



ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

155 Reservoir Road,
Blacktown South NSW 2148
Phone: 8869 6200

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au

facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 1st November

- All Saints Day

Wednesday 2nd November

- All Souls Day

Friday 4th November

- Year 4 Blue and Year 4 Yellow to Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo
- Year 5 & Year 6 only Touch Footy Gala Day
- Last day of HSC Exams

Monday 7th November

- Kinder 2023 Orientation Day 1
Session 1 9:30-11:30
Session 2 12:30-2:15

Wednesday 9th November

- St Michael's Day - Student Colour Run Activities Day

Thursday 10th November

- 9:30am St Michael's Day Mass - Celebrating 60 years and 11am concert- **ALL WELCOME**

Friday 11th November

- Year 5 Leadership Day with Andrew Chinn
- 9am Assembly and opening of new Kinder Playground with High McDermott MP

Monday 14th November

- Kinder 2023 Orientation Day 2
Session 3 9:30-11:30
Session 4 12:30-2:15

Wednesday 16th November

- 4pm Twilight Swimming Carnival

Friday 18th November

- Year 5 Leadership Day with MOTIV8

Friday 25th November

- PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday 5th December

- 9:30am End of Year Mass at Nagle Hall

Tuesday 6th December

- Year 6 Graduation Mass & Presentation Ceremony

Wednesday 7th December

- Year 6 BIG DAY OUT with MOTIV8

Friday 9th December

- 6pm Christmas Concert

Monday 12th December

- Semester Two Reports go home
- 11:30 Students Meet their Teacher for 2023
- Year 6 End of Year Celebration

Friday 16th December

- Last day for students

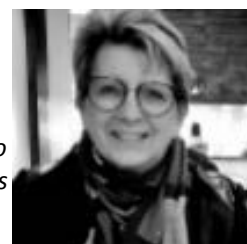
2022 - Celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education in Blacktown

Parent Newsletter Term 4 Week 4 2022

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

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Our 60th anniversary celebrations have been finalised and we look forward to over 200 guests on Thursday 10th November who are joining us for our Mass and concert.



On Wednesday 9th November, as part of the celebration, our students will be involved in a **Colour Run Activity Day**. A note was sent home last week with all the details and we are looking forward to a wonderful, colourful and exciting day.

Our Kindergarten Sensory Playground is completed. Dr Hugh McDermott, Member for Prospect will join us on Friday 11th November at 9:15am to officially open this wonderful area.



On Friday we celebrated World Teachers Day in NSW with the theme being 'Hats off to Teachers'. I am sure you will agree it is very apt. I would like to congratulate and thank the St Michael's staff for the wonderful job they do to educate your children. They do this in partnership with you and are highly dedicated to their vocation, generously sharing their time and talents, and their love for the children in their care. Over the past two years there have been more than the usual challenges for teachers to face but they have taken these on admirably and continue to go above and beyond to provide a nurturing learning environment for the children. World Teachers' Day celebrates staff and their vocation in Catholic Education. We are blessed here at St Michael's to have such outstanding, generous and caring staff.

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.

FINAL PUPIL FREE DAY FOR 2022 – Day Care available at the AMBROSE Centre – Phone Smita on 0419 554 302 to reserve a position.

Term 4 - Friday 25th November 2022 (Staff Formation day)

VACATION CARE

AMBROSE Vacation Care 6:30am-6:30pm will be available from 19th December to 21st December and will be closed from 22nd December to 6th January.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,

2022 World Teachers Day NSW

On Friday 28 October, we celebrated World Teacher's Day and the 2022 theme was "Hats off to Teachers".

World Teachers' Day allows us to shine the spotlight on, celebrate and thank teachers for the work they do in improving student outcomes and shaping their lives for future success – every year and especially during the challenges faced this past year.



Our teachers play an important role in our community and we thank them for their passion and dedication to inspire the children at St Michael's.

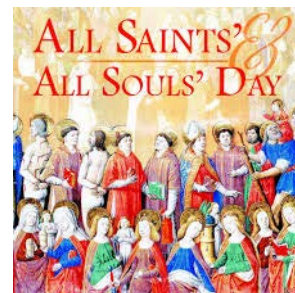
Miss Rebecca Teulan
Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

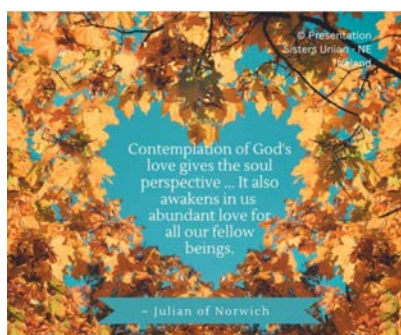
Dear Parents and Carers,

Two significant Feast Days are celebrated this week - ALL SAINTS DAY and ALL SOULS DAY. All Saints Day is celebrated on November 1st and this is followed by All Souls' Day on November 2nd to commemorate those who have passed on within the faith.

Saints are sometimes regarded as 'Catholic superheroes'. A saint is anybody whose soul is in heaven. The Church celebrates a certain number of saints whose lives provide a glimpse of God for the rest of the Church. But there are many, many more saints whose glimpse of God was only ever experienced by their family, friends and those with whom they worked. The feast of All Saints is an opportunity to remember and reflect on the lives of those saints who've been known and loved by just a few and whose sphere of influence was such that they will never be recognised as Saints by the universal Church.



A NANO MOMENT



Mrs Anne Easton
Religious Education Coordinator

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Ltd

From the beginning of 2023, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will have a new name, Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Ltd (CSPDL). The organisation will also have a new governance framework. It is not expected that these changes will have an impact on the day-to-day operation of schools, or upon students, parents and carers, and parishes. Further information is available [here](#).



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A LEARNING AWARD IN TERM 4 WEEKS 1 & 2.

Kindergarten – Melanie Solomou, Alicia Rajalingam, Hayley Debono, Darren Pinto, Monique Briggs, Amelie Pye, Jaibir Singh, Daksh Sharma, Indiana Kahila, Alicia Hillsley, Samuel Simon Lado, Elijah Celeste, Geordan Arias, Nara Gulati, Aria Koufos, Lucas Janezic.

Year 1 – Leela Voola, Samrath Singh, Kanisha Shetty, Tantriya Ajai Raj, Christian Hakim, Isaac Fernando, Kavia Kumaran, Sienna Tuara, Kaya Derrick, Reyana Patel, Kate Nilon, Rowan Borg, Isaiah Antipas, Aleya Jordan.

Year 2 – Lisa Chirchir, Aarush Varma, Keert Kaur, Romeo Lampart, Megan Muhia, Thomas Lemura, Abbey Bullivant, Grace Fenech, Kui Kor, Charlotte O'Neill, Christian Basford, Yagyata Arora, Alexander Gock, Yessica Jain, Alisa Pye, Ievan Reddy, Vivaan Patel.

Year 3 – Fredrich Brillo, Sedth Macic, Alyssa Vilathgamuwa, Terrence Nolan, Rene AbuGanaba, Serena Touto, Gurnur Kaur, Anakin Shivdas, Ranveer Hothi, Alexander Messiha, Enje Sulaiman, Ivnaaj Kaur, Christopher Makdesi, Joshua Macrohon, Alexie Prsa, Beamish Sharma, Gurnoor Hothi, Piper Gillett.

Year 4 – Charlize Pickering, David Dhugga, Parthena Shenouda, Iniya Fernando, Jasmin Gaeta, Joya Pathak, Hayley Haeran-Vaz, Kerolos Rofiel, Luca Totaro, Lacet-Maree Pardey, Shaniah Rana, Kyle Thammavongsa, Samuel Angallo, Hariti Kumari, Zara Jamal.

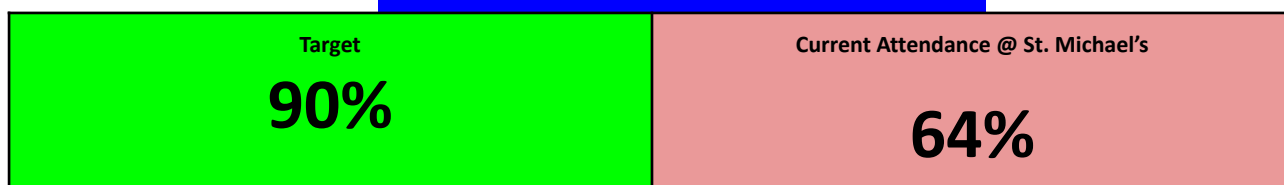
Year 5 – Sarah Alizadeh, Adhieu Michael, Alexander Thuaux, Savannah Elia, Claire Coates, Eshaan Dave, Eesha Lal, Jasmine Bowden, Callum Dixon, Shristy Singh, Riyaan Shah, Harper Gillett, Elijah Koopu, Jessica Singh, Navreet Hothi, Jhalak Dadhanian, Jakob Dinjar.

Year 6 – Olha Levytska, Keona Uquendo, Victoria Dela Cruz, Acuoth Acuoth, Avneet Kaur, Sarunitha Balakrishnan, George Aoun, Brendan Myint, Preston Young, William Tauro, Avneet Shergill, Elise Polley, Andrew Nogueiro, Joshua Taufel, Leo Martinez.

Reading Recovery Graduates – Avinash Kapoor, Vanessa Sanchez, George Tahmasby, Cidro Aquino, Christijana Hakim, Dhanya Gupta.

ST. MICHAEL'S STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2022

-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.

Our attendance has dropped back to 64% this fortnight, with a concerning number of students away in Year 2 and Year 3. Your child should be at school every school day until the end of the year, unless they are really sick and require a visit to the doctor where you can obtain a medical certificate.

School	School Attendance Level
*St Michaels Primary School Blacktown South	64.0%
Scholastic Year	Sch Yr Attendance Level
K	67.9%
1	69.5%
2	52.8%
3	57.6%
4	66.6%
5	65.6%
6	69.6%

Regular school attendance plays a **critical role** in ensuring your child 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.

Arrangements for the Beginning of the 2023 School Year

Kindergarten 2023

Friday 27th January to Wednesday 1st February 2023	Kindergarten teachers conducting one-on-one assessments with your children. (See below for explanation)
Thursday 2nd February 2023	Kindergarten start school at 9.30am and finishes at 12:30pm.
Friday 3rd February 2023	Kindergarten starts at 9:30am and finishes at 12:30pm.
Monday 6th February 2023	Kindergarten stay for the whole day 9am-3pm.

Years 1 - 6, 2023

Friday 27th January and Monday 30th January 2023	Teachers conducting one-on-one student assessments for children in Years 1 – 6.
Tuesday 31st January 2023	Children in Years 1 – 6 begin school 9-3pm.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Important note



The last week for borrowing books from the library for this year will be **Week 5**. All books will need to be returned to school in Week 6 by Friday 18th November.

The library will be closed from Monday 21st November for end of year administrative tasks but students will still be able to borrow eBooks, audio books, and magazines from our vast collection of digital resources.

Book Club

Thank you to all parents and carers who ordered books for their children. The orders have been processed with Scholastic and will be sent to school. Once they arrive, they will be handed out to the children in their classrooms. If your order is tagged as a gift, I will contact you directly regarding a pick up.

Return of books

At this time of year I need to get **ALL LIBRARY BOOKS** returned to check for repairs and re-organise the shelves. Please encourage and help your child to look for any books that have a barcode on the front and return them to the library.

All Year 6 students especially need to return books before they move on to High School.



I have sent letters home to all students who have books outstanding since last term. Thank you to the parents and carers who have helped their children find their books and return them. And a big thank you to the parents who have paid for lost and damaged books. The school library has a carefully curated collection for the reading pleasure of all our students and staff. Payment of your bill ensures that we can maintain the quality of our books for the school community.

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

Happy Reading

Mrs Pinto

Librarian

Notification of Leaving St Michael's Primary

We are currently planning for the 2023 school year. At this time of the year there may be movement of families out of the area. If your family will not be continuing at St Michael's in 2023, please notify the office urgently so that a 'Advice of Withdrawal Form' can be emailed to you.

YEAR 4 EXCURSION TO THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM

On Friday 28th October two Year 4 classes went to the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo. This excursion was to further explore and learn more about digital technology. The students were filled with excitement to go on their first excursion since Year One, thanks to lockdowns and restrictions the last few years.

The students learnt about using Scratch, a coding program. They were able to create their own simple video game. As well as this we explored some other great

exhibitions at the museum. We discovered the way scientists experiment with their thinking to discover great new things.

"It was a great experience to see amazing things, like the way they programmed the camera to copy us moving and show it in small shapes on a big screen" - Achok 4 Red

"We liked how we could touch and use items as part of learning about new things." - Amy 4 Red

"I learnt more about algorithms and coding" - Ashreen 4 Red

"The flight simulator was cool because you got to see all the buttons and things they use. We could see that they use different types of computer programming to make equipment like this work" - Braxton and Cooper 4 Green



REFLECTION GARDEN FUNDRAISER

As announced previously in the Parent Newsletter, we have received a grant to build a beautiful new garden at the front of the school to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The photos below show where this garden will be built, with construction beginning this week. This garden will serve as a reminder of our heritage connection to Nano Nagle with a statue being carved as we speak, as well as a way of remembering some of our students who we have sadly lost.

As part of this, we would like to build a low wall made of engraved bricks that will serve as a constant reminder of the families who have been members of our school community over the years. We are offering families the opportunity to be a part of this. You will have the chance to purchase a brick for \$25 and have it engraved and placed as part of this wall (see sample photo below). As well as becoming part of our garden, this will also serve as a school fundraiser, with all profits from the bricks going back into the school so that we can continue to provide more resources for the students of St. Michael's.

If you are interested, please keep an eye out for the information on how to order your brick/s. A Google Form will be shared on our school Facebook page, as well as a stall set up at our 60th year Anniversary Mass on Thursday 10th November. Information will also be emailed to each family. Payment will need to be made electronically at the school office or over the phone.

You can decide if you would like your family name or individual children's names. You can order as many bricks as you like. However you are limited to using up to 48 letters on each brick.

We look forward to creating a feature that will be a lasting part of our school that you all can be part of.



SPORTS NEWS

TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY UPDATE

Parents were notified on Thursday 27th October about the updated decision by CEDP Primary Sport Conveners that the Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day team was cancelled. It was also decided that Stage 3 would continue ahead due to the number of fields that were required due to the unpredictable weather.

The following students will be representing our school on Friday 4th November 2022. We wish them the best of luck on the day.

STAGE 3 BOYS	STAGE 3 GIRLS
1. Scott Toole 2. Preston Young 3. Nicholas Serra 4. Christian Yazbeck 5. Dominic Azar 6. Elijah Koopu 7. Noah Bajada 8. Joseph Perry	1. Claire de Vos 2. Mila Stribl 3. Olivia Cousens 4. Elizabeth Toole 5. Thalia Yazbeck 6. Delinda Thompson 7. Jade Thompson 8. Maisy Cyreszko

9. Kellan Koong
10. Alex Moggridge
11. Elie Saba
12. Carter O'Neill Raymond

9. Gianna Tabone
10. Rihanna Abuganaba
11. Sydney Nolan
12. Julie Aboka

BASKETBALL GALA DAY

On Tuesday 25th October, St Michael's Primary School participated in the Basketball Gala Day. Our students represented our school with great sportsmanship and pride, as we competed against a number of very talented schools.

Below are the results from the day:

- **Year 3 & 4 Boys Results = 3rd Place**
- **Year 3 & 4 Girls Results = 1st Place**
- **Year 5 Boys Results = 5th Place**
- **Year 5 Girls Results = 3rd Place**
- **Year 6 Boys Results = 2nd Place**
- **Year 6 Girls Results = 3rd Place**

Students who represented each team wrote a short blurb to share their experiences of the day:

Ellie Year 5

The gala day is more than amazing. It is so much fun! I loved playing and competing with others.

Arnav Year 5

The gala day is the best! It's been so much fun. We won our first game! There were lots of hard teams to beat but we managed.

Alex Year 5

This gala day has been really fun. I enjoyed competing with others, playing the game and practising when I could.

Evan Year 5

At first, I was really nervous but when I started, I wasn't nervous at all. Our first two games weren't that great but our other games we did very well. The gala day was really fun.

Serenity & Madison Year 5

The first game we won. It felt amazing! All the others we lost but when we win or lose we still have fun! Some of the teams were tough but this made me enjoy it so much more.

Elaia Year 5

The first game we won, everyone was happy. The 2nd game was a tie. In the 3rd game, the other team didn't show up so we got the win. The 4th game we had our first loss. It was 2-7. Antonia and I hurt both of our ankles in the 5th game which was disappointing.

Kayden 3/4 Boys

I had fun today playing with my team. Everyone played really well.

Thomas 3/4 Boys(Legends)

Playing with my friends was the best. We had 3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. All of the boys did an amazing job!

Years 3/4 Girls

Thank you to all of our players Amelia, Achok, Kara, Jacey, Samantha, Lorena, Arok, Jacinta, Lisa and I. When we first got on the court, we were nervous but when we played the game we were fine! We started to play and got better and better. We lost one game but still got out there. Everyone in our team worked very hard. They were all sharing the ball, so we worked very well as a team. We are very proud of that. We stepped on that court and did our best to beat them. We were hoping that if we win all of our games, we might win something nice. We wished the best of luck to all of our St Michael's teams and know that all of our teams tried their best.

Nicholas S Year 6

It was a great day and vso much fun. The teams were equal and scored lots of goals.

Jeeta Year 6

I did a spin move through 2 players and scored.

Scott Year 6

My highlight of the day was when my teammates scored a point.

Alex M Year 6

The highlight of my day was when I helped my teammates to score baskets.

Kellan K Year 6

My highlight of the day was winning 4 games in a row.

Xayne Year 6

My highlight of the day was when I made both free throws to win the game.

Sienna Year 6

I had a great day and an even better experience. We worked great as a team and had loads of fun together.

Delinda, Maisy & Olivia

We had such a great time working together and learning new things. Some games we had to fight for the win; others were not that hard. Overall we had a fun time playing all of the games.



2023 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our Swimming Carnival will take place on **Wednesday 16th November, 2022** at the Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre, Emerton. Students who are turning 8 years old - 13 years old in 2023 will have received a permission note to invite you to our Twilight Swimming Carnival which will be taking place after school between 4:30pm-6:00pm.

If you have not received a note and your child's age is within the age groups specified above, please come to the office to receive a new note.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please make sure that if you sign your child up for this event, that you know they can swim the **full 50 metre length of a swimming pool unassisted**. This includes not holding on to the lane ropes. This pool length is often seen at the outdoor pools and is quite long. Please make an informed decision prior to signing up for this carnival.

Thank you for your understanding regarding this event.

2023 PARRAMATTA DIOCESE TEAM SPORT TRIALS UPDATE

Parramatta Diocese Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2023 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term 4 (2022) and Terms One & Two in 2023.

Students in Year 4 in 2023 MAY nominate for the sports of Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Tennis & Touch Football only.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those students that **MUST** demonstrate an **ABOVE AVERAGE** ability, **HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT** or in particular sports, demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport. In most sports, students should have experience playing regular competition outside of school.

2023 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials - Term 4 2022

- Basketball; Cricket; Tennis; Touch Football

2023 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials - Term 1 2023

- AFL; Hockey; Football; Netball; Rugby League

2023 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials - Term 2 2023

- Rugby Union; Softball

How to Register

Information will be provided on Tuesday 1st November for all current Year 4 & 5 students on how to register for this event. Please be observant of cut-off dates as there is no flexibility around this.

The portal will be open on **Monday 31st October for the Term 4 Sport trials ONLY**. These include:

- Basketball - Tuesday 22nd November
- Cricket - Tuesday 15th November
- Tennis - Friday 25th November
- Touch Football - Friday 25th November

Nominations for the above sports will close on Thursday 10th November 2022.

For all other sports, the Expression Of Interest will be OPEN on 7th November 2022 and nominations will close on Tuesday 7th February 2023.

PARENT VOLUNTEER MODULE

Throughout the school year, St. Michael's Primary School participates in a number of sporting events that often require parents to volunteer and support our school. It is a requirement for these volunteers to complete a Child Protection module which stays current for two years upon completion.

We are always looking to see who is able to volunteer at our events, including carnivals and gala days. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the module located at the following website:

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/about/student-safety/volunteer-and-contractor-training>

The module takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Yours in Sport,
Amanda Ireton
Sport Coordinator



Wednesday Morning Playgroup

Are you looking for a Playgroup for your children?
Then come along next week and spend some
quality time with your child and enjoy meeting
new people.

Time: 9am -10.30am school terms only

Venue: Fr Sidney Moseley Room
(next to St Michael's Church)

Bring: Morning Tea for your own child.

(Our group is run by mums and is not affiliated with
St Michaels school/church or Playgroups Australia)

ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN

Now accepting students for 2023!

- Kindergarten
- Years 1-6



Chat with us today!
Ph-02 8869 6200



St. Michael's Primary
155 Reservoir Road
Blacktown 2148

60 years

Join us to celebrate
the anniversary of
St Michael's Primary School



Thursday 10th November 2022
9:30am Mass at Nagle Hall
followed by light refreshments and a concert.

RSVP to Danielle Rye
on 8869 6200 or via email at
drye@parra.catholic.edu.au