



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 1
2nd February 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Friends,

“My School Website” St. Michael's Position

The publication of results, analysis findings, establishment of clear goals and setting of defined targets in our core learning areas is nothing new for our school community.

Over the last 5 years we have responded on a transparent and proactive way in meeting the needs of our children as discovered through analysis of a variety of assessment tools. The clear needs is that our results in years three and five indicate:-

- ◆ We are at or above national averages in English and Maths.
- ◆ We are stronger in reading, spelling and writing than we are in Maths.
- ◆ Our 2009 results in Year 3 indicate our early intervention programme commenced 3 years ago is having positive effects.
- ◆ No individuals results proved a surprise as our previous data provided accurate tracking.
- ◆ The data then demonstrates a clear need to continue our drive to increase * teacher capacity” in areas of Mathematics, particularly:-
 - * Problem solving
 - * Mathematical Mental Strategies
 - * Mathematical language

Secondly that our program of professional learning in English will focus on development of our “Literacy Blocks” in accordance with our “shared beliefs of practise or Pedagogy”.

Yes, the “My School Website” is relevant not in comparing “apples with mangoes” but in continuing to support all our other assessment tools in directing our Professional Learning, Resourcing and explicit tracking.

“The Whole Village” - Growth, change and success of student outcomes will require all of us working together in supporting students learning.

Over the year we will continue to share ways in which the school and home can support, challenge and model your child's learning needs.



School Website:

www.stmichaelsblktn.parra.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

FEBRUARY

Wed 3	Primary Swimming Carnival—Blacktown Aquatic Centre
“	Kindergarten—Full Day
Wed 10th	Kinder families BBQ & Disco 5.30-7.00pm
“	P&F Committee Meeting—7.00pm
Tues 16th	3.15pm & 6.30pm Parent/child Information sessions—Years 1-6 6.30pm—Kindergarten
Wed 17th	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Mon 22nd	Whole School Assembly—Sports Captains Induction—2.15pm

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:

- ◆ Swimming Carnival Reminder
- ◆ Learn to Ride
- ◆ Clothing Pool Pricelist
- ◆ Term Planner
- ◆ Pre-Schooler's Morning Tea
- ◆ Toongabbie Tigers Rugby League
- ◆ Centacare Catholic Social Services



REFLECTION:

During a recent bush walk I was stupid enough not to take adequate water supply. The effects of dehydration were sudden and was it not for the support of others the results could have been detrimental to my health.

So how does God Thirst for Us

Our thirst is so great we can get lost in it and ignore the very truth that could satisfy.

The great truth is God thirsts for us, even in our sin. Remember, it is Jesus who asked the confused and searching woman for a drink. It is He who reached out for her.

When we see the full mystery of Lent and Easter, we realize that, as great as our dry thirst and wide yearning may be, it is God's eternal thirst for us, for our faith, our trust, our love, that is the central mystery of being.

Jesus is the stream of love between God and ourselves. We are invited to drink of the mystery, this outpouring of love, embodied in Jesus, the thirst of God for us. His "I am thirsty" from the cross is as much the voice of God as it is the stirring of a human heart. It is not Christ's humanity alone that feels the parching. It is his divinity too.



Regards,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

RE NEWS

In the Gospel next Sunday we will hear about the apostles being called by Jesus. Like the apostles, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse to prevent us from taking up the call.

Next Friday 12th February we will celebrate the beginning of the 2010 school year with a whole school Mass at 9.30am in the Church. During our Mass we will induct our 2010 student leadership team and welcome all new students and teachers. Please feel most welcome to attend.

Mrs Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

2010 STUDENT LEADERS

Congratulations to the 2010 Student Leadership Team:

Captains:

Trisha Cabuay & Mitchell Roseby

Vice Captains:

Angelica Tabone & Liam Dickinson

Student Leaders:

Marisa Tabone & Khang Nguyen

2009 CHESS CHAMPIONS

Congratulations:

- Year 1 & 2: Sukhman Banwait
- Year 3: Kalebh Pearson
- Year 4: Haile Zabala
- Year 5: Khang Nguyen
- Year 6: Hans Zabala

2009 School Chess Champion: Kalebh Pearson

FROM THE OFFICE

REMINDERS:

- ◆ If your child is late for school please come into the office and complete a Late Arrivers slip.
- ◆ Could any changes in address or phone numbers please be sent to the office.
- ◆ Only prescription medication can be administered by office staff and an Authority to Administer Medication form must be completed and all medication must be sent to school in original container.
- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE** the **CANTEEN** is closed on Wednesday's so please ensure that your child brings recess and lunch on this day.
- ◆ Office Hours: 8.30am to 3.15pm for payment of school fees.

CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome back and happy New Year for 2010. Pink volunteer forms went home last week for Years 1-6 and Monday for Kindergarten. Please consider helping, with over 740 children at the



school we need all the help we can get even if it is only 1 or 2 hours. Our roster will tell you all your rostered days. Spare notes are available from the student foyer. Please return your forms as soon as possible. Dads and grandparents are most welcome to help as well.

We will be using the GREEN PRICE LIST from 2009 for the next few weeks until the new price list is ready to be sent home.

Please take Pasta Salad and Tortellini off the price list as these are unavailable.

Please come and join our happy group of volunteers, any questions come and see me in the canteen.

Looking forward to working with lots of new people and the returning parents from last year.

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Home Phone: 9622 5703

P & F NEWS

Welcome back to 2010 year. The P&F hope you had a happy and safe holiday season and your child/ren enjoy their learning in the coming year.

The Catholic School Experience

Occasionally we hear or become involved in schoolyard conversations regarding the education of our children.

Many comparisons are made regarding differences between St Michael's and a public school that a friend's child may attend. Whether it is class size, resources or additional classes offered.

During a karate class, which my family attended in December last year, the Sensei (Kancho) gathered the children aged between 8 and 16 to discuss the year passed. The conversation centered around Compassion, Service and Love. He asked all students to discuss these issues and how they have been used in their lives.

Most students could not give an example, except the students who attended Catholic schools. These students were able to respond openly drawing upon several rich and varied experiences provided by their schools and families.

While some perceive and focus on differences, often, the growth of our children should not be solely measured on academic results but their growth as a whole person.

"Our small shoulders cannot carry the weight of the world, however our arms can serve another and change their world forever."

Kancho Deena Naidu (1950)

P and F News

The end of 2009 saw a reshuffle in the P and F Committee. I would like to thank Annie Murray for her three years as President of the organisation. Her hard work has set up the organization for success in the coming years. I look forward to working with the team over the next 10 months.

Planned events at this stage, Include, kindergarten parent morning tea Learn to Ride, Family Fun Day, fathers

and mother's day stalls, school discos and family camp out and other events to be advised.

The Clothing Pool

The clothing pool is located in the portable building behind the Year 6 block, and opposite the Ursula Companion Centre.

Items for sale include second hand uniforms, boys and girls.

Baseball caps, bucket and cricket hats. St Michael's School bag, library and lunch bags.

Please see flyer in this newsletter.

Sports Shirts

The school will meet with the head of Lowes division next Monday, 8th February to confirm the sale and supply of the schools sport shirt. Please rest assure that **if we are not** able to proceed with our product then all refunds will be honoured. We hope that we will be able to commence sale of our product next week.

Clothing Pool—Hours of operation:

Wednesday afternoon, 2.15-3.30pm

Friday mornings 8.45-9.30am

New child restraint laws are coming

New Child restraint laws commence 1st March 2010.

Please check the RTA's website, www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety

The Good Guys

The Good Guys Prospect, Home Base, Prospect, 'Skool Is Kool' program last year provided the school with vouchers following purchases from the school community. When you make a purchase over \$25 from the shop at Prospect let them know you are from St Michaels and your purchase goes towards the school's voucher amount

Preschooler's morning Tea

The morning tea kicks off for 2010 this Wednesday in the St Michaels church hall. Time 9.30 -11.00am
Joanne Obote, 9621 6980 or Maryanne Galea

Thank You

Thanks to all who assisted last year in the events the P and F were involved in. Without parent helpers, service to the school community would be greatly diminished.

On behalf P and F

Paul 0416250591

Annie 0418 494 030

YEAR TWO—RECORDER

The students of **Year Two** are starting to learn the recorder during term one. Though not everyone's cup of tea, this is a very good instrument for children to start on as it is portable and is just the right size for their



fingers. During the program the students will learn things that will carry them throughout their musical life. They will not only learn how to correctly hold and play the recorder, they will learn the correct breathing techniques for wind instruments and the basics on how to read music (the RECORDER and the FLUTE actually have the same fingering too, so if your child can play the recorder, they already know all the notes on the flute!)

To get the most out of the program however, your child will need to practice at home. Look out for a YELLOW PRACTICE SHEET, which has all of the pieces that they will learn this term, and try to set aside 2-5 minutes a day (which is not very long) where your child can have a little play.

Mrs Aristeo Dudley
MUSIC TEACHER

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

Sacramental Process starting soon!! Families with children in Years 3 and 4 or older, who are members of St Michael's Parish are invited to register.

How to do it? Just pick up an information letter and registration form from the back of the Church when you come to Mass on weekends or visit the Church for your private prayer on weekdays. The enrolment forms need to be returned by 19th February to Sr Grace at the Parish Office. Sr Grace is in the office very Tuesday and Thursday from 2.15-4.15pm. If these days and times are not convenient for you, please contact Sr Grace on 9622 9149 or 0420 754 733 or email: srgrace@stmichaelsparish.com to schedule a more convenient time. In the enrolment package you will also find the details of the first meeting.

SPORTING CLUB REGISTRATIONS

Nagle Netball Club registration days will be held on **Saturday 6th & 13th February 2010**
10.00am—2.00pm

BCNA Tower International Peace Park
Boyd Street, Blacktown

Members and NEW players are welcome
Coaches and Umpires needed
Please visit 222.naglenetball.com.au
For Registration Forms and News.

If you have any questions, just call us:
Lyn Buchanan 9837 4161 or 0403164163
Cassie Johnson 9837 4503 or 0400136629
Celebrating 42 years in Netball Excellence

St Patrick's Soccer Club

Registrations will be held on :
6th February from 10.00am-2.00pm at Anne Aquilina Reserve, Easton Creek, Doonside or on our first training night on 9th February.

If you require further information please contact Silvana Martignago on 0422 747 235

MY SCHOOL WEBSITE

On 28th January 2010, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) launched the **My School** website (www.myschool.edu.au). This is the first time in Australia that information on all schools (almost 10,000) is available in one place. The website shows comparisons between our school's results and those from statistically similar schools across Australia—we can see how our school is performing against other schools with similar student population characteristics. From this, we can see in what areas our school is doing well and where we need to look to make improvements.

There is a lot of information contained on the website, and we encourage parents, carers and other interested members of the school community to view the website. If you have any questions you can go directly to the ACARA information desk (at 1300 895 563), or please contact me at the school.

Regards
Michael Siciliano
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Maltese language & culture classes
Primary—High School—Adults

Smithfield West—Seven Hills—Newtown
NEW for 2010...Rouse Hill—Richmond

Details: Jane Borg 9920 0977 or 0411 477 233

skolamaltijasydney@yahoo.com.au
www.malteseacademynsw.org