



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2012—ISSUE 2

21 FEBRUARY 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

Wed 22nd	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
"	Kindergarten Information Night for Parents 6.30-7.30pm
Fri 24th	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival - Mt Druitt
Mon 27th	Whole School Assembly - 2.15pm
Tues 28th	Student Leaders Conference
"	Years 1-6 Parent/Child introduction to teacher meeting - 3.30 & 6.30pm

MARCH

Fri 2nd	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
"	Clean Up Australia Day
"	Parent Information Meeting re EMU - 9.00am-11.00am
Mon 5th	Infants Assembly 1G & 1P presenting 2.15pm
Fri 9th	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Maths
Mon 12th	Patrician Brothers' visit Year 6 boys
"	Primary Assembly - 5P presenting - 2.15pm

St Michael's Church
Orwell Street
Blacktown South

MASS Times:
Sat. Vigil - 6.00pm
Sun, 8am, 9.30am, 6pm
Weekdays: 8am
Wednesday Evenings - 7.30pm
1st Friday 7.30pm
Phone: 9622 9149
www.stmichaelsparish.com

EXTRAS GOING HOME IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ A day in the life at St Michael's School

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St Michael's Celebrating 50 Years of "Loving One Another"



From the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

As you can see from our photo spread "a picture does tell a thousand words".

In only one week our community celebrated Learning in a Catholic community in so many ways.

Our children's learning experiences were enriched through specialist support in Research, Dance, String playing (cello) and Physical Education.

Slowly but surely our teaching team is working through the **Mathematics Assessment Interview**.

As described last week this interview is a tremendous moment providing teachers with exacting insights into what children are thinking when they attempt to solve a problem.

The real "high yield" gain is when teaching teams analyse the results and plan for future learning experiences.

At St Michael's we strive to support Growth for all children. In 2012 we all will need to put Mathematical thinking and language into focus.

This is our BIG year, our community spirit is alive and well already. Our P & F have met and will be presenting some exciting activities to support our common growth.

I invite you to mark the calendar for:

**ST MICHAEL'S
DINNER / DANCE
Celebrating our
50 years on Friday,
14th September
2012**

Watch this space for more details.

Our second goal in 2012 is to "Grow our Spiritual Life", allow ourselves to take time in celebrating our loving relationship with God.

One of the many writings we will refer to is **Father Kevin O'Shea**. As we begin Lent, I thought you might like to take some quiet space and read Fr Kevin's thoughts on what "Lent" is all about overleaf...

Regards

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

Reflection

What is it all about? It's about realizing the implications of His resurrection for you. It's about realizing the freedom God has planted in you. It's about realizing that God loves you outright, whether you are a good or bad boy or good or bad girl by the book. And God, each Lent, doesn't even look at the book. I think I could say that God puts the book away every Ash Wednesday and tells everyone not to dare read it for the whole time of Lent and beyond. You don't need a book. You need God. And you've already got God! Or better, God's got you. In a given love that lasts. You've got a God who raises everyone from the dead....

I like to imagine the holy women who went in darkness to the empty tomb of Jesus, as on their way to an Ash Wednesday ceremony. In a way, they thought they were. They thought Jesus had become 'just an ashes'. And in no time, when they got there, they got the biggest shock in religious history. He was there, he was alive, he was saying to them, get rid of all that silly anointing stuff, come with me and live, and all we need is one marvelous celebration. When you receive the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, you don't get ashes from a dead Christ. You get the living body of the risen Jesus.

RE News

Ash Wednesday 22nd February

The liturgical season of Lent is one of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves. By observing the forty days of Lent, we imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. Lent is a time of growing closer to God through prayer, fasting and reaching out to help others.

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box during our liturgy on Wednesday. The students will be have a Mufti Day to return the boxes later in the term.

Please put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting the **Project Compassion 2012 appeal**.

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

From the Assistant Principal

KINDERGARTEN BBQ: Head chefs did a great job and the kindergarten teachers enjoyed preparing and serving. Huge thank you to Mrs Baddock (Early Stage 1 co-ordinator) for her organization of the entire evening. Our goal was to welcome our new families and their children, provide an opportunity to meet other families and most of all have fun. All will agree these goals were achieved. We look forward to seeing parents of Kindergarten children again at the parent teacher information session this **Wednesday 22nd Feb at 6.30 in your child's classroom**.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT - Years 1-6: Next Tuesday 28th Feb you will have the opportunity for your child to introduce you to their teacher and guide you around their classroom. Our teachers will be available for 2 sessions, 3.30 -4.30 and 6.30 – 7.30. On this evening you are also invited to join Mr Laffan and I in our first "getting to know Maths" sessions. These informative sessions about how you can support your child's learning in Maths will be in the Father Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre at 4pm and repeated at 7pm.

COFFEE CLUB: Please join Mr Laffan and I at the **Coffee Club 9.30 on Tuesday 13th March**. At this meeting you will be able to look over the plans for the re building of St Michael's and voice your opinions about these plans. We will also continue our "getting to know Math sessions" for parents. Maths today is about solving real life problems using Maths as opposed to pages of mathematical algorithms to complete.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING LAUNCHED IN LIBRARIES ON 14.2.2012: In this National Year of Reading we encourage you to read to your child. As parents there are many benefits in reading to your child, some are

- It is fun and relaxing for everyone
- Develops children's imagination and creativity
- Provides exposure to different sounds and rhythms in languages
- Builds children's concentration
- Increases children's vocabulary, mathematically speaking if a child learns 2 new words a day from being read to, then

that is 730 words in a year. If you start reading to your child when they are 1 then by the time they arrive at school they will have increased their vocabulary by 3650 words in 5 years. What a great start to school that would be.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: Next Monday afternoon we will hold our first whole school assembly for 2012. At this assembly we will present our Sports Captains with their medals as well as acknowledge students who have already made an outstanding achievement in 2012. Parents are most welcome to attend this assembly.

Helen Boyer
Assistant Principal

Sport

SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2012: What a wonderful Swimming Carnival we had on Wednesday the 8th of February. We had fantastic participation on the day from students, staff & parent helpers who all made the day successful!. A special thankyou is extended to all the office ladies who gave up a great deal of time & effort behind the scenes and are the unsung heroes of the day!

The overall winning house was Red followed by Blue, Green & Gold respectively.

Our Age Champions include:

Girls

Junior: Lilly Hardman

11 Years: Caitlyn Gibbins

Senior: Ella Cyreszko

Boys

Junior : Max Cyreszko

11 Years: Daniel Kucheruk

Senior: Daniel Hertel

PARRAMATTA CEO REPRESENTATIVES: Congratulations to Marcus Farquharson(5S) & Montanna Farquharson(5P) for qualifying for the MacKillop Cricket trials, Shanna Raj (6A) also qualified for the MacKillop Tennis Trials, huge achievements!

SCHOOL VISITS: We also have been fortunate enough to have some AFL development officers visit the school & work with us. Greater Western Sydney Giants players Sam Reid & Matt Buntine also came out & spent some time with our students.

The Penrith Panthers NRL team also sent a number of players out for their initiative Literacy Blitz with years 5 & 6. A few of players shared their love of reading & encouraged students to engage in regular reading.

Jeff Phillips
PE TEACHER

School Fees:

Fee invoices have been mailed out and we apologise for the delay as the Catholic Education Office experienced technical difficulties beyond their control. If this day causes any hardship in meeting the due date for payment please do not hesitate to contact Robyn Hoogenest in the school office.

We have been advised that the final date to lodge applications for Flexible Payment Plan has been extended to 24th February 2012.

SCHOOL FEES - KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WITH NO SIBLINGS ENROLLED AT ST MICHAEL'S:

We have received a bpay payment that we are unable to match to a family due to the wrong reference number being used. If you have paid your school fees recently by bpay please contact the school office. We ask if making bpay payments to ensure you use the current statement as it has the correct reference number printed on it, statements issued in 2011 may be incorrect and we will not be able to match the payment to your account.

Uniform Shop

Trading hours are **Tuesday 12.45pm to 3.30pm** and **Friday 8.15am to 11.00am**.

To provide an extra opportunity for parents to access our Uniform Shop after school hours we will trial a late opening Wednesday, 22nd February from 4.00-6.45pm.

We hope to repeat this each term, depending on the success of this trial.

The Uniform Shop is still selling pre-loved items. If you wish to donate any school uniform items, please feel free to drop them off at the uniform shop on a Tuesday or Friday, or leave at the school office. All items received will be very much appreciated.

School Website

Did you know that our newsletter is available in full colour on our website?

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Visit our website soon!

P & F News

SCHOOL IS KOOL: Just a reminder that the School is Kool is running again with year at the Good Guys Prospect. All you need to do is mention St Michael's School when you purchase an item, and you earn points that will go towards buying technology for the school.

Jenny Warn

P & F PRESIDENT

Canteen

For the first time in 23 years we have had a disappointing response for helpers, considering there is approximately 740 children in the school.

We have **one group on Tuesday** and **one group on Friday** with no one on these days. You would be required once every four weeks only, which equals nine days over the whole year.

If we don't have any volunteers on these weeks we will have to close the canteen at recess and lunch times and the children will miss out. Mums, dads, grandparents, friends, please consider helping us and the children.

Lunch, Tea & Coffee is provided and we are all friendly and it is not hard work. We will take what ever time you can give. Please contact me at the canteen or ring me at home on 9622 5703 and leave a message and I will call you back.

I hope we don't have to disappoint the children.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

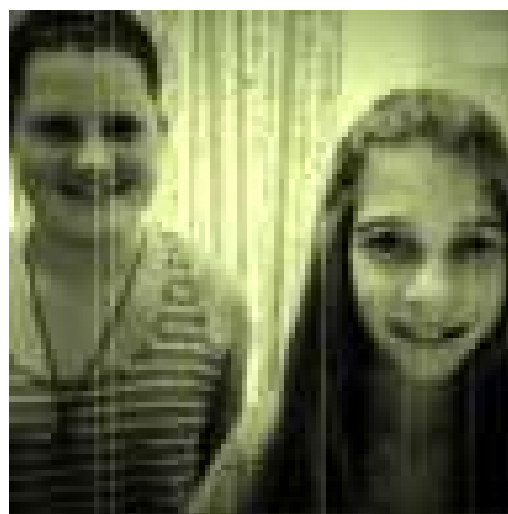
St Michael's Student Catch Up

Hi, our names are Ella and Lauren and this year we will be organizing the St. Michaels Student Catch Up (formerly known as the Kid's Newsletter).

In the Catch up, we will be including students of the month, cooking corner, craft corner, prayer time, activities, assembly reviews, kindy corner, class catch up, jokes, books, games and movies of the month, excellent excursions, crazy comics, Student catch up to the rescue, artwork billboard and stories galore. As we are including all of these subjects we will need quite a large staff, so we will announce who we need through posters around the school (so look out)!!! To become a member of the team you have to either email us on st.michaelsstudentcatchup@hotmail.com or keep an eye out for the posters we are putting up around the school.

Kind regards,

Ella Cyreszko and Lauren Carter



Library

Library Borrowing Days: Classes will borrow on the following days each week.

Please help your child to remember to pack their Library bag and books. Books should be returned each week for others to borrow.

Monday: KS, 5K, 5S
 Tuesday: 1G, 1M, 1P, 2S, 3C, 6A
 Wednesday: KW, 2G, 2L, 3B, 4C, 4S, 6C
 Thursday: 2H, 3D, 4E, 5P, 5W, 6E, 6J
 Friday: KB, KC, 1M, 1O, 3S

Library Bags: All children are expected to have a **cloth Library bag**, which can be purchased from the uniform shop. Other suitable bags are the supermarket bags which are about \$1, or a home made bag, or a coloured draw string character bag bought from the shops. I have lent several bags to children in the past weeks, but these belong to the Library and should be returned.

Book Club: The first issue of Book Club will be going home this week. You do not have to buy books each time, it is just an opportunity to purchase books that your children would like to read. They are usually well priced.

When purchasing books, please remember the following :

- Mark the child's name on the form.
- Clearly mark the item required and the total cost.
- Place the order and money in an envelop clearly marked with the child's name and class, and "Book Club"

Payment can also be made by ringing the phone number at the bottom of the order form. If you use this option, you must write the receipt number you are given on the order form.

National Year of Reading – NYR2012: William McInnes, actor and author, has been chosen as Patron for NYR2012.

Here is his message about the importance of reading.

"Being asked to be Patron of the Year of Reading is as great a pleasure as it is an honor. It's easy to be blase about reading and books - easy to take them for granted. Yet when I think about it, reading to me is the key to so much. The key to a wider reach of information, a path to learning, the joy of entertainment and the exciting of the imagination. It's just so much fun. Helping to encourage people to remember that and maybe to discover that, is something I look forward to very much."

NYR2012 have a website with information about events and competitions throughout the year [http://](http://www.love2read.org.au)

www.love2read.org.au

Premier's Reading Challenge: I am still taking registrations for the PRC. Passwords and instructions should be available by mid March

Library website: I have set up a new Library website which has information about the NYR2012, the PRC and school activities. There are pages about popular book titles and characters, family fun activities, as well as links to resources to support class units, Copyright and Information Skills guidelines, photos and Library based competitions. I intend to update the site regularly. I hope you find it useful. If you would like to see anything else included, please let me know.

www.stmblibrary.wikispaces.com

Community

Blacktown South Girl Guides

Girl Guides have lots of FUN!! camping, cooking, doing craft, playing games, earning badges and learning skills.

Girls 7-10 yrs meet Mondays 6.15 – 7.30pm

Girls 10-14 yrs meet Wednesdays 6-7.30pm

Blacktown South Guide Hall, Myrtle street Prospect

Call – Melissa on 0418 450 182

Or to find out more visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au



Friends of our Earth

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Since 1992, school communities across Australia have demonstrated their support for caring for the environment through participating in Schools Clean Up Day.

In 2011 an estimated **565,510 volunteers** cleaned up **16,454 tonnes** at **7,479 sites** right across Australia. But we can do better! So be a good sport and join the team to Clean Up Australia on **Sunday, 4 March 2012**.

Get involved by registering your own Clean Up Site or by volunteering at a site near you
<http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au>

St Michael's will again hold their annual 'Clean Up St Michael's Day'. This will be held on Friday 3rd March, 2012. Each class will be given a designated area to clean up, a big garbage bag and each student will wear gloves to pick up the rubbish.



Let's keep Australia and our community beautiful!!

Reminder:

NANO NATURE NATURE'S MEETING

Meeting to discuss environmental issues and ideas to help St Michael's community.

3:15pm

Monday 6th March, 2012

Fr Kevin Dadswell Learning Centre

All welcome to attend

Light refreshments provided

Chess

The **Inter-School Chess Competition** will be held again this year, beginning in Term 2. However, entries are due to close soon. If you are interested in competing, please fill in the form below and return it to Mrs Buhagiar in the Library by **Monday, 5th March**. Late entries will not be accepted.

The competition is held on a home and away basis on Friday afternoons after school. Therefore we will need volunteer drivers. The number of teams we can enter will depend on the number of drivers available. Students whose parents are able to drive will receive first preference in teams.



er



CHESS - Attention: Mrs Buhagiar

Child's Name:

Class:

I am able to drive **other children as well as my own.**

I will be able to drive **every week** **every 2 weeks** **once a month**

Parent Name:

Phone No:

2012 STAFF LIST

NAME	POSITION	DAYS WORKED
Mrs Anne-Marie ABRAHAMS	6A - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Cherie BADDOCK	KB - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Tina BARBUTO	6E - C/R Teacher - Exec Release (Anne Easton)	Thurs & Fri
Mrs Moira BATTIKHA	6C - C/R Teacher - Exec Release (Tom Crowley)	Thursday
Mrs Diane BEATRIZ	Teachers Aide	every second Tues
Miss Sue BODLE	3B - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Helen BOYER	Assistant Principal - Stage 1 Coordinator	Monday - Friday
Mrs Cheryl BOYLE	Learning Support (ESL)	Monday
Mrs Monica BRIGHT	Learning Support (ESL)	Tues, Wed & Thurs
Mrs Judy BUHAGIAR	Teacher/Librarian	Monday - Friday
Mrs Lynne CAMPBELL	Administration Officer	Monday - Friday
Miss Paula CASSAR	4C - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Gai CLARK	Teachers Aide/Library Assistant	Mon, Tues & Wed
Mrs Genevieve CLEARY	Canteen	Thursday
Ms Jazmyn CLEARY	Uniform Shop	Tues & Fri
Mrs Jennifer COOPE	6C - C/R Teacher - Learning Technology Co-ord	Monday - Friday
Miss Deborah COX	KC - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Jan CRAWFORD	Canteen	Mon, Tues & Fri
Mr Tom CROWLEY	3C - C/R Teacher - Stage 2 Coordinator	Monday - Friday
Mrs Renata DICKINSON	Teachers Aide	Mon, Tues
Miss Stephanie DOHERTY	3D - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Aristeia DUDLEY	Maternity Leave	-
Mr Daryl EARL	Groundsman (Workers Comp)	-
Mrs Anne EASTON	6E - C/R Teacher - Religious Education Co-ord	Monday - Friday
Mrs Norma EID	4E - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Helena FERNANDES	Learning Support Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Karen FOXE	5K - C/R Teacher - Job Share	Mon, Tues & Wed
Miss Josephine GALEA	1G - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Miss Charlotte GOURLIE	2G - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Maree GRAINGER	KW - C/R Teacher - Job Share	Thurs & Fri
Mrs Kay HALE	KB - C/R Teacher - Exec Release (Cherie Baddock)	Thursday
Miss Elise HAMMOND	2H - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Amanda HART	Administration Officer	Thurs & Fri
Mrs Robyn HOOGENVEST	Administration Officer	Monday - Friday
Mr Ron HOOGENVEST	Groundsman	Monday - Friday
Mrs Christine HUTCHISON	Learning Support Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Marcia KEENAN	1P - C/R Teacher - Job Share - IT Specialist	Wed, Thurs & Fri
Mr John LAFFAN	Principal	Monday - Friday
Mrs Joanne LAWSON	6J - C/R Teacher - Job Share	Tues, Thurs & Fri

2012 STAFF LIST cont...

NAME	POSITION	DAYS WORKED
Miss Patrina LEPATU	Trade School - Trainee	Friday
Mrs Sharon LEWIS	Administration Officer	Mon, Tues & Wed
Miss Kathryn LONG	2L - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Michelle MASTROSA	4M - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Miss Kerrilyn O'BRIEN	1O - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Michelle O'LEARY	1M - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Miss Katrina ORENSTEIN	CAPA Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Harlane PETERSEN	5P - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mr Jeff PHILLIPS	PE Teacher	Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri
Mrs Miranda PORTELLI	1P - C/R Teacher - Job Share	Mon, Tues & Wed
Ms Cassandra POWELL	Administration Officer	Mon, Tues & Thurs
Mrs Julia REAIDI	6J - C/R Teacher - Job Share - Exec Release (Coley White)	Mon, Wed, Thurs
Mrs Sandra RUSSO	Maternity Leave	-
Mrs Elaine SAID	3S - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Lisa SAMOJLOWICZ	KS - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Lisa SEBELIC	2S - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Angela SIRACUSA	4S - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mr Peter SPICER	5S - C/R Teacher	Monday - Friday
Mrs Karen VALERI	5K - C/R Teacher - Job Share	Thurs & Fri
Mrs Colleen WALSH	KW - C/R Teacher - Job Share	Mon, Tues & Wed
Mr Coley WHITE	5W - C/R Teacher - Stage 3 Coordinator	Monday - Friday
Mrs Doris WHITE	Cleaner	Monday - Friday

Child Protection for Volunteers

It is a system requirement that child protection training be completed by all volunteers commencing work in our school. An online training model for use by volunteers is available. After successfully completing the online module, an email notification will be sent automatically to the volunteer's email address and to the school email address. This email is a confirmation that the training has been successfully completed by the volunteer. The school office will then send home a declaration to be completed and signed. Child protection online training module for volunteers may be accessed via the Catholic Education Office website. <http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp>

Anaphylaxis

A LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY: Throughout our school we have several children with life threatening allergies to various forms of food. This is a serious issue that the school must address and we have implemented various management strategies to cater for these children.

In order for our school to continue to be allergy aware we ask that you consider not including nuts and eggs as part of your child's recess or lunch.

Thank you for considering the special health needs of these children.

