

# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER



#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### MAY

Wed 8th	Mothers' Day Stall
Fri 10th	Mothers' Day Liturgy - 9.30am
Mon 13th	NAPLAN Week Year 3 & Year 5
Tues 14th	NAPLAN - Language & Writing
Wed 15th	NAPLAN - Reading
Thurs 16th	NAPLAN - Maths
Tues 21st	Computer Skills Competition
Wed 22nd	National Simultaneous Storytime
"	Panther Trophy - Rugby League
Tues 28th	Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

#### 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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#### ENCLOSED IN NEWSLETTER:

- ⇒ Building Update
- ⇒ Term Planner
- ⇒ CatholicCare
- ⇒ CAPA Update

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7 MAY 2013

## From the Principal

### ENROLLING NOW FOR 2014

Please collect an Enrolment Form from office or download off our website.

Dear Parents and Friends,

As you can see, our school is dramatically changing. Our Builders, Architects and Catholic Education Office support teams are ensuring high levels of commitment to our safety and wellbeing.

The picture taken today shows the speed at which demolition is proceeding. This week, demolition will be completed and excavation of Hydraulics and Electrical services will commence.

I have attached another aspect of our plans. The white lines indicate the extension of our new learning spaces.

Our task now is whole school growth in understanding how teaching and learning will flourish in our new learning spaces.

At no stage will 4 class groups be placed in explicit teaching/learning spaces. At different times 2 class groups will be supported by a number of teachers in sharing, reflections or presentations. For the majority of time, teaching and learning will take place in class learning pods or in cooperative learning centres.

Over the last week, your children and their class teachers are growing in their new temporary learning spaces. Through co-teaching children, we are experiencing a variety of teachers, each bringing new skills, gifts, and experiences to the learning moment.

#### Co-teaching has many faces:

**Supportive Co-Teaching** - Supportive co-teaching is when one teacher takes the lead instructional role and the other(s) rotates among the students to provide support.

**Parallel Co-Teaching** - Parallel co-teaching is when two or more people work with different groups of students in different sections of the classroom.

**Complementary Co-Teaching** - Complementary co-teaching is when co-teachers do something to enhance the instruction provided by the other co-teacher.

**Team Teaching** - Team teaching is when two or more people do what the traditional teacher has always done - plan, teach, assess and assume responsibility for all of the students in the classroom. The key to successful team teaching is that co-teachers simultaneously deliver the lessons. Both teachers are comfortable in alternately taking the lead and being the supporter. The bottom line and test of a successful team-teaching partnership, is that the students view each teacher as knowledgeable and credible. Teachers, once partners, figure out and understand each other's perspectives, they are no longer just two individuals, but a union that is fundamentally different from each person alone.

#### NAPLAN 2013

Students in Years 3 & 5 will be sitting for their NAPLAN tests next week. It should be reminded that NAPLAN is only one of the many assessment tasks that children complete in each year.

Regards

John Laffan  
PRINCIPAL



## Assistant Principal Report

I commence my article today with a quote from the new Australian Curriculum. We introduced this curriculum to staff on our Staff Development Day last week. We will work with this new curriculum this year but it will not be fully implemented till 2014.

### Australian English Curriculum:

Excerpt from the Stage Statements Early Stage One;

Students develop reading, viewing and comprehension skills and strategies using context, grammar word usage and phonics to make meaning from short predictable printed texts on familiar topics. They read with some fluency and accuracy, drawing support from concepts of print and their developing letter sound knowledge. Students explore and identify some features of text including the use of rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words, in written and spoken texts. Pp18

In my last newsletter article I said that I would provide an overview of learning to read and the developmental stages. This week I will focus on the first level "Emergent Readers".

### Emergent Readers:

At this level children imitate and practice the reading process. They copy and act out beginning reading behaviours and pretend to read. They become familiar with letters, the sounds they make and what they look like. They learn that some words rhyme or at least sound the same at the beginning. Eg cat, fat, bat all rhyme and sad, sound, surf all start with the same sound. They don't need to be able to read these words but more just listen to the sounds in words. They begin to understand concepts of print. That is they often pick up a book hold it the right way up, stop reading as they turn the page and finish their story exactly on the last page. In doing this they are realising that print tells a story and pictures support that story. They realise that books are read from front to back and that text flows from left to right. When children are doing this they are preparing themselves to become readers.

So if your child is not actually reading text they are at this stage and you can support them by:

- \* encouraging them to take risks have a go tell a story
- \* asking them questions about the story they are telling
- \* focusing on the pictures to create the story
- \* asking them to point while they read
- \* asking them where is the front and back of the book
- \* asking where do we need to start to read
- \* asking which way will we move our finger when reading
- \* asking them to spot any of their sight words in the book

Above all let them know that you value their efforts to read and keep encouraging them to do so.

Thank you to all the parents that sent in photos of children reading, keep sending them in, we need to work together to help our children be the best they can be and more.

### COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

#### Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

#### Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child doesn't learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years. **Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.**

#### Must I send my child every day? YES.

It is a condition of enrollment that you send your child to school every day. A **small number** of absences may be justified if your child has to:

- \* go to a special religious ceremony
- \* is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- \* is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

#### Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport? YES.

☑ Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport. Do not keep your child away from school for the following:

- \* birthdays
- \* shopping
- \* minding other children
- \* routine checkups or care such as hair cuts
- \* minor family events
- \* sleeping in

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

**Why is arriving at school on time important?**

Arriving at school and class on time:

- \* ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
  - \* helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
  - \* gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption
- Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

**What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?**

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- \* send a note, fax or email to the school
- \* telephone the school, or
- \* visit the school

All absences must be explained to the school.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school. Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness. If principals don't consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

**What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?**

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations. If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal **in advance** and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Helen Boyer APOSM

## 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.

## School Fees

Term Two school fees invoices have been issued and payment is due by the 3rd June. 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 Hoogenest to make an appointment.

## Absences from School

**ABSENCES**

Please note that a letter is necessary for **ALL** absences. For legal reasons, notes must be sent to school explaining each of your child's absences. However, if a child is going to be away from school for more than two days, please telephone the school. In this way we may be able to continue to support your child's learning.

**LEAVE EXEMPTION**

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason other than illness or school related events ie sports day etc. you must apply for an exemption in writing with a full explanation of the reason for leave which will then be processed by the principal and an approved exemption will be supplied to you.

**This also includes holidays of any length, even if it is only one or two days. These forms are available from the office.**

If the absence from school is longer than 20 school days a copy of travel documents will need to be supplied to support the request for exemption. If an absence from school is longer than 100 school days then the request will need to be supported by an explanation and copy of relevant travel documents. This application will be processed by the Principal/Assistant Principal and forwarded to the Diocesan Office.

A copy of the "Guidelines for Exemption from attendance at NSW Catholic Systemic Schools" in its entirety can be sourced from the school office.

## RE News

In the Gospel of John the Resurrection, Ascension and giving of the Spirit all take place on Easter Day. Luke is a little more flexible – he has the Ascension on Easter night in the Gospel and after 40 days in the Book of Acts. Then the disciples have to wait 10 more days for the sending of the Spirit. So what can these discrepancies tell us? At the Easter Vigil, during the blessing of the Paschal Candle, the priest says, “All time belongs to him.” For Jesus Christ, rising, ascending to the Father and sending the Spirit can happen in one moment but we, who now are bound by time, live moment by moment, slowly growing into an understanding of our faith. In Acts, Jesus uses the 40 days to continue to instruct his disciples – and even then at the end of that time they are not ready for his mission. They need the Spirit but they don’t realise that yet. Waiting those 10 days would make them think about the enormity of the mission ahead of them and their inadequacy for the task.

Quite simply for us, things take time: whether it is the growth of a child, the learning of a task or growth in faith. It is a common religious experience that in a moment of grace we see things with a peculiar clarity and insight. The moment passes but it is not lost. We are expected to ‘unpack’ these moments of grace, to ponder them, pray over them and apply them to our lives. Like Jesus’ Resurrection, they takes but a moment, but to understand them takes many moments of wondering and learning till we discover how to make them a reality in our lives.

Anne Easton

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR**

## Canteen

Welcome back to another busy term. We will be using the PINK PRICE LIST until the new price list comes out in the next two weeks. Please make sure that you put the enclosed amount of money on the lunch order bag.

We still need two volunteers from 9.00am to 10.30am on Mondays. If you can help out please contact me at the school or on 9622 5703 and leave a message and I will ring you back.

Thank you for your support

Jan Crawford

**CANTEEN MANAGER**

## Sports News

### STAGE 3 GIRLS SOCCER GALA DAY

On the last Tuesday of Term 1, 14 stage 3 girls went to Anne Aquilina Reserve to represent our school in Soccer. From year 5: Hayley. V, Paige. H, Ivana. Z, Shreya. P, Sevasti. K, Taylah. H and Claudia. E and from year 6: Briana. C, Montanna. F, Briana. Y, Geraldine. V, Caitlyn. G, Claudia. D and Naro. S.

The girls trained very hard meeting EVERY Wednesday and Thursday during their lunchtime and Mondays after school for 5 weeks.

On the day the girls were fantastic sports team who proudly represented our school. They played 7 games where they won 1, drew 5 and lost 1. Which was a terrific result.

A big thank you to parents who came to support their girls and a very special thanks to Hayley’s Dad, Mr Vella, who not only trained the girls on Monday afternoons but also came out to the gala day and helped the girls all day.

Mrs Sebelic



### TOUCH FOOTBALL

On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May two very committed St Michael’s Touch Football teams travelled to St Mary’s to take part in a Parramatta Diocesan Stage 3 Touch Gala Day. In the lead up to the day, training sessions were expertly run by the dream team of Mr. Williams, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Spicer and Mr. Xuereb.

On the day Mr. McKimm was blessed to coach the Gold team who consisted of:

Bailey Young  
Hayden Hunter  
Caitlyn Gibbins

Marcus Corriera  
Geraldine Vella

Matthew Faaumu  
Erin Minett

Tobey Lewis  
Ireland Rhodes

The team played in pool B and had 5 games:

Game 1 vs. Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains

St Michael's won 3 – 0 Try Scorers: Hayden Hunter (2), Geraldine Vella

Game 2 vs. St Thomas Aquinas (Light)

St Michael's won 7 – 0 Try Scorers: Hayden Hunter (2), Marcus Corriera (2), Bailey Young (2), Geraldine Vella

Game 3 vs. St Thomas Aquinas (Dark)

St Michael's won 7 – 0 Try Scorers: Hayden Hunter (3), Bailey Young (2), Matthew Faaumu, Marcus Corriera

Game 4 vs. Our Lady of Lourdes

St Michael's won 3 – 0 Try Scorers: Hayden Hunter (2), Marcus Corriera

Game 5 vs. St Patrick's Guildford

St Michael's won 6 – 0 Try Scorers: Hayden Hunter (3), Marcus Corriera (2), Tobey Lewis

At the end of the day the Gold Team was crowned undefeated premiers of their pool. Of course this was most pleasing but what really impressed me was that they did not let one try be scored against them and their sportsmanship and sense of fair play was exemplarily. They were a credit to themselves, their parents and their school.

**Mr. McKimm**

The Blue team for the day managed by Mr Bear consisted of:

Claudia De Bartolo  
Matt Dudgeon  
Luke Barber

Aglaya Papadokokolakis  
Jim Abdulla

Taylor Begg  
Jimmy Whelan

Montana Farhquason  
Nicholas Bear

The team played in pool A mixed and played 5 games, of which they won 3 and lost 2 games.

Game 1

St Michael's won 2-10 Try Scorers: Matt Dudgeon scored 2 tries, the first from a great pass by Jim Abdulla to Matt on the wing and the second was a great read of the play for Matt to take an intercept from the opposition.

Award: Matt for early read of the play of the game.

Game 2

St Michael's lost 4 – 0 Try Scorers: we scored no tries in this game, even though our attack was good. In defense we were drawn into the middle which left the gaps out wide for the opposition. The other team played a really fast and skillful game and were simply better than us on the day.

Award: Aglaya for consistent and good dummy half work.

Game 3

St Michael's won 2 – 1 Try Scorers: Matt Dudgeon (2)

Again, Aglaya led the team by some great dummy half work, with lots of positive talk from Nic & Luke to keep the team on focus. There was some good cover defense by Jimmy to keep us in the game.

Award: Taylor for solid defense and great team talking.

Game 4

St Michael's lost 4 – 1 Try Scorers: Matt Dudgeon

This was a hard game as the opposition made us split our defense and we just had a hard time marking up one on one as a result.

Award: Jim Abdulla for a great defensive effort.

Game 5

St Michael's won 5 - 2 Try Scorers: Matt Dudgeon (2), Jimmy Whelan, Nic Bear & Jim Abdalla

The last game of the day and as a team it was really starting to work together. Good attack and solid defense.

Award: Claudia for consistent effort in both attack & defense.

By the end of the five games, the Blue Team was third in Pool A which is a good result of which they should all be proud.

The team had improved quite a lot throughout the day playing as a team. They celebrated the successes together and encouraged each other when things didn't quite work out, the team spirit was evident.

Thank you to the other parents for helping on the day and the teachers for the training at school.

**Mr. Bear**

**TERM 2 SPORTS UPDATE**

Term 2 is quickly proving to be another busy one in terms of Sport and P.E for the students at St Michael's. In P.E the focus is moving from Cross Country to Athletics for all K-6 students as we welcome back Mr. Phillips from his enforced time off due to shoulder surgery. The focus for 3 – 6 students is about trying different events and learning the teaching points that accompany each event. While the focus for K-2 students is to get a basic introduction to events and to familiarize themselves with jumping, throwing and running as they will not be competing at the school carnival.

Information about the school Athletics will be sent home shortly and will also be covered in the next addition of this newsletter.

Students are representing St Michael's at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May and we wish them all the best and encourage them to remember Mr. William's talks about pacing yourself and not going too hard too early. I will summarise their achievements in the next addition of this newsletter.

During this week student Eric Tripathi is competing at the NSW PSSA Tennis Championships and we wish him the best of luck. We also have Hayden Hunter attempting selection in the MacKillop Rugby League Team and Marcus Correia and Matthew Dudgeon attempting selection in the MacKillop Soccer team. We wish them also the best of luck.

In amazing St Michael's sporting news at the end of last term Lily and Zack Hardman were selected to represent Catholic schools at the NSW PSSA swimming championships. Zack is now the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest 8-year-old 50m freestyle swimmer in the state while his big sister Lily came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50m Backstroke, 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m IM and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50m Breaststroke. Lily will now be representing her state at the National Championships in September in Adelaide. We are all very proud of you Lily, well done.

Mr. McKimm / Mr. Phillips  
P.E / Sport Teachers

## Uniform Shop News

**Opening Hours Wednesday 8:15am to 11:00am**

**Library Bags are now in stock**

**Girls ties are now in stock**

**Bomber Jackers are not in stock - all sizes**

## St Michael's Parish

### JUNIOR ALTAR SERVERS

All boys and girls who are fully initiated into the church (after Confirmation) are Invited to become Junior Altar servers and assist the priests at various liturgical celebrations. Formation sessions will be given on Saturday afternoons during May from 3.30pm. Please contact Fr Martinus OFM Cap at St Michael's Parish 9622 9149 if you wish to become a Junior Altar Server at St Michael's.

## P&F News

Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome back for Term 2.

**MOTHER'S DAY STALL:** Mother's day will soon be with us which is fantastic as it provides us with a dedicated time to especially focus on thanking and loving our Mum's. May is the month when we get to celebrate, acknowledge and thank our Mum's, Grandmother's and all those who are our Mum's in other ways. The students Mother's day stall will be held on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> May. All students will have time throughout the day to attend the Mother's Day Stall. A detailed note will be sent home early next term.

**WOOLIES EARN & LEARN PROMOTION:** Woolies is again providing the school with an opportunity to purchase items for the students with the Earn & Learn promotion. When you shop, ask for your earn & learn stickers and place them in the St Michael's Scholl promo box at your local Woolies. If there is not a promo box at your local Woolies for St Michael's, please send them into school and have them delivered to the P&F mail box. This is a great opportunity for the students, with last year this promotion realised the supply of a few thousand dollars value of items for the students education.

**CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:** We now have a list of people nominated to be class representatives. Over the next few weeks, you will be contacted to invite you to accept the one of the roles as a class representative for your child's class. This is a time of change as well as a time of great opportunity for the children and also for us as parents. All I ask is that you support the new system and give it a try, as it will be fantastic to create a class representative group that is truly part of the school and helping the children learn.

Kind Regards

**Justin Bear**

President P&F

0488033066

