



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 12

7TH AUGUST 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AUGUST

Thurs 9th	School Voice of Youth
Fri 10th	Year 4 Excursion to Observatory and Sydney Walking Tour
Mon 13th	Whole School Assembly - 2.15pm
Tues 14th	ICAS Mathematics Competition
"	Blacktown Zone Athletics
Wed 15th	Whole School Mass for Feast of Assumption
Thurs 16th	Voice of Youth - Cluster Final - OLOL Seven Hills - Year 6 attending
Fri 17th	Year 5 Bathurst Excursion
Mon 20th	BOOK WEEK
Tues 21st	St Nicholas Netball Gala Day
"	CEO Compliance Audit - 8.30-3.30pm
Wed 22nd	Maths Olympiad

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



From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

URGENT STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY now FRIDAY, 7th September 2012 No staff will be on site

As well as planning our "50th Jubilee" there are many exciting events being planned for this term, these include:

COMPLIANCE AUDIT - Every 4 years the Catholic Education Office undertakes a Compliance Audit of our school. This audit ensures our:-

Timetables, Programmes, Policies and Assessment & Reporting processes are all compliant with Government and System requirements and regulations.

On the 21st August all of these documents and programmes will be reviewed by a team of System Leaders, Principals, Executive Officers and Teachers from within the Diocese of Parramatta.

I look forward to sharing the results of this audit at the end of Term 3.

As you know our school is currently being considered for a **Commonwealth Government Block Grant**. Our application for Commonwealth funds is to carry out **Major refurbishment** of our current **3-6 building**.

If successful our primary block will house agile/flexible learning spaces. These spaces will contain areas for dedicated explicit teaching, spaces for small group work and digital presentation and cooperative and collaborative spaces.

Over the past 2 years we have been working with combined class groups in the **Father Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre**.

In week 7 we will continue our research and learning by visiting a number of schools in our Diocese who have made successful transition into **agile learning spaces**. Following our school visits we will continue to develop teaching strategies and pedagogies ensuring the **success** of the **learner** in using these exciting learning environments.

Once again I will speak with you at our Parent & Friends meeting and share our future plans ensuring the creation of **"Contemporary Learning Spaces"** for our children.



2012 IMPLEMENTATION:

Every day at St Michael's we grow, we learn, we reflect. Each day we look closely at our two Goals around **Mathematics** and **Formation**.

Today four of our team will meet with Lead Teachers and System Teaching Educators. This day will see teachers:-

1. Focusing on all students Growth Points in Maths.
2. Tracking individual Growth through observation.
3. Planning future "focus points" in accordance with results.
4. Review teaching methods in accordance with the Learning Environment of the Father Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre.

Finally, **CELEBRATING 50 years of EDUCATION at ST MICHAEL'S**

I hope that you will consider joining us in some of these great events **"BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION"**.

10.00am	Jubilee Mass
11.30am	Morning tea
12.15pm	Whole School Showcase
1.00pm	Open Classrooms
7.30pm	Jubilee Dinner

Regards,



John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

From the Assistant Principal

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE: Last newsletter some questions were asked. Thank you to all those who were able to supply some of the answers. I wonder if some of the names mentioned here will be present at our Mass on the 14th September, how wonderful to come back to your school 50 years on. What changes will they observe? One thing never changes at St Michael's and that is the wonderful spirit of our children. We are blessed to have 50 years of history and to be part of the beginnings of the next 50 years.

Who were the first children enrolled in the school? *Some of the boys in Kindergarten in 1962 were Paul Patterson, Mark Gray and Ian Cutcliffe*

Who was the first Principal? *Sister Dunstone (a Sister of Mercy) 1962 followed by Sister Stephen (a Presentation Sister) 1963*

Who were the teachers? *Mary Bray 1st grade teacher*

Who was the first secretary? *Molly Wilson*

Who ran the Canteen? *Pat Patterson*

What involvement did the parents have? *Pat Patterson was the first president of the Mother's Club*

Has the school motto always been "Love One Another"? *No, it was "In Christ we Conquer"*

Who was the Parish Priest in 1962? *Father Hugh Law*

What were the buildings of the first school? *There was a convent, prefabricated school classrooms, an old wooden house, a small cottage and a wooden church containing a tiny residence for a priest at the rear*

History is something we need to teach our children to value and appreciate. Our children learn about their past in their integrated units of work. Year 4 will be travelling to the city this week to discover The Rocks area. Year 2 recently visited the Old School House at Rouse Hill to learn about life in the "olden days", Year 6 visited Canberra to learn more about the political history of our country. Maybe this is a nice time to talk to your children about your school days.

Looking forward to our celebrations of Mass, displays, open classrooms and dinner on the 14th September and then on the 19th September a Festival of Fun for the children. (More information about this in the next few weeks).

Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast day of St Mary of the Cross. Mary MacKillop is not only the first Australian to be recognised by the Church as a Saint, she is truly a very Australian saint. She characterises the spirit of the Australian mythology. She was a prodigious hard worker who put the needs of others before herself. She exhibited something of the larrikin spirit: constantly in dispute with authority but pressing on, regardless. She used the strengths of others but also didn't tolerate those who were not genuine. Her commitment to the schooling of children from poor and rural communities established a model of Catholic education that continues to today. A Saint for and of Australia!

We will celebrate this with a whole school Mass in the Church at 9.30am. All most welcome to attend.

Next Wednesday is the Feast of the Assumption, which celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. Mary is seen as the first disciple of Jesus and a model for all disciples; it is fitting that she receive the gift of discipleship first of all. Belief in the Assumption of Mary had become widespread by the end of the seventh century and was eventually defined in an infallible statement by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

We will celebrate this with a whole school Mass in the Church at 9.30am next Wednesday 15th August. All most welcome to attend.

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Canteen

REMINDER: We are using the Blue Price List - Term 2. Any wrong prices will be substituted to the nearest amount.

If you can help in the canteen please call 9622 5703 after 4.00pm or call in to the canteen.

Thursday Roster: Please call Geny Cleary on 9621 2558 if you cant make your rostered day. Thanks for your support.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Home Phone: 9622 5703

Library

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE:

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their PRC

Shaun Blaje - 2G	Beatrice Gara - 2H	Marjan Khan - 2H	Shannon Gibbins - 2S
Nicholas Ward - 3B	Caitlyn Gibbins - 5W	Lauren Carter - 6A	

This makes a total of 104 students who have persevered to the end, with another 71 who have started entering their books. Out of over 350 who registered this is rather disappointing. If you have finished reading (or almost finished) and perhaps lost you password to enter books online, please see me for a new password very soon.

All reading must be completed by the end of August to be eligible for a certificate. If possible, I would like all reading finalised by Friday 24th August so that I can validate all records.

BOOK FAIR: The Book Fair will take place in the Library from Wednesday 29th until Friday 31st August.

Once again the books will be provided by Central Book Suppliers. We have been very happy with them over the past years as they usually supply a wide range of well priced books. This is a good time to buy ahead for birthdays and Christmas.

BOOK WEEK: Infants children will be watching a performance called "And the winner is . . ." next Monday. This will be related to the Book Week theme and include references to some of the short listed titles.

Students have been involved in grade competitions and Reading Olympics throughout this term. More information can be found on the Library website : stmblibrary.wikispaces.com

Their wonderful work is on display in the Library, and you are most welcome to call in to see it.

YEAR OF READING QUOTE: "If you can read, you can reason. Reading is like a light to your brain. It takes you out of darkness... Literacy liberates. Reading and reasoning are forces for change, for the good". US American civil rights leader, Reverend Jesse Jackson

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at the **PRIMARY** Assembly on 30th July 2012:

3B	3C	3D	3S
Breannah Scerri	Vince Mauriana	Jacinta Bayeh	Emma Depares
Lilly Attard	Stella Lellis	Porsha Rouss	Angelina Ayala
Georgia Koutoulas	Clare Attard	Sani Faoagali	Thomas Hurst
Matthew Markovic	Jeremy Grohs	Michael Mansweto	Rhyce Muscat
4C	4E	4M	4S
Anthony Simic	Benito Montalbano	Riley Marsh	Susan Sogora
Afdeet Agier	Rohan Prasad	Matthew Cirjak	Jing Lual
Petar Barisic	Silvia Obote	Anica Milic	Megan Collings
Page Hodgson	Adrian Montoya	Takeiah DeLuca	Brian Fares
5K	5P	5S	5W
Eunice Cruz	Rachel Brown	Rames Abu Ganaba	Jacob Borg
Bailey Young	Keanna Vale	Marcus Farquharson	Geraldine Vella
Thomas Curak	Ramey Abu Ganaba	Emily Malones	Caitlyn Gibbins
Opia Inyasio	Salim Touto	Jeremy Morton	Daniel Muscat
6A	6E	6C	6J
Casey Vella	Ashleigh Vella	Zahrah Khan	Stacey Hanna
Mariah Correia	Tenika Desouza	Alana Amabile	Rahiel Abusador
Daniel Hertel	Laura Santa Maria	Mina Asfour	Gregory Kelly
Kalebh Pearson	Lancelot Garcia	Pius Baraji	Sophia Kuku

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.

Community News

MOBILE BLOOD SERVICE - We need your help... The Mobile Blood Service is visiting Blacktown Civic Centre (Campbell Street) next week and many more Donors are needed...

Monday 13 August, 2.00pm - 7.00pm Tuesday 14 August, 2.00pm - 7.00pm Wednesday 15 August, 10.00am - 3.

Every blood donation helps to save 3 lives.

Please call **13 14 95**, visit www.donateblood.com.au or email lgemobilemarket@redcrossblood.org.au to book an appointment.

COMPEER PROGRAM: Can you spare just one hour a week to befriend someone who is lonely? Over 45% (almost 1 in 2 Australian adults) will experience a mental illness at some point in their life. Social support is proven to have a positive impact on everyone's health and wellbeing. However, many people living with a mental illness are often socially isolated and lonely, which has a negative impact on their recovery and ability to lead a fulfilling life. COMPEER, a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, matches volunteers in one-to-one friendship with someone living with a mental illness for the purposes of social support. Compeer Volunteers and their friends meet up for an hour a week to enjoy social activities together in a public place (for example, chatting over a coffee or walking in a local park) – whatever they both enjoy. Volunteers are matched with a friend of the same gender, similar age, and who lives nearby. COMPEER is seeking female volunteers aged 55 years and over who live near, or can easily travel to the Blacktown area. We have a client who has been waiting for almost a year to meet a new supportive friend to enjoy a coffee and a chat with and who can help her gain confidence to become more involved in her community. For further information about this volunteering opportunity please contact Vanessa or Natalie on 9622 2411 or compeer.westernsydney@vinnies.org.au. COMPEER: What a difference a friend makes.

JUNIOR CRICKET GALA DAY: - Sunday, 12th August 2012 - Blacktown City District Association and Cricket NSW are running a fun cricketing afternoon for boys and girls 6 to 16 years. Please contact Craig McLean on 0425 237 145 for further information.

Blacktown International SportsPark - Oval 2, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill from 2.00-4.00pm

BLACKTOWN WORKERS T-BALL & SOFTBALL: Registration and "COME AND TRY DAY" for Boys and Girls - all ages! Saturday, 18th August from 10am-3pm at the sports field being the Workers Sports Club, Reservoir Road, Blacktown. Come down and have a try! New players get a free ball and glove! For further information call 0451 108 971.

