



UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY— 2016

Thurs 4th	Photos: Student Leaders Sports Captains Kindergarten
Tues 9th	Welcoming Disco & BBQ for new families - 5.30pm Kindergarten Parent Information Night 6.00pm
Wed 10th	ASH WEDNESDAY Liturgy—9.30am
Thurs 18th	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival—Mt Druitt
Fri 19th	Beginning School Mass—9.30am

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016

Term 1:

Wednesday, 27th January to
Friday, 8th April

Term 2:

Tuesday, 26th April to
Friday, 1st July

Term 3:

Monday, 18th July to
Friday, 23rd September

Term 4:

Monday, 10th October to
Tuesday, 20th December

Church of St Michael's
58 Orwell Street
Blacktown South

Weekend Masses:

Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 6.00pm
4th Sunday 10.45am Filipino Mass

Weekday Masses:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8.00am
Wed: 7.30pm

First Friday: 7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wed: 7.00pm–7.25pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Wednesdays 6.30pm–7.30pm

Phone: 9622 9149

Website: mqofblacktown.org.au

St Michael's Primary School
155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown South 2148
Ph: 9622 9910
Fax: 9622 6902

Website:

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Email:

stmichaelsblkt@parra.catholic.edu.au

St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

2016 - ISSUE 1

2nd February 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

The reading from Jeremiah was Sunday's first reading and you can imagine the impact it had on two very new grandparents. When you consider our faith and relationship with God, the ramifications for us as teachers and parents can be quite sobering. After all if our children, 'have been called by name,' 'breathe in God as God lives within them,' and 'are children of God,' how then do we ensure our relationships nurture and give life to all those we teach. The simple answer is 'to be you,' after all you too are all of the above. "Love what God loves, which is everything and everyone, including you and me." Rohr.

This week I'll be talking up Goals. My Goals, teachers goals and our student goals, this work is not about ensuring accountability its all about action supporting growth and change. Our goals should reflect what personal change we are aiming (realistically) at to bring about growth. In 2016 my goals will respond to our Implementation Plan, so that I will need to develop a 'Framework' that will support, planning, implementation and feedback around the success of student's ability to read and comprehend a variety of texts. The Goals we construct reflect what we need to grow, learn or develop in ensuring that our work is making a difference. My second Goal will support my work in ensuring the professional development of our newly formed leadership team. In ensuring 'a new way of learning and serving.' Our leadership model is all about Learning, Sharing and Service, so how will I support our work? Once again, I'm stressing the need for our goals to be a focus on self-reflection leading to growth.

So then I invite you to speak with your children. Invite them to talk about their goals for 2016 ... What is it about their learning that they want to develop, improve or grow towards?

I look forward to learning and growing with you this year. I believe our communities strength is our willingness to simply but actively live out our motto. Love One Another,

John Laffan

PRINCIPAL



From the Assistant Principal

Welcome back to the 2016 school year. We have seen many excited faces as the children arrived to start the new academic year. To all our families we offer the warmest of welcomes and a special welcome to our new families.

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Positive reinforcement will help children to adopt an enthusiastic attitude towards their learning.

As parents and partners in your child's education I encourage you to work alongside the talented, dedicated and professional staff here at St Michael's as they provide and facilitate opportunities for your child to grow to their full potential. Your support is appreciated and is an integral part of the success of St Michael's.

A few general reminders:

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

It is a Board of Studies requirement that all absences must be explained by parents. Class rolls are legal documents and are maintained by class teachers and checked regularly by auditors. Unexplained absences will be followed up. Children arriving to school late or being picked up early must be signed in or out by a **parent/guardian** at the office. **Attendance at school can be a predictor of long term success.** We will be monitoring all absences very closely to ensure all children are at school for the maximum time.

HATS

All children need to have a school hat to be worn before school, morning tea, lunch, after school and for any outside lessons. If your child is still waiting for a school hat from the school uniform shop, we ask that they bring a similar hat.

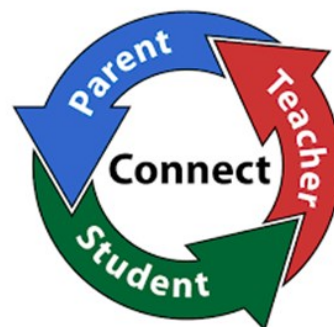
PARENT HELPERS

Throughout the year we need your help for various school events: excursions, sporting events, sports carnivals, canteen and as helpers in the classroom. To be a helper at St Michael's all person over the age of 16 must complete the following every two years:

Complete online Child Protection Module – <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/child-protection-training> and Complete declaration.

I am looking forward to working with our wonderful school community at St Michael's. Please feel free to come and see me throughout the year.

Kind regards,
Katherine McKay
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Morning Kiss and Drop Off at Reservoir Road

Roads and vehicles are an everyday part of life for all of us. Either as a driver, a passenger, or as a pedestrian, we all must negotiate the road traffic environment on a daily basis.

Children are especially vulnerable around vehicles and roads due to their size and capabilities.

It is important to be aware of the opportunities to teach children to become safer road-users.

Always demonstrate responsible and safe behaviours when driving, as a passenger or while walking anywhere around vehicles and roads.

Safe behaviour when using Kiss and Drop includes:

- ⇒ Children need to exit from the car on the **left hand side**
- ⇒ **Parents are to remain in the car at all times to ensure the smooth flow of cars**
- ⇒ Drivers are **not to overtake** in the school premises.
- ⇒ When walking into the school grounds please **hold the hands** of toddlers
- ⇒ Cars will not be able to park in the overflow area for the safety of pedestrians
- ⇒ If you are waiting near the gate, we ask that at **all times** student walk ways are kept free. It is imperative no child is forced into the traffic. *We welcome parents using the silver seats to chat.*



**AN EXAMPLE OF SAFE
BEHAVIOUR**



- ◆ **ORWELL STREET—** Please **DO NOT** park in No Stopping areas. You could be FINED!
- ◆ Please **DO NOT** park across driveways.
- ◆ Please ensure you follow all road rules for the safety of all.

Our children and their safety is our main priority in the mornings and afternoons. We are asking that all parents demonstrate safe behaviours at all times in the interest of ALL of our children.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

Katherine McKay

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

Pope Francis has declared the Year of Mercy to run from 8th December 2015 till 20th November 2016.

Pope Francis says, "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.



The motto for the year, *Merciful like the Father*, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead.

Next Wednesday we will celebrate the beginning of Lent and the Year of Mercy with a Liturgy for Ash Wednesday at 9.30am in the Primary Quad. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop opening hours are **WEDNESDAYS—8.15am-11.15am.**

If you are unable to get to the uniform shop you are able to place an order and make payment at the office and it will be processed and sent home with your child.

Canteen

Welcome back. We are looking forward to working with you all again. Please use the Term 4 2015 price list until the new price list comes out.

Volunteer forms have been send home this week. If you haven't received one, please call into the canteen. Returning volunteers: could you please return a form as well.

Looking forward to your support again this year. Profits go back to the school.

Jan Crawford and Geny Cleary

CANTEEN MANAGERS

Library

Welcome back to another year of reading. All children will have a set time to borrow with their class, but are welcome to borrow before and after school as well on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

To help develop a sense of responsibility for looking after Library books, all children should have a cloth Library bag. This could be a school Library bag (available from the clothing pool), or it could be a home made or shop bought cloth bag.

Books are borrowed for a week, and should be returned promptly for others to borrow.

Here are the days for each class to borrow. Please make sure that your child returns their books on these days:

Monday:	KH, 1J, 2C, 2S, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5S
Tuesday:	2L, 2M, 4E, 4S, 4X
Wednesday:	KW, 1C, 6P, 6W
Thursday:	KP, 4M, 6C, 6E
Friday:	KR, 1G, 1S, 3B, 3R, 3S, 3T



BOOK CLUB

Book Club brochures will be given out once each term. The first one will go home shortly. There are some lovely books available for reasonable prices, but there is no obligation to buy.

There are two ways of ordering books.

- ⇒ Fill in the order form, clearly marking the books required, and the name and class of your child so that we can send them when they arrive. Put the money and order form in an envelope marked with your child's name and class. Return it to the school before the closing date, which will be marked on the order form.
- ⇒ Order online. Scholastic have made it possible to order and pay online to avoid problems with lost money. Details are included on the bottom of the order form. Make sure you enter the correct class for your child. You do not need to return the order form to school.

Judy Buhagiar

TEACHER LIBRARIAN

Introducing our Student Leaders for 2016

Olivia Fletcher - School Captain

My favourite subject: I love all the different subjects but I especially love using my imagination in Writing. Also producing beautiful Artworks in Art.

Hobbies: Netball, Reading, playing Clash of Clans and Swimming, but most of all hanging out with Family and Friends.

What I love about St Michael's: St Michael's is a school filled with passion in learning and Faith. We work together as a school community to strive to achieve.

My goal for 2016: As a leader this year I would like to stand up for the St. Michael children, just like the original St. Michael did himself.



Hunter Newsome - School Captain

My favourite subject: Maths and History

Hobbies: Play football and karate

What I love about St Michael's:

At St Michael's we work together and look out for each other

My goal for 2016: I want to improve my writing and help everyone.



Shanelle Agon - Vice Captain

My favourite subject: My favourite subject is art and religion. I like art because it expresses my feeling and my creativity can go wild. Religion is another one of my favourite subjects as well because we can learn about God and we all can follow him into his footsteps to be a good leader and to go to heaven.

Hobbies: My personal hobbies are watching my favourite YouTubers. My other hobbies are video editing, drawing, riding my penny board, playing with my brother Patrick Agon, arts and crafts and watching my all time favourite tv shows which are Arrow, The flash, Young justice, Supergirl and so much more.

What I love about St Michael's: What I love about St Michael's is the community that we are building and the teachers that love to teach kids and to help them grow.

My goal for 2016: My goals that I want to achieve this year is being the best role model I can be like a superhero and like Jesus. My other goal is to have a growth mindset in everything I do. I would like to wish the new kindergarten students and their parents a warm welcome to St Michael's. I will do my very best to make the new kindergarten students feel that this school is fun and a safe environment.



Pavithran Visakeswaran - Vice Captain

My favourite subjects: I like all subjects but I mostly like Maths and English.

Hobbies: My interests are Reading, Sport, Music, playing video games, being with family and playing with friends.

What I love about St Michael's: I love the bond between teachers and students that other schools don't have. I also like the way our school embraces our motto of 'Love one Another' and the way teachers teach students at our school. This school has an energy that you just can't replace.

My goal for 2016 is to strive to embrace the school motto myself as a leader and to help others embrace our school motto. I would also like to do the best work I can and make teachers and family proud.

Welcome everyone new to the school and wish you luck for the new year. Hope everyone has been happy and hope everyone does their hardest in everything they do.



Adut Mau - Student Leader

My favourite subject: The subjects that I enjoy the most are writing and art because I enjoy creating different stories and I love being creative with my art skills.

Hobbies: My favorite hobbies are Dance, Cheerleading, Gymnastic, watching youtubers, Reading and hanging out with my family and friends, I enjoy being active with my sports, I love reading because it helps me to learn new words. The rest of my hobbies are running, riding my bike and using hoverboards/Segway.

What I love about St Michael's: I love the motto "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" because: St Michael's students/teachers live out the motto and I also love how all the students and teachers get along very well because it also shows our motto of love one another.

My goal for 2016: My goal for 2016 is to be a great leader for St Michael's and help everyone when they are in need like St Michael himself did.

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE:

I hope everyone will enjoy 2016 and I hope the new kindergartens feel that this is a safe school and that they are welcome here at St Michaels.



Nathaniel Darmali - Student Leader

My favourite subject: The subjects that I enjoy the most are maths and art because I enjoy solving mathematical equations as well as doing creative artworks.

Hobbies: Reading superhero comics, reading manga books, watching CW TV shows such as Gotham, Arrow, Legends of Tomorrow, Supergirl and The Flash plus, drawing and watching the anime 'One Piece'. In my spare time, I enjoy creating tumblr drawings and also am looking forward for the movies Batman vs

Superman: Dawn of Justice, Justice League, Captain America: Civil War and Guardians of the Galaxy 2.

What I love about St Michael's: I love how St. Michaels always refers to their motto, 'Love one Another' so that every student is equal as well as being fair at all costs. I also love how the teachers are well prepared for the lesson that we are going to learn.

My goal for 2016: My most important goal for 2016 is to put others needs in front of mine. I must be positive, good role models and helping those with troubles.



From the Office

2016 School Fees

School Fee accounts will be sent at the beginning of the first 3 terms. Term 1 Fee Invoice is due to be mailed on Tuesday 9th February, 2016.

Term 1 Fees are due on the 7th March.

A once off Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) will be offered with the first term fees which each family can par-

participate in, should you not take this offer then full payment is required each term by the due date shown on the school account statement.

The FPP is an alternative to our current payment terms of 30 days and offers families choice to pay their annual fees weekly, fortnightly or monthly over a nine month period from March to November. Our preferred payment method for FPP is Direct Debit, however Bpay is also available.

All fee payment arrangements made directly with the school in 2015 are now due to be reviewed. Please contact Robyn Hoogenvest to request the appropriate documentation to be sent to you.

If you have not received your Term 1 Fee Invoice by Friday 19th February, please contact the school office.

P & F News

A new year is upon us and it is set to be an exciting one. We would like to welcome all of our new families to our wonderful school community and hope that you and your children settle into the new year with ease.

Our Team:

The P&F team works hard throughout the year to arrange various opportunities that revolve around the building of community, which is the main focus of our team. The team consists of executive members as well as parent committee members.

Our executive team members are:

Jackie Coleman:	President
Emma Moore:	Vice President
Heidi Langshaw:	Secretary
Katy McDonald:	Assistant Secretary
Maria Riddout:	Treasurer
Jethro Valenzuala:	Assistant Treasurer

Kiss and Drop Volunteers:

Today you will receive a note about our kiss and drop procedure and how you can volunteer to help out in the mornings. We appreciate any assistance that is available.

Fundraising:

Throughout the year we will hold various fundraising events that support the school to purchase additional and much needed resources. Each year we hold a school disco, Mother's and Father's Day stalls and this year we will hold our major fundraiser, the Bi-Annual Spring Fair.

Facebook Group

Head over and check it out for information about our upcoming events and other information.
[school.https://www.facebook.com/groups/STmicksPF](https://www.facebook.com/groups/STmicksPF)

We look forward to getting to know you all throughout 2016.

The P&F Team



St. Michael's Primary School

155 Reservoir Road Blacktown South NSW 2148
 Phone: (02) 9622 9910 Fax: (02) 9622 6902
 Email: stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au
 Website: www.stmichaelsblktn.parra.catholic.edu.au

SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR 2016

DIOCESAN ANNUAL FEES	1 st Child 100%	2 nd Child 75%	3 rd Child 50%
Kindergarten	\$1,098	\$825	\$549
Primary Yr 1 – Yr 6	\$1,419	\$1,065	\$711
Secondary Years 7-8	\$1,968	\$1,476	\$984
Years 9-10	\$2,184	\$1,638	\$1,092
Years 11-12	\$2,790	\$2,094	\$1,395
Building Levy (one level per family)	\$735		
Temporary Residents (Years K-12)	\$1,815	\$1,815	\$1,815

DIOCESAN TERM FEES (Charged in Terms 1,2&3)	1 st Child	2 nd Child	3 rd Child
Kindergarten	\$366	\$275	\$183
Yr 1 – Yr 6	\$473	\$355	\$237
Secondary Years 7-8	\$656	\$492	\$328
Years 9-10	\$728	\$546	\$364
Year 11-12	\$930	\$698	\$465
Building Levy (one levy per family)	\$245		
Temporary Residents (Years K-12)	\$605	\$605	\$605

Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents (DEFTR) 2016

The Diocesan Education Fee applies to new students on the following Visa numbers 173, 401, 411, 415, 416, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 457, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 944, 956, 976, and 977 including where any of these are the proceeding visas for families on bridging visas 010 to 090. Families charged this fee previously will continue to be charged on a per family basis to the eldest student whilst the family has continuous current students.

2016 SCHOOL BASED FEES

Special Purpose Levy	\$75	\$25 in Terms 1,2 & 3
Resource Fee	\$150	\$50 in Terms 1,2 & 3
Infants Excursion Fee	\$40	
Infants Extra-Curricula Fee (includes Musical Performance & Life Education, Book Week Musical, and Extra Curricula software)	\$35	
Total Excursion/Extra Curricula Fee	\$75	\$25 in Terms 1,2 & 3
Primary Excursion Fee	\$40	
Primary Extra-Curricula Fee (includes Musical Performance, Life Education, Primary Athletics Carnival, Maths Day and Author visit)	\$44	
Total Excursion/Extra Curricula Fee	\$84	\$28 in Terms 1,2 & 3



Girraween Eagles Junior Rugby League Football Club

50 years strong! Established in 1965, we are proud members of the Parramatta Convents Rugby League Association. Our NRL accredited competition supports a **modified** game of rugby league and welcomes primary school children aged between 5 and 11 who either attend Catholic schools in the Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Blacktown and Lalor Park areas, or who have been baptised Catholic.

We are all about participation, teamwork, fitness and having fun. We compete against other Catholic schools in the Parramatta diocese and our main focus is on each child having equal game time, respect for one another and enjoying the great game of rugby league in a safe and fun environment.

We accept registrations for boys and girls from specific catholic feeder schools:

- St Anthony's Girraween
- Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills
- St Bernadette's Lalor Park
- St Patrick's Blacktown
- Plus catholic children who attend non-catholic schools in our local area.

Player Registration fees:

\$102 for first child, \$45 for second child, 3rd child (or more) free of charge. **BONUS!** This investment covers 1 x player pack per child* that includes:

- 1 x pair of Game day shorts
- 1 x Game day shirt
- 1 x pair of Football socks
- 1 x Hoodie jumper
- 1 x Training Shirt
- 1 x \$2 Family Club membership

*New players only and returning players will receive replacement kit pieces as required (eg. Socks and shorts).

BUT WAIT! There's more...

Each registered player will receive a 2016 Season Pass to attend any 2016 NRL season fixtures (NB. Excludes sold out and finals series games. Seating restrictions apply).



Other inclusions include: Weekly e-newsletter that includes all news, match reports, next week fixtures etc, presentation day BBQ, end of season trophy for each child, various social calendar events for families and parents, free NRL game tickets, boot exchange program, plus the chance to earn additional merit trophies and awards throughout the season. Our Under 6's may also get an opportunity to play a half time exhibition match at an 2016 NRL season stadium fixture – the kids LOVE this!

Registration Days:

Keep an eye on our website and facebook pages for updates on rego dates and venues. First rego day will be held on Sunday 7 February 2016 at Toongabbie Sports Club, 12 Station Road Toongabbie between 10am – 3pm. Training sessions will commence in February on Wednesday nights between 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Please feel free to come down and have a chat to find out more.

NB. New players need to provide their Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate (or name of catholic school they attend) on day of registration.

When do we play?

Our game days are on:

**Sundays (9am – 2pm)
5:30pm Wednesdays and 3:00pm Saturdays
Pendle Hill Park, Hazel St, Pendle Hill**

Our Home Ground is:

The Social aspect:

Our Club and competition is a great way to get to know other families in our local school communities and we are a very social and supportive bunch. Many of our families have been with our club since their children were in the Under 6's and have become life long friends through their club association.

Our committee is made up of parents just like you, and we always welcome new committee members who have fresh ideas, constructive input and time to contribute. These times with our kids are those that make lifelong memories and we'd love you to be a part of it.

Want to find out more?

Google: "Girraween Eagles" for our Facebook and website pages
Email: girraweeneglesjrffc@gmail.com
Phone: Natalie Walka m. 0400 376 270

Join us in 2016 and soar with the Girraween Eagles!

Parent Testimonial

"Having enjoyed team sports when we were children, when our own son Matthew started Kindergarten, my husband and I looked for a team sport Matt could join to help build his confidence, make friends, and enjoy team camaraderie and exercise. As a new Mum, I thought rugby league might be 'too rough' for little ones, so we enrolled him in another popular team ball sport. After two years, while Matt showed a lot of talent, there was very little team camaraderie between the kids, the team management and communications were disorganised, and our son wasn't enjoying it anymore. The team parents barely socialised and we questioned the expensive annual fees when all we got was a pair of socks! Around the same time, Matthew's friends at school urged him to play rugby league with them, so the next year we registered Matt with the Girraween Eagles Under 8's, and kept him in his existing Saturday team sport as well, just in case.

We were immediately impressed by the friendliness of the Club members and Matt settled in straight away, enjoying playing their modified game of rugby league. We dropped the other Saturday sport that next year and Matt continued playing modified rugby league with the Girraween Eagles up until the Under 11's (their oldest team age group). He continues to enjoy playing rugby league today with another local club who caters for his age group. When our second son Daniel came along, we had no problem registering him for the Under 6's as soon as he started Kindergarten and he is still loving his footy as he moves into the Under 10's this year. Our family has now been with the Eagles for 9 years, my husband Michael is a coach and I'm entering my fourth year as club president in 2016. I can honestly say our decision to join the Girraween Eagles club and introducing our kids to this modified game of rugby league has benefitted our children and our family in so many ways.

As players with the Eagles club, our boys have played at ANZ and Parramatta stadiums, met some of their NRL hero's, made lifelong friends, played some wonderful football, honed their footy skills, learned important lessons around sportsmanship, resilience and team work, enjoyed some fantastic end of season weekends away with their mates and Winter Sundays are great fun for all of us.
(Natalie Walka, 2016).