



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

St. Michael's Primary School
155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown NSW 2148
Ph: 9622 9910 Fax: 9622 6902

Volume 2011 Issue 17
1st November 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

Throughout 2011 there has been a central theme in our newsletter editorials and that has been the **"Welfare & Wellbeing"** of our children.

We have addressed such issues as mental health, bullying, developing skills in Literacy and Numeracy and of course, understanding and following the messages from the Gospel.

Yesterday I had time to visit early stage 1 and stage 1 classrooms as well as attending the KS & KG assembly. During these moments I was struck by the simple fact that our children are thriving in our environment that is safe, welcoming and engaging.

In short our children's growth is constantly supported by educators who **"know their students"** who want the very best for them **academically, emotionally and socially.**

When I reflect on the **balance** we are seeking as educators of children I am reminded of the quote by Gawande:

"What is troubling is not just being average but settling for it. Everyone knows that averageness is, for most of us, our fate. And in certain matters—looks, money, tennis - we would do well to accept this.

But in your surgeon, your child's paediatrician, your police department, your local school?

When the stakes are our lives and the lives of our children, we want no one to settle for average."

And so at St Michael's we seek to attain this balance of continually challenging **ourselves** and our **students** to be better than average.

But we do this, understanding the moments of a smiling child, an act of kindness, a moment in prayer all add to the building of our faithfilled learning community.

I look forward to seeing you at our **P & F AGM** this **Wednesday at 7.15pm**. This is an opportunity to share in our future as active members of our school community.

It should be clearly stated that your participation will support and ensure the ongoing growth of our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our outgoing P & F of 2011's executive:-

Paul Scott—President
Annie Murray—Secretary
Josephine Khairy—Treasurer

Leeann Dever—Assistant President
Joanne Obote—Vice Secretary
Marisa Khan—Assistant Treasurer

Regards,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
(Pupil Free Day)
Friday, 25th November 2011

School Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.
catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblktr@parra.catholic.edu.au

NOVEMBER

Wed 2nd	Whole School Mufti— Sausage Sizzle— Year 6 Fundraiser
Thurs 3rd	K2012 Step-up Program 9.30-11.30am
"	Captivate—St Andrew's Marayong—7.00pm
Fri 4th	Grandparents Liturgy 9.30am
Mon 7th	Whole School Assembly— 2.15pm
Wed 9th	K2012 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening—7.30pm
Thurs 10th	K2012 Step-up Program 9.30—11.30am
Mon 14th	Primary Assembly—4C presenting—2.15pm
Tues 15th	K2012—Orientation Morning—9.30-12.30pm
"	Nagle College Orientation
Wed 16th	School Disco—TBC
Thurs 17th	K2012 Step-up Program 9.30—11.30am
Fri 18th	The Rhythm of Africa— Primary students
Mon 21st	Infants Assembly—1O & 1M presenting—2.15pm

St. Michael's Church
Orwell Street,
Blacktown South

MASS Times:

Sat. Vigil—6.00pm
Sunday—8.00am, 9.30am, 6.00pm
Weekdays—8.00am
Wednesday Evening—7.30pm
1st Friday 7:30 pm Ph: 96229149
www.stmichaelsparish.com

GOING HOME with this Newsletter:

- ◆ P & F News
- ◆ P & F—AGM—Agenda
- ◆ Climate Clubs
- ◆ Educational Tax Refund



RE NEWS

Sunday's gospel was all about leadership. The model of leadership that we inherited from Jesus: a model of leadership through service, not power and authority. This gospel passage makes it very clear for that original community as well as ourselves that true leadership is provided through service to others and through humble action. Unlike the Pharisees of Jesus' time, Christian leaders are called to do away with the trappings of power and prestige and, instead, be of service to those whom they would lead.

The Christian model of leadership often flies in the face of societal concepts of leadership. Many of the models of leadership we witness in society focus on exerting power *over* others. People are praised for showing 'strong' leadership when they manipulate situations, bully less powerful people and bulldoze their way through others' opinions. Whilst this model of leadership may have a certain effectiveness in the short term, there is certainly nothing 'Christian' about its operation and ultimately it forces a wedge between the leader and the led. Christian leadership focuses on empowering all parties and rather than power *over* others, it embraces power *through* and *with* others.

A reminder that the last day for calendar money is next Tuesday.

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.

We celebrate the gift of our Grandparents on Friday with a liturgy in the Primary Quad at 9.30am. Please feel most welcome to attend.

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

SKIP-A-THON:

Thank you to the many children who have returned their Sponsorship Cards and money for the 2011 Skip-a-thon.

As of yesterday we have raised \$10,300 in this years Skip-a-thon. All money raised will go towards purchasing Learning Technology resources for the students.

We will have our lucky Skip-a-thon Draw in a couple of weeks. Some of the prizes include:-

- ◆ MP3 Players
- ◆ Fishing Equipment
- ◆ Racquet Ball
- ◆ AMF Bowling Family Passes
- ◆ Blacktown Aquatic Centre Family Passes
- ◆ Tennis Vouchers
- ◆ Karate Vouchers
- ◆ Canteen Vouchers
- ◆ Sports Equipment
- ◆ Books

If you have not already returned your Skip-a-thon money and sponsorship card please do so before Monday, 14th November.

Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at the Primary Assembly on 24th October 2011:

3D

Mina Gendy
Sebastian Salman
Taylah Henderson
Mika Lansley

3G

Jose Sapitula
Jasmine Stanley-Dawson
Hayley Vella
Tashiya Vilathgamuwa

3S

Helen Aberra
Riley Marsh
Damon Siderides
Fattu Allieu

3W

Seandan Arias
Miguell Gara
Takeiah DeLuca
Jessica Biegel

4C

Pukhraj Sanghera
Hannah Bopf
Ranye Abu Ganaba
Jayden Tighe

4E

Alexandria Giuliano
Anton Bellett
Annabel Darmali
Jason Dent

4M

Kristina Markovic
Joshua Wehbe
Jessica Relunia
Valentine Sultana

4S

Joshua Lin
Justin Lopez
Aretha Iskandar
Reece McCahon

5B

Britney Faatau
Aaliyah Pereira
Roman Koong
Pius Baraji

5K

Anthony Salman
Piper Kasemmongkol
Liann Aquino
Thea Abdelseed

**5P**

Tianna Galea
Angelo Montoya
Simon Koutoulas
Alana Amabile

6C

Kiano Pomente
Mary-Ann Aziz
Molly Downer

6J

Dean Rodi
Callan Beerens
Archit Dhillon
Tabitha Lisciotto

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at the Infants Assembly on 31st October 2011:

KG

Sagar Singh
Jazmine Valmeo
Christine Jabe
Isaac Paulino

KS

Andoni Papadokokolakis
Emily Borg
Giulia Contri
Calvin Cabuay

1L

Adam Conner
Ava Sowsun
Shannon Gibbins
Roan Dantoc

1O

Nathaniel Darmali
Aaron De Souza
Jordan Relunia
Camila De La Piedra

2B

Jermaine Borja
Preyana Prasad
Jordan Walsh
Ajang Aguer

2H

Angelina Ayala
Natasha Khan
Cherise Bartolome
Anthony Abouhamad

5S

Alexandria Valderrama
Hannah Walker
Rhys Salman
Connor Scerri

6E

Nicholas Femia
Asteer Kuku
Riquelle Webb
Shentelle Singh

KO

Cheirdan Ariaz
Tyra Abdalla
Jayden Cassar
Ella Suarez

KW

Aiden Galea
Conner Warren
Ebony Mafi
Vibie Elkander

1M

Afrin Zahan
Lachlan Robertson
Shaun Blaje
Jordan Beavis

1P

Rory Walker
Ciara Haddad
Leilani Balewai
Michael Makarous

2F

Nykoth Aguer
Reese Sto Domingo
Baanghy Butros
Angela Chdid

2S

Noah Pomente
Shawn Cabuay
Jacob Saad
Olivia Borg

CANTEEN

Volunteers needed from 9.00am to 2.30pm
Group 2—Thursdays 3/11/11 and 1/12/11
Group 3—Fridays 11/11/11 and 9/12/11

If you can help please come to the canteen or leave a message on my home phone 9622 5703 and I will call you back.

We have had a few children come to have their lunch from home heated. **OH & S Regulations DO NOT ALLOW US TO REHEAT ANY FOOD SENT FROM HOME.**

Please make sure you use Term 3/4 price list. Any wrong prices will be substituted to the nearest priced item.

Please state if you are ordering a sandwich or a wrap as sometimes we have to guess which one is ordered.

Could you please ring Geny 9621 2558 on Thursdays if you can't make your rostered day.

Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH

Thank you to all the parents and friends who attended our Term 4 Nano Cottage Meeting. We discussed issues including Lost Property, Recycling, Lunch Bags and a local Free Recycling Organisation.

Lost Property Clean Up:

A lost property clean up will happen on Thursday 3rd November, Thursday 24th November and Thursday 8th December. Any clothing with names will be returned, the items of clothing with no names will be donated to the uniform shop.

Free Iron On Label Day:

Due to the success of our Iron On Label day earlier this year we will be having another Iron on Label Day on 24th November 2011. The children who need labels on their clothing can come and have an Iron On Label attached to their jumper/jacket.

Kind regards,
FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH TEAM



FROM THE OFFICE

If you are aware that your child/ren will not be returning to St Michael's School in 2012, could you please notifying the school office as soon as possible in writing, giving details of your child's last day at school and what school they will be attending in 2012.

REMINDER: Please do not park in staff car-park. Gates will be locked from 2.30pm and will remain locked until 3.15pm. There are no exceptions. If you need to pick your child up from school around this time it is advised that you park on Reservoir Road.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Mackenzie Jones who came 1st in Extreme Weapons in the 16th International Sports Karate Association (ISKA) World Cup 2011 in the 9 years and under category. The World Cup comes around once every 4 years. This year it was held at the Whitlam Leisure Centre in Liverpool. There were 7 participants in that category and they were from around the globe. There were kids from NZ, USA, India, Australia, Japan and Korea.



P & F NEWS

Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting will be held tomorrow night, Wednesday, 2nd November in the staff room - (see flyer this newsletter). All positions will be vacated at the end of the annual reports and voting for the committee positions will follow. Come along to the meeting and take on one of the committee roles. The positions are not excessively time consuming, but all are rewarding. The positions on the committee provide parent feedback to the school and assists the students through your service to the school.

The preschoolers morning tea in the parish hall is attracting a large number of mums and preschoolers. The group meet every Wednesday morning after morning mass, around 8.30am.

Through the Skool is Kool program at The Good Guys, Prospect we were able to buy a microwave for the canteen, an iPod stereo for the F.K.D.L.C. and an urn for the school. Just under \$900 dollars to date. Thanks to all parents who mentioned the schools name when making a purchase

Climate Clubs is about to come to a close. Please see flyer and call Annie Pinto (0449640172) or myself if you need some help.

To all Year 6 students and parents who are attending the Recommitment Program through the Parish.

Log on to www.stmichaelsparish.com and see Year Six Students in "Updates". Best wishes from the P&F and we look forward to your Graduation Mass and supper in December.

Upcoming events:

AGM 2nd Nov
Kindergarten Orientation 15th & 22nd Nov
Term 4 Disco 16th Nov
Yr 6 Graduation Mass and supper 13th Dec

Thanks
Paul
0416250591