



UPCOMING EVENTS:

AUGUST

Thurs 6th	Author visit—Oliver Phommavanh—Years 5 & 6 Year 3 excursion to Lessons Afloat
Fri 7th	SCHOOL CENSUS DAY Mary MacKillop Liturgy—9:30am
Mon 10th	Voice of Youth—School Final
Tues 11th	Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival ICAS—Mathematics
Wed 12th	BOOK FAIR
Thurs 13th	BOOK FAIR OPEN DAY 9.30-10.30am
Fri 14th	BOOK FAIR Literacy and Numeracy workshop—9.30am Whole School Assembly—2.15pm
Tues 18th	Stage 2 & 3 Netball Gala Day

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
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Ph: 9622 9910
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St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

2015 - ISSUE 12

4th August 2015

From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Saint Mary MacKillop we give thanks for the many good works that her life has inspired. This year marks five years since her canonisation. Now is a good time to be reminded of those truly inspiring values that were at the heart of her life and are at the heart of all that it means to be Australian:

- ♦ A sense of a fair go for all
- ♦ Extending the hand of welcome to the stranger
- ♦ Perseverance and courage in the face of adversity

The initial need that Mary MacKillop responded to was that of providing education for children who were disadvantaged and this reminds me very much of the work of Nano Nagle.

"Try to keep God with us by charity of thought, word and act."

Mary MacKillop 1890

The world that we live in today shows us much pain and suffering, but also provides us a sense of joy and amazement. We now can access information so readily through the internet and television and this now draws world events deeper into our lives, our homes and our families than ever before.

We have a responsibility to nurture and to protect our children and the vulnerable in the current world climate. As parents we want to teach them love and perseverance on life's challenges. It is in these moments what we feel God's love and that we can understand and teach God's love to others.

"A certain sense of God's watchful love wonderfully strengthens me." *Mary MacKillop 1873*

I look forward to celebrating Mary MacKillop's life with you on Friday at 9:30am.



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

CENSUS DAY

This Friday, 7th August is School Census Day.

All children should attend school on this day and absence should only be if it is absolutely necessary. If your child is absent on this day, please simply email the school at

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au by 10.00am explaining their absence and their date of return to school. This email will then be forwarded to your child's teacher. Please note: Auditors have advised that written advice from parents is essential.

This is of course a requirement that applies to everyday of the school year, however, Census data is directly related to Government funding for our schools and the requirements outlined above are set by the Department of Education.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Blessings to you and your families.

Katherine McKay

ACTING PRINCIPAL



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From the Acting Assistant Principal



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I spoke this week at Infants morning assembly about the importance of us supporting and being a good friend to each other. We are so lucky to be apart of such a compassionate community and it is important not to take that for granted. Our school motto is "Love one another" and it is a real honour to be apart of that motto being lived out each and everyday, not only through the students, but also through the staff and families of this great community. With everything that goes on in the media, it is heart warming to know that the community of St Michael's is a torch leading the way for sharing God's love!

A few reminders:

- ⇒ Thank you to those families who have already returned their mode of transport forms. If you have not already done so could you please fill them in and return to your child's class teacher ASAP. Thank you for your continued support.
- ⇒ A reminder that if your child is away, that you are required to send in a note on their return explaining their absence.
- ⇒ Thank you to the parents and caregivers who are remembering to Kiss and Drop in the morning. It is important for the wellbeing and safety of the children, that no parents/caregivers are to be inside the school gates once their child has been dropped off.

- ⇒ We invite you to attend our Mary Mackillop Liturgy this Friday in the Church starting at 9.30am.
- ⇒ We also invite you to attend our Whole School Assembly next Friday the 14th of August starting at 2pm.
- ⇒ We will also be running Literacy and Numeracy Workshops on Friday the 14th at 9.30-10.15am and Wednesday the 19th at 5.30-6.15pm before the P&F Meeting. You are more than welcome to attend and hopefully learn something new!

Thanks again for your understanding and support!

Take care,

Lisa Samojlowicz

Acting Assistant Principal



RE News

Last Sunday's gospel reading continues the exploration of John Ch 6 that began last week and will continue for another few weeks. At the moment Year 6 are learning about how the Eucharist Nourishes Us for the Journey in this unit the gospel readings from last week and this week have been studied by the students. This week's passage begins the extended discourse on the 'Bread of Life' image that runs throughout this chapter. Last week's reading finished with Jesus virtually fleeing the scene when the crowd wanted to make him king. At the start of today's reading, the crowd has caught up with him again and appears to be looking for a repeat performance of the miraculous feeding. Jesus accuses them of simply wanting more food and not being alert to the truth of the sign they had witnessed. The crowd asks what they must do to accomplish the works of God and Jesus answers fairly bluntly, Believe in me!

In response, the people demand a sign from Jesus: produce manna from heaven as Moses did during the Exodus. In fact, manna from heaven is one of the signs of the coming of the Messiah that is foretold by the prophets. So, in their own way, the people are asking Jesus to demonstrate to them that he is the Messiah. Jesus, however, explains that it was not Moses who produced the manna, but God. In Jesus, God has already produced the sign – the Bread sent down from heaven. There is no need for Jesus to produce such a sign; the sign has already been produced by God. It is up to the people – and us – to recognise God's gift of life-sustaining nourishment that is Jesus.

Christ is present in the Eucharist in many forms: in the people gathered; in the celebrating priest; in the Word proclaimed; and in the consecrated bread and wine – the Body and Blood of Christ. In relation to receiving Christ through the reception of communion, St Augustine wrote, 'Be what you see, and receive what you are.' We not only receive the Body of Christ through Eucharist, we are called to be the Body of Christ because of what we have received; and we receive the Body of Christ because we are already part of the Body of Christ.

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Uniform Shop

The shop is open on Wednesdays between 8:15—11:00am—if you are unable to come into the Uniform Shop, orders for uniforms can be placed at the office using the order form. We accept cash, cheque or EFTPOS. If you receive an order and need to swap sizes, this can be done by placing the order in a plastic bag with a note, receipt and handing it in to the office. The correct items will then be sent home with your child. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office on 9622 9910.

Library

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their challenges.

Giuseppe Novella	KR
Christine Nogueiro	1D
Francesco Tabone	1G
Jeva Baillon	1S
Rizul Gulati	2E
Maddison Cash	2K
Youanna Mekhail	2K
Samantha Goyena	2L
Sahej Singh	2S
Ronash Alves	3C
Aiden Galea	4S
Matthew Wormleaton	5S
Nicholas Ward	6E
Sharon Nogueiro	6W



All other readers only have a short time left to finish their challenge. The closing date is 21st August, but as I have to validate records by then, I ask that all students enter all their reading records by **Monday 17th August.**

Certificates will not be available until near the end of Term 4.

Book Fair

Our Book Fair will take place next week in the Library. In past years we have been extremely happy with the range of books available and the reasonable prices. It is a good opportunity to purchase books to put away as presents for birthdays and Christmas.



The Fair will be open at the following times only:

Wednesday 12 th August :	8.30 – 9.15am	and	2.45 – 3.30
Thursday 13 th August:	8.30 – 9am	and	2.45 – 3.30
Friday 14 th August	8.30 – 9am,	1.30 – 2pm	3 – 3.30pm

Chess

Recently, three of our Year 6 students took part in an all-day Chess Tournament at Penrith against 52 other teams. They finished first with a clear margin of 5 ½ points. The boys were winners overall as individuals and as a Team earning individual trophies and one for the school. Well done to Andrew Roseby, Lucas Tabone and Kyle Zammit.

The Inter – School Chess Competition, held over Terms 2 and 3, has now finished. Our A Team played extremely well throughout the ten rounds and finished 2nd, only 2 ½ points behind the winners and 8 points ahead of the 3rd placed team. Well played to Andrew Roseby, Lucas Tabone, Kyle Zammit, Shaun Blaje and Caitlyn Lee.



Judy Buhagiar
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

Year 6 Excursion to Canberra

On Thursday/Friday, 30th & 31st July 2015, our Year 6 students undertook an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Year 6 Canberra Excursion **It was so much fun and we learnt a lot!**

Our Year 6 Canberra excursion was one of the most amazing, memorable excursions we have had for a long time. There was so much to do and so much to see that we never got bored. We went to a lot of amazing places including Old Parliament house where we learnt about the history of the Australian Government.



There was such a big difference between the Old Parliament and the New Parliament. Did you know that the speakers chair in the Old Parliament House was a gift from the British and that the New Parliament House does not have the same speakers chair. It has a new chair which was built by Australians. Moving on from Parliament to the world of science. Another awesome place in Canberra where we were excited to visit was Questacon. Questacon is an interactive science museum.

Another exciting element of our excursion everyone was looking forward to was our MOTEL! We had an AWESOME time in our rooms even though we had to be quiet and calm. It was a good thing we got a restful night's sleep because on Friday morning we had to wake up at 6:00am. It was totally worth it because the first place we were to visit today was the A.I.S (Australian International Sports). We also visited The War Memorial and best of all QUESTACON to finish off our excursion.

Porsha - My favorite part of the whole Canberra experience was at Questacon because there was a ride called "the free fall." This was so fun that even Mr. White did it and he loved it. Also another favorite part of Canberra was MC DONALDS!!!

Caitlyn - My favourite part of Canberra was Questacon. My next favourite was probably in the A.I.S when we learnt about many different sports and even had free time to play some of them. This occurred in a place called 'Sportex'. The whole experience of Canberra was really fun and I can confidently say that the whole of Year 6 enjoyed it!

Written by Caitlyn Lee—6P and Porsha Rouss—6P



Year 5 Excursion to Bathurst

On Friday, 29th July all of Year 5 came to school early, feeling excited to go to the Bathurst Goldfields. For recess we went to Katoomba and saw beautiful landscapes. We then went to the Bathurst Goldfields. We went into a room with photos of what people in those days dressed in.

At the Goldfields, the children learnt how families lived on the Goldfields, how Chinese men were treated, how men made mud bricks, different ways used to find gold and much more. The children made damper with golden syrup. They learnt how to pan for gold then the children panned for gold themselves. They went through a museum that had information about the gold rush.

Another activity that we did was making damper with Chris. It was made out of flour, water and put on to a stick and was roasted over the big fire. Chris then put some syrup into our damper and we ate it. It was really yummy! Everyone enjoyed it!

Written by Alana Milic—5S, Beatrice Gara—5C, Viktoria Vidovic—5C



P & F News

It is hard to believe that we are already in week 4 of the 3rd term.

Providing a safe environment/kiss and drop:

As parents we want only what is best for our children. A good education, good friends and to know they are safe are among the many things we want for them. We as the community of St Michael's want this also and aim work towards this at all times. Having a great team of parents on our kiss and drop assists us to provide a safe environment for our children. I wish to thank all the families who have volunteered their time. If you have a spare morning and you would be able to help please let us know.

P&F Meeting:

Coming up on **Wednesday 19th August** we will be holding our General meeting. This will take place in the Staff room starting at 6.30pm. Everyone is invited and very welcome to attend. If you have anything you would like to discuss on the evening can you please forward these to Jackie via email at jackstar26@hotmail.com by Friday 14th August. Light refreshments will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Entertainment Books

This is your last chance to get your entertainment book.. If you have yet to order one and want to do so please contact Jackie on the facebook page or at email jackstar26@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

August

Wednesday, 19th- P&F General Meeting 6.30pm

September

Wednesday, 2nd- Father's Day Stall

Sunday, 13th- Bunning's BBQ Blacktown

Regards

P & F TEAM

Canteen

PLEASE NOTE: Nuggets are \$3.00 for a packet of 5 nuggets.

Lasagne, Spaghetti Twists, Macaroni Cheese are \$4.05

Nachos Dippers are \$5.20

Pizzas are \$3.60

These items are coming in on lunch orders with the wrong price.

Supreme Pizzas are not longer available.

NEW LINE: Chicken Pizzas are \$3.50

Lunch Bags are 5 cents if not supplied. Spoons for Pies are 5 cents also.

Thank you for your continued support

Jan Crawford

CANTEEN MANAGER

Catholic Education Office

2015 Choral Celebration

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EVENT INFO

A concert featuring Year 4-6 students in the CAPTIVATE Development Program delivered by 'a3 Australian Arts Alive', the education program of the Australian School of Performing Arts.

Monday 7 September 7pm
@ ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE
54-97 Gascoigne St, Kingswood

Tuesday 8 September 7pm
@ ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE
54-97 Gascoigne St, Kingswood

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Corpus Christi Primary CRANE BROOK
Trinity ---Primary KEMPS CREEK

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Holy Trinity Primary GRANVILLE
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Our Lady of the Angels Primary ROUSE HILL
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For more information visit
www.captivate.catholic.edu.au

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Bishops Office

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta wants to hear from you ... If you or someone close to you has suffered any abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic group) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, we invite you to contact us. Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options. You can contact us tel (02) 9933 0233, email safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au or write to Safeguarding Response, PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW, 1750. For more information, please visit: www.safeguarding.org.au For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact NSW Police tel 1800 333 000.

Year of Consecrated Life Solemn Mass and Vocations Fest: 9 August—To celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, there will be a Mass at 11am in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, followed by a Vocations Fest. The program includes lunch, religious sharing their stories, Q&A and entertainment for all the family. The afternoon will conclude with a Holy Hour for Vocations. Everyone is welcome.

Public Forum on *Laudato Si'*: 15 August—A forum on the new encyclical from Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* - 'Praise be to you', will be hosted by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) and Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt. Speakers: Fr Gregory Jacobs SJ, Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish; Prof Neil Ormerod, Professor of Theology at Australian Catholic University; Dr Hamish Clarke, Senior Climate & Atmospheric Scientist, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage; and Thea Ormerod, ARRCC President. From 10am-4.30pm at Loyola Senior High Hall, 91 North Pde, Mt Druitt. RSVP: Thea tel 0405293466, chair@gmail.com

Made for Each Other Youth Day: 15 August—The diocesan Family & Life Office is hosting a day for youth and young adults aged 16 to 35 centred on the complementarity of man and woman. Discover the beauty and mystery of how marriage was designed "in the beginning". Based on six short films that unpack the different dimensions of the complementarity between man & woman. The day will include: group discussion and sharing, Q and A, Mass for the Assumption, panel discussion. Rego at 8.30am, starts 9am, ends 4pm. Cost: \$10 students, \$20 non-students (incl. morning tea and lunch). **RSVP 7 August** at www.trybooking.com/IIME (credit card required) or famlife@parra.catholic.org.au (cash payment at event). Inquiries: Family and Life Office (02) 8838 3440 or famlife@parra.catholic.org.au

Vocation Discernment Afternoon: 23 August—All young men who feel God might be calling them to the priesthood are invited to the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's Vocation Discernment Afternoon. The afternoon starts at 2pm and concludes with a shared meal at 6pm. Holy Spirit Seminary is at 31-33 Allen Street, Harris Park.

To find out more about priesthood in the Diocese of Parramatta contact the Director of Priestly Vocations, Fr Warren Edwards, tel 0409 172 700 or send an email to: vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

Notre Dame Open Day: 29 August—Experience this 5 star national Catholic university in the heart of Sydney. Check out The University of Notre Dame's courses, meet academic staff and current students, enjoy entertainment and take a tour of the Broadway Campus. Saturday 29 August from 9am-3pm. Personalise your Open Day at: www.notredame.edu.au/openday



Catholic Early Learning Centre

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown South

CELC has continued its transition to school program with the introduction of some new and exciting initiatives. We have introduced Kiss and drop and lunch orders from the St Michael's school canteen. Our frequent library visits continue as well as our walkabouts in the school grounds. We believe that these experiences will smooth the transition to school for your child by establishing a relationship before they have started kindergarten.

We have vacancies for 2015 and have commenced our enrolment process for 2016. Our fees are as low as \$16.00 per day for concession card holders and families of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Fees for Children who are 4 years (before the 31st July) and 5 years is \$37.00 per day for a two day position. Other days are available and further fee information can be given on your inquiry. Please contact us on 8814 8406.

CELC has stepped into the realm of technology and created a Facebook group. Make sure you join our group. This is a great way to keep up to date with the exciting events and activities children have participated in during the week.

Kind Regards

Donna Harding

Director



Catholic Early Learning Centre
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown South
Preschool for 3-5 year olds


ENROLLING NOW

62A Orwell St, Blacktown Phone 8814 8406 www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au




Games-a-thon Sponsors

Thank you to our generous Games-a-thon sponsors. Please support these businesses if you can.



Our next Lions League Camp will be run on 29th & 30th June (the first Monday & Tuesday of the holidays) at Patrician Brothers' College, Blacktown

Lions from ages 8-15 years—contact us at www.lionsleague.com.au

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Mrs Jan Crawford

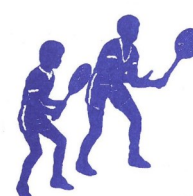
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