



Issue 7 | 22nd April 2018

Newsletter

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Last Friday we gathered together as a community to celebrate family day and to make a donation to CatholicCare. It was a wonderful afternoon in the sun as families gathered to picnic and share a meal together. Many parents, grandparents and visitors spent time in the learning spaces with their children working and learning alongside them. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and times shared together.



CCareline
131819

8am - 8pm. Mon - Fri

 connect@catholiccare.org

CatholicCare's vision is a society in which we all feel supported and that we belong. They provide services across Sydney to help people live and thrive, irrespective of beliefs and abilities.

Tell them from Me Survey:

Over the next two weeks we are inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience at St Michael's using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process. Students from Years 4-6 will participate in the survey with parent permission, together with Staff and Parents.

We would like to invite you to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Michael's.





St Michael's Primary School
Blacktown South

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes of your time to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

www.tellthemfromme.com/2018stm

The survey will be available for completion from today up until Friday 1st June. We look forward to hearing the voices of our parent community.



Attendance: As the weather changes and the days become colder it is still important that children attend school. School attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of students in schools. Every day of attendance adds to a student's achievement and success at school. Staff at St Michael's, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

St Michael's is a Catholic learning community that Reflects, Engages and Empowers by:

- Promoting a vibrant Religious Education program, prayer and spiritual life for students
- Living out our school motto 'Love One Another' through active involvement in social justice
- Educating the whole child—academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually
- Ensuring teaching and learning is purposeful, relevant, innovative and collaborative
- Supporting each member of the community in their faith and learning journey

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR 2019
PLACES AVAILABLE KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6**

OPEN DAYS

Monday, 28th May 2018—9:30am-10:30am

Thursday, 31st May 2018—4:00pm-5:00pm

Monday, 2nd July 2018—9:30am-10:30am

For information or to enrol contact:
155 Reservoir Road, Blacktown 2148
Phone 8869 6200 email stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

St Michael's Blacktown South

@StMichaels2148





Kiss and Drop Zone: Please remember that it is important that you **“kiss and drop”** your children in the marked areas before school. This allows your child to settle into play with their friends and begin their day. You are welcome to listen to morning assemblies at the designated points.

If you wish to enter the school grounds **after** 9am please do so through the front Office where you will be asked to sign in before entering the grounds. This is for the safety of all of the children, so that we know who is on site each day.

Parent Volunteers:

If you wish to volunteer as a helper (eg. classroom, excursions, sporting events etc) at St Michael's Primary School we require you to complete a two-step process "Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers" form and "Online Training Module"

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers>

Sarah O'Rourke

PRINCIPAL

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is OPEN on Mondays & Wednesdays from 8:00am-10:30am.

New stock has arrived:

Jumpers

Sports Jackets (sizes 4 & 6)

Baseball Caps (limited supply)

School Photos

Every student who was at school yesterday had their photo taken. It is not too late to order photos. Please contact Academy Photographs on 1300 766 472. We are having a catch-up photo day on Thursday, 24th May and any child who was absent yesterday will have their photo taken then. If your children did not have a family photo yesterday there is an opportunity for them to have it on this day. Please contact the office and we will send home the Family Photo Ordering Envelope.



RE NEWS

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of Pentecost, which celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and energising them to set about their mission of continuing the ministry of Jesus. Jesus had breathed the Spirit upon them but it took the roaring wind to make a real impression on the disciples. There are frequent references in the gospels to Jesus being 'filled with the Spirit'. It is this Spirit with which he was filled that he breathed upon his disciples; it is that same Spirit that we receive sacramentally in Confirmation. For the weeks following the death of Jesus the disciples had lived in fear and confusion, not fully understanding what had happened and not really knowing what to do. When they realised that the Spirit Jesus had breathed upon them was really present and urging them to action they finally had the courage to begin the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them: to spread the Good News of Jesus and continue to realise his message in the world.

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.

We can sometimes regard Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit came into the world. However, the Spirit had long been active in the world before this event. In fact, even the second verse of Genesis Chapter 1 tells us that the Spirit hovered over the waters. The Old Testament is filled with references in which 'The Spirit of God came upon (him) with power' and the Spirit was evident at Jesus' baptism and throughout the gospels. Jesus is frequently described as being 'filled with the Spirit'. So, from the very beginning of creation the Spirit has moved in the world and continues to energise it today.

Mrs Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR





SPORTS NEWS

Wednesday, 23rd May	National Simultaneous Story Time
Monday, 28th May	OPEN DAY for prospective new families - 9.30-10.30am
Tuesday, 29th May	Primary Athletics Carnival
Wednesday, 30th May	ICAS - Science Competition - 7.30am
Thursday, 31st May	Year 5 Grade Mass
Thursday, 31st May	OPEN DAY for prospective new families - 4.00-5.00pm
Tuesday, 5th June	Stage 3 - Boys Soccer - Jamison Park, Penrith
Thursday, 7th June	Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass - 9.30am
Friday, 8th June	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Pupil Free day
Monday, 11th June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - Public Holiday
Wednesday, 13th June	ICAS - Spelling Competition - 7.30am
Thursday, 14th June	ICAS - Writing Competition - 7.30am
Thursday, 14th June	Year 4 Grade Mass

SPORTS NEWS

Primary Athletics Carnival – Tuesday 29th May

Thank you to all those students who have returned their athletics permission notes on time, if your child has not returned their note, can we kindly ask if they can be returned to school by tomorrow. We are super busy organising a fun day for all the St Michael's students and the weather forecast is looking fantastic. Thank you to those parents/carers who have volunteered to help on the day, if there are any others who would like to be a part of the day please let Mrs Budd know.





We had large numbers of students nominate for the 800m event, all children who have been accepted into this event will receive a blue ticket on Friday to bring with them for the early bus on Tuesday.

Shot Put and Discus – has been held at school during PE lessons and official results of these events will be published the week of the carnival. First 2 placegetters in each division will go through to represent St Michael's at the zone carnival. There will be qualifying distances for discus only at the zone carnival.

High Jump – is not held at the school carnival, any student who wishes to nominate for the high jump must submit a printed copy of their results from their athletics club. There will be qualifying heights for this event and students who nominate will be advised of these once the school has been notified of the 2018 qualifying heights.

At the carnival student's will move around in their age groups on the day, the only events at zone level held in specific ages is the 100m all other events are in junior, 11 year and Snr divisions. The first 2 place getters in these divisions will represent St Michael's at zone level.

8, 9 and 10 years – junior division

11 - 11 years' division

12 & 13 years – senior division

Coles sport for school's vouchers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful St Michael's community for their wonderful generosity in collecting Coles vouchers at the last count we had collected just over 14, 500 vouchers. We have 1 last small bag to be counted and then we will be able to redeem our vouchers for some equipment. We will share our purchases with you in a later newsletter.



Yours in Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd/ Mr Joe Ng

PE TEACHERS



Prospect Guide Hall Open Day!

Myrtle Street Prospect (behind St Johns)

Sunday 3 June 10am–2pm

Activities, games, BBQ, fun for the whole family.
Guiding displays and much more.

For more information about this FREE event please
contact Nicole Prince 0402 220 587



BLACKTOWN CITY FESTIVAL



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE 18 MAY - 27 MAY 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DOWNLOAD A PROGRAM, VISIT WWW.BLACKTOWN.NSW.GOV.AU/FESTIVAL

ALCOHOL FREE EVENT 02 9839 6000 WWW.BLACKTOWN.NSW.GOV.AU/FESTIVAL @BLACKTOWNC @BLACKTOWNCITY COUNCIL WET WEATHER HOTLINE 02 9839 6277





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

June

6th - P&F Meeting

August

19th – Shopping Bus Trip

October

26th – Rides Night

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We are in need of some pre-loved Winter Uniforms for the Second hand Uniform Shop. If you have anything you would like to donate you can drop of on Wednesday mornings to Karen Estrada or during the week to Kris at Kiss & Drop.

The Uniform Shop is open on Wednesday mornings from 8:30am to 9:30am.

P&F Meeting – Wednesday 6th June 2018

We have our Term 2 meeting coming up in two weeks and we have some exciting things to share and discuss so make sure you keep the night free. Will also be a great opportunity for you to hear from our new leader, Sarah O'Rourke.

We will share some more information in the coming week on the P&F Facebook page and if you have anything you'd like to contribute please do not hesitate to send it through to us.

PRC

Parents Representative Council –

Web: <http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au/home>

School Representative: Michelle Williams



We are very excited to announce that we have booked a Shopping Tour for **Sunday 19th August, 2018** which is just in time to start organising yourself for Christmas lol.

Date: Sunday 19th August, 2018
Tour Cost: \$34 (min 40) / \$37 (min 30) / \$39 (min 20) / \$55 (min 15) paying passengers

Times: Pick Up: 7.00am Drop Off: 6.00pm

Pick up Address: School Bus Bay, Orwell Street

We are looking into the possibility of providing pre-paid lunch packs (salads / wraps, water etc.) instead of stopping for a Pub Lunch which will save \$\$ and increase our Shopping Time ☺ I will keep you updated.

How to Book:

Please contact Leanne Cash (details below) to provide your details & number of people you have coming or to Kris at Kiss & Drop in the mornings. Based on some initial feedback we've had we expect this to be popular so get in quick so you don't miss out.

Money won't need to be collected until early August so you have plenty of time ☺

Don't forget to ask your Family & Friends ☺

Leanne Mobile: 0413 546 062

Leanne Email: leannecash@gmail.com



EDUCATION/LEARNING

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes wanting them to have great experiences at school. By and large, Australian schools deliver on that expectation. They are generally safe places for kids, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student wellbeing are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.

Nevertheless, despite the best teaching practices things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages such as the start of adolescence. During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school can make a huge difference to their resilience and to their future relationships with teachers and peers. This includes not only any advice you may give and the way you give it, but also the way you approach the school, if that becomes necessary. Unfortunately, anecdotal evidence suggests that there's been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children's grievances. This presents a danger to teachers, harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship, and sets a bad example to children about how to resolve differences.

Here's a seven point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Be empathetic first

Kids, like adults, like to vent. They will often benefit simply from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often they just want their parents to understand what's happening, so your first response should be an empathetic one. That is, your child should feel you understand them and take them seriously. "That's awful. I'd be upset too if someone stole my lunch" is the sort of response kids want to hear when they are genuinely upset.

2. Stay calm and take your time

It's natural as a parent to want to protect or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart as emotions make us prone to over-reaction and jumping to all sorts of possibly incorrect conclusions.

Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through

how you might assist your child. Time generally provides greater perspective, which will likely lead to a better response from you.

3. Get the all facts

Getting the facts about the situation can be really tricky. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there's a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can't see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It's your job to help your child or young person process what happened in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and you can fully understand their place in any problem. Keep asking questions to enable the complete story to unfold.

4. Assess whether to go to school or not

Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope. However, if your child has a recurring problem that he can't solve himself, or you think adult intervention may be needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's teacher or year-level coordinator.



5. Use the right channels if you take the issue to school

Approach the school calmly, going through the school office or directly to your child's teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it's often easier to approach them directly.

6. Look for solutions rather than blame

Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally, not a foe. "I'm really worried about Jeremy. He's been acting strangely lately and I need some help" is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

7. Stay in touch

Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child's teacher over the long-term, which means maintaining communication with each other.

Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.