



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### MARCH—2016

Wed 2nd	5.30pm—K-6 Parent Reading Workshop - Staffroom  6.30pm—P & F Meeting
Thurs 3rd	Cartoon Dave visiting Year 3&4— 9.00am-12:30pm  9.30am—Coffee Club
Fri 4th	Clean Up Schools Day
Mon 7th	GRIP Student Leadership Conference— Homebush
Thurs 10th	9.30am—Coffee Club  Grade Mass— Year 5—11.30am
Mon 14th	Year 5—World of Maths
Tues 15th	Year 6—World of Maths

#### SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016

##### Term 1:

Wednesday, 27th January to  
Friday, 8th April

##### Term 2:

Tuesday, 26th April to  
Friday, 1st July

**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:

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

#### Website:

[www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au)

#### Email:

[stmichaelsblkn@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsblkn@parra.catholic.edu.au)

# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

## NEWSLETTER

2016 - ISSUE 3

1st March 2016

### From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

Last week **165** days of learning were lost at St Michael's. All of these days are not due to illness. It is a parents **legal responsibility** to ensure their child is at school. Every day your child is not at school they are missing out on learning.



Information courtesy of the Queensland Department of Education and Training

### MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day



Ok reasons to stay  
home from school



sick



natural disaster



It's **NOT OK** to skip school to  
shop, sleep in, finish an assignment,  
go on holidays

### EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even **1 day**  
can make a difference



Each day's learning builds  
on what has been learnt before



**Good attendance starts in Kindergarten**  
It's where good habits begin



### ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

each  
**1%**  
increase  
in student  
attendance

may relate to  
**2-3**  
NAPLAN  
scale score  
points\*

\*Based on historical data

### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

**Get involved**  
in your child's  
school

Promote the  
importance  
of school

Get to know  
the teacher

Go to  
school  
events

Read the  
school  
newsletter

Be organised  
at home

Supervise  
homework

Ask about  
your child's  
day

Volunteer  
to help  
at school

## LENTEN REFLECTION:



### PRODIGAL SON

Prodigal Son, tells three distinct stories of loss and vulnerability. This great Gospel story speaks loudly of my experiences with you last Friday and it also provide wisdom for our work this week. Above all this story reminds us of God's constant invitation, ***"Everything I have is yours," the father insists.*** What an amazing image of God.

We all know the story of the Prodigal Son so well but I wonder if we are asking the right questions. Are we choosing the attitude of the elder son, content to do what we have always done, seeking security in habit and tradition, but failing to celebrate life or to reach out to others in love. Or like the younger son, with our failings weighing heavily upon us, are we open to Jesus' message of reconciliation and love? And are we prepared to take this message ***"Everything I have is yours,"*** to all those in my family, friends and neighbors.

Love One Another,

John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**

## From the Assistant Principal

### Attendance

Starting today the class in each grade that has the least number of absences will receive an ice block on the last day of term. We recognise that children become unwell and ask that when children are sick they be kept home and a note sent to the teacher when they return to school. We encourage you to consider when making appointments to avoid at least the morning session as this is our prime learning time. **We are encouraging all parents to support 100% attendance! This includes being at school on time.**



### Reading Workshop

This Wednesday at 5:30pm Mr Laffan and I will be holding a parent workshop on reading. Reading is an important skill that needs to be developed and we will show you ways you can support your child's learning at home that is the same as we teach in the classroom.

Please come along and join us! You may also like to stay for the P & F meeting at 6:30pm.

## Feeling Safe

Keeping our children safe is the priority of the whole community. It is important that our children hear from school and home that:

- ⇒ "Everyone has the right to feel safe"
- ⇒ "No-one has the right to hurt you"
- ⇒ "No-one can give you a NO feeling"
- ⇒ "There is nothing you can't tell me"

I encourage you to continue these safety messages with your children at home.



Have a great week!

Kind regards,

Katherine McKay

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

## RE News

During our Ash Wednesday Liturgy we launched our *Project Compassion* appeal. Your support for *Project Compassion* gives expression to the Gospel imperative to help those suffering from poverty and disadvantage around the world. This year's theme is **Learning More, Creating Change**. As Pope Francis has said, "Education is an act of hope" so this year *Project Compassion* celebrates the power of learning and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

For more information visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

# LEARNING MORE CREATING CHANGE



Anne Easton

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

## Canteen

We still need 3 people for Friday as one group has only one on the roster and we need at least three as Friday is our busiest lunch order day. Tuesdays we need three people as well. If you can help please ring me or come to the canteen even if you can only help for a couple of hours, we will fit you in. You are only required once a month.

Hopefully we will have the roster out next week, apologies for the delay.

Jan Crawford and Geny Cleary

**CANTEEN MANAGERS**



## SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS CAPTAINS:

### BLUE SPORTS CAPTAINS:

**Name: Shaun Blaje**

Favourite Sports: Soccer, Cricket and Baseball

Goal for 2016: My goal for 2016 is to get everyone to be the best that they can be and never give up when their running but to push through it.

**Name: Beatrice Gara**

Favourite Sports: Swimming and Dancing

Goal for 2016: To encourage everyone to do the best they can. I want to make sure that no ever gives up and will always believe in themselves. I want to be able to be a good model for others especially kindergartens.

### RED SPORTS CAPTAINS:

**Name: Zack Hardmen**

Favourite Sports: Soccer, NFL, Swimming, Oztag, Football, Basketball, Baseball

Goal for 2016: To encourage others to do what they desire at school and to be a good role model.

**Name: Vanessa Portelli**

Favourite Sports: Dancing, Athletics, Touch Football and Oztag

Goal for 2016: Encourage others to never give up and support people who are finding things challenging and need support to overcome them.

### GREEN SPORTS CAPTAINS:

**Name: Joel Femia**

Favourite Sports: Soccer, Tennis, Cricket and Football

Goal for 2016: To be the best person I can be and be a good role model.

**Name: Olivia Sultana**

Favourite Sports: Gymnastics, Swimming, Karate, Tennis and Dancing

Goal for 2016: To help everyone in sport when they need to and to be a good leader/ role model.

### GOLD SPORTS CAPTAINS:

**Name: Ayouk Mow**

Favourite Sports: Soccer, Football, Basketball

Goal for 2016: To do well in Athletics Carnival and to help people in need.

**Name: Madelyn Attard**

Favourite Sports: Gymnastics and Athletics

Goal for 2016: To encourage others to do their best and try their hardest at the athletics carnival. I want to be the best role model I can be for kindergarten.



ST MICHAEL'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sports Captains

Principal: Mr John Laffan

2016

L to R: Vanessa Portelli, Ayouk Mow, Madelyn Attard, Zack Hardmen, Joel Femia, Olivia Sultana, Shaun Blaje, Beatrice Gara  
Teachers: John Laffan (Principal), Katherine McKay (Assistant Principal)

## Strings Lessons

If you would like your child to commence strings lessons in term 2, please have your note and money to the office by the end of Week 9 this term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Vassallo.

## Mother's and Preschooler's Morning Tea

Each Wednesday from 9.15am-11.00am in the catechist room behind the Church. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Please bring a plate to share and a gold coin donation. Enjoy the interaction with parents and children from our local community. Any enquiries please contact: Danielle Grills on 0422 582 414 or [dgrills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dgrills@parra.catholic.edu.au)



## From the Office

### School Fees:

If you have not received your Term 1 School Fee Invoice please contact the school office and we will send you a replacement.

## Library News

### Chess

Each year St Michaels registers teams to play in the Primary Chess Teams Competition.

For this competition, teams are graded into Championship, Intermediate and Rookies divisions and travel to play matches against other schools throughout Term 2 and early Term 3. Players need to be committed to playing every week. These matches are held on Friday afternoons after school. The number of teams we can register will depend on parent support with driving.

There will be a St Michaels Competition in Term 4 for players unable to play in the Friday matches.

If you are interested in your child taking part in this competition, please fill in the form below and return it to the Library by **Friday 4th March**

Regards

Judy Buhagiar

**TEACHER/LIBRARIAN**

✂-----

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I can drive \_\_\_\_\_ children wearing seatbelts including my own child.

I can drive (please tick one)

☐ Every week      ☐ Every Fortnight      ☐ Once a month      ☐ I am unable to assist with driving

## P & F News

### P&F Meeting

We will be holding our first meeting of the year on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. This meeting will commence at 6.30pm in the staff room. This is a great opportunity to meet with other parents and Mr Laffan and Mrs McKay and gain more insight into what is happening at the school. At this meeting we will be discussing the Spring Fair, so if you think you would like to help us out please come along. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Kiss and Drop

To ensure the smooth operation of the kiss and drop procedure, it is important that cars are able to move quickly through the driveway whilst ensuring the safety of all children at all times.

Some simple rules for using the kiss and drop:

- ◆ Keep to the middle of the lane and avoid driving on the yellow stripes as this is a pedestrian only area.
- ◆ Please stay in the line to drop off your child, driving through staff carpark is not permitted.
- ◆ If your child is upset please continue through and park your car on Reservoir Rd and walk them in. It is very disruptive if you stop and leave your car unattended in the driveway. Parking is not permitted on school property.
- ◆ Avoid blocking traffic when turning right into the driveway from Reservoir Rd. Please consider an alternate route to ensure you can enter the school from southbound lanes.

We'd like to thank our new and existing volunteers for all of your help to make this procedure work. If you can help out in anyway please let us know.

### The P&F Committee

## St Michael's SUPER Swimmers

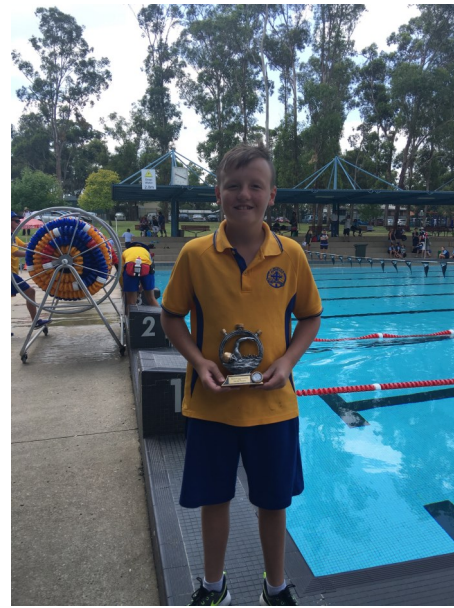
On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February St Michael's had a number of representatives compete at the Blacktown Zone swimming carnival at Mt Druitt pool. The sun was shining and the swimmers did an amazing job cheering each other on and swimming their best. We had wonderful parent support on the day, thank you.

A special thank you to our parent helpers on the day Mrs O'Callaghan and Mr Walker, we are very grateful for your contribution in making the carnival a success. A big thank you to Mrs Clark for ensuring all of the children made it into their events on the day and enjoyed themselves!

The children represented their school wonderfully and we had some fantastic results on the day.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** to Zack Hardman on receiving joint 11yrs Boys Age Champion and Viktoria Vidovic on receiving runner up Snr Girls Age Champion. Congratulations to the following children on representing St Michaels at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival:-

Vanessa Portelli	Viktoria Vidovic	Ella Moggridge
Beatrice Gara	Raija Punjwani	Brooke Dudgeon
Jaime O'Callaghan	Madeleine Tabone	Samara Serra
Gabriella Serra	Joshua Pinto	Joachim Tabone
Nikhil Saldanha	Zack Hardman	Rory Walker
Izaak Moggridge	Zachary Smith	Shannon Gibbins
Sebastian Fenech	Adam D'Sa	



Last Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February our 'SUPER FISH' attended the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Blacktown pool and after Thursdays soaring temperatures I'm sure they were happy to be getting into the pool. We had 7 swimmers representing our school and they all tried their best, which is all we can ever ask. Thank you to our wonderful supportive parents who transported and cheered for their children. Enjoy these wonderful experiences!

Thank you to the following swimmers who represented our school last Friday:-

Beatrice Gara	Vanessa Portelli	Viktoria Vidovic	Ella Moggridge
Izaak Moggridge	Zack Hardman	Raija Punjwani	

Special CONGRATULATIONS to Zack Hardman who has gained selection in the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming team to compete at the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials on 31<sup>st</sup> March at Homebush. We wish you GOODLUCK Zack.....

Cristy Budd/Jeff Phillips

**PE TEACHERS**

## My Prayer of Thanks by Vivian Dokolo—4M



Dear Jesus,  
 I am giving my whole life to you.  
 Thank you for the price you payed on the cross.  
 I surrender my life to you and whatever it take I will serve you.  
 Thank you for your love.  
 I turn from my own way and from the power of sin.  
 I embrace Jesus as Lord and Saviour of my life and a new beginning.  
 Amen

## Outstanding Achievement Awards:

Congratulations to the following students who received an OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD at our whole school assembly on Monday, 22nd February 2016:

KW Angela Mickaiel Evangeline Young	KR Mackenzie Kelly Arynna Bhardwaj	KH Claire DeVos Heath Warren	KP Arianne Lwin Angad Saini
1J Bankrasio Butros Sabrina Dutong	1G Leon Osborne Bianca Grima	1S Anne Marie Saba Lila Banjanac	1C Dooree Chung Leah Sutherland
2S Scott Young Tanmay Gupta	2M Alexia Minas George Hatzianandreu	2C Sienna Mao Suroor Shata	2L Tyler Xerri Aarya Bhattarai
3R Sophie Marriott Georgia Taktak	3T Arian Chand Gabrielle Behrens	3B Eliza Amper Adam Attard	3S Caitlin Dixon Kenneth Francisco
4E Lavinia Mamituowa Ruby Basha	4M Izaak Moggridge Indiana Newsome	4X Tatiana Malesevic Ronash Alves	4S Dante Carbone Georgia Bonello
5A Brooklyn Stack Harrison DeLuca	5B Prem Mondeddu Natalia Hodgson	5C Jaime O'Callaghan Oliver Bicanic	5S Kimberley Quai-Hoi Gabrielle Serra
6W Owen Evans Shaun Blaje	6C Tyren Busuttill Ella Moggridge	6E Hunter Newsome Issabelle Makdesi	6P Marianne Athanasopoulos Pavithran Visakeswaran





# Social skills for children

By Michael Grose

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:



## 1. Ask for what you want

Help children ask for what they want. It means they don't throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what's on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

## 2. Good manners

Teach kids good manners, in particular the three 'power words'. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people's defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

## 3. Sharing

Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people's feelings.

## 4. Holding a conversation

Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

## 5. Winning and losing well

Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

## 6. Approaching and joining a group

The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

## 7. Handling fights and disagreements

Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don't lead to the breakdown of friendships. It's important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn't mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.



## Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

### Sacramental Process 2016

Many thanks for your interest in the Sacramental Process for 2016. The Sacramental Team look forward to journeying with you in this time of preparation with your family as they come to know God deeper through the Sacraments.



#### Enrolling for the First Time

If you are enrolling for the first time in the Sacramental Process at Mary Queen of the Family parish, please complete the Enrollment form available on the parish website and return to the Sacramental Team.



#### Continuing on the Journey

If you are continuing the Sacramental Process from previous years at Mary Queen of the Family parish, please complete the re-enrollment form available on the parish website and return to the Sacramental Team.


#### Groups & Dates


All information for each Sacrament can be found via our parish website [www.mqofblacktown.org.au](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au) and then by clicking on the Sacraments tab or at the parish office at St Patrick's Church.

Each sacrament has 4 groups divided alphabetically, according to the surname of the child receiving the Sacrament. Please scroll down each document until you see your group with the relevant information.






#### Contact Us - Sr Grace & Lisa

 [www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics](http://www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics)

 [www.mqofblacktown.org.au](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au)

 9622 1125

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## RUGBY LEAGUE CAMP

APRIL 20 & 21 2016  
U/6's - U/15's

### BLACKTOWN

REGISTER AT [www.lionsleague.com.au](http://www.lionsleague.com.au)

