



# 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 4  
22nd March 2011

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

#### TEACHING & LEARNING:

Thanks for your positive feedback regarding our "Home Learning Programme". This fortnightly feature will continue throughout the year. Our focus will be in building on the success of our goals in, **developing student skills in comprehending meaning from a variety of texts.**

As you know our emphasis in 2011 is Mathematics as a community united in supporting our children's needs. Lets all:-

- ◆ **Make** Mathematics & Numbers real in the children's world.
- ◆ **Project** a "Maths & Numbers" can be **fun** .... Attitude.
- ◆ **Talk** about numbers, using Mathematical language:
  - How many ...
  - Why do you think that shape ...
  - I wonder what the difference will be when ...
  - Do you think this will be heavier / longer / greater than this ...
- ◆ **Play** with numbers—UNO, Snakes & Ladders, Trouble.
- ◆ **Investigate** the computer **You Tube / Google / Maths for Parents.**

Together we will improve **Student Outcomes.**

#### ST MICHAEL'S CHOIR:

Last Tuesday under the leadership of Mrs Mastrosa and Mrs Lawson over 60 of our primary children worked and sang with members of the Australian Youth Choir.

This will be an ongoing programme culminating in a performance at the end of the year.

This initiative is also part of our Vision to fully **ENGAGE** and **EMPOWER** our children with rich and varied learning experiences.

#### COMMUNITY:

This Wednesday, 23rd March our P & F will hold our first general meeting for 2011. Please come along, I need your help:-

- ◆ *Do we need to change our uniform and supplier?*
- ◆ *How can we keep our children safe as they arrive and leave our school grounds?*
- ◆ *What will our future classrooms look like?*

Regards,

John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**



#### School Website:

Www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

#### Email:

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

### MARCH

Wed 23rd	P & F General Meeting—1.45pm
"	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm
Fri 25th	<b>SCHOOL PHOTOS</b>
Mon 28th	Infants Assembly—2B presenting—2.15pm
Tues 29th	<b>CROSS COUNTRY- Years 3—6</b>
Wed 30th	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm

### APRIL

Mon 4th	Primary Assembly—6E presenting—2.15pm
Tues 5th	Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day at Aquilina Reserve
Fri 8th	Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day at St Marys
"	Term 1 concludes
Wed 27th	<b>School Resumes for Term 2 Staff and Students</b>

#### 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](http://www.stmichaelsparish.com)

#### GOING HOME with this Newsletter:

- ◆ **Online Training Module—Child Protection**
- ◆ **Year 5 Strings Program**



### RE NEWS

Lent is a time of renewal. We look to prayer, fasting and almsgiving – the traditional practices of Lent – as ways by which we can undergo a transformation in our lives.

In Sunday's Gospel, Peter, James and John are taken "up a high mountain", a scriptural reference which is often associated with seeking a closer relationship with God. They are alone with Jesus, away from their everyday lives for a short time and there they experience something that renews and invigorates their commitment to follow Jesus. Jesus, their Lord, is in conversation with Moses and Elijah and then is transfigured before their eyes. "His face was shining like the sun and his clothes were dazzling white". And a voice from a cloud announces: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"

The disciples have a new insight. This is the moment that their mission of carrying on Jesus' work becomes real. Jesus is identified here with Moses, who delivered the ancient Hebrews from slavery and oppression and Elijah, the prophet of the people. Jesus mission was also to bring the good news to the poor, and freedom to the oppressed.

Although in a very different way, this week's Project Compassion story from the Democratic Republic of Congo is also about transformation and new beginnings. As a result of conflict in her country, Elisabeth became a refugee and suffered violence, rejection and loss. Through a program supported by Caritas Australia and its partners she has experienced compassionate care, counselling and practical help. Elisabeth and many women like her have found acceptance in a community where they can feel valued and make a positive contribution. With renewed hope, dignity and stability they can find new ways of thinking about the future. Their lives have been transformed.

This season is a time for us to "listen to Him", to "get up and be not afraid". The work is waiting for us, too. As people of faith, we can support opportunities for those who have experienced tragedy - opportunities to ask questions about the future and to find better ways to face it.

During Lent, we can act in a spirit of generosity, of justice and of love – partners in the work of making a difference.

We are now asking that the Project Compassion boxes given out on Ash Wednesday be returned. We are having two Mufti Mondays - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March will be Mufti Monday for all Primary grades to return their boxes and then Mufti Monday on 4<sup>th</sup> April for Infant grades to return their boxes. If you require a receipt for tax purposes please fill out the receipt on the inside of the top of the box. No receipts will be issued if the amount in the box is not written on the receipt. We ask that the children wear appropriate mufti clothing.

Mrs. Anne Easton  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

### CROSS COUNTRY

Please note **CROSS COUNTRY** will be held on **Tuesday, 29th March** for Years 3-6 from 11.20 to 12.50pm

Children are to wear their sports uniform to school. If your child suffers from asthma, please make sure he or she bring a puffer to the Cross Country Carnival. Please ensure your child has their hat and sunscreen on the day and encourage your child to be well hydrated on the morning of the Cross Country.

### AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on 14th March 2011:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>3D</b><br>Jake Pearce<br>Owen Walker<br>Emerson Barlow-Szoke<br>Flavia Aya        | <b>3G</b><br>Aaron Abbas<br>Sarah Smith<br>Jessica Yew<br>Caleb Scerri                  |
| <b>3W</b><br>Alisha Depares<br>Avneet Sanghera<br>Bailey Williams<br>Jessica Biegal  | <b>4C</b><br>Matthew Golic<br>Matthew Dudgeon<br>Pukhray Sanghera<br>Hannah Harvey      |
| <b>4E</b><br>Jimmy Whelan<br>Esconda Fozi<br>Ayden Lisciotto<br>Rames Abu Ganaba     | <b>4M</b><br>Claudia De Bartolo<br>Jessica Relunia<br>Vincent Zaccheo<br>Marcus Correia |
| <b>4S</b><br>Reece McCahon<br>Erin Minett<br>Bailey Young<br>Sukharat Sandhu         | <b>5B</b><br>Maddison Bopf<br>Hannah Dickinson<br>Laren Henry<br>Daniel Hertel          |
| <b>5K</b><br>Tiarna Armstrong<br>Claudia Alessi<br>Nadia Tong<br>Rolan Gonzales      | <b>5P</b><br>Georgia Tabone<br>Laura Santa Maria<br>James Kinsella<br>Simon Koutoulos   |
| <b>5S</b><br>Nicholas Galea<br>Rhys Salman<br>Connor Scerri<br>Jumana Khan           | <b>6C</b><br>Emily Simpson<br>Paul Relunia<br>Kathlyn Bagay<br>Jack Groeneveld          |
| <b>6E</b><br>Nicholas Femia<br>Gergis Abdalla<br>Aleah Valmeo<br>Terry-James Kairouz | <b>6J</b><br>Tabitha Lisciotto<br>Zac Zadravec<br>Natasha Attard<br>Shabrit Sidhu       |



Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on 21st March 2011:

**3D**

Anna Piven  
Anita Milic  
Jing Lual  
Shreya Prasad

**3G**

Hayley Vella  
Sarah Sepulveda  
Sinead Beavis  
Jasmine Stanley-Dawson

**3S**

Veronia Abdelseed  
Daniel Hernandez

**3W**

Aidan Tong  
Daniel Kuziak  
Jerissa Valmeo  
Luke Osborne

**4C**

Montanna Farqharson  
Charlie-Rose Bartlett  
George Capati  
Nicholas Bear

**4E**

Vishal Kumar  
Alexandria Giuliano  
Bianca Queixalos  
Opia Inyasio

**4M**

Lucas Groom  
Pinak Sharma  
Briana Yu  
Francesca Maiurana

**4S**

Matthew Hasna  
Alexander Pezzano  
Eunice Cruz  
Aglaya Papadokokolakis

**5B**

Ella Cyreszko  
Jasmine Wormleaton  
Roman Koong  
Daniel Kucheruk

**5K**

Brittany Williams  
Andrew Amabile

**5P**

Georgia Tabone  
Gregory Kelly  
Nikita Kumar  
Aaron Cairns

**5S**

Michelle Besterwich  
Blake Smith  
Lauren Carter  
Antonio Ayala

**6C**

Thomas Angulo  
Adrianna Bocci  
Chris Satorre  
Lauren Ward

**6E**

Michael Demirgellis  
Jarod O'Brien  
Riquelle Webb  
Jaida Gigante

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## CANTEEN NEWS

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Please note **POP TOP Juice** is no longer available in Multiv Juice. The only flavours available are Orange Juice and Blackcurrent & Apple. Please cross Multiv off your pricelist.

The current **PRICELIST** is **WHITE 2011 Term One**. We are still having wrong prices coming in on lunch orders. Wrong prices will be changed to the nearest item.

Thank you to the extra volunteers that have come forward since the last newsletter although we are still short 2 volunteers on Tuesday. If you are able to help please contact me in the canteen or phone me at home and leave a message and I will ring you back.

Jan Crawford  
**CANTEEN MANAGER**  
Home Phone: 9622 5703 after 4.00pm

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## FROM THE LIBRARY

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### World Maths Day

Recently, many students from St Michaels participated in the World Maths Day online competition, competing against students from all around the world. 164 students took part answering 30,498 questions correctly. The Library computers were certainly busy all day, even at recess and lunch times.

Some outstanding results were achieved by the following students.

Dhyan Bhavsar	3D	959 pts
Geraldine Vella	4C	878 pts
Michelle Lin	5B	805 pts.
Avigalle Mendoza	3W	641 pts
Kathryn Ydia	5S	558 pts
Anuroop Dhillon	3G	554 pts
Hannah Walker	5S	503 pts

Congratulations to all who took part.

### Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Jerissa Valmeo, 3W, who was the first to complete the Challenge in 2011, followed closely by Vanessa Abouhamad from 4S. Well done, Jerissa and Vanessa.

By now, all students should have received their passwords. Please see me if you have not got yours yet.

So far I have 273 students registered. I would like to make only 1 more upload of registrations, so if anyone else would like to take part, please give your name to me by the end of this week.

I hope we can make 2011 the most successful Reading Challenge from St Michaels so far.

Judy Buhagiar  
**TEACHER/LIBRARIAN**

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## FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH

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### EARTH HOUR Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 8.30pm. TURN LIGHTS OFF!!

This is a worldwide event. It started over 3 years ago. People, families and businesses are encouraged to **TURN LIGHTS OFF** for one hour to help raise awareness about saving electricity and conserving the earth's resources. St Michael's will take part in Earth Hour during class time this Friday. We will have our lights turned off for one hour during the day. You can do the same at home on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm!!



## MOBILE MUSTER

Do you have a drawer full of old mobile phones? We can help you!! In coming weeks St Michael's will take part in a **MOBILE MUSTER** where you can recycle your old mobile phones.



**MobileMuster** is the official recycling program of the mobile phone industry. Initiated voluntarily by the Australian telecommunications industry in 1999, its overall aim is to prevent mobile phones ending up in landfill.

The program collects and recycles mobile phone handsets, batteries and accessories from a network of over 3,500 mobile phone retailers, local councils, government agencies and business drop off points across Australia.

MobileMuster is giving our school the opportunity to help our environment and at the same time receive some fantastic rewards for schools and students by simply rounding up and handing in old and unused mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories.

**Did you know that if Australians handed in the 14-16 million unused or broken mobile phones hidden in desks and drawers across the country you could make:**

- ◆ • 160,000 plastic fence posts (enough to build a fence from Sydney to Melbourne)
- ◆ • 31,000 gold wedding bands
- ◆ • 3.2 million Aluminium cans

Plus 13,867 tonnes future greenhouse gas emissions will be avoided which is equal to planting 84,000 trees, or taking 5,180 cars permanently off the road.

For more information visit [www.mobilemuster.com.au](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au)

**REMINDER:** Please label all items of clothing. This is important leading up to the winter months. You can do this using a **clothing marker** or **iron on labels**. This will help reduce clothing waste.

Kind Regards,

**FRIEND OF OUR EARTH TEAM**

## MATHS RESOURCES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are currently seeking parents who can volunteer to assist our school in making Maths Resources. These resources can be made at school or at home depending on your availability. If you are able to assist or require further clarification please see Mr Siciliano or Mr Crowley.

## AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS YEARS 3-6

As you are aware the ICAS Computer, Writing, English, Spelling and Maths Competitions are held during Terms 2 & 3 on the following dates:

Computer	Tuesday, 24th May	\$7.00
Science	Wednesday, 8th June	\$7.00
Spelling	Tuesday, 21st June	\$10.00
Writing	Tuesday, 21st June	\$15.00
English	Tuesday, 2nd August	\$7.00
Mathematics	Tuesday, 16th August	\$7.00

If you would like your child to participate in the ICAS Competitions they must bring in an envelope (which they collect from class teacher) for each competition before the closing date (**Thursday, 7th April**). **No late entries will be accepted after this date.**

Regards

Michael Sicilinao

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

## SPORTS NEWS

Just a reminder that our school Cross Country will take place on the school grounds this coming Tuesday the 29th March. Your assistance on the day would be greatly appreciated by the school community.

A big congratulations to Emily Simpson in Year 6 for making the Mackillop Representative Softball Team. A huge achievement!

Our after school AFL Auskick program has been a great a great success with approximately 80 students participating. Next week will be the final week and we will have the privilege of two GWS Giants players visiting us.

Finally an expression of interest for a modified under 8's basketball competition Saturday mornings starting Saturday the 30th of April at Penrith Sports Stadium has been sent to us. Anyone interested in playing contact Curtis Sardi Development Officer on 47 313 252 or [curtis\\_penrithbaksetball@people.net.au](mailto:curtis_penrithbaksetball@people.net.au)

**NAGLE Netball Club** is looking for players 6, 7 & 8 years to play netball this season. For further information call

Lyn Buchanan on 9837 4161 or 0403 164 162 or  
Cassie Johnson on 9837 4503 or 0400 136 629