



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

St. Michael's Primary School
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Blacktown NSW 2148
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Volume 2010 Issue 2
16th February 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

Last Friday we celebrated through the "Eucharist" the beginning of our Spiritual year. As I looked across our growing community, I couldn't help but be inspired by the way our children prayed and celebrated the "Love of God".

These moments of true community reflect the reality of St. Michael's.

Our Vision and Mission statement challenges us to become fully human in such celebrations, however, I call us to provide more as adults, you, my colleagues and I are charged with a great responsibility in "bringing out the person" through **Engaging, Empowering and Reflection.**

This week is the beginning of this **professional relationship.** I believe it is your responsibility to attend this weeks meetings, begin the process of supporting your child's wholistic development.

This **Tuesday's Meetings** represent an opportunity to support, participate in and significantly enhance your child's academic development in 2010.

This year we will be using research data and analysis by John Hattie.

His studies tell us:-

- ◆ Parents have major effects in terms of encouragement and expectations that they transmit to their children.
- ◆ Parental **aspirations** and **expectations** for children's educational achievement has the strongest relations with achievement.
- ◆ Schools need to work in partnership with parents to make their expectations appropriately high and challenging.
- ◆ Schools need to support parents in the **language of schooling** so that the home and school can share in the expectations and the child does not have to live in two worlds—with little understanding between home and school.

So then our Goals are clear together, we can make things happen.



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

FEBRUARY

Wed 17th	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Mon 22nd	Whole School Assembly—Sports Captains Induction—2.15pm
Fri 26th	Zone Swimming Carnival

MARCH

Mon 1st	Infants Assembly—1L presenting—2.15pm
"	Years 5 & 6 Mass—9.30am
Fri 5th	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Mon 8th	Primary Assembly—6P presenting—2.15pm
Wed 10	Student Leaders Conference
Thurs 11th	Year 1 Excursion to Sydney Airport

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

GOING HOME with this Newsletter:

- ◆ Blacktown Highway Patrol
- ◆ Sports Report
- ◆ Farmers Market
- ◆ Blacktown City Show
- ◆ P&F Winter Jackets
- ◆ P&F Cook Book
- ◆ P&F Learn to Ride/Mens Golf Day expression of interest



REFLECTION:

***Good and gracious God
you who move the stars and the human
heart as well.
Thank you for all the ways you enter
into holy Communion with us on the journey
to sustain us, nurture us, and hold us in life.***

***In the Eucharist you give us,
you make of us a people of gratitude
for all the gifts of life
for the change of seasons
for the delights of childhood
and the comfort of wisdom
for all manner of faith, family, food and
friendship
and for every unfulfilled desire of our hearts.
We praise you, worship you, and glorify you
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.***



Regards,

**John Laffan
PRINCIPAL**

RE NEWS

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In the season of Lent we are invited by God to raise our awareness of Him in our lives, allowing the spirit to create a desire to know Him who is full of compassion, slow to anger and rich in graciousness.

We are invited to open our hearts and pray for those living in extreme poverty. We are called to commit to raising awareness of injustices and violence in our world, and be filled with compassion.

During Lent we are called to be honest before God and replenish our desire to spend more time in prayer, not seeing it as an obligation, but a time of joyful communion of hearts.

This should lead us to be filled with compassion and to open our hearts to pray for those living in extreme poverty. We can make an active commitment to raising awareness of injustice and violence in our world.

The Lenten discipline of fasting, prayer and acts of charity requires a change of heart. We must become like Christ reflecting and being faithful to the call to walk the Way of the Cross, serving others and responding with compassion.

During our school liturgy tomorrow each family will receive a Project Compassion Box to take home. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's major annual fundraising and education campaign which begins on Ash Wednesday, 17 February and runs until Easter Sunday, 4 April.

Mrs Anne Easton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MATHEMATICS IDEAS

At St Michael's the school community provides educational opportunities that encourage and enable all students to enjoy learning and be competent mathematicians.

Several suggestions to parents for developing further understanding in mathematics are:-

1. Discuss the numbers on houses in your street. Ask you child to describe what's happening to numbers as you walk along.



2. Looking at Parking Signs and discussing the time restrictions when parking the car.
3. Looking at a Calendar together and marking important dates. Talk about how many days until each event.
4. Record your child's growth on a height chart or permanent fixture in the home. Discuss differences and record changes over time.
5. Look at food items with measurements on them. Compare mass and capacity of various food items.

Enjoy Maths!!!
Mr Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

P & F NEWS

For many of us we will be meeting our child's 2010 teacher for the first time, this week.

While this initial contact is primarily introductory we are encouraged to make an appointment with the new class teacher to ascertain more specific information about our child's transition into their new class. What might you talk about when you do?

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities suggest the following Questions to get you started.

- ◆ How is my child fitting in with other children?
- ◆ What are the children working on now in class?
- ◆ Is there anything about my child's needs that I should know?
- ◆ Does my child ask questions, participate in class discussions/ class room activities?
- ◆ Is my child's reading progress satisfactory?
- ◆ What activities does my child seem to enjoy the most at school?
- ◆ Who are my child's friends?
- ◆ Is he or she accepted by the other children?
- ◆ What kind of books does my child like best?
- ◆ Is my child's numeracy progress satisfactory?
- ◆ Does my child join in with other children in the playground?
- ◆ Do you have any problems with my child in class?
- ◆ What kinds of things will the class be doing over the next few weeks?
- ◆ What kind of library books will support what is going on at school right now? This year?
- ◆ Does my child easily follow directions?
- ◆ Can you tell me the best time and way to contact you (the teacher) if I have a query or concern?
- ◆ What can I do as a parent to help my child progress in school this year?

- ◆ Do you have any concerns about my child?
- ◆ Does my child easily cooperate and follow the rules and routines during class time?
- ◆ How is my child progressing in comparison to others in his/her year level?

The School's swimming carnival was held last week. Congratulations to all those who now have the opportunity to represent our school in the ensuing Diocesan Carnivals. We know you will do us proud.

Clothing Pool Hours - New polo shirts sizes 6, 12 and 14 are available for sale at the clothing pool from this Friday. The school and Lowes have come to an agreement that our new polo shirts can be sold when they have depleted their stock in a particular size. Shirt price \$20.00
Hours Wednesday Afternoon, 2.15-3.00pm
 Friday Morning, 8.45-9.30am

The Clothing Pool provides some new items and a range of second hand uniforms. Second hand uniforms range in price and are marked accordingly. If you have any uniforms, in good condition, please drop off at the school office. Reduce.Reuse.Recycle

Upcoming Events - Pushbike Learn to Ride 27th Feb, (Two weeks to go)
General Meeting 1.30pm, 17th March. All Welcome.

Preschoolers Morning Tea—Held each Wednesday morning at St Michael's Parish Hall. Come along with your preschooler. A gold coin donation is collected each day and all monies raised are presented to the Parish at the end of each month. Time 9.30-11.0am. Organisers: Joanne Obote and Maryanne Galea.

Recipe Book - New parents of kindergarten children have been invited to contribute to the book. Please see flyer in this Newsletter.

Good Guys - Last year, purchases from the Good Guys at Home Base enabled the school to purchase much needed I.T equipment - digital cameras, flash drives and bags for the children to use, to capture the year at the school. When making a purchase let them know that you are from St Michaels Blacktown. For every \$25.00 you spend the school receives \$1.00

Government Grant - Last year the P and F applied for a federal government grant for the purchase of Computer equipment and software and food warming equipment. We were fortunate that the full amount of \$3300 was received and orders will be placed for this equipment.



Thank you for your support and any enquiries please contact any of the committee members

Paul Scott
Mob: 0416250591

FROM THE LIBRARY

World Maths Day

World Maths Day will be held on **Wednesday March 3rd**. Two years ago we registered late and could only let limited numbers of students participate, but they all had a WOW of a time. This year, we will once again register several classes to take part at school. However, some students might like to continue the challenge at home. If so, you can register your children for free online at <http://www.worldmathsday.com/2010/Default.aspx?>

Book Club

The first Book Club brochures of the year went out last week. Orders must be returned by **Monday 22nd February**. Late orders cannot be accepted.

Books from Scholastic Book Club are reasonably priced, and brochures will be sent once each term. While buying books for your family will help the school by giving us reward points to purchase books for the Library, there is no obligation. Feel free to buy or not.

If you wish to purchase books, please fill in the order forms carefully with the name and class of the student, and clearly mark the book/s required. Put this order form and the money in an envelope marked Book Club, with your child's name and class, and return it to school.

You can pay with cash or cheque made out to Scholastic Book Club, or you can ring the scholastic phone number on the brochure to pay by credit card. They will give you a receipt number to fill in.

Library

All classes have begun borrowing already and are enjoying the books available. Borrowing days are as follows:-

Monday :	2L, 2F, 2B, 4E, 5K
Tuesday :	KW, 1L, 1K, 3W, 4S, 6J, 6P
Wednesday :	KG, KP, 3G, 4C, 4M, 5B, 5S, 6C
Thursday :	1O, 1M, 3R,
Friday :	KO, 2S, 3S, 6E

Parents, could you please ensure that all children have a cloth Library bag – a “green” shopping bag

will do, or a school Library bag is available from the Clothing Pool. Also could you help your children remember their Library books and bag on their Library Day.

Overdue Books

There are still some students with books that are overdue from last year. If you find any books with a Library barcode on the front cover, please return it to school as soon as possible.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Once again, we are encouraging students to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. This requires Infants students to read or listen to 30 stories, and Primary students to read 20 books between February and August. Interested students need to give their names to Mrs Buhagiar so I can organize passwords for you to record online the books you read. In the meantime, keep a written record.

Successful students will receive a certificate from the Premier. Those who complete the Challenge for 4 years will receive a Gold certificate.

FROM THE PARISH

Reminder that you cannot park in the **DISABLED CAR SPACES** unless you display a Disable Parking Permit. Thanks for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

CANTEEN NEWS

We have had a disappointing response for volunteers in the canteen this year. As a result we will only be able to supply **sandwiches and wraps** on Thursdays unless we have **six more all day helpers**. At this stage we have only 2 volunteers.

Unfortunately if we don't get anymore volunteers for Thursdays the canteen is at risk of not be able to supply any lunches at all, so please if you are able to assist the children at St Michael's it would be very much appreciated. You would only be required one day every four weeks from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

Jan Crawford
Canteen Manager
Ph: 9622 5703 after 4.00pm