



# Newsletter

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South  
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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

***"Our 2018 Action Plan is our road map but its success is dependent upon you (the driver) and the depth of your relationships with all other stakeholders." JL.***

Dear Parents and Friends



This week we will meet with our children's teachers to discuss the year ahead. This is an opportunity for us to share our deep understanding of our work. It is also a moment to share our hopes in fostering the growth of all our children.

I encourage you to attend these meetings and spend some time sharing with your children's teachers our 2018 goals. Allow this time to deepen your understanding as to how you can support and learn with your children.

In **Religious Education** our goal states, "Students demonstrating 'spiritual sense' in scripture through the life and mission of Nano Nagle." In sharing this with you we are confirming our unique nature as a 'faith filled community.' In going deeper and speaking of our strategies, including, *purposeful talk, guided meditation and exploring scripture*, we will be confirming the living out of our faith.

In **Literacy** and **Numeracy** our action plan speaks

of "1 year's growth for all students." Our goals also refer to "deep analysis of data informing our teaching and learning."

I hope that you will have time in understanding what the data is telling us. In other words we will take time to share all the professional '*noticings*', that are starting to influence our professional judgements.

Our action plans state that, "*Students will engage in rich independent reading tasks that are purposeful and engaging.*" Our time on Tuesday evening is an important moment to share how and why these are important strategies.

In numeracy, again we speak of '1 year's growth in *place value, multiplication and division*. 'As in Literacy I encourage our teaching teams to share professional judgements following our participation and validation of the *MAI*. Our strategies in the Plan state, "*Students will engage in differentiated and challenging mathematical tasks.*" It also states that, "Students will identify their mathematical strengths and challenges." I have asked our teachers to consider sharing a sample of a **Lesson Intention**, allowing you to see the high level of collaboration and professional judgements we make in planning all learning opportunities.

This week we have an opportunity to grow our relationships. I encourage you to see first-hand the high level of professionalism and dedication we bring to our community.

Love One Another,

John Laffan

**PRINCIPAL**



**Kids Helpline 1800 551 800**

**Lifeline 13 11 14**

## **SCHOOL FEES - URGENT ALERT**

2018 fee statements for St Michael's have been INCORRECTLY issued with Mother Teresa's Biller Code (636068).



**Could you please disregard this code and use our CORRECT Biller Code for St Michael's which is 535328.**

If you have any concerns regard this please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



<i>Wednesday, 21st February</i>	Kindergarten BBQ and Information Night - 5.30pm-7.30pm
<i>Friday, 23rd February</i>	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
<i>Friday, 23rd February</i>	Welcome to Nagle - Year 6 Girls - 9am-12noon
<i>Monday, 26th February</i>	Whole School Assembly - 2.00pm - NRL visit to Stage 3 11.30am-3.00pm
<i>Wednesday, 28th February</i>	School Cross Country - Year 3-6
<i>Thursday, 1st March</i>	P & F Executive Meeting - 3.15pm
<i>Friday, 2nd March</i>	Beginning of School Mass - Induction of Student Leaders - 9.30am
<i>Wednesday, 7th March</i>	GRIP Leadership Day - student leaders attending
<i>Wednesday, 7th March</i>	P & F Meeting - 6.30pm - ALL WELCOME



# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Dear Parents & Friends,

## Attendance

We know there are some circumstances for children to miss school. We ask where possible your children are at school everyday. Here is some research showing what the effect on learning can be when absent regularly.



**We need our students to be a school to have chance at being successful learners to their full potential. Please support your children in ensuring they are at school as often as possible.**

Deborah Cox

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**



# SPORTS NEWS

## Blacktown Zone Swimming

Last Wednesday 17 students represented St Michael's at the zone swimming carnival at Mount Druitt Pool. It was an extremely hot day for the swimmers, I'm sure they were grateful for the opportunity to dive into the water to 'cool off' and race. We had some great results on the day, with many swimmers progressing to this Fridays Diocesan Carnival.



Thank you to our wonderful parent helpers on the day Mrs Gardoll and Mrs Dudgeon, we are ever so grateful for the support you provided in helping St Michael's fulfil our duties. To Mrs Clark who did an awesome job ensuring our students all swam in their events, we say THANK YOU.

A super CONGRATUALIONS to August Cryeszko in year 3 and Sebastian Fenech in Year 5, August was awarded Junior Boy Champion swimmer and Sebastian the 11 year boys Runner Up. We wish all our representative swimmers the best of luck this Friday as they compete in the Diocesan carnival.

August. C- 50mtr freestyle, 50mtr breast-stroke, 50mtr backstroke & 50mtr butterfly

Maisy. C- 50mtr freestyle

Sebastian F - 100mtr freestyle, 50mtr freestyle, 50mtr backstroke & 50mtr butterfly

Peyton R - 50mtr freestyle & 50mtr backstroke

Rafael V - 50 mtr butterfly

Jnr Boys relay - August, Xavier F, Francesco T, Jared R

## Cross Country Wednesday 28th February

It's almost that time of the year again when we hold our annual St Michael's cross-country. This event is held on the school grounds from 9-11am for all students in years 3 to 6. It is a compulsory school day for all children. A general information sheet was sent home yesterday. All students in years 3 to 6 will be reminded of their house colour this week during PE lessons as well as given an opportunity to walk our cross-country course. Parents & family members are welcome to attend and support your children on the day.

We ask for your support this week in having a conversation with your child around the age group they need to compete in. Our cross-country races are run in age groups and boys and girls separately. Students will run in the age group that corresponds with how old they will or have turned in 2018.

Children who are:-

Born in 2010 - compete in the 8 years

Born in 2009 - compete in the 9 years

Born in 2008 - compete in the 10 years

Born in 2007 - compete in the 11 years

Born in 2006 - compete in the 12 years

Born in 2005 - compete in the 13 years

Our junior age groups (8, 9 & 10 years) run 2km = 2 laps of the course.

Our senior age groups (11, 12 & 13 years) run 3km = 3 laps of the course.







We will be requiring many parent helpers to assist on the day, **NOTE** current Parramatta Diocesan Child Protection must be up to date to volunteer with school events. We would appreciate as many helpers as possible and ask kindly if you are able to help that you fill in the slip at the bottom of the information sheet that your child received yesterday. If these could be returned to school ASAP it would be wonderful.



## Coles Sport for Schools

We have registered for the Coles sport for schools program and our collection bin should arrive shortly. If you receive any vouchers the children can place them in the office bag or give them to Mrs Budd until our collection bin arrives. This is a great initiative to allow us to trade the vouchers for some great sport equipment for the children of St Michael's.

Yours in Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd/ Mr Joe Ng

**PE TEACHERS**

## RE NEWS

In last Sunday's gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the Trans Jordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous



place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

We will welcome all new members of our school community next Friday, 2nd March at our Beginning School Mass at 9.30am in the Church. Please feel most welcome to attend.

Anne Easton

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

## FROM THE LIBRARY

**Missing books** - Unfortunately there are still quite a lot of books overdue from 2017. If you find any books at home with a St Michaels barcode on the front cover, please send them to the Library. It does not matter how late they are, we are always glad to get them back. Often they are books that other students would like to borrow.

**Book Club** - Book club orders closed today - Tuesday 20th February. Orders can no longer be accepted as this could delay all school orders sent in time. If you missed this issue, there will be another brochure going out next term.

**Book Covering** - There are many new books in the Library that need to be covered before students can borrow them.

If you are able to cover some books, please call in to the Library to collect some to be covered at home.. All covering materials will be provided - contact for soft covers and non-stick plastic for hard covers. All help will be greatly appreciated.

**Library bags** - Just a reminder that all students should have a cloth Library bag with their name on it. This helps us find the owner when several students have the same style.

Mrs Judy Buhagiar

**TEACHER LIBRARIAN**



WE ARE A  
COMMUNITY

P&F



## Parents & Friends Association

**Facebook:** St Michael's Blacktown South P&F **Email:** [stmichaelspandf@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelspandf@gmail.com)

**Kristen Mobile:** 0409 952 852

**Leanne Mobile:** 0413 546 062

### Calendar of Events

#### 2018

##### March

7<sup>th</sup> – P&F Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> – School Disco

29<sup>th</sup> – Easter Raffle & Taking  
Cards to St. Hedwigs

##### May

19<sup>th</sup> – Bunnings BBQ &  
Cake Stall

##### August

19<sup>th</sup> – Shopping Bus Trip

##### September

22<sup>nd</sup> – Bunnings BBQ &  
Cake Stall



Before we know it **Easter** will be fast upon us  
so it's time to get creative and start sending us your best Easter Cards...

I love this time of year when the kids are given the opportunity to put their creative hats on and design their own Easter card. Every year we are blown away by the effort they put in the cards they come up with which we then donate to St Hedwig's Village.

So please tell your kids to get cracking and start making, once they have finished they can simply drop into the P&F box in the Student Foyer in the Office.

There will be a prize awarded at the end of term assembly on the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the best entry in each year and following on from this the cards will be donated to our dear friends at St Hedwig's Village with an invitation to all of you to come along with us and hand deliver them.

**Entries Close:** Friday 23rd March, 2018

Keep an eye out for raffle tickets coming home in the next couple of weeks

### P&F Meeting:

Our first meeting for 2018 has been booked in for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Would be great see you all there, I promise we don't bite lol and it really is good to hear about what's happening around the school and get updates from John & Debbie.

Please let me know if you have any items to add to the agenda.

### PRC

**Parents Representative Council - Web:** <http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au/home>

**School Representative:** Michelle Williams

### Disco:

The notes for the disco on the 16<sup>th</sup> March have gone out. We hope to start seeing the notes and money coming in, the disco is a fun night, not just for the children but for the parents who also get a chance to have some fun and catch up.

Bands will be sent home the week of the Disco.



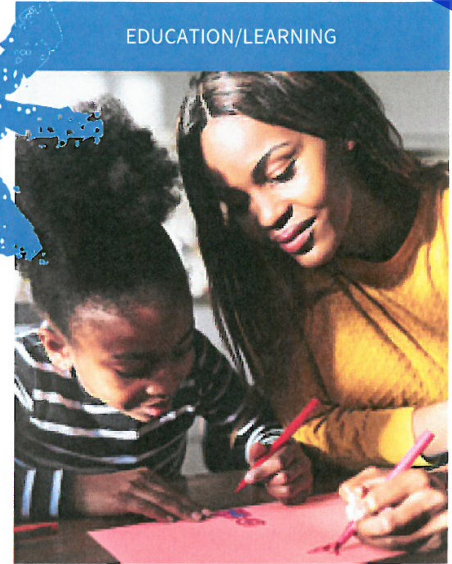
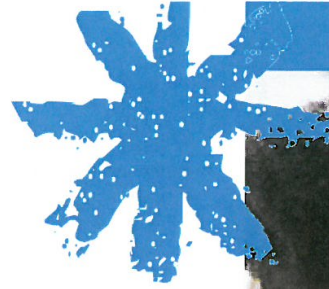


parenting \* ideas

# insights

## Helping children who struggle with learning

by Michael Grose



*Parenting is easy when you have a child who is talented and finds learning relatively easy. You can marvel at their performance and feel some measure of parental pride.*

On the other hand it's frustrating and, at times, heartbreaking to watch your child struggle to attain even mediocre levels of success at school, in sport or in leisure activities. It's even more difficult if your child repeats a year of learning.

When your child has difficulty at school, your approach as a parent makes huge difference to their self-esteem, the relationship with their teachers and their attitude to learning.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind if you are parenting a child for whom success at school, or in other high-status areas such as sport, just doesn't come naturally.

### 1. Avoid using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking your child's progress against that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably it will lead to frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Each child has his or her own developmental clock which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. It's the first group that can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare the slow bloomer to siblings, friends' kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child's improvement and effort and use their results as a benchmark of progress and development. *"Your spelling is better today than it was a little while ago"* is a better measure of progress than *"Your spelling is the best in the class!"*

### 2. Focus on your child's talents

Be mindful that many successful people including Bill Gates, Richard Branson and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg struggled at school. Traditional learning wasn't for them. However they each had supportive adults in their lives who helped them find their interests and fostered their talents. Help your child see beyond any limits they put on themselves (*"I'm hopeless at school"*) to see the many other talents and strengths they have.

### 3. Develop a growth mindset





## parenting \*ideas

Recent research shows that people who believe they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually do get smarter and do better in school, work and life over time. It's exciting to know that your child's talent and smarts aren't fixed. Their brain can always learn more, continue to grow and be stretched. Communicate a growth mindset to your kids by focusing your praise more on their level of effort rather than on their natural abilities of talents. Praise the strategies they use and look for opportunities to stretch their capabilities.



### **4. Be your child's cheerleader**

Kids who have to work really hard to achieve need someone in their lives who is able to boost their self-confidence, particularly when they are struggling. Make a fuss over small successes so your child can puff up their chest every now and then. Many adults find it easy to encourage the kids who do well but balk at encouraging kids who struggle or find learning difficult. But it's these children who really need encouragement. As much as humanly possible, comment favourably about your child's effort, contribution and improvement in all areas of life. You can do it!

### **5. Increase their time in activities where they experience success**

As a young teacher I remember when a father banned his son from playing football as his school results were poor. I was incensed. This boy found school learning very difficult and football was one area where he was able to shine. I suggested to the father that his son should spend more time, not less, playing football, as this was the activity where he experienced the most success. Children who struggle at school benefit from spending more time in environments where they feel confident and capable, as those feelings can eventually transfer over to other areas – including the classroom.

### **6. Be mindful that persistence pays off**

Children who have to work hard and persist learn an important life lesson: that success in most endeavours takes effort. Those kids who sail through their childhoods without raising a sweat can struggle when eventually they do have to work long and hard to succeed.

Raising kids who find life a breeze is easy. However, parenting kids who take longer to mature, or kids that must put in a 110% effort to achieve, is challenging for any parent. Parenting a child who struggles, or has to repeat a year level, requires you to develop a growth mindset, focus on kids' strengths, be liberal with encouragement and have realistic but positive expectations for success.



### **Michael Grose**

*Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.*



## NAGLE COLLEGE Blacktown

Nagle College will be holding their  
Open Afternoon / Evening for  
Year 7, 2019 on **TUESDAY, 6 March**  
from 3.30pm until 7.30pm.

Enrolment packages will be available  
on the afternoon and tours of the  
school will be conducted.

Prospective parents and students  
are warmly invited to attend.



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The school is consistently ranked as one of the  
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to inspect the quality experience on offer at  
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College continues its fine tradition of academic  
achievement.

*A  
Remarkable  
Achievement!*



Manpreet Singh 99.7



Elijah Park 99.4



Adam Boldin 99.55

**— ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN —**

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Corrie

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# TRIVIA NIGHT

APRIL 7TH 2018 7PM

We are hosting a trivia night to raise funds for  
Cienna DeLuca to compete at  
the World Championships Of Performing Arts in  
Longbeach, California & Las vegas.

## WHERE

Nirimba room, level 5,  
Blacktown Council Chambers,  
Entry through Campbell Street

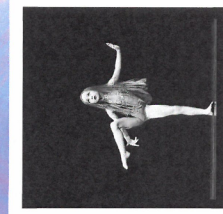
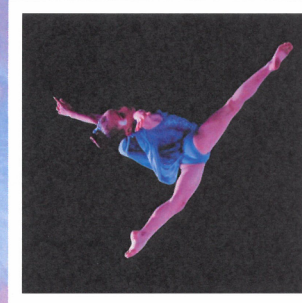
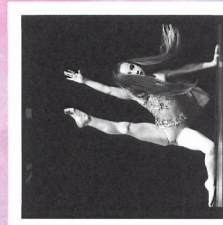
Lots of prizes on  
offer, Lucky Door  
tickets, Guessing Competition,  
Heads and Tails, Coin toss and  
a Raffle.

Tickets - \$15 per head, tables of  
10, Tickets to be pre-purchased!  
Money due by 3rd of April. Please  
pay Amanda, or deposit money  
into Cienna's Account:

Please call Amanda on  
0412192677 if you would like to  
make a donation or have any  
questions.

Cienna DeLuca  
BSB - 062339  
ACC - 10576110

**BYO NIBBLIES +  
DRINKS**



Las Vegas - 1st - 6th of July 2018  
Long Beach California- 7th - 15th of July 2018





## TERM PLANNER – TERM 1 – 2018 as at 21 February 2018

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
<b>Week 1</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	29 MAI & EYA testing  Staff Beginning School Mass – 2pm	30 MAI & EYA testing	31 Students Yrs 1-6 commence school  EYA Testing	1 EYA Testing	2 Kindergarten commence school 9.30am – 3.00pm	3 / 4
<b>Week 2</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	5 Kindergarten 9.30am-3.00pm  Kindy Individuals and Student Leaders group photos taken	6 Kindergarten start school at 9.00am-3.00pm	7	8	9	10 / 11
<b>Week 3</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12	13 Principal Breakfast Meeting – 7:30-9:30am	14 Blacktown Zone Swimming – Mt Druitt Pool	15	16 Year 6 Team Building – Vision Valley	17 / 18
<b>Week 4</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19	20 Year 1-6 Parent Information Night 3.30pm and 6.30 pm	21 Principal Breakfast Meeting – 7:30-9:30am  Kindergarten BBQ and Information Night – 5.00pm-7.00pm	22 11.30am Year 6 Grade Mass	23 Diocesan Swimming – Blacktown Pool  Welcome to Nagle – Year 6 girls – 9am-12noon	24 / 25
<b>Week 5</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	26 Whole School Assembly – 2.00am Sports Captains received their badges  NRL visit to Stage 3 11.30am-3.00pm	27	28 School Cross Country  PL / Diversity	1 P & F Executive Meeting 3.15pm	2 Beginning School Mass - Induction of Student Leaders - 9.30am	3 / 4
<b>Week 6</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar  <b>CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK</b>	5	6	7 GRIP Leadership Day – Deb. Anne and Student Leadership Team attending  PL / PSB4L  P & F Meeting 6.30pm	8 11.30am Year 5 Grade Mass  Commissioning Mass( Beginning Teachers) 5.30-7.30pm	9	10 / 11
<b>Week 7</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12	13	14 PL / Sr. Sue - Nano Nagle	15 11.30am Year 4 Grade Mass	16 P & F School Disco	17 / 18
<b>Week 8</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19	20	21 Harmony Day  PL / Faces on the Data	22 Beginning Assistant Principals PLC – 12:00pm-4:00pm	23 Palm Sunday Prayer	24 / 25 Earth Hour - Saturday
<b>Week 9</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr <b>HOLY WEEK PRAYERS DAILY</b>	26 System Leaders Meeting – 8:30-3:30pm – Rooty Hill	27	28 PL / Faces on the Data	29 Easter Raffle – 2pm	30 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	31 / 1
<b>Week 10</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr – 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2 <b>EASTER MONDAY</b>	3	4 Easter Prayer	5	6	7 / 8
<b>Week 11</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr – 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9 Whole School Assembly – 2:00pm	10	11 PL / Reflection	12	13 11.30am John's Farewell Assembly  Stage 3 Boys & Girls Touch – Kingsway St Mary's	14 / 15