



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 11
26th July 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a seminar entitled "Generation Next". This seminar had a variety of speakers presenting a range of topics around "Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People"

It is clear we have a challenging responsibility in ensuring our children's wellbeing in the 21st Century. Our knowledge, understanding and appropriate actions will be critical in supporting our young people.

- ◆ Depression is one of the most common health conditions in young people and increases during adolescence.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES about young people and Mental Illness [www. Responsibility.org](http://www.Responsibility.org)

- ◆ In 2004-2005 one in 10 young Australians had a long term mental health or behavioural problem.
- ◆ In 2003 mental disorders were the leading contributor to the total burden of disease among young Australians....accounting to 49%
- ◆ Half of those who experience mental disorders have first episode before age 14.

These statistics are sobering aren't they? So why are our children living in a generation where mental health and wellbeing are increasingly becoming a challenge?

Dr Richard Ekersley helps us understand some of the key influences.

Children's Development: Our children's world hides nothing from them. Through Media/ Advertising, our children's thinking and actions are becoming more adult.

The Changing World of Children and Youth—www.australia21.org.au

This mismatch and confusion where children can forget how to act like a child can result in high levels of anxiety.

Behavioural: We are seeing a growing number of obese young people. Poor diet and lifestyle mixed with inactivity as a result of increased time in front of the television and computer games is having a huge impact of wellbeing.

Social: Growing inequality in respect to cases of Health Care, Education and public services is adding to the financial and social pressure placed on families in Australia. This in turn impacts on the ability a family has in caring and nurturing those who are young and vulnerable. Mass and Social Media again can play a detrimental role in negative influence on our young. Violent, interactive games, cyber-bullying and poor use of Facebook are increasingly confusing and harming our children.

These are some of the issues and challenges. We know that for every challenge there are many solutions. Over the following weeks we will examine more challenges as well as looking to how we can ensure our Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. But for now I have ONE MAJOR STRATEGY:

TURN OFF THE TELEVISION & TALK & TALK & then DO SOME MORE TALKING!

Take this time to "check-in" with your child, learn what their lives are looking ,feeling and sounding like.

Regards,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



School Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

JULY

Thurs 28th	Elders visiting St Michael's 10am 3G & 3W excursion
Fri 29th	3D & 3S Excursion

AUGUST

Mon 1st	2.15 pm 1L Assembly Students from St Johns visiting Nano Cottage
Tues 2nd	ICAS English Homework Support 3G Parent Interviews
Wed 3rd	P&F Committee Meeting 6.30 pm 3G Parent Interviews
Mon 8th— Thur 14th	Healthy Harold Week
Mon 8th	Mary Mackillop Liturgy Book Week Performance 2.15 pm Assembly 4E
Tues 9th	World of Maths Years 4, 5 & 6
Wed 10th	World of Maths Years 4, 5 & 6
Thurs 11th	7pm Captivate Concert St Andrews Marayong
Fri 12th	Health Harold 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 7:30 pm Ph: 96229149
www.stmichaelsparish.com

GOING HOME with this Newsletter:

- ◆ Term Planner—Term 3
- ◆ William Gafa—My journey to Spain
- ◆ Uniform Order Form
- ◆ Fun Day Flyer



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

On Thursday 28th July a number of Indigenous Elders will visit St Michael's School to paint the poles in the St Michael's Darug Garden. Year 4 students and our indigenous students have been invited to participate. Notes are being sent out on Mon 25th July.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge Nestle for providing funds which have assisted in the creation of the Darug Garden.

2011 ICAS COMPETITION—COMPUTERS

Congratulations to the following children who achieved outstanding results in the 2011 Computer Skills International Competition and Assessment for Schools:

Jerrissa Valmeo	Year 3	Distinction
Lilly Hardman	Year 3	Credit
Caleb Scerri	Year 3	Credit
Aidan Tong	Year 3	Credit
Eric Tripathi	Year 3	Credit
Jessica Yew	Year 3	Credit
Matthew Dudgeon	Year 4	Credit
Angel Handa	Year 4	Credit
Vishal Kumar	Year 4	Credit
Geraldine Vella	Year 4	Credit
Briana Yu	Year 4	Credit
Garry Ho	Year 5	Distinction
Antonio Ayala	Year 5	Credit
Nathaniel Perez	Year 5	Credit
Lauren Ward	Year 6	Credit

Mr Michael Siciliano
Assistant Principal

RE NEWS

In Sunday's Gospel we heard the parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value – these reveal Jesus' thoughts on the kingdom of Heaven.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom as 'now but not yet'; as 'present but future'. This is captured in these twin parables. In both cases, the kingdom is likened to something of great value that is discovered but cannot be immediately grasped. In both parables, the finder must go away and sell everything so that they can eventually come to possess the treasure they have discovered.

By comparing this experience with the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus suggests that most of us can only ever catch glimpses of what it means to live in the kingdom.

However, those glimpses that we catch – those moments of inspiration and connection with God and with one another – are like the treasures of the parables. They are enough to inspire us to do what it takes to make sure that we will one day enter into that kingdom reality.

The third parable in this gospel passage reveals yet another truth about the kingdom. The dragnet thrown into the sea is like the message of Jesus – it is flung far and wide and does not discriminate about where it falls or on whom it falls. This parable rounds out the chapter that began with the parable of the sower and the image of casting the net is a parallel to the indiscriminate casting of seed. It is not up to the one who casts the net, the seed or the Word. Rather it is up to each individual to determine how they will respond to receiving the Word.

Thank you to everyone who supported our World Youth Day Mufti Day we raised nearly \$800.00.

Mrs. Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on 25th July 2011:

3D Emerson Barlow-Szoke Owen Walker Eric Tripathi Shreya Prasad	3G Teacher absent— no awards
3S Andre Tecson Paige Hodgson Sage Andary Veronia Abdelseed	3W Jerissa Valmeo Alisha Deparest Darius Meina Brandon Law
4C Matthew Golic Caleb Gara Jayden Tighe Geraldine Vella	4E Jason Dent Blake Bano Jimmy Whelan
4M Joshua Wehbe Angok Lual Majok Jason Wormleaton Emily Malones	4S Teacher absent—no awards
5B Ivan Radacic Luke Eckersley Stacey Hanna Mariah Correia	5K Claudia Alessi Jai Uren Rachel White Caitlin Long

**5P**

Caleb Begg
Sandra Zabala
Laura Santa Maria
Gregory Kelly

5S

Kathryn Ydia
Lauren Carter
Garry Ho
Nathan Aberra

6C

Jonathon Salvana
Chris Sattorre
Achan Lual Majok
Briana Zitko

6E

Shentelle Singh
Aleah Valmeo
Jayden Borg
Michael Demirgellis

6J

Natasha Attard
Dominic Grech
Shania Arab
Roger Ward

FROM THE LIBRARY

Premier's Reading Challenge

During the holidays, many children must have spent some time reading as 6 more students have completed their challenges, and several are very close to finishing.

Congratulations to

Matthias Barrett	1L
Vincent Aquino	2H
Alisha Depares	3W
Luke Eckersley	5B
Georgia Tabone	5P
Nadia Tong	5K

This brings the total to 65 students who have finished, with 71 on the way. I noticed that some students who registered for the challenge have not started entering their records yet. You do not have to wait until you have finished completely. You can enter books as you read them.

Book Week

As usual, we will be celebrating Book Week this term, along with schools all around Australia.

We will have lots of special things happening. First off, all Infants classes will attend a musical performance related to the Book Week shortlist. This will take place on Monday 8th August. We have had the "Perform" group at St Michaels for the past few years, and each time they enthralled the children with acting, song and dance. I'm sure it will be popular again this year.

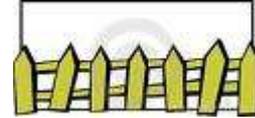
We will also be holding a Book Fair, and a Dress up day on Friday 9th September. More details to follow. The Library will be busy with displays and competitions.

If there are any parents who have an artistic talent, and would like to assist in drawing/painting posters and creating displays, please call in to the Library and see me.

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER LIBRARIAN

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH



Nano Cottage—request for a few wooden planks to complete a fence corner around Nano Cottage. Approximately 75mm x 25 mm (3" x 1"0 and at least 2000 mm (7ft) length. Able to be collected if necessary. Please contact Clare Maloney on 0410 220 245.

McCain SCHOOL VEGGIE PATCH



Primary schools around Australia and New Zealand are invited to build their own veggie patches and grow their own vegetables. To lend a helping hand, McCain is giving away over \$500,000 worth of veggie patch equipment to primary schools during 2011.

St Michaels in conjunction with the Nano Cottage are getting involved through hands-on experience. We can grow our own veggies with equipment and advice from McCain when we purchase products from the McCain frozen vegetable and McCain Purely Potato range.

Collect points by sending in barcodes from McCain frozen vegetable and McCain Purely Potato packs. We can redeem points for veggie patch equipment for

You can 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.**

The more points our school receives, the more veggie patch equipment we can redeem.

Barcodes = Points!

For more info visit mccainveggiepatches.com

Thanks for your help, Nano Nature Nurturers



CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday. **Kyneton's Mineral Water IS NOT AVAILABLE** so could you please take it off your price list. A NEW price list will be sent home with the next newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

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

P & F NEWS

Hello everyone,

The Parent and Friends Fun Day sub-committee have been working hard organising events and activities for the Fun Day, 18th Sept. I thank them for their work. Please see flyer in this newsletter.

The School with the help of the P&F are working towards a school uniform shop to allow the school to better serve the children, parents and the school. The Clothing Pool in the interim is selling some of the uniform items. We currently have stock of winter flying jackets. A new order of baseball caps are now at the shop. If you cannot make it to the clothing pool, please find in this newsletter a copy of the home order form. Prices have remained unchanged since late last year. We may require a price increase term four in line with increasing costs. For those who wish your children's uniform to be made, Mrs Prsa can be contacted on 9622 3217. Mrs Prsa makes a variety of uniform items and has done so for a number of years.

The fathers day stall is to be held on the Wednesday 31st August. If you are able to help on the stand or organising the gifts the day prior please contact one of the P&F.

The preschoolers morning tea is held in the church meeting room Wednesday mornings. Call in and join in the fun with our parents and children up to school age.

This is my last year as a parent at the school. I would like to see, before I leave, an increase in the number of parents attending the meetings throughout the year. For a school community to grow, it needs a few more members than the committee and the regular stalwarts. The general meetings are normally held week 8 of each term. Please see term planner and upcoming newsletters for dates and times.

Thank you
Paul Scott (0416 250 591)

COMMUNITY NEWS

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 21 - 23 October at Winbourne, Edmond Rice Centre, Mulgoa NSW

Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

Information: website <<http://www.wwme.org.au/>> www.wwme.org.au

YOUTUTOR

What is Yoututor?

Yoututor is an online, free tutoring service for students from Years 4—12 who are members of Blacktown City Libraries. The service is available Monday through Friday 4pm—8pm, during school terms and holiday periods.

Who can use Yoututor?

Students who have a current Blacktown City Libraries library card.

The Service is FREE!!

To join the Library—bring your parent or guardian to your nearest branch with proof of address.

Membership is FREE!

How does Yoututor work ?

The online tutorial is a virtual blackboard and chat room, using instant messaging technology. Once students have entered their year level and selected the subject they require, a specialist tutor will respond and the homework session will commence.

For more information, please contact the Max Webber Library Reference Section on 98396649