



Newsletter

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South
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Website: www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents and Friends,

"We are all part of God's great dance."jl



As I listened to Fr. Luis' homily at our opening school mass, I was very grateful to Mrs Easton and her 2018 goal of bringing Nano Nagle and the Presentation *charism* into our focus.

As I listened more and looked around our church it became more evident that we have this great part to play in God's plan. Our Bishop Vincent has challenged all of us in Catholic Education to support our Church as it, 'journeys from exile.' As *Presentation People* we are called to continue being *Prophets*, proclaiming to "*Love One Another, In deed not word.*" The actions we live out place us in this *sacred dance*, as every time we are there for the other we are *becoming fully human*.

"God is more and more trying to move the human race to the next stage of consciousness beyond the rational, technological, dominating world view...."

Recognizing the truth that there is only one self

And this is God manifesting in us.- Thomas Keating

So my friends in every action and deed born out of Love for another, every time we bend down to listen to a story, understand and accept needs, support fears and uncertainty with reassurance and respect we are *living the Charism* and allowing God to be present.

Week 6: So, what's happening this week

- Open School this Wednesday from 10-11.
- **Our P & F meeting - 'Celebrating Parent Engagement'**
Commencing at 6.30pm with dinner and conversation around Positive Behaviour and Wellbeing.



- High levels of collaboration in planning
- Many of our 'Hot Spot' Behaviour needs being nurtured and supported by great teaching and high expectations.
- Capacity building at full throttle with:

1. Our Wellbeing coach continuing to work with grades around Time Out and Calm Spaces in learning spaces
2. PBS4L beginning their leadership and going deeper in understanding needs.
3. Our Instructional Leaders learning with grade teams in developing Literacy Block pedagogy and understanding of the Literacy Progressions.
4. Numeracy leaders planning with Teacher Educators in going deeper in analysis supporting next step planning.
5. Mrs. Easton meeting with CEDP and TE in reflecting our Action Plan.

Let's keep dancing! John.

"Love One Another"

John Laffan

PRINCIPAL



Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

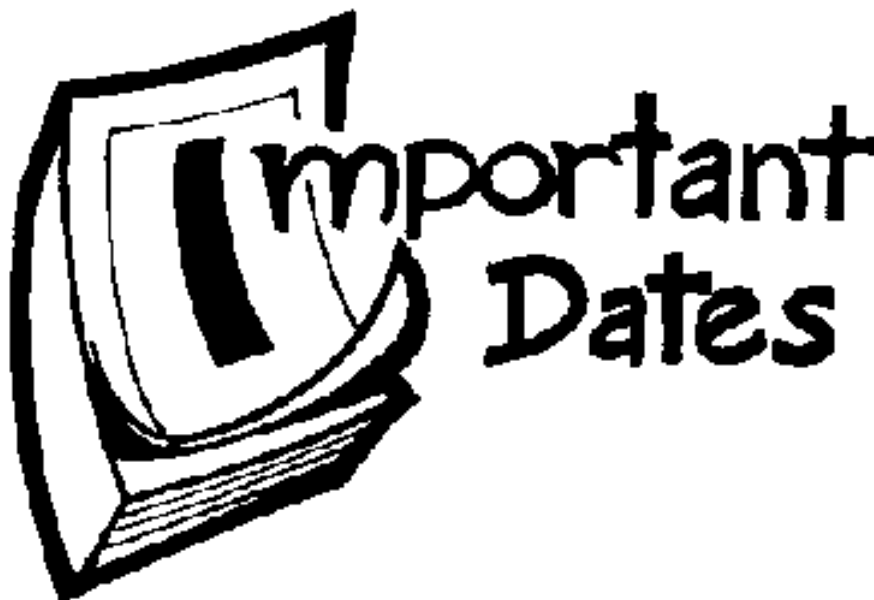
Lifeline 13 11 14

SCHOOL FEES -

There has been a delayed in the posting of School Fee Statements. You should received your statement sometime this week.

ALERT

If you have any concerns regard this please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



<i>Wednesday, 7th March</i>	OPEN DAY - 10.00-11.00am
<i>Wednesday, 7th March</i>	GRIP Leadership Day - student leaders attending
<i>Wednesday, 7th March</i>	P & F Meeting - 6.30pm - ALL WELCOME
<i>Friday, 9th March</i>	MUFTI DAY - favourite sports personality - GOLD COIN DONATION
<i>Monday, 12th March to Friday, 16th March</i>	Kindergarten - Parent/Teacher Interviews
<i>Friday, 16th March</i>	P & F School Disco
<i>Friday, 23rd March</i>	Palm Sunday Prayer
<i>Saturday, 24th March</i>	Earth Hour
<i>Thursday, 29th March</i>	Easter Raffle - 2pm

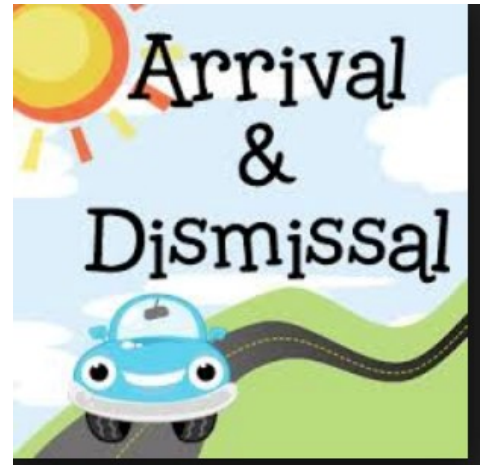


ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

School arrival and Dismissal

Thank you to all our parents and carers who are kissing and dropping their children, and leaving the school grounds promptly in the morning, and those who are waiting in the designated areas for their children to be dismissed in the afternoons. Again, we request all parents to be outside of the school grounds at these times for the safety and wellbeing of all our student here at St Michael's. We can only be a village for all of our children if we are truly supporting one another.

Over the next few weeks I will be sharing with you aspects of the Parent handbook. We hope you join us in supporting our school policies to keep the safety and well being of all our students a priority.



From tomorrow, teachers will be vigilant in asking parents to leave school grounds during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Here is the excerpt from our Parent handbook supporting this work.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL

Our school assembly yards are limited in space and as a result parents and guardians need to obey our "Kiss & Drop" points at entrances. We invite you to promote the independence of children by farewelling them at the gate and ensuring that they carry their own bags. No parent is to proceed into classrooms, toilet areas and/or playgrounds unless they have signed in on the Visitors iPad at the office and have a printed visitors badge.

DISMISSAL

Please note as a matter of security and student safety the only access gates to the school between the hours of 9am and 3pm will be the pedestrian gates on Reservoir Road through the school office where visitor passes are issued.

Toys coming to school - We know that children get very excited with wanting to bring toys from home in to show and play with their friends. Unfortunately already this year, we have had some lost or stolen toys. To keep our students safe and happy we are encouraging parents and students to leave their toys at home, and play with the equipment provided by the school during recess and lunch. We stress that if toys are being brought into school it is at the risk of students and families.

Deborah Cox

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



SPORTS NEWS

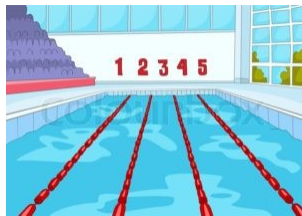
St Michael's Swimming Age Champions, Runner-up and ribbons

Apologies that the presentation of our champion swimmers was not able to be completed at last week's assembly. Today all the children who competed in our annual carnival and placed in the top 4 received their ribbons. At next Monday mornings assembly, all our competitors will be recognised for their participation in the event. We will also be awarding our Age champion and Runner-Up medals at this assembly, parents are most welcome to attend.



Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival

On Friday 23rd February St Michael's had 7 swimmers attend the Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Blacktown pool. What an achievement for these students to make it to the Diocesan carnival, the children had some great results on the day. Big congratulations to August Crysezko and Sebastian Fenech who have gained selection onto the Parramatta Diocesan swim team. These boys will be representing their school, zone and Diocese at the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials at SOPAC in Homebush on Wednesday 21st March.



To Sebastian Fenech who was awarded joint Age Champion in the 11 years boys division, well done Sebastian everyone at St Michael's is super proud of you.



Our Team results from the day:

Sebastian Fenech-100m Freestyle-6th

50mtr Freestyle-2nd

50mtr Backstroke-1st

50mtr Butterfly-1st

Maisy Cryeszko-50mtr Freestyle-9th

August Cryeszko-50mtr Freestyle-4th

50mtr Backstroke-4th

50mtr Breaststroke-15th

50mtr Butterfly-14th

Peyton Regner-50mtr Freestyle-7th

50mtr Backstroke-14th

Junior Boys 4 x 50mtr relay-August Cryeszko, Xavier Fenech, Jared Ragasajo, Francesco Tabone-13th

St Michael's Cross Country

Last Wednesday we held our annual cross country event and what a glorious day it was. To see so many children completing the course and so proud of themselves for doing so was very rewarding. Thank you to all the staff at St Michael's for your support in the roles you took on for the morning. To all our parent helpers THANK YOU, we appreciate your willingness to help and be involved in this wonderful school event.

In preparation for the event our 'why' with the children was that we wanted them to prepare for a physical event (cross country), even though they knew it was going to be challenging, with a positive attitude. The PE team can proudly say that our children did exactly that on the day. Well done to all the boys and girls of St Michael's.

The Diocesan Cross Country will be held at Eastern Creek early in term 2, the children



who qualified will be notified and a note sent home later in the term. The top 6 in each division pending they have achieved the qualifying time will represent St Michael's at the Diocesan event.

Our official top 10 results from the day:

8/9 YEARS	8/9 YEARS
Benjamin Norman	Meya Kinnane Pearce
Suroor Shata	Sophie Gardoll
Rey Pila	Demiana Hinien
Cooper DeBono	Jessica Waligora
Marko Vidovic	Jacinta Estrada
David Dunkley	Nyankir Michael
Levi Waters	Isabella Gerardo
Thomas Clarke	Emily Ridout
Jarryd Gordon	Jasmine Vella
Orlando Capeski	Dahlia Elias
10 YEARS	10 YEARS
Scott Young	Natasha Martinez
Francesco Tabone	Samara Serra
Aiden ElKhoury	Gloria Kuri
Riley Eato	Sofia Chahine
Joseph Gattas	Jazelle Vella
Rubal Sraw	Genevieve Allen
Barak Gok	Jaih-Lea Andary
Benjamin Aberra	Charlise Warren
George Hatzianeou	Samantha Goyena
Dennis Kositse	Sunita Angelo



11 YEARS	11 YEARS
Antoni Arshilo	Bethany Xiberras
Adam D'Sa	Alexis Hayward
Izaak Moggridge	Taylor Norman
Daniel Cinya	Libby Gardoll
Arian Chand	Ayak Bol
Isiah Espero	Taylee Zerafa
Rafael Vidovic	Achol Mow
Harman Singh	Georgia Bonello
Sebastian Fenech	Joelle Chdid
Deyb Deyb	Lilly Cumbo
12 YEARS	12 YEARS
Sebastian Mika	Faiza Shata
Christian Mika	Elina Giannakopoulos
Ryan Depares	Zahra Mir
Jack Sofocleous	Isabelle Grills
Joshua Sammit	Isabella Young
Dante Carbone	Elizabeth Akuak
Christian Koong	Isabella Pezzano
Ryan Mangabat	Tabitha Cilia
Luke Fletcher	Maya Banjanac
Alex Boulos	Indiana Newsome

Yours in Sport,
Mrs Cristy Budd / Mr Joe Ng

PE TEACHERS



RE NEWS

PROJECT COMPASSION

Students took home a Project Compassion box on Ash Wednesday. This year the theme is "A Just Future" and celebrated the Year of Youth.

Pope Francis said, "Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation."



Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.



Bayan is a 12 year old Syrian girl, living with her family in Jordan. An ambitious student, Bayan has her sights set on a career as an ophthalmologist. As a quiet, young refugee she struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone and faced the prospect of missing out on schooling. With Caritas Australia's support, Bayan is an academic high-achiever who is flourishing in a stable school environment.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 using the Project Compassion Box you received on Ash Wednesday and help bring stability to vulnerable youth, providing just futures for others like Bayan. We will collect Project Compassion boxes later this term.

A Just Future starts with your support!

Mrs Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORINDATOR



WE ARE A
COMMUNITY

P&F



Parents & Friends Association

Facebook: St Michael's Blacktown South P&F **Email:** stmichaelspandf@gmail.com

Kristen Mobile: 0409 952 852

Leanne Mobile: 0413 546 062

Calendar of Events

2018

March

7th – P&F Meeting

16th – School Disco

29th – Easter Raffle & Taking
Cards to St. Hedwigs

May

19th – Bunnings BBQ &
Cake Stall

August

19th – Shopping Bus Trip

September

22nd – Bunnings BBQ &
Cake Stall



So it's not long now until Easter so in order to prepare for the raffle prizes we are holding a mufti day. To make it more fun you are able to dress up in your favourite sporting team colours, or come as your favourite sportsperson.

The day will be held on Friday 9th March and we are asking for a gold coin donation.

Don't forget to get cracking and make lots of cards for our neighbours at St Hedwig's. Once you have made these place them in the P&F box in the Student Foyer.

Entries Close: Friday 23rd March, 2018

Raffle Tickets have been sent home. We have extra available in the office, if by the off chance you didn't receive any or you would like more. We have limited supply though so be quick!

Entries Close: Friday 23rd March, 2018

P&F Meeting:

Our first meeting for 2018 has been booked in for Wednesday 7th March. Would be great see you all there, I promise we don't bite lol and it really is good to hear about what's happening around the school and get updates from John & Debbie. We have also heard that John is cooking so we will have dinner together... The agenda will include: Mufti day, School disco and many other topics. See you all there....

PRC

Parents Representative Council - Web: <http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au/home>

School Representative: Michelle Williams

Disco:

The notes for the disco on the 16th March have gone out. We hope to start seeing the notes and money coming in, the disco is a fun night, not just for the children but for the parents who also get a chance to have some fun and catch up.

Bands will be sent home the week of the Disco. Please head to the office if you haven't received a note, or check facebook.



Chess

For many years, St Michaels has entered teams in the Inter School Chess competition. Unfortunately at this stage I will be unable to organise teams to participate this year, so I am asking if there are any parents who would be willing to volunteer to do so. You do not have to be an expert, but would need to know the basic rules so that you can adjudicate the matches.

Matches are played in teams of four players on a home and away basis after school on Friday afternoons.

If you would like more information, could you please ring the school and give your details and I will make contact with you.

Regards

Judy Buhagiar

SPORTS MUFTI

The P&F are raising money for the Easter Raffle.



When: Friday, 9th March, 2018



What to Wear: Dress up as your favourite Sports Personality or come dressed as yourself in your own sports outfit.

Cost: Gold Coin Donation





NAGLE COLLEGE Blacktown

Nagle College will be holding their
Open Afternoon / Evening for
Year 7, 2019 on **TUESDAY, 6 March**
from 3.30pm until 7.30pm.

Enrolment packages will be available
on the afternoon and tours of the
school will be conducted.

Prospective parents and students
are warmly invited to attend.



PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE
continues to produce outstanding HSC results.
The school is consistently ranked as one of the
best performing HSC schools in NSW.

The College achieves spectacular success across
a variety of sports and co-curricular activities.

Prospective students and their families are invited
to inspect the quality experience on offer at
Patrician Brothers' College at our annual
OPEN NIGHT.

It is extremely rare for a school to achieve
an ATAR in excess of 99. Patrician Brothers'
College continues its fine tradition of academic
achievement.

*A
Remarkable
Achievement!*



Manpreet Singh 99.7



Elijah Park 99.4



Adam Boldin 99.55

— ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN —

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This adventurous & magical class will take your child on an exciting journey through dance & beyond.

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A creative and joyful class for all ages
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Outstanding Teachers

Every Body. Welcome.

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All styles of dance, for all styles of people! Classes held at Shelley Primary School
For more information please call 0411 486 347 / 0414 348 774

TRIVIA NIGHT

APRIL 7TH 2018 7PM

We are hosting a trivia night to raise funds for
Cienna DeLuca to compete at
the World Championships Of Performing Arts in
Longbeach, California & Las vegas.

WHERE

Nirimba room, level 5,
Blacktown Council Chambers,
Entry through Campbell Street

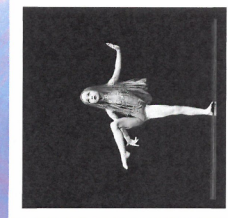
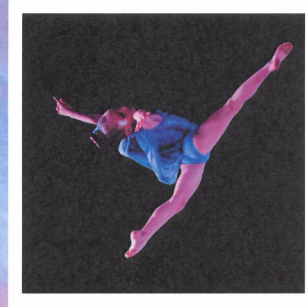
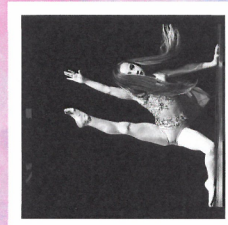
Lots of prizes on
offer, Lucky Door
tickets, Guessing Competition,
Heads and Tails, Coin toss and
a Raffle.

Tickets - \$15 per head, tables of
10, Tickets to be pre-purchased!
Money due by 3rd of April. Please
pay Amanda, or deposit money
into Cienna's Account:

Please call Amanda on
0412192677 if you would like to
make a donation or have any
questions.

Cienna DeLuca
BSB - 062339
ACC - 10576110

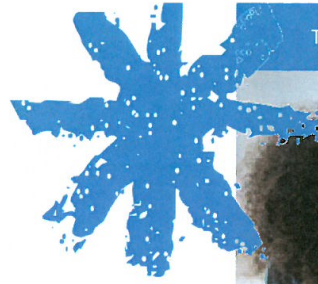
**BYO NIBBLIES +
DRINKS**



Las Vegas - 1st - 6th of July 2018
Long Beach California- 7th - 15th of July 2018



parenting * ideas insights



TECHNOLOGY AND PARENTING



Video Games: the good, the bad and getting the balance right

by Martine Oglethorpe

Video games tend to get a bad rap from parents and the media. There's the fear of your child being locked away in their room for hours on end, inhabiting a virtual world that removes them from family, friends, school work and anything resembling reality. Then there is the fear of what someone might do following a session of first-person shooting, blowing up cars and taking out snipers with an AK47. Not to mention the seemingly wasted hours spent staring at a screen.

Without doubt there is some substance to some of the fears around gaming obsessions and violent behaviours. However, like many elements of the modern world, the negative impacts are often affecting only a very small minority and often these are in the extreme.

It is safe to say that many, many young people can play video games in a way that benefits their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. Like most things, when game playing is done with balance and perspective, it can actually be a most productive way for a young person to spend their time.

The benefits of video games

Cognitive and physical benefits. There are lots of great skills developed when playing video games. Analysing, thinking, problem solving, creating, team work and collaboration form the backbone of many games. Spatial awareness and hand-eye coordination skills, many of which can be transferred to the real world, are an added benefit. Many workplaces and training institutes use games to simulate real-world situations and the medical field is increasingly using forms of gaming to help with physical and neurological disorders.



Social and emotional benefits. Many kids who struggle to fit in at school, or don't make the sports teams, often feel a real sense of belonging, connection and achievement when playing video games. For those who find it difficult to shine in mainstream environments, gaming can be a great way for them to boost their self-esteem and sense of identity in a space that offers comfort, connection and control.

Thinking outside the box. Many games encourage players to think outside the box, take risks and critically analyse a situation. There is a lot of trial-and-error required in many games and this helps to develop players'



parenting *ideas

persistence in problem solving tasks as they strive to get to the next level, the next world or create the next big city.

Stress release. There is certainly an element of stress release that many games provide for young people. After a long day at school it can be a welcome relief to immerse yourself in a game that allows you to switch off a little.

Keeping it under control

Of course these benefits won't eliminate the concerns many parents have about game playing, especially of online games. So what are some things we can do as parents to help keep it under control?

Look at your individual child. Are they coming to the dinner table without a fight? Are they coming to the table without bringing their device? If they are struggling too much in any of these areas over a long period of time, it might be time to make some changes.

Come up with time limits together. Discuss together what you think is fair based on the need to ensure they are striking the right balance and have enough energy for their other pursuits. While your child is young, give them a warning ahead of when you want them stop so they have time to finish whatever they are creating or whatever level they are at in their game. This helps them to get better at regulating their time.

Play a game with your child. It is much easier to make rules and boundaries around something that you understand and that they know you understand. Play a game with your child to get a feel for what they enjoy about it, be witness to some of the skills they may be developing and enjoy some important bonding time with your child.



Remove headphones, particularly when younger children are playing online games with friends or where others are involved. That way you can have your ears pricked to any bullying, aggressive play or unwanted language.

So next time you are lamenting the time your child spends playing video games, remember that as long as you are able to come up with some rules and boundaries together, you will have a much better chance of keeping game playing healthy and beneficial. With the gaming industry growing rapidly and continually creating and providing for so many other industries, your child may well be working on the skills they'll need in their future career.



Martine Oglethorpe

Martine Oglethorpe is a speaker, counsellor and educator with a passion for building resilient kids in a digital world. Martine is available for student workshops focused on positive online behaviours, for teacher professional development on how the digital world affects what happens in the classroom and for corporate and parent information sessions. For more information head to her website themodernparent.net. Contact details: info@martineoglethorpe.com.au, themodernparent.net, facebook.com/themodernparent