



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 3
8th March 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

RECOUNT OF THE IMPACT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT HOMEBUSH

On Friday, 4th March we went to Homebush for the Impact Leadership Conference. I thought the day was just another ordinary day, but not this particular day. Everyone arrived at school early. Everyone was excited, you could see it on their faces.

The first thing we did was the Introductory Activities. It involved looking at the little things, big things then at our goals creatively. Meaning—in order to do the big things we must notice the small things and achieve our BEST! We got to meet leaders from other schools and we made a few friends. The main activity was learning about the Hi5 Leadership principles:

1. Careful thinking with a view to action.
2. Prioritise your time.
3. Involve others.
4. Recover from setbacks.
5. Generosity towards others.

These principles were really interesting for me to learn. There was also a Loud Noises section where we had to shout as loud as we could to represent our school and we played many games. I thought my ear drums were going to burst!

After recess we had the second session. We watched a few short movie clips to identify the leader in each one. We had another Loud Noises section where we played a game called Loud Noises Charades and the hosts Andy and Michael had to guess what everyone was acting out. When they called out the right answer we would cheer LOUDLY!! We learnt about how leaders could take action and how we could improve our school. We also learnt about Michael's "Master List" on how to be a better Public Speaker and remember that a leader does not have to be in charge, does not have to be the most popular and does not have to be the most confident.

In the last session, we learnt the methods of Leadership. There are different ways of leading, depends on which situation you are in e.g. Firefighter—people who do things without being asked, Police Officer—organises everyone and Ambulance Officer—caring for others. When we arrived back at school we thanked Mr Laffan for the valuable opportunity. I thought it was the most excellent, awesome, marvellous and the most fun I have ever had. I rate it 10/10 it was the BEST day!



Written by Ly Nguyen—Student Leader and on behalf of the other student leaders:
Jacob Currie, Jessie Carr, Kiano Pomente, Giorgia Peterson and Lachlan Scott

School Website:
Www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
Email:
stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

MARCH

Wed 9th	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm
Fri 11th	Clean Up Australia Day
Sun 13th	1st Sunday of Lent
Mon 14th	K-2 Liturgy 9.30am
"	Primary Assembly—3W presenting—2.30pm
Wed 16th	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm
Sun 20th	2nd Sunday of Lent
Mon 21st	Years 3&4 Mass
"	Primary Assembly—5B Presenting—2.15pm
Wed 23rd	P & F General Meeting—1.45pm
"	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm

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-7.30pm Ph:9622 9149
www.stmichaelsparish.com

GOING HOME with this Newsletter:

- ◆ P & F News
- ◆ Catholic Outlook
- ◆ Sydney's Child



....I think I should have the school leaders write each week. Aren't they BRILLIANT!

I'm writing not from my desk but from Melbourne. I have invited our 5 kinder teachers and stage leader to visit a small primary school in St Albans. Sacred Heart Primary confirms for me how a Learning Community goes from Good to Great.

Some of the ingredients to Greatness include:-

- ◆ A school community full of Leading Learners with a common, shared belief of how children best learn.
- ◆ Clearly established and shared Goals with defined targets.
- ◆ Regular/consistent opportunity for teachers to:-
 - review childrens results
 - discuss other ways of teaching the same content
 - share in planning next steps in learning
- ◆ For the whole community to believe that **ALL** children will **ACHIEVE SUCCESS**.

Regards,
John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

RE NEWS

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season.



Ash Wednesday, also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box so we can support this very worthwhile appeal.

Please put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting the **2011 Project Compassion Appeal**.

Mrs. Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **INFANTS ASSEMBLY** on 28th February 2011:

KG

Shayleigh Ealo
Tristen Borja
Liam Pascua
Nikshay Nand

KS

Emma Golic
Matthew Carino
Cindy Zhao

1M

Jack Cadorin
Rajo Alanson
Olivia Sultana
Jasmine Rossi

1O

Ante Zlendich
Samuel Regan
Peter Cinya
Seith Williams

2B

Jaidyn Dunn
Jeremy Grohs
Sara Santa Maria
Amelia Xibberas

2H

Rhyce Muscat
Andrei Figueroa
Sohum Shah
Melissa Correia

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on 7th March 2011:

3D

Brian Flores
Dhyan Bhausar
Taylah Henderson
Nosa Shata

3S

Vansh Darji
Ravleen Kaur
Taliyah Behrens

4C

Joshua Jbarat
Ranye Abu Ganaba
Geraldine Vella
Moya Inyasio

4M

Valentine Sultana
Thomas Sultana
Griffin Brooks
Caitlyn Gibbins

KO

Jarrold Zammit
Oge Daniels-Obiokolie
Natalia Hodgson
Lincoln Faoagali

KW

Connor Warren
Emma Santa Maria
Zachary Smith
Ella Daniel

1L

Stephanie Queixalos
Madelin Khairy
Roen Dantoc
Emily Bonello

1P

Leilani Balewai
Ayden Williams
Ciara Haddad
Nicholas Nilon

2F

Michael Kinsella
Swaraj Parami
Gloria Cinya
Keira Randall

2S

Andrew Roseby
Gune Inyasio
Frankie Zaccheo
Tabitha Besterwitch

3G

Silvia Obote
Lachlan Cook
Tashiya Vilathgamuwa
Nicholas Portelli
Jose Sapitula

3W

Afdeet Aguer
Haeley Soriano
Brandon Law
Angelina Malak

4E

Jacob Ostler
Luke Barber
Tayla Begg
Daniela Piedra Yanez

5B

Sargun Saddhar
Luke Eckersley
Stacey Hanna
Kalebh Pearson



5K

Eldrin DeLeon
Jai Uren
Joshua Lozada

5P

Alana Amabile
Kassy Papadimatos
James Antonios
Gregory Kelly

5S

Bethany Young
Christian Williams
Tenika Desouza
Utkarsh Sharma

6C

Mary-Ann Aziz
Kiano Pomente
Kristen Mifsud
Virginia Mafi

6E

Jack McCabe
Luis Salgado
Annette Iskander
Marina Gendy

6J

Dominic Crech
Roger Ward
Heidy Soriano
Bethany O'Malley

ENROLMENTS—KINDERGARTEN 2012

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2012 will commence in Term 2 (from 26th April).

Enrolment forms can be obtained from the office or from the school website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au.

After 26th April the completed forms should be brought to the school office with a copy of all documentation required, at which time an appointment will be made for your child and yourselves with the Principal, Assistant Principal or an executive member of staff.

SWIMMING

Congratulations to the children who participated in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday, 4th March. All the children showed great sportsmanship and many swam their personal best on the day as they represented the Blacktown Zone. Special congratulations go to Daniel Hertel (100m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly) and Jack Groeneveld (50m Backstroke) who have made it through to the State Swimming Trials at Homebush on Monday, 21st March. Good Luck boys!

We would like to thank Mrs Dudgeon for working as a parent helper at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival and all other parents who were able to transport children to these carnivals.

Thank you for your support.

PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS WITH YOUR CHILD

If you have an issue or concern regarding your child this must be addressed with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Write a note addressed to your child's class teacher asking for an appointment and give at least 3 possible dates/times

or visit the school office and staff will leave a message for your child's teacher to call you.

No appointments regarding student/class issues will be made with the Principal unless it has been discussed with the teacher and/or stage coordinator beforehand.

CANTEEN NEWS

The new **PRICE LIST** for Term 1—2011 on white paper went out last Friday to every family. Please make sure you are using this price list as any wrong prices will be substituted to the nearest item your money adds up to.

Spare price lists are available from the student foyer or the canteen.

Thank you to the one mum for filling one Tuesday roster.

We still need two people, be it mums, dads, grandparents or anyone wanting to experience working in a canteen on Tuesday or Thursday (all day). There are only 9 canteen days for the year that you would be required.

If you can help please contact me at the canteen, home phone or through the school office. We are all friendly and try to make your day enjoyable and easy. Lunch is provided and tea and coffee is available throughout the day.

With only one helper and myself an extra volunteer would make it easier with making lunches and serving.

Thank you for the donations that have been sent in and thank you for your continued support, it is really appreciated by the children at the school.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Home Phone: 9622 5703 after 4.00pm

FROM THE LIBRARY

Chess – Inter-school competition

If there are any students interested in playing in the Inter School competition, could you please fill in the form below and return it to Mrs Buhagiar by THURSDAY, as teams need to be entered by Friday. If more than enough students apply, preference will be given to those whose parents can assist with driving.

We will only enter a team if there are sufficient numbers of parents willing to drive the teams to other schools. If you are able to drive, please fill in the form below, and if there are enough drivers, I will make a roster to share the transport. The competition begins on Friday 6th May and is played on a "Home and Away" basis going through to early Term 3.

I would like to play for St Michaels in the Inter-school Chess Competition

Name _____ Class _____

I am willing to drive the chess team to other venues

Name _____

I can drive every week; every 2nd week;
 once a month; (please tick)



Premiers Reading Challenge

I have finally been able to get passwords for the students who are attempting the Reading Challenge. I will attempt to sort and distribute them this week with instructions on how to enter your books online. If you have any problems accessing a computer, just keep a written list of books read, and give to me when finished. I will make sure they are entered.

Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH

Clean Up St Michael's Day Friday 11th March 2011

This Friday St Michael's children will put on their plastic gloves and take hold of their garbage bag and help to Clean Up our School. Each class will be given a particular area to clean up. This is an annual event at our school and the children enjoy taking part.

Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 6th March 2011

Why not slip, slop and slap and become a part of a clean up team and help to clean up your local area. For more information about this day visit:
www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/
This national event will take place in your local area this Sunday, rain, hail or shine. Let's Keep Australia Clean and be A Friend of Our Earth.



Kind Regards,
Friends of Our Earth Team

TERM 1—2011 SCHOOL FEES

Fee statements have now been sent and payment is due on **Friday, 11th March 2011**. Please advise school office if you have not received the Term 1 invoice and we will arrange for another to be sent.

If you are unable to pay in full please contact Robyn Hoogenest on 9622 9910 to make an arrangement.

NEWMAN'S ASSESSMENT TERM 1—2011

During this week all children in Years 3 to 6 will be assessed in their Mathematical problem solving using the 5 Newman's Prompts.

As mentioned in previous correspondence our Goal at St Michael's in 2011 is for teachers and students to grow in their understanding of Mathematical problem solving through improved comprehension and application of numerical knowledge.

Yesterday the children in Year 5 received the following mathematical problems to solve:

Question 1:

These biscuits are sold in packets of 10. Shelley wants to give one biscuit to each of her 27 classmates. What is the **least** number of packets that Shelley needs?

Question 2:

On a bus there are 4 boys for every 8 girls. There are 72 girls. How many boys are on the bus?

The Year 5 children were asked the following prompts as they approached each of the questions.

1. Read the question.
2. What is the question asking you to find?
3. What information do you already know?
4. What method will you use to solve the problem?
5. Show me how you get your answer and talk aloud as you do it so that I can understand how you are thinking.
6. Now write down your actual answer.

The teachers gather information from the Newman's Analysis which assists them in giving explicit instruction to the students. Through the Newman's Prompts our children are able to develop positive and effective Mathematical problem solving skills.



Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

BRIDGING THE GAP RETREAT FOR AFRICAN FATHERS OR CARERS AND THEIR SONS

- Date:** Friday, 18th March 2011 to Sunday, 20th March
- Location:** YMCA Camp Yarramundi (near Richmond)
- Travel:** Coach will pick up families from:
Auburn Train Station
Blacktown Train Station
You will return on Sunday at approx 5pm
- Cost:** \$10 per family—Accommodation food and meals all included
- Activities Include:** Canoeing, Swimming, Archery, Sports, Camp Fire, Ropes Course, Cave Maze

If you are African and have a son/s aged 8-14 years and are interested in attending then please register your interest by calling Daniel Jook at:

St Anthony's Family Care on 9747 5782