



UPCOMING EVENTS:

TERM 1

March

Wed 5th	ASH WEDNESDAY
Fri 7th	Whole School Assembly - 2.15pm Sports Captains Induction
Mon 10th	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK  OPEN DAY - 10-11am
Tues 11th	Literacy Open Classrooms 10-11am
Wed 12th	PE/CAPA Open Classrooms 10-11am  Year 4 iLearn iPad Project Information Session - 6.30-7.30pm
Thurs 13th	Numeracy Open Classrooms 10-11am
Mon 17th	Year 4 iLearn iPad Project Information Session - 9.30-10.30am
Wed 19th	School Cross Country - Years 3-6
Thurs 20th	Year 4 iLearn iPad Project Information Session - 9.30-10.30am
Fri 21st	HARMONY DAY
Mon 31st	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

St Michael's Church  
Orwell Street  
Blacktown South  
MASS Times: Sat. Vigil - 6.00pm

155 Reservoir Road  
Blacktown South 2148  
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# St Michael's Primary School

## Blacktown South

### NEWSLETTER

2014 - ISSUE 3

4th March 2014

## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

First of all, to our P & F leaders and all parents who could attend last weeks meeting. I sincerely congratulate you on your level of support. Please see our uniform update for feedback from our meeting.

Week 6 is looking good, we will continue to build our teaching teams through working on our Implementation Goals. It will be our Core Teams (made up of all teachers) who will ensure success in teaching our Goals through ongoing action around targets and measures.

***"Start by doing what is necessary, then what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*** St Francis

Our Goals have one core intention ... and that is to build whole student growth through building capacity of both teachers and learners. So let's have a look at our future work:

- ◆ **Formation:** In 2014 through the use of scripture, particularly the Letters of St Paul, support the varying needs of students, teachers and parents with a variety of formation opportunities to deepen their understanding of the message scripture brings them.
- ◆ **Literacy:** In 2014, to develop a consistent approach to programming in line with the New English Curriculum and our shared pedagogy with particular focus into developing effective assessment strategies and tracking of all students.
- ◆ **Numeracy:** In 2014, we will continue to develop a consistent and shared whole school practice to effectively track our students so that we have live data that will continue to inform and direct teaching and learning.

***"The fundamental purpose of school is learning not teaching....."*** Dufour

Last week your feedback was a brilliant way to share in this learning. Some of the major insights include:

- ⇒ Ongoing support in some of the new ways we are learning and teaching mathematics. I learnt from you that our workshops and articles were a help, but more are required.
- ⇒ We need to keep tracking and learning from teachers and students as to the effectiveness of **agile learning spaces and co-teaching**. I will work on a "Student and Staff Survey" that will support our deeper understanding.
- ⇒ Safety and Wellbeing of our students were seen and appreciated as key factors in our school organization. However, it was agreed by many, that before and after school drop off and pick up required higher levels of support from our parent community.

Staying connected with your school is supported by a number of mediums. Have you visited our:

1. Website
2. Facebook page
3. Skoolbag app

Last week I promised to share some insights in managing behaviour. While this article was written with teachers in mind, I think the essence of the piece works for all of us when handling a difficult situation...

- ◆ Immediate stabilization
- ◆ Intervention to resolve these issues.

Often teachers/parents try to solve an unstable situation, only to escalate to the point where any intervention might not work. To be stable, both the teacher and student need to be relatively anger free, calm and willing to listen to the other's point of view.

Calming down requires time for both the student and teacher to depersonalize the incident. Often students will rethink what they did when given time to reflect.

Most student and some teachers/parents make things worse when the temperature is hot and emotions are high. It is far better to stabilize things before jumping immediately into an intervention. Lower the temperature first.

#### **Do's, Don'ts and 5 Examples**

- ⇒ Understand that stabilizing is not excusing, letting the student get away with anything or ignoring. It is deferring the actual intervention to a more favourable time
- ⇒ Show the student that you're willing to hear his or her side of the story
- ⇒ Guess the motive for the misbehaviour, and acknowledge it without agreeing to the student's choice of a solution
- ⇒ Deflect attempts to argue
- ⇒ Use humor

Things to avoid:

- ⇒ Criticizing, lecturing, scolding and blaming
- ⇒ Arguing
- ⇒ Saying or implying "no excuses"
- ⇒ Taking immediately action
- ⇒ Embarrassing or attacking the student's dignity
- ⇒ Demanding "What did you say?" in an accusatory manner

As we say at St Michael's "start and finish with the child".

*"Love One Another"*



John Laffan  
**PRINCIPAL**

## **From the Assistant Principal**

Dear Parents,

Over the first few weeks of the school year, teachers have been collecting initial data on all of our students to assist them in the programming and planning of each and every child at St Michael's. Each grade has created a Numeracy and Literacy Data wall so that all children can be tracked and monitored throughout the year.

Early next term our Years 3 and 5 students will participate in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) which is an annual assessment for all students in Australia.

All children at St Michael's are well prepared for these external assessments through the high level of teaching and learning that happens from their very first day at school in Kindergarten. The children in Years 3 and 5 have already begun more focused preparation of the types of questions they may see and being exposed to the types of text they will see in the reading assessment.

#### **How can you help your child prepare for the tests?**

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to encourage them to simply do the best they can on the day.

The dates for NAPLAN 2014 are:

	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Language Conventions</b> 40 minutes  <b>Writing</b> 40 minutes	<b>Reading</b> 45 minutes	<b>Numeracy</b> 45 minutes
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Language Conventions</b> 40 minutes  <b>Writing</b> 40 minutes	<b>Reading</b> 50 minutes	<b>Numeracy</b> 50 minutes

If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher or myself.

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Our school uniform is a symbol of our entire school community. Parents are urged to ensure that the children come to school in the correct uniform, worn appropriately. When you are purchasing sports shoes for your children the school uniform code is for a 'predominately white shoe'.

At St Michael's we have a "no hat no play" rule. Children who do not have a hat will not be able to play at recess or lunchtime and must sit in the shade.

Hairstyles should be appropriate to the school setting, e.g. extreme colours or cuts are not permitted.

**Girls:** Shoulder length hair or longer must be tied back with a navy blue scrunchie/hair elastic

**Boys:** Hair should be collar length and neatly trimmed

#### Boys Summer Uniform:

Blue short sleeved shirt with crest  
Navy blue shorts with crest  
Navy blue socks with yellow stripe  
Black **polishable** school shoes  
School hat

#### Girls Summer:

School dress with crest  
Short blue socks  
Black **polishable** school shoes  
School hat

#### Unisex Sports uniform:

Sports shorts with crest  
Sports tracksuit pants  
Sports jacket with crest  
Sports polo with crest  
White socks  
'Predominately white' sports shoe  
School hat



Kind regards,  
Katherine McKay  
**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

## Grip Leadership Conference

On the 26th February the student leadership team went to Homebush for a leadership conference where many leaders from a variety of schools came to talk about leadership. This was a great opportunity for the leadership team to learn something new. The conference was not what we expected. We learnt in the most unexpected way, fun. It was really enjoyable with a few movies and tests to see if you knew how to spot a leader. We learnt a lot that day, including that lots of movies have leadership themes in them. If you watch a movie and study it you can see several leadership roles in one scene, for example in all the Madagascar movies.

Another thing we learnt was how to be a School Year HERO.

**H** means **Helper**

**E** means **Encouragement**

**R** means **Role Model**

**O** means **Organiser**

Just remember you don't need a badge or a title to lead. Be a HERO and you'll be a great leader.



## RE News

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season. The students will receive ashes at a school liturgy on Wednesday in the Primary Quad at 9.30am.

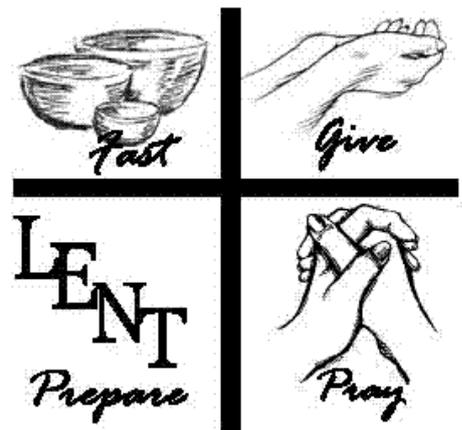
Please consider joining St Michael's Coffee Club. It will be an opportunity to spend time reflecting on some of the Gospels of the Sundays in Lent. Join me for a coffee and spend some time reading, reflecting and responding to the scriptures of the Gospel. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Please return the slip that went home on Monday to school as soon as possible for catering and resourcing purposes.

A reminder from Sister Grace that it is not too late if you want your child to participate in the sacraments of Reconciliation; Eucharist or Confirmation it is important that you contact her as soon as possible as enrolments closed last week and groups are beginning soon. Contact Sister Grace through the Parish Office on 96229149 or 0420754733.

Anne Easton

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**



## Term 1 School Fees

Term 1 School Fees are due on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please ensure payments are received by this date.

Thank you if you have already paid.

If you have any concerns please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to discuss making an arrangement for payment.

## Uniform Shop

Thank you to the P&F for your suggestions/feedback for our Uniform Shop. The following issues were raised, and we respond as follows:

- **Samples of Uniforms Available for Children to try on** - We have made contact with our suppliers and are sourcing some samples to be used for this purpose. We are also in the process of sourcing size guides to assist in selecting the correct sizes
- **Change of open hours/day**— the Order Form System that is currently in place would allow uniform orders to be placed any day and usually it is the same day turn around. A size guide could become available to check sizes—we are currently sourcing this from our suppliers. Orders are generally processed and sent home with Children on the same day.
- **Volunteer in Uniform Shop** - While we are grateful for the suggestion, due to system regulations we are unable to have volunteers in our Uniform Shop
- **Quality of Sports Shorts/Shirts**— Our sports shorts and the material we currently use was selected out of a number of different designs/materials which met all necessary standards.

**Stock Update:** Boys and Girls socks — All sizes — are now back in stock. We have limited stock of size 6 Sports Shirts and we are still out of stock of Size 6 Sports Shorts, Size 6 Sports Jackets and Caps however, they are expected soon. You will be notified through the newsletter once these items are in.

Mr Laffan has advised that until stock of these items has been received, children are able to wear any hat and on sports days, yellow shirt and blue shorts (if possible). We sincerely apologise for this inconvenience, and should you have any queries, please call Amanda on 9622 9910.

## Library News

### CHES

Once again, St Michaels will be entering teams in the NSWJCL Inter School competition. Games will be played on Friday afternoons after school during Terms 2 and 3. Teams will need drivers to take them to different schools. If your child would like to play in the afternoon competition, please fill in the form below. Unfortunately, we will only be able to enter teams if we have enough drivers. Preference for players will go to those whose parents are available to drive.

Judy Buhagiar

**TEACHER LIBRARIAN**

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### CHES

My child ..... in ..... would like to play in the NSWJCL competition after school on Fridays in Terms 2 and 3.

I am not able to help with driving

I am able to drive ..... (number of students, including your own)

Every Week

Every fortnight

Every month

(please circle which suits you)

Parent name ..... Contact number .....

## Sport

### MacKillop Summer Sport Trials

Best of luck to the following students representing the Parramatta Diocese at MacKillop Summer Sport Trials this Friday:

- ◆ Basketball - **Jordan Roman**
- ◆ Tennis - **Eric Tripathi**
- ◆ Softball - **Ashleigh Southam**

### Swimming

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent the Blacktown Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival last Friday:

<b>Amayah Burns</b>	<b>Zack Hardman</b>	<b>Ella Moggridge</b>	<b>Beatrice Gara</b>
<b>Shannon Gibbins</b>	<b>Hannah Witteveen</b>	<b>Jordan Walsh</b>	<b>Andrew Roseby</b>
<b>Ashleigh Witteveen</b>	<b>Lily Hardman</b>	<b>Vanessa Portelli</b>	<b>Louise Francisco</b>
<b>Eric Yu</b>			

Extra special congratulations to the following students who achieved the following at the Zone Carnival:

Junior Boys Runner Up – **Andrew Roseby and Zack Hardman**

11 Years Girls Champion – **Lily Hardman** and broke records in the 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and 200m Individual Medley

As a result of strong swimming at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival the following students have been selected to swim at the NSWPCS Swimming Trials on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March:

<b>Lily Hardman</b>	<b>Zack Hardman</b>	<b>Andrew Roseby</b>
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Also at the Diocesan Carnival **Lily Hardman** was crowned the girls 11 years Champion and broke records in the 50m Freestyle and Breaststroke

Jeff Phillips/Elliott McKimm/Matthew Baxter

**PE TEACHERS**

## Canteen

**Safari Pops** are no longer available in the Canteen.

Thank you to all volunteers. The Roster will be out this week. Thank you to the parents who have sent in donations. A new price list will be sent home soon.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Crawford

**CANTEEN MANAGER**

## St Andrews Open Day

Where: St Andrews College, Holy Family Campus

When: Tuesday, 11th March 2014

Time: 9:00am, 9:45am or 11:00am

St Andrews College is offering parents and students the opportunity to tour the college. The Open Day will be held on Tuesday, 11th March. To assist with the organisation of the day, parents are required to book on one of the tours by telephoning Leanne Potts on 9626 1999. Tour times are 9:00am, 9:45am or 11:00am.

### **Pre-Enrolment Meeting**

Parents are also invited to attend our Pre-enrolment Meeting on Tuesday, 6th May, 2014 at 6:00pm. The meeting will be in the Hall on the Holy Family Campus.

## International Students

### **TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Finland, Norway and Denmark will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or call us toll free on **1800 500 501**, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

**St. Michael's Tuckshop List – 2014**

**Term 1 as at 1/3/2014**

**Please note that our Tuckshop is closed every Wednesday**

*Green Light Foods*

<b>Sandwiches (For all Terms)</b>		<b>Wraps</b>	
(Multigrain, Brown, White Bread)		Ham, Cheese & Tomato	3.60
Tuna or Chicken or Ham	2.60	Chicken, Lettuce & Mayo	3.20
Ham & Salad	3.70	Chicken & Sweet Chilli/BBQ/Sweet & Sour Sauce	3.00
Ham, Cheese & Tomato	3.60	Salad	3.20
Tuna, Lettuce & Mayo	3.00	Chicken & Salad or Tuna & Salad	3.80
Salad	3.20	Ham & Salad	3.70
Devon	2.40	Tuna, Lettuce & Mayo	3.10
Cheese	2.30	Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato	2.90
Devon & Sauce	2.60	Chicken, Cheese & Avocado	4.30
Devon & Tomato	2.70	Salmon & Salad	5.20
Chicken, Lettuce & Mayonnaise	3.20	Ham, Cheese & Pineapple	3.50
Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato	2.90	Toasted wraps extra	0.50
Cheese & Tomato	2.70		
Cheese & Lettuce	2.70	<b>Salads</b>	
Tomato	2.50	Containers of Salad & Cheese	4.20
Vegemite	1.50	Containers of Salad with Tuna	5.20
Baked Beans	2.00	Containers of Salad with Chicken Pattie	5.00
Spaghetti	2.00	Vegie Pack – tomato, carrot & cucumber sticks	3.60
Salad & Cheese	3.40	Or Celery, Carrot and Cucumber	3.60
Salad & Chicken or Tuna	3.80	<b>Extras for Containers of Salad</b>	
Salmon	4.30	Mayonnaise 25c, Ham 75c, Pineapple 40c,	
Salmon & Salad	5.20	Devon 30c, Avocado 80c	
Buttered Sandwich	1.10	Chicken \$1.20, Tuna \$1.40	
<b><u>EXTRAS FOR SANDWICHES &amp; WRAPS</u></b>		<b><u>Spoon or fork or lunch bag</u></b>	<b>0.05</b>
Cheese	0.80	Orange pieces in season	0.10
Beetroot/Cucumber/Tomato/Lettuce	0.60 each	Fruit in season from	0.20
Pickles, Mustard	0.30	Apple Slinky	1.10
Toasted Sandwiches extra (sandwich maker)	0.50	Seasonal Prices from	

### *Amber Foods*

<u>Hot Food (available all year)</u>		<u>Drinks, Ice Blocks, Yoghurt</u>	
		Plain Water 600ml	1.60
Spinach & Ricotta Roll	3.20	Plain Water 355ml	1.20
Bag of 5 Nuggets ( <b>only</b> )	2.90	Just Juice 100% Assorted Poppers	1.80
Corn on the Cob	1.10	Pop Top Juice Apple/Orange/Apple & Blackcurrant	2.50
Beef Lasagne or Spaghetti Twists	4.00	Frozen Yoghurt – Strawberry/Raspberry	2.40
Macaroni Cheese	3.80	Small Plain Milk	1.30
Hot Dogs & Sauce (Tomato or BBQ)	2.80	Big M Popper Chocolate/Strawberry	2.30
Lite Meat Pie	3.40	Moove – Chocolate/Strawberry/Banana	1.80
Lite Sausage Roll	2.80	Up & Go (Vanilla, Chocolate)	2.50
Cheese & Bacon Roll	1.40	Moosie Milk Iceblocks	1.50
Chicken Burger (mayonnaise & lettuce)	4.50	Focus Water	1.90
Nachos Dippers	5.10	Tasman Juice Ice Block	0.80
		Custard Cups	1.70
Vegetarian Fried Rice	3.70	Quelch Sticks	0.40
Timbertown Potato Pie	3.70		
Pizza – Supreme/ Margarita/ Ham&Pineapple/Meat Lovers	3.50		
<b>Snacks</b>			
Red Rock Chips – Honey Soy/Sea Salt	1.30		
JJ's Chicken Crackers	1.40	<b>Sauce (Charged to all grades)</b>	
Popcorn Plain	0.80	Tomato	0.40
Jelly Joy Tubes	0.30	BBQ &/or Sweet & Sour	0.40
Cheese Sticks	0.80	Butter for Corn	0.20
Ovalteenies	1.30	Sweet Chilli Sauce	0.40
Eucalyptus lollies / Butter Menthols	1.00		
Grainwaves –Sour Cream	1.30		
Smiths BBQ chips	1.30		

All Prices are subject to price rises.

Ice Blocks **are not** sold at Recess.

Please **do not** order Ice Blocks in Lunch Orders .....**THEY MELT!!** If you are unable to provide a paper bag for your child please write order on an envelope and **add extra 5 cents** to total.

**The Tuckshop prepares lunches on every day EXCEPT WEDNESDAY, as it is CLOSED.**

The Lunch Orders should be written clearly on the front of a paper bag with the Child's Name and Class and the **amount of money enclosed in the bag.**

Parents please remember children are **not permitted** to bring more than \$2.00 spending money. Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

Please let your child know if he/she has anything missing from their lunch order or does not receive their lunch order please get them to tell their class teacher or Mrs Crawford in the Canteen **on that day.**

**PLEASE NOTE: TUCKSHOP IS CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS**

Jan Crawford  
Tuckshop Manageress

Before 8.00am on **9622 5703** (Home) or after 8.15am on **9622 9910** (School)

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