



St Michael's Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

Term 4

Week 4

3 November 2011

Dates to Remember

- 4 Nov** Swimming Carnival
- 5 Nov** DMD Fun Day for families – Online Smash Repairs, 6 Daisy St Revesby from 11am
- 11 Nov** Blessing & Opening of our new building 10.30 – 11.00
- 15 Nov** First Confession and Reflection Day Confession Yr 2 – 9.45am
- 18 Nov** Walkathon Fundraiser – Rudd Park
- 22 Nov** P & F AGM Meeting – 7pm
- 3 Dec** Family Portrait Fundraiser
- 4 Dec** Family Portrait Fundraiser
- 13 Dec** Graduation Year 6 9.00am in Hall
- 14 Dec** Christmas Celebration and Family BBQ – from 5pm
- 16 Dec** End of Year Mass
Last Day of Term for children

Only The Brave Should Teach

Only the brave should teach, the men and women whose integrity cannot be shaken, whose minds are enlightened enough to understand the high calling of the teacher, whose hearts are unshakeably loyal to the young, whatever the interests of those who are in power.

There is no hope for the world unless we can educate a different kind of man and woman. I put the teacher higher than any other person today in world society, in responsibility and in opportunity.

Only those who love the young should teach. Teaching is not a way to make a livelihood. The livelihood is incidental. Teaching is a vocation. If a teacher has not the concern of humanity, the love for living creatures, the vision of the priest and of the artist, they must not teach.

Great and true teachers think of the child, dream of the child, see visions, not of themselves but of the flowering of the child into adulthood. They think of the child first and always....

It takes courage to be a teacher, and it takes unalterable love for the child.

Pearl Buck

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Last week, we celebrated World Teachers' Day which acknowledges the service that teachers provide to their communities. At St Michael's, our families are served by all our staff – our teachers, our office staff who are the first "face" to our community and the teachers' aides who work so hard to support children in their learning.

Teachers are highly educated and continue to be educated throughout their teaching career. This puts personal demands on their own families. A teacher's role is very complex and demanding. Teachers are firstly educators, however, they are also advisors, problem-solvers, nurturers, peace-makers, counsellors, sandwich-makers and role models.

At St Michael's, we are blessed with a very generous, energetic and professional staff. I would like to thank them all for the significant contribution that they make to the lives of our children. I hope that you may also find the time to acknowledge and thank them.



Principals Award

- KB** Kayla W
Christina K
- KG** Oscar M
Nnenna M
- 1B** Gabriella E
Nicholas C
- 1E** Diane K
- 1K** Frank D
- 2W** Bernadette T
Giovanni C
Charbel S

Student of the Week

Week 1

- 1E** Mario CB

Week 2

- 1E** Jacob U

Week 3

- 1B** Gabriella E
- 1E** Theresa C
- 2G** Eddy H
Christina B
- 3A** Edward K
Kerry Y
- 3W** Max R
Maria H

Our parents are to be congratulated for the successful school disco they organised for our families last Friday. The costumes were imaginative and scary and the children and parents had a great time!

I congratulate the St Michael's P&F executive for the initiative they have taken to raise funds for our school. I ask that all parents support their fundraising efforts which will continue into 2012. As you know, air conditioners are being installed in our new building. This is in response to heavy lobbying from parents. We are most grateful to the Catholic Education Office for providing almost half the cost! The school community will need to find \$27,000.00. I would also like to thank Mr Kerry Govas who is the parent representative on our finance committee. Kerry provides invaluable advice and support and he is most generous with his time. Fundraisers for this term include the Walk-a-thon, Family Portraits and the opportunity to buy boxes of handcrafted gift cards.

We hope to see parents at the Blessing and Opening of our new school buildings next Friday 11 November. We are expecting our local member, the Hon. Tony Burke, MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to attend. Parents who are present will go into a draw for two commemorative bottles of wine to mark the occasion!

Kind regards,

Mrs Judy Gastin
Principal

Message From Mrs Caroline Boulis – Assistant Principal



Swimming Carnival

St. Michael's Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday, 4th November. This is a compulsory school event and all students are expected to attend. We encourage all parents to be supportive of our school programs at St. Michael's.

The carnival provides an opportunity for students to display the skills and confidence developed during the intensive swimming program. However, if your child/children are not competent swimmers, there will be events the children can participate in, for example, the kickboard event and novelty events.

All parents and friends of St. Michael's are welcome to attend our school's Swimming Carnival and you will have the opportunity to share a picnic lunch with your children. Could I remind parents that all children need to stay with their school group during swimming events so that your child/children do not miss their nominated events.

Don't forget to say a prayer for a beautiful sunny day. I look forward to seeing you at the Swimming Carnival.

Peer Support Reflections from Term 3

In this newsletter, we will hear reflections from Year 2 and from Stage 2. In the next newsletter, we will hear from Stage 3.

What did you like best about the Peer Support program?

Year 2 – Playing games, making new friends, the work, for example writing about our friends, fun activity sheets, getting stickers for good work, helping friends, seeing siblings and learning new things.

Stage 2 – We played games that were fun, learnt about other people in our group, we got to do creative things, colouring –in, writing about our friendship, working together, working together as a team, making new friends, getting stickers for doing the right thing, learning about each other and friends- positive and negative.

What did you learn from the Peer Support program?

Year 2 – We learnt about being good friends, respecting others, working as a team, winning things in a friendly way without bragging, supporting your friends, including others, how to be friendly, saying sorry, being nice to others and how to make friends.

Stage 2 – We learnt how to make a friendship turtle, work as a team, new games to play, new things, that we should not hurt our friends, that other people have feelings, teamwork, how to make new friends, manners, being positive, caring, sharing and how to treat other people.

CSIRO Incursion

We have booked CSIRO to visit our school on Thursday, 17th November and Monday 21st November. The sessions align with the Science and Technology curriculum each stage group are investigating this term. The cost will be covered by the Visiting Educators fee.

Toy Science

Experimenting with toys can broaden our knowledge of science. We will take a closer look at the inside workings of some classic toys.

Simple Machines

Students are introduced to gears, levers, wheels and axles and their uses with Lego Technics kits. They will then build a more complex machine with moving parts using plans.

Investigating Climate Change

Climate change is the biggest environmental issue facing the world today. This hands-on workshop enables students to investigate factors that contribute to global warming and explore some of the effects of climate change.

Thursday 17November	CSIRO Program	Class	Location
9.30 - 10.30	Toy Science	1B	Hall
11.30 - 12.30	Toy Science	1E	Hall
12.30 – 1.30	Toy Science	1K	Hall
2.10 - 3.10	Toy Science	1V	Hall
Monday 21 November	CSIRO Program	Class	Location
8.50 - 9.50	Toy Science	KB	Hall
9.50 - 10.50	Toy Science	KG	Hall

Thursday 17 November	CSIRO Program	Class	Location
9.30 - 11.00	Simple Machines	2J	2G
11.30 - 1.00	Simple Machines	2G	2J
1.00 - 1.30	Simple Machines	2W	2W
2.10 - 3.10	Simple Machines	2W	2W

Thursday 17 November	CSIRO Program	Class	Location
9.30 - 11.00	Investigating Climate Change	3A	3A
11.30 - 1.00	Investigating Climate Change	3W	3W

Lost Property

There is an amazing number of school items with no names on them. Please be sure to check the basket if you have lost an item belonging to your family. Ensure that all items coming to school are named clearly so that if they do get lost it, they can be returned to the rightful owners.

We will be collecting all school items that do not have names on them and we will donate these items to the school's clothing pool.

If any parent can help us out by washing these items of clothes we will be very grateful.

Message From Miss Eva Tarchichi-Religious Education Coordinator

Prayer Assembly and Mass

Date	Class	Description
8 Nov	2W	Confession
8 Nov	2W	Prayer Assembly for children receiving Sacrament of Penance
9 Nov	2W	Mass
11 Nov	Whole School	Blessing & Opening plus remembrance Day Celebrations
15 Nov	1V & 1K Year 2	First Penance and Reflection Day
16 Nov	1V & 1K Year 2	Mass
17 Nov	Parent Prayer Assembly	For children who received Sacrament of Penance
22 Nov	2J	Confession
23 Nov	2J	Mass
24 Nov	KB	Prayer Assembly

Date	Class	Description
29 Nov	2G	Confession
30 Nov	2G	Mass
1 Dec	KG	Prayer Assembly
7 Dec	1B & 1E	Mass
8 Dec	1E	Prayer Assembly
11 Dec	Stage 1	Family Mass 9.30am
13 Dec	Year 6	Graduation
14 Dec	Whole School	Christmas Concert (evening)
16 Dec	Whole School	Mass End of Year



Sacrament of Penance

There are forty-nine students in year 2 who are preparing for the Sacrament of Penance. Please keep them in your prayers. These students will be celebrating the sacrament for the first time on Tuesday, 15th November.



Stage 1 Family Mass

On Sunday, the 11th December, the Stage 1 students and their families will celebrate a Family Mass at 9:30am. Bishop Julian Porteous will be the main celebrant on this occasion. Therefore we invite ALL of our families to attend this special Mass. We look forward to celebrating the Mass together and sharing morning tea together afterwards.

Official Blessing and Opening of Our School

Please join our school community along with Father Slattery and various other guests as we celebrate the blessing and opening of the new and refurbished school facilities. As this will occur on Remembrance Day – 11th November, we will be including a special liturgy for this as well. Invitations have now been sent home with all the details. This event will only go for thirty minutes beginning at 10:30am. Morning Tea will be served straight after.



Parent Prayer Assembly

The Parent Prayer Assembly this term will be on Thursday 17th November. The assembly is in celebration of the children who celebrate their Confession for the first time earlier that week. If you would like to be part of the assembly, please let the Office staff know or complete the slip on the note sent home about this. Our parent coordinator is Mrs Zina LaPenna. We love to have our parents participating in this very important part of the Catholic life of the school. If you cannot participate, then please be sure to attend on the day to show your support of the parents of St Michael's!



Year 6 Graduation

As the primary school time for our Year 6 students draws to a close, the students will be celebrating their graduation in a special way on Tuesday 13th December 2011 at 9am. It would be great to see many people from our school community present to commemorate such a momentous occasion. There will be a prayer assembly, followed by certificates and a showcase of talents. Hope to see you there.



Christmas Giving Tree

In the coming weeks, there will be a decorated Christmas Tree in the Office foyer of the school. If you would like to spread some Christmas cheer to someone in our local community who is less fortunate than yourself, then please take a tag and buy a gift for the person described on the tag. A note will be going home soon about this.



Christmas Concert

Please join the school and parish communities for our Christmas Concert and 'Dinner on the Green' on Wednesday, 14th December from 5:00pm. An invitation will go home with all the details. We hope you will join us to celebrate the festive occasion.



Whole School Mass

There are few times when we celebrate the Mass together as a whole school. Therefore, please join us as we celebrate the end of another school year together on Friday, 16th December 2011 at 9am.

God bless!

Eva Tarchichi

Religious Education Coordinator

Message From Mrs Mary Hill – Librarian/Coordinator



Book club

We had quite a few problems with the orders from bookclub this time as many children did not put their name on the form or envelope or fill in the form correctly. We would appreciate if you could check over the forms if your children fill them in as it would make it easier and quicker when we have to collate the orders. Filling in forms is quite a useful and important skill, so doing this with your child would be very beneficial. Thank you to the mums who helped sort the orders for bookclub. The books should arrive soon and will be given out as soon as possible.

We will be having a Christmas book fair at the end of November where you will be able to browse through some good quality books and maybe buy some to put away for Christmas presents. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

Would you like the latest technology or the technology your children may be using explained?

The ABC has a website that is user friendly and concise. It gives explanations on most aspects of information technology and social media.

<http://www.abc.net.au/technology/techexplained/default.htm>

Weeblies

Don't forget to check out the Think Tank and Stage weeblies as new events and information are added all the time. Thank you to the parents who have left comments on the weeblies. We appreciate your feedback. All the addresses and passwords are listed on the mydesktop page that your child uses. If you have any queries or would like the addresses emailed directly to you please let me know.

mary.hill@stmbelfield.catholic.edu.au



Help needed

If any parent could spare an hour, I would love some help with processing a large number of books we have recently bought.



Congratulations to Rochelle and Luigi on the birth of twin girls Zara and Izabelle little sisters to Zachary (KB). Also congratulations to Susanna and Gaspare on the birth of their daughter Lara, sister of Alissa (2J).

Coles Vouchers and Woolworths Dockets

A big thank you to all parents and families who helped us collect Coles vouchers and Woolworths docketts. Thank you Liz S, Paul F, Samira N, Claire C, Leanne J, Linda E, Diane Y and Tina C who helped Mrs Anita Johnston and Mrs Emma Pereira to count the Coles vouchers. We estimated we have 22,000 vouchers but we have to wait for confirmation from Coles. We can confirm we received 7,313 worth of Woolworths vouchers. Well done everyone!!!



Garden Angel

Our school garden is flourishing lately with some warmer weather and the recent rain. The corn plants are getting taller, the strawberries have been planted in the ground, the carrots have begun to sprout, we have some baby cucumbers visible now, our bean plant is getting taller and the grape tomatoes are visible. We have had to tie up our grape tomato plants to assist them to grow comfortably. We have an abundant crop of mint that has just grown back from last year all by itself!

The Environmental Committee from Stage Three have just put in signs for our plants to help us identify them, and are busy watering and weeding. They have been capably assisted by other students from Stages 2 and 3. It is such a joy to see the excitement and motivation and sheer joy the students have in their care of the garden. They are taking photos to record

the wonderful journey. We are lucky to have the teachers and students from 2/3 B and 2M and their teachers share this responsibility with us.

Thank you!
Mrs Fekete and the Garden Lover's Club



Orientation Day for Year 7 / 2012

Student Orientation Day for Year 7 / 2012

Wednesday 23rd November, 2011

Students are expected to:

1. Wear your current school uniform
2. Arrive at the College by 8.30am
3. Will be dismissed at 3.05pm
4. Bring your own food/drink for morning tea. Lunch will be provided by the College also the College Canteen will be available
5. Bring your own writing materials; pen, pencil & paper

Parent Orientation Meeting for Year 7 / 2012

Wednesday 30th November, 2011 in the College Hall at 7.00pm

The meeting is to address the matters of:

1. Uniform
2. Fees
3. Requisites
4. Transport passes etc
5. Meet the teachers and College leadership team

JACARANDA NETBALL CLUB

2012 REGISTRATION

- Register at:** Strathfield Park, Homebush Rd, Strathfield
- Date:** Saturday, 3 December 2011
- Time:** 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Alternatively:** Post cheque & paperwork to the address below by no later than 7 January 2012
- Fees:** Under 8 to under 14: **\$120.00**
Under 15 to Adults: **\$140.00**
Family Discount: **\$10.00** (second child), **\$20.00** (third child) and **Free** (fourth child)
- New Players:** Please bring a photocopy of birth certificate/passport and one passport/school size photo
- Contact:** Steven Debs - President **(0488 488 387)**
Email: steven.debs@optusnet.com.au
- Donna Sagna – Vice President **(0404 074 924)**
Email: senaus1@optusnet.com.au
- Note:** No previous netball experience required. Registration will depend on sufficient numbers to make up a team and if a Coach is available for the Team.

Hurry, as its first in first served!!