



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 10
28th June 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

As you know during Term 2, Mrs Boyer has lead our school in the Acting Assistant Principal Role.

On behalf of students and my colleagues I sincerely thank and congratulate Helen on all that she has achieved. Helen's skills as a Leading Educator have been greatly appreciated.

And so we come to another end—like the seasons, our school terms mark the inevitable ie. change.

On behalf of my colleagues I thank you for the privilege of watching your children change and grow.

The Beauty of CHANGE

*You set the limits of the earth; you make
summer and winter
Psalm 74:17*

Almost everyone loves summer, but sometimes you can't see winter's graces at first glance. Ice or slush may mask the grace of skeletal trees that dot the landscape and thin grass that clings to the hard-packed earth. Yes, even in the stark lines of winter, you can see the work of a skilful artist—God, who designed beauty to be dynamic, to renew itself in change.

The seasons are perhaps nature's best example of this. You watch as summer's bright greens give way to fall's warmer palette, then you long for the sight of green again, spring comes, bringing once more the buds of change and new life. God must have known you would need visuals to remind you of his purpose in change.

Regards,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL



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

JUNE

Wed 29th	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thurs 30th	Year 4 Excursion to The Rocks and Observatory

JULY

Fri 1st	Term 2 concludes
Mon 18th	Term 3 commences for staff and students
Wed 20th	MUFTI DAY—World Youth Day—gold coin donation
Tues 26th	Year 6 Canberra Excursion
Wed 26th	Year 6 Canberra Excursion

AUGUST

Tues 2nd	ICAS English
Tues 9th	World of Maths Years 4, 5 & 6
Wed 10th	World of Maths Years 4, 5 & 6

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:

- ◆ Family Fun Day
- ◆ Climate Club—Competition Update



RE NEWS

Last Sunday was the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, it celebrates and commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Although the liturgy on Holy Thursday remembers the celebration of the Last Supper, its focus tends to be more aligned with the events of the Passion rather than on the institution of the Eucharist. When we receive the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist we become what we receive – we become Christ's body in the world. When Jesus called his disciples, he called them to be like himself. He reissues that call to be like him every time we receive his body and blood in Eucharist.

Meals are very important events. Not only do we physically need food and drink to keep ourselves alive, but we use meals to mark occasions and celebrate events important to us. There is a sacredness about gathering with friends and family and sharing a meal together. Stories are told; memories shared; the food is appreciated and more often than not there's a drink to accompany the meal. Treating such occasions with gratitude – as blessed moments of grace – is living out the Eucharistic reality of welcoming Jesus into our lives and seeking to be more like him.

On Friday we will celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a whole school Mass at 9.30am in the church. Please feel most welcome to attend.

In August, World Youth Day will be celebrated in Madrid, Spain. About 140 students from high schools in Pararamatta Diocese will be attending along with approx 50 teachers. I am privileged enough to have been chosen to join the pilgrimage as a Teacher Supervisor. Bishop Anthony will accompany us on our pilgrimage. We will be travelling through Israel visiting many sites important to us as Catholics then we travel to Madrid for World Youth Day. All students attending need to visit their local primary school and give a presentation to the students. On Friday 3 students from Patrician Brothers' will be visiting St Michael's and talk to all students about World Youth Day.

Mrs. Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY** on Monday, 20th June 2011:

3D

Nosa Shata
Jake Pearce
Dhyan Bhavsar
Anna Piven

3G

Gabrielle Gumatay
Anuroop Dhillon
Catherine Makarous

3S

Ronald David
Susan Sogora
Damon Siderides
Aubrielle Zafra

4C

Rafaela Safadi Egg
Emmanuel Ratnarajah
Keanna Vale
Hannah Harvey

4M

Jim Abdalla
Aaron Collings
Claudia De Bartolo
Caitlyn Gibbins

5B

Zachary Blaje
Britney Faatau
Daniel Kucheruk
Hannah Dickinson

5P

Tianna Galea
Eden Randall
Angelo Montoya
Matthew Graham

6C

Aaron Moller
Christopher Sattore
Remy Elkander
Achan Lual Majok

6J

Ly Nguyen
Zac Zadavec
Remas Elkander
Natasha Attard

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **INFANTS ASSEMBLY** on Monday, 27th June 2011:

KG

Dimitri Obote
Hima Pandey
Akheera Kandula
Sagar Singh

KS

Alyssa Haddad
Anika Kumar
Harrison DeLuca
Joseph Abdalla

1L

Ava Sowsun
Matthias Barrett
Shannon Gibbins
Ellie Debian

3W

Seandan Arias
Bailey Williams
Miguell Gara
Angelina Malak

4E

Annabel Darmali
Bianca Queixalos
Alexandria Giuliano

4S

Bailey Young
Naro Sanga
Mitchell Connor
Aglaya Papadokokolakis

5K

John Bayeh
Casey Vella
Shanna Raj
Liann Aquino

5S

Katelyn Bellett
Izak Xiberras
Louie Velasco
Hannah Walker

6E

Gergis Abdalla
Reanna Cardona
Annette Iskander
Malvin Khan

KO

Liam Dever
Annabelle Spiteri
Cheriedan Arias
Shayden Fernandes

KW

Matthew Borg
Monica Cirjac
Mitchell Tauro
Bishey Sefeem

1M

Daniel Valderama
Biswas Simkhada
Lawrence Chdid
Beatrice Gara

**1O**

Anthony Siderides
Taylah Biegel
Jason Singh
Tijana Sammut

2B

Jadd Ghourizi
Diya Patel

2H

Joshua McCahon
Caitlyn Lee
Tushar Puthran
Katrina Schipp

1P

Michael Makarous
Shianne Kairouz
Jasmine Attard
Adarsh Varma

2F

Hayden Eato
Annamaria Sofecolous

2S

Mariam Sefeem
Lorenzo Domingo
Thomas Uren
Tahleah Robinson

CANTEEN NEWS

RED Mineral Water is no longer available.

Please use Term 1 2011 Price List.

Thank you to all volunteers for helping me in the canteen during the term and also the 6E student helpers. I hope you all have a safe and restful holiday and are ready to start Term 3 when we return.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Home Phone: 9622 5703 after 4.00pm

FROM THE LIBRARY

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following 7 students who have completed their Reading Challenge.

Giulia Contri	KS
Alexander Hanna	1O
Shanelle Raj	1P
Jake Pearce	3D
Eric Tripathi	3D
Stacey Hanna	5B
Archit Dhillon	6J

This brings our total of students who have finished to 60.

There are still 68 students who are reading and many are close to finishing. I'm sure there will be time to do lots of reading in the holidays in order to complete the challenge. All reading needs to be completed by the end of August in order to qualify for a certificate.

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER LIBRARIAN

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH

On Friday, 1st June (last Friday of term) any lost property with no name (including jumpers and jackets) will be donated to the clothing pool and any containers with no names will be donated to local charities.

We hope that this will help our earth and reduce clothing waste within our school.

Due to the success we will be holding another Cloth Labelling Iron On Day next term. Watch this space for the date.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our Earth.

Kind Regards,

FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH TEAM

SHELLEY OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS VACATION CARE

If you are looking for School Holiday Vacation Care, Shelley Primary School Out of School Hours will be holding care during the holidays. Forms can be collected from office. All enquiries please phone Ana, Maja or Simone on 9621 2022.

SPORTS NEWS

After days of torrential rain with much deliberation as to whether to cancel the carnival, God smiled on St Michael's to deliver the most glorious day for our Athletics Carnival 2011! The day went well with outstanding participation by all. Students were busy either competing or supporting their classmates and need to be commended on their behaviour and sportsmanship. Our age champions and house winner will not be finalised until the end of this week as we are concluding events at school. A huge thankyou to parent helpers and staff for their efforts with running the carnival. Days like this would not be possible without your assistance. One person who plays a major role behind the scenes for all our sporting events is Mrs Lynne Campbell. We are grateful for your hard work.

Our Coles for Sport equipment has arrived. All of your docketts enabled us to purchase new gymnastics mats, soccer & AFL posts as well as some indoor sports games for rainy days. Thanks again for your contribution to St Michael's Sports!

Jeff Phillips

PE/SPORTS TEACHER



JUNIOR CRICKET GALA DAY Sunday, 24th July 2011

In conjunction with Cricket NSW and Penrith Junior Cricket Association, Glenbrook/Blaxland Cricket Club is holding a morning of cricketing activities for all junior cricketers.

All **boys and girls** between the ages of 8 and 16 are invited to attend. There will be representatives from Cricket NSW running various activities ranging from batting, bowling and fielding drills to net sessions. Meet NSW rising star, Pat Cummins, our Ambassador for the day. Prizes to be drawn (cricket kit, equipment & souvenirs). There will be a sausage sizzle, drinks and a jumping castle. Parents—have a relaxing coffee and watch your kids have a great morning enjoying the fun of cricket.

WILL BE HELD at HOWELL OVAL
Station Street, Penrith
From 9.00am to 12.00pm

Please contact Paul Christian for further information on 0411 157 582

Any proceeds from the day will be shared between the McGrath Foundation and Penrith Junior Cricket Association.

CREATIVITY GETS TECHY

A recent article in the Blacktown Sun covered the subject of Creativity and Technology and featured St Michael's and our use of technology in the classroom. It posed an interesting question...*does technology affect our children's creativity?* Perhaps it enhances creativity and opens the door to new and exciting learning opportunities.

Technology can be seen as a new medium for creative design and expression. Whether it's plotting story lines to create an imovie, composing music on Garage Band, communicating via Skype, posting homework on class blogs, using Apps to improve grammar or Comic Life to publish stories, the possibilities are endless. Perhaps we are fostering an environment for exploration and creation among children by ensuring they have access to such technologies.

A recent international study stated "the modern environment, with its increased access to people, sights, music, and food from faraway places, helps us become more creative not only by exposing us to a variety of styles and ideas, but also by allowing us to think more abstractly". *

Technology integration at school and at home is about mind-set, not just machinery and so is allowing our children to be creative in the classroom and beyond. Of course children learn valuable life skills from many sources including stories, art and music. That important balance between technology and life skills is perhaps the best recipe.

Incorporating technology in our children's learning shouldn't replace books, class discussions, hand-written homework. Technology should enhance, supplement, and assist in

learning and developing creativity. Parents educators and students all have a responsibility for new and engaging ways to learn, to grow and reinvent learning for the present, and certainly for the future.

*Resnick, M., (2006). *Computer as Paintbrush: Technology, Play, and the Creative Society*. Oxford University Press. MIT Media Laboratory. <http://web.media.mit.edu/~mres/papers/playlearn-handout.pdf>

P & F NEWS

Hello everyone,

The end of Term has come around quick!

During the holidays enjoy your time with friends and family, we sometimes are too busy to take time out for them, so during these holidays make time for those that are important too you and have that needed catch up.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS are on this Tuesday and Wednesday and we can see how our children are doing with their schooling.

PRESCHOOLERS MORNING TEA, thanks to those who have been involved with this, we look forward to seeing you again in Term 3

THE CLIMATE CLUB Newsletter is enclosed in the newsletter. Again we thank those families that have supported this. For those that haven't yet, please go onto the website and update your meter readings. The website <http://www.climateclubs.org.au>

UNIFORMS Mrs. Prsa has been making a variety of school uniform items including trousers and dresses for many families within the school. Mrs. Prsa can be contacted on 9622 3217.

FAMILY FUN DAY We will be holding this on 18 September 2011 at our school and we ask for all families to be involved. A little different this year, we will be supported by local community groups and businesses to provide food for the day to be purchased. Should you want to be apart of the day with providing food, or a stall to sell items, please contact Annie Murray. Our students will be providing entertainment with a couple of surprises!! Hand out attached with more information to come at the beginning of next term.

FATHERS DAY STALL will be held at the end of August. Seems like we just got over Mothers Day. For those parents that would like to help let us know.

SCHOOL 50th ANNIVERSARY 2010 we will be celebrating 50 years next year and look forward to the celebration. If you know of families that have been involved in the history of the school, let them know this will be happening and we look forward to your input and support of this milestone.

The team hopes you enjoy your break and we look forward to working with you in Term 3.

Kind Regards,
Paul, Leeanne, Josephine and Annie