



# St Michael's Primary School

## Newsletter

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Issue 12

Term 3 Week 6

Thursday 27 August 2020

### *From the Principal*

Dear Parents

#### *School activities*

We continue to be guided by the NSW Health Department and Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta regarding activities at the school and update you on the following school events in Term 4:

- **Kindergarten 2021 Orientation**—We are looking at our Parent Information Evening on Monday 2 November being held via a Zoom meeting. At this stage we are still uncertain as to how we will manage Kindergarten 2021 orientation. More information will be provided to our families as soon as possible.
- **Year 6 Graduation**—We are still exploring our options. Once we are clear about the possibilities of what it will look like we will be sending information out to our families.

#### *Early Life Foundations*

An *Early Life Foundations Zoom Parent Information* session was held for our Kindergarten parents on Tuesday night. Thank you to the parents who were able to take part in this meeting. This was an opportunity to explain to our parents the importance of investigative play that takes place in Kindergarten four days per week.

The presenter, Melinda Vander Reest, spoke about the importance of children having positive relationships with not only their peers, but also with the adults working with them and how this is enhanced during investigative play. Some of the many positive benefits for the children from their involvement in investigative play were: development of literacy and numeracy, communication skills, risk taking, respectful interactions, confidence building, self regulation, creativity, problem solving, life skills, resilience, collaboration, improved curriculum outcomes. The Kindergarten team can see from just the first few weeks, the increased learning and engagement of the students.

#### *Fathers' Day—Sunday 6 September*

"Happy Fathers' Day" to our fathers. But what is Fathers' Day? According to one astute 8 year-old, *"It's a bit like Mothers' Day, only it doesn't cost as much!"* A more advanced concept of Fathers' Day would be that this special day is an opportunity to celebrate the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children; a role that cannot be played by any other person.

Studies have shown that when fathers are affectionate and helpful, their children are more likely to get on well with each other. When children have fathers who are emotionally involved, so that they acknowledge their children's emotions and help them deal with bad emotions, they tend to have better relationships with children outside of their family and behave less aggressively. (Gottman, Katz & Hooven. *How Families Communicate Emotionally*)

Fathers with a strong commitment to their family provide a model of responsible behaviour for their children. As a consequence, their children tend to take more responsibility for their actions and rarely blame others for their mistakes. Fathers also influence their children's moral development by being good models for their children to admire and desire to resemble. This results in their children developing a strong respect for rules and authority figures. (M.L. Hoffman, *The Role of the Father in Moral Internalisation*)

There is no doubt that every child has a longing to be held and loved by a father-figure and to be mentored through to their adult life by a father who is there for them.

*"And like our Heavenly Father, He's a guardian and a guide.*

*Someone we can count on to be always on our side."* (Helen Steiner Rice)

#### *Happy Fathers' Day! Happy Grandfathers' Day!*

*"God, our Father, we ask you to be fully active with all fathers, to be ever available to them, to prompt them, to involve You in all aspects of their privileges and responsibilities of fatherhood. Amen."*

*We wish you every blessing for the week ahead.*

*Danuta Maka*

## COVID-19

Children who are unwell (even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms) should NOT be attending school.

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, if your child attends school and becomes ill or presents with flu-like symptoms we will request that you collect them from the school office. Students should not return to school until they are no longer ill or displaying any flu-like symptoms.

NSW Health have also requested that anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms (see NSW Health, "[What are the symptoms](#)"), should be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the COVID-19 clinics. More information can be found at [NSW Health](#).

Any students with flu-like symptoms will need to provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result before being permitted to return to school. This is generally in the form of a text message which you can take a screenshot of and email through to [stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Please keep your child home if they are unwell.

### ***"What are the symptoms of COVID-19?"***

- fever (37.5 ° or higher)
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- loss of taste
- loss of smell.

*Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, headache, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting and loss of appetite.*

*You only need one symptom to get tested, and it can be mild. If you have a symptom, don't delay, please get tested and self-isolate straight away."*

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/frequently-asked-questions.aspx#1-2>



Thank you to our parents who have been diligently following this advice and keeping everyone safe. We appreciate your support.

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## 100 Days of School

"I've had the best day!" exclaimed one excited '100 year old' St Michael's kindy student at 3.10 pm on Friday 21 August, and he was not alone - one look at the happy kindy faces said it all!

Our kindy teachers were determined to celebrate this milestone with a memorable event, and what a memorable event it was: A day filled with learning fun!

Kindy teachers and students were almost unrecognisable as they walked, [Correction: ambled, limped, hobbled...!] to class. There the children were engaged in numeracy and literacy activities involving 100. Following recess, further creative and energetic activities involving 100. Mr Buckman lit the BBQ [out of the icy wind!] and cooked over 100 sausages. After lunch, the children participated in additional activities before being photographed in the shape of 100.

Who would believe that 100 could be so exciting?!

*PS A big thank you to our Kindy parents for supporting their children with costumes and images of collections created at home.*





## 2021 Kindergarten Enrolling Now

To make an interview or discuss your child's enrolment

Phone 9865 1600



We invite New Families to contact us to discuss their child's enrolment for 2021 as soon as possible.

### Existing families with Kindergarten 2021 children:

- A place will be offered once your child's Enrolment application and supporting documents have been received and finalised. Please finalise your enrolment as soon as possible.
- If your child has any special needs, physical or learning that you believe the school needs to be aware of before they start in 2021 or you have concerns about your child starting because they are young and you are unsure of whether they should start in 2021 or wait until 2022, please contact the school so that we can book you in for an interview.
- We would like to provide all of our children with the best start to Kindergarten.



Our focus during these past two weeks has been to:

### Challenge Ourselves

Please continue to support our Positive Behaviour Support For Learning (PBS4L) by talking with your children about each two week Focus.

Our winning House Team for this term for Weeks 1-5 is 'Mercedes'. Students in Mercedes in each grade will celebrate their win by the end of this week.

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

Over the past two weeks we have invited our Year 4, 5 & 6 students, teachers and Kindergarten to Year 6 parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey—Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning Parent Survey

The Surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We value the role of parents and carers within our school community and 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.

## *Prayers*



Please keep in your prayers Oscar Harding (4L) and his family on the passing of his maternal grandfather.

Please keep in your prayers Billie (6BR) and Kobi (3S) Gwynne and their family on the passing of their uncle.

Eternal rest grant to them Lord. Let Your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

## *Social Skill Tips for Parents*

### Weeks 6 & 7: 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.

### Week 8: Wait for a turn when playing with others

- Games which include more children than are needed should include a fair rotation system.
- Wait patiently for your turn. Don't favour others and let them in front of you at the expense of others waiting.

## *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.*

## Calendar dates

### Week 6

**Fri 28 Aug**

People of Beirut Mufti day—Donation gold coin  
Parent 'Tell Them From Me Survey' closes at 4.30 pm

### Week 7

**Tue 1 Sept**

Last day for Fathers' Day orders

**Fri 4 Sept**

Jersey Day  
Distribution of Fathers' Day orders

### Week 10

**Thu 24 Sept**

End of Term 3—3.10 pm

## Staff Development Days

**Term 3 Week 10—Friday 25 September** is a Religious Education professional learning day for the staff and the school will be closed.

**Term 4 Week 2—Monday 19 October** will be an English and PDH professional learning day for staff and the school will be closed.

There is no supervision for children on either of these days. Please organise alternative care arrangements for these days.

## 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 1 September** and will be distributed by the class teacher on Friday 4 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 school's address.

Any questions please email the P&F at:

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

## School Terms - 2020

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

- *Students finish Wednesday 16 December*
- *\*Staff Development Days—Thursday 17 December and Friday 18 December*

## 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.

## People of Beirut Mufti Day

On **Friday 28 August** we are holding a mufti day to raise money for the people of Beirut.

Children are welcome to wear colours to represent the Lebanese flag - red, white and green.

Students are required to wear comfortable clothing and their sports shoes.

We kindly ask families to donate a gold coin which will be supporting the Caritas Australia Middle East Regional Appeal. Your donation will help provide emergency humanitarian aid to survivors of the Beirut blast.

Student leaders will visit the classrooms on Friday 28 August to collect donations.

## Jersey Day

Jersey Day, held **Friday 4 September**, has been inspired by the story of Nathan Gremmo whose life was tragically lost in an accident in May 2015.

Nathan's family chose to focus on the gift of life to others through organ donation and to honour the legacy of Nathan's generous personality.

Jersey Day is close to the heart for St Michael's as Nathan and his two sisters were second generation students at our school.

This campaign is all about raising awareness – there is no requirement to raise funds. St Michael's is proud to support Jersey Day to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation.

On Friday 4 September for Jersey Day children can wear their favourite jersey with their sports uniform.

Staff are also encouraged to wear a jersey and a group photo will be taken.

## Canteen

If you have late or changed orders or need to follow up any instances of items not received please contact Healthy Canteen on 9678 9242.

Healthy Canteens will contact the canteen outside of their busiest periods and still ensure all necessary changes are made.

## Motiv8

If your children are participating in Motiv8 on Tuesday afternoons, please ensure that you check that they have all items of clothing before they leave the premises.

In recent weeks, a number of shoes, hats and jackets have been left behind.

## Lost property

Reminder to parents to check their children's hats and jackets to make sure they have their own hats and jackets.

Please ensure that all labels are clear on hats, jackets, drink bottles, plastic containers, library bags, homework pouches etc so that items can be returned to the correct owners.

Children are responsible for all items brought to school.

Lost property is placed in the red lost property container outside the Mercy Room.



## Newsletter Item 1C - Mrs Cox

As part of our Science unit, we have been learning about the different features of land and sea animals that help them to adapt and survive in their particular environment. Our research has led us to uncover some very interesting facts.

A sloth has very sharp claws to help it climb trees. *Evie and Chloe D*

Spider Monkeys have long arms to help them swing and climb. *Imogen and Summer*

Camels have three sets of eyelids and two rows of eyelashes to keep sand and dust out of their eyes. *Dominic and Toby*

Sharks have three layers of sharp teeth and a sensitive nose made out of cartilage to help it detect food. *Connor and Sophie.*

Giraffes have a long neck to help them reach their food high up in the trees. It also helps them look out for predators. *Chloe A and Hope*

Starfish have little suction caps that help them cling to the ocean floor. *Zac and Zaiah*

Koalas have very sharp claws to help them climb trees and to reach the eucalyptus leaves. *Lachlan and Luca*

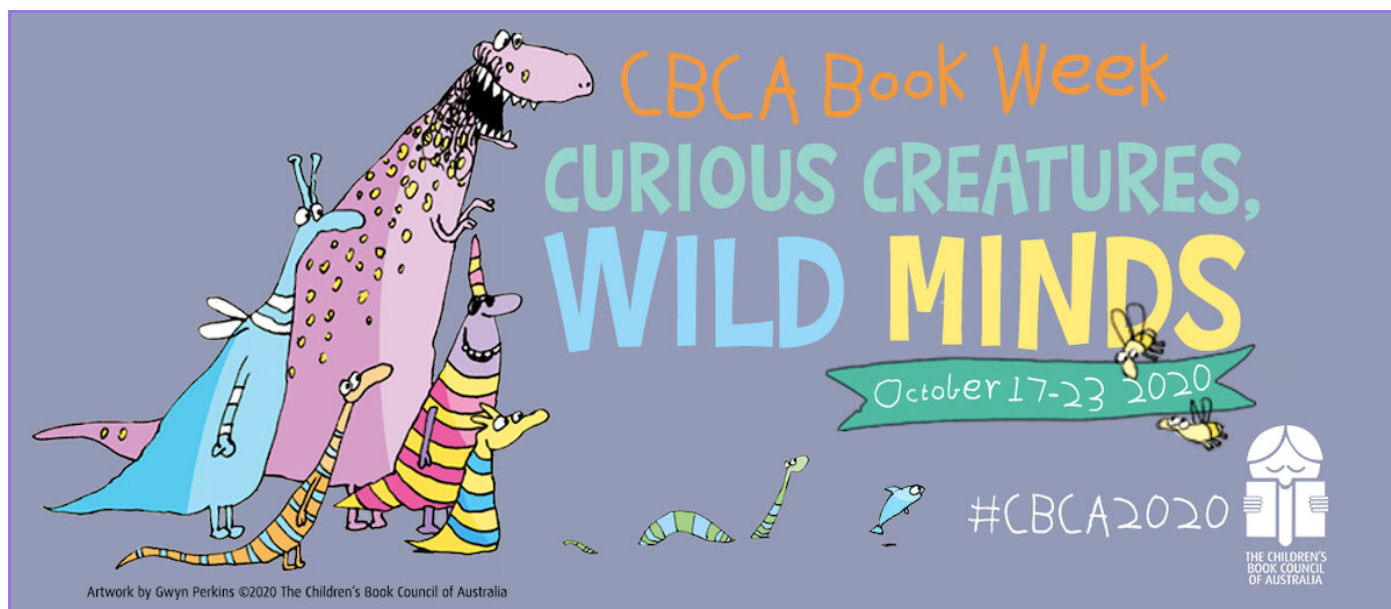
The Arctic Fox has thick, white fur which helps it survive in the very cold conditions. Its fur can change colour with the seasons. *Michael and Chris T*

A Scorpion has two pincers to grab and crush its prey. *Vincent and Luke*

The Snow Leopard has a spotty patterned fur that helps to camouflage it in its rocky environment. It also has a long, thick tail to help it balance. *Axl and Jake*

Elephants have big ears to help them stay cool. They can use their tusks to help protect themselves against predators. *Annabelle and Elsie*

Pandas have six fingers to help them grab bamboo. *Christopher P and Sam*



### Theme: Curious Creatures, Wild Minds

**New Dates: Term 4: October 17-23\***

**Reading** is the key to success and August is the month to celebrate **Book Week** [usually during this current week]. Covid19 has impacted on this event, and The Children's Book Council of Australia **moved the date to October 17-23**.

We have made this adjustment and are planning a "**Covid Safe**" **Book Character Parade on Wednesday 21 October**. Can't wait to see **book characters**! Be inspired by the theme - **book characters** with *Curious minds, wild creatures*.

**Mrs Patricia Lee, Mrs Marianne Seny**

### Photographs taken at school

From time to time photographs may be taken of your child whilst they are at school. These photos may be used in school Newsletters, publications and the school website. They may also be used by Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese in their publications and website.

If you do not wish your child's photo to be taken, please contact the school office.

### Please do not bring / send Nuts or Nut products to school

Due to a number of children with allergies to nuts, we ask that you do not send your child to school with products containing nuts, e.g. Nutella, peanut butter or any item containing nuts or traces of nuts. The canteen does not sell any products with nuts.

# We have partnered with Flexischools, to make school lunches even easier.

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### 1 Download the Flexischools App

**Note:** for iPhone and iPad please select 'Allow' notifications.



### 2 Add your School and Group

Click on the search icon, enter your school name, select your school and year group, or groups relevant to you.

### 3 Login/Register

Click the '**Order now**' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app, this will open a login screen.

- **Already a Flexischools user** - Enter your details and login. To save your login details select 'remember me'.
- **New Flexischools user** - Click '**Register**', enter your email address and follow the instructions in the email to set up your account. Once your account is set up, add new student; search for their school, enter student details and select their class.

## ORDER

### 1 Place your Order

Click the '**Order now**' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app and select your student.

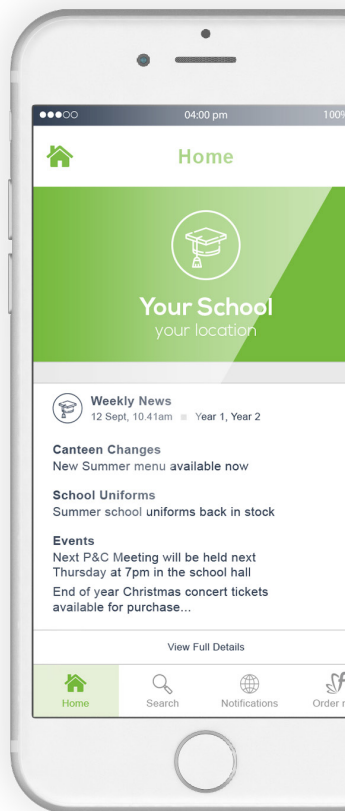
### 2 Make your Selection

Select the items you wish to order.

### 3 Make Payment

Select your payment option and complete payment to place your order.

Alternatively you can sign-up on [flexischools.com.au](http://flexischools.com.au)



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# JERSEY DAY

FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

[JERSEYDAY.COM.AU](http://JERSEYDAY.COM.AU)

JERSEY DAY is all about promoting awareness of The Organ and Tissue Authority and the DONATE LIFE network.

Each JERSEY DAY we ask schools and workplaces across Australia to allow students and employees to wear their favourite sporting jersey to school or work to show their support for the DONATE LIFE network and begin the conversation with their friends and families about Organ Donation.

JERSEY DAY has been inspired by the story of NATHAN GREMMO who was tragically lost in an accident in May 2015. Nathan's family chose to give the gift of life to others to honour the legacy of Nathan's generous personality. This campaign is all about raising awareness – there is no requirement to raise funds. Simply wear your favourite sporting jersey to school or work on JERSEY DAY, and begin the conversation with your friends and family about Organ Donation.

## Make your decision count.

Join the Australian Organ Donor Register to save lives at [donatelife.gov.au](http://donatelife.gov.au)

### Discover

the facts about organ and tissue donation

### Decide

about becoming a donor and register online

### Discuss

your decision with your loved ones

#makeitcount #donatelife







# 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  
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**Castle Hill**

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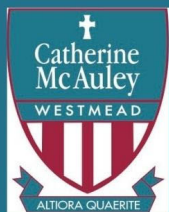
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# Catherine McAuley Westmead


## Enrolling Now for Year 7 2022



Contact the school on 9849 9100 or visit our website for an enrolment pack. Applications close end of March 2021.  
For enrolment criteria please refer to our school website.

Tours of the school campus will be held in Term 4 - Tuesday 10th November & Friday 4th December 2020.

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | [www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au)






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