



# Newsletter

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South  
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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

This term, as a school, we continue to focus on our three learning goals:

**Formation:** For students to demonstrate their understanding of what it means to be a Presentation Person. Students will demonstrate an ability to articulate how they, as Presentation People, live out the Gospel in both *'word and deed'*.

**Literacy:** For all students to demonstrate at least 1 year's growth in comprehension supported by deep analysis of data informing and determining our next steps in teaching and learning. This goal will be measured using the National Literacy Learning Progressions.

**Numeracy:** For all students to develop reasoning skills in a multiplicative way to solve problems. This will impact 1 years growth in Multiplication and division and Place Value.

The children, together with the teachers, are all working towards achieving their own goals in these three areas. This term the teachers will also continue to develop their skills in Literacy, Numeracy and RE to inform their teaching practice.

Literacy this week for parents:

- Try to make reading time a happy part of your daily routine – just 10 minutes a day can make a big difference.
- Try to spend at least 10 minutes a day reading with your child, it will make a difference to how well they do at school.
- Listen to them reading and keep reading aloud together even when they are able to read for themselves to improve their fluency and vocabulary.
- Have a range of children's books available around the home and within reach for your child to choose at any time.



- Visit your local library and let your child choose books they like. Borrow books and audio books you can read and listen to together.
- Telling stories, nursery rhymes and singing songs are a great way to improve your little one's vocabulary, memory and rhythm for reading.

**School Census** It is mandatory for parents to advise the school if their child is absent on any day throughout the year. This is also a requirement if children are absent on Census Day, Friday 4th August 2018. Census data is directly related to Government funding for schools and therefore the requirements are set by the Department of Education. If you know your child will be absent on Friday 4th August please email the school prior to the day to let us know why your child will be away. Alternatively if your child happens to be away on Friday please respond promptly to the SMS with an explanation or write to your teacher explaining their absence.

We thank you in advance for your assistance.

### **Parking:**

**SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES**  
**WHAT ARE YOU RISKING?**

<b>No Stopping</b> Do not stop near a No Stopping sign.	<b>No Parking</b> 2 min to drop off or pick up, stay within 3m of vehicle.	<b>Bus Zone</b> Only a public bus can stop in a bus zone.
<b>\$330</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	<b>\$183</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	<b>\$330</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Help keep our children safe

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL Blacktown City Council

**SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES**  
**WHAT ARE YOU RISKING?\***

**FACT** Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need YOU to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.

<b>No Parking</b> No waiting. You have 2 minutes to drop-off or pick-up. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.	<b>Pedestrian Crossings</b> 1. In a queue of traffic, no part of your vehicle can stop on a pedestrian crossing. 2. Do not let your child in or out of a vehicle at a pedestrian crossing as this is a No Stopping zone.
<b>\$183</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	<b>\$439</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
<b>No Stopping</b> You must not stop on a length of road with a No Stopping sign. The first 10m from an intersection is a no stopping zone. Yellow kerb lines are also No Stopping zones.	<b>Driveways &amp; Footpaths</b> Do not park on or across a driveway or footpath.
<b>\$330</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	<b>\$330</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
<b>Bus Zone</b> Only a public bus can stop in a bus zone.	<b>U turns</b> Illegal on or near a pedestrian crossing and across double white lines.
<b>\$330</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	<b>\$330</b> + 3 DEMERIT POINTS
<b>Mobile Phones</b> Extra fines apply for using mobile phones in a school zone. May be subject to Double Demerits	<b>Double Parking</b> Double parking is illegal and is very dangerous in a school zone.
<b>\$439</b> + 4 DEMERIT POINTS	<b>\$330</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
<b>Speeding Offences</b> 40km/h is the limit. Children are vulnerable, so slow down in school zones. May be subject to Double Demerits	
<b>\$192</b> + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL Blacktown City Council

\*Fines current as of March 2018. Fines and demerit points are subject to change. For more information check out the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.

Yours sincerely  
Sarah O'Rourke

**ACTING PRINCIPAL**



# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

## **Real Life Maths and Literacy in the holidays- Part 1.**

Well done to all the children who had some fun using their maths and literacy skills in real life during the holidays! If you still have posters of photo's to share of wonderful things you have done during the holidays where your children's literacy and maths skills were used please bring them in! This week we will share 2 of our families wonderful work. Congratulations to all those who participated.

### **A day in the life of Peyton on holidays at Umina Beach! – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Today was my first day glamping at Umina Beach, I was woken up extra early by the birds chirping and the kookaburras laughing. After I got dressed into my favourite unicorn sweater I went for an awesome bike ride along the bush tracks before breakfast. For breakfast I went to the kid's club barn and had some delicious pancakes with maple syrup.

After breakfast I went to the beach with my cousin Georgia to collect shells and make sand castles. We made a village of sandcastles one for each Disney princess and we decorated them with shells and seaweed. Then Georgia and I went in the water it was freezing but we still had a quick splash and a fun time. Next we went for a walk across the beach my favourite shell that I found was a beautiful, bright pink and heart shaped shell.

All the beach fun made us hungry so we headed to the café for some yummy lunch. Then I went exploring on my bike to look for wildlife, I spotted a bush turkey, cockatoo, rosella and possum. My personal favourite was the rosella as I loved all the pretty colours.

In the afternoon we had a fun family games marathon playing cards, mastermind, monopoly and headbands. It was so much fun to hang out with my cousins and have a good laugh.

Then we had a yummy BBQ dinner with sausage sizzles and bacon. At dinner we had a surprise visitor a little possum came to our balcony for food. It was so amazing to see the possum up close it sat right near my foot.

After dinner we snuggled for a movie, it was called Wonder and was about a boy with facial differences. I enjoyed the movie but it had some very sad moments. Finally after a fantastic fun filled day it was time to snuggle up on the top bunk of the tent and go to sleep.

Hope you have enjoyed the report of a day in the life of Peyton on holidays!







## St Michael's 2018 ???????????? A-thon.

This Friday we will be unveiling our theme for this years 'A-thon'. Each day the students will be given clues to help support them in guessing what the theme could be. On Friday each class will be doing something special in preparation for our A-thon. Make sure your children are at school to be part of the excitement! This picture is the first clue.....



In order for our A-thon to be a success, we are seeking companies or small businesses who are able to donate prizes or materials to support our A-thon. If you or a family member owns a small business, or you work for a company/ business who may be able to support our A-thon by donating money for prizes, or who can donate prizes please contact Miss Cox via the school office. We thank you in advance.

## **UNIFORM -**

We have spoken with many children lately about their school uniform. This week notes will be going home to parents if their child does not have the correct uniform. Our uniform is a representation of our school community and we ask for your support in ensuring all children are in the correct uniform at all times.

### **Boys Winter:**

Blue long sleeved shirt

Navy blue tie

Long navy blue trousers

Navy blue socks with yellow stripe

Black polishable school shoes

Navy blue knitted jumper or jacket with crest

School hat

### **Girls Winter:**

Blue long sleeved blouse

Navy blue butterfly tie

Navy blue tunic

Short blue socks or navy tights

Black polishable school shoes

Navy blue knitted jumper or jacket

School hat

### **Unisex Sports Uniform:**

Sports shorts with crest

Sports Tracksuit pants

Sports Jacket with crest

Sports polo shirt with crest

White socks

Sports shoes

School hat

### **Optional Extras:**

Library Bag/Excursion bag

School back with crest

Girl's hair accessories

## **SCHOOL HATS**

At St Michael's there is a strict **"NO HAT NO PLAY"** rule. Please ensure that your child always wears their hat to school. The school logo is screen-printed on the front and are available from the Uniform Shop.

## Sports News

### **Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August (week 4)**

Congratulations to all the children who will be representing St Michael's at the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival in week 4 at Blacktown International Sports Park, Rooty Hill. All permission notes were sent home with students last Friday and are due back to school with bus payment by this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Children have received a list of the events they have been entered in today.

**We must supply at least 2 parent helpers to assist on the day, please let Mrs Budd know if you can assist on the day.**

### **Diocesan Athletics Carnival – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.**

### **St Nicholas Netball Gala Day – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August (week6)**

All netball teams will commence training this week at school, thank you to the teachers who have offered to assist in preparing our teams for the gala day. Students will be travelling to and from by bus for this gala day, permission notes will be sent home this Friday with all students. We will be requiring a parent helper to assist each team on the day, please let Mrs Budd know if you can assist.

### **Stage 2 and 3 Touch Football Gala Days – The Kingsway Playing Fields, Penrith**

**Stage 2 – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Stage 3 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

This term we will be entering boys and girls touch football teams into gala days. Trials for these teams will be held at school in the coming weeks. These gala days commence at approximately 8.15-8.30am and are scheduled to finish around 2pm. **Please note it will be parents/carers responsibility to get your child to and from the venue.** Please discuss with your child if they can attend trials for these teams, we have had quite a few students in the past selected for teams to then advise us they cannot go to the gala day.

Yours In Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd & Mr Joe Ng  
PE Teachers



## Congratulations to the following Students who have completed the Premiers Reading Challenge:

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Nhyira Archeampong Mikaela Fenech Andrea Gunaawardhana Christian Jbara Hania Korczowski Samantha Ridout Oliver Sequeira Jacinta Thompson	Dominic Azar Dave Eshaan Callum Dixon Shimmer Ghodke Alicia Gunawardhana Insia Hasnain Tejas Kaur Kiara Kothari Eesha Lal Oliivia Layous Jeremy Mashreky Evan O'Keefe- Mcwhinnie Kenisha Patel Rayansh Patil Ryana Prajapati Riyaan Shah Alexander Thaux	Alyssa Arevelo Christian Barrs Sienna Cataldo Isabella Dabit Thomas Korczowski Leo Martinez Julianna Mashreky Madison Rendon Angad Saini Joshua Taufel Delinda Thompson	Allison Attard Elizabeth Attard Gabriella Azar Dory Chung Kia Dizon Leah Essanga Xavier Fenech Keanu Freitag-Finau Jarryd Gordon Vanshil Krishnan Aiden O'Connor Isabella Palmer Aditya Puthran Emily Ridout Aisha Sobhi
Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
Ryan Dhanju Tanmany Gupta Amelia Korczowski Tanusha Oberi Sartaj Singh	Eliza Amper Camilla Aquino Cassandra Aquino Caitlin Dixon Sebastian Fenech Natasha Martinez Alyssa Reichel Aaliyah Sobhi	Jenille Calingao Lauren Esanga Jia Chung Keyan Patel Eklavya Saini	



## Getting to Know our Staff

Anne Easton - Religious Education Co-ordinator

I have been teaching for too many years to count!!! I have taught all grades and in both country and city schools. I was lucky enough to begin my teaching career in the primary school I attended as a child. I joined the St Michael's community in 2000 and have held the Religious Education Coordinator position in four different schools. For me being the REC is a privilege because I can serve St Michael's by assisting the teachers,

students and parents to be formed into Presentation People. As REC, I have worked hard to develop St Michael's into a faith filled community who reflects, engages and empowers.



## RE NEWS

Last Sunday we heard the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Jesus is described as testing the disciples, asking them where they might be able to buy bread for the crowd. Phillip is overwhelmed at the

thought of spending a fortune on enough bread for more than 5,000 people. A small boy nearby had a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Jesus took the bread and fish, gave thanks and then had the disciples begin to distribute the food. When everyone had eaten, the disciples collected twelve baskets of leftovers. Some commentators suggest that the twelve baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel – indicating that the message of Jesus will be enough to feed and sustain the whole of Israel. Having witnessed this miracle the people have a sudden insight into who they think Jesus might be – the promised Messiah. Wary of the crowd's mistaken understanding of what the Messiah is to be, Jesus literally heads for the hills to avoid being made a figurehead for the people.



**Anne Easton**

**Religious Education Co-ordinator**

## SCHOOL FEES

Term 3 School Fee statements have been posted to families. Please see Madlin Aboelsaad, our Finance Officer, should you require assistance.





POSITIVE PARENTING

*In a world where transparency is the new black, does modern day parenting need to follow suit? Do our children need to know explicit details about relationship breakdowns, disability or themselves?*

### Culture of transparency

As a teacher I am increasingly being challenged by children who tell me they can't engage in particular activities because of ailments or labels that they throw across the desk like a fidget spinner. Truly out of the mouths of babes comes very adult language and concepts like 'diagnosis', 'ADHD' and brain problems. There are also relationship observations such as "Dad's too busy for us, my parents are separated".

We seem to have created a culture where discussing these often complex issues is done openly and in great detail. Perhaps this is reflective of the greater transparency we see in the world today, with personal information being shared on social media and reality TV.

Our society has evolved to favour transparency in most aspects of life. It's the new norm. But is it in the best interests of our children's wellbeing that our parenting follows suit?

My gut says no. When a child says these things, I find my heart skipping a beat. I can see by the way kids casually deliver these terms and labels that they don't — they simply can't — understand what they are saying and what it means for their own identity.

### The dangers of labelling

I'm sure that most adults can remember a time when they were given a particular label as child. You're the "clever one", you're "not good at sport", you're "better at maths". How many of those things stayed with us into adulthood and continue to change the way we perceive ourselves? Were those thoughts responsible for us not attempting things, a subconscious block to our learning and development?

This issue becomes even more difficult in relation to a disability or difficulty. When we tell a child about a disability of difficulty that they are experiencing, we are potentially giving them a story to follow. We are telling them "this is what you are". Of course we don't mean for this to have a negative effect, and we are for the most part trying to help the child. But disability is difficult. Often as adults we are left without concrete answers and we struggle to cope, so how then do we expect a child to be able to effectively deal with these issues?

### Children's brains are poor processors

The problem is, and this has been beautifully articulated by Michael Grose, that children are essentially poor processors. Their brains do not process information the same way as an adult brain does.

How many times has a child told you "everyone hates me" or "I did nothing on the weekend"? They see things in absolutes, black and white. Of course they did things on the weekend, and often with structure and encouragement targeted at the children's developmental level you will find out that the events of the weekend were vast.



We don't teach six year olds about calculus because their brains are not ready for that. They don't have the mathematical building blocks to understand those higher order concepts. How then do we expect that children will be able to weed through the true facts and ramifications of delivering news like, "We are going to the doctor to see why your brain isn't working properly".

As adults we often find solace in more information, more details. But as adults we can sort this information: our brains and bodies can let go of things we know are not important. We can seek the support of other adults. We can google things. Children aren't equipped the same way. They are told something and it becomes a fact. Real. It becomes a part of who they are.

By tailoring the narrative you give your children to better suit their developmental age and stage in life, by telling them just enough to get them through, you give their minds and bodies a better chance to process complex issues.

### How much is enough?

The question then becomes how much is enough? When children ask where babies come from, we don't tell them the intricate details of reproduction. We tell them just enough to satisfy their curiosity. "Mummy's tummy" is enough for some young children. Then as they grow developmentally and their mental faculties expand, their questions evolve and so can our answers.

Schools are increasingly adopting the Growth Mindset philosophy, that is, that intellect is not finite, it's a growth process. We work at things, we make mistakes and we progress.

I encourage you to try to tailor what you are telling your children to align with their developmental age and abilities. Support them and in time they may seek further answers. Be confident that you have told them enough and that you aren't swamping them with too much information for them to accurately process!



Dimity Sharpe

*Dimity is a passionate and experienced Primary school teacher. She endeavours to ensure all students feel valued, and builds instant rapport through humour and empathy. Dimity strives to provide a learning environment where all children can flourish. She has a degree in Special Education and is a Growth Mindset advocate.*



P&F



## Parents & Friends Association

**Facebook:** St Michael's Blacktown South P&F **Email:** [stmichaelspandf@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelspandf@gmail.com)  
**Kristen Mobile:** 0409 952 852 **Leanne Mobile:** 0413 546 06

### Calendar of Events:

#### TERM 3

##### August:

**19<sup>th</sup>**- Shopping Bus Tour-  
CANCELLED

**30<sup>th</sup>**- Father's Day Stall

**TBA**

Movie Night- funded by  
P&F

Car Boot Sale

#### TERM 4

##### October:

**19<sup>th</sup>**-Rides Night

**TBA**

Christmas Concert

Welcome back to term 3. We hope you all had a relaxing and fun filled holiday with your families. We look forward to working with you all during the term which is set to be a lot of fun.

### Shopping Bus tour:

Unfortunately due to low numbers we have had to cancel the upcoming Shopping bus tour. We apologise to anyone who had or who was going to express their interest in attending. The low numbers would have meant that the day would not have been as successful as we need it to be, therefore the decision was made to cancel it. We will keep you all posted of the other exciting fundraising ventures we have planned for the remainder of the year.

### Uniform Shop:

Karen Estrada will have the uniform shop open on Wednesday Mornings from 8.30am-9.30am. Donations of pre-loved uniforms are gratefully accepted in particular girls uniforms. We are also seeking some volunteers to run the uniform shop on Mondays. If you are able to help please let us know.





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**DANCE**



INVITES YOUR CHILDREN TO

## TRY BASEBALL

AGES 5 - 16 YO Boys & Girls  
T Ball (inhouse) & Baseball  
4 - 9 YO Boys & Girls

### FREE ACTIVITIES

HITTING - CATCHING - THROWING - BASE RUNNING

### FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

SUNDAY 29th JULY 2018

AND

SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST, 2018

10AM - 12.30PM

H.E. Laybutt Reserve  
170 RESERVOIR RD,  
BLACKTOWN

(Behind The Workers Club)

Phone: 0402 090 759

<http://blacktownworkers.baseball.com.au/>