



# ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 2010 Issue 18  
30th November 2010

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

May the Blessing of Advent be upon all.

This time of waiting invites us to quiet moments of reflection... What is it we are waiting for? Who is it we are waiting for? How open are we to waiting?

We live in the times of quick fix and gratification, yet now we are being invited to sit, be still and wait.

I invite you to sit with this prayer and breathe deeply the response:

"The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon".

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low: the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken". Get you up to a high mountain O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

***As we look at the imperfections and problems of our world and our lives, we must realise that Jesus promises something better: Our Advent longing is for him to come again, bringing the Kingdom of God in its fullness.***

**Response:** The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon.

***We look at our world and see refugees and asylum seekers looking for safety and hope. We see homelessness on our streets. We experience anxiety for financial security for ourselves and our families. We believe in a better world ... God's Kingdom to come.***

**Response:** The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon.

**PRAYER:**

Father in heaven  
the day draws near when the glory of your Son  
will make radiant the night of the waiting world.  
May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy  
which moves the hearts of those who seek Him.  
May the darkness not blind us  
to the vision of wisdom  
which fills the minds of those who find Him. **Amen**

Regards,

John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**



**School Website:**  
www.stmichaelsblktn.parra.catholic.edu.au  
**Email:**  
stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

### DECEMBER

Wed 1st	Pre-schoolers Christmas Party
"	Patrician Brothers' Orientation
Fri 3rd	Year 5 Leadership Day
Mon 6th	Primary Assembly—4E presenting 2.15pm
Tues 7th	Voting for 2011 School Captains
Thurs 9th	Thank you morning tea for parent helpers 10.45am
Fri 10th	End of Year Mass 9.30am
"	Voting for 2011 Colour Captains
Mon 13th	Year 6 Picnic Day & Year 6 Assembly
"	Reports & Portfolios send home

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
Thursday 16th December and Friday 17th December are Staff Development Days  
**The last day for student attendance is:**  
**Wednesday 15th December**

**St. Michael's Church  
Orwell Street,  
Blacktown South**  
**MASS Times:**  
Sat. Vigil—6.00pm  
Sunday—8.00am, 9.30am, 6.00pm  
**Weekdays—8.00am**  
Wednesday Evening—7.30pm  
1st Friday-7.30pm Ph:9622 9149  
[www.stmichaelsparish.com](http://www.stmichaelsparish.com)

**GOING HOME with this Newsletter:**

- ◆ Education Tax Rebate
- ◆ Invitation—Thank You Morning Tea




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## RE NEWS

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Last Sunday was the First Sunday of Advent which is the commencement of the new liturgical year. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means 'coming'. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas.

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

Please support our Hamper Drive for St Vincent de Paul. Each grade has been allocated an item of food to donate. Our contributions will be given to St Vincent de Paul next Wednesday.

Mrs. Anne Easton

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

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## CHRISTMAS APPEAL REMINDER

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As part of our Outreach activities each year we collect non-perishable items for St. Michael's – St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference Christmas Appeal. Each class member is asked to bring in the item listed for their class before **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010**. We ask that you support this worthwhile appeal so we can help the members of our community who are less fortunate than us to celebrate Christmas in a special way.

**Kindergarten:** Christmas Cake, Christmas Pudding

**Year 1:** Lollies, nuts, chips

**Year 2:** Biscuits (sweet or savoury), fruit mince tarts

**Year 3:** Long life milk and custard, tea or coffee

**Year 4:** Soft drinks, poppas

**Year 5:** Canned fruit, salad items such as beetroot, asparagus, corn, bean mix etc, canned ham

**Year 6:** Condiments such as pickled onions, gherkins mustard, pickles and sauces such as cranberry, apple etc., gravy

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## AWARDS

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Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our infants assembly on 22nd November 2010:

**KG**

Ella Moggridge  
Matthew Wormleaton  
Khushi Shah  
Ryan Moller

**KO**

Zack Hardman  
Ellie Debian  
Marjan Khan  
Liam Cruz

**KP**

Ante Zlendich  
Jaiman Godla  
Pavithran Visakesewaren  
Madelyn Attard

**1K**

Noah Pomente  
Ashton Williams  
Declan Saurez  
Anthony Abouhamed

**1M**

Ethan Roychoudhry  
Thomas Uren  
Mina Kassis  
Angelina Ayala

**2B**

Seandan Arias  
Owen Walker  
Eian DeLeon  
Gabrielle Gumatay

**2L**

Andre Tecson  
Brandon Law  
Jessica O'Brien

**KW**

Leilani Balewai  
Roen Dantoc  
Samuel Regan  
Shanelle Agon

**1L**

Christian Telidis  
Reese Sto Domingo  
Tahleah Robinson  
Blake Doolin

**1O**

Jeydan Sami  
Maddison Scerri  
Jaidyn Dunn  
Rena Sanga

**2F**

Miguell Gara  
Ivana Zlenich  
Hayley Vella  
Sarah Sepulveda

**2S**

Ronald David  
Ryan Santa Maria  
Sage Andary  
Krisha Narayan

Congratulations to the following students who received a **MERIT CERTIFICATE** at our primary assembly on 29th November 2011:

**3G**

Hayden Hunter  
Eunice Cruz  
William Gafa

**3S**

Andre Angulo  
Emily Hartsuyker  
Naro Sanga  
Caleb Gara

**4C**

Kalebh Pearson  
Kassy Papadimatos  
Nadia Tong  
James Kinsella

**4S**

Marcelle Sader  
Shanna Raj  
Ella Von Buren  
Zahrah Khan

**5K**

Virginia Mafi  
Chloe Smith  
Gergis Abdalla  
Jack Bartlett

**6C**

Ivan Vrljic  
Jarrod Frugniet  
Trudy Agyeiwaa  
Natasha Gatto

**3R**

Giorgio Hajjar  
Matthew Hasna  
Claudia DeBartolo  
Geraldine Vella

**3W**

Tyren Miller  
Sindhu Lal  
Jason Dent  
Joshua Wehbe

**4M**

Liann Aquino  
Carmen Baldacchino  
Nicholas Urluddag  
Jacinta Jarosz

**5B**

Maryann Aziz  
Adrianna Bocchi  
Rebecca Phillips  
Malvin Khan

**5S**

Carmen Makarous  
Christopher Satorre  
Dominic Grech  
Terry-James Kairouz

**6E**

Mitchell Roseby  
Khang Nguyen  
Marisa Tabone  
Katherine Lin



**6J**  
Joshua Dib  
Sarah Cefai  
Paul Attard  
Kiran Kaur

**6P**  
Rachael Osborne  
Trisha Cabuay  
Isaiah Requierme  
Carl Cruz

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## CHESSE 2010

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Congratulations to our Chess Champions for 2010:

Year 6: **Jason Pinto**  
Year 5: **Haile Zabala**  
Year 4: **Kalebh Pearson**  
Year 3: **Sukhamrit Sandhu**  
Year 2: **Eric Triparthi**  
Year 1: **Shaun Cabuay**  
Kinder: **Matthew Wormleaton**

Overall School Chess Champion for 2010 is:  
**Kalebh Pearson**

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## CHANGES TO REPORTS YEARS 1-4

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There has been an addition to the Year 1-4 Yearly Reports. An **extra row** has been added which indicates the number of students in that **grade** who achieved at the A-E level.

On the table below you can see that the child received a C Achievement for that subject. In this grade there were 13 children who received a C.

E	D	C	B	A
		✓		
6	12	13	9	8

Reports and portfolios will be distributed on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

Anne-Maree Friend  
**ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING COORDINATOR**

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## PRESCHOOL SURVEY

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Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is conducting a preschool viability study for the St Michael's Blacktown South Parish site. The CEO has contracted Families At Work, an external company specialising in this field, to conduct this research and provide a report.

The first step is a survey to determine the scope of the preschool needs and to assess whether there is enough demand now and into the future for a viable preschool. If there is a strong demand then this proposal will proceed to the next planning stage.

Responses from parents and from non-parents are important. The higher the response rate to the survey the more valid the results will be. You can assist by completing the online by 07 December 2010 on the St Michael's Primary School website at [www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au) and urging others

to do so as well. The survey will be available online as from 22 November 2010.

If you do not have internet access a paper copy of the survey is available from the St Michael's Primary School office or from the Nagle College office.

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## CANTEEN NEWS

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**PRICE INCREASE:** Pop Top Juice is now \$2.00

As we are coming to the end of term we will be running down our hot food items over the next two weeks. From next week could you please put a second choice hot food item or sandwich on your child's lunch order.

**Monday and Tuesday** of the last week we will only be able to provide sandwiches, wraps and salad boxes.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford  
**CANTEEN MANAGER**

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## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

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If you are looking for Before/After School care there may be available positions at Holy Family Children's Services, Marayong. For further information or enquiries please contact the Director, Natalie Fraser on 9626 1344.

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## FROM THE LIBRARY

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This week is the last week for children to borrow from the Library, and **ALL** books need to be returned by next **TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**.

Parents, could you please help your children to hunt around for any books they may still have. Some students still have outstanding loans from early in the year. There are also several story CDs missing from packs. If you find a story CD in a CD player, could you please send it along to the Library. I will try to send out reminder notes early next week to individual students, but it would certainly save me a lot of time if books were returned before this.

If books are not returned promptly following the reminders, unfortunately I will then have to send out a bill for those that are missing. The school spends quite a lot of money purchasing lovely books for all students to use. As part of our role, we try to teach students a sense of responsibility in caring for books and returning them for others to use as well.

THANKYOU THANKYOU THANKYOU THANKYOU

I would like to say a big "Thankyou" to all the parents who have helped the Library throughout the year. Mrs Pinto, Mrs Galea and Mrs Depares spent countless hours on the Book Club collating orders, counting money and distributing books when they arrived. Many thanks on behalf of the students who greatly appreciated getting Book Club books.

Another big Thankyou to all the Book Coverers: Mrs Lin, Mr and Mrs Roseby, Mrs Triparthi, Mrs Lisciotto, Mrs Pinto, Mrs



Galea, Mrs Tabone, Mrs Khan, Mrs Vella. Thanks to these wonderful people, the Library books are protected and quickly made available for students to borrow. If I have left anyone out, I apologise, but I really do appreciate your help. Please let me know so that I can acknowledge your efforts as well.

Judy Buhagiar  
**TEACHER/LIBRARIAN**

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## P & F NEWS

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The end of the year is fast approaching and another Year 6 grade is soon to leave us having spent seven years growing under the banner of "Love One Another".

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)*

Following this motto throughout your secondary schooling will place you in good stead for your family and personal relationships. The P&F wish you all the best for your future.

St Michael's Parish Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, 11th December at Nagle Hall. Please see the parish website or the weekly bulletin for start times.

'Skool Is Kool' promotion has provided \$1,000 for the P&F to buy a microwave and toasters for the canteen, and hard drives for the movie making and radio station at the school. Thank you to those families who told the Good Guys at Prospect that they were part of the school when making purchases.

If you make a purchase from the Good Guys at Prospect this Christmas, drop the school's name at the register to get vouchers for the school.

All sizes of shirts have been ordered and we trust they will be available shortly.

The Uniform Shop will be open Wednesday afternoon and Friday mornings.

Preschoolers Morning Tea Christmas Party will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, 1st December in the Parish Hall. If you have been a part of the group over the last year please let Joanne and Maryann of your intention to come if you have not done so. Thanks to Maryann and Joanne for their effort during the year. The P&F look forward to working with Penny and Alison (2011 Preschoolers Morning Tea Coordinators) throughout next year.

"Learn to Ride" will be conducted on the 5th March 2011. A flyer will be distributed early next year.

Thank you  
Paul Scott  
0416250591

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## GREEN ZONE

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As the end of the year is fast approaching and the holidays are getting closer, why not use the holidays to explore our environment?! It's free and there's so much to see and learn. The environment gives children the opportunity to experience joy, wonder, even solitude, in their everyday lives. Let children create their own nature experiences and, as they grow up, expand the boundaries of their exploration.

Here are a few Nature Activities for kids and families:

**Tell your children about where in nature was special to you as a child.** Visit a similar place, allow your children to find their own special place or space.

**Be a cloud spotter.** Allow your children to use their imagination and create pictures and stories from this natural beauty.

**Go for a walk.** Take your children on a bush walk. Explore various plants, animals and environments. The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs in NSW offers details of different clubs and the events and walks they organise, some of which are for children. ([www.bushwalking.org.au](http://www.bushwalking.org.au))

**Plant a garden.** Plant seasonal fruit, vegetables, flowers or herbs and watch them grow. This provides great learning as well as giving your children a sense of responsibility in taking care of their garden.

**Read outdoors.** Spend time outside reading with your children. Reading stimulates the ecology of the imagination, especially if it's done under a tree or stretched out on the lawn.

**Establish a 'GREEN HOUR' as part of the family routine.** Don't see this as another chore to tick off the list, just as an opportunity to play – whether it's going outside to kick a ball, walk through the garden, going for a bike ride, taking a walk to the local park or even just spending some time together away from everyday technology.

There are so many ways we can appreciate the natural wonder around us and teach our children to care for and respect these creations that we are so lucky to have. Why not get closer to nature these holidays!

### \*\*\*\* LABELLING REMINDER \*\*\*\*

Now is the perfect time to check your children's belongings and ensure they have clear labels, ready for the new year. Be sure to clearly label any new items that you may purchase for the new year, with name and **current class**. Let's all work together to do our part in helping to eliminate waste at St. Michael's.

This will be the last Green Zone for the year. We hope some of the tips have been helpful and informative. Watch this space again in 2011.

**Nano Nature Nurturers**

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## SCHOOL FEES

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Thank you to all the families who have finalised their school fee account. Just a reminder that all fees were payable by the end of Term 3. If you still have outstanding school fees, and you have not made any arrangements, please contact Mrs Robyn Hoogenvest.

**Resource Fee Accounts** were mailed out by the Catholic Education Office on 15th October and second reminders will be sent out this week. As we need to purchase resources for our students, we ask that these accounts be settled by the due date.

If you are unable to finalise by the due date, please contact Mrs Robyn Hoogenvest.

Thank you for your continued support.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

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Congratulations to Gregory Kaskaniotis, our first St Michael's student who completed his first AMEB Exam in Violin at the Conservatorium of music and received an "A" with honours. Well done, Gregory.