



St Michael's Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 28 May 2021

Term 2 Week 6

Issue 8

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Baulkham Hills

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From the Principal

Dear Parents



Parent Survey

Thank you to the 109 families who very generously took the time to respond to our parent survey. The response to the continuing of our Parent / Teacher / Student conferences was an overwhelming "Yes". The survey indicated that most parents read the Newsletter, however, prefer information firstly via Skoolbag App, then email and Newsletter

Literacy and Numeracy workshops for parents were certainly areas parents would like to see being offered by the school. One-third of families prefer these to happen via Zoom with the majority wanting a face-to-face meeting at 6 pm. As a response to the survey our first parent workshop for Numeracy will be held on Wednesday 4 August at 6pm in the School Hall. This workshop is for parents of children in Years 3-6. A K-2 workshop will be held at a later date. Registration information will be sent closer to the date.

Your general comments were varied. All the information provided will assist us with our planning for the future. Once again our sincere thanks for your feedback.

School Assemblies

It was great to be able to welcome back our families to our Monday afternoon Assembly. We will continue this practice of inviting the families of the grade leading Assembly to join us on Monday afternoon. There will be no assembly on Monday 31 May as there is a special youth day event being held for Year 5 in the Hall.

This event for Year 5 has been organised by our own teachers, the Faith in Action team in collaboration with the Parish of Baulkham Hills Youth Minister, Paul Fam and our parish youth leaders. What a fantastic opportunity for our students to grow in their faith!

The school's focus is always the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and families. We will continue to follow the protocols and requirements of NSW Health in regards to COVID-19 and onsite visits.

*Teaching children about anger**

The immediate impulse that children have when they are angry is to hit out. This has a natural purpose, but must be modified somewhat if we are to get along in the world. Whenever we intervene with children, our aim should be to help them learn what will work and serve them well as adults.

How to help children be comfortable with anger.

- *Insist that they use words instead of actions to express anger. They have to say out loud that they are angry, and if possible why.*
- *Help them to connect their feelings with reasons. Talk with them to check out what is behind their outburst. Young children will sometimes need help to 'think back' to what went wrong.*
- *Let them know that feelings are heard, and accepted (but may not always change things).*
- *Teach directly that hitting is not an acceptable way to handle anger.*
- *Help children to say what they DO want. Often they will start to whine and complain about what they don't want.*
- *Show them by your own example. When it's all added up, they are more likely to do what you DO, than what you SAY. So be sure to role model what you want. When YOU are angry, say so, in a loud voice.*

**extracted from The Complete Secrets of Happy Children, Steve Biddulph*

Prayers

"God of love and goodness, you raise up good people who show with their lives that they follow the Gospel of your Son, Jesus. Fill us with your grace, so that our lives and our words will be as true as our faith. May we grow more and more in your son's likeness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka



Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2022

To make an interview or discuss your child's enrolment

Phone 9865 1600

We are currently finalising enrolments for Kindergarten 2022.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you wish to enrol your child for 2022.



Religious Education

This Sunday we celebrate Trinity Sunday. The Christian Trinity which has its most common prayer in "The sign of the Cross", has a history reaching back as far as 1334 when it was proclaimed as a Feast Day. Unfortunately, over time, the Feast has taken on an air of mystery and has become a challenge to our powers of comprehension. The purpose of the Feast should be one of reassurance and optimism.

The Father is associated with the positive and ongoing act of creation. The Father challenges us to be positive and creative with our lives; to be creative in our relationship with our partner, children, friends, neighbours; not to be destructive or negative but to come up with more praise than criticism.

The Son is associated with being a peacemaker: "I have come to bring Peace not conflict". After his resurrection, his first words in each of his appearances were, "Peace be with you". Peacemakers are strong in virtues. Jesus expressed loyalty when he stuck by Peter who three times denied him—Peter later became the first Pope. Do we stick by our family, including our extended family, in their troubles? Are we ever ready to show compassion, gentleness, kindness, forgiveness—to give positive vibes into the lives of other people?

The Spirit is associated with gifting. The Apostles illustrated the potential that the Spirit has for positive responses in our lives. On the first Pentecost they were "filled with the Spirit" and began their remarkable careers of preaching Christ throughout the world. We, likewise, are gifted by the spirit at Baptism and Confirmation. How has the "career" of our life progressed? Is it reflective of love, care and forgiveness?

We are called to live in harmony and peace; we are encouraged to support one another, to love one another. God so desired a relationship with us that God sent Jesus. We need to respond to this relationship. We need to love back and we do this by our relationships with one another. We need to put energy into our loving. Trinity is a reminder of God's love and a challenge for us to be pro-active with our love.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a tradition that has developed over the centuries. This devotion reminds us of the love Jesus has for all of us. The love of Jesus is not just an abstract concept, but a real love which led to his suffering and death on the cross. You as a family are invited to spend time in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord during the month of June, and to reflect on the wonderful love Christ has for each and every one of us.

As an intentional faith community we will join together for a Eucharist celebration to commemorate this important solemnity in Week 8 this term.



Social Skill Tips for Parents

Weeks 7 & 8: Approaching and joining in and including others

- Go and join in – don't wait to be asked. (The dos and don'ts).
- Including others makes everyone feel good.

Week 9: Listening and asking good questions

- Interesting people show interest in others. Look at the person who is talking and occasionally nod or say "uh ha".

Prayers

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

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



Wellbeing

Our focus during the past two weeks has been:

We are in the right place at the right time.

Please continue to support our Wellbeing Policy by talking with your children about each two week Focus.

Ask your child if they have received a "Paws Award" and why they received it.

As part of our Wellbeing Programme at St Michael's a clip has been produced to highlight the positive behaviour practices that are used at the school. It has been pleasing to see the way the children have embraced this programme. To view the clip, please click on the link below:

[Wellbeing at St Michael's](#)

Calendar Dates

WEEK 7

Mon 31 May	Incursion: Year 5 Youth Day—FIAT
Tue 1 Jun	Eels Cup
Wed 2 Jun	Open Performance Band Rehearsal—7.45 am— Band Parents invited Preschool visits—Year 6 Leaders
Fri 4 Jun	Incursion: Years 1-6 Music—Kaboom Percussion

WEEK 8

Tue 8 Jun	NSWCPS Cross Country Preschool visits—Year 6 Leaders
Wed 9 Jun	Years 2-6 Athletics Carnival
Thu 10 Jun	Mackillop Softball Trials

WEEK 9

Mon 14 Jun	Public Holiday—Queen's birthday— Pupil free
Wed 16 Jun	Boys Soccer Gala Day
Wed 17 Jun	Olympic-a-thon

WEEK 10

Thu 24 Jun	P&F Gold Coin Mufti Day End of Term 2 for Students
Fri 25 Jun	Staff development day—Pupil free

School Holidays—St Michael's students
Fri 25 June to Sunday 11 July

TERM 3—WEEK 1

Mon 12 Jul	Staff and students return for Term 3
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2021 School Terms

Term 2—Monday, 19 April to Friday, 25 June**

****Staff Development Day: Friday 25 June**

Term 3—Monday, 12 July to Friday, 17 September

Term 4—Tuesday, 5 October to Friday, 17 December*

**Students finish on Wednesday, 15 December*

Staff Development Days:

Thursday, 16 December and Friday, 17 December

Healthy Canteens

If you need to contact the canteen regarding any orders or enquiries, please call

9678 9242

Staff Development Day

Friday 25 June

On Friday 25 June our staff will be undertaking a professional learning day on the Aboriginal Perspective across all curriculum areas.

The school will be closed and no supervision will be provided. Please make alternative care arrangements of your child/ren on this day.

200 years of Catholic Education in Australia

On Monday 24 May, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta together with other schools across Australia celebrated 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia.

Ava, one of our School Captains, and Mrs Maka attended Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

The history of Catholic education in Australia is far from staid, beginning with Irish insurgency in the early colony. The contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. We continue to grow from our beginnings in 1820, acknowledging the spirit, determination, and initiative shown by our earliest lay teachers.

Ours in a story of courage and determination with heroes like St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, a woman whose extraordinary faith effectively extended the opportunities of education to ordinary Australian children.

We build on the strong foundation laid by the religious orders and the clergy who dedicated their lives to Catholic schools and their communities. Monday's celebration honours our proud history.



Ava with Bishop Vincent who was the principal celebrant.

Gregory B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL

Executive Director

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

'You Can Sit With Me Day'

In Week 7 on Friday the 4th of June, St Michael's will celebrate 'You Can Sit With Me Day' to celebrate kindness and inclusivity.

Students are invited to wear a splash of yellow with their school uniform on the Friday (e.g. yellow ribbon or scrunchie, yellow socks, yellow hat, etc). In the lead up to this day the Year 6 leaders will run inclusive games and activities across the school during recess and lunch time throughout the week.



**you can
sit with me**

Tell Them From Me Survey

Dear Parents and Carers,

St Michael's greatly values feedback from our community to help us provide the best possible environment for our students to learn and grow. To help us do this, we will be participating in the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) online survey for students (in Years 4, 5 and 6), teachers, parents and carers.

The survey will provide us with valuable insights into what our school community thinks about school life including how engaged students are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world use the *Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve*.

Between **31 May and 25 June 2021**, all students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be given the opportunity and time to participate in this survey during regular school hours. Students who agree to complete the survey will be given a random username and password to access and complete the survey online. Students' names cannot be linked to their responses which allows it to be **completely anonymous**. Results will show all student scores combined together – it is not possible to single out individual students in the results.

From 31 May commencing at 9 am, parents and carers will be able to participate using the link below:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/477yc>

The survey takes approximately 25 to 30 minutes to complete. The survey measures include wellbeing, physical health, and behaviours and attitudes linked to student success. The survey also allows participants to give their thoughts and feedback in one open-ended question - please note that these responses are read by principals only. **Any detailed information in the open text could potentially identify the respondent so generic comments are recommended.**

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. You or your child/children need not take part if either of you do not wish to. If during the survey participants feel uncomfortable answering any question, it can be left blank or they can stop the survey completely at any time.

If you **do not want** your child/children in **Years 4, 5 or 6** to take part in the survey, please complete the form below and return it to the school by **Monday 31 May**. (*Please note your child will may have already brought this form home to you.*) If you would like more information, please contact the school office to discuss further.

Tell Them From Me Student Survey

If you **do not want** your child/children in **Years 4, 5 or 6** to participate in the Tell Them From Me student survey, please sign this form and return it to the school **by Monday 31 May 2021**.

I (print name) **DO NOT** give consent

for my child/children (print name/s)

of roll class/es to participate in the ***Tell Them From Me student survey***.

Signed..... Date.....

Please return to your child's class teacher by Monday 31 May.

News from Kindy—Mrs van Gend

Two weeks ago the children in Kindy Green celebrated a class award afternoon after receiving 20 class paw awards. These were earned for lining up quickly and quietly after lunch, behaving reverently in Church, working quietly in reading group time and moving around the school quietly when walking to the library or music.

They had a great afternoon watching a movie while cuddling under blankets and munching on popcorn!



The St. Michael's Olympic-a-thon will happen on **Thursday 17th June**.



More information will be provided closer to the date. The fundraising cards have been sent home this week.

All donations will be going towards purchasing new resources for the school.

If anyone would like to donate any **prizes for the raffle**, please contact the school office.



Thank you!



Mercy Works Donations

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our wonderful families who donated to our MercyWorks initiative recently. We raised \$654.05 which has been sent to Mercy Works.

The students all enjoyed their dance time in class and the money donated will help the communities in Papua New Guinea.

Please click on the link if you would like to find out more about the amazing initiatives of MercyWorks.

<https://www.mercyworks.org.au/>



Biggest Morning Tea

Thank you to all our staff who came and donated to our Biggest Morning Tea in support of [Cancer Council Australia](https://www.cancer.org.au).

We ask St. Peregrine Laziosi (Patron saint of those suffering through cancer) to intercede for all those affected in our community and beyond. God healed you of cancer and we pray your prayers can heal those we love.



Volunteer child protection requirements

Just a reminder that if you are volunteering at the school for any reason (including sport onsite or offsite) you will need to complete the NEW Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta child protection undertaking and online training. This will take approximately 10-15 mins.

The undertaking and training can be found at the following link:

https://cedp.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eg4ATdmn1yyfNH

Once you receive an email with your BCSC number, please forward this email to the school so that we have a record of you completing the requirements. **You cannot volunteer until you have forwarded your BCSC number and it has been checked by the school.**

Further information on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Building Child Safe Communities can be found at:

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Building-Child-Safe-Communities>

If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Isaac on 9865 1600 or via email at

stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Taking leave for family holidays during the school term

Government regulations require you to seek leave approval from the school for holidays of 5 days or more prior to your journey. Contact the school office for an *Application for Extended Leave (L) - Travel Leave—From A.1*. This form is also available on our website under School Notes.

Travel leave 1-4 days—please send in a written note to the school prior to your leave.

12.09.21

St Michael's
Primary
School



50TH
ANNIVERSARY
SAVE THE DATE



Star corner



Rocco S received an honourable mention in the Young Archie art awards. His art work will be hung in the SH Ervin gallery as part of the Salon De Refuses exhibition from 5 June to 15 August.

Fishing at sunset—Age 5-8 yr olds

"This is a picture of my papa fishing. I love my papa and I love when he takes me fishing – but not in the boat!"



COVID-19 update Friday 28 May 2021

As you may be aware, there have been new COVID-19 cases in Victoria in the past week. As a result, Victoria has imposed 'circuit breaker' restrictions from 11:59pm Thursday 27 May 2021. These will remain in place until 11:59pm, 3 June. For NSW residents, this means that:

- Anyone who has travelled to NSW from Victoria from after 4.00pm Thursday 27 May must remain at their home or place of residence in NSW for the seven-day duration of the Victorian measures. You can find out the latest updates, including what is involved with 'stay-at-home' procedures, from the [NSW Health](#) website.
- Anyone arriving in NSW by air, rail or road from Victoria (except those travelling within the defined border region) must complete a [NSW Entry Declaration Form](#) to confirm that they have not attended any of the venues identified of concern. Anyone who has attended a venue of concern cannot travel to NSW.
- Anyone who attended any of the venues identified at the times listed is asked to contact NSW Health immediately on [1800 943 553](#).
- The NSW government strongly advises against all non-essential travel to Victoria at this time.
- Travel to Victoria for school excursions, activities or any other business purpose is not permitted at this time. Advice will be provided as soon as they are able to resume.
- People who do travel to Victoria for essential personal reasons will be required to follow the Victorian stay-at-home requirements on their return to NSW.

Reminders

- Staff and students should not attend work or school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Staff and students should not return to school or office work sites until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free.
- Anyone who is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms are strongly encouraged to get tested and self-isolate until a negative result is received. Locations of testing clinics are available via the [NSW COVID-19 Testing Clinics](#) website.
- Please monitor the [NSW government website](#) for locations where there may have been exposure to COVID-19 and adhere to the advice as appropriate.



Did you know

1 in 6 primary students are not attending school regularly. Schools are here to help.

If you are having attendance issues with your child please contact us so we can support you to address them.

every learner
every day ✓



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

Term 2 School Fee Statements

Term 2 School Fees were due on 26 May, 2021. If you have not received a statement, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you to the many families who have taken up payment arrangements for 2021. It is still not too late to make an arrangement.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss. Thank you.

Adriana Grima, Finance Officer, 9865 1600



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Are you curious about Alpha?

Alpha is a fun and informal way to get together to think about the bigger questions of life, faith and meaning. You're invited to 'come and see' what Alpha is all about at our celebration night being held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre on Wednesday 2nd June at 7.30pm. It's a chance to get a sneak peak at the Alpha programme and hear from our current guests about their experience as well as meet the team. Ask questions, hear stories and enjoy great conversation over wine, cheese and nibbles! Contact Amanda Mazarello (mum of Alexis in 2J) on 0433 144 482 for more information or to RSVP.



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