



# 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 6  
3rd May 2011

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

In living out our Motto of "Love One Another" and in ensuring success of our Vision and Mission Statement to Engage, Empower and Reflect, at St Michael's, one of our core values is to maintain a **"high expectation of our students"**. In relation to student learning outcomes, it is our shared expectation that **ALL children will grow, ALL children will succeed.**

With this in mind I would like to share some thoughts on the NAPLAN tests. As you know students in Years 3 & 5 will sit for these tests next week commencing 10th May.

As with any assessment tool the "high yield" results will come from:-

- ◆ Tracking and Analysing individual and cohort growth.
- ◆ Analysis of specific results in view of the targets we have set ourselves in Maths and English.
- ◆ Feedback:
  - Feedback to students on their growth acknowledging achievements.
  - Feedback to the whole community on growth points as well as setting future challenges.
  - Feedback to staff, celebrating the success of teaching programmes as well as reflecting on any future changes.
- ◆ Future Planning:
  - Ensuring that analysis of results will steer all future resourcing in respect to Teacher Professional learning.

NAPLAN only tells part of our understanding of student skills and understanding.

NAPLAN is **only** one of many assessment tools we use in measuring student growth.

NAPLAN does not measure our students skills in cooperative and collaborative learning experiences. This test can't measure children's research skills or assess the effectiveness of their presentation... However as a community we have much to learn from this assessment tool. It will be another way we can measure, analyse and celebrate our children's growth. This after all makes up one of our core beliefs.

**\*\*\* All children will grow \*\*\***

Regards,

John Laffan  
PRINCIPAL



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

### MAY

Mon 2nd	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
"	Infants Assembly—1M & 1O presenting 2.15pm
Tues 3rd	Diocesan Cross Country
Fri 6th	Year 1 Excursions to Powerhouse Discovery Centre—Castle Hill
Mon 9th	Primary Assembly—3S presenting—2.15pm
Tues 10th	NAPLAN—Language and Writing—Yrs 3&5
Wed 11th	NAPLAN—Reading—Yrs 3&5
Thurs 12th	NAPLAN—Numeracy—Yrs 3&5
Fri 13th	Nano Cottage excursion to Hawksbury Show
Mon 16th	Infants Assembly—1P presenting—2.15pm
"	2H & 2F excursion to Old Rouse Hill Public School
Tues 17th	2B & 2S excursion to Old Rouse Hill Public School

**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:**

- ◆ Term 2 Planner
- ◆ Climate Club



**RE NEWS**

Next Sunday's gospel is the story of the road to Emmaus which is a perfect model for our life. It reminds us first of all, that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise His presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist, we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the Good News with others.

On Friday we will celebrate Mother's Day with a whole school liturgy at 9.30am in the Primary Quad. The classes involved in this liturgy are KO, 2B, 3W, 4C, 5B and 6E. Please feel most welcome to attend.

Mrs. Anne Easton  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

**AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our **INFANTS ASSEMBLY** on 2nd May 2011:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>KG</b>         | <b>KO</b>         |
| Isabella Cuthbert | Akuien Lual Majok |
| Jazmine Valmeo    | Sami Sader        |
| Danny Yazbek      | Cleannie Lellis   |
| Izaak Paulino     | Kayla Zerafa      |
| <b>KS</b>         | <b>KW</b>         |
| Jacob Possi       | Asta Tripathi     |
| Giulia Contri     | Rocealiza Urqueza |
| Drae Andary       | Natalija Topic    |
| Calvin Cabuay     | Ebony Mafi        |
| <b>1L</b>         | <b>1M</b>         |
| Rebecca Salman    | Maggie Grills     |
| AJ Abdalla        | Afrin Zahan       |
| Madison Wright    | Dhruv Mali        |
| Ryan Moller       | Jamie Brown       |
| <b>1O</b>         | <b>1P</b>         |
| Aaron DeSouza     | Joel Femia        |
| Alex Hanna        | Hannah Witteveen  |
| Andre Cruz        | Ayouk Mow         |
| Jason Singh       | Liam Cruz         |
| <b>2B</b>         | <b>2F</b>         |
| Jordan Walsh      | Julio Salgado     |
| Kailen Pascua     | Mina Kassib       |
| Bradley Myers     | Tara Phillips     |
| Rojhat Kaygusuz   | Nykoth Aguer      |
| <b>2H</b>         | <b>2S</b>         |
| Natasha Khan      | Tahlia Lewis      |
| Anthony Abouhamad | Sani Faoagali     |
| Blake Doolin      | Sharon Nogueiro   |
| Lovreen Kumar     | Jordan Blaje      |

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Welcome back to Term 2. Hope you all had a good holiday.

**PLEASE** make sure you are using Term 1—2011 Price List as there have been wrong prices on lunch orders since last Thursday. All wrong prices will be changed to the nearest amount.

Please write the amount enclosed on your bag or envelope.

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 students who have now completed the requirements to earn a Premier's Reading Challenge certificate:

- |                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Jessica Gafa       | KO |
| Madelyn Attard     | 1M |
| Shannon Gibbins    | 1L |
| Matthew Wormleaton | 1M |
| Swaraj Parimi      | 2F |
| Tahleah Robinson   | 2S |
| Joshua Lin         | 4S |
| Scovia David       | 5B |
| Michelle Lin       | 5B |
| Heidy Soriano      | 6J |

Well done to all of you. I'm sure you enjoyed your reading, and hopefully have discovered new authors and genres to explore in the future.

If anyone still has not received their password, I apologise. Please see me as soon as possible. When you have finished reading the required number of books, please let me know, so that I can validate the online records and acknowledge you in the school newsletter.

At present we have a few books that need covers – mostly hard covered books. If you are able to help, please call in to the Library before or after school.

Judy Buhagiar  
**TEACHER LIBRARIAN**



## FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH

### **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,  
**FRIENDS OF OUR EARTH TEAM**

## 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 our school

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](http://mccainveggiepatches.com)

Thanks for your help, Nano Nature Nurturers.



## SOLO PARENT MINISTRY

### **UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF ANNULMENTS**

The Solo Parent Ministry is offering another Information night on "Understanding the Process of Annulments in the Catholic Church" on Wed. 25th May at 7.30pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. This night is open for any interested



people, not just for those who are separated or divorced. Canon Lawyers from the Parramatta Diocesan Tribunal Office will be speaking to you and answering any questions you may have regarding the process. Please register by phoning the CCSS Office at 9933 0222 or email: [eileen.quade@ccss.org.au](mailto:eileen.quade@ccss.org.au)

---

## MindQuest 2011

---

### MindQuest 2011

**Glenwood HS, Cnr Forman Ave and Glenwood Park Ave, Glenwood 2768**  
**Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June 2011**  
**9.30am-3.30pm**

On Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June 2011, the fifty seventh **MindQuest** program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1-6 at Glenwood HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over **36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program**. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, Drama, lego Robotics, chemistry and much more. Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is \$160 (including GST).

**Glenwood HS is in the Baulkham Hills area close to the M7 and is easy to get to from most parts of Sydney. Contact Mrs Buhagiar in the Library or call Shelagh on (02) 4233 2328**

**Closing Date: Friday, 3rd June 2011**

---

## ENROLMENTS 2012

---

**ENROLMENTS:** We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2012. If your child turns 5 before the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 please collect an Enrolment Form from the office or via our website [www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au). When forms are completed please come to the office with copies of all relevant documentation and an appointment will be made for you to meet with a member of the Enrolment Committee. Your help in letting friends, family and neighbours know would be greatly appreciated.

---

## P & F NEWS

---

Welcome back to term 2. I am looking forward to returning to a somewhat normal life and shift work. My two months of day work takes me away from

the role at the school on the P&F. I am looking forward to getting back in to the school and helping the community through the next three terms.

As the year goes on I will also be looking for parents within the community to come forward and assist the school as this will be my last year at the school as my youngest moves to High School. All schools need the support of a strong parent group to help grow. In week 8 of this term the P&F will hold a General Meeting. We hope that there will be support for the group to ensure that the children of the school get the best support from a strong parent body for the remainder of the year and the coming years.

The Climate Club is an Energy Conservation competition being run by the University Technology Sydney. St Michael's has been selected as one of the school to compete. Please see the handout in this weeks newsletter and look at the website <http://www.climateclubs.org.au/>. All families who sign up prior to the launch date of 17th April go into the draw for an iPad.

We currently have 8 families signed up. A five minute registration is all it takes. A computer will be available on the 9th to help sign up at the school near the office.

The clothing pool is operating on Wednesday and Friday. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact the P&F via email or call me directly. Let me know how your postal orders are going, whether you think it is a good idea and how we may improve on it. A new form will go out in the next newsletter.

Lowes still has a contract with the school and the majority of the uniform can be sourced from their store in Blacktown.

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.

The Mothers Day Stall will be held tomorrow. Remember if your child does not have a letter of permission to buy, they will not be able to purchase items. There will be no IOU's issued.

The pre-schoolers morning tea is held every week in the Parish hall behind the Church. Bring your preschool aged children along and join in the fun.

I hope you enjoy Term 2.

Regards  
 Paul  
 0416250591