



1st May 2018 - Term 2 - Week 1

Staying in Touch

St Michael's Primary School, Blacktown South
Email: stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to Term 2 our staff, students and families.

ATTENDANCE:

ABSENCES - If your child is absent from school you will receive an SMS message on each day they are marked absent. It is important that you reply daily to the SMS explaining the absence (eg. John Smith in KM is sick). This response is then uploaded to your child's attendance record and a note is not necessary.

LATE TO SCHOOL - If your child arrives late (any time after 9.10am) to school they must collect a Late Arrival slip from the office, which must be handed to the classroom teacher. **To ensure that your child doesn't miss any class activity punctuality is imperative.** Children arriving late will need to be accompanied to the office by an adult or supply a letter explaining the reason for the late arrival.

LEAVING EARLY FROM SCHOOL - If you wish to pick your child up from school early (any time before 3.00pm) for an appointment or any other reason, you must complete an Early Leavers slip at the Office. Once forms are completed, the office then contacts the class teacher and the student is sent to the office. **Should anyone else be picking up your child, the office and classroom teacher needs to be notified.** The office staff may also require person's collecting children to provide them with identification in these instances.

It should be understood that arriving or leaving in school time disrupts both the children's learning and teaching. This should only happen when no alternative is available.

EXTENDED LEAVE FROM SCHOOL - Parents or carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave for their child to travel during school term. Extended leave is considered to be 5 or more days during the school term for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons.

Parents/carers must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave that is available from the school office prior to commencing leave.

Kind Regards

Sarah O'Rourke

PRINCIPAL



How can you promote a healthy attendance culture in your school?
Visit www.parra.catholic.edu.au/everylearnereveryday to find out more.

every learner every day



Wednesday, 2nd May	ANZAC Liturgy - 9.30am - All Welcome
Tuesday, 8th May	ICAS Digital Technologies Competition - 7.30am start in staffroom
Wednesday, 9th May	MOTHER'S DAY STALL
Thursday, 10th May	Year 6 Grade Mass
Friday, 11th May	Mother's Day Liturgy
Tuesday, 15th May	NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5
Wednesday, 16th May	NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5
Thursday, 17th May	NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5
Friday, 18th May	International Family Day - Mufti Day - Gold Coin Donation - Parents can come and visit classrooms before lunch and then have lunch with their children on this day
Friday, 18th May	Year 4 Excursion - The Rocks Walking Tour
Saturday, 19th May	P & F - Bunnings BBQ and Cake Stall - Great Western Highway, Blacktown
Monday, 21st May	School Photo Day
Tuesday, 22nd May	National Simultaneous Story Time

ENROLMENTS OPEN

We are now accepting enrolments for 2019.

Please collect an Enrolment Application Form from the office or download from our Website - when completed please bring to the school office with all relevant documents listed. To accept your Enrolment Application Form we require a \$100 non-refundable Enrolment Application Fee (\$50 application fee and \$50 enrolment fee). At the time of payment an interview will be made with the Principal.



The Uniform Shop is open every
Wednesday - 8.00am-12noon

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS: Pre-loved uniforms are available in the room next to the Uniform Shop on Wednesdays from 8.30am-9.30am. Donations of uniform items always welcome.

Talking to kids makes them smart

by Michael Grose



The links between school achievement and parents' ability to talk with kids from a young age are now well established.

The language stimulation children receive when they talk with parents is one factor. But engagement in conversation with parents benefits kids in a far broader sense. In many ways it is through conversations that kids get a real sense of us as parents. It is through talking with kids that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts while also gaining access to a window into their worlds and the way they think.

In the current age of digital distraction, talking with children and young people can be a challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, a plethora of screens competing for attention and kids that clam up at the first sign of a chat are some of the conversation blockers parents must overcome.

You need to be cunning, proactive and inventive to get some chat going at home. These are some ideas that will help.

1. Turn screens off. Are you competing with televisions, computers and electronic games for your kids' attention? If so, take control of the screens to create some conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you have a home full of young hard-core screen junkies.

2. Turn screens on. If you can't beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder, particularly for older children and teens. Topics can range from "Who's going to win *My Kitchen Rules*?" or "What happens to the winners of *My Kitchen Rules*?" to "What is the point of *My Kitchen Rules*?"



3. Have regular mealtimes. The family that eats together talks together. Meals are great social occasions – more than just refueling stops. They provide terrific opportunities for families to get together and talk. It's no coincidence that families who enjoy and appreciate food generally enjoy close relationships as well. However, for this to work it's important that meals are screen free, so turn off the television and ban phones at the table.

4. Move more. If sitting and chatting is not your child's thing then try to get some action happening. Boys, in particular, tend to talk more when they are playing, walking or involved in activity with an adult.

5. Talk with kids on their own turf. Many children will open up in the privacy of their own bedroom where they tend to feel more relaxed and secure. If you have something important to discuss then choose a comfortable place and a time that promotes good conversation.

6. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting. Travelling together in a car with the radio off, washing the dishes together or playing a game can all provide opportunities for talk. Paradoxically, many teenagers will talk more when they don't have to concentrate or make eye contact with the other person. That's why cars can be great conversation catalysts for parents.

Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens. The best communication in families happens when no one is working at it, however busy modern families need to work on their communication rather than leave it to chance.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.