



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2011—ISSUE 19

29 NOVEMBER 2011

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wed 30th St Michael's School - Christmas Carols - 7pm

#### DECEMBER

Thurs 1st 3.30pm-5.00pm St Michael's Parish Year 6 Workshop

Fri 2nd Year 5 Leadership Day Patrician Brothers' Orientation Day

Mon 5th Primary Assembly - led by 3G with Climate Club presentation 2.15pm

Tues 6th Voting for 2012 Student Leadership Team

Thurs 8th Thank You Morning Tea for Parents - 10.45am

" Year 6 Farewell Dinner

Fri 9th End of School Year Mass

" Voting for 2012 Sports Captains

" Year 6 Picnic Day - Motiv8 Sports

Mon 12th Year 6 Assembly - 2.15pm

" Reports & Portfolios sent home

Tues 13th Moving Day Farewell to Year 6 Year 6 Graduation Mass followed by P & F Supper

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:

- ◆ Christmas Appeal
- ◆ The Catholic Community in your Neighbourhood Welcomes You

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## From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

Congratulations and Thank you to our new Parents & Friends Representatives:

**President:**  
Jenny Warn

**Assistant President:**  
Maree Regan

**Secretary:**  
Natasha Scanlon

**Assistant Secretary:**  
Rebecca Walker

**Treasurer:**  
Marisa Khan

**Assistant Treasurer:**  
Annie Pinto

In 2012 we will be working on a number of key school initiatives including:-

1. Improving our Mathematical knowledge and understanding as a whole community.
2. Developing **Parent Learning Forums** in conjunction with **Teacher & Student** learning days.
3. Understanding more about **Open & Flexible Learning Spaces**. In 2012 we will be

reviewing new plans and designs for building in 2013.

4. Creating opportunity for parents to spend time in **Faith Formation**. I would like to invite Fr Robert and Mrs Easton to share their faith through **"Reflection"** days.

5. Continuing our work on 2011 initiatives in our newly opened:
  - Catholic Early Learning Centre (CELC)
  - Catholic Out of School Hours Care (OOSH)
  - St Michael's Uniform Shop

As you can see our new team has much to plan, but all this great work will only succeed when we truly believe that we all have a responsibility in making our school grow **"GOOD to GREAT"**.

#### ADVENT:

Recently I met with some fine parents who measured our response to Easter and Christmas by the nature of our **Easter Parade and Christmas Concert**. Yes, these can be considered special events but the teaching

and giving witness to the **Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus** is a daily event at St Michael's. The sharing of our Faith and celebrating the "Love God has for all of us", is experienced each day in our Religious Education lessons, through our school prayer assemblies and within all our teaching. Easter, Advent and Christmas are part of the rich programmes our children experience through the **Sacraments, Gospel Reflection** and in the sharing of **Life Experiences**.

I hope you can take some time out to read the first in a series of short articles in understanding and reflecting on the season of Advent.

Regards

John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Wednesday, 30th November 2011

7.00pm

## ADVENT

**The Origins of Advent:** The first signs of what we now call “Advent” appeared in the latter part of the 300’s in the Christian communities of Spain and Gaul (present-day France and parts of Germany). It was in some places a two to three-week preparation for the rites of Christian initiation celebrated in these regions at the feast of Epiphany. This preparation seems to have involved not only those who were going to be baptized but also in various ways the whole community.

**Christ, The Unconquered Light Of The World:** But why Epiphany and not the Easter Vigil as the most auspicious time for conferring the sacraments of Initiation?

The simplest and shortest answer to this is to point to the theme of Light and the belief that Baptism means to be enlightened by Christ. And in the northern hemisphere, the Christmas/Epiphany season depends upon the event of the winter solstice, when the sun begins its “ascent”, the days begin to get longer, and the darkness is “conquered” by the Light of Christ. According to the old calendars this winter solstice was calculated as taking place on 25 December, and not, as our modern calendar determines, 21 December. So from the early 300’s in Europe, Christmas was made to coincide with the solstice because it meant that Christ the Light had come into our world and would continue to conquer the darkness of sin, year after year - the Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour.

Gradually, as time went on, the custom of group Baptism at Epiphany waned. But the theme of baptism and conversion of heart, mind, and action remained embedded in the character of this special time. In time, Advent took on the character familiar to us, as preparation for the feast of the Lord’s Coming in the flesh. Its length varied from six weeks to four weeks depending on regional customs, until it reached its present fixed form of four weeks.

## RE News

The season of Advent began this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to ‘receive’ Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet – the same colour as used in Lent.

Please support our Christmas Appeal which supports St Michael’s Blacktown South St Vincent De Paul Conference. All non perishable items should be sent to school before next Wednesday.

## From the Assistant Principal

During 2012 we will be modifying the bell times to maximise morning learning sessions at St Michael’s School.

**The new bell times are as follows:**

9.00am – 10.50am	Learning Session 1
10.50am – 11.00am	Eating Time/Lunch
11.00am – 11.30am	Play Time
11.30am – 1.30pm	Learning Session 2
1.30pm – 2.00pm	Play Time/Snack
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Learning Session 3

Please note that children have their supervised lunch eating session at 10.50am - 11.00am with an afternoon snack time during the 1.30-2.00pm break.

## Skip-a-thon

A **BIG THANKYOU** to all the children and families who supported the 2011 Skip-a-thon. A grand total of \$12,545.80 was raised this year. The children who received a MP3 Player for raising the most money were:

Jarrold Zammit	KO	Hannah Bopf	4C
Madison Bopf	5B	Piper Kasemmongkol	5K

Over 100 prizes were distributed in our huge lucky draw. Thank you to our sponsors:

<b>Blacktown Aquatic Centre</b>	<b>Academy Photographers</b>	<b>Seton</b>
<b>Australia’s Youth Self-Defence Karate</b>	<b>Paul’s Tennis Academy</b>	<b>Featherdale Wildlife Park</b>
<b>AMF Bowling</b>	<b>Blacktown RSL</b>	<b>Blacktown Workers Club</b>
<b>J Lock, Locksmiths, Blacktown</b>	<b>Jan Crawford, Canteen Manager</b>	

Michael Siciliano  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## Out of School Hours (OOSH) - Before & After School Care

We would like to advise that it has been confirmed that preparations have been made for an OOSH which will commence Term 2 2012 at St Michael's School. If you are interested in using this facility please registered your details by contacting the school office on 9622 9910.

## Awards

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our Infants Assembly on Monday, 21st November 2011:

<b>KG</b>	<b>KO</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>KW</b>
Jamie O'Callaghan	Xavier Chahine	Paavan Mondeddu	Xavier Pereira II
Emily Abbas	Serena Touto	Joseph Abdalla	Vivie Elkander
Neve Walsh	Oliver Vella	Anika Kumar	Steven Elomina
Malakai Toms	Angelize Estil	Gabriel Matocinos	Alice Durkin
<b>1L</b>	<b>1M</b>	<b>1O</b>	<b>1P</b>
Matthias Barrett	Maggie Grills	Samuel Regan	Lambi Shata
Ryan Moller	Zack Hardman	Ava Roach	Adarsh Varma
Emily Bonello	Jamie Brown	Andre Cruz	Hannah Witteveen
Manjot Sanghera	Madelyn Attard	Ella Moggridge	Vanessa Portelli
<b>2F</b>	<b>2H</b>	<b>2S</b>	
Breannah Scerri	Nikayla Tighe	Sani Faoagali	
Jaydan Sami	Christian Telidis	Jamie Murray	
Kenisha Lisciotto	Robert Stanton	Tahleah Robinson	
Kayden Eato	Saber Sader	Stella Lellis	

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our Primary Assembly on Monday, 28th November 2011:

<b>3D</b>	<b>3G</b>	<b>3S</b>	<b>3W</b>
Anna Piven	Sinead Beavis	Daniel Hernandez	Angelina Malek
Analese Vella	Catherine Makarous	Joshua Young	Brandon Law
Jing Lual	Breydan Koong	Andre Tecson	Luke Osborne
Eric Tripathi	Sarah Smith	Aubrielle Zafra	Salihah Khan
<b>4C</b>	<b>4E</b>	<b>4M</b>	<b>4S</b>
Emily Hartsuyker	Maksim Car	Caitlyn Gibbins	Alex Pezzano
Reimartt Aducayen	Jacob Ostler	Roshel Gonzales	Daniel Muscat
Rafaela Safadi Egg	Ayden Lisciotto	Pinak Sharma	Matthew Hasna
Hannah Harvey	Jimmy Whelan	Marcus Farquharson	
<b>5K</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>5P</b>	<b>5S</b>
Caitlin Long	Ella Cyreszko	Marcelle Sader	Nicholas Galea
Nadia Tong	Zac Blaje	James Kinsella	Louie Velasco
Tainna Armstrong	Luke Eckersley	James Antonios	Hannah Jo Chiha
Joshua Lozada	Britney Faatau	Arrienne Falsetta	Lauren Carter
<b>6C</b>	<b>6J</b>		
Zain Sahu-Khan	Haile Zabala		
Leah Hernandez	Hersdeep Nat		
Remy Elkander	Sinna Touto		
Jessie Carr	Maria Papa		

## Library News

### END OF YEAR IN THE LIBRARY

Dear Parents,

At this time of year, I need to get ALL Library books back for Stocktake and repairs. Could you please help your children find any books they have and return them as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, quite a few books seem to be "overdue". Reminder notes will be sent out this week, but if those books are not returned, I will have to ask for payment to replace them.

**HELPERS:** I would like to say a BIG THANKYOU to all the parents who have helped in the Library throughout 2011 in any way – covering books, helping with Book Clubs and Book Fairs, and to those who have donated books. I really appreciate your help, and Staff and students receive great benefit from your efforts.

Judy Buhagiar  
TEACHER LIBRARIAN

## Canteen

**As we have only two and a half weeks left we will be running out of hot food so please put a substitute on your orders. The last week most likely will be sandwiches, wraps and salad boxes. Please substitute these for all hot food items.**

Jan Crawford  
CANTEEN MANAGER

## Friends of Our Earth

CLIMATE CLUBS will be making a presentation at the end of Year 3G's assembly next Monday, 5th December 2011 - 2.15pm.

## Uniform Shop

**GIRLS UNIFORM:** We have taken delivery of a limited number of Girls Summer Uniforms the school purchased from LOWES which have now been embroidered with school name. These are available for purchase from tomorrow, **Wednesday, 30th November** at a reduced price of **\$45.00**.

Samples of the revised Girls Summer Uniform have arrived and are available for fitting during trading hours. The summer dress is made from a higher quality fabric and has a more generous cut. The school's name is also embroidered on the dresses. If you would like to pre-order a uniform for 2012, please visit the Uniform Shop with your child to be fitted for the appropriate size and place an order which will be available for pick up during the extended trading hours during the school holidays on 24th, 25th and 27th January 2012.

Full payment in advance is required when placing your order.

**BOYS UNIFORM:** We have taken delivery of Boys Summer Shirt embroidered with school emblem and are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop.

## 2012 Resource Fees

2012 Resource Fees are due on Friday, 2nd December 2011. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact Robyn Hoogenest in the school office.

**If your child will not be returning in 2012 please advise the school in writing as soon as possible.**

## P & F News

Last Wednesday night the P&F held a General Meeting and elected the new committee for 2012. Congratulations to Jenny and the remainder of the committee. I pray for a successful year for yourselves, and the school community. I look forward to the opportunity to help the new committee over the next few weeks. Once again I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their service to the school during their position holding office. Parent helpers morning tea will be held 8th Dec in the staff room. If you helped as a volunteer in the school please come along. This is my last newsletter. I would like to thank the community for their support and help over the last 5 years. Helping the school to help the children has been my focus. A number of parents have always helped to achieve this goal. Thank you I know your support for the school and P&F will continue.

Food for thought, when things get tough:-

**"Out of every adversity comes the seed for a greater opportunity"**  
*Napoleon Hill (October 26, 1883 – November 8, 1970)*

God Bless and thanks,  
Paul