approach from Kindergarten to Year 6 in our Mathematical Pedagogy. In every learning space children will:-

1. **Participate in Maths Warm-Ups.**

These are learning experiences that require children to manipulate resources e.g. counters, dice, card, bead string and work cooperatively with a partner.

Within these warm-ups, computation, number patterns, place value are some of the understandings which are being extended.

2. **Open Learning Tasks**

At this time students work in small groups on Mathematical problems which allow for a variety of strategies, challenging the children to think outside the square. An example of this is the following...

Open Ended Task

*"A school has 400 students. They all come to school by bus, there 8 buses and each bus carries the same number of students. How many students might there be on each bus?"*

**The third phase is "Reflection"**

During this period small teams of students present and demonstrate their responses to the problem.

This becomes a **critical teaching moment** as teachers respond and feedback to the children. During this period teachers are able to **Model** and through **questions** dig deeper into the children's understanding.

All these **phases** support teachers in **tracking** student growth and **planning** next steps in children's learning.

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR HOME: Storytime**

This major moment in parenting is a magic slow time. A time to reconnect, a time to **be** with our children.

A time just to talk and listen.

Enjoy the storytelling and play around with the learning. Some questions you might like to ask include:-

Why do you think they did ...?

What do you think will happen next?

Who is your favourite character?

**Now what about playing with number!**

How many ..... can you see in the picture?

Who is standing next to .....?

How often did .....(name) say the word .....?

How many pages did we read?

The "Night time" story is a great moment. I'm not suggesting you create a "labour of love" for this time **but** to allow your child to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas is building on this important moment.

Regards



John Laffan  
PRINCIPAL

## RE News

We began the **YEAR OF GRACE** on Sunday. Here is an explanation of the Year of Grace by Bishop Anthony.

In 2012 the whole Church will mark an Anniversary: the golden jubilee of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Another blessed pope, John XXIII, gathered the world's bishops together as one to consider how the Church might best renew herself and respond to the challenges - both internal and external - of serving God and humanity today. Beseeking a new Pentecost, the Church had a Gospel confidence that Christ would be with her always and that her mission of worship and evangelization would be carried forward in new ways.

To mark this the Church in Australia will be celebrating a 'Year of Grace' from this coming Pentecost (27 May 2012 to 19 May 2013). *Grace* might be said to be our experience of God, especially of His free and undeserved gifts - gifts like our very existence, our being redeemed by Christ, our participating in His word and Sacraments in the Church, our personal vocation as God's adopted children. Every God-given opportunity is a grace, from life itself to our family and friendships, from work and leisure to our participation in all that is true and good and beautiful.

*(Most Rev Anthony Fisher op, Bishop of Parramatta. Faith in our Future. 2012)*

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

## From the Assistant Principal

### WHY IS MATHS IMPORTANT

Our last newsletter told us what students learn by doing Maths, today we look at what students learn to do through Maths activities.

Maths helps students learn how to:

- **develop** a positive self-concept as learners of mathematics
- **appreciate** the usefulness of mathematics in everyday contexts
- **become self-motivated learners** through inquiry and active participation in challenging and engaging experiences
- **develop perseverance** in understanding mathematical challenges
- **make informed decisions**
- **ask questions** about mathematics and the uses of mathematics in their world
- **describe and explain** mathematical ideas and procedures
- **interpret and apply** mathematics in a variety of contexts
- **use an appropriate technological tool** to investigate and solve problems, and retrieve and represent information
- **critically evaluate** ideas and arguments that involve mathematical concepts or that are presented in a mathematical form
- **reflect on experiences** and make connections with existing knowledge, skills and understanding.

Next week we have our annual "World of Maths Roadshow". Children will participate in problem solving Maths activities. Each year the children in years 1-6 enjoy participating in this learning experience. Maths Olympiad is another activity that selected children in year 5 and 6 participate in at St Michael's. Maths Olympiad takes place once a month over 5 months.

In this weeks newsletter we have 2 challenges from Emme EMU, encourage your child to do either or both challenges.

In Emme Emu's last challenge she stated that there were 4 vehicles in the car park, these vehicles could have been bicycles, cars, trucks, buses or any combination of these. Take a look in the display cabinets around the school to see how our children answered this challenge. Congratulations to the following children who answered last fortnight's challenge:

Saber Sader - 3B	Jerissa Valmeo - 4S	Marcelle Sader - 6E	Damon Sideridies - 4E
Stacey Hanna - 6J	Ashna Varma - 5S	Annabel Darmali - 5S	Dajana Popovic - 5S
Ryan Santa Maria - 4M	Moriah Zada Urmeneta - 1M	Krishna Narayan - 4S	Heramb Bamra - 1P
Shanna Raj - 6A	Shayden Fernandes - 1P	Ravleen Kaur - 4C	Maria Mekhail - 1O
Riley Walker - KC	Cyrus Charles - KC	Jia Chung - KC	Jesse Ryan Felipe - KC
Bronte Newsome - 5S	Jazmine Valmeo - 1G	Andrew Roseby - 3B	Janelle Vella - 1G
Cindy Zhao - 1G	Marina Ibrahim - 1O	Noah Osborne - 1G	Jake Pearce - 4S
Hayley Haddad - 3S	Matthias Barrett - 2H	Ashley Galea - 4E	Jadd Ghourizi - 3S

### Note to parents and visitors:

To ensure the **safety of our children** during dismissal time, the school gates are closed between 2.30 and 3.15. Please note that unless there is an emergency the gates will remain closed during this period.

Thank you for not parking on the school grounds.

Helen Boyer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## 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](mailto:donna.harding@parra.catholic.edu.au).

## Uniform Shop

**As Friday, 1st June is a PUPIL FREE DAY the UNIFORM WILL BE CLOSED.**

For this week ONLY the Uniform Shop will be open on **THURSDAY, 31st May from 8.30 am to 11.00am**. 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. We understand your concerns regarding current opening times and are reviewing this and will advise when a decision is made.

Cassandra Powell  
**UNIFORM SHOP ASSISTANT**

## Canteen

Please find enclosed in this newsletter an updated CANTEEN PRICE LIST (Blue - Term 2). Reminder to ring Geny (Thursdays) if you can't make your rostered day.

Jan Crawford  
**CANTEEN MANAGER**  
Home Phone: 9622 5703

## P & F News

**P & F MEETING:** The Term 2 P & F Meeting will be held this Wednesday, 29th May at 2.00pm in the staffroom. We will be organizing this years SPRING FAIR, which with your support will be the best ever!! Come along and join the organization committee, we need your help to make it a great day for all.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Thank you to all those families who participated in the family portrait day. Your support has assisted us in raising \$495.00 for the school. We have also raised \$1,200 from the Mother's Day Stall. I hope all mums had a great day and enjoyed their gifts.

Jenny Warn  
**P & F PRESIDENT**

## Important Office News

**TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES:** Term 2 school fees were due on 25th May. Thank you to those who have already paid. If you have any concerns please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to discuss making an arrangement for payment.

**ENROLMENT FOR KINDERGARTEN 2013:** We are now accepting Enrolments for 2013. If you have a child or know of children who are due to start school next year and would be interested in sending them to St Michael's Primary School, could you please advise them to contact the office to pick up enrolment forms. Interviews will be commencing early June.

**PARKING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS:** Please note that parents should not park in the staff car park at any time. If you have parked and discover the front gates are locked the consequences will be that you will have to wait until 3.15pm for them to open. There are no exceptions to this rule (only in an emergency) as it is for the safety of the children.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REMOVE STUDENTS FROM ST MICHAEL'S:** 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.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENDED LEAVE:** If your child is going to be absent from school for more than 15 consecutive days you must apply in writing to the Principal for approval.

## Friends of our Earth

**MobileMuster - Schools Recycling Challenge:** A short time ago we received the following:  
*"Congratulations! St Michael's Primary School - Blacktown South collected 3kgs of mobile phone, batteries and accessories in Round 2 of the MobileMuster School Recycling Challenge. Your collection has also contributed to the "Old phones, more chickens" campaign where MobileMuster will purchase 2,000 chickens through the Oxfam Unwrapped program to be given to families living in poverty in Laos."*



**REMINDER:** Please LABEL all clothing and personal items clearly. We have a large amount of lost property in the student foyer. Please call in and check.

Kind regards,

**FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH TEAM**

## Library

**PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE:** Congratulations to the following students who finished their PRC recently.

Madeline Tabone - 1P

Biswas Simkhada - 2G

Matthew Wormleaton - 2G

Rory Walker - 2L

Andrew Suhaili - 3B

Mahnoor Syed-Zaidi - 5S

Liann Aquino - 6E

Aswitha Visakeswaran - 6E

62 students have now completed their reading and 95 others have started entering their books online. However over 350 students registered, so this means around 200 students need to start entering their books. Please don't leave it to the last minute. And remember, as soon as you finish, you get a ticket to go in the draw for monthly book prizes. The winner for May is Joshua Lin in 5P. If you have completed your challenge and your name has not been printed in the newsletter, please let me know.

**BOOK CLUB:** I have been advised by Scholastic that copies of "The Lorax" have been delayed and will not arrive now until about the middle of June, not the end of May as expected. I have kept a list of names of students who are waiting for this book, and will send it to classrooms as soon as it arrives.

**BOOK COVERING:** A really BIG "thankyou" to all the Mums who helped out following my recent plea for coverers. The pile of uncovered books disappeared almost overnight. The children are now enjoying reading the new books.

Judy Buhagiar

**TEACHER/LIBRARIAN**

## Sport

**RUGBY LEAGUE:** We had the opportunity to compete in the Panther Trophy open rugby league competition at Whalan reserve last Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. Our boys had trained very hard after school and lunch times in preparation for the day. We played some quality football on the day winning 2 of our 4 games. Our Achilles heel was our lack of size however we showed a great amount of heart & determination and the boys should be proud of their efforts. Both the boys & their supporters represented the school in an amicable way and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A big thankyou to Mr Greg Kelly, Mr Bob Lewis, Mr Matt Williams, Mr Justin Bear & Mr Ian Barber for their assistance on the day. The team was as follows:

**Christian Williams**

**Hayden Hunter**

**Gregory Kelly**

**Aaron Cairns**

**Connor Scerri**

**Luke Barber**

**Japhet Elias**

**Matthew Faamu**

**Caleb Begg**

**Tyren Miller**

**Jayden Tighe**

**Breyton Smith**

**Roman Koong**

**Blake Smith**

**Sebastian Rouss**

**Daniel Hertel**

**Nicholas Bear**

**ZONE CROSS COUNTRY:** What a wonderful day with some fantastic results! Our top ten finishes include:

Our 8/9 boys in the team event. Individual Results:

Place	Age		
1	8/9 Years Girls	Nosa	Shata
3	11 Years Boys	Ivan	Radacic
3	12/13 Years Girls	Georgia	Tabone
5	8/9 Years Girls	Flavia	Aya
8	8/9 Year Boys	Tobey	Lewis

**RUGBY UNION**

We had two successful students at the Parra CEO Rugby Union Trials on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. Aaron Cairns & Christian Williams made the team & will be representing our Diocese very soon!

**SOCCER**

After school every Monday we have been fortunate enough to have Mr Graham (father of Matthew & Blake) & Mr Gafa (father of William & Jessica) coaching our soccer teams. The Boys Stage 3 is today, the Stage 2 boys 26<sup>th</sup> June & Stage 2 girls 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**COLES FOR SPORT VOUCHERS**

We recently acquired the equipment from last years 'Coles for Sports' promotion. We purchased a number of class sets of soccer & basketballs, a freestanding volleyball / tennis net, softball equipment and athletics gear. Thankyou so much for taking part in this venture!

Congratulations to the following students who made the Parramatta Diocesan Representative Teams this year:

**Marcus Farquharson - Boys Cricket**

**Hayden Hunter - Rugby League (11 years)**

**Christian Williams - Rugby Union**

**Shanna Raj - Girls Tennis**

**Montanna Farquharson - Girls Cricket**

**Aaron Cairns - Rugby Union**

**Matthew Graham - Boys Soccer**

**Christian Williams - Boys Touch Football**

Jeff Phillips  
**PE TEACHER**

## Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT** at the Whole School Assembly on 21st May 2012:

**KC**

Alexander Boulos  
Genaro Castillo  
Joshua Sammut

**KB**

Christopher Abdelseed  
Bridgette Champ  
Tatiana Malesevic

**KS**

Isaiah Espero  
Jenille Calingao

**KW**

Nathaniel Predescu  
Indiana Newsome  
Makayla Robinson

**1G**

Natalia Hodgson  
Xavier Pereira II

**1M**

Asta Tripathi  
Steven Elomina

**1O**

Fredritz Brillo  
Prisha Sharma

**1P**

Heramb Bamra  
Natalija Topic

**2L**

Hunter Newsome  
Hannah Witteveen

**2G**

Jamie Brown  
Olivia Fletcher

**2H**

Dhruv Mali  
Marianna Athanasopoulos

**2S**

Pavithran Visakeswaran  
Damila De La Piedra

**3B**

Andrew Roseby  
Sarah Santa Maria

**3C**

Lucas Tabone  
Sophia Sogora

**3D**

Anthony Abouhamad  
Erika Yu

**3S**

Xavier Casipit  
Jadd Ghourizi

**4C**

Aaron Abbas  
Sinead Beavis

**4E**

Emerson Barlow-Szoke  
Helen Aberra

**4M**

Thomas O'Callaghan  
Veronica Abdelseed

**4S**

Christian Canales  
Eleni Mavris

**5K**

Nicholas Bear  
Eunice Cruz

**5P**

Luke Barber  
Esconda Fozi

**5S**

Roshel Gonzales  
Bronte Newsome

**5W**

Jessica Figueroa  
Marjorie Laquian

**6A**

Monique Salazar  
Nathaniel Perez

**6E**

Liann Aquino  
Matthew Graham

**6C**

Hannah Dickinson  
Breyton Smith

**6J**

Michelle Lin  
Rolan Gonzales

## Catholic Care Social Services

**ANNULMENT INFORMATION NIGHT:** Many Catholics ask such questions as: What is the basis for an annulment of a marriage? How does an annulment differ from a divorce? How much does it cost? How long does it take? What does it involve? Each year the Solo Parent Ministry and the Catholic Marriage Tribunal present an Information Night regarding the process of Annulments within the Catholic Church. These and other questions will be answered on this night. Come along to the **Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown on Wednesday 30th May at 7.30pm**. Bookings made with Sr Eileen Quade on 99330205 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au