



St Michael's Primary School

Newsletter

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Baulkham Hills

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Issue 18

Term 4 Week 8

Friday 4 December 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Thank you



This being the last newsletter for 2020, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the whole community for their involvement and support for the school. This has been an extraordinary year that disrupted our world and schooling as we know it. So many changes had to be implemented within a short period of time. The response to these changes was positive from both the parents and teachers. We survived all the uncertainty of COVID-19 and united to support our children. Your commitment to the COVID-19 protocols and keeping everyone safe in our community was outstanding. Your generosity in supporting our fundraising for Youth off the Street, the People of Beirut, and support of agencies like Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and the Jesuit Refugee Service was exceptional, particularly because we know that many of our families were struggling to survive and yet you were able to reach out and help others.

Thank you to all our staff who were outstanding in their commitment to ensuring that learning continued as usual for all students whether they were at home or school.

Given all the restrictions caused by COVID-19, we still managed to have our book week, athletics carnival, swimming carnival, swimming program, etc.

We look forward to 2021 when we return to school to what may be the new normal. We are excited about the prospect of working with your children in their learning journey at St Michael's.

P&F Annual General Meeting—Wednesday 9 December, 6.30 pm

The P&F will hold their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 9 December at 6.30 pm in the Mercy Room (next to the Canteen).

We are looking forward to members of our school community stepping up to support us through their role on the P&F committee. The activities that the P&F support are vital to a child's experience of community during their time at primary school.

The main role of the P&F is not fundraising. The main role is to build community and we have been blessed over the years to always have parents who are willing to put their hand up and take up a role on this committee.

Without the P&F we wouldn't have a group that provides opportunities for parents to network and make our school community special.

We appreciate the work and commitment of our P&F and hope that our St Michael's school community will continue the tradition of having a P&F Committee. We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday evening.

Student Reports

Student reports will be sent home on Wednesday 9 December.

Farewell

At the end of each year there are often changes that occur in school staffing as teachers and other staff members move on to different schools to take up other roles. This year we farewell:

- **Mrs Rochelle D'Silva** who completes her temporary contract.
- **Mrs Marise Siountris and Mrs Natalie Sloan** who are both taking maternity leave next year.
- **Mrs Belinda Connellan**, teacher assistant who is leaving to work closer to home.
- **Mr Damian Poredos**, our IT Trainee who has completed his two year contract.



We thank all of them for their outstanding commitment to supporting the learning at St Michael's. Their hard work and support has been invaluable. We wish them every success and happiness in the future.

To Mrs Siountris and Mrs Sloan, we wish them every blessing as they await the birth of their baby.

We also farewell **Ms Chriss Rogers** who has been a long standing member of St Michael's school staff. Her commitment, hard work, love of teaching and concern for the wellbeing of each student has touched the lives of many students and families. We wish her well in her retirement.

Advent

Christmas is a special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour in Bethlehem. We enjoy the story about Mary and Joseph, their trip to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus in a stable, the visit of the shepherds and wise men. We enjoy watching our children present the nativity play and we delight in their very simple understanding of the events of Christmas.



However, as Vince Gerhardy reminds us: "We too often don't go any further than the simple story. We miss out on the real significance of these events. Christmas is the celebration of God becoming one of us, a fact that we can never fully grasp, God living on the earth with all the pain, the suffering, the human tragedies, the personal rejection and dying. Jesus came into the thick of everything; and through his presence we are never alone."

In Jesus, God is with us when we are depressed, hurting and sick.

In Jesus, God is with us when we are confronted with bad news.

In Jesus, God is with us when we feel guilty and ashamed.

In Jesus, God is with us when we worry about someone we love.

In Jesus, God is with us when we are caught up in a chain of events that we are powerless to prevent.

So what difference will celebrating Christmas this year make to our lives. Will Christmas be here today and gone tomorrow or will we be left with more than credit card pain? Perhaps we could pledge along with Charles Dickens: "I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to honour it all the year." To be Christian people means to carry in our lives throughout the year God's gifts of peace, justice and love. We are called to be Christ's impact people in our world today.

More than a hundred years ago Robert Louis Stevenson wrote the following Christmas prayer. It seems to have lost none of its relevance.

"Loving Father, Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. Amen."

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Danuta Maka



Enrolling Now
2021 Kindergarten to Year 6
Phone 9865 1600



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Here at St Michael's we value the importance of undertaking social justice actions that help the wellbeing of others.

It has been a long standing tradition here at St Michael's to support the needs of families in the Hills and Western Sydney through the annual Hamper Appeal. This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the St Michael's conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society will instead be arranging the purchase of gift cards to support the various needs of families.

We are inviting families to consider making a gold donation to help raise funds to cover the costs associated with the purchasing of the gift cards.

In keeping with other appeals that our community has supported throughout this year in support of agencies like Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission, the Jesuit Refugee Service and Youth off the Streets, we will continue to advocate for the needs of others.

If you are in a position to help we will be collecting Gold Coin donations on Friday 11 December.

Many thanks in advance for your kind support.

David Ison, Religious Education Coordinator

Social Skill Tips for Parents

Week 9: Independence

- Having the ability to act and work alone without the need for help from others.

Week 10: Generosity

- Be unselfish and always ready to give and share with others.

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.



School finance office closure

School finance office last day of trade in 2020 will be Friday 11 December.

Should you need to contact or visit the finance office prior to the end of 2020, please do so on or before Friday 11 December.

If you wish to discuss school fee related matters, please contact Adriana Grima, Finance Officer on 9865 1600.

<i>Calendar dates</i>	
Week 8	
Fri 4 Dec	P&F Crazy Hair & Socks Day—Gold coin donation
Week 9	
Mon 7 Dec to Fri 11 Dec	
Years 1, 2 & 3 Swimming Program	
Wed 9 Dec	Yr 6 Motiv8 day End of Year Reports issued
Thu 10 Dec	Year 6 Graduation Mass & Award Ceremony
Fri 11 Dec	Vinnies Christmas Appeal—Gold coin donation Last day for delivery of Uniform Orders
Week 10	
Wed 16 Dec	Promotions afternoon 2 pm End of Term 4—3.10 pm
Thu 17 Dec & Fri 18 Dec	Staff Development Days—Pupil Free—No supervision

<i>2021 School Terms</i>
Term 1—Wednesday, 27 January to Thursday, 1 April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January—Mathematic Assessment Interviews: Friday 29 January—2021 Years 1-6 commence Tuesday 2 February—2021 Kindergarten commence
Term 2—Monday, 19 April to Friday, 25 June
Term 3—Monday, 12 July to Friday, 17 September
Term 4—Tuesday, 5 October to Friday, 17 December

<i>2021 Kindergarten</i>
Our new Kindergarten families will receive information on their child's class teacher for 2021 and further information on starting kindergarten, via letter which should be received by our Kindergarten families in January.

Stop and Drop Volunteers



Thank you once again to all the volunteers who have volunteered for this year and to Mrs Rebecca Duda who has coordinated the Stop & Drop over the past few years. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by everyone in our community.

We still need to recruit some new volunteers to assist with Stop and Drop in 2021.

All it requires is half an hour one morning, once a month, so if you have ever thought you would like to volunteer now is the time!

Please contact Mrs Liz Kalal at lizkalal@gmail.com

School Swimming Program *Years 1, 2 & 3*

The Swimming Program for Years 1, 2 and 3 will take place next week—Week 9, **Monday 7 December to Friday 11 December**. The program will be held at Castle Hill Fitness & Aquatic Centre, Castle Hill RSL. Castle Hill Fitness and Aquatic Centre and St Michael's have COVID safety plans in place.

On the first day of swimming your child will be grouped according to the information you've supplied on the Grading Form that was sent home previously. Children will then be assessed and regrouped accordingly.

All children must attend the Swimming Program. Due to COVID restrictions parents are unable to attend the centre.

The children in Years 1, 2 & 3 are to wear their sport or summer uniform each day during the program.

The children will need to bring a plastic bag or swimming bag containing the following items:

- Swimming costume
- Towel
- t-shirt or long sleeved top (to wear to and from the pool on the bus)
- Thongs or sandals (to wear to and from the pool)
- Goggles
- Dry underwear
- Swimming caps will be provided by the centre



All items should be clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

To assist us with the smooth running of this program, can you please ensure that your child/children can dress themselves. Children will need to be responsible for their clothing, having each item marked will assist them with this.

Promotions afternoon

Promotions afternoon will take place on Wednesday 16 December from 2.00-3.00 pm. This is an opportunity for the children to meet their teacher and classmates for 2021.

The teachers have spent an extraordinary amount of time looking at each individual student, their needs in terms of the opportunity to learn and to feel safe and supported within their peer group. Serious consideration has been taken in regard to your request of their learning and friendship groups. Every effort has been made by the teachers to place your child with at least one of their friends if possible and with a teacher who will support them in their learning, development and personal growth.

Please make sure that when your child comes home on Wednesday 16 December that you respond in a positive way with regard to their placement. Moving a child from a class at this stage is almost impossible because it not only affects one child but numerous other children who have been separated for various reasons to create a dynamic and supportive learning environment.



P&F

Community • Friendship • Education

St Michael's Primary School Parents and Friends Association Baulkham Hills

St Michael's Primary School Parents and Friends Association Baulkham Hills

Annual General Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday 9th December 2020 in the Staffroom

- 1) Report on 2020
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Voting, all positions are vacated and a new committee is voted in for 2020



Being on the P&F can be a very rewarding experience. It's hectic and it's fun. New friendships are made that can share in the accomplishment of having done something really wonderful for the school.

At the AGM, all executive positions in the P&F Committee; President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer will be vacated and a new Committee is voted in for 2021.

Consider nominating someone for a position.

Chat to the school about your ideas. Any

questions? Please email us! - pandfstmichaels@gmail.com, or contact the school.

Thank you for your support.

The P&F 2020 Team.



Please return the note below to the office's P&F mailbox by Tuesday 8th December 2020, no anonymous forms can be accepted

My Name.....Child/Class.....

Nominations for Committee 2021

I nominate the following people for-

President.....Secretary.....

Vice President.....Treasurer.....

Helpers 2021

We have a Helper Group on Facebook "St Michael's Baulkham Hills P&F Helpers" If you would like to join the group you can keep up to date on when help is required.

Kinder Restuccia Newsletter Item

In Kindergarten we have been doing Play Investigations. They have become the favourite part of our day. Here are some of the reasons that we like it.

I like to do it because the activities are fun. I like making the pom-pom. *Halle*

I like doing play investigations because the cars are really fun and I feel great when I do it. *Finn*

I like doing play because I loved making the cars and being a traffic policeman because police don't get in trouble when they go through a red light. *Eli*

I like play investigations because it has some great challenges like trying to make a bird's nest with no glue or string. *Astrid*

I like play investigations because they are really interesting. When I was doing water today I had to use teamwork to solve the problem. *Helaina*

I loved to make the playdough because I can take it home and tell mum and dad how to make playdough. *Kevin*

I love to do the cars because I love driving and I love driving on curvy roads. *Tamra*

I love to make the pom-poms because I can use lots of colours and it is a challenge. *Aayaan*

I love to do the playdough because it feels soft and I could make farm animals out of it. *Amelia*

I like making a "What am I" book because it helps me to learn and make a challenge for myself. I want to read my book to people to see if they can guess my clues. *Henry*



Mathematic Assessment Interview (MAI)

2021

MAIs for Years 1-6 2021 will be undertaken on Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January 2021. A letter with the details for booking assessments will be sent home to families. Bookings will be done through the school interview website and will open on Thursday 17 December at 9.00 am.

Please book an assessment time for your child with the 2021 class teacher. There are only a limited number of bookings on these days, so if you are not available or there are no interview times left, the class teacher will organise the assessment in the first two weeks of the 2021 school year.

2021 Kindergarten parents will receive a separate letter with a different booking code informing them of which teacher to book the interview with.

Families leaving St Michael's at the end of the year

If your family is not returning to St Michael's for Years 1-6 in 2021, please let Mrs Maka, Principal, know as soon as possible. Please address all letters/emails to Mrs Maka c/o the school office. This will assist with placing students in classes for 2021.

Please note If you are leaving the school at the end of the year in Years K-5, parents must provide one term's notice in writing in lieu of one term's school fee payment.

Please contact the school office for further information on 98651600.

Student Data Validation

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) have been contacting our families via email and SMS to request parents to check and validate their children's key contact information – home address, parent phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc. You may have already completed this information via the link that was sent to you.

We still have a number of families that have not completed the check and validation of their contact information for 2021.

Families who have not validated their contact details will be sent a letter from the school as well as an email from the school with the CEDP's secure link. If you receive this request, please click in the secure link and update the contact details for your child.

We are asking families to complete the survey by 13 December 2020. If you have any questions, please contact our Community Liaison team on 02 9840 5796.

By completing this, you're helping to ensure we can contact you in the event of an emergency or to provide the best support for your child.

Medications

If your child has medication at school, we would ask that parents collect it from the school office on the last day of school to take home. Please return any medication next year with a 12 month expiry if possible. Thank you.

Student Absence

Just a reminder to contact the school if your child will be absent at the beginning of the new school year.

The following outlines the Education Act 1990 requirements relating to attendance.

Requirements for student absence and travel

- 1-4 days absence: Parents must notify the school principal by mail or email (written).
- 5-100 days absence: Parents must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form (A1) prior to commencing leave. If approved the Principal issues a Certificate of Extended Leave (C1). If the principal declines this application (i.e it is not within the best interest of the child to take leave and be absent from school), a letter notifying parents that the application has been declined would be forthcoming.

Exemption from attendance

This now relates to students who wish to participate in an accredited Elite Sports Program/Elite Arts Program. This can also apply to Employment in the Entertainment Industry.

- If the intended absence will be under 100 days, parents should complete and submit the Exemption from Attendance (A2) to the principal. The principal has the authority to approve up to 100 days each calendar year. If approved the principal will issue a Certificate of Approval.
- If the intended absence will be over 100 days, parents must complete and submit the Exemption from Attendance (A2) to the principal who will make a recommendation to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Director System Performance (DSP). The DSP will then investigate the matter and will make a recommendation to the Executive Director. The Executive Director reviews the Exemption from Attendance and forwards a recommendation to the Minister of Education. If this application is approved the principal, will issue a Certificate of Approval (C2). Should this application be declined by the Minister, the principal will issue a letter of decline.
- For additional information on accredited Elite Sport Program and Elite Arts program, contact the school office.

The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has procedures and guidelines in place to achieve high standards of student attendance in collaboration with parents. Parents are required by law to ensure that children aged between 6 and 17 attend school. Schools are required to monitor and keep a register of student attendance in accordance with common codes which explain absences.



The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS SUMMER READING CHALLENGE IS BACK! WIN A CHROMEBOOK.

We all know the importance of reading and how a great book can spark the imagination and creativity too. These summer holidays, we are encouraging all students to take the reading challenge and read, read, read!

HOW DO I ENTER?

Students can read anything they like to enter, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.

It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.

The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Google Chromebooks or one of thirty runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30 each.

Entries open on 23 Nov 2020 and close at 5pm on 1 February 2021.

Thanks to our sponsors Teachers Mutual Bank. To learn more about their services please visit their website.

For more information, please contact Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta by emailing

competitions@parra.catholic.edu.au.

ENTRIES CLOSE AT 5PM ON 1 FEBRUARY 2021.

Terms and Conditions apply

[Click here to enter](#)

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 call the school office (9865 1600) 10 mins before you arrive. Office staff will contact the class teacher and your child will then meet you at the school office. 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.

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

Recess is from 11.00-11.30 am and Lunch is from 1.00-1.40 pm

Thank you for your assistance.

OzFashions

2021 Uniform Purchase

Due to Covid-19 there will be no uniform fittings for students starting school in 2021. St Michael's Uniform Shop is run online by Oz Fashions. Orders are to be placed on the 'QKR' app by MasterCard.

Please follow all instructions on this link to the [QKR App](#) to download the app and set up your account. No phone orders or messages will be accepted!

Delivery to the school is every Tuesday and Friday during the school term free of charge and orders must be placed by 4pm Friday for delivery on Tuesday and 4pm Wednesday for delivery on Friday.

Please choose carefully as we do not refund if you simply change your mind or make a wrong selection, however, we gladly exchange within 14 days. Returned merchandise MUST be in its original condition with all tags still attached and accompanied by proof of purchase otherwise the exchange will not be honoured. Any item that has been worn will not be able to be exchanged.

Please email all exchanges to elle@ozfashions.com.au If you have any enquiries please contact Elle at elle@ozfashions.com.au or 0421 216 414

Please note that Oz Fashions warehouse in Granville DOES NOT sell the St Michael's Uniform in store.

Please place your uniform order as soon as possible to ensure you will be able to exchange uniform sizing if necessary and to guarantee students receive a uniform to start school. Please click on the link for the [size guide](#) for an approximate sizing of uniform items.

Please note: all orders for 2021 need to be [placed by Thursday 10 December 4 pm](#) to ensure delivery before the end of the school year.

The last delivery for St Michael's uniform orders is Friday 11 December 2020.

The first delivery in 2021 will be on Friday 29 January 2021.

Elle, Ozfashions



Stop and Drop

The Stop and Drop in the morning is run by parent volunteers. Thank you to Mrs Liz Kalal who will be the new Stop and Drop Coordinator for 2021.

As we have a number of volunteers leaving, new volunteers are needed to assist with Stop and Drop in 2021. A minimum of 40 volunteers are needed to assist with Stop and Drop. All it requires is half an hour, one morning, once a month.

We are requesting your assistance in ensuring that the Stop and Drop continues for 2021.

If you are able to assist, please return the form below with your details to the School Office or contact Mrs Liz Kalal at lizkalal@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of the Stop and Drop.

2021 STOP AND DROP VOLUNTEER

Name: Mobile:

Email:

Day/s available: Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐

Child: Class:

Child: Class:

Child: Class:

Child: Class:

Please return to the school office as soon as possible



P&F

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

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John's Car Care

PLAY NETBALL!



**Get active, play with friends and have fun!
Join us for netball next year.**

Under 7*, 8, 9s - Friday nights
Under 10 - seniors - Saturday

**Registration opens early January!
visit stmichaelsnetballclub.asn.au**

Games played at BHSNA Kellyville
Netball Complex
Active kids vouchers accepted
*Players must turn 7 in 2021 to play



The Hills Long Day Preschool

39 Palace Road Baulkham Hills

3 – 5 years

Preschool Curriculum

9686 6566

7.45am to 5.45pm



Limited vacancies for 2021



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