



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 2
22nd February 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

The following is part of a submission to be delivered to the CEO in seeking funding for new and refurbished buildings.

We know that because of our skilled teachers, learning at St Michael's would happen in a shoe box. However, 21st century challenges call upon new ways of thinking. This thinking in turn challenges all of us in seeking out the potential that new designs in learning spaces provide.

As you know our Vision & Mission challenges us to constantly find ways to **Reflect** with, **Engage** and **Empower** our children.

It is obvious that our current Learning Spaces do not reflect the changes in design that 21st century educational leaders and authorities are calling upon.

I believe our new contemporary learning space is a demonstration of what all learning spaces need to be in terms of flexibility, size and use of space. As a community we must all identify the needs of our children as they are prepared for futures that will require a vastly different set of skills, attitudes and understandings to those which we possessed when we left school.

We have been offered the opportunity to present submissions to the Catholic Education Office detailing "What we believe our school should look like?". "What do we believe our Master Plan for school design and layout should encompass?"

As well as meeting students future needs we will be guided by the best educational thinkers and the learnings from successful schools in Australia and around the world.

So what are some of these leaders saying? Last year at an OECD meeting "Raise Your Hand" educational leaders agreed that our 5 major aims in education are:-

1. Teach to think not regurgitate facts.
2. Commit to education as a public good and a public responsibility.
3. Focus more on creating a long-term love of learning and the ability to think critically.
4. Ensure that all children have the opportunity to discover their natural abilities and develop them.
5. Ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds and migrant families have the same opportunities to quality education.

Our designs for the 21st century will need to support these five core beliefs through creative designs that allow for higher levels of **cooperative** and **collaborative** teaching and learning. These designs will support our children in gaining "**Deeper Understanding, Higher Order Thinking** and a wide range of **Performance Skills**".

Finally our new designs must promote learners that **TALK, BUILD and CREATE**.

Regards,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



School Website:

www.stmichaelsblktn.parra.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

FEBRUARY

<i>Wed</i> 23rd	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm
<i>Fri</i> 25th	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt
<i>Mon</i> 28th	Infants Assembly 2S presenting—2.15pm

MARCH

<i>Wed</i> 2nd	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm
<i>Thurs</i> 3rd	St Michael's Parish Reconciliation Program commences
"	Diocesan Staff Education Mass— 5.30pm at St Patrick's
<i>Fri</i> 4th	Diocesan Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt
<i>Sat</i> 5th	Learn to Ride— commencing 9.00am
<i>Mon</i> 7th	Primary Assembly 6J presenting—2.15pm
<i>Wed</i> 9th	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm
<i>Fri</i> 11th	Clean Up Australia Day

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
- ◆ Learn to Ride
- ◆ Representative Sport Trials
- ◆ AFL Clinic
- ◆ Nagle—Open Evening



RE NEWS

In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells us that it's easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It's easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It's easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It's easy to hate the person who's nasty to you. But Jesus says that it's these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

Mrs. Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT** at our whole school assembly on 21st February 2011:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1L
Matthias Barrett
Pavithran Virakesewaren | 1M
Shanelle Agon
Hunter Newsome |
| 1O
Marina Simic
Bryce Long | 1P
Haidyn McCahon
Denica Brillo |
| 2B
Georgia Koutoulas
Jadd Ghourizi | 2F
Leelah Williams
Lucas Afarian |
| 2H
Emma Depares
Clare Attard | 2S
Olivia Borg
Devansh Sharma |
| 3D
Eric Tripathi
Lily Hardman | 3G
Jessica Yew
Joanne Salvana |
| 3S
Taliyah Behrens
Ryan Santa Maria | 3W
Jerissa Valmeo
Martin Ayuel |
| 4C
William Gafa
Emily Hartsuyker | 4E
Alexandria Giuliano
Keenan Tamayo |
| 4M
Briana Yu
Pinak Sharma | 4S
Aretha Iskandar
Joshua Lin |
| 5B
Michelle Lin
Ella Von Buren | 5K
Casey Vella
Liann Aquino |
| 5P
Lachlan Cremen-Darkin
Monique Salazar | 5S
Izak Xiberras
Kathlyn Ydia |
| 6C
Kiano Pomente
Georgia Peterson | 6E
Jayden Borg
Reanna Cardona |
| 6J
Christopher Simic
Grace Regan | |

OH&S CHURCH CAR PARK SAFETY

As you are aware we are very fortunate that the Parish allows us to use the Church car park during school hours. While using the Church car park please be aware of the following **Safety Regulations**:

- 1. Do not park in the Disabled Parking Zones unless you have a permit to do so.**
- 2. Drive the right way through the car park.**
- 3. Do not overtake regardless of how late you may be for an appointment.**
- 4. Always drive at a walking pace.**
- 5. Only park in the spaces provided.**
- 6. Be courteous at all times to other parents.**
- 7. Hold your child's hand while walking through the car park.**

Thank you for your support in the above.

Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SPORT

What a wonderful swimming carnival we had in 2011 at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. The carnival ran very smoothly thanks to the professionalism and leadership displayed by staff and parents and the behaviour and participation from students. It was an action packed day with many students surprising themselves with their results from swimming 25 metres for the first time to recording a PB in the medley. The red team won overall on the day in a closely contested event.

The age champions were as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| BOYS: | |
| Junior | Matthew Dudgeon |
| 11 yrs | Daniel Hertel |
| Senior | Jack Groeneveld |
| GIRLS: | |
| Junior | Caitlyn Gibbins |
| 11 yrs | Brittney Williams |
| Senior | Rebecca Phillips |

As well as our champions the following people qualified to represent our school community in the Blacktown Zone Carnival on Friday the 25th February.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mariah Correia | Ella Cyreszko |
| Lily Hardman | Jacintha Jarosz |
| Michelle Lin | Hayley Vella |
| Riquelle Webb | Ashleigh Witteveen |
| Laura Robertson | Nicholas Bear |
| Marcus Correia | Max Cyreszko |
| Nicholas Femia | Garry Ho |
| Daniel Kucheruk | Thomas O'Callaghan |
| Bailey Williams | Christian Williams |

More than a Sport

Did you know that 56 children drowned in Australia in the 2010 financial year? The backyard pool was the main offender but it occurs generally anywhere there is water.. One of the major methods of preventing these tragedies is to improve water skills



of parents and children. Parents are advised to learn resuscitation and children; general water awareness and life saving skills like treading water etc. Why am I mentioning this you may ask? Well I was alarmed at the number of students I issued with either a green or no wristbands at our carnival. Swimming is an essential skill for everyone and one which should not be overlooked. You can contact any of the swimming pools in the local area for learn to swim programs.

Jeff Phillips
SPORTS COORDINATOR

CANTEEN NEWS

We need 3 volunteers for Tuesdays URGENTLY. You would only be required for 9 days during the whole year from 9am to 1.45pm. If you can help please contact me at home or at the canteen. The children and I would be very grateful of your help.

Thank you to everyone who have already volunteered. Rosters will be sent home this week.

Thank you for your support.

Thank you.
Jan Crawford
CANTEEN MANAGER
Home Phone: 9622 5703 after 4.00pm

CYBER SAFETY AT ST MICHAEL'S

Cyber-safety skills urged for kids entering digital school-yard.

Australian parents have spent up big equipping their kids with the latest gadgets ahead of the new school year but many have failed to equip them with cyber-skills new Telstra research has revealed.

More than a third of Australian parents surveyed with children aged 10 to 17 will send a child to school this year with both a laptop computer and a mobile phone.

The research, however, revealed that many of these parents haven't set aside time to talk to their kids about cyber-safety issues such as protecting their privacy and managing approaches from cyber-bullies.

The research found:

- **Parents have spent up big on school tech.** Almost four in ten (38 per cent) say they recently purchased a laptop for their child's schooling and almost one in four (24 per cent) say they have purchased their child a mobile phone.
 - **Mobiles and laptops top the list of school-bound gadgets.** Seven in ten Aussie parents (74%) say their child will take a mobile phone to school this year while half (54%) say a child will take a laptop to school.
 - **New tech not being accompanied by new skills.** Almost one in five parents admitted that they haven't spoken to their kids recently about how to protect themselves from approaches from cyber strangers, while a third say they haven't spoken to their kids recently about how to respond to cyber-bullies.
- Mobile safety essentials often forgotten.** One quarter of the parents haven't spoken to their kids recently about who they should share their mobile number with and almost four

in ten (38%) haven't discussed how to keep access to their phone secure through the use of a PIN and password. You can find more information to help people of all ages have a positive online experience on [Telstra's Internet and Cyber-Safety page](http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media-centre/announcements/cyber-safety-skills-urged-for-kids-entering-digital-schoolyard.xml) at www.telstra.com.au and follow the prompts to the Media Centre – Announcements.

Regards,
Mr Coley White
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR
(Article Source: - <http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media-centre/announcements/cyber-safety-skills-urged-for-kids-entering-digital-schoolyard.xml>)

2011 LENTEN RESOURCES

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has produced a set of resources for use by parishes, groups, schools, families, young people and children. Heart to Heart: Lenten reflections for individuals and groups; CD with introduction and hymns for opening and closing prayers; Gospel readings, Scripture reflections and guided meditations; posters and prayer cards. Inquiries: Life & Faith p: (07) 3336 9168. View samples and order online: www.bne.catholic.net.au/lent

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

If you are looking for **Before & After School Care** contact Clovella Child Care & Early Learning Centre, Kent Street, Blacktown. For more information please call: 9649 5544, 9637 6966 or 9649 6687.

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH

Each newsletter the Friends of our Earth Team will give you helpful tips and ways you can care for our earth at home and at school.

**Clean Up Australia Day
Sunday 6th March 2011.**

Become a part of a clean up team and help to clean up your local area. For more information about this national day visit www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/

Useful tip of the week:

To help reduce waste at our school it is important to **clearly label** your child's clothing and lunch boxes. This will help to re locate lost property and waste in our school.

Friends of Our Earth Team





FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Covering

It was wonderful to have so many Mums come to the Library to help with book covering. I had so many helpers that there are no books left that need covers just at the moment, but I will let everyone know when new resources are ready. Thank you one and all.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Just a reminder for those entering the Challenge to keep reading and recording your books on paper, until I get the passwords, which should be in early March. When I get the passwords, I will send them out with a note explaining how to enter books online.

Australia Day Competition

Recently we had a competition where children had to draw what they loved about Australia and being Australian. As there were so many wonderful entries, it was too difficult to choose the best. Instead we put all the name into a raffle. The winners of the 2 major prizes were Sarah Sepulvida (3G) and Michael Mansweto (2F) Congratulations to all who entered. The Library looks lovely with all the beautiful art work on display.

Harmony Day

Every year St Michael's celebrate Harmony Day and this year our celebrations will take place on Friday 18th March. This year we thought we might change our focus from food and clothing to "Stories from different Cultures". Parents, if you have a favourite story from your childhood in Australia or another country, and would be prepared to come along and tell it or read it to a class, could you please fill in the form below and return it to the Library. If you have anything to help tell the story such as pictures or puppets, you could bring those along with you.

Child's name and class:

Story from which country:

Many thanks

Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

2011—MATHEMATICAL MOMENTUM

At St Michael's School our goal in Mathematics during 2011 is "for teachers and students to grow in their understanding of mathematical problem solving through improved comprehension and application of numerical knowledge".

At St Michael's we are focusing on this Goal because analysis of a variety of Mathematics Assessments (ie. NAPLAN Results and Diagnostic Tests) have shown lower performance of students in Mathematical word problems as compared with Mathematical problems.

The Mathematics problem solving strategy which children at St Michael's are taught follows the 5 steps listed below. Parents can use these prompts when working on maths problems with their children.

1. Read the question out loud.
2. What is the question asking you to do?
3. Which method do you use to get the answer?
4. Show me how you got the answer and talk aloud as you do it so I can understand how you are thinking.
5. Now write down your actual answer.

The understanding of a child's Mathematical problem solving process can assist teachers and parents in guiding the learning.

Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

LATE ARRIVERS and EARLY LEAVERS

Late Arrivers: If your child arrives late for school (after 9.10am) they are required to obtain a Late Arrivers Slip from the student foyer. If you come into the school with your child you must come to the front office and complete this slip. Your child will then proceed to class unaccompanied in order to protect valuable teaching and reduce interruptions.

Early Leavers: If you are aware that your child will be leaving school early (before 3.00pm) you must send a note to the class teacher. On arrival to collect your child you must go to the front office and complete an Early Leavers Slip. The office staff will call your child for you and you must remain in the office foyer until your child arrives. It is important that we know that your child has left the premises accompanied by an adult.

These procedures are in place to protect your child's safety. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.