



# St Michael's Primary School

## Newsletter

3-5 Chapel Lane,  
Baulkham Hills

Tel: 9865 1600 Fax: 9865 1699

Email: [stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Issue 11

Term 3 Week 4

Thursday 13 August 2020

### *From the Principal*

Dear Parents

#### *COVID-19*

We remind our parents to be aware of social distancing guidelines and the practices that the NSW Health Department has asked us all to follow. Please take this advice seriously given the current situation in this local area with the growth in positive COVID-19 cases. We need to minimise the risk of transmission to protect those in our community.

Thank you for your support in keeping our families and our children safe.



#### *P&F Committee*

Thank you to the P&F Committee for their hard work in preparing for Father's Day and purchasing the gifts for our Dads. So much happens behind the scenes. Our P&F have their families and jobs to attend to but are always very generous in supporting our community here at St Michael's.

#### *Kindergarten milestone - 100 days*

Congratulations to our Kindergarten children who will be celebrating 100 days of school on Friday 21 August.

The 100th day of kindergarten marks a special opportunity for teachers, children and parents to reflect on the major milestones in the children's academic, social and emotional development and achievements.

While 100 days might not seem like much of a milestone for most - for kindergarten students it can feel like a lifetime. Our littlies have experienced huge changes in their school life so far learning everything from reading, writing and numeracy all under the cloud of COVID-19.

St Michael's will celebrate this very special milestone with our Kindergarten children dressing up as 100 year olds with grey hair, walking sticks and glasses.

More information will be sent home by the Kindergarten teachers.

#### *Kindergarten parents workshop*

Our kindergarten parents will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of play and how St Michael's has incorporated investigative play into the children's learning.

At St Michael's not only do the children experience explicit daily instruction of literacy and numeracy, they also have opportunities (four mornings a week) to be involved in active investigations that enhance their oral language, social skills as well as their literacy and numeracy skills.

*Regardless of the stage of age and development, all children (and adults) learn most effectively when there is hands-on, real life exposure to learning opportunities that are as personalised as possible and relate in meaningful and engaging ways to each particular child and their interests.*

*(Play Matters, Kathy Walker)*

Learn more about investigative play on Tuesday 25 August at 7.00 pm through a Zoom parent workshop. An invitation will be sent shortly to our kindergarten parents together with the link to this learning opportunity.

*(continued over the page)*

## *Reflection - How was your day?*

"Some people are blessed with talkative children, some with quiet kids. Many parents will wish that their child talked to them more. Some probably wish they'd talk less.

Expert after expert has told parents just how important it is to make sure your child knows they can speak with you whenever they need, and that means it's a parent's responsibility to create a habit of talking.

*"Get kids thinking about their day, give parents a window into their lives, and get everyone in the habit of talking. A habit that can have a big impact on their life."*

But getting kids to speak openly, honestly, and without reservation with their parents can be tough, especially as they enter their teen years. To help out, we've put together a list of conversation starters that can be used instead of the old "how was your day?"

These starters will get kids thinking about their day, give parents a window into their lives, and get everyone in the habit of talking. A habit that can have a big impact on their life.

### **WHO NEEDS US TO PRAY FOR THEM TONIGHT?**

#### **Who needs us to pray for them tonight?**

This is such a simple question and no doubt we can all think of someone who might need a little prayer said for them. They might answer with a friend, a teacher, another parent or even a sibling. It gets them to think about the people they encountered during their day and the needs of other people. Follow it up with an even easier question; "Why?" and you'll have yourself a flowing conversation in no time.

#### **What happened today that would make God smile?**

This could be a revealing question, and a chance to find out if God is really smiling or if it's just the kids. The point of this question is to have them reflect on their day. Let them remember and share one of their highlights, or something someone did for them or someone else that they noticed and saw as good.

*"It will show them that every day, every person and every experience is a gift from God, even if we don't always know it."*

#### **Where did you notice God at work in your life today?**

This is pretty similar to simply asking what good things happened today, but reminds them that God's will is constantly at work.

***IT WILL SHOW THEM THAT EVERY DAY, EVERY PERSON AND EVERY EXPERIENCE IS A GIFT FROM GOD, EVEN IF WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW IT.***

#### **When did your guardian angel grimace today?**

We're all going to make mistakes and do the wrong thing from time to time. This question is about getting your kids to reflect on those mistakes, to ask for forgiveness, learning from them and growing as people. As it says in **1 John 1:9** – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Recognise our mistakes, ask for forgiveness, and we will be forgiven.

#### **Let's pretend God is going to wipe away one bit of homework, which would it be?**

It's easy to forget in the hectic world of adults that being a kid can be hard work, but none of us enjoyed homework. Let them blow off a bit of steam and have a whinge about their homework. Listen to them, understand them and empathise with them and if they need it, help them with the homework. Doing this will strengthen your relationship and let them know they can talk to you about anything."

*By Benjamin Conolly -August 12, 2020,  
<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/how-was-your-day/>*

## *Prayer*

*"You loved children, dear Jesus, and for that we praise you! Help us look at the world with the eyes of a child and notice the beauty that surrounds us."*

*Marisa Foyle, MEd , 2011, 5 Minutes with Christ*

*Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.*

*Danuta Maka*



## 2021 Kindergarten Open Morning

Wednesday 19 August

9.30 am - 11.00 am

**Limited places—Bookings essential**

To make a booking or discuss your child's enrolment

Phone 9865 1600



### *School Terms - 2020*

Term 3 - Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

- *Students and Staff return Monday 20 July*

Term 4 - Monday 12 October to Friday 18 December\*

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

### *Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning Parent Survey*

During the next few weeks we will be inviting our Year 4, 5 & 6 students, teachers and parents 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.

We would like to invite you to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning Parent 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 Primary Baulkham Hills.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey until Friday 28 August 2020, on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/t8sby>

If you have any queries regarding the survey, please contact Mrs Knispel, Assistant Principal, at school.

### *ACARA Collection Student Background Data Notice*

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information.

Parents and caregivers must advise their school if they don't want their child's data included in this report by 28 August 2020.

Copies of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Standard Collection Notice and Privacy Policy can be obtained from the school office.

### *Prayers*



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

We also pray for the members of our community whose anniversary occurs at this time.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

### *Social Skill Tips for Parents*

#### **Week 5: Playing fairly**

- A person who plays fairly and gets on with the game allows others to enjoy the game. People who play fairly get a reputation as good people to be around.

#### **Week 6: Being a good winner; being a good loser**

- Winning feels good, but remember to win in a way which keeps friends.
- Losing can make you feel bad, but staying friends is more important than giving in to your grumpy feelings.

### *2020 School Fees*

To those families who are not directly financially impacted by Covid-19, we appreciate your continued support in paying your fees (school fees are generally due 30 days from the date of the school tax invoice). CEDP have not included a due date on instalment 3 fees as some families require some flexibility with school fee payment.

If you would like to organise a flexible payment plan for your 2020 school fees please phone or email Rasha Azar at [stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au).

Please click on the following link for Covid-19 school fee relief if required: <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/feerelief>

*Please Note all excursions have been cancelled therefore a reversal of a portion of the activity fee will be processed. This includes a reversal for the Year 6 Canberra camp and meal component.*

### *Catholic Education Office leaving the school policy*

If you are leaving the school, one term's notice in writing is required otherwise you will be charged the term's school fees as per the enrolment agreement. Thank you for your understanding.



## News from Kindergarten!

On Friday the 31st of July, Kindergarten celebrated the birthday of the class teddies. The day began with a Liturgy where we thanked God for all the gifts we are given through our communities. All children were involved in song, prayer and reflection. We congratulate the children for being so reverent and respectful during the Liturgy.



The birthday party followed the Liturgy. Everyone was very excited. The classroom teachers led 4 games in which the children rotated. These included the parachute, egg and spoon races, sack races and over and under.

"I liked the egg and spoon races." Ethan Z



"I liked the party and the spoon race and the food." William C.

We then all came together to sing 'Happy Birthday' to the teddies and enjoyed a cupcake.

The celebration continued with a picnic lunch.



We missed sharing the celebration with the parents this year. The children were able to invite a teddy from home to the party to compensate. We thank the Teachers Aides for their support and help on the day.

"I brought Bowser to school." Declan.

"We had a good day and it was fun because I played with my friends and teachers." Ri Ri.

"I played with all of my friends and we had lots of fun!" Kiara.

## 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

every learner  
every day





# P&F

Community • Friendship • Education  
St Michaels Primary School Parents and Friends Association Baulkham Hills

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We train students  
across all age groups  
in a variety of  
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**OAKHILL COLLEGE**  
**BASKETBALL CLUB ENROLMENTS**  
**2020/2021 SUMMER COMPETITION**

Are you in Year 6 and enrolled at Oakhill College in 2021? Joining the Oakhill Basketball Club is a great way for any of the boys at your school that may be attending Oakhill College in 2021 to play local comp basketball in the Hills District Summer Comp at Hills Sports Stadium, Fred Caterson Reserve, Castle Hill. This is a great opportunity to get together and meet some new friends before you start at the College.

We are placing teams together for the Summer Comp commencing Term 4, 2020 and Term 1, 2021. Players will be placed in U/14's comp competing against boys their own age.

Enrolment forms should be submitted to the Oakhill Basketball Club by return email no later than **Friday 21st August, 2020**.

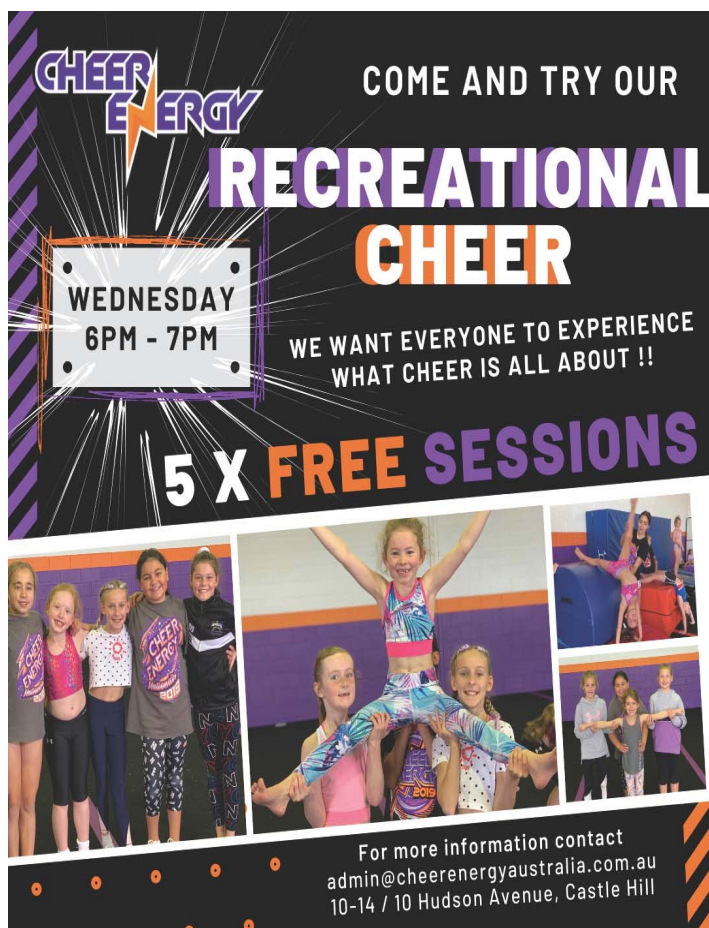
Please note that we do our best to place all boys into an Oakhill Team, depending on the number of boys enrolled. We also welcome parents who wish to volunteer as Coaches and Managers for these teams.

For enquiries, please email us at:

[oakhillcollegebasketball@gmail.com](mailto:oakhillcollegebasketball@gmail.com)

or contact us via our website:

[www.oakhillbasketball.club](http://www.oakhillbasketball.club)



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For more information contact  
admin@cheerenergyaustralia.com.au  
10-14 / 10 Hudson Avenue, Castle Hill

*Change in contact details*

Please let the school office know if you have changed any of your contact details:

- Home address
- Phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Emergency contact information—friends, aunts, uncles, grandparents

**P&F Father's Day Gifts**

This year the P&F have setup an online store for Father's Day.

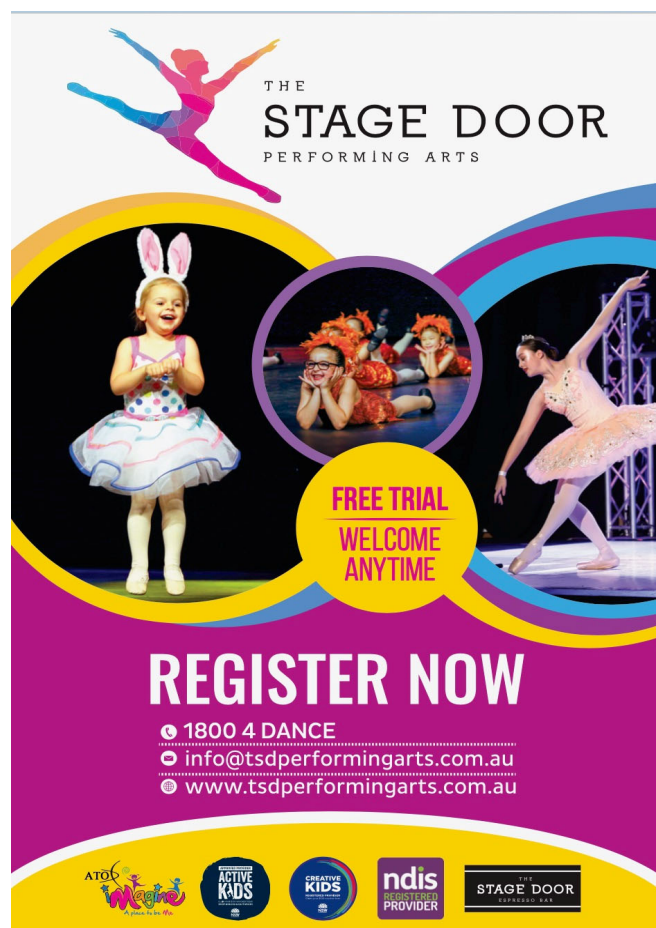
Please follow the link below and place your order.

<https://st-michaels-baulkham-hills-p-f-virtual-mothers-day-stall.myshopify.com> "

All orders need to be in by Tuesday 1st September and will be distributed by the class teacher on Friday 4th September. When placing the order please make sure you have your child's full name and class in the notes section, in the billing section put the schools address.

Any questions please email the P&F at:

[pandfstmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:pandfstmichaels@gmail.com),



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