



15th May 2018 - Term 2 - Week 3

Staying in Touch

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South
Email: stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth

Dear Parents,

Mother's Day Stall

Thank you to all of our parents who helped the children purchase their gifts last week. It was wonderful to see the excited smiles of the children when they were buying.

Our Liturgy on Friday was a lovely celebration of special women in our lives. We gathered to remember them and pray to Mary our Mother.

Mother's Day Blessing:

"May you feel the gentle touch of God's Blessings on your heart today and always."



INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY MUFTI APPEAL

Friday, 18th May 2018

Gold Coin Donation

St Michael's will support International Family Day with a Mufti Day and Picnic lunch on

Friday 18th May. Students are asked to bring a gold coin to school on that day and wear Mufti. All money raised will be sent to CatholicCare. Also, families are invited to visit their children in class from 1.00pm and then join them for lunch.



Family Prayer

Gracious God, Thank you for blessing me with my family. Bless them and provide for their needs. Protect them from harm and bring Your peace to their hearts. Help us to be the family You intend us to be. May we be a blessing to one another and to others. We pray this In Jesus name, Amen



ENROLMENTS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2019. Please inform family and friends if they have children who are eligible to attend. Interviews have begun and will continue throughout the first weeks of Term 2.

Uniform

All children should now be in full WINTER uniform.

Boys Winter:

Blue long sleeved shirt	Navy blue tie
Long navy blue trousers	Navy blue socks with yellow stripe
School Hat	Black polishable school shoes
Navy blue knitted jumper or jacket with crest	

Girls Winter:

Blue long sleeved blouse	Navy blue Butterfly tie
Navy blue tunic	Short blue socks or navy blue tights
Black polishable shoes	School Hat
Navy blue knitted jumper or jacket with crest	

Unisex Sports Uniform:

Sports shorts with crest		
Sports Tracksuit pants	Sports Jacket with crest	Sports polo shirt with crest
White socks	Sports shoes	School hat

Please note: It is school policy that if a child does not have a hat they will not be able to play at recess or lunch time.



School Photos

Our annual SCHOOL PHOTOS will be taken on Monday, 21st May 2018. All children must come to school in full winter uniform and girls are permitted to wear Navy hair ties only.

Every student has been given a photo envelope which must be returned on Monday, even if you are not purchasing photos as it has their unique barcode on it for individual photos which will be taken of every child.

If you would like your family to have a sibling photo please collect a family envelope from the office.



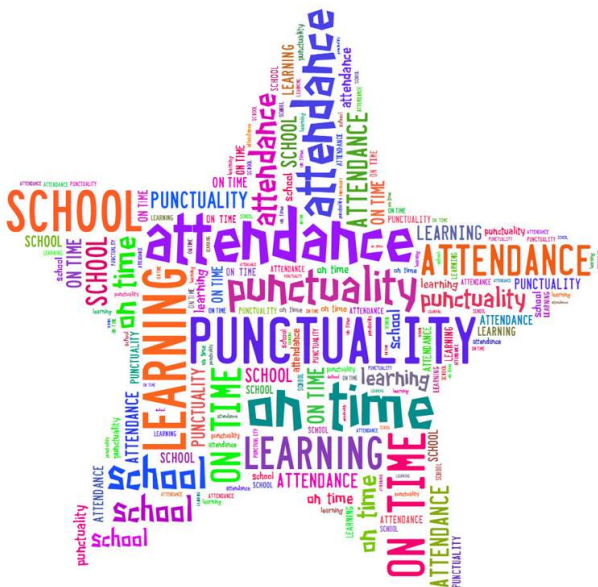
School Fees

If you do not have a payment arrangement in place please contact the school finance office on 8869 6200 to make arrangements or to discuss your school fee account.

Attendance

At St Michael's our staff work hard to ensure that we are catering for each students needs, abilities and interests. There are also many ways in which families can support their children to be prepared for learning at school each day. One important way is making school attendance a high priority in your family. It is essential that each student is at school on time and prepared for school to take advantage of every learning opportunity. Children who are at school on time settle into routines very effectively and become confident and in control of their day ahead.

Our team of teachers support all students who are absent in various ways. Legislation requires that if you have a planned absence, a written application must be lodged with the Principal before your child/ren are absent from school. Families are discouraged from having family holidays during term time.





Tuesday, 15th May	NAPLAN - Years 3 and 5
Wednesday, 16th May	NAPLAN - Years 3 and 5
Thursday, 17th May	NAPLAN - Years 3 and 5
Friday, 18th May	International Family Day - Mufti Day - gold coin donation
Friday, 18th May	Year 4 Excursion - The Rocks Walking Tour
Monday, 21st May	SCHOOL PHOTO DAY - All children must bring their envelope
Wednesday, 23rd May	National Simultaneous Story Time
Monday, 28th May	OPEN DAY for prospective new families - 9.30-10.30am
Tuesday, 29th May	Primary Athletics Carnival
Wednesday, 30th May	ICAS - Science Competition - 7.30am
Thursday, 31st May	Year 5 Grade Mass
Thursday, 31st May	OPEN DAY for prospective new families - 4.00-5.00pm
Tuesday, 5th June	Stage 3 - Boys Soccer - Jamison Park, Penrith
Thursday, 7th June	Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass - 9.30am
Friday, 8th June	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Pupil Free day
Monday, 11th June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - Public Holiday
Wednesday, 13th June	ICAS - Spelling Competition - 7.30am
Thursday, 14th June	ICAS - Writing Competition - 7.30am
Thursday, 14th June	Year 4 Grade Mass

by Michael Grose

If your kids constantly fight with each other, then don't despair. All that emotional energy isn't going to waste.

According to a recent study, sibling fights teach kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities.

Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

Anecdotally, it seems that sibling fighting is one of the biggest impediments to parents enjoying family life. Many parents tell me that if their children stopped bickering their lives would improve dramatically.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn't support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down than it is about the frequency of squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are five practical strategies to use:

MODEL good conflict resolution skills

Kids wear 'I' plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you've said something upsetting to your partner or your children.

Help kids MANAGE their emotions

"Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me." Usually someone's feelings get hurt when siblings argue, so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.



We're a Parenting Ideas school

parentingideas.com.au/schools

MONITOR sibling relationships

Keep your antenna up for signs of discord within sibling relationships. Kids can sort out some disputes themselves, but you may need to be ready to intervene and assist with peace-brokering, or at least to act as a safety net, when one child continually appears to be on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

MENTOR them to sort out disputes

Kids need the chance to sort their conflicts out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. They often invite their parents to take sides, which is usually counterproductive. Rather than trying to sort out who started an argument, focus on possible solutions. Provide suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining, swapping or even walking away.

Encourage them to MAKE UP

Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so intervening gets tricky sometimes.

However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean a child has to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

Children without siblings can learn conflict resolution skills by spending time with other peers and friends, and by having parents who are willing to argue with them without coming on too strong or laying down the law.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together. They are natural bedfellows. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.



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 *Spooned Generation: How to raise independent children*.

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