



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER

Mon 24th	Year 2 Excursion to Australian Museum
Fri 28th	Grandparents Liturgy—9.30am

NOVEMBER

Fri 4th	K2017 Step-Up 9.30-11am
Tues 8th	1G & 1S Excursion to Penrith Lakes
Tues 15th	1C & 1J Excursion to Penrith Lakes
Wed 16th	K2017—Orientation 9.30-12.30am
Fri 18th	K2017 Step-Up 9.30-11am
Tues 22nd	Year 1 Excursion to Wannabees
Wed 23rd	Twilight Swimming Carnival—Nirimba Pool 4-7pm
Thurs 24th	K2017—Orientation 9.30-12.30am
Fri 25th	Year 5 Leadership Day

Church of St Michael's
58 Orwell Street
Blacktown South

Weekend Masses:

Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 6.00pm
4th Sunday 10.45am Filipino Mass

Weekday Masses:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8.00am
Wed: 7.30pm

First Friday: 7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wed: 7.00pm—7.25pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Wednesdays 6.30pm-7.30pm

Phone: 9622 9149

Website: mqofblacktown.org.au

St Michael's Primary School
155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown South 2148
Ph: 9622 9910
Fax: 9622 6902

Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblkt@parra.catholic.edu.au

2016 - ISSUE 16

18th October 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

On Sunday I watched the Catholic Mission video I was drawn to Sister Eulie's message from the Gospel of Matthew *"Just as you did to one of the least of these...you did it to me."* She spoke so passionately of the vulnerable children in Cambodia and how she treats each of the children and families as if they were Jesus Christ.



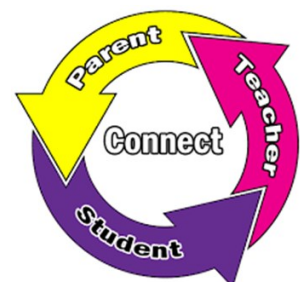
Who do you see as the face of Jesus?

Literacy and Numeracy

Last week we had an external evaluation of our literacy and numeracy work.

Some of the feedback given to us that was evident at St Michael's:

- High levels of consistent practice and pedagogy
- Student growth evident in literacy and numeracy
- Teachers who are extremely dedicated and who continue to provide the very best educational outcomes for all students
- Parents who are actively involved in their child's education and working closely with the school



My sincere thanks to Mrs Kris Gardoll and Mrs Kelly Borg for being interviewed on the day and to Mrs Brooke Payne and Mrs Jackie Coleman for their contributions prior to the day.

Lost Property

We continually have many items in lost property. Those that **have names** get returned to all children. Many items unfortunately have no names. If after a term they haven't been claimed we donate them to the pre-loved section of the uniform shop. We encourage you to label all items and speak with your child about being responsible for their items. I thank Mrs Estrada, Mrs Cash and Mrs Gardoll that have washed all the clothing items in lost property.

Enrolments for 2017

We have had quite a bit of interest from new families wishing to enrol their children at St Michael's. Please make sure you have enrolled any siblings into Kindergarten for next year and if you have any friends or family interested in joining our community please encourage them to come into the school office as soon as possible.

Blessings to you all,

Mrs Katherine McKay
ACTING PRINCIPAL

From the Acting Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

What a fantastic start to Term 4 we have had. I am very pleased to report that our students continue to thrive both spiritually and academically at St Michael's!

Mini Vinnies Present at the Diocesan Mission Mass

On the last day of Term 3 at our St Michael's Day celebrations, our Mini Vinnie's Team under the leadership of Mrs Boje and Mrs Siracusa sold cupcakes and ice-blocks to raise money for the purchasing of a buddy bench. Their fundraising was so successful that they actually raised enough funds to purchase not just one but multiple bench seats. Please continue to follow our newsletter and Facebook feeds to keep up to date with the progress of this project.

As a result of the Mini Vinnies fine work regarding the buddy bench project and other projects over the course of this year, we were invited to showcase



our missionary work at this year's Diocesan Mission Mass at the Cathedral Church of St Patrick's Parramatta. On Thursday last week both myself and Mrs Boje had the privilege of supporting four of our finest Mini Vinnie students at the Mission Day Mass and celebrations. Congratulations to Jarrod Fulwood, Brendan Fares, Emily Borg and Alexis Rossi who at their Mini Vinnies stall spoke very well about how St Michael's children are proclaiming the mission of Jesus through action and fundraising at our school.



Pat-R Reading Assessment Results

Over the course of Week 10 Term 3 and Week 1 of Term 4 students across grades 2 – 6 completed the annual PAT-R reading comprehension assessment. PAT stands for Progressive Achievement Test and R for Reading. This assessment is a thoroughly researched and normed test for measuring and tracking student achievement in reading comprehension, word knowledge and spelling. It provides our **teachers** with objective information for setting realistic learning goals and planning effective literacy programs as result of student achievement.

In 2016, we set our school community a number of goals to achieve in Formation, Numeracy and Literacy. This year's literacy goal is for 90% of students to read at or above grade level as measured by the DEC continuum, PAT-R- Grade Scale Score and "Diocesan Reading Profiles". After an analysis of all data (test results) from this year's PAT-R reading comprehension assessment, I am very pleased to present that **over 85%** of students have obtained a reading Scale Score at or above expected grade level. Yes, we are 5% short of our target. However this result is a HUGE achievement and some of the best results we as a school community have achieved since the inception of this assessment.

The progress we continue to make in ensuring our students comprehend what they are reading would not be possible if not for the professionalism of our teachers and the reading support you afford your children at home. Hours of professional development, cooperative planning, assessment, data analysis, reporting and strategic leadership with a clear focus, go into achieving these results. I would like to thank those families who take the time to contact the school to express their thanks for all the work our teachers do to maximise their child's potential. As I have previously mentioned in past newsletters, the positive partnership between the home and the school has a direct impact on student achievement, with this in mind I would like to thank you as parents and caregivers for your support.

SCHOOL SUMMER UNIFORM

Thank you to those families who have ensured their children returned to school this term in the correct uniform. Our school uniform is a symbol of our entire school community. Parents are urged to ensure that the children come to school in the correct uniform, worn appropriately. When you are purchasing sports shoes for your children the school uniform code is for a 'predominately white shoe'.

At St Michael's we have a **"no hat no play"** rule. Children who do not have a hat will not be able to play at recess or lunchtime and must sit in the shade.

Hair: Hairstyles should be appropriate to the school setting, e.g. extreme colours or cuts are not permitted.

Girls: Shoulder length hair or longer must be tied back with a navy blue scrunchie/hair elastic.

Boys: Hair should be collar length and neatly trimmed.

Boys Summer Uniform	Girls Summer Uniform:
Blue short sleeved shirt with crest Navy blue shorts with crest Navy blue socks with yellow stripe Black polishable school shoes School hat	School dress with crest Short blue socks Black polishable school shoes School hat



Thank you for your ongoing support.

God Bless

Mr Coley White

ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

God surrounds us each moment of our lives. Jesus, in last week's Gospel, told his disciples to recognise that and rejoice. We all want close friends willing to hang out with us. Some of us have them. Some don't. But we all have a best friend in God, who is always there trying to shape us, help us, respond to us.

Here's a challenge. Pray always, or without ceasing, this week. Make an effort to remember that God walks with you at all times, down every road, through every shopping centre, and across every street. Talk and listen to God throughout the day. In other words, just hang out together.

Does this teaching about the need for prayer mean that God needs to be convinced of our cause? Does a one-off prayer not get heard? Is God swayed by the force of numbers? Can the prayers of ten people carry more weight than the prayers of one? All these questions miss the point of the parable. It is not God who needs our prayers, but we who have to recognise, through prayer, our need for God's mercy and gracious love. The constancy of prayer is not to convince God but to remind ourselves of our dependence upon God.

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

Our Parish Mission Statement

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is a welcoming, diverse, multicultural, Catholic community. We seek to live, teach and share the joy of the Gospel to groups & people of Jesus through prayer, witness and action and to respond to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.



We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

It is great to have you here in the MQOF parish community!

MASS TIME S	
Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses
St Michael's	5:30pm Saturday Vigil (St Patrick's)
58 Orwell St, Blacktown South	7:00am Sunday (St Patrick's)
9622 1125	8:00am Sunday (St Michael's)
Mass 6:00am Mon, & Fri & 7:30pm Wed	9:30am Sunday (St Michael's)
Communion Service 8:00am Tues & Thurs	10:00am Sunday (St Patrick's)
St Patrick's	11:30am 4th Sunday - Filipino Mass (St Michael's)
51-59 Alanway St, Blacktown	2:00pm Sunday - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)
9622 1125	5:30pm Sunday (St Patrick's)
Mass 9:00am Tues & Thurs & Sat	6:00pm Sunday (St Michael's)
Communion Service 9:00am Mon, Wed, Fri	
First Friday 7:30pm St Patrick's	

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 7:00pm - 7:25pm (St Michael's)
 Saturday 9:30am - 10:25am (St Patrick's)

Anointing of the Sick

First Saturday during 9:00am Mass (St Patrick's)
 or by appointment contact Parish Office

HOLY HOUR:

6:30pm - 7:30pm Wednesday @ St Michael's
 6:30pm - 7:30pm First Friday @ St Patrick's
 by appointment.

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

by appointment.
 Please contact office for details



Can God Help us in Exams?

Exam times are often moments when we especially feel the need to pray! We can't really expect God to make up for any lack of work, nor to give us magical answers!

But it is a time when we need the peace that can come from confidence in our relationship with God. The mere knowledge of his care and friendship can help to calm our anxieties.

Exams can also bring out the worst in a person. Our relationship with God can help us here too, dealing with any jealousy, competitiveness, or narrow judgments about other people by remembering who we are.

We are human beings long before we take exams and will be long after they are over. So our way of viewing ourselves and each other can never be based on how well we perform in exams; rather as beloved children of God, and therefore brothers and sisters to one another.

Each person is made in the likeness of God. Each person has special gifts and talents. And so we pray, any time we prepare for and sit exams: May we learn to love and accept ourselves and each other, to value the unique abilities that each of us has. May God be with us, to enlighten us, strengthen us, and to relieve any worries we may have. And may we always remember who we are.

Alison Ryan
 MQOF Youth Minister

You can keep up to date with all parish news by downloading our parish bulletin each week at www.mqofblacktown.org.au

A PARISH HSC PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
 We bring before you our HSC students. Give them the gifts of wisdom, right judgment, knowledge and courage. Bless them with calm hearts and clarity of mind as they sit for their exams. May they be affirmed in their efforts and may they know that you are with them.

We pray that they stay calm under pressure and work to the best of their ability. May they always enjoy your presence in their lives, now and always, and may they be strengthened by the prayerful support of us, their parish community.

We ask this through Jesus Christ your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Mary, Queen of the Family Blacktown



www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics

From The Office

Planning for 2017 will commence shortly. If your child will not be returning in 2017 (Years K-5 2016) it would be greatly appreciated if you could please notify the school in writing, stating that last day you will be attending St Michael's and the school your child will be attending next year. This is a Government requirement. The late day of Term 4 for students is Friday, 16th December 2016.

As always it is important that if your child is absent from school that the school receives notification. It is vital that if your child will be on leave in the last weeks of 2016 and will not be commencing on the 1st day of 2017 (Tuesday, 31st January 2017 for Years 1-6 2017), that we be advised of this.

Sports News

Welcome back to Term 4, the highlight of this term will be the annual St Michael's twilight swimming carnival on Wednesday 23rd November save the date! We welcome Mr Joe Ng to the PE team at St Michael's this term as Mr Phillips enjoys his long service leave throughout term 4.

NSWPSSA Athletics

This coming Thursday Owen Evans in year 6 will fly the flag for St Michael's at the NSWPSSA athletics championships at Homebush. We wish you the best of luck Owen as you fly through the air and compete in the Long Jump. Owen has been improving his distance at each level he has participated in and we hope you enjoy the experience and we are very proud of you. Hip Hooray Owen!!!!



BASKETBALL GALA DAY

All basketball teams have been selected for the upcoming basketball gala day on Wednesday 26th October (week 3) at Penrith basketball stadium. Permission notes were sent home last Friday, children will need to arrive at school on time as the bus will depart at 7am to allow for arrival on time at the event. Please send signed permission note and payment for the bus to school ASAP. We do require a parent helper (team manager) per team to ensure that each team arrives at the allocated court on time. You do not necessarily have to have any basketball experience. We are very grateful for parent support at these events, if you wish to help, please ensure that your child protection is up to date. If you are not sure send a note with your child to school marked to the attention of Mrs Budd and it can be checked for you.



Twilight Swimming Carnival – Wednesday 23rd November (week 7)

Further information and notes will be coming home shortly. PLEASE NOTE: your child MUST be able to swim 50 mtrs confidently to enter into events. We will be asking you to nominate which events your child would like to participate in prior to the carnival. Parent helpers will be needed to ensure the carnival runs smoothly, there is plenty of time for you to ensure your child protection process has been completed.



Parramatta Diocesan Summer Sport Trials

ATTENTION TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 4 AND 5 IN 2016

Each year students who play particular sports at a very competitive level have the opportunity to trial for Parramatta Diocese Representative teams. The process is first to complete an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, please ensure you the parent or carer completes this process and you MUST SUBMIT the form. You should receive a confirmation email if your submission was successful.

The summer sports that have opened the nomination process are BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, TENNIS AND CRICKET. NOTE: Winter sport trial nominations will NOT OPEN until later in the year.

The expression of interest for winter sports closes on FRIDAY 28th October (week 3).

2017 Parramatta Diocesan—Team Sport Trials

Any Primary students enrolled in Parramatta Diocesan Schools in Year 5 and 6 in 2017 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four of 2016 (Summer Sports - Basketball, Cricket, Softball & Tennis) and Term One/Two in 2017 (Winter Sports - AFL, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League League, Rugby Union & Touch).

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2017 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials in 2017 will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), & Touch (B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website

www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the 2017 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY and MUST be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience".

Please ensure that the SUBMIT button has been pressed upon completing the form and notification email will be sent to the parent/guardian listed on the form confirming this expression of interest has been received.

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

****Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.**

Summer Sports Registrations close Friday 28th October 5pm.
Winter Sports Registrations close Friday 3rd February 5pm.

Please contact your school sports coordinator for any further information.

Yours In Sport,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator – Primary Sport
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Mrs Budd will be speaking with students in year 4 and 5, however there is only a small window of opportunity for you as the parent/carers to register online. NO late entries are accepted.

Yours in Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd/Mr Joe Ng

From the Library

Book Club

The last Book Club brochures for 2016 will go out this week.

Orders close on Wednesday 26th October.

You can order online (details on order form) This ensures no money gets lost. Purchases will be returned to school to be given out with all other orders.

If ordering through school, please make sure all details including name and class are completed on the order form so we know who to give the items to. Place the order form and cash or cheque into an envelope and close securely, then return it to school.

Mrs Buhagiar

TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

Catholic Care Social Services

YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP—CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not. **Next gathering:** Tuesday 18th October. **Venue:** DAC, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED—CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those navigating their way through a separation or divorce. **Next Gathering:** 25th October **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

BACK TO *McAuley Day*

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2016, 12 NOON – 4.30PM

All past students, staff, parents and friends of Catherine McAuley Westmead (formerly known as Catherine McAuley Girls High) are invited to return to school to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Golden Jubilee Mass to commence at 12 noon, Morley Centre, Catherine McAuley Westmead
Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen
OFM Conv DD
Bishop of Parramatta

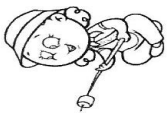
Following Mass enjoy a 'trip down memory lane' with memorabilia, displays, hospitality and performances.

Further information please contact
School Reception: 9849 9100 or
mcauleywestmead@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catherine McAuley Westmead
2 Darcy Road, Westmead
www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au






**Blacktown Marayong Guides invite you to
Come and Try Guides!**

Wednesday 26 October 6.30–8pm
For girls aged 7–9 years

Friday 28 October 7–9pm
For girls aged 10–13 years

Blacktown Guide Hall Gribble Place, Blacktown

Please call Kerri on 0429 480 378 to register for these free events.
Or to find out more visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au



GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES