

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 31st January

- Year 1-6 begin school
- Kinder EYA testing continues Wednesday 1st February
- Kinder EYA testing continues
 Thursday 2nd February
- Kinder start school 9:30am-12:30pm

Friday 3rd February

Kinder at school - 9:30am-12:30pm Sunday 5th February

 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A

Monday 6th February

 9-3pm Kindergarten start school full-time

Wednesday 8th February

- St Andrew's visiting Yr 5 students Friday 10th February
- Opening School Mass 10am Nagle Hall

Sunday 12th February

 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A

Monday 13th – 17th February

Year 6 Swimming week
 Sunday 19th February

 Project Compassion Sunday – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME Year A

Monday 20th – 24th February • Year 5 Swimming week Tuesday 21st February

SHROVE (Pancake) Tuesday
 Wednesday 22nd February

 ASH WEDNESDAY (The beginning of Lent)

Sunday 26th February

• FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Monday 27th – 3rd March

• Year 3 Swimming week

Parent Newsletter Term 1 Week 2 2023

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

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. As we begin this year, the parish community welcomes the new families who have joined our school. I wish them a rewarding and fulfilling experience at St. Michael's. At the start of any new year we can be filled with anticipation of what this year will deliver and I hope that prosperity, love and good health is abundant.



This is also the time of year when families are typically inundated with 'back-to-school' specials These specials are seen and heard everywhere on television, radio, billboards and social media platforms. This information can be a trigger for students that the holidays are coming to an end and the start of the school year is not too far away.

The start of school can be really exciting for some children, but also a time of anxiety and worry for others. No matter the case, it is important for families to prepare for the start of the year.

Wake up your child at a regular early time

A few days before school commences, wake up your child at an earlier regular time, so that they get used to a routine of getting up and being ready to go somewhere. This will greatly assist the momentum of developing effective routines in the mornings.

<u>Reading time</u>

Encourage your child to read every evening before going to sleep. Reading material may include something of interest to them such as a book, comics, magazines or newspapers.

<u>Set goals for 2023</u>

Children setting goals for the school year is a good thing. It can provide reflection and focus for the academic year ahead. It is recommended that families discuss possible goals and strategies with children before they are finalised. A good tip is for the goals to be visually present wherever the student undertakes their study like a study desk etc.

School supplies shopping

A successful and smooth start for any student must include having the correct uniform and stationery items. It is important that families know what their child needs and is prepared with relevant items before Term 1 commences.

<u>Talk to your child</u>

Communication with your child is paramount during this time. It may be beneficial for families to find an opportunity to discuss the back-to-school phenomenon and seek to understand how their child is feeling. It is a good idea to be positive and to elicit from the child aspects of school they are looking forward to and possible concerns they may be experiencing.

If your child is starting at a new school, take a drive past the school. Talking about the school and browsing the school website may be helpful in increasing the familiarity of the new learning community. In a Catholic school context, it is also worthwhile for families to discuss with their

child that there will be a myriad of opportunities for them to practise and live their faith. This may include Masses, reflection days, retreats, service learning and religious education classes.

Every child is unique and special. As an African proverb highlights – 'it takes a village to raise a child'. Parents and carers know their children best. Teachers are wonderful at building relationships with their students and nurturing them to flourish. Collaborating together – home and school – our children are well placed to have a happy, joyful and smooth commencement to 2023.

I wish to welcome our new staff members - Mrs Melissa Djurichkovic, Miss Catherine Shaw, Mrs Desiree Macaraeg, Mr Nicholas Pearce, Mrs Jennifer Warn, Mrs Melinda Parker, Mrs Leanne Apikotoa, Mrs Janette Louis and Mr Mark Micheal. We also welcome back Mr Raphael William Joseph, Mr Duncan De Celis and Mrs Jemima Macaulay.

Congratulations to Mrs Rebecca Speed and her husband Brad on the birth of their daughter Alexia Juliet, born on the 29th December. All are doing well. "...She is just perfect and we are in love."

Our newest and youngest members of our school community begin Kindergarten this Thursday 2nd February and Friday 3rd February between 9:30am-12:30pm. They begin school full time from Monday 6th February.



In 2023 we look to our students to strive for their personal best and be focused on the continual improvement cycle to ultimately achieve greatness.

If you have any questions or I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. May 2023 be a year of fulfilment and joy for our community as we walk with our God. Be secure in the belief that we will continue to keep God's kingdom alive here at St. Michael's.

God Bless,

Allala.

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.

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2023

In Term 1, apart from the Pupil Free Days held on <mark>27th and 30th January</mark>, there will be a Pupil Free Day on Monday <u>24th April .</u>

In Term 2 the Pupil Free Day will be on Friday 9th June.

The Pupil Free days in Terms 3 & 4 are yet to be decided.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to welcome all our students and their families back from a well-rested holiday to an exciting and fun-filled year of learning.

Curriculum Notes

In Week 4, teachers will send out a Curriculum Note outlining the focus for learning over the term, along with key dates and information particular to that grade.

TERM 1 Physical Education and Sport Lessons

Listed below are the days each grade are required to wear their sports uniform in Term One. *This includes a school hat and white sports shoes with white socks.*

Grade	PE Lesson	Grade Sport Lesson
K BLUE K GREEN K RED K YELLOW	Tuesday	N/A for Term 1
1 BLUE 1 GREEN 1 RED 1 YELLOW	Wednesday	Friday
2 BLUE 2 GREEN 2 RED 2 YELLOW	Thursday	Monday
3 BLUE 3 GREEN 3 RED 3 YELLOW	Tuesday	Fridays Odd Weeks
4 BLUE 4 GREEN 4 RED 4 YELLOW	Wednesday	Friday
5 BLUE 5 GREEN 5 RED 5 YELLOW	Tuesday Thursday Thursday Tuesday	Fridays Odd Weeks
6 BLUE 6 GREEN 6 RED 6 YELLOW	Thursday	Fridays Odd Weeks

New Bubblers

Last year, the 2022 Student Representative Council discussed that they would like some new bubblers for the school. The SRC initiated some fundraising and over the holidays the new bubblers were installed around the school. The bubblers also have drink bottle refill stations at the end.





2023 Student Representative Council

A Student Representative Council (SRC) is a formal group of students, elected by their peers to represent them and their views. An SRC facilitates leadership and decision making by all students in the school. It is an important way in which schools can provide meaningful leadership opportunities, active citizenship and be of service to others.



Over the next two weeks teachers will facilitate an election process where each class will vote for one class representative to be on the SRC. These students will meet twice over the term to be a forum for student voice, plan special events or projects and promote positive relationships throughout the school. At our Opening School Mass on Friday 10th February at 10am, all SRC Reps will be formally welcomed into the council and will receive their SRC badges.

Please ensure your children have a labelled school hat and a drink bottle filled with water every day to school. New hats can be purchased at the school office.



Miss Rebecca Teulan Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our Opening School Mass will be held on **Friday 10th February at 10am 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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - FIRST EUCHARIST 2023

Please find attached is the Sacramental Program for First Eucharist in May 2023 for students in Year 4 who have made their Reconciliation. The last day for

enrolment is 10th April 2023.



CAR PARK SAFETY - An urgent reminder!



Parents and carers are asked NOT TO park in the staff car park (Reservoir Road entrance) in the afternoon to pick up their children. This has always been **prohibited**, as many students and parents with young children walk through this area each afternoon.

Most are unaware of moving traffic within the school grounds and this lends itself to constant danger.

ONLY AUTHORISED VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (this includes parents of disabled students) CAN USE THE STAFF CAR PARK BETWEEN 2:45PM AND 3:15PM.

There are many other areas where you can pick up your child safely from the school in the afternoon, including the car pick-up near the church in Orwell Street. We all have to be PATIENT, SAFE & AWARE around children. Yes, we are all time poor. However, the safety of our children is our top priority, and if it just takes a little longer to keep them safe...we will do this.

MATHS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW (MAI)

Thank you to all parents and carers that brought their children into school to complete their one-on-one Mathematics assessment in Year 1- Year 6. This is a time-consuming process and very difficult to complete during school hours. The information gathered is invaluable in getting to know your child's level of competency in counting, place value, addition & subtraction and multiplication and division by using an interview process rather than a standardised test under test conditions.

A big thank you to the staff who have given up two of their Staff Development Days to complete this task. For those students who missed out, the school will have to hire additional teaching staff to complete the assessment by the end of the week.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

If you would like to purchase any of our pre-loved uniforms, please go to the office and you will be taken to the shop by our staff.

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS

Severe allergies are a community health issue. The most severe allergic reaction is called Anaphylaxis and can be life-threatening. Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food, animal fur and saliva or insect sting).

We have children at St. Michael's who suffer from severe (life threatening) allergies. We ask for everyone's co-operation in minimising the risk to our children. Please supply your children with food that is nut free and egg free. Dogs and cats are NOT permitted on the school premises. You can visit the website: http://www.allergyfacts.org.au/ for more information.

Positive Behaviour Support for Learning - PBS4L

Welcome to all our families in 2023. PBS4L is a whole school framework that helps us create positive learning environments for all students at St Michael's.

The PBS4L framework is a research based and proactive school wide system that establishes clear behaviour expectations.

Our school wide expectations at St Michael's are:

WE ARE SAFE WE ARE RESPECTFUL WE ARE LEARNERS

At the beginning of the school year ALL classes spend time each day teaching the school wide expectations, these are outlined below in the 2023 St Michael's Blacktown Matrix.





St Michael's South Blacktown PBS4L Matrix 2023

St Michael's School PBS4L Matrix 2023

Areas	We are safe when we	We are respectful when we	We are learners when we
All Settings	 Keep our hands and feet to ourselves Use space and property as intended Are in the right place at the right time Work and play fairly Walk on all hard surfaces Eat from our own lunch boxes 	 Look after our own and other's equipment Look after our environment Use kind words and actions Follow teacher instructions immediately Wear the school uniform correctly Take responsibility for our actions and accept consequences 	 Have a go, challenge ourselves & take learning risks Share ideas and co-operate with each other Come to school every day on time
Learning Spaces	 Ask permission if leaving the learning space. Move around carefully 	 Wait our turn Follow the classroom expectations e.g. 5 L's; look, listen, eye contact 	 Have a growth mindset Stay on task Take responsibility for our learning Respect, listen to and apply feedback
Church; Assemblies; liturgies	 Ask permission from a teacher if we need to leave 	 Display reverence in prayer Listen and participate Honour cultures & traditions 	 Join in singing, prayers and responses
Playground	 Play the correct games in the allocated spaced Wear a hat for outdoor play Line up in two lines at the end of the music 	 Follow sporting agreements: Decide on rules before starting the game; Play fairly and according to the rules; Show good sportsmanship; Include others irrespective of race, gender etc 	 Talk to a teacher on duty if we need help
Toilets	 Ask for the teachers permission to go if it is during class time Have one person per cubicle Wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet 	 Use toilet paper for intended purposes only Maintain privacy at all times 	Return to class promptly
Cyberspace (Years 3-6)	 Keep logins/passwords to ourselves Only interact with people we know and have met in person Use technology in view of an adult 	 Use THINK procedure before posting (is it True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind?) 	 Stay on relevant and approved websites Use devices only at approved times Use technology according to signed ICT user agreement

Students are given specific feedback in relation to these expectations and rewarded with tokens when staff see them following. These tokens are placed in their grade token boxes and go towards a whole grade reward that the students discuss with their teachers. Each grade records when they have

reached their goal and received a grade reward by placing a ping pong ball in the tubes. This then goes towards a whole school reward which is voted on by students.

Miss Linda Haddad PBS4L Coordinator

FROM THE LIBRARY



Welcome back to another exciting year of reading, exploring, and learning. All children can borrow from our extensive 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 borrow books for their leisure reading. All books will be borrowed for a period of 1 week. Children need to have a library bag (school library bag or a store bought one) to bring their books home. This keeps the books safe from accidental food and drink spills.

These are the borrowing days for all classes for 2023.

Mondays:	K Blue, K Green, K Red, K Yellow, 3 Blue, 3 Green, 3 Red, 3 Yellow
Tuesdays:	1 Blue, 1 Green, 1 Red, 1 Yellow, 4 Green, 5 Red
Wednesdays:	2 Blue, 2 Green, 2 Red, 2 Yellow, 4 Blue
Thursdays:	4 Yellow, 5 Green
<i>Fridays</i> :	4 Red, 5 Blue, 5 Yellow, 6 Blue, 6 Green, 6 Red, 6 Yellow

Library Lovers Day 💗 🍑

It is fitting that we celebrate Library Lovers' Day on the same day the whole world celebrates LOVE - 14th February. This year's theme is **"Only You".**

"Only You / Can make the world seem right Only you / Can make the darkness bright..."



Only You can tell the story of why you love your library. So share your story with us and our school community - send me an email and we will share your story via our newsletters and on our <u>eLibrary</u> promotion slides. You can share your story via your own social media platforms and use the theme hashtag **#LibraryLoversDay**.

This is a great opportunity to join your local public library and explore all that they have to offer. You can sign up to <u>Blacktown City Libraries online here</u> and then drop into a branch to collect your library card.

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 will be sent out on Friday 3 February.

The last date for placing your order will be **Friday 10th February**. Any orders received after this date will be sent back home.



There are two ways to place your orders:

- 1. **Online** : You can place your orders and make your payments online via the <u>LOOP ordering system</u>. You will find details on the order form included within the brochure.
- 2. **School** : Fill in the order form with your child's details, clearly write the names of books you wish to purchase, make your payment via the QKR app, write the receipt number on the letter, and return to school with the completed order form.

**** Please note that we are unable to accept cash payments.*****

SCHOLASTIC HAS A SPECIAL OFFER FOR ORDERS PLACED VIA LOOP

Please see the image below for the information.



Book Returns

There are quite a number of students who still have books at home from last year. Please help your child find any books with a St Michael's barcode on the front cover. No matter how overdue the books are, we will be happy to get them back - no fines or questions asked.

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

Mrs Pinto

Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

2023 SWIMMING PROGRAM

Swimming lessons for students in Years 1 to Years 6 will begin in Week 4. 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.

The program involves 60-minutes of daily instruction by qualified teachers. The cost of the lessons is included in the 2023 school fees. This program is undertaken in order to further develop the students' swimming and water safety skills in a structured environment with professional instructors.

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

<u>SWIMMING LESSONS for Term 1 2023</u> <u>Year 6:</u> Term 1 Week 4, February 13th – 17th <u>Year 5</u>: Term 1 Week 5, February 20th- 24th



<u>Year 3:</u> Term 1 Week 6, February 27th – March 3rd <u>Year 1:</u> Term 1 Week 7, March 6th – 10th <u>Year 2:</u> Term 1 Week 8, March 13th – 17th Year 4: Term 2 Week 9, March 20th – 24th

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.

The swimming permission note and swimming survey will be sent home tomorrow. The swimming pool requires this information ASAP so they can organise their staff. (Dates are subject to change by the swim school. You will be notified of any changes.)

2023 PARRAMATTA DIOCESE TRIALS

The closing date for nominations is **Tuesday 7th February 2023**. If you wish to nominate for one of the upcoming sports and your child is in Year 5 or 6 in 2023, please scan the QR code provided to proceed with the application. Please also note that students who are in Year 4 in 2023 are eligible to apply for Softball or Hockey ONLY. Please consider the nomination criteria stated below before entering your child for these trials.



It is important to note when nominating your child for these trials that students 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 competitions outside of school.

2023 TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL CHAMPIONS & RUNNER UPS

At the end of last year, St Michael's had the pleasure of celebrating the Champions and Runner-Ups for our Swimming Carnival that took place at the end of last year. Congratulations to the following students on their achievements:

Junior Girls	Champion Sophia Azar	Runner Up Charlize Pickering
Junior Boys	Champion Lachlan Ackroyd	Runner Up Matthew de Vos
11yr Girls	Champion Jacinta Thompson	Runner Up Mikaela Fenech
11yr Boys	Champion Kaiden Halageo	Runner Ups Gianluca Novella Maks Markovic
Senior Girls	Champion Shimmer Ghodke	
Senior Boys	Champion Dominic Azar	Runner Up Alexander Koufos
Snr Boys Multiclass	Champion Harkeerat Singh	Runner Up Daniel Jemison

Yours in Sport, Mrs Amanda Ireton Sports Coordinator



Teachers and Support Staff 2023

Name	Grade/Position
Mrs Sue Veling	Principal
Miss Rebecca Teulan	Assistant Principal
Mrs Melissa Djurichkovic	Diversity & Wellbeing Leader; Year 2 Coordinator
Mrs Natasha Pullen	Instructional Leader; Kindergarten Coordinator
Mrs Janine Aberin	Kindergarten Red
Miss Ebony Moylan	Kindergarten Green
Miss Erin Hall	Kindergarten Blue
Mrs Jessie Said	Kindergarten Yellow
Mrs Emma Moore	Year 1 Green
Mrs Desiree Macaraeg	Year 1 Yellow
Miss Annabelle Micallef	Year 1 Red
Miss Catherine Shaw/Mrs Jemima Macaulay (Fri)	Year 1 Blue; Year 1 Coordinator
Miss Tracy Labour	Year 2 Blue
Miss Hayley Hewitson	Year 2 Red
Mrs Jennifer Warn	Year 2 Yellow
Miss Kasey Vincent	Year 2 Green
Mrs Elizabeth Carrington/Miss Larissa Prested (Thurs/Fri)	Year 3 Green; Year 3 Coordinator; Instructional Leader
Mrs Nicole Leckie	Year 3 Blue
Mrs Courtney Rye	Year 3 Yellow
Mr Nicholas Pearce	Year 3 Red
Miss Susan Bodle	Year 4 Yellow
Mr Peter Spicer	Year 4 Green
Miss Linda Haddad/Mr Ben Pickersgill (Fri)	Year 4 Blue; PBS4L Coordinator
Mr Luke Baddock/Mrs Amy Williams (Fri)	Year 4 Red; Year 4 Coordinator
Mrs Christine Ciccone	Year 5 Red
Mrs Anne Easton/Mrs Tina Barbuto (Thurs/Fri)	Year 5 Yellow; REC; Year 5 Coordinator
Mr Mark Baird	Year 5 Blue
Mrs Leanne Apikotoa	Year 5 Green
Mrs Julia Reaidi/Mrs Melinda Parker (Fri)	Year 6 Green; Year 6 Coordinator
Miss Maryrose Estepa	Year 6 Blue
Mr William Luckman	Year 6 Red
Mr Duncan De Celis	Year 6 Yellow
Ms Rachael Daniels	Diversity RR/EMU
Mrs Colleen Walsh	Diversity RR/EMU/R3
Miss Paula Cassar	Diversity RR/EMU
Mrs Norma Eid	Diversity RR/EMU
Mrs Cara-Lyn Kelly (9-12 each day)	Diversity R3
Mr Raphael William Joseph (Tues; Wed; Thurs)	Creative Arts RFF
Mrs Melanie Cicchini (Tues; Wed; Thurs)	Creative Arts RFF
Mrs Amanda Ireton (Tues; Wed; Thurs)	Sport RFF
Mr Benjamin Pickersgill (Tues; Wed; Thurs)	Sport RFF

Name	Position
Ms Gai Clark	Teacher Assistant
Mrs Renee Azar	Teacher Assistant
Mrs Deidre McLoughlin	Teacher Assistant
Miss Patrina Lepatu	Teacher Assistant
Mr Dane Fizzell	Teacher Assistant
Mrs Nadene Tucker	Teacher Assistant
Mrs Tania Gatt	Teacher Assistant
Miss Bianca Marsh	Teacher Assistant
Mrs Amanda Hart	Teacher Assistant
Mrs Tracy Cavaleri	Teacher Assistant

Name	Position
Mrs Larissa Braddick	Senior Finance Officer SFO
Mrs Danielle Rye	Secretary and Enrolment Officer
Ms Tineka Smith	Secretary
Mr Ken Lewis (Thurs/Fri)	Maintenance
Mr Bill Borg (Mon-Wed)	Maintenance
Mrs Doris White	Cleaning
Mrs Annie Pinto	Librarian
Mr Tet Khun	Family Counsellor
Mr Mark Micheal (Tues, Wed, Fri)	IT Trainee
Mrs Amanda Dowsley	Canteen Manager



Register at https://registration.dr/bi.com/club/285 or for more information, call 0402 938 034

As the onsite provider of outside school hours care, we invite all children to enjoy our programs

St Michaels Blacktown South

Ambrose School Age Care supports working families needing childcare outside of school hours – but our activities are so cool, every child is invited to join the fun!

Our programs are all about well-being and health, with lots of outdoor play, sport, group games and opportunities to build confidence.

They're also a great way to make friends and most importantly – have fun!

We are a fully accredited Service operating under the National Quality Framework and have been assessed as exceeding all standards, so your child is in safe hands.

Our Opening Hours

Before School Care: 6.30am - 8.45am

School Care: 2:45pm – 6.30pm

Vacation Care/Pupil Free Days: 6.30am - 6.30pm

Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibilit

Session	Time	After 85% Child Care Subsidy*	After 50% Child Care Subsidy*	Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy
Morning	6.30am - 8.15am	\$3.85	\$10.50	\$20 per session
Afternoon	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$4.5	\$15.00	\$30 per session
Pupil Free Days/Vacation Care	6.30am - 6.00pm	\$11.55	\$31.50	\$60 per day
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			ck and there is always ar	educator
All educators working directly with ostered who is qualified in first aid	l, asthma, anaphylaxis and	CPR.	ck and there is always ar	educator
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Ambrose School Age Care is an enterprise of the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited (CDPSL).