



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 1
8th February 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

Welcome Back!

On behalf of all my colleagues, I welcome you back to the St Michael's Community. In 2011, I invite you to share in the simplicity and challenge of our Motto "**Love One Another**".

St Michael's Direction is Clear for 2011: In 2011 we will undertake extensive Professional Learning and support student needs through the success of our two Core Goal's in Religion and Mathematics.

Religion Formation: Goal: To motivate and enable teachers and students to live as witnesses to our faith through the development of greater knowledge and understanding of Sharing Our Story.

Why this Goal? Our identity in a Catholic school is our greatest priority. This identity is based on Gospel Values, Catholic Traditions and a commitment to living as Christ lived.

At St Michael's we believe that, Evangelisation is crucial but not enough. Faith, like a seed newly planted in the soil of the human heart, needs water and light. That is why our school must **deepen** and **instruct** the faith once received.

Faith must also be supported by the religious culture of the school so that it will be practiced in **worship** and **action** in the world.

Mathematics: Goal: For teachers and students to grow in their understanding of mathematical problem solving through improved comprehension and application of numerical knowledge.

Why? Analysis of Problem solving using Newmans Prompt, Diagnostic Tests and NAPLAN results has shown lower performance of students in Mathematical word problems as compared with solving Mathematical computations.

Other Goals.... In our next Newsletter I will share our **Direction** in **English** and **Curriculum** with a closer look at **Learning in Contemporary Learning Spaces.**



School Website:

www.stmichaelsblktn.parra.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

FEBRUARY

<i>Fri</i> 11th	Student Leaders Induction Liturgy 9.30am
<i>Mon</i> 14th	Annual Primary Swimming Carnival Blacktown Aquatic
<i>Wed</i> 16th	Pre-schooler's Morning Tea 9.30-11am
"	Kindergarten 2011 Family BBQ
<i>Mon</i> 21st	Beginning School Mass—9.30am
"	Whole School Assembly—2.15pm
<i>Tues</i> 22nd	Parent/Child Information Sessions Years 1-6 — 3.15pm & 6.30pm Kinder 6.30pm only
<i>Wed</i> 23rd	AFL Clinic 3.30-4.30pm

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

GOING HOME with this Newsletter:

- ◆ Learn to Ride
- ◆ Clothing Pool Pricelist and Order Form
- ◆ Term Planner
- ◆ P & F News
- ◆ Kinder 2011 Collage
- ◆ Catholic Care Social Services
- ◆ Education Tax Refund



Something NEW:

In the even week a special feature "Helping Learning at Home". This information sheet will contain some hints to support us in developing the skills and understanding of our children.

Next Week: "Solving Problems"

Regards,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

RE NEWS

In last Sunday's Gospel we heard "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world". Jesus used ordinary images, such as salt and light, to convey extraordinary truths. What does salt and light have to teach us about God and His reign on earth? Salt was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. People traded with it, like we trade with gold and stock. Salt also served a very useful purpose in hot climates before the invention of electricity and refrigeration. Salt not only gave food flavor, it also preserved meat from spoiling. Jesus used the image of salt to describe how His disciples are to live in the world. As salt purifies, preserves, and penetrates, so the disciple must be as salt in the world of human society to purify, preserve, and penetrate that society for the kingdom of God and of his righteousness and peace. Jesus also used the image of light and a lamp to further His illustration. Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how His disciples are to live in the light of His truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. In fact, our mission is to be

light-bearers of Christ so that others may see the truth of the Gospel.

Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

PROMOTING SAFER INTERNET USE AND CYBER SAFETY AT ST MICHAEL'S

Cybersmart Website - www.cybersmart.gov.au/

The Cybersmart program is a national cyber-safety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA), as part of the Australian Government's commitment to promoting online safety for children and young people.

The **Cybersmart** website provides activities, resources and practical advice to help [young kids](#), [kids](#), [teens](#) and [parents](#) safely enjoy the online world.

Developed by the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#), Cybersmart is part of the Australian Government's cybersafety program.

Please consider taking the time to visit this website as a means of further educating and promoting safe internet use by all family members.

Regards,
Mr Coley White
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

THANK YOU LETTERS RECEIVED

"To the Principal, Staff and Students, I want to thank you most sincerely for your generous donation to help those very poor children in our Patrician Brothers schools in Kenya, Ghana and Papua New Guinea. This money will make life more pleasant for them. I am sure the Brothers and children will remember you in their prayers."

Brother Peter Higgins
Patrician Brothers' College Blacktown

"On behalf of the Papua/New Guinea Sister on mission, I thank you for your school's donation



of \$500. Collecting such an amount is not any small task and remembering the Presentation Sisters' work is marvelous of you and your school. I thank you so very sincerely.

For the first time this year the Papua/New Guinea Sisters have their very own national Congregation Leader, Antonia Likea, and I had the privilege of spending some time with her this year when she attended for the first time our Plenary Council meeting (the 6 congregation leaders of Australia) in Byron Bay. I was most impressed with the maturity and spirituality of this young woman and feel confident that the Spirit will guide her and her Sisters into the future as did Nano Nagle do in her lifetime. Again, many thanks John, staff and students."

Jill Kennedy
Lismore Presentation Sisters
Congregational Leader

SPORTING CLUB REGISTRATIONS

ALL SAINTS—TOONGABBIE TIGERS JRLFC

Want to play the greatest game of all and have a season of fun and mateship at a club which puts family first!

Come along and register for our 2011 Rugby League Season

Players from Under 6's to A Grade

All new registrations require a Birth Certificate

Registration dates:

Saturday 5th, 12th, 19th February 2011
12pm til 3pm at

Toongabbie Sports & Bowling Club
Station Road, Toongabbie

Saturday, 26th February 2011

12pm til 3pm at

Portico Plaza, Toongabbie

Registration Fees: 1st Child \$90, 2 Children \$150.00, 3 children \$175
(including shorts and socks)

Contact: Jason on 0413 024 698

Fran on 0425 241 420

NAGLE NETBALL CLUB

We are a family friendly club, inviting players and friends of all ages to play netball and have fun.

**Come and join us!
Coaches and umpires needed**

Please visit www.naglenetball.com.au

For Registration Forms and News

If you have any questions, just call us:

Lyn Buchanan 9837 4161 or 0403 164 162

Cassie Johnson 9837 4503 or 0400 136 629

Celebrating 43 years in Netball Excellence

OLQP SOCCER CLUB

Why do we recommend your child join the OLQP Falcons Soccer Club?

Our club will give your child the confidence, self esteem and skills to play soccer. It also provides a great platform for kids to make new friends from school and to work on their social skills. Soccer is great fun and is played in a family orientated environment for both girls and boys aged between 5 years – 12 years.

Registration Day

Date: Friday 11th, Saturday 12th February

Time: Friday(3.15pm- 4.15pm at OLQP)

Sat (9am – 12pm Daniel St)

Location: Fri (OLQP school near office),

Sat Daniel St Park, Greystanes

(off Johnathon St)

Need to Bring

Copy of your child's birth certificate

**For more information please call
Alex Soyer (Competition Secretary)
on 0420 387 337**



FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Club: Our first Book Club brochures for 2011 will go out this week. We run one Book Club each term. There is no obligation to buy, but there is usually a range of well priced books by popular authors.

Closing date for this Book Club will be **Tuesday 22nd February**. If you wish to order books, please:

- Fill in the order form with name and class, and clearly mark the items required.
- Put the order form and money in an envelope and send to school. Often money is collected at school for different purposes, so it helps if you can mark BOOK CLUB and your child's name and class on the envelope.
- Orders from different clubs can be put in the same envelope.

Alternatively, a phone number is given at the bottom of the order form for credit card payments. You can ring this number and will be given a receipt number to include on the order form. You still need to return the form to school.

Premier's Reading Challenge: Once again I will facilitate the Premier's Reading Challenge. I have not been given the online registration details yet, but students can begin reading, and keep a list of books they have read until the online site is available to enter titles.

Any students who wish to participate, please see Mrs Buhagiar to register.

Infants students need to read 30 books, and Primary students need to read 20 books by the end of August, so there is plenty of time.

Book Covering: Each year Mr Laffan provides a generous budget for the Library to purchase books for our students. We prefer to cover books before they are used, to help them last longer. At present there are several books in the Library that need covering - paperbacks with contact, hard covers with non-stick plastic. If you can help by covering, even just a few, please call in to the Library. All plastic is provided, and you can cover at school, or take them home. If you come to school early in the afternoon and are waiting

for school to finish, please feel free to come in to the Library to cover books - even 1-2 books helps.

Library Borrowing: All classes have begun borrowing already and are enjoying the books available. Borrowing days are as follows

Monday : 1L, 4E, 5K, 6C,

Tuesday : 1P, 2S, 3W, 4M, 4C, 5B,

Wednesday : KW, KG, 1O, 1M, 3G, 4S, 5S

Thursday : 2B, 2H, 3D, 5P, 6J

Friday : KO, KS, 2F, 3S, 6E

Parents, could you please ensure that all children have a cloth **Library bag** – a “green” shopping bag will do, or a school Library bag is available from the Clothing Pool. Also could you help your children remember their Library books and bag on their Library Day.

Overdue Books: There are still some students with books that are overdue from last year. If you find any books with a Library barcode on the front cover, please return it to school as soon as possible.

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

CANTEEN

Welcome back, hope you had a restful break. The **Price List** we are using for this month is last year's **PINK** Price List. A new price list will be sent home in early March.

Volunteers Note: If you haven't sent your note back could you please send it in ASAP. Mums and dads on last year's roster could you let me know if you are on this year's roster. We need mums, dads or grandparents for Mondays, Tuesday & Thursdays all day, once a month, 9.00am-1.45pm. If you can help us please contact me at the canteen or phone me at home on 9622 5703 or send back your note indicating your preference. We need as many helpers as we can get in the hot weather. The new Roster will go home end of February.

Thank you in anticipation of your help,
Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER