



# Newsletter

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South  
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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear 'Presentation' Parents and Friends,

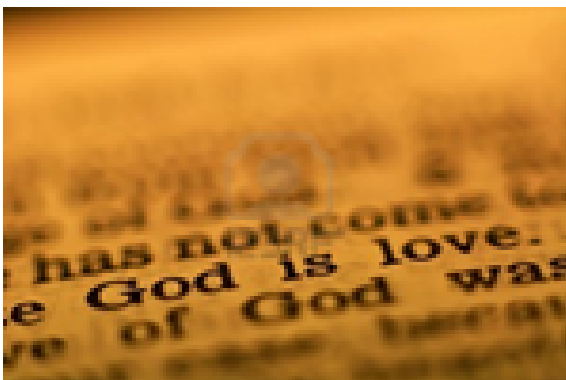
This week on Wednesday, 15th November, we will be holding our P & F AGM. At this meeting we will hear of our representatives time at the last Parent Conference. In 2018 we will continue to work towards a changing role of parents within our community. We hope to grow 'the whole village' concept inviting not just involvement but engagement. I'm hoping that this engagement will also come from a deeper understanding of our foundress, *Nano Nagle* and the *Presentation Sisters*. At the heart of Nano's Charism is *Mercy*. I invite you to take the time to read the words of our friend Richard Rohr in understanding a little more of the *Essence* of our work in "**Loving One Another.**"



"The mystic Iliia Delio, sees love as the foundation of the universe. Cynthia Bourgeault, describes *mercy* as the quality of this love, 'the unmerited and unconditional energy that gives life to all things.'

When we think of *mercy*, we should be thinking first and foremost of a bond an infallible link of love that holds the created and uncreated realms together. The *mercy* of God does not come and go, granted to some and refused to others.

Why? Because it is unconditional always there underlying everything, it is literally the force that holds everything in existence, the gravitational field in which, "*we live and move and have our being.*" (Acts 17:28)



Just like the little fish swimming desperately in search of water, we too "*Swim in mercy as in an endless sea.*" *Mercy* is God's innermost being turned outward to sustain the visible and created world in *unbreakable love.*" Richard Rohr".

Understanding *mercy* as Presentation People is an exciting possibility. I invite you to re-read Richard's last sentence and sit with it a little.

John Laffan

PRINCIPAL



## Important Dates

<i>Wednesday, 15th November</i>	P & F - Parent Catch Up at 5:30pm followed by P & F Meeting and Annual General Meeting at 6:30pm
<i>Thursday, 16th November</i>	Author visit for Years 3 and 4
<i>Wednesday, 22nd November</i>	Twilight Swimming Carnival - Emerton Leisure Centre - 4:00-6:00pm
<i>Wednesday, 22nd November</i>	Choir and Orchestra performing at nursing home
<i>Friday, 24th November</i>	Year 5 Leadership Day
<i>Wednesday, 29th November</i>	Christmas Concert - 6:00pm
<i>Friday, 1st December</i>	End of Year Mass - 9:30am
<i>Friday, 8th December</i>	Year 6 Fun Day at Luna Park
<i>Monday, 11th December</i>	Year 6 Final Assembly - 2:00pm and School Reports sent home
<i>Tuesday, 12th December</i>	Year 6 Guard of Honour - 2:30pm and Year 6 Graduation Mass - 7:30pm
<i>Wednesday, 13th December</i>	2018 - Transition Day - 11:30am-1:30pm
<i>Friday, 15th December</i>	End of Term for all Students
<i>Wednesday, 31st January 2018</i>	Students Years 1 to 6 return to school
<i>Friday, 2nd February 2018</i>	Kindergarten commence school 9:30am-3:00pm

### FROM THE LIBRARY

As we get close to the end of the year, I need to have ALL books returned for stocktaking and repair where necessary.

Next week, Week 7, will be the last week for borrowing. After that we ask all students to return books as soon as possible. Reminder notes will be sent, and if books are lost or damaged, we will request payment for a replacement book.

Please help your child find any books with a St Michael's barcode on the front cover. No matter how overdue the books are, we will be happy to get them back - no fines or questions asked.

Many thanks,  
Judy Buhagiar  
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN





# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT



Dear Parents and Friends,

We are half way through the term and we are still having a strong focus on improving reading comprehension and multiplicative thinking. So, how can you help your child?

## *Don't leave home without it*

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!

## *Once is not enough*

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately.

## *Dig deeper into the story*

Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"

## *Take control of the television*

It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.

## *Be patient*

When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind to child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

## *Pick books that are at the right level*

Help your child pick books that are not too difficult and not too easy. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

## *Play word games*

Have your child sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

## *I read to you, you read to me*

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

## *Gently correct your young reader*

When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Many beginning readers will guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.

## *Talk, talk, talk!*

Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

## *Write, write, write!*

Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he is learning at school.

Our children need many opportunities to read and need to be exposed to different types of books. The local library is a great place to start! Start thinking about ensuring reading continues into the holidays....books are a great Christmas gift.

Happy Reading!

Kind regards,

Katherine McKay





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

In next Sunday's Gospel we will hear the Parable of the Talents, one of the parables of the Kingdom. As well as being grateful for the blessings that God has given us, we must also, in equal measure, use those blessings to help build God's kingdom. We all have different talents and gifts so we all have different tasks to do in the kingdom. Everyone has a role in the kingdom no matter what our gifts and talents are. Our role in the kingdom is every bit as vital as the next person's.

Each of us is unique, and each has different talents. All that God expects is that we make the most of them, and that we use them for good. All God expects is that we try to be the best we can be and to treat each other with kindness and love.

We all have a gift. We should all use it. What are your gifts? Do you use them?

### The Parable of the



Mrs Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

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St Michael's Primary School  
Blacktown South

## THANK YOU to our wonderful SPONSORS of our 2017 WALK-A-THON



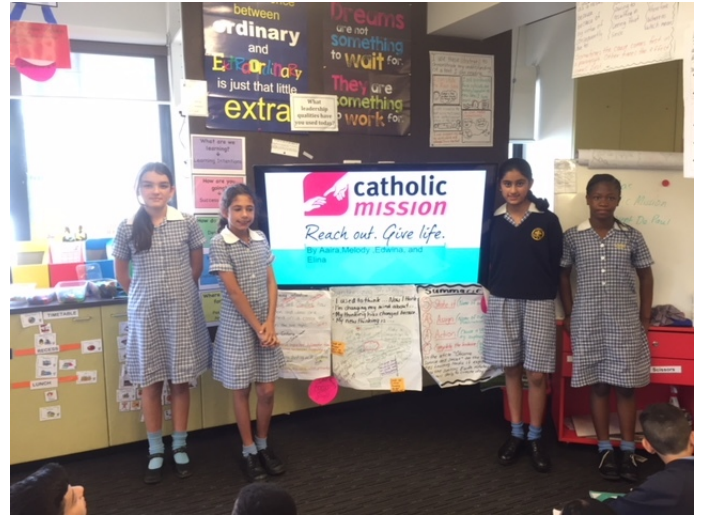
### CENTRAL BOOK SUPPLIERS







# MISSION



Mrs Coope (our teacher) introduced the topic of 'Mission: Witnessing and Proclaiming Jesus throughout the World' during a Religion Unit. We watched two videos that inspired us to make a difference. The two videos were called 'Ryan's Well' and 'Catholic Mission in Peru'. Ryan raised \$2000 to provide fresh water in a well in Africa. The Catholic Mission in Peru video was demonstrating what it would be like living in a third world country and how Catholic Mission helps. We compared their life to ours and realised that is wasn't right.

We decided to raise money to buy resources for those in need across the world. At first it was hard to decide our goal but we came to the decision that we would raise 500 dollars. In the first few weeks we raised over 100 dollars in our class 5C, which gave us hope to raise more money. To raise more money we set up a stall which had lollies, stationary, chips and bracelets. With that money we raised five hundred and nineteen dollars and twenty five cents. In total we have raised about \$1100 because our classroom teacher (Mrs Coope) and our drama literacy teacher (Mr Martin) will match how much we have raised. With this money, we will buy animals, back to school kits and wheelchairs for families in need. We hope that we can make a difference together!

**Fundraiser Campaigners- Ruby, Samantha, Jia and Donna (5C)**





P&F



## Parents & Friends Association

**Facebook:** St Michael's Blacktown South P&F **Email:** [stmichaelspandf@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelspandf@gmail.com)

**Kristen Mobile:** 0409 952 852

**Leanne Mobile:** 0413 546 062

### Calendar of Events

#### 2017

##### November

15<sup>th</sup> - Presentation from the  
Parents Conference

P&F Meeting with AGM

##### November

29<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert

### ~~Parent Workshop~~ Catch Up with Nibbles 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 5:30pm

Michelle Williams (PRC Rep) and I would like to share with our fellow Parents/Carers/Guardians some of the big take-ways we have received this year from attending PRC Meetings with Guest Speakers and Parent Conference – ***Future Ready, Preparing our Children for a Changing World*** we attending in September.

We've put together a pack which we will chat through and you will also get a copy to take home with you.

Come along, we promise it won't be boring, we'll have some great food to snack on and it will give us a chance to just get together as Parents and share some knowledge with each other. We also have some plans for our parents next year with resource sharing so would love to hear what you think 😊

Feel free afterwards to stay for our P&F Meeting as below: (you are absolutely not obliged to, just easier for many to hold them on the same night)

### P&F Meeting & AGM: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 6:30pm

We would like to welcome you all to our final P&F Meeting for 2017 which is also our AGM.

Come along and vote in a 2018 committee along with the following agenda items:

- \* 2017 Wrap Up Report
- \* 2017 Treasury Report
- \* Decisions on where funding will be spent
- \* John will invite us to talk with him about the \$\$ received from the sale of the Uniform shop and how it can be spent.
- \* The new and exciting plan for 2018 - more community events to bring our families together (including a P&F funded one).
- \* Parent Engagement - there is a ramp up on the importance of Parent Engagement within the school, John will talk about his plan to bring more parents into the school for 2018.

For catering purposes as dinner will be provided by John, please RSVP by Tuesday evening, just jump onto our Facebook page and accept the Invite 😊

Please come and give us a chance, we are a no click, no commitment necessary group of parents/carers just like you who just want to bring our community together and at the same time raise some funds that we can spend on the school.