



St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH

Wed 29th Parent Workshop 5:30pm
P&F Meeting 6:30pm

Fri 31st P&F Disco
Infants: 5-6.30pm
Primary: 7-9pm

APRIL

Mon 3rd SCHOOL PHOTOS—All students are to come to school in full summer uniform

Tues 4th MUFTI DAY for Primary students to return PROJECT COM-PASSION BOXES

Fri 7th Stage 3 Boys and Girls Touch Gala Day
EASTER RAFFLE
Assembly 2pm
Last Day of Term 1

IMPORTANT
Monday 24th April
Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
STUDENTS RETURN for Term 2 on Wednesday 26th April 2017

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

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155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown South 2148
Ph: 9622 9910
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Email:

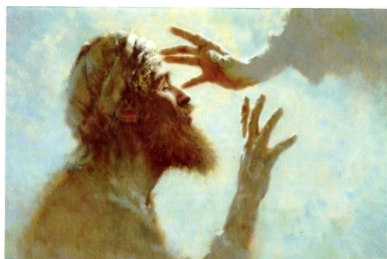
stmichaelsbktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

2017 - ISSUE 5

28th March 2017

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

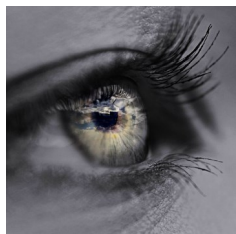


ENROLLING now for 2018

please advise family and friends to collect an Enrolment Package from the school office.

“Jesus heals the blind man”

As we approach our ‘new Easter,’ I invite all of us to consider this well-known Gospel story. As Jesus mixed the earth with his spittle, he was in a way making clay. His actions were *making anew* and the blind man was then able to see. This week I invite you to re-read the story and allow yourself some time to reflect; are our *eyes open* to see all that is important in our lives? And, what is it in our lives we need to make *anew*?



I have been working with my colleagues (your children’s teachers) for some time now, and for as long as I have known them I would describe them as one of the hardest working, resilient and dedicated communities of educators that I have ever known. But there are changes occurring at a steady rate, the **way** we are working **together** is **evolving**.

The level of *professional reflection* based on **analysis of data** is driving **critical thinking** in **co-construction** of learning. In short I see our teaching community making changes and planning next steps as a team. The sharing of *wisdom* and *thinking* makes next steps in our teaching aligned to *student needs*.

Last week I shared a conversation I had with a student I year 5 as she helped me *think* my way through a problem. Through reflecting on this and in my work with colleagues last week in a seminar dedicated to Oral language, I’m interested in looking at developing our understanding of **oral language** and its impact on our 2017 *Action Plan*.

My *wondering* around oral language is how can we support student confidence and skills in *talking, greeting, acknowledging and expressing their thinking*. What are your thoughts?

As we come to the end of an exciting and successful term I invite you to reflect on your role in your child’s education.

I firmly believe;

“Education can only be enhanced with community.” Meehan

AND

“Education requires a collective effort; the teacher, the student, the parents and the community.”

So over the past 10 weeks have you:

- Participated in Information sessions?
- Met with your child's teacher to discuss growth and development?
- Taken part in Open Days, Liturgies and class Masses?
- Accepted the invitation to attend Personalised Plan meetings?

I appreciate how busy life/work gets, but I encourage you to be **an active partner** in the education of your child.

Love One Another,
John Laffan

PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

We are hoping next term to be running a very popular and hugely successful parenting course "123 Magic". We had many parents attend last year and reported the huge difference it made at home. If you are interested please let me know so I can reserve your place.

Parenting is a hard job and we all need as much support as we can get. At St Michael's we always want to work in partnership with you and support you at home like you support us at school. Over the next few newsletters I would like to offer some small tips from "123 Magic" and would encourage your feedback to let me know how it goes at home.



Here is a small part of their newsletter.....

Let's say the kids are fighting (we all know now that sibling rivalry is a pastime for the kids and a torture for their parents). Most parents are skeptical when they first learn how to use counting. There's a simple part and a hard part. Here's the simple part: the parent holds up one finger and says, "That's 1."

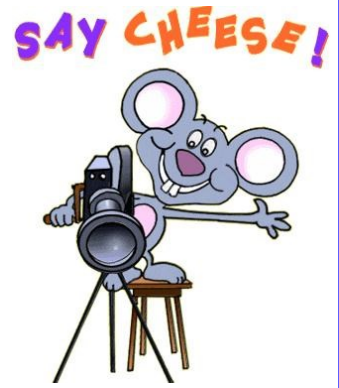
That's the first warning. Nothing else is said. If the kids behave, that's wonderful, but if they hit a 2 and then a 3, they have to take a brief "rest period" – stair, chair, corner, bedroom. One minute per year of their life (e.g., five year old takes five minutes).

When they come out, there's no talking, no lecturing, no apologies, no explanations. You don't ask who started it. You carry on as if nothing had happened. Believe it or not, in a matter of days—sometimes just hours—the children start responding at 1 or 2. And the first time you stop a fight across a room by just saying, "That's 1," and you don't have to get up or scream, you're going to feel real good.

The challenge for all of us is we if we say something we need to follow through. Sometimes when we implement new strategies it will be harder before it gets easier but when we are consistent we see results.

School Uniform and School Photos

On Monday 3rd April we are having our annual school photos. At the moment there are a small number of children who are not in correct school uniform and this is concerning.



A few common issues:

- ALL children need to have black leather school shoes
- ALL children need the correct school socks
- No extra jewellery or coloured headbands or accessories that are not school colours
- If children are going to wear t-shirts underneath their uniform they should not be visible.

For photo day all children are to bring to school their photo envelope even if not wishing to purchase. Any families that would like to have a FAMILY PHOTO please collect an envelope from the office.

Your support in this matter is appreciated. Our school uniform is a representation of our whole school community.

Have a great week!

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RE News

Last Sunday we heard the gospel story about Jesus giving sight to a man born blind. The Pharisees and authorities questioned as to why he was born blind – was it he or his parents who had sinned. Jesus said, 'neither he or his parents had sinned'. This story makes us think about times we are blind – blind to those who are less fortunate than us, blind to those who need our help and don't ask, blind to those close to us who need our love and blind to strangers who are calling out to us.

Thank you to everyone for the Project Compassion Boxes returned this week and next. The money raised will be used by Caritas Australia to support people who need support to fulfil dreams for their communities.

REMINDER: Primary students are able to wear MUFTI next Tuesday, 4th April and return their Project Compassion Boxes.

Next week you are invited to join us in praying the Stations of the Cross in our Learning Spaces.

By praying The Stations of the Cross we will reflect on the last journey that Jesus made on earth. They show us how Jesus suffered and died on the cross.

More details will follow before the end of the week.

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Office News

SMS DAILY ABSENCES

We have now started using the Daily Absence SMS system. If your child is absent from school you will receive an SMS message in the morning. We ask that you reply to this SMS promptly stating very briefly why your child is absent from school eg. Mary is sick with the flu etc.—please also **do not** use any symbols (ie. smiley faces, \$ % & ()) in your text reply as it creates an error. The majority of SMS messages are sent to one of the parents only. Once you have replied to an SMS you do not need to send a note as this reply is uploaded into your child's attendance record. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS SMS NUMBER** to send random messages to the school as this number is for daily absences only.



PLEASE NOTE: If you are aware that your child is going to be absent for any length of time, could you please write a note to the teacher explaining absence. For leave over 10 days during the school term you will need to complete an "Application for Extended Leave (L) - Travel".

Schools Cup Competition—Cycling

Over the summer school terms we participated in the InterSchool Cycling "Schools Cup Competition" and you guessed it St Michael's Primary School took out the Summer Series Primary School Division, with a smashing 2098 points beating 28 primary schools around NSW. Our prize winning team was represented by Maisy Cyreszko (1L), August Cyreszko (2L), Jaime O'Callaghan (6P) and Georgia O'Callaghan (6W). Each Sunday afternoon we get to ride in 3 races giving us the opportunity to improve our bike skills and racing tactics. The competition caters for riders of all ages, all skill levels and for all kinds of bikes, from BMX to road bikes and track bikes. If you are looking for a new sport and enjoy riding you should come and join us to make sure St Michael's brings home the Winter Cup too.

For more information go to www.interschoolcycling.org.au





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

2017

March

23rd - Mufti Day for Easter Raffle

29th - P&F Meeting & Learning Seminars

31st - School Disco

April

7th - Easter Raffle Drawn & Easter Card prizes awarded

May

10th - Mother's Day Stall

24th - P&F Meeting

29th - PRC Free Seminar Raising Resilient Children & Happy Families

August

30th - Father's Day Stall

PRC

Parents Representative

Council - web:

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

School Representative: Michelle Williams



School Disco – Friday 31st March, 2017

Great to see so many of the kids coming to the disco this Friday night, it's going to be a great night. We highly encourage pre ordering your tickets to avoid large cues on the night however there will be an option to pay on the night with the only food option for your child being the beef or chicken sausages. Unfortunately all orders for Hot Chips must be received and ordered by Wednesday 29th March, 2017.

For those parents attending our P&F Meeting on the 29th March, feel free to bring your notes and money along then ☺

Wrist bands will be sent home this week ☺

Volunteers:

As you all know these events are only possible with the assistance of our Parent Helpers. If you're able to spare some time at the disco to help out we would be greatly appreciative. Just contact Kris or Leanne on the numbers at the top of the page ☺ Thankyou

P&F Meeting: Wednesday 29th March, 2017

Where: Year 3 Learning Spaces

5:30pm to 6:30pm: Parent Workshop organised by John & Katherine

6:30pm to 7:30pm: P& F Meeting with Light Refreshments (children welcome)

Current items for the Agenda:

- Canteen – Guest speaker, Greg from Munchies
- Uniform
- Feedback on this year's Parent Information Nights.
- Mother's Day Stall
- Orwell St Carpark – Morning Drop Off
- Disco

Please feel free to send through any other agenda items.

Easter is approaching so it's time to get creative and send us your best Easter Cards...Don't forget to encourage your children to get started on their Easter card. To give us enough time to sort through the cards and give to the judges to decide on some winners we will need them returned by Friday 31st March, 2017. Please feel free to drop them off at the Disco if it makes it easier for you ☺

Raffle:

Raffle tickets have been sent home, for those who are interested in buying some tickets please return them by Tuesday 2nd April, 2017 for the draw which will take place on Friday 7th April, 2017.

Help:

Kris & Jackie from the Exec team along with some parent helpers will be in the P&F Demountable all day on Friday putting together all the hampers for the Easter Raffle, if you can spare some time they would love to see you ☺

Uniform Shop News

Change over to **Winter Uniform** will be after the School holidays and is worn in Terms 2 and 3. Uniforms are available to be purchased **NOW!**

There are only two more Wednesdays left before the school holidays: **29 March** and **5 April**.

The Uniform Shop is open on Wednesdays from 8:15am to 11:00am and it is highly recommended that you bring your child to the shop to try on uniforms to avoid having to wait for the sizes to be exchanged.



The Uniform Shop will be open in the School Holidays on Wednesday 19 April 2017 between 8am – 1 pm.

Size 4 winter jackets are still out of stock and should be available soon – keep an eye out for an announcement in the newsletter!

FINAL TOUR

SPRIT OF ANZAC
CENTENARY EXPERIENCE

A free travelling exhibition that tells the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War, featuring artefacts from the Australian War Memorial.

BOOK FREE TICKETS NOW AT
WWW.SPRITOFANZAC.GOV.AU

We will be hosting free children's activities at the Experience from 17 - 21 April. Find out more and register your interest at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/sydney/activities

International Convention Centre Sydney
15 - 27 APR 2017

PRESENTED BY

PROBLY SUPPORTED BY



AUTUMN CAMP
April 10 and 11, 2017
Monday and Tuesday
U/6-15

Patrician Brothers Blacktown
9am-3pm

Register at www.lionsleague.com.au

"Lions League is more than a sporting academy. The team at Lions League whole heartedly believe in people's abilities no matter their level and have created a unique environment to nurture and inspire these dreams."