



ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Parent Newsletter Term 2 Week 6 2023

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

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

On Sunday we celebrated PENTECOST - the birthday of the church and the feast of the Holy Spirit. The body of Christ is made up of many diverse persons with diverse gifts all to be used to build up the church by sharing our gifts. We are given the task of bridging the gaps and bringing down the barriers that separate people.



After Pentecost, there was a dramatic and dynamic change in the disciples mind-set. Instead of being self-centred, they became Christ-centred. Their deepest desire was to lift up and exalt the name of Jesus. No longer were they driven to seek status and prestige. They were now concerned about the plight of others.



We are called to embody the Spirit as beacons of light, hope, and healing for the world. Let us not be afraid to embrace the call of the Holy Spirit as we move into a more critical world and more challenging environment. Let us equip ourselves with a faithful discipleship that unites us into a witnessing community. Then, guided by the Holy Spirit and open to a world of complexity, we can

live up to our prophetic call to be a model and a beacon of hope for humanity.

Let us go forward and become the sign of hope and reconciliation for all people. Let us continue to show the world that we can move from fear to perfect love.

Parents have been appointed by God himself as the first and principal educators of their children (Pope John Paul 11)

Several years ago, a university study asked a randomly selected number of parents to respond to the question, "What does it mean to be a parent?" Here are extracts from three responses:

- "Responsibility for teaching about love and caring for others, responsibility for keeping them safe and secure so their personalities can develop in a healthy way."
- "Something very special, close and loving; it means an enormous responsibility, it changes your life-course; once you start being a parent, it's an ongoing thing with worries and anxieties attached."
- "It's the most important job you'll ever have to do in your life. The social ramifications of parenting are so important, because the responsibility is yours to bring happy, well-adjusted people into adulthood and the joy and despair are often only seconds apart."

DIARY DATES
Monday 29th May
• Planet Ark Recycling Incursion Years 3-6
Tuesday 30th May
• Parent Newsletter published
Wednesday 31st May
Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 2nd June
• Stage 3 Girls Diocesan Soccer Gala Day - Penrith
• 2pm Whole School Assembly
• CHESS Round 5
Sunday 4th June
10am First Holy Communion Mass at St. Patrick's Church
6pm First Holy Communion Mass at St. Michael's Church
Friday 9th June May
• PUPIL FREE DAY
• CHESS Round 6
Sunday 11th June
Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Monday 12th June
• PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Thursday 15th June
• Year 2-Year 6 Athletics Carnival
Friday 16th June
• Stage 3 Boys Diocesan Soccer Gala Day
• 9:30am Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass at St. Michael's Church
• 2pm Whole School Assembly
• CHESS Round 7
Saturday 17th June
5:30pm First Holy Communion Mass at St. Patrick's Church
Sunday 18th June
• 9:30am First Eucharist Mass at St. Michael's Church
Friday 23rd June
• 4pm Tour of the school for prospective parents
Sunday 25th June
St. Michael's BBQ at Bunnings Blacktown
Monday 26th June
• Kinder & Year 1 Mini Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 27th June
• Stage 2 Girls and Boys Soccer Gala Day
Friday 30th June
• Last day of Term 2
• 2pm Whole School Assembly

It can be helpful, on occasion, to think about our role as parents, for it is truly a privilege to have given life to a child and have accepted the responsibility, great though it is, of nurturing and providing for that child through those developmental years. As parents, we are the source of our child's affirmation.

Children will believe what the people they love and trust believe, including how they feel about school and their own ability to learn. So, after praise and encouragement, encourage perseverance. A warm, supportive home atmosphere will influence our child's confidence and motivation to become a successful learner.

If education is valued in the home and seen as life-enhancing, then children will view their schooling as being positive for them and worth investing their energies in. At St Michael's our teachers are professionals who serve to help you nurture your child's love of learning. Parents and teachers working in collaboration is a powerful combination that can present education as a happy and fulfilling experience for children. Thank you for all that you do to support the staff to educate your children.

Many Blessings,



Mrs Sue Veling
Principal Leader

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 2 there will be a Pupil Free Day on **Friday 9th June.**

CSDP has also given all schools three extra Staff Development Days to prepare for the implementation of the new curriculums in English and Mathematics. The Pupil Free Days will be:

Term 3 - **Monday 17th July**

Term 4 - **Monday 9th October and Tuesday 10th October**

Please see the attached letter explaining these extra days.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,

Student Representative Council (SRC) Meeting

Last week, the students in the Student Representative Council from Years One to Six had a meeting with me. The SRC students shared the ideas, suggestions, questions or problems raised by their peers in their class meetings. The next step is taking some of these ideas to Mrs Veling and beginning to put some of them into action!

Managing Screen Time

While your family is at home, many activities for learning, fun and keeping in touch will be done using screens. To keep active make sure you spend time away from screens every day. Try some of these ideas to manage screen time -

Miss Rebecca Teulan
Assistant Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Please pray for the following children and their families as they make their first Holy Communion this Sunday.

St. Patrick's Church – 10.00am 4th June 2023

Surname of Candidate	First Name of Candidate	School Year
Abela	Sergio	Year 4
Abu Ganaba	Rene	Year 4
D'Cruz	Bradley	Year 4
de Vos	Matthew	Year 4
Elomina	Noah	Year 5
Gonsalves	Prisha	Year 4
Haeran-Vaz	Hayley Therese	Year 5
Hearen-vaz	Bentley Thomas	Year 6
Leke	Chris	Year 4
Thammavongsa	Kyle	Year 5
Thompson	Jacinta Thompson	Year 5
Vu	Lucas	Year 4

St. Michael's Church – 6.00pm 4th June 2023

Surname of Candidate	First Name of Candidate	School Year
Amper	Eddie	Year 4
Amper	Elena	Year 5
O'Neill-Raymond	Carter	Year 6

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

We are now asking for PROJECT COMPASSION boxes given out during Lent to be returned. Please send them to school by Friday 2nd June.

If you require a receipt for tax purposes, please fill out the receipt on the inside of the top of the box. No receipts will be issued if the amount in the box is not written on the tab at the top of the box and enclosed in the box with the money.



FIAT - Faith in Action Team



The Faith in Action Team (FIAT) is a school based group of teachers who work collaboratively to offer voluntary formation experiences for students. FIAT teachers support local, diocesan, national and international initiatives for the ongoing formation of our youth.

As part of running this group, a small number of Year 5 and 6 students have been selected to help organise and carry out experiential activities for St Michael's students.

Some Year 5 students had the opportunity to attend the Lifted Live Junior event. During this

event, they had the opportunity to pray and reflect on their spiritual lives. They were also able to listen to a guest speaker, Chris Padgett, speak about how "Jesus picks me, Jesus prepares me and Jesus protects me." The FIAT group are looking forward to organising events and working with other students to further enhance the faith of the school community.

Miss Linda Haddad

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

**ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN FOR
KINDERGARTEN 2024
INFORMATION SESSION & SCHOOL TOUR
FRIDAY 23rd JUNE 4PM**

Please pass this information onto neighbours, friends etc. who may be interested in enrolling their child at our wonderful school. All interested families are required to register their interest or attendance by ringing the school office on 8869 6200. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from the school office.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A LEARNING AWARD IN TERM 2 WEEKS 3 & 4

Kindergarten

Stella Muratore, Celine Jbara, Nyok Kor, Michael Wael Farag, Manveer Singh, David Rowling, Erik Barden, Michelle Alphonse, Galvin Bartolome, Ella Biscoe, Anysha Christian, Vivaan Walia, Teresa Duran, Leon Tjhia, Joshua Ohanjanians, Vanessa Okechukwu.

Year 1 & Year 2

Joshua D'Cruz, Aria Young, Jazzveer Toor, Anthony Salama, Lawand Alou, Lucas Janezic, Gurman Sran, Satmann Singh, Noah Patel, Hayley Debono, Joy Saws, Viktoriia Trukhina, Lucas Thompson, Aadir Trevedi, Alicia Rajalingam, Jordan Napier, Rabani Dhanju, Daniella Refalo, Samrath Singh, Aija Laksevic, Sina Alizadeh, Noah Lehrer, Reyhan Patel, Amaanat Bhangu, Isyan Amin, Aydin Ozturk, Nathan Rauniyar, Martin Zaidan, Claire Polley, Olivia Charlwood, Rowan Borg, Tantriya Ajai Raj, Tobias Craig Williams, Deng Ajack, Amalia Nadan.

Year 3 & Year 4

Shaveer Singh, Xavier Atila, Lisa Chirchir, Vivaan Patel, Samantha Mangala, Adel Shammass, Darsh Patel, Ayden Casulla, Abraham Wek, Sarkis Yaghi, Aarvi Shah, Jiyaan Trivedi, Ava Valenzuela, Georgia Elmna, Lincoln Polley, Emiliana Muratore, James Koufos, Isaiah Celeste, Levi Wilson, Flynn O'Keefe-McWhinnie, Kayden Luna, Vansh Darji, Prabhsimar Shergill, Mason Biscoe, Alexie Prsa, Arshdeep Singh, Ranveer Hothi, Terry Holahan, Charlie Smith, Rene AbuGanaba, Vishnu Acharya, Marcus Babela, Jett Boland.

Year 5 & Year 6

Kerolos Rofiel, Liam O'Connor, Mikaela Fenech, Aaradhya Chawla, Madeleine Chakti, Isabelle Topajikian, Sam Kome, Arok Michael, Alivyah Geda, Gianluca Novella, Johnathan Asfour, Tuoro-Ariki Savea Hosking-Ellis, Kush Jani, Luca Totaro, Lacey-Maree Pardey, Paranweer Singh.

TELL THEM FROM ME ONLINE SURVEY 2023

Last week students in Years 5 & 6 and all Parents and Carers were invited to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.



The survey is open until 4pm on Friday, 9 June. We invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St. Michael's.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You can access the parent survey (20 different languages available) on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/5zper>


PARENT/CARERS NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES








Please use the Compass App to register your child(ren) being absent for a **FULL SCHOOL DAY**. Please respond to the text message you will receive at 11am.

A reminder that partial absences are processed by the school office only. All absences appear on Student Semester Learning Reports.

ST. MICHAEL'S STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2023 -EVERY LEARNER-EVERY DAY—



School Name	School Attendance Level
St Michaels Primary School Blacktown South	 77.3%

Sch Year	School Attendance Level
01	 76.8%
02	 70.4%
03	 73.5%
04	 78.8%
05	 80.6%
06	 81.9%
K	 79.3%

At St. Michael's, our attendance figures are getting worse! Please send your child to school unless they have a serious illness. Try to hold off on travel until the holidays. As you can see from the data, Kinder, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 have attendance levels in the **Chronic level and is of great concern.**

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.**

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.**

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

The PRE-LOVED Uniform shop is open each **Wednesday** morning between **8:30-9am** and **Wednesday** afternoon between **2:45-3:15pm**.

YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO CANBERRA

Our Year 6 students have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian government contributes funding of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards the cost. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. We thank the Australian Government for this initiative.

The Canberra Crew

In Week 4, the students and teachers of Year 6 headed south for our big overnight adventure to Canberra. The weather was cold but the welcome was warm as some amazing guides showed us all the best our nation's capital has to offer. We toured the beautiful halls of Old and New Parliament House where the students voted Apples into government and passed a bill to play more sport.

We honoured the strength and sacrifice of the many heroes who fought for our freedoms at the War Memorial. We worked our mental muscles at the Australian Institute of Sport. Then we finished the trip with some fun and games at Questacon. The students were outstanding ambassadors for our school while Canberra may have just caught a glimpse of some future leaders heading their way. Well done everyone.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YEAR ONE?

Year One has been working with our school counsellor Mr Tet and learning Tai Chi! "Tai Chi" sometimes called "shadowboxing", is an internal Chinese martial art practised for defence training, health benefits and meditation.



Have a look at Year One! Reyansh is bending his knees and holding a large watermelon! George is breathing deeply.



BIGGEST MORNING TEA



Thank you to everyone who participated in Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea last Thursday. As a school community we were able to raise over \$1200 for cancer research. Your support and generosity is truly appreciated. We continue to keep in our prayers those within our community directly affected by cancer.

Pictured are some students in Kindergarten and Year Three dressed up as their favourite superhero.

PLANET ARK RECYCLING INCURSION

PLANET ARK

This week we had some visitors from Plant Ark come and speak with the students in Years 3-6. The presentation was focused on educating the children about recycling.

The students learnt how materials are processed, sorted and recycled. It is important to look for the recycling symbol on a product to know what can be recycled and how it can be recycled.



At St Michaels we are very environmentally conscious. Each classroom has a paper recycling bin. We are currently doing a recycling fundraiser by collecting and recycling bread bags, and also we collect return and earn bottles.



We encourage students to place any bottles or cans that have the 10c symbol below into the white bags outside the office.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Premier's Reading Challenge 2023



Some more of our St Michael's young bookworms have finished reading the required number of books for the PRC.

Kinder : Samara Nadan, Matthew Vivelis

Year 1 : Alexis Christie

Year 2 : Amalia Nadan

Year 3 : Jeev Singh, Alexia Vivelis

Please keep in mind that the PRC is not a race to be finished but a challenge where children can be encouraged to read books that they would not usually pick up. I would love for your children to speak with you and let you know how they will challenge themselves this year.

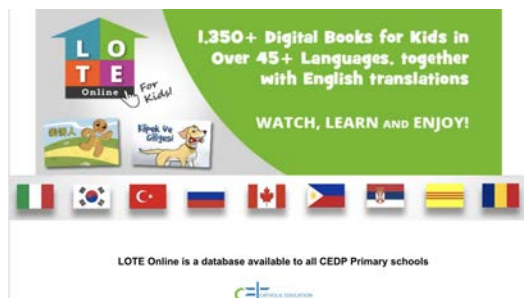
You might like to explore the [PRC Student Site](#) with your child/children. Discover new books to read by searching for books by picking your challenge level and choosing a genre. For example: there are 400 books listed as 'fantasy' in the 3-4 reading challenge.

When your children finish the challenge please email me at stmichaelsblktlibrary@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Book Club

The orders have arrived at school and will be distributed to the students this week. Once again thank you for your support in fostering a love of reading and stories in your children.

Language Other Than English (LOTE) database



LOTE online (or LOTE online for Kids) is a database for access by our Primary schools that provides access to over 1,350+ digital books in 45+ languages.

This eResource was purchased for our schools to increase access to texts in languages other than English for CEDP students. The texts provide opportunities for students to read and listen along to a narrator reading the story in the language of the title they have chosen. There is also the option to watch and listen to the same

book being narrated in English. Some books are available with a bilingual option.

You will find the link to access the LOTE Online collection on our [eLibrary home page](#).

This link will take you to a short video that shows you [how to access and use LOTE Online](#).

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

Mrs Pinto

Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

STAGE 3 (YEARS 5 & 6) GIRLS SOCCER GALA DAY

On **Friday 2nd June**, 14 of our Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) Girls will be representing St Michael's at our Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day, held at Jamison Park. The day will consist of 7 games, giving St Michael's a great opportunity to showcase both our sporting talent and sportsmanship. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to support us at this event. We would like to wish the following girls the best of luck on the day:

Adhieu Michael	Amelia Ventrice	Arok Michael
Breanna Jaber	Destiny Karam	Elora O'Neill
Enola Arima	Florence Muyu	Harper Gillett
Jacinta Thompson	Nhyira Acheampong	Olivia Layous
Savannah Elia	Zara Jamal	

PRIMARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The Primary Athletics Carnival will be taking place on **Thursday 15th June**. Students in Years 2-6 will be participating in this event.

During Week's 2-5 of Term 2, students who are turning 8-13 years old will be participating in Shot Put, Discus and Long Jump as part of their Physical Education Athletics Unit during class time. Students who place in the top 4 for their age group for these events, will be presented with a ribbon and may be eligible to represent the school at the Zone Athletics Carnival which will be taking place in Term 3, 2023. If your child is going to be away at some point during these weeks, please let Mrs Ireton know as soon as possible so an alternate day can be arranged regarding obtaining measurements for these events.

As these events will be conducted during class time, they will not be a part of the Athletics Carnival day.

PARENT HELPERS ON THE DAY - St Michael's loves to have the community involved in our special events. If you would like to assist on the day, please complete the Volunteer Module located below in the newsletter and contact the school as soon as possible. Mrs Ireton will contact you closer to the day to provide you with further information. The Module is mandatory and must be completed in order to be eligible to assist in school events.

RECYCLE, EARN & PLAY PROGRAM



This term, St Michael's Primary School has signed up for the **Wonderwhite Recycle, Earn and Play Program**. This program encourages everyone to collect their empty bread bags, return them to the school and place them in the Wonderwhite box located at the front office.



Each bag returned earns points for our school which will go towards new sports equipment for your child/ren's classrooms.

Students can bring in bread bags of all brands. **They do not have to be Wonderwhite**. The more we receive, the more sports equipment we can purchase.

St Michael's appreciates your support throughout this initiative. The cut-off date for bringing in the bags is the end of Term 2.

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,
Mrs Amanda Ireton
Sports Coordinator

Wednesday Morning Playgroup **9am -10.30am school terms only**

Come and spend some quality play time with your child. The playgroup is lightly structured with a variety of age-appropriate activity options for children to learn through play and social interaction.

Venue: Fr Sidney Moseley room (next to St Michaels Church)

Cost: \$1 - which is put towards the arts/craft supplies and the church room donation.

Bring: Morning Tea for your own child.

Join our Facebook page - Preschoolers Playgroup

**Presentation people,
making a difference**



ENROLLING NOW

Discover your potential at Nagle College



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



25 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The NSW Curriculum is undergoing significant change right now. These changes are the result of the first major review of the curriculum since 1989 and so require our teachers to make changes to the way in which they are delivering learning to your children so that they can be well prepared for their future lives.

NSW primary schools are currently implementing the new Mathematics and English syllabuses in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 and planning for the implementation of English and Mathematics in Years 3 - 6 in 2024. In secondary schools, planning is underway for the implementation in 2024 of new English and Mathematics syllabuses and new syllabuses in a small number of other subjects. Further new syllabus documents for all subject areas in both primary and secondary schools will be released progressively over the next few years.

To ensure that all of our teachers can respond effectively to these changes, there will be three additional professional development days allocated for staff in Catholic schools in 2023, 2024 and 2025. These days will be used for planning, collaboration with colleagues and sharing of ideas and content on the new syllabuses. Teachers in the Department of Education school system have also been granted similar extra planning days.

The scheduled planning days for CSPD staff for the remainder of 2023 are:

- **Monday 17 July (Day 1 Term 3)**
- **Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 October (Days 1 and 2, Term 4).**

These will be pupil-free days but, as always, supervision will be provided at schools for families who are not able to make alternative care arrangements for their children.

At schools where vacation care programs currently exist, these services will also be available on these days. Further information can be obtained from the Ambrose Service Coordinator.

In a small number of cases, a school may need to change one of these dates because of another school event that cannot be moved. Your child's school will contact you directly if this is the case and advise you of the alternative date.

Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to create the best learning and wellbeing outcomes for our students.

Yours sincerely

Christine Howe OAM
Deputy Executive Director
Director Learning
Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese