



# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 17

30TH OCTOBER 2012

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### NOVEMBER

1st	All Saints K2013 – Step-Up 9.30-11.30am
2nd	All Souls Day Infants Fun Day
5th	Maths-a-thons Week  Whole School Assembly – 2.15pm
8th	Year 6 Graduation Group Photo - retake  K2013 – Step-Up 9.30-11.30am
13th	K2013 Parent Information Night
14th	K2013 Orientation Day 9.30-12.30pm
15th	K2013 – Step-Up 9.30-11.30am Maths-a-thon money due
19th	Primary Assembly - 3C & 3B - 2.15pm
21st	K2013 Orientation Day 9.30 - 12.30pm
22nd	K2013 – Step-Up 9.30-11.30am

#### 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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##### Notes going home with this Newsletter:

- School Funding Website

155 Reservoir Road  
Blacktown South 2148  
Ph: 9622 9910  
Fax: 9622 6902

##### Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

##### Email:

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

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



### From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

#### St Paul Wrote:

*"I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is more than a noisy gong or clanging bell.  
I may have the gift of inspired preaching.  
I may have all the faith needed to move mountains - but if I have no love, I am nothing..."*



These famous words of St Paul to the Corinthians echoed in our Mass celebrated by Bishop Anthony at Corinth.

My Pilgrimage was a great event in my life and I'm so grateful to the St Michael's community for supporting this part of my Professional life.

During our Pilgrimage, Bishop Anthony has challenged me to continue to share the Gospel message, in bringing God's Gift of everlasting hope and life to the children and the families of the St Michael's School community.

Last weekend, I was so proud of the gifts of our community. The family **Spring Fair** was a great success. I congratulate and thank our P&F and Staff and all those who made this event such a community occasion.

The following day I was able to sit with members of our Faith community, Father Peter Confeggi and Fr Chris DeSouza. At this meeting these great "faith filled people" demonstrated a deep love of their local Church. At this meeting they confronted the impact of change in our Church of the 21st Century.

In short St Michael's and St Patrick's faith communities will share the human resources of a Parish Priest. This dramatic change will require all of us to find different ways of living out the message of Christ.

As a school community we commit ourselves to ongoing support of Fr Peter Confeggi and his Parish team.

We will continue to support Sr Grace in preparing the children for the sacraments. We will continue to share God's love through our teaching and ongoing celebration of school liturgies.

As I listened to parishioners of St Michael's Church I thought of the Church in its infancy - that Fathers Peter and Chris were like St Paul in inviting their followers to "believe in themselves and believe in the spirit who will continue to work within each of these faith filled people."

#### QUALITY CATHOLIC SURVEY 2012 - REFLECTION

Following our work in 2012 and in reflecting on your responses to the Quality Catholic Survey, it is important to acknowledge your confidence and support of our:-

- ◆ Catholic Culture
- ◆ School Improvement
- ◆ Parent Input

- ◆ Transition throughout your children's years at St Michael's
- ◆ Connectedness to peers and children's safety and wellbeing

In looking at our future challenges, we identify that you wish to be more involved and that you seek clarity around our **teaching and learning** and how our **professional learning programmes** are impacting on **student success**.

In 2013 we will continue to publish our year's **GOALS** and **ACTION PLANS** in our newsletter, website and Blog site.

Not only will we regularly communicate these plans but will include success rates at each milestone event throughout the year.

I will also ensure ongoing **FEEDBACK** from you by inviting responses regularly through our communication outlets.

In 2012 our RE team has continued work on our Child Wellbeing and Welfare Policy. In 2013 we will provide opportunity for children and parents to give **feedback** and provide advice in respect to issues around **bullying** and **self-esteem** building.

In my conversations with you, I have understood your hopes for a safe and secure school environment. Although I am convinced we "live this out", I obviously (with you) seek to always look at ways of ensuring a haven of quality teaching, learning and happiness for our children.

*"Together at St Michael's we can make anything possible"*

Regards



John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Assistant Principal Report

### MATHS-A-THON

Next week is our Maths a thon. This is our one and only fund raising event which impacts directly in securing resources for all students. This year we will be raising money to buy more maths equipment for classes. We ask each child to collect sponsors who will make a donation to our school. During week 5 each grade will complete their challenge on a particular day during their normal maths lesson time.

Monday:	Year 6
Tuesday:	Year 2 and year 4
Wednesday:	Year 5 and Kindergarten
Thursday:	Year 1
Friday:	Year 3

Each grade will perform a task with their class teacher and then rotate through all classes in their grade to complete tasks. The teachers will stamp the children's cards after completion of a task. At the end of each task the children will receive a clue to solve a puzzle. When the children have completed all 4 tasks they will return to their home class to solve the puzzle. At lunch time assembly on each of the days in week 5 the children from each grade will present their solution to the puzzle.

We ask for your support of our children in this Maths a thon. Our children are making solid growth in Maths which has been evident in our NAPLAN results and this is a fun way to support their further growth.

### SPRING FAIR

On behalf of the teaching staff and all the families in our school I would like to thank the Parents and Friends Committee and their families for all the hard work that goes into co-ordinating a Spring Fair. Our Spring Fair was an absolute success, firstly in building community spirit. It was wonderful to see so many families having so much fun together. The friendships that you make during primary school times can be long lasting and very special. Financially the fair was also a success. As final totals become available we will let you know more.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING

NAPLAN results, together with all other assessment data within our community, determine every aspect of teaching and learning at St Michael's. At St Michael's many hours are spent by all teachers working co-operatively in analysing and gaining meaning from data

which helps us understand individual needs. One significant point of analysis from our NAPLAN results is that our 2012 Year 5 students have shown significant growth in Numeracy and Reading. We now have clear understanding of all students in Years 3 and 5 who require individual support in lifting skills in Literacy and Numeracy. In 2012 / 2013, in supporting these students we are part of an initiative called "Focus 160". Already this program has confirmed our work in teaching and learning in Numeracy and Literacy. In 2013 the program will support specific growth in Reading through the increased staffing of a Reading Recovery Teacher within our school.

Helen Boyer  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## RE News

This week we celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. All Saints Day is the feast which commemorates all those we know who may never be publicly proclaimed in the canon or list of saints, but who nonetheless are in Heaven. Some of them may only be known to God. Others are people whose love, sacrifice and fidelity we have seen for ourselves and who have inspired us. Sometimes they can be our own mothers and fathers.

The feasts of All Saints (Nov 1) and All Souls (Nov 2) can be seen as something of a twin feast that celebrates all those who have died. With the feast of All Saints we celebrate all those who have died and have entered into direct and immediate communion with God in Heaven. With the feast of All Souls we celebrate and pray for those who have died but have not yet entered into that direct communion with God.

REMINDER - if you have not already sold and returned your WORLD YOUTH DAY tickets could you please do this by the end of next week.  
Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

## Office News

**School Fees:** Further to the 2013 School Fee advice which was sent home yesterday, the Catholic Education Office would like families to be reminded of their "School Funding Website" refer to flyer enclosed with this newsletter or visit [www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding)

## Parent Representative Council - Term 4 General Meeting

Parents Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese (PRC) are pleased to announce that the topic for its Term 4 General Meeting is: **To Tweet or not to Tweet: Facebook, Twitter - unlocking some mysteries that can open our learning journey.**

Our speaker is Paul Meldrum, Team Leader, Catholic Education Office, Parramatta. The meeting will be on **Monday, 12th November 2012** at the **Aengus Kavanagh Centre, Railway Street, Mt Druitt** at **7.00pm**.

**All are welcome!**

## Friends of our Earth

THANK YOU!!!!

A big thank you to all the parents, friends and family who visited our Plant Stall at the Spring Fair last Saturday. It was very successful and we raised close to \$100. The money will go towards new compost bins for the school community, to help encourage recycling of our recess and lunch food scraps.

The stall was possible with the continued support of the community. A big thank you to the following people: the P & F for organising a table and shelter at the Fair, and to Mrs Crawford, the Chiha Family and the Vella family their kind donations of beautiful pots and plants. We have some lovely orchids and very versatile succulents still for sale. If you are interested in purchasing any more for your home please see Miss Gourlie (2G) or Mrs Abrahams(6A). Once again, thanks again for your continued support.

Regards,

**Friends of Our Earth Team**

## 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.

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

## Canteen

A reminder that everyone should be using the green (Term 4) Canteen Price List.

For Infants Fun Day on Friday, 2nd November there is **NO CANTEEN** for Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 until 1.30pm.

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

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

There are also extra trading days scheduled and these are as follows:

- ◆ Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012, 11.30 - 2.30pm
- ◆ Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012, 8.30am – 11.30am
- ◆ Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 10.00am – 2.00pm
- ◆ Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 9.00am – 2.00pm

We are expecting Sports Polo Shirts to arrive Early November, We currently are out of stock in sizes 6,8 & 10.

## P & F News

Firstly, we would like to personally thank the parents, friends and St Michael's staff who volunteered their time and assisted with the setting up, running and packing up of the Spring Fair. Your contributions were very much appreciated.

Secondly, we would like to acknowledge and thank all the families and friends that donated items to the chocolate wheel, book stall, plant stall and cake stall. These donations and the ongoing support from St Michael's families is what makes the fair so successful.

Finally, I would like to personally thank each and every member of the P&F committee. This year I have been so very honoured to work along side such passionate, hard working mum's that are so committed to the success of St Michael's school. Thank you Marisa, Tash, Maree, Rebecca and Annie for your continual hard work, and commitment to the P&F committee. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated.

Jenny Warn  
**P & F PRESIDENT**

## Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at the **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on 22nd October 2012:

<b>3B</b> Sara Santa-Maria Amelia Xiberras Jermaine Borja Ashton Williams	<b>3D</b> Caitlyn Lee Shaun Cabuay Bradley Myers Ashleigh Southam	<b>3S</b> Kyle Zammit Ruby Bowden Tahleah Robinson Costa Kotrolos	
<b>4C</b> Nicholas Portelli Fifita Fungavai Avneet Sanghera Jasmine Stanley-Dawson	<b>4E</b> Aidan Tong Brandon Law Harmony Rhodes Andre Tecson	<b>4M</b> Fattu Allieu Tashiya Vilathgamuwa Taylah Henderson Andrew Jones	<b>4S</b> Jessica O'Brien Paulette Hourany Jake Pearce Vansh Darji
<b>5K</b> Angel Handa Jacob Ostler Nicholas Bear Vishal Kumar	<b>5P</b> Maksim Car Paul Cutmore Rachel Brown Luke Barber	<b>5S</b> Sebastian Rouss Kirtan Veghela Vanessa Abouhamad Hannah Harvey	<b>5W</b> Mele Uate Achol Mau Alexandria Giuliano Naro Sanga
<b>6A</b> Ben Daly Bethany Young Jayden Thomas Lauren Crane	<b>6E</b> Connor Scerri Simon Koutoulis Liann Aquino Nadia Tong	<b>6C</b> Pipe Kasemmongkol David Iskander David Lee Mariam Syed-Zaidi	<b>6J</b> Luella Champ Katelyn Bellett Jai Uren Johnny Papadimatos



