



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 13
23 August 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

OPEN SPACE LEARNING

There is no mistaking a movement when you see one, schools across the Parramatta Diocese and the country are busy refurbishing buildings, dismantling walls and traditional age-based class groupings and moving en masse into large open learning spaces.

Open space learning—the pros: (An excerpt from IEU Magazine)

There is no denying that we are living in a rapidly changing world and as a consequence schools are faced with some real challenges.

For a long period of time school design remained unchanged, based on the factory model, but now we see a trend where schools are conceptualising their approach to teaching and learning and their physical spaces.

The contemporary school is being characterised by a variety of open learning spaces, flexible furniture, ICT and a number of rich resources.

Open learning spaces have built-in flexibility in design and they aren't restricted by walls.

Today, particularly with the introduction of ICT ("Information & Computer Technology"), schools are looking at using more open and flexible spaces.

Schools can use spaces to empower their students to want to learn anywhere and anytime.

Students take more responsibility for their learning and movement.

Schools are endeavouring to cater for students' different learning styles. In doing this there is a real attempt to personalise learning. Students and teachers work together.

As you know we have built a brilliant **Open Learning Space**. This space is used on a daily basis for a variety of Teaching and Learning activities.

As a community our response to the changing dimension and pedagogy of open learning is to embrace what we see as good practice. As a community we will need to continue monitoring and measuring student success through their learning in open learning environments.

In 2012 we will be able to apply for a **Commonwealth Block Grant**. This will see dramatic changes in our learning spaces in keeping with Educational changes.

As a result, now is the time for us to plan and prepare by looking at different ways we can use the **OPEN LEARNING CENTRE**.

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



School Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblktr@parra.catholic.edu.au

AUGUST

Wed 24th	Voice of Youth—Blacktown Cluster Final
Fri 26th	Diocesan Athletics
"	Kindergarten Excursion to Targona Zoo
"	Youth Choir visiting classes
Mon 29th	Primary Assembly—4M presenting—2.15pm
Wed 31st	Father's Day Stall

SEPTEMBER

Fri 2nd	Father's Day Liturgy
Mon 5th	Infants Assembly—2H presenting—2.15pm
Wed 7th	P & F General Meeting—1.45pm
"	Book Fair
Thurs 8th	Book Fair
Fri 9th	Book Fair
"	Dress Up Parade
"	Diocesan Captivate Choral Concert

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 Uniforms
- ◆ Tree Authority



SOME IMPORTANT UP AND COMING DATES:

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY:

Friday, 16th September 2011

Pupil Free Day

Teachers will be undertaking Professional Learning "Understanding By Design" on this day.

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ST MICHAEL'S FAMILY FUN DAY:

Sunday, 18th September 2011

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

ST MICHAEL'S FEAST DAY and OPENING AND BLESSING OF THE FATHER KEVIN DADSWELL LEARNING CENTRE:

Friday, 23rd September 2011—10.00am

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It has come to our attention that a small number of parents are not displaying consideration for others or safety while using the church car park. Parents are asked to read over the following points and encourage each other to keep all members of our school community safe.

1. The car park **IS NOT** designed as a drive through and drop off zone.
2. Parents are required to park their vehicle and escort children into the school grounds.
3. If there are no parking spaces available exit the car park and park on the neighbouring streets, then escort your child into the school grounds.
4. Follow the one way arrows around the car park and at no time overtake another vehicle while exiting the car park.
5. Drive through the car park at a walking pace. Being in a rush is no excuse for driving dangerously.
6. Do not use the car park if you have dead lines to meet. Understand and expect that sometimes the car park will get backlogged which take time to clear.

Lets continue to keep our children safe at all times.

CHILD PROTECTION:

Due to Child Protection issues the back gates will be locked from 9.15am. Access to St Michael's School can be gained via Reservoir Road front gate.

ICAS—SPELLING COMPETITION:

Congratulations to the following children who received outstanding achievements in the ICAS Spelling Competition:

Lily Hardman	Year 3	Credit
Emerson Barlow—Skoze	Year 3	Credit
Taliyah Behrens	Year 3	Distinction
Anuroop Dhillon	Year 3	Distinction
Shreya Prasad	Year 3	Credit
Aidan Tong	Year 3	Credit
Eric Tripathi	Year 3	Distinction
Jerissa Valmeo	Year 3	Credit

Annabel Darmali	Year 4	Credit
William Gafa	Year 4	Credit
Valentine Sultana	Year 4	Credit
Briana Yu	Year 4	Distinction

Liann Aquino	Year 5	Distinction
Rolan Gonzales	Year 5	Credit
Jacintha Jarosz	Year 5	Credit
Zahrah Khan	Year 5	Distinction
Nikhita Kumar	Year 5	Credit
Angelo Montoya	Year 5	Credit
Sargun Saddhar	Year 5	Credit
Utkarsh Sharma	Year 5	Credit
Jonathan Tabone	Year 5	Credit
Nadia Tong	Year 5	Credit

Kathlyn Bagay	Year 6	Credit
Ly Nguyen	Year 6	Credit
Lauren Ward	Year 6	Credit

Mr Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT** at our **WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY** on 15th August 2011:

KG	KO
Joachim Tabone	Lincoln Faoagali
Janelle Vella	Jarrod Zammit
Shayleigh Eato	Faith Claye
KS	KW
Paavan Mondeddu	Nataliya Topic
Kimberley Quai-Hoi	Prisha Sharma
Brooklyn Stack	Emma Santa Maria
1L	1M
Marjan Khan	Hunter Newsome
Sandra Mankrious	Madelyn Attard
1O	1P
Connor Hayes	Joshua Pinto
Ante Zlendich	Alana Milic

**2B**

Rosy Muscat
Jordan Walsh

2H

Melissa Correia
Nicholas Ward

3D

Nosa Shata
Dhyan Bhavsar

3S

Sage Andary
Veronia Abdelseed

4C

Geraldine Vella
Nicholas Bear

5B

Ella Cyreszko
Jacinta Jarosz

5P

James Kinsella
Nikhita Kumar

6C

Jack Groeneveld
Virginia Mafi

6J

Ly Nguyen
Shania Arab

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at the **INFANTS ASSEMBLY** on 22nd August 2011:

KG

Tristan Borja
Liam Pascua
Marisa Telidis
Aimee Gatt

KS

Alexis Rossi
Harrison DeLuca
Avo Topajikian
Xander Casipit

1L

Arvin Tecson
Viktoria Vidovic
Erik Yu
Madison Wright

1O

Marina Simic
Emerald Dent
Marianne Athanasopoulos
Peter Cinya

2B

Jeremy Grohs
Jermaine Borja
Felicia Jo Thompson-Sciberras
Preyana Prasad

2F

Breannah Scerri
Sayer Toutu

2S

Tabitha Besterwitch
Shaun Cabuay

3G

Hayley Vella
Sinead Beavis

3W

Angelina Malak
Sevasti Kotrolos

4E

Bianca Queixalos
Keenan Tamayo

5K

Joshua Lozada
Brittney Williams

5S

Christian Williams
Lauren Carter

6E

Marina Gendy
Aleah Valmeo

KO

Akuien Lual Majok
Oge Daniels-Obiokolie
Erik Velasquez
Shayden Fernandes

KW

Chantal Sharangabo
Matthew Borg
Zachary Rae Truscott
Aiden Galea

1M

Jack Cadarin
Shanelle Agon
Angelena Haddad
Raja Alanson

1P

Leilani Balewai
Ayok Mow
Ayden Williams
Brendan Fares

2H

Ruby Bowden
Mackenzie Jones
Mitchell Eckersley
Johan Dantoc

2S

Maddison Scerri
Sharon Nogeuro
Andrew Suhaili
Andy Roseby

OFFICE NEWS

SCHOOL FEES:

Term 3 school fees are now due. If you have paid, thank you. If you are unable to pay in full please contact Robyn Hoogenvest on 9622 9910 to make an arrangement.

CONTACT DETAILS:

We would like to stress the importance of you updating the office with any change of address or phone numbers. Thank you for your assistance.

CANTEEN NEWS

TIMBERTOWN PIZZAS are not being made anymore. We have a few Meatlovers and a lot of Margaritas left. Please put an alternative item or we will use the Margaritas until we run out. We hope to have a replacement soon.

We are unable to reheat any food sent from home due to Health & Safety Regulations.

REMINDERS:

St Michael's is a Peanut Butter, Nutella and Egg free school.

The Canteen is not open on Wednesdays.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Home Phone: 9622 5703 after 4.00pm

LIBRARY NEWS

CHESS: Unfortunately we had a disappointing end to the Inter School Chess Competition held on Friday afternoons during Terms 2 and 3, when only 1 player from the opposing team turned up for the last round. Although St Michael's won the game, and scored points for winning the other 3 by forfeit, the children had really looked forward to the game challenges.

However, I would like to commend all players who represented St Michael's, not only for your Chess skills, but also for your exemplary manners and behaviour. Well done! I am sure you are all now looking forward to the St Michael's Championships to be held next term.

Our Chess Team members:

Luke Eckersley, Garry Ho, Caleb Pearson, Haile Zabala, Shaun Blaje, Briana Car, Maksim Car, Eldrin Deleon,



Isis Pearson, Ryan Santa Maria, Andrew Suhaili, Jonathan Tabone, Eric Tripathi, Izak Xiberras, Briana Yu, Aidan Tong, Nadia Tong

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE: Congratulations to the following students for persevering and finally accomplishing all that was required to earn a certificate.

Noah Osborne	KW
Taylah Biegel	1O
Lachlan Bojarski	1O
Jaiman Godla	1M
Lucas Tabone	2B
Jessica Biegel	3W
Utkarsh Sharma	5S

This brings the number of successful challengers to 87 with 52 who have started entering their books and several more who have not begun to enter their books. Remember you do not have to wait until you complete all reading. You can start entering your reading records as you go.

Although the Challenge officially does not finish until the end of August, I would like as many readers as possible to complete their reading and enter their book online by next Monday, 29th August as I still have to validate all records prior to 31st August.

BOOK WEEK:

Only 2 more weeks until our great Book Fair and Dress-Up Day.

Books will be on sale from **Wednesday, 7th September** until **Friday, 9th September** before and after school, except Friday when the Fair will close by lunchtime.

Dress-Up day will be **Friday, 9th September**. Children are asked to dress either as a favourite book character or relate to the Book Week theme of "One World, Many Stories".

Thank You
Judy Buhagair, Library

McCain SCHOOL VEGGIE PATCH



Remember to hand your barcodes in at school so that we may redeem them for veggie patch equipment.

- ◆ All McCain frozen vegetable 1kg, 1.2kg and 2kg packs are worth 10 points.
- ◆ All McCain frozen vegetable and McCain Purely Potato 500g, 600g, 750g and 800g packs are worth 5 points.
- ◆ For more info visit mccainveggiepatches.com

LIFE EDUCATION

A huge thank you to parents who supported Healthy Harold Eating Week. Your children learnt to choose between healthy eating and sometimes food. It was fun experience and a great success.

Your generosity was displayed on our Mufti Day as we were able to donate \$734.00 to support the on-going healthy lifestyle education of children throughout New South Wales. Harold visited us and was then driving to Broken Hill.

Your support has been appreciated by the teachers at St Michael's and Janet our Educator at Life Education.

Colleen Walsh

Life Education Co-ordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tallawong Park Little Athletics Family, fun and fitness

Come along and have lots fun and get fit. You will meet new friends while running, jumping and throwing. We are a small family orientated club that welcomes children to participate in events that support all levels of abilities.

Season Commences - Friday 9th September at 5:45pm

Registration Dates - Friday 26th August and Friday 2nd September (& any Friday from 9th September)

5 -7pm, Tallawong Ave, Blacktown

Cost - Tiny tots & U6: \$50
U7 to U17: \$60

Fundraising levy per family \$20

Enquiries: Sally 0412 078 175

New athletes must show proof of age at time of

Registration—www.tallawongparkla.org.au

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Technology Investment in 2011:

Total investment in technology over the past 12 months at St Michael's has exceeded \$100,000. Our commitment to ensuring the student's within our school community have access to latest educational technology is our priority.

School Website:

Please take the time to visit our school website at:

<http://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Photographs and footage of celebrations can be found in the show and tell link. You might even see a photograph of yourself!

Educational Website:

www.studyladder.com.au

Studyladder is a highly effective, logically organized, Mathematics and Literacy program. It has been developed by experienced educators to inspire and motivate learning. It is suitable for Primary and Junior High School students and is very easy to use—students simply login with a username and password to access all the learning materials.

Click on the sign-up link and choose parent user. The cost of a 12 month subscription is approx. \$88. Worth checking out!

Regards,
Mr Coley White

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR