



St Michael's Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 8 October 2022

3-5 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills
Tel: 9865 1600 Fax: 9865 1699

Term 4 Week 10

Issue 11

Email: stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBHills/>

From the Principal

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 4



The staff are very excited about the prospect of all the children returning to school by 25th October.

Kindergarten and Year 1 return on Monday 18th October

Years 2-6 return on Monday 25th October

St Michael's will be following advice given by the NSW State Government and Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta regarding the return of our children back to face-to-face learning at school.

When the children return our focus will be to ensure that the children are happy, safe and learning.

Initially a big focus will be on having the children settle back into the classroom routines and ensuring that the children have the opportunity to build relationships once again with their teacher and with their peers. Some time each day will be spent on helping the children develop their social skills, build team spirit and work collaboratively. As per the recommendations, grades will not be mixing with other grades. Each grade will be working separately.

We understand that some children may be feeling a little bit anxious about their return to school. We ask that you continue to have a conversation with your child about school being a safe place. As parents, I guess we need to pass on to our children that we are positive about their return to school so that they are calm and happy to return once again.

Protocols for Student Return to School

There are COVID-19 safety processes that the school has in place that are designed to keep the school community safe, such as:

- Wearing masks
- Physical distancing practices
- Hand hygiene practices
- Ventilation in indoor spaces
- Routine and high-touch area-focused cleaning

As per the arrangements at the end of Term 3, until further notice, parents, carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on the school site. Parents and carers must follow the school's advice regarding drop off and pick-up arrangements:

- Maintain physical distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Remain outside of school grounds (note some exceptions may apply regarding students with specific needs or sites with specific purposes), vulnerable students or students with a disability)
- Follow mask-wearing requirements and sign in using the Service NSW QR code and school sign-in requirements when entering the school grounds.

Dismissal procedures

In order to keep cohorts separated, there will be a staggered dismissal of students. Parents and carers are asked to stick to the dismissal time as closely as possible. Parents will not be allowed to enter the school playground and where possible parents are asked to pick up their children using the Slow & Go procedure.

- Kindergarten children and their siblings will be dismissed at 2.50 pm for parents who would like to collect their children at the top gate closest to the office rather than use the Slow & Go.
- Year 1 children and their siblings will be dismissed at 3.00 pm for parents who would like to collect their children at the top gate closest to the office rather than use the Slow & Go.
- All other children will be dismissed at the usual time of 3.10 pm and we encourage our families to use the Slow & Go procedure for picking their children up.
- The back gate will also still be in use at 3.10 pm but please make sure that you continue to park and walk to the back gate to collect your child/ren.

Kindergarten 2022 Orientation and Year 6 Graduation

Kindergarten 2022 children will have their orientation in some form.

Year 6 will have their Graduation ceremony.

Plans for these events have not been finalised due to the fact that the guidelines with regard to restrictions are constantly changing. We are waiting until we are closer to these events before finalising details.

We will endeavour to do whatever is possible to make these events very special and memorable for our children.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office via email or phone.

Prayer

God incarnate in Jesus Christ, you came to earth as a child.

You welcomed children with open arms.

You claim us as your children.

Thank you, God. Thank you for the gift of children.

*Thank you for the boundless energy of growing bodies,
for curious minds longing to learn.*

*Thank you for hearts awed by the wonders of your world,
for spirits open wide to receive your love.*

Thank you for the gift of children.

Thank you for the child in me.

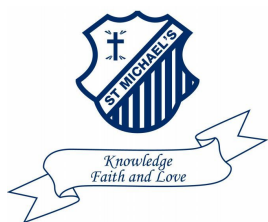
Teach me to welcome children in your name.

Teach me to live as a child of God, in your name. Amen



Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka



Enrolling now for 2022

Kindergarten to Year 6

Phone 9865 1600

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



Social Skill Tips for Parents

Week 2: Control your anger

- Know what things trigger your anger.
- Learn strategies like counting to ten or walking away to keep yourself calm.

Week 2: Ask for help if you need it

- Ask for help if you need it; whether in the playground, with work in the classroom, or out of school.
- Ask questions that will help you understand the task.

Mission Month

Each year during Mission month



Catholic Mission encourages students to participate in [Socktober](#) to make a difference to vulnerable children around the world. This year our focus is on awareness and everyday actions our students can take. Each week students, staff and families will be invited to connect with a key concept through scripture, facts and actions in order to reflect on how we can live out this concept in our everyday life.

The Holy Rosary

This week was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and in October we are invited to pay particular attention to the Holy Rosary to remind ourselves of its simple beauty and gentle power. This is a [link](#) to help you pray the Rosary at home with your children or you are invited to join Fr Wim each Thursday at 7.30 pm at an online Rosary and night prayer through this [Zoom link](#).



Parish Mass

The priests of St Michael's and Our Lady of Lourdes are still celebrating weekly masses which are live streamed on Saturday nights. Please follow the [link](#) to access these masses at 6 pm each Saturday. You can also view these masses anytime thereafter.

This is the [link for 9 October 2021 - Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary time](#).

Miss Maree Anderson, Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers the following families:



James and Michael Conneely (3MO) and family on the passing of their paternal grandfather.

Jet Cassin (4H) and family on the passing of his paternal grandfather.

Sienna and Luca Kallas (3AO & KvG) on the passing of their grandfather.

Mrs Janelle Reid (Administration Officer) and family on the passing of her mother.

Mrs Kath Downie (Teacher) and family on the passing of her sister.

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

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

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Tribute

"Just who was Richard Cassin to the school?"

Richard being a builder some 47 years ago was involved with many years of working bees around the school (as all 11 children of his went to St Michael's school) under Sister Margret's guidance.

Sister Margret asked dad to build the top school oval as a soccer field. Back in the old days the oval was just a block of steep land (as you can see on the right hand of the oval where it has been built higher).

Dad then organised the school soccer club, and mum by herself sewed every team's purple soccer shirt (as the club couldn't afford to buy 100+ uniforms when it originally started). Now we had an oval and a uniform to have our weekly soccer competitions."

Adam Cassin (ex St Michael student from 1974-1980)

| <i>Calendar Dates - Term 4</i> | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Week 2 | |
| Mon 11 Oct | School open for children of essential/ authorised workers |
| Week 3 | |
| Mon 18 Oct | Kindergarten and Year 1 return to school |
| Tues 19 Oct | Ozfashions uniform deliveries recommence |
| Week 4 | |
| Mon 25 Oct | All children return to school Hillsbus recommence school bus operation Healthy Canteens reopens at school |
| Fri 29 Oct | "Day for Daniel" - Wear red with your sports uniform |
| Week 11 | |
| Tue 14 Dec | 2022 Promotions Afternoon 2.00-3.00 pm School finishes for 2021 at 3.10 pm |

| <i>2021 School Terms</i> | |
|--|--|
| Term 4 ends for the children on Tuesday 14 December Staff Development Days for school staff: Wednesday 15 December-Friday 17 December | |
| <i>2022 School Terms</i> | |
| Term 1 - Friday 28 January to Friday 8 April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 28 January & Monday 31 January - Mathematic Assessment Interviews Years 1-6 • Tuesday 1 February - Years 1-6 Commence • Wednesday 2 February - Mathematic Assessment Interviews Kindergarten • Thursday 3 February - Kindergarten children commence • Friday 8 April - Staff Development Day | |
| Term 2 - Tuesday 26 April to Friday 1 July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 1 July - Staff Development Day | |
| Term 3 - Monday 18 July to Friday 23 September | |
| Term 4 - Monday 10 October - Tuesday 20 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 20 December & Tuesday 20 December - Staff Development Day | |

Ozfashions uniform deliveries to the school will recommence on Tuesday 19 October

Healthy Canteens will reopen on Monday 25 October.

Staff Development Day

Wednesday 15 December

On Wednesday 15 December our staff will be undertaking a professional learning day.

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

Tuesday 14 December will be the students' final day for Term 4, 2021.

Thank you for your support.

Classes for 2022

This term our teachers will be working together to formulate our classes for 2022. Our goal is to form parallel, even class groups in each grade.

The teachers look at the learning needs of each student, their behaviour and their social / emotional needs.

If you believe your child has any of the above needs which should be considered for their placement in a class for 2022, please put this information into a letter to the Principal.

This is not an invitation for you to nominate your child's teacher. It is however, an opportunity to highlight any special needs that will help the teachers form class groups for 2022.

Teachers will also provide the children with an opportunity to nominate 2 or 3 friends that they would like to be with in 2022. The school will endeavour to have at least one of their friends progress with them if this is in your child's best interest.

On Tuesday 14 December at 2.00 pm our children will have the opportunity to meet their 2022 teacher together with their new classmates.

Term 4 Parent School Fee Statements

School Fee Statements will be issued starting 13 October 2021. The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) continues to work hard to support families in our communities who are struggling financially as a result of COVID-19.

Reversal of the Activity Fee has now been credited back to families. If you have already paid your account in full then the credit will be carried forward to your 2022 fees.

If you have any queries regarding your account, payment arrangement or outstanding fees please contact our School Finance Officer, Mrs Adriana Grima on 02 9865 1600 or email:

agrima7@parra.catholic.edu.au

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 2022, please let Mrs Maka, Principal, know as soon as possible. Please address all letters/emails to Mrs Maka, Principal, c/o the school office. This will assist with placing students in classes for 2022. Please contact the school office for further information on 98651600.

HILLSBUS

We are pleased to inform you that all Hillsbus school services will recommence from Monday 18 October 2021.

From that date, Hillsbus will also recommence School Term timetables for all public routes for students who use public routes to school.

Finally, from the 18 October route 610X peak extensions from/to Kellyville will be curtailed to operate between Castle Hill and the City, and there are minor timing changes to routes:

602X, 607X, 610X, 611, 612X, 613X, 614X, 615X, 616X, 619, 620X, 622, 642X and 652X. Schools which are directly affected by any of these changes have been informed with new school advice sheets.

Travellers are encouraged to plan their trips on Transportnsw.info or call 131500 for travel options.

Day for Daniel—Friday 29 October

Day for Daniel is Australia's largest day of action to raise awareness of child safety, protection, and harm prevention. Held annually on the last Friday of October, Day for Daniel honours the memory of Daniel Morcombe.

The theme is **Wear Red, Educate** and Donate.

On this day the children can wear something red with their sports uniform—a red ribbon, a red shirt, red socks, etc.

Parents, carers, and educators are encouraged to start a conversation with children and young people about personal safety. Schools and early learning centres conduct child safety education activities. Businesses and community come together to raise awareness of child safety issues.

Day for Daniel is the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's biggest fundraiser each year. Your support through fundraising helps them to continue developing free resources and programs for parents, carers, and educators to teach children how to stay safe. Funds also contribute to supporting young victims of crime.

More information can be found at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation:

<https://danielmorcombe.com.au/>

and donations can be made

<https://danielmorcombe.com.au/donate/>



Major earthquake hits Haiti

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and more than 30,000 families have been left homeless.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to **Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal.**

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

Hills Community Aid

[Hills Community Aid](#) is pleased to inform you that we have received some funding that allows us to extend our services to people and families affected by COVID.

To be eligible for the support people need to be isolating due COVID and live in The Hills, Blacktown or Parramatta.

Our supports for people include, but are not limited to:

- Food vouchers and medication payments
- Social supports for people and, families
- Information, advice, and referrals

A full list of other services offering support is available on the [Service Seeker website](#). Further information about our services is available on our [website](#) or call our office Monday to Friday, 9.30 am - 3.00 pm 9639 8620. Hills Community Aid is here for you!

We are providing over the phone, email and video support for a range of our services. If you would like to speak with one of our staff please call and leave a message on our answering service (02) 9639 8620 or email and a member of staff will be in contact.

Follow our Facebook page to stay up to date with our social support work.

Webinars for parents and carers

Join one of our free webinars for parents and carers.

These live webinars explore the latest research and they are a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online.

All sessions are delivered by eSafety's expert education and training team.

eSafety's parent guide to digital technologies and mental health

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with strategies to help young people and their mental health when they are online.

It is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 10–18.

It will cover:

- what do to about accidental exposure to content about suicide, self-harm or eating disorders
- using games, apps and social media to support mental wellbeing
- the pros and cons of digital mental health platforms
- strategies for young people to support friends online.

REGISTER NOW

Dates (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Tuesday 19 October 7.30 to 8.30 pm
 Wednesday 20 October 12.30 to 1.30 pm
 Thursday 21 October 12.30 to 1.30 pm
 Tuesday 26 October 7.30 to 8.30 pm
 Tuesday 9 November 7.30 to 8.30 pm
 Thursday 18 November 12.30 to 1.30 pm



eSafety's parent guide to online gaming

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with an understanding of the benefits and risks of online gaming.

It is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 8–13.

It will cover:

- eSafety's State of play research
- the games young people are using and how they are engaging with them
- the benefits of gaming and how to mitigate risks
- practical strategies to use at home and where to find help and support if things go wrong.

REGISTER NOW

Dates (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

15 November 12.30 to 1.30 pm
 24 November 7.30 to 8.30 pm

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