



UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER

Wed 30th	Christmas Concert— 6pm
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DECEMBER

Thurs 1st	End of Year Mass— 9.30am Parent Helpers Morning Tea 10.30am
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Thurs 8th	Dental Assessments for Kinder, Yrs 2, 4, 6
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Fri 9th	Year 6 Fun Day
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Mon 12th	Reports to go home to parents Year 6 Farewell Assembly—2.00pm
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Tues 13th	Guard of Honour for Year 6—2.15pm Year 6 Graduation Mass—7.30pm
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Wed 14th	Transition to 2017 Classes—11.30- 1.30pm
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Fri 16th	Last day of school for all students
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Tues 31st Jan	Students in Yrs 1-6 commence school
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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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St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

2016 - ISSUE 19

29th November 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Advent is a period of preparation before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas.

Advent takes up this theme in looking forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas and especially in looking towards the future coming of Christ.

Advent invites us to prepare for the commemoration of God's coming by taking time to have a closer look inside ourselves away from the busy outside. This looking inside is not about remorse or regret, nor about listing ways of life over the past year that could have been different; it's not about wishing we were better people. It's about forward movement, getting new bearings, relying more on God for directions. It's about a fresh start, getting closer to the "fire" and the "light" that are God's love and compassion. Advent is a time to "Rejoice, let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." (St Paul, Phil. 4:4,5)



We look forward to celebrating Christmas with all of the families this Wednesday at 6pm. Children can wear Christmas colours and it is a chance to sit outside and enjoy the spirit of Christmas. My sincere thanks to the P & F for organising a BBQ and other great things to purchase on the night.

On Thursday after our End of Year Liturgy we will have a thank you morning tea for all of our parent helpers in the staffroom. We appreciate all of our parent volunteers who assist in any way.

Blessings to you and your families.

Mrs Katherine McKay

ACTING PRINCIPAL



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

RE News

Several years ago Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans. Hundreds died. Rescuers found hundreds trapped on rooftops. Some argued that many people suffered only because the government authorities weren't prepared for the storm.

As Advent begins this week, Jesus reminds us that people suffered in Noah's time because they weren't prepared.

Advent is a good season to think about that. As you do, prepare yourself for Christ. Remember, Advent is also a season of hope. We light candles to remember that Christ's power seeks to beat back the darkness of injustice every day.

Prepare yourself by looking for evidence of grace. To every war, God sends peacemakers. Stay awake, Jesus says, and you'll see reasons for hope all over the world.

Prepare yourself to be grace and hope this season, the person who shines light by standing for peace, feeding the hungry, forgiving an enemy, or welcoming an outcast.

Sure, sadness floods our world, but God sends boats to the rescue. Jump on board this Advent. People stranded by pain and injustice are waiting for you.

Where can you make a difference at home, at school, at work, or in the world this Advent?

The Action

Slow down. While the rest of the world gets ready for Christmas by buying presents, hosting parties, baking, travelling and so on, you can prepare yourself for Christmas by setting your priorities straight. What are they? Try saying a mantra such as '*Come, Lord Jesus*' over and over for five minutes. Praying in this way helps calm us down and also makes us more open to God throughout the day. At the end of your day, try sitting and lighting a candle. Repeat Isaiah's words: '*Let us walk in the light of the Lord!*' As you light an additional candle each week, the light of Christ will get stronger and brighter. Don't let the busyness of December distract you from what is most important.



MARY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

www.mqofblacktown.org.au

admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

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www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics

[@mqofblacktown](https://twitter.com/mqofblacktown)

COME AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY



ST PATRICK'S CHURCH: 51-59 Allawah Street

2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION Tuesday 20th December

7.30pm (St Patrick's Church)

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday 24th December

5.30pm - Children's Mass
(St Patrick's Church)

6.00pm - Children's Mass
(St Michael's Church)

8.30pm - Youth Mass
(St Patrick's Church)

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday 25th December

12.00am - Midnight Mass
(Celebrated at both our churches)

7.00am (St Patrick's Church)

8.00am (St Michael's Church)

9.30am (St Michael's Church)

10.00am (St Patrick's Church)

NO EVENING MASSES
ON CHRISTMAS DAY

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: 58 Orwell Street

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It seems curious that the Christian Churches would begin a new year on Sunday 27th of November. But then senior students know that the HSC year begins in the calendar year before they actually sit the HSC exam.

The Christian Churches of the West begin their year with the weeks of Advent anticipating the celebration of birth of Jesus and his coming at the end of time, a conviction that Christians and Muslims hold in common. A wise old man of the 11th century, Bernard of Clairvaux, liked to highlight a third coming, **the birth of Jesus in our relationships with one another.**

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas I look forward to welcoming many of you at the parish celebrations of this great time of the year.

Fr Peter Confeggi, Parish Priest



Dates for the 2017 Sacramental Process (First Communion, Confirmation & Reconciliation) will be available on the parish website early 2017. We look forward to being with you and your family on this part of your faith journey.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1st Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Boxing Day

Be sure to get your copy of the MQOF Advent Calendar from the church foyers or download it from the parish website www.mqofblacktown.org.au. Prepare your family for Christmas as we live the love of Christ in our lives.



God Bless

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Office News

If your child will not be returning in 2017 (Years K-5 2016) it would be greatly appreciated if you could please notify the school in writing, stating that last day you will be attending St Michael's and the school your child will be attending next year. This is a Government requirement. The last day of Term 4 for students is Friday, 16th December 2016.

As always it is important that if your child is absent from school that the school receives notification. It is vital that if your child will be on leave in the last weeks of 2016 and will not be commencing on the 1st day of 2017 (Tuesday, 31st January 2017 for Years 1-6 2017), that we be advised of this.

CHANGE OF FAMILY/STUDENT INFORMATION:

Please, if you have changed address or contact numbers it is very important that you let the school know so that we can update our database. You can access a "CHANGE OF FAMILY/STUDENT INFORMATION" form from our website under the notes section.

Uniform Shop News

Due to **STOCKTAKE**—the last day of trade for the Uniform Shop for 2016 will be **Wednesday, 7 December 2016** from 8:15am to 11:00 am.

No orders can be received for processing after this date (any uniform requirements will need to be purchased in 2017).

The Uniform Shop will be opening during the Christmas holidays as follows:

- **Wednesday, 18 January 2017 from 9am to 12 pm**
- **Wednesday, 25 January 2017 from 8:15am to 2:45pm**

50% OFF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS – REDUCED TO CLEAR:

- 1 x Medium Rain Jacket - \$20**
- 4 x Medium V Neck tops - \$20 each**
- 4 x Small V Neck tops - \$20 each**
 - 1 x size 4 V neck top - \$20**
 - 1 x size 14 V neck top - \$20**
 - 4 x size 10 V neck top - \$20**

We are in need of pre-loved uniforms. If you would like to donate any items please send into the office.

From the Library

As we near the end of 2016, I need to get all Library resources returned so that they can be inventoried and repaired if necessary.

Overdue Books

Last week, all students were given **reminder notes** of which books they still have.

Parents, can you please help your children look for and return these books so that we can maintain our collection for everyone to borrow. There are a number of late books from popular series such as Lego Ninjago, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Captain Underpants, Andy Griffiths' Treehouse series and several Minecraft books. Some of these have been on loan since term 3, or even earlier, while other students were waiting for their turn to borrow them.

If you find anything with a St Michaels barcode on the cover, please send it back.

This week I will unfortunately have to start sending out bills for those books that have been lost.

THANKYOU

Thankyou to all those who have helped in the Library this year - covering books, helping to tally the Book Club orders and assisting at the Book Fair. I really appreciate all your help.

Canteen News

ALL HOT FOODS WILL RUN OUT OVER THE NEXT WEEK—Please put a substitute on all lunch orders.

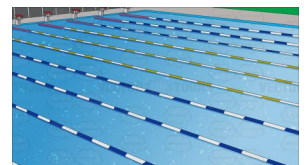
The last week will be sandwiches and wraps and what is left of the other foods. Please add sandwich or wrap as second choice for the last week.

Thank you for your support over the year,
Jan & Geny

Sports News

TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We were certainly blessed last Wednesday in being able to get through our swimming carnival. The rain poured down on the drive to the pool, but stopped with perfect timing for us to get on with the carnival.



Our swimmers splished, splashed, dived and kicked their way up the pool throughout the afternoon. We were able to get through all our events swiftly.

Thank you to all of the students who swam on the day and a big thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents who braved the afternoon to support their children.

All results will be finalised this week and zone team for 2017 will be announced. Notes for this will be sent home at the beginning of Term 1, 2017.

Reminder: any students who wish to nominate for the 4 x 50mtr Individual medley please send to Mrs Budd a confirmation of your time for this event from your swimming club. These times need to be provided ideally before the end of Term 4.

Thank you to all of the wonderful staff who came to support the event and ensure it was a successful afternoon for all of our students. We are blessed at St Michael's to have such wonderful supportive staff.

Parramatta Diocesan Winter Sport Trials Expression of Interest is NOW OPEN to register.

The winter sports consist of **Football (Soccer), Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Touch Football.**

Open to students in Years 5 and 6 in 2017. We will speak to students during PE time this week in years 4 and 5 and hand out information to those who fulfil the criteria

Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Budd if you require any assistance with this process. The expression of interest nomination is open until FEBRUARY 3, 2017.

2017 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials



Any Primary students enrolled in Parramatta Diocesan Schools in Year 5 and 6 in 2017 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One/Two in 2017 (Winter Sports - AFL, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch).

It is **important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport.** While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2017 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials in 2017 will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), & Touch(B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au.

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2017 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience".

Please ensure that the **SUBMIT** button has been pressed upon completing the form and notification email will be sent to the parent/guardian listed on the form confirming this expression of interest has been received.

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

Winter Sports Registrations close Friday 3rd February 5pm.

Please contact your school sports coordinator for any further information.

Yours In Sport,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator – Primary Sport

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Water, Water, Water

We still have lots of children not bringing a drink bottle to school at all! Cannot stress enough the importance of us all keeping our bodies hydrated throughout the day. All children are reminded and encouraged to bring a water bottle to PE lessons. At this time of year the weather is very unpredictable, we have the best interest of our students at all times and adjust our PE lessons to Indoors if the weather is too hot.



Cross Country 2017

Our 2017 cross-country will be early in Term 1, we encourage all students to keep active in the holidays in preparation for this event.

Parent Helpers

Throughout the year we often ask for parent helpers to assist at various sporting events, carnivals and gala days. We are very grateful for this assistance. It is important to note that volunteers are required to complete online the necessary child protection requirements. If you are thinking of getting more involved in sporting events in 2017, please ensure your child protection is up to date and the necessary requirements have been completed. The process has been advertised in many past newsletters and is available from the school if you require more information.

Yours in Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd/ Mr Joe Ng

PE Teachers

From the Bishop's Office

Arrupe Project Christmas Appeal

Arrupe Place was established in 2015 to provide a welcoming space for people seeking asylum and in need of essential services in Western Sydney. Run by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the centre in North Parramatta offers a range of services, including English language and cooking classes, a food bank, legal advice and a sense of community.

This year they are targeting donations to ensure they will provide necessary assistance but also opportunities for enjoyable activities for people seeking asylum. Needed items include: new children's toys for ages 0-12 years, Opal cards, gift cards for Coles, Woolworths, K-mart, Myer or Big W. Please note: at this moment JRS is not needing donations of clothing, food or second-hand toys.

Donated items will be accepted **until Monday 5 December**. Please contact JRS tel (02) 9098 9336, matthew.potts@jrs.org.au

Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral: 8-25 December

From 8 December, celebrate the joy of Christmas every night at St Mary's Cathedral until Christmas night. The theme is Joy to the World and will feature an extraordinary animation of the timeless Christmas tale, the Nutcracker Suite along with a pictorial journey of Christmas decorations through the ages. Starting each day at 7.30pm with a choir performance. The light show comes on just after dusk and stays on until midnight.

Why not join our
Facebook site?

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

2016

November

30th - Christmas Concert

2017

February

27th – PRC Free Seminar
Raising Responsible Digital
Citizens

March

?? - Mufti Day for Easter Raffle

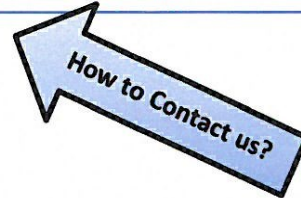
31st - School Disco

April

7th - Easter Raffle Drawn

May

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



In addition to this fancy new P&F page which now includes **How to Contact us** at the top and **Calendar of Events** over there on the left, we also have a new Committee for 2017. Let me welcome you to:

Executives

Presidents: Kristen Gardoll & Leanne Cash (that's me....)
(Keeping up with the times and introducing a Job Share role)

Vice President: Jackie Coleman

Secretary: Marvi Gordon

Treasurer: Maria Ridout

Committee Members

Heidi Langshaw, Karen Estrada, Liz Fenech, Michelle Williams, Bernard Sutton, Chelsey Lea Gillett, Marie Norman (apologies if I missed someone)

Keep an eye out next year for personal intros to the Committee...



Don't forget the Christmas Concert this week, Wednesday 30th Nov. The P&F will be there from 5pm cooking your dinner so come along early and have a bite to eat before the entertainment starts at 6pm.

We'll also have some Show Bags, Glow Sticks, Flashing Sound Activated Foam Baton's, Lolly Bags and Lucky Dip's so make sure you bring your spare change.

If your able to lend a hand on the day, even if it's for an hour there will be people setting up after school so feel free to come and say hi and we'll be more than happy to have you on board. You can also contact us beforehand; take a look at the top of this page for contact details.

PRC

Parents Representative Council

School Representative:
Michelle Williams

Web:

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

The PRC provides additional opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's school community and learning journey. With access to information and educational opportunities via parent forums and guest speakers, parents can become active participants in their child's schooling.

Watch this space in future Newsletters as Michelle is going to share some great articles and information. I'll also use our calendar to keep you updated with future PRC Free Seminars, we already have two booked in for next year.



Transport
for NSW

School travel 2017

Application information Nov 2016

Information for parents, guardians and students

Our school has partnered with Transport for NSW to use the new online process for you to submit school travel applications.

This means we will be able to process your applications online, making it easier and faster for parents, guardians and students to apply for school travel.

Applications for school travel in 2017 are now open, including for travel to Mascot and Green Square station and for private ferries. Parents, guardians and students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are able via:

Applications for 2017 school travel are now open via www.transportnsw.info/school-students

A new application is required when:

- applying for a School Opal card or travel pass for the first time.
- enrolling in Kindergarten, or
- requesting an additional entitlement as a result of a shared parental responsibility situation.

You will need to do an update application if the student has a current school travel pass and:

- is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3.
- is progressing from Year 6 to Year 7, or
- changes address, or
- changes school or campus.

Already have a School Opal card or travel pass?

- When you've updated, and you are eligible for free school travel next year, Transport for NSW will send you an email confirmation once your application has been processed. For travel in rural or regional NSW, we'll also inform your nominated transport operator(s).
- If you already have a School Opal card that does not need updating, or you've successfully re-applied, the Opal card will automatically be updated for travel next year. Do not throw it out as you'll be able to use it when the school year starts in 2017.
- If you currently have a printed travel pass provided by your transport operator, a new pass will be ready at the beginning of the new school year.



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 2017

DIOCESAN ANNUAL FEES	1 st Child 100%	2 nd Child 75%	3 rd Child 50%
Kindergarten	\$1,131	\$849	\$567
Primary Yr 1 – Yr 6	\$1,461	\$1,095	\$732
Secondary Years 7-8	\$2,028	\$1,521	\$1,014
Years 9-10	\$2,250	\$1,689	\$1,125
Years 11-12	\$2,874	\$2,157	\$1,437
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	\$377	\$283	\$189
Yr 1 – Yr 6	\$487	\$365	\$244
Secondary Years 7-8	\$676	\$507	\$338
Years 9-10	\$750	\$563	\$375
Year 11-12	\$958	\$719	\$479
Building Levy (one levy per family)	\$252	\$252	\$252
Temporary Residents (Years K-12)	\$623	\$623	\$623

Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents (DEFTR) 2017

The Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents for 2017 is \$1869 per student, payable in three equal instalments of \$623 in terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee applies to new students on the following visa numbers: 173, 401, 402, 411, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 456, 457, 459, 462, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 884, 944, 956, 976 and 977 including where any of these are the preceding visas for families on bridging visa 010- 090. Families charged this fee in 2013 will continue to be charged on a per family basis to the eldest student whilst the eldest student has continuous current students.

2017 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)	\$38	
Total Excursion/Extra Curricula Fee	\$78	\$26 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)	\$47	
Total Excursion/Extra Curricula Fee	\$87	\$29 in Terms 1,2 & 3

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