



ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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[facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth)

Parent Newsletter Term 1 Week 4 2021

*We acknowledge the Darug people,
the traditional custodians on whose land we educate our students.*

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

What a great start to 2021! Yesterday we had photo day. If your child was away, the photographer will be back at school on Thursday 25th February to take shots of those that missed out plus our Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 Red and Yellow students. This year the company is using a different approach due to COVID restrictions where everyone gets a sitting and a standing shot, then they combine this to make the group shot. I look forward to seeing the end result!



Thank you to all parents for sending in the swimming questionnaire and permission notes. Our first lessons begin on Monday 22nd February with our Year 6 group.

You also would have received the online booking information form for our upcoming parent/teacher interviews. I look forward to seeing every parent, meeting with their child's teacher, and for the ongoing dialogue about your child's growth in all areas of development.

I am hoping that the new uniform arrangements with LOWES at Blacktown will prove to be a better alternative for all parents. This begins on 1st March. Some uniform items may be low in stock for a short time until stockists can fill the orders. From yesterday, all school hats, school bags and school excursion/library/carry bags will be sold directly from the office.

We commence our Lenten journey tomorrow on Ash Wednesday. The Season of Lent is a time for us to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. It may be better not to give up something but to take on something, to build up our spiritual muscles.

There are often two approaches during Lent. The first is to give up something - perhaps chocolate, alcohol, gossiping etc. The second approach is to do something like - find peace within relationships, do hard things with joy, be a friend to someone you wouldn't normally etc.

During this Lenten period, whether it is the first or second approach that is taken, it is the act of sacrifice or thoughtfulness for another that is important. Lent is about mindfulness, reflection, consideration and prayer to renew our relationship with God. Let us examine how we show love to help those less fortunate than ourselves... without boasting...as we walk humbly with our God.

*Compassion is to 'suffer with', to feel what the other feels,
to accompany them emotionally.*

Pope Francis June 2014

Lent - What to give up

Give up complaining - Focus on gratitude
Give up pessimism - Become an optimist
Give up harsh judgement - Think kindly thoughts
Give up gloom - Enjoy the beauty that is around you
Give up gossiping - Control your tongue
Give up sin - Turn to virtue
Give up giving up - Hang in there!!!

Make Lent
40 DAYS
OF AWESOME

God Bless

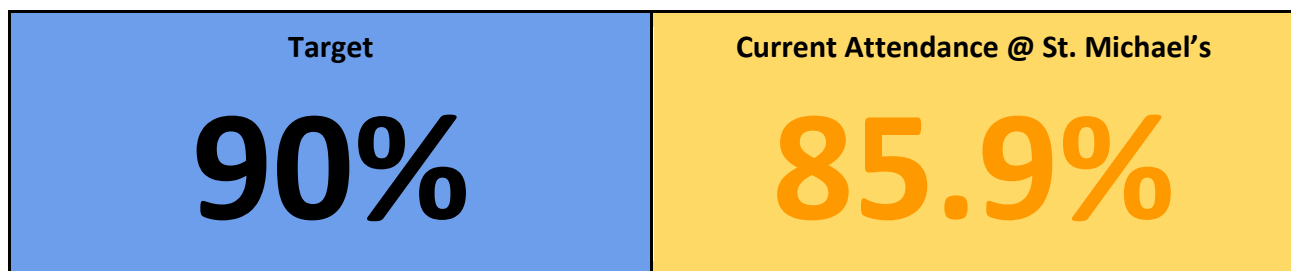
Mrs Sue Veling

Principal

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Michael's is a Catholic community in which children, teachers and parents nurture a sense of personal worth as they work together in a safe, happy, challenging and faith-centred learning environment.

ST. MICHAEL'S STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2021 -EVERY LEARNER-EVERY DAY-



At St. Michael's, we continue to promote student attendance. Thank you to our parents for the support and value that you place on your child being at school each day. Regular school attendance plays a critical role in ensuring that every student has access to the same learning opportunities. When students are not at school, are late to school or leave school early, they are missing out on so much that can impact on their future learning.

Our target is for at least 90% attendance every day. To date attendance for each grade is:

School	School Attendance Level
*St Michaels Primary Blacktown South	85.9%

Congratulations to Year 6 for a great start to the year with over 90% attendance.

Scholastic Year	Sch Yr Attendance Level
K	88.9%
1	89.1%
2	84.9%
3	85.7%
4	77.8%
5	84.1%
6	90.2%

The following **Attendance Guidelines** are based on current legislative requirements, research on attendance and best practice.

✓ Attendance affects a child's academic achievement and their overall wellbeing.

- ✓ There is NO safe threshold of absence – **everyday counts**.
- ✓ School attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling – research shows Year 1 attendance is a predictor of future attendance patterns.
- ✓ The effects of school absenteeism accumulate over time and affect children's development now and into the future.
- ✓ Daily punctuality is important. The early part of each day is critical. Important learning is scheduled during this time when children are rested and receptive. Key concepts are built up in the time.
- ✓ Sporadic absences can affect academic achievement as much as absences over consecutive days.
- ✓ We **ALL** need to work together with our children's best interest in mind to ensure that students are at school every day that they are well enough to attend – they only get one go at this part of their education and **everyday counts**.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,



Morning Arrival and Afternoon Dismissal

Our afternoon dismissal procedure this term is working well. Our students are getting home safely and quickly. Just a reminder as to what time students are supervised in the mornings and what time our duties finish:-

- The School Gates open at 8.15am with the commencement of supervision at 8:30am. Students will not be allowed on the premises before then. Please contact COSHC (before school care) if you need to get your children to school earlier than this.
- Car Pick Up: Students who have not been collected will be brought to the office from car pick at **3.25pm**.
- Orwell Street Parent Pick up: Students not picked up will be brought back to office at **3.15pm**.
- Waiters: Students will be brought into the office at 3.20pm and parents phoned.

We are having less and less children at school early or left late and I thank you for your ongoing support in keeping your children safe.

Many blessings,

Ms Jennifer Crowley
Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

LENT

The church season on Lent begins in earnest tomorrow with **Ash Wednesday**. The school will hold a prayer liturgy during the day for our students. This year the distribution of ashes will be different due to COVID restrictions. It will mean that instead of the ashes being placed on each child's forehead they will be sprinkled over the head of the student. This is according to Diocesan directives issues for COVID.

Ash Wednesday begins the liturgical season of Lent. Throughout Lent, we commit to strengthen our faith through prayer, reflection, fasting and giving. What is Lent all about? Why do we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday? Why 40 days? If you are looking for answers, then use the link below to watch the video about Ash Wednesday and Lent. It explains the significance of this season of prayer, fasting and giving, and how you can make the most of this time of repentance and renewal.

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-lent-3-minutes>

Project Compassion empowers us to put our faith into action this Lenten season, and act with compassion for our neighbours so that, wherever we live, whatever our circumstances, whatever our level of wealth or poverty, we can share the same chance of a better future for our families and communities. Each family will receive a **Project Compassion box** over the next few weeks. (The delivery of them to Schools has been delayed due to COVID) Students will be asked to return the boxes later in the term.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our Opening School Mass will be held on **Friday 19th February at 9:30am in the Nagle Hall**. We will celebrate the coming year and acknowledge our new staff, students and the commissioning of our Year 6 leaders and SRC members from Years 1-6. At this stage COVID restrictions limit the number of parents that can join us. **Only parents of students receiving leadership badges have been invited.** With a sad heart we cannot allow any other adult to attend. **This Mass will be videoed and shared with all parents and carers.**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021

Sacramental Programs are Parish based and in 2021 will fall in the following terms:

- Term 2 - First Eucharist for Year 4 students & students in Years 5 & 6
- Term 3 - Confirmation for Year 5 students & students in Year 6
- Term 4 - Reconciliation for Year 3 students & students in Years 4, 5 & 6



MARY, QUEEN OF
THE FAMILY PARISH,
BLACKTOWN

Sacramental Process

Reconciliation : First Holy Eucharist : Confirmation

The Sacramental Team looks forward to journeying with you, as you come to know God and grow deeper in your faith through the Sacramental process.



Enrol now
>>



CONTINUING THE JOURNEY



4

Enrolling for the First Time

If you are enrolling for the first time in the Sacramental Process at Mary Queen of the Family parish, please complete the Enrolment form available on the parish website and return to the Sacramental Team.

Continuing on the Journey

If you are continuing the Sacramental Process from previous years at Mary Queen of the Family parish, please complete the re-enrolment form available on the parish website and return to the Parish Office. Details are given below.

Groups & Dates

All information for each Sacrament can be found via our parish website www.mqofblacktown.org.au and then by clicking on the Sacraments tab or at the parish office at St Patrick's Church.

Each Sacrament has groups divided alphabetically, according to the surname of the child receiving the Sacrament. Please scroll down each document until you see your group with the relevant information.

Please note that there is a cut off date for enrolments.

For More Information please contact Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Sacramental Coordinator)



CONTACT US



www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics



www.mqofblacktown.org.au



9622 1125 or 0422 724 008



sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

Love One Another

Mrs Anne Easton

Religious Education Coordinator



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A LEARNING AWARD IN TERM 1 WEEK 2

Kindergarten – Anya Gorsia, Andrew Jbara, Chloe Woodbine, Sina Alizadeh, Sophia Capeski, Nathaniel Karam, Llyanna Furiscal, Anthony Cassar.

Year 1 & Year 2 – Alannah Boland, Ayden Casulla, Yagyata Arora, Mehrin Rahman, Gabriella Rajalingam, Bruce Hayton, Alexia Vivelis, Jerome Alcasabas,

Robben Sanga, Elissa Layous, Phoenix Delacruz, Sebastian Meli, Charlie Smith, Ryan Verma, Jett Boland, Flynn O’Keefe McWhinnie.

Year 3 & Year 4 – Lisa Aryal, Tanisha Chandra, Alexis Sattore, Kurmal Shata, Jaxson Stevenson, Joya Pathak, Amelia Hadiwidjaja, Jwaj Deyb, Eshaan Dave, Ivy Hebden, Joseph Muratore, Olivia Layous, Matthew-James Rafalo, Kenisha Patel, Georgia Allen, Jessica Fernando.

Year 5 & Year 6 – Mila Stribl, Daniel Shein, Aariv Patel, Aayana Kaushal, Mackenzie Kelly, Ashna Murgai, Acuoth Acuoth, Dayna Sheehan, Xavier Fenech, Lila Banjanac, Jeli Kamara, Ethan Nilon, Bhavrit Sidhu, Carmella Aquino, Bankrasio Butros.

2021 PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP

This is our first meeting for the year.

Come along and see how you can help.

Thursday 4th March @ 4pm

Easter is our first event followed by Mothers’ Day

For more information contact

Sue Veling or Jennifer Crowley at school.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Borrowing

Welcome back to another exciting year of exploring, reading and learning. All children can borrow from our very large collection of print books, eBooks and audiobooks. Students will come in with their classes on set days to borrow from the library. We strongly encourage all students to choose their own books to read for fun. All books will be borrowed for a period of 1 week. Could you please ensure your child has a material bag to bring their books to and from school. This could be the school library bag, a home-made or store bought library bag.

Just a reminder of the library days for all classes for 2021:

Mondays: K Yellow, 1 Green, 1 Red, 4 Green

Tuesdays: 1 Blue, 1 Yellow, 4 Yellow

Wednesdays: K Green, 3 Blue, 3 Green, 3 Red, 3 Yellow, 4 Blue, 4 Red

Thursdays: K Blue, 2 Blue, 2 Green, 2 Red, 2 Yellow, 6 Blue, 6 Green, 6 Red, 6 Yellow

Fridays : K Red, 5 Blue, 5 Red, 5 Green, 5 Yellow

Book Club

Brochures for Scholastic Book Club are sent out once a term. There are a wide range of popular books available at reasonable prices but there is no obligation to make a purchase. The first brochure was sent out last week.

Thank you for all your orders. They will be processed by Scholastic in the days ahead. Once the filled orders arrive at school, they will be distributed to all the students in their classes.



Kinder parents
Could you please return your
#BooksBeforeSchool forms to the
library.
We would love to recognise all our
new readers at an assembly.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please contact me via email
stmichaelsblktlibrary@parra.catholic.edu.au

Happy Reading

Mrs Pinto

Librarian

UNIFORM SHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



The last day of trading for the SCHOOL LOCKER
UNIFORM SHOP situated in the grounds of St. Michael's School will
be **Monday 22nd February 2021.**

From **Monday 1st March** all school uniforms will be sold through
LOWES at Westpoint Shopping Centre Shop 2060/61, Blacktown.

LOWES provide an online service and their hours of trading are 9am-5:30pm each
day, with late night shopping on Thursdays until 9pm.

The following uniform items will **ONLY** be available through the school office from
Monday 15th February:

School bucket hat – all sizes \$20.00 (compulsory)

School backpack – all sizes \$50.00 (compulsory)

School library/excursion/ carry bag - \$15

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2021

Apart from the pupil free days held on 27th & 28th January, there will be no additional Pupil Free Days in Term 1. Our next Pupil Free Day will be held in **Term 2 on Friday 11th June**. Our final Pupil Free Day will be held in **Term 3 on Monday 12th July**.

ST. MICHAEL'S OPEN DAY TOURS FOR ENROLMENTS IN 2022

Friday 12th March at 4pm

Friday 23rd April at 4pm

Saturday 22nd May at 10am-12noon

Monday 21st June at 4pm

Friday 13th August at 4pm

PARENT, STUDENT, TEACHER MEETINGS

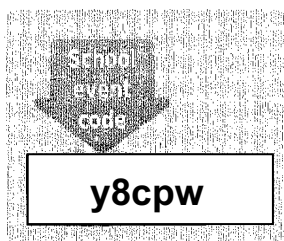
Kindergarten to Year 6

Parents will meet with teachers in Weeks 5 & 6 between Monday 22nd February and Friday 5th March. The online booking system is now open.

Due to the restrictions of COVID19, there will be no Kindergarten parent meeting. Instead, Kindergarten parents will be invited to meet with teachers individually for a general discussion in Weeks 5 & 6.

Students in Years 1-6 will set goals for numeracy, literacy and learning behaviours and share this information with their parents.

- The booking system will close on Sunday, 21st February.
 - Appointments can only be made online at <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/book>
 - Enter this School Event Code:



You will need to have a current email address

2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM TIMETABLE

Swimming lessons for students in Years 1 to Years 6 will begin next week. This 5-day intensive compulsory swimming program will be conducted at the Aquatic Safety Training Academy in Seven Hills operated by Royal Life Saving, Australia's leading water safety educator.



Each grade will attend in a different week during Term 1. Each class will go at a different time during the day.

<u>Year 6:</u>	Term 1 Week 5,	February 22nd - 26th
<u>Year 5:</u>	Term 1 Week 6,	March 1st - 5th
<u>Year 4:</u>	Term 1 Week 7,	March 8th – 12th
<u>Year 3:</u>	Term 1 Week 8,	March 15th – 19th
<u>Year 2:</u>	Term 1 Week 9,	March 22nd - 26th
<u>Year 1:</u>	Term 2 Week 1,	April 19th - 23rd

The program caters for non-swimmers through to accomplished swimmers who will be able to gain experience in stroke techniques by participating in the coaching clinic. The class sizes are kept to a minimum with the 'least able' classes attracting smaller numbers to provide the individual attention required. Qualified Austswim Swimming Teachers will teach all children.

(These dates are subject to change by the swim school. You will be notified if dates change.)

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP



The shop is open every **Monday morning from 8:30-9:30am and Wednesday afternoon between 2:30-3:30pm.**

Only EFTPOS is available for transactions or a donation to Project Commission would be very much appreciated.

SPORT NEWS

BLACKTOWN ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL -

THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY

This week we have 11 students representing St Michael's at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival, we wish the following students the best of luck:-



Mikaela Fenech	Jacinta Thompson	Delinda Thompson	Isabella Dabit
Maisy Cyreszko	Gabriella Azar	Peyyton Regner	Braxton Fernandez
Thomas Clarke	Xavier Fenech	August Cyreszko	

The St Michael's community will be cheering for you!

ST MICHAEL'S CROSS COUNTRY AND INFANT FUN RUN -

MONDAY 18TH MARCH

This is a compulsory school day for all students and further information will be sent home with all students in the coming weeks. The students have started to prepare for this event during their weekly sport lessons.



Yours in Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd

Sport Coordinator

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP



Skoolbag is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone, iPad and computer as a form of communication with the school. **Skoolbag IS NOT a social media app.** It is available from iTunes and Google. Just search for *St. Michael's Blacktown South* and you will see our school crest. All school notes,

notices and newsletters are updated onto this site and you will receive an alert when something is uploaded or there is an important or urgent announcement.

***Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta Open Day
Sunday 7 March***

You are warmly invited to the OLMC Parramatta Open Day on Sunday 7 March from 10am – 2pm.

Discover how OLMC is transforming learning and meet the new College Principal, Ms Lucie Farrugia.

Register for Open Day at www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

**Presentation people,
making a difference**



ENROLLING NOW

Discover your potential at Nagle College



Visit our website to **book a tour**
nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au



1-2-3 MAGIC

Discipline that works with 3-10 year olds

**A 4-session parenting group for mums, dads and carers.
Learn strategies to manage unwanted behaviour,
encourage good behaviour, and strengthen your
relationship with your child.**

Where: Parramatta/Holroyd Family Support Inc.
37 Collins St, Pendle Hill

When: Wednesdays, 3 - 24 March, 2021

Time: 10am—12noon

Cost: Gold coin donation each week

Free onsite childcare available!

**For enquiries or to book your place,
call Emma or Wendy on 9636 8437**

**Alternatively, you can fill out our
Expression of Interest form at
www.tinyurl.com/term1group**

Note

Participants need
to have a child 3-10
years old in their care
to practise strategies
covered in this
course.

Please note:

Due to COVID-19 and to enable social distancing,
places are strictly limited and bookings are essential.
A screening, temperature check and check-in process will also be
in place to maximise the health and safety of attendees.