



St Michael's Primary School

Newsletter

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Baulkham Hills

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Issue 4

Term 1 Week 8

Thursday 19 March 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents

As the spread of the Coronavirus increases, I take this opportunity to outline the updated precautionary measures being taken by our school in relation to the management of risk posed by the COVID-19 coronavirus.

We are monitoring the information provided by NSW Health, Catholic Schools NSW, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and are regularly assessing our strategies to ensure we have protocols in place for the protection of everyone in our school communities. The information regarding coronavirus is changing daily. The latest information from NSW health can be accessed at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-healthalert>

The Prime Minister Scott Morrison's advice to the nation on Wednesday morning is that schools will remain open and that children are safe at school and less likely to be exposed to the virus at school. With this in mind we ask:

- If your child is well, please send them to school.
- If your child is unwell for any reasons, please do not send them to school until they are well.

If families are excluding their children from school because they are fearful of a family member contracting the virus, please note that children's absence from school has to be recorded as an unjustified absence. We encourage you to send your children to school.

St Michael's Primary School response:

- Teachers are reminding students how to wash hands.
- There are soap dispensers in the toilets, and these are topped up regularly. Signs have been placed in classrooms and toilets to remind of and demonstrate hand washing procedures.
- Children will be reminded to cover when they cough or sneeze.
- Children will be directed to put used tissues directly into the bin.
- Excursions, assemblies and sporting events have been cancelled.
- Teachers will be extra vigilant, monitoring and acting regarding children who appear to be unwell.
- The school has discouraged handshakes, hugs and kisses.
- Children and staff who have come into Australia since March 16 will need to remain in self-isolation for 14 days after return.
- As we have members of staff and students who have immune compromised conditions the community must be vigilant and active in enforcing the above strategies and remaining home if they are unwell.
- Everyone should monitor their own health presentation and take appropriate steps should they feel unwell.
- Staff are offered the flu injection each year and this will again be provided Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.
- If a student presents as unwell at school, they will be isolated from other students and staff in the sick bay or an area of the office. Parents will be contacted to collect their child.
- Lego will be removed from the Lego tables temporarily.
- Each class has been provided with hand sanitizer pumps and soap dispensers.

The recent events with the spread of the Coronavirus have in some impacted us all. It can be really hard to know what to say to your child to respond to their questions when there is uncertainty. Here are some tips:

Give children reassurance and extra emotional support.

Reassure children of the steps being taken to keep them safe. Explain that people from all over the world offer help in times of need. If they are old enough you can mention that the government and hospitals are also doing everything possible.

... continued overleaf

Be honest with children. Children are better able to deal with a situation when they understand it. They need information just like adults do. Begin by asking your children what they already know about the situation. Most likely, they have already heard about it on TV, at school or from friends. However, a lot of their information may be inaccurate. As they explain what they know, look for misunderstandings or frightening rumours. Tell the truth and do not try to mislead them "for their own good."

Monitor children's media exposure. Keep young children away from frightening images they may see on TV, social media, computers, etc.

Be mindful of what children hear you saying in regards to the pandemic. Keep your language positive and hopeful.

Pray. As a Catholic community we recognise the importance of prayer in times of need.

Please find two links that may be helpful to you as a parent.

- Advice for Parents about how to speak with you children about the Coronavirus. Watch video:
https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus
- Helping Kids Who Are Worried About Coronavirus.
<https://www.counselorkeri.com/2020/03/14/talk-to-kids-about-coronavirus/>

Detailed information about COVID-19 is also available using NSW Health and Catholic Education Diocese websites:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/coronavirus-faqs.aspx>

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/News-and-Events/Planning-for-the-Future/Information-concerning-COVID19>

We are vigilantly following the advice from the Health Department, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Schools NSW in our deliberations to reduce the risk of this pandemic at St Michael's Primary School.

The support, patience and understanding of the community will ensure that we continue to meet the challenges of this time.

Lord, we thank you for our families. Our parents, grandparents, and others who love us and care for us are so precious. They are holy gifts from you, Lord. Help us to appreciate them and to pray for them every day.

Help us to be merciful, like you, and to be thankful for our families. Inspire us to listen, to be helpful, and to treat each other with respect. We know this is pleasing to you, dear loving Lord Jesus. Amen.

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.



2021 Kindergarten Enrolments

The Open Morning on Tuesday 31 March has been postponed.

Enrolment packages can be collected from the school office between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Enrolment Process

Enrolment at St Michael's Primary Catholic Primary School includes your return of the **Enrolment Application** with the following documents

- Birth Certificate - copy and original for viewing
- Baptism Certificate - copy and original for viewing
- Immunisation History Statement (visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au or call 1800 653 809 and request your statement)
- Passport with visa (if not Australian Citizens).

It is essential that both parents/guardians sign the different sections of the Enrolment Application. Your prompt return of this form will be appreciated.

New Families will be contacted as soon as possible for an interview.

Existing families in the school with K2021 children will be offered a place based on their Enrolment applications and supporting documents being received and finalised.

For those children who have a diagnosis of learning difficulties, autism, or being on the spectrum, we ask that you provide the school with the appropriate report from the specialist or other practitioner. In that way the school can ensure that we have the appropriate resources and support in place for entry into school. We will contact you with regard to meeting you and your child to support their needs prior to them starting in 2021.

Further Information

For further enquiries please contact the school office on **9865 1600**

Calendar Dates

WEEK 9 - Harmony week - Everybody Belongs

Fri 27 Mar Celebration of Harmony Week

WEEK 10

Thu 2 Apr School photos - Staff and students

WEEK 11

School Holidays Friday 10 April to Sunday 26 April 2020

TERM 2 WEEK 1

Wed 29 Apr Parramatta Rugby Trials

Thu 30 Apr Mother's Day Gift Stall

School Terms - 2020

Term 1—Tuesday 28 January to Thursday 9 April 2020

Term 2 - Monday 27 April to Friday 3 July

Term 3 - Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4 - Monday 12 October to Friday 18 December*

- *Students finish Wednesday 16 December*
- *Staff Development Days Thursday 17 & Friday 18 December*

Parish Masses Cancelled 21 & 22 March

Please be advised that all Parish Masses for Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 March have been cancelled. Please see the link below for online Masses.

<https://www.northsydney Catholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand>



Harmony Day

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's multicultural society while promoting inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians regardless of their cultural or linguistic background. This year St Michael's will promote the Harmony day theme of, "Everybody Belongs" through activities that will take place in the classrooms during the entire week.

On **Friday 27 March**, students are invited to wear their school uniform along with an **orange accessory** to celebrate Harmony Day at our school. Examples of accessories include orange socks, bracelet, ribbon, hair tie, scrunchie or a belt.

Social Skill Tips for Parents

Week 9: Mantra 1 - Stop! No! Go

- Stop! I don't like it when you _____ (name what you don't like)
- No! I asked you to stop _____
- If the behaviour continues: Go and tell the teacher on duty.

Week 10: Mantra 2 Public and private behaviour and language

- Public or Private? *Children need to be responsible for their language and actions.*

Certain behaviour may be acceptable at home or in a private place that is not acceptable in the classroom or playground.

Week 11: The Network Hand

- The 'Network Hand'. The children list five people, from various areas in their life that they trust and can go to if they need help. These people must be over 18 years of age.

Prayers

We pray for those in our community who may be unwell or suffering at the moment.



Religious Education

Understanding Faith Website Access

Please see the information regarding accessing Understanding Faith.

This online resource is used in classrooms to support learning in Religious Education. This site is freely available for students to access at home.

Understanding Faith Website Link:

<https://primary.understandingfaith.edu.au>

Primary Login

Username: **ceo.parra.1880**

Password: **2020.parra**

Mr David Ison, Religious Education Coordinator

Gilroy Catholic College

Enrolments for Year 7 2021

Applications close Friday 27 March 2020

First Round Offers will be sent out Monday 6 April 2020

Families who wish to enrol for Year 7 2021 and currently have a student attending Gilroy will need to complete an application form.

Application Packages are available from the College office or you can download the forms from the College website:

gilroy.catholic.edu.au (click on How to Enrol)

For all enquiries contact the College office on 8853 8200 or the Registrar Mary McBain at Gilroy@parra.catholic.edu.au



News from Mini Vinnies!

Mini Vinnies would like to say **Thank you** to all those who bought a Bushfire bookmark and chocolate at our stall on Thursday 5th March 2020. They were all sold out in under 5 minutes! We raised a total of \$180.00 which will all be donated to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal.

Each design was unique and special. They were either hand drawn or designed on Google Drawings. Each bookmark came with a Furry Friend chocolate so we could also remember those animals who were affected by the fires.

This project has inspired me to be a great and loving person. - April W

This project has taught me to be grateful. - Eadie

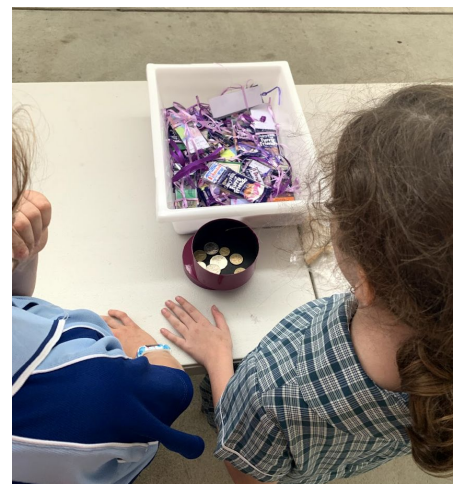
It has inspired me to donate more.- Hugo

It has inspired me to raise money for people in need. - Evie

This project has made me realise that helping others is just as important as looking after yourself. - April S

This experience has taught me to be less selfish. -Patrick

Mini Vinnies is an opportunity to not only fundraise to help those in need, but also gives students the chance to grow in and embrace their faith. Our next project will focus on Prayer.



News from 2A - Miss Anderson

2A have had a great time learning all about mixtures so far this term. Students discovered a mixture is a combination of multiple materials, it is easy to separate some mixtures but not others and not all mixtures stay combined. To finish off our mixtures unit students made their own edible mixture in class.

Children's observations

"I noticed my mixture was too sticky to roll in my hands so I put it straight into the patty pan." *Amelie*

"My mixture was really sweet because I had heaps of honey in it." *Austin*

"My mixture was made crunchy by the sugar." *Ryan*

"I noticed that there were lots of dry bits so I should have added more honey." *Penelope*

"My mixture was too sticky to put in the patty pan because I used too much honey." *Evela*



Emails to the school

If you are emailing the school, please provide details of your child's full name and teacher or learning support teacher so that we can refer your email to the correct person. Thank you.

Parish car park

For the safety of yourself and your children do not cross in front of the cars in the Stop and Drop queue or cars exiting the car park from this area.

Please do not cross on the speed hump that has the white lines.

Could you please walk around the perimeter of the car park where the cars are parked. You are then able to enter the school via the bottom gate of the car park.

Please hold your child's hand in the car park.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

School fees

School Fees Account Statements have been issued and are now due. If you have not received your School fee Statement please contact the school for a copy.

Thank you to our families who have made their payment or are meeting weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment arrangements.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties please contact Rasha Azar on 9865-1600. All conversations are strictly confidential.

School Banking

School Banking temporarily paused.

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people is our first priority. Due to the rapidly developing situation with coronavirus, School Banking has been temporarily paused from 20 March 2020 until the start of Term 2.

We will do our best to keep you informed as the situation progresses. Please note, our team of School Banking Specialists are still available to support you and your school via mobile and email.

Additionally, our School Banking Helpdesk also remains available on 1800 674 496, Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm Sydney time.



Commonwealth Bank

Star Corner

Congratulations to Kobi Gwynne and his team members. Kobi's Under 9's team competed at the NSW State Cup Oztag and won the 3 days undefeated. Well done!





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P&F News

Welcome Kindy 2020 BBQ



Don't forget to like our Facebook page [P&F St. Michael's Primary Baulkham Hills](#)



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John's Car Care

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years



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Early collection of children from school

If there is a need to collect your child early from school, please send a note to the classroom teacher in the morning and proceed to the school office when you arrive. On your arrival at the school office, staff will contact the class teacher and your child will then meet you at the school office. While you are waiting for your child, you will be asked to sign them out of the school.

Parents are not permitted to go directly to classrooms or other areas to collect their children.

Recess is from 11.00-11.30 am

Lunch is from 1.00-1.40 pm

If you are collecting your children around Recess or Lunch, we suggest you arrive at the school prior to, or after, Recess and Lunch times.

Please allow plenty of time as it will take a few minutes to contact your child, have them pack their bag and walk to the school office.

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