



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

DIARY DATES

Monday 13th – 17th February

- Year 6 Swimming week
- 5:30-6:15pm YEAR 5 Parent Information Meeting

Tuesday 14th February

- Parent Newsletter published
- St. Valentine's Day

Wednesday 15th February

- 5:30-6:15pm YEAR 3 Parent Information Meeting
- 6:15-7pm YEAR 4 Parent Information Meeting

Thursday 16th February

- 5:30-6:15pm YEAR 1 Parent Information Meeting
- 6:15-7pm YEAR 2 Parent Information Meeting

Friday 17th February

- Year 4 Excursion Botany Bay National Park
- 2pm Whole School Assembly – ALL WELCOME

Sunday 19th February

- Project Compassion Sunday – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME Year A

Monday 20th – 24th February

- Year 5 Swimming week
- Strings Lessons begin Year 3 & 4
- 5:30-6:15pm YEAR 6 Parent Information Meeting

Tuesday 21st February

- SHROVE (Pancake) Tuesday

Wednesday 22nd February

- ASH WEDNESDAY (The beginning of Lent)
- 5:30-6:15pm Kindergarten Parent Information Meeting

Sunday 26th February

- FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Monday 27th – 3rd March

- Year 3 Swimming week
- Royal Life Saving Incursion

Parent Newsletter Term 1 Week 4 2023

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

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Valentine. The event has become so commercialised that the word 'saint' has disappeared. Not only has St Valentine's day been captured by commercial interests (think roses, chocolates, jewellery, restaurants, movies and endless bric-a-brac), it's also been hijacked for relationships that don't even have romance as a feature.



But it's not just about keeping the saint in the day and resisting the secularisation of yet another Christian feast day. It's also about promoting the unique role that marriage plays in our church and in society. St Valentine, a Roman bishop, was martyred for conducting secret weddings against the decree of Emperor Claudius II (269 AD). He so valued marriage he was willing to give his life defending it. St Valentine was not alone among the martyrs for marriage: St John the Baptist, St Thomas More, St John Fisher and Blessed Peter To Rot all remind us that following Christ's understanding comes with a cost.



St Valentine, and these other martyrs, understood that marriage was not some social construct, but rather was fundamentally important to the idea that God's love for humanity was revealed through marriage and was something worth dying for.

I am so proud of how beautifully the children have continued to transition to the new school year - especially since the school looks like a construction zone. Congratulations to the staff who have guided their students and helped them to become so focused on and eager about their learning. Our Year 6 students have been amazing by supporting our Kindies as they arrive in the mornings and as they play at recess and lunchtime. As a result of the preparation that parents and teachers have provided, our Kindergarten children are settling in and are already part of the St Michael's community.

Our beautiful beginning School Mass celebrated on Friday was a true testament to our faith-filled community. Our priest Father Ever reminded us of the meaning of love. He also blessed our newly commissioned Year 6 leaders and Student Council Representatives. I thank the many parents and friends that joined us for this special occasion.

Yesterday the builders finished replacing the Infants building roof with Colorbond. They also replaced the gutters and downpipes. Tomorrow they begin work on the Administration block. Please be aware of the restricted parking in the staff car park this week.

Our Parent Information meetings have begun in earnest this week. I look forward to seeing all parents so that you can meet your child's teachers and hear about the grade expectations.

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.

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2023

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

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,

2023 Student Representative Council

Congratulations to the SRC Members for 2023. They were commissioned at the Opening School Mass last Friday 10th February.

Year 1 Green	Priscilla Panthee
Year 1 Yellow	Olivia Searle
Year 1 Blue	Jayda Tjhia
Year 1 Red	Alicia Hillsley
Year 2 Green	Llyanna Furiscal
Year 2 Yellow	Arturo Duram
Year 2 Blue	Anthony Cassar
Year 2 Red	Isaac Fernando
Year 3 Green	Megan Muhia
Year 3 Yellow	Thomas Lemura
Year 3 Blue	Dev Raj
Year 3 Red	Aren Gok
Year 4 Green	Georgine Matocinos
Year 4 Yellow	Kayden Luna
Year 4 Blue	Yug Patel
Year 4 Red	Natalia Salama
Year 5 Green	Jacinta Thompson
Year 5 Yellow	Joel Gordon
Year 5 Blue	Lisa Aryal
Year 5 Red	Zara Jamal

Year 6	Elaia Minas
	Joseph Muratore
	Angelina Salama
	Maria Salhab
	Ryana Prajapati
	Cianna Simic
	Jasmine Bowden
	Carter O'Neill-Raymond
	Christian Yazbek
	Arjun Shah
	Rushi Patel
	Evan O'Keefe-McWhinnie
	Ivy Hebden
	Insia Hasnain
	Harper Gillett



Term 1 2023 eSafety Commissioner Parent and Carers Webinars

In 2023 CSPD continues to partner with the eSafety Commissioner to offer new webinars for parents and carers of all our students. These live webinars give parents and carers the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe online experiences.

The following **FREE** webinars for Term 1 are now available for registrations on the eSafety Commissioner's website:

eSafety 101: how eSafety can help you

This 30-minute webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school. It will cover:

- Who the eSafety are
- What you can report to eSafety
- Helpful advice and resources for parents and carers

Date: 21 March 7:30pm to 8:00pm [Register here](#)

Setting your child up for success online

This 30-minute webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in primary school. It will cover:

- age-appropriate expectations and boundaries
- online risks and strategies to keep your children safe
- where to find support for you and your child when things go wrong

Dates: 28 February 12:30pm to 1:00pm *or* 14 March 12:30pm to 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Getting the most out of gaming

This 45-minute webinar provides families with strategies for supporting children and young people to have safe, positive experiences when playing games online. It is designed for parents and carers of children aged 7 to 14. It will cover:

- when gaming can be beneficial and strategies to promote better in-game experiences
- how to keep children safe online – using safety and privacy settings in games and platforms
- strategies to promote more balanced gaming and how to create smoother transitions from game-play to other activities
- the key online risks and where to find help for things like bullying and harassment in game.

Dates: 14 February 12:30pm to 1:15pm *or* 14 March 7:30pm to 8:15pm [Register here](#)

Navigating online friendships

This 30-minute webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

It will cover:

- how to support young people to have safe and respectful online relationships
- what to do when something happens at school and ends up on social media or private messaging apps
- how to report to social media platforms and eSafety.

Dates: 22 February 12:30pm to 1:00pm *or* 29 March 7:30pm to 8:00pm [Register here](#)

Miss Rebecca Teulan
Assistant Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

ASH WEDNESDAY

On 22nd February is Ash Wednesday. It is the first day in the season of Lent. Lent can be observed by all Christians, and it is a beautiful way to remember Jesus' sacrifice for us and prepare us for the Easter season. During Lent, we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by the devil. We do extra prayers, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to others) during this season of Lent. Ash Wednesday has many traditions for Catholic families and ways to observe this day, and also, anything you are doing for the length of Lent will start on this day.



The students will receive Ashes during liturgies in their learning spaces next Wednesday.

For more information on Ash Wednesday and Lent

[WATCH: Lent in Three Minutes](#)



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2023

SACRAMENT PROCESS 2023

The sacramental program dates for 2023 are available on our parish website <https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/>

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS REGISTRATION CLOSURE DATES:

Reconciliation process for Year 3 - 6: 17th September 2023.

First Eucharist Process: 10th May 2023.

Confirmation Process: 3rd July 2023.

High School Process: 2nd April 2023.

REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR SACRAMENTAL PROCESSES ABOVE THIS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH 2023.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our sacramental coordinator on the details below:

Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Sacramental Coordinator)

Mary Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown.

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

Ph: 02 9622 1125 – option 4 **Mobile:** 0422 724 008

Mrs Anne Easton

Religious Education Coordinator

KINDERGARTEN'S FIRST FEW DAYS AT SCHOOL

It's been lots of fun in Kindergarten so far. Our newest members of the community have settled right in. They've been learning the routine and expectations of being at 'big school' and exploring their new learning environments. The students have met their Year 6 buddies, been to Mass and had some fun in the brand new sensory playground! Their bright smiles say it all.



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. Thank you to Nola Downie, Michelle Barden and Chelsey Gillett for volunteering to help out with this community service.

COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS

St Michael's Primary recognises that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher. As you would appreciate, teachers read their emails at various times throughout the school day. Other than in the case of a genuine emergency, they are generally not expected to respond to emails from parents outside of normal working hours. Please keep in mind that if you send an email to a member of our staff outside of normal working hours, a reply may not be received until the following working day. If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please continue to direct your emails to the school email account which will then be passed onto the relevant teacher, as per our usual practice.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Borrowing

All classes have begun coming into the library to borrow their books and it has been wonderful to see so many children remember to bring their library bags to carry their books home. The Kindergarten children will come in as soon as they get settled into their school routine.

A reminder of the borrowing days for all the classes for this year.

Monday: K Blue, K Green, K Red, K Yellow, 3 Blue, 3 Green, 3 Red, 3 Yellow

Tuesday: 1 Blue, 1 Green, 1 Red, 1 Yellow, 4 Green, 5 Red

Wednesday: 2 Blue, 2 Green, 2 Red, 2 Yellow, 4 Blue

Thursday: 4 Yellow, 5 Green

Friday: 5 Blue, 5 Yellow, 6 Blue, 6 Green, 6 Red, 6 Yellow

Book Club

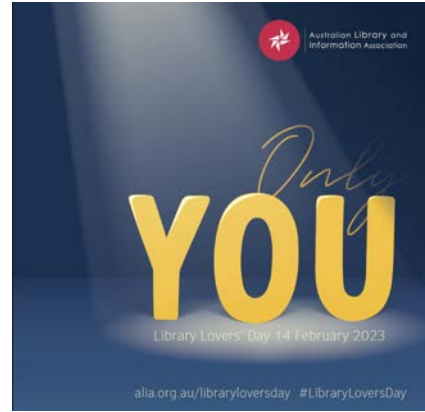
Thank you to everyone who placed their orders via Loop or sent in their orders to school. I will be finalising the orders today. All orders will be collated at Scholastic and sent to school. Once they arrive at school, the books will be sent to your child's classroom.

Library Lovers Day

Today, 14 February, we celebrate Library Lovers Day. It is a day to celebrate our love of books and reading. 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 [eLibrary](#) promotion slides. You can share your story via your own social media platforms and use the theme hashtag **#LibraryLoversDay**.



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 stmichaelsblktlibrary@parra.catholic.edu.au

Mrs Pinto

Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

2023 SWIMMING PROGRAM

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

[SWIMMING LESSONS for Term 1 2023](#)

[Year 5: Term 1 Week 5, February 20th- 24th](#)

[Year 3: Term 1 Week 6, February 27th – March 3rd](#)

[Year 1: Term 1 Week 7, March 6th – 10th](#)

[Year 2: Term 1 Week 8, March 13th – 17th](#)

[Year 4: Term 1 Week 9, March 20th – 24th](#)

IMPORTANT SPORT DATES 2023

This year, there are a number of sporting events that St Michael's will be participating in this year. Please take note of the dates below:

Date	Event
Term 1 - Friday 10th March	School Cross Country Carnival
Term 1 - Week 10 & Week 11	Touch Football Gala Day Trials
Term 2 - Friday 2nd June	Year 5 & 6 Girls Soccer Gala Day
Term 2 - Thursday 15th June	School Athletics Carnival
Term 2 - Friday 16th June	Year 5 & 6 Boys Soccer Gala Day

Term 2 - Tuesday 27th June	Year 3 & 4 Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day
Term 3 - Date To Be Confirmed	Netball Gala Day
Term 3 - Friday 8th September	Year 3 & 4 Touch Football Gala Day
Term 3 - Friday 22nd September	Year 5 & 6 Touch Football Gala Day
Term 4 - Wednesday 1st November	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Basketball Gala Day

Please note that these dates may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. All students who are affected by date changes will be informed as soon as possible. Students who are successful in making the Zone, Diocese and NSWCPs Carnivals will be provided dates closer to their event.

GALA DAY TRIALS

Touch Football - Due to a significant number of Gala Days taking place between Term 2 and Term 3, the touch football trials will be taking place towards the end of Term 1. Permission to trial notes will be distributed later in the term.

Soccer - Trials will commence in Term 2

Netball - Trials will commence Week 1 Term 3

Basketball - Trials will commence Week 1 Term 4

All trials will require parents to provide permission for students to trial. The reason for this is that all gala days incur a cost to the student to participate and students must be prepared to cover the cost if selected for the team, transport their child to and from the event (for some teams) as well as purchase the required safety gear, such as shin pads or boots. Please only sign the permission to trial if all aspects of the note can be committed to.

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Zone Swimming Carnival will be taking place on Wednesday 8th March 2023. Congratulations to the students below who have qualified for the carnival and will be representing our school at Mount Druitt Pool:

GIRLS	BOYS
Mikaela Fenech	Lachlan Ackroyd
Jacinta Thompson	Matthew de Vos
Ava Whilesmith	Kaiden Halagao
Matilda Edwards	Dominic Azar
Sophia Azar	Alexander Koufos
Callie Marsden	Harkeerat Singh
Charlize Pickering	Daniel Jemison
Shimmer Ghodke	

Students who have qualified will be presented their permission notes in Week 4 with a list of events they will be participating in on the day.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

On Friday 10th March, students will have the opportunity to compete with students in their age group in our annual Cross Country Carnival. Students will have the opportunity during PE lessons in Week 6 to walk the track and become familiar with the course prior to competing on the day.

Students are placed in age groups according to the age they will be turning in 2023. For example, if your child turns 10 years old in 2023, they will compete in the Under 10's or Junior events. More information will be provided to students closer to the date.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE TRIAL UPDATE

Registrations for the Parramatta Diocese Trials have now closed. Thank you to all of the students who completed their nominations for their respective events.

For each sport, there is a standard that is expected of each player in order to be considered eligible for the trial. This eligibility is based on what was stated in your application, as well as the child's ability to follow the expectations in the Sports Code of Conduct which is outlined on the previous page.

Additionally, some events permit the school to send a limited number of students to the trial. This is a limit that has been placed on all schools across the diocese. Please note that all decisions made are in consultation with leadership across the school, as well as the CSPD Primary Sport Conveners.

All parents will be notified of their child's registration outcome as soon as possible. Those students who are successful will be provided permission notes closer to the trial date when they are provided to the school.

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