



St Michael's Primary School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 4: Friday 17 February 2023

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/ Caregivers

World Youth Day Mufti Day Fundraiser

The children thoroughly enjoyed their first mufti day this year. Thank you to our families who contributed \$959.10 for 2023 WYD.

Wellbeing in the school

At St Michael's we believe that every child has the right to be safe, happy and learn. For most children the school years are fun. They make friends - often lifelong friends, secure an education, mature and learn the skills for coping with life. Sadly, this is not the way it happens for some children. This is where it is vital that the school and families work in partnership.

Through our Positive Behaviour for Learning structure, we teach the children about making good choices and what is expected of them in terms of their behaviour and living our mantra: Respect for self, Respect for others, Respect for the environment.

St Michael's has a no hand, no feet policy. Being physical is not the way to solve a problem. The children all know that if there are issues during a game they need to stop the game and if the students cannot resolve the problem they need to speak to the teacher on playground duty and then speak to their class teacher.

As teachers and parents we need to ensure that our children have a voice, so if there is something that is of concern to you about your child's wellbeing, please notify your child's teacher so that any issues can be followed up immediately. The worst thing that we can do for our children is not to speak up on their behalf. Sometimes when we fail to speak up we empower another person to have power over our child. We all need to teach and reteach our children what is acceptable behaviour and what is not acceptable behaviour.

The bottom line is that most problems can be resolved if schools and parents work together.

Meet and Greet

Thank you to all of our families for accepting the invitation to meet your child's teacher. We hope that this opportunity is the beginning of a positive relationship and open communication between your child's teacher and your family. Working together and open communication is more likely to produce a positive resolution to a problem.

Caritas Appeal for the people of Turkey and Syria

Caritas is holding an appeal for the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the recent earthquakes for your consideration. Please see link below:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/>

Lent

Next Wednesday 22 February is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. With the Season of Lent upon us and the old problem of "what to give up for lent" circling around us, perhaps the following might offer some new alternatives:

Fast from anger and hatred - be more patient and understanding.

Fast from judging others - think kindly thoughts.

Fast from discouragement - be full of hope.

Fast from complaining - focus on gratitude.

Fast from resentment or bitterness - turn to forgiveness.



The Season of Lent is a time to review the past, admit to our shortcomings, reaffirm our commitment to the higher values that we had actually lived, and prepare ourselves to try harder in the year ahead. It is a time to acknowledge our less than best choices and to feel sorry for the lost opportunities; it is a time to have a clean room to offer the new life of Easter.

Prayer

"Jesus, May we be encouraged this Lent as we reflect on the difficulties You had in Your life.

Give us the same courage to face the challenges that daily enter our lives.

Lead us to the joy of resurrection. Amen."

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka



Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2024

Phone 9865 1600

Email: stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

OPEN MORNINGS FOR KINDERGARTEN 2024

27 February 2023 9:30am - 11:00am

7 March 2023 9:30am - 11:00am

14 March 2023 9:30am - 11:00am

31 March 2023 9:30am - 11:00am

ENROL NOW
St Michael's Primary
Baulkham Hills



2024 Kindergarten Applications - Existing families and New families

It's that time again! If you have a child that is commencing Kindergarten in 2024 and you would like an enrolment pack, please contact us on 9865 1600 or via email stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Existing families can have an Enrolment Pack sent home via their eldest child. If you know families who are thinking of coming to St Michael's, please invite them along to one of our open mornings.

New families are welcome to book in for one of our open mornings by clicking on the link below or by scanning the QR code:

[2024 Kindergarten open morning bookings](#)

We also have Enrolment packs available for collection or they can be sent to your mailing address.

We ask that completed forms, with all accompanying paperwork, are returned to the office as soon as possible.

Applications will need to be lodged in person as original documentation is required to be sighted.

All schools in the Diocese will be sending out their first round offers on 1 April 2023.

We look forward to your Kindy 2024 child coming to St Michael's next year!

Calendar Dates - Term 1

Week 5

Sacrament of Confirmation online registration open*

Mon 20 Feb School Assembly 2.15 pm*
Prayer 4LW Blue

Wed 22 Feb Ash Wednesday

Thurs 23 Feb Years 2-6 Cross Country

Week 6

Sacrament of Confirmation online registration open*

Mon 27 Feb 2024 Kindy Open Morning 9.30 am*
School Assembly 2.15 pm*
Prayer 3MO Blue

Week 7 - Catholic Schools Week

Mon 6 Mar School Assembly 2.15 pm* Prayer 2M Blue
Confirmation parent evening

Tues 7 Mar 2024 Kindy Open Morning 9.30 am*
Confirmation parent evening

Week 8

Years 3 & 5 NAPLAN Testing Period

Mon 13 Mar School Assembly 2.15 pm* 1C Blue

Tues 14 Mar 2024 Kindy Open Morning 9.30 am*

Wed 15 Mar Years 3 & 5 NAPLAN begins

***Registration essential**

School Fees

Next week all families will receive their 2023 School Fee Statements in the mail. Please contact Mrs Adriana Grima (School Finance Officer) on 9865 1600 should you wish to discuss your fees or require assistance with a payment arrangement.

2023 School Terms

Term 1 - Friday 27 January to Thursday 6 April

Term 2 - Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

Term 3 - Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Term 4 - Monday 9 October - Tuesday 19 December*
*Monday 18 December & Tuesday 19 December -
Staff Development Days

Nut aware school - no nuts

Please be conscious about what your child brings to school and shares as some of our children have severe allergies to nuts that may require the use of an EpiPen when exposed to nuts - Anaphylaxis.

We ask our families not to give their child any product that contains nuts as it can be potentially life threatening to a child who may be exposed to nuts, even from someone's breath.

If sending in lolly bags for your child's birthday, please do not provide lollies or cakes that contain nuts.

Years 3 & 5 NAPLAN

Parents and carers of students in Years 3 & 5, please read information on NAPLAN included with this Newsletter.

Parent Volunteers

Parent Helpers are required to have completed the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Building Child Safe Communities (BCSC) - Volunteer online Undertaking and Training.

Once you have completed the training, please send your name and BCSC number to the school.

[Click on this link to start the Undertaking and Training](#)

Social Skill Tips

Week 5: P from RESPECT

- Play safe. Be safe.

Week 6: E from RESPECT

- Earn St Michael's a good name

Week 7: C from RESPECT

- Cooperate with all members of the St Michael's community.

Week 8: T from RESPECT

- Think before I act. Know what triggers anger.

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Grainger and her family on the passing of her father recently.

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.



Confirmation Program Enrolment Form 2023

Parish of Baulkham Hills

The 2023 Sacramental Program for the Parish of Baulkham Hills has been organised so that both St Michael's and Our Lady of Lourdes communities will be celebrating each sacrament around the same time.

The first of the sacraments for this year is the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, scheduled for the week of May 8 to 12.

As with all programs we invite you to register your child/ren via this online registration form and to nominate the Church where you wish your child/ren to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is available to all children of the Parish (both churches) who are 10/11 years of age or older and who have received the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Children must be at least 10½ (usually Year 5/6) at the time of the celebration of the Sacrament.

Please complete this form to enrol in the Confirmation Program for 2023. If you have more than one child enrolling in the Program, one form is required for each participating child.

Enrolment registrations need to be completed by Friday 3 March.

The program this year will again involve a compulsory parent information evening followed by 4 weeks of working with your child at home using the Child's workbook and notes provided by the Parish.

The **compulsory parent information** evening will involve a brief understanding of the Sacrament, various details associated with the practicalities of the Sacrament. You will also pick up the child's workbook.

The Parents Information Evening will be held

- at St Michaels: Monday 6 March and Tuesday 7 March at 7.30pm in the Church
- at Our Lady of Lourdes Monday 6 March at 7.30pm in the OLOL Learning Centre

Please attend the meeting at the church at which you wish your child to receive the Sacrament.

The celebration of the Sacrament will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Wednesday 10 May and Thursday 11 May at 7.00pm. Further details will be provided later.

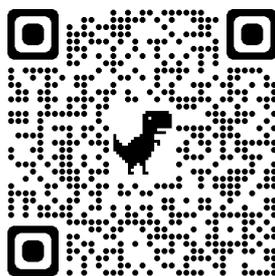
The celebration of the Sacrament will take place at St Michael's Church on Monday 8 May, Tuesday 9 May and Friday 12 May at 7.00pm. Further details will be provided later.

Should you have any questions please email sacspobh@gmail.com

Link + QR Code for Online Registration

Use either the link or the QR Code below to access the Registration Form

<https://forms.gle/HB9MhCVrmyURnfAcA>



Wellbeing

As part of our Wellbeing program at St Michael's, we have started the year discussing what Respect is and what it looks like within our school. Lessons in the classroom have focused on Respect for self and others.

We have been practising school-wide procedures such as how we line up at bell time, how we move sensibly around the school and how we enter and exit the Church and the Hall. Classroom teachers have been using the Mick awards to acknowledge those children who demonstrate our expectations. Paws tokens are also being used to acknowledge positive behaviour on the playground or in other school settings.



Navigating Online Friendships

Free online safety webinar for parents and carers



Tuesday 23 February 7.30 pm

This 30-minute webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

It will cover:

- how to support young people to have safe and respectful online relationships
- what to do when something happens at school and ends up on social media or private messaging apps
- how to report to social media platforms and eSafety.

[Register here](#)

Healthy Canteens - Canteen Payments

May we ask if you are paying cash for your child's order or sending spending money, where possible please send coins or smaller value notes.

We have limited change available and struggle to change large notes of a morning.

FlexiSchools is a cashless option to order Recess or Lunch and removes the worry of lost change or forgetting to hand in the order.

This can be done for any Item on our menu including ice blocks.

Please tell your child if they have a recess order as these need to be collected from the canteen, they use the "Express Line".

Lunch orders are sent to classrooms, your child will need to come to the canteen to collect the following items if ordered (using the Express Line): Noodles, Ice Blocks, Jelly

FlexiSchools orders can be placed online days or even weeks in advance.

If your child doesn't attend school that day, cancel in app or SMS Healthy Canteens Office 0405 129 242 before 10am

Please cancel: St Michaels Baulkham Hills, Child's Name, Child's Class

We will cancel the order and funds will return to your FlexiSchools .

POSITION VACANT School Band Tutor

Teaching Services Australia (TSA) provides multi-instrumental tuition, individually and in small groups, along with full band rehearsals to over 60 schools in the greater Sydney area.

We are currently seeking assistant tutors to direct lessons at our after school programs in **Parramatta**, **The Hills** and **The Inner-West**.

We are particularly looking for teachers with experience teaching brass and woodwind. You would be joining a strong team of existing tutors and conductors with support from TSA admin.

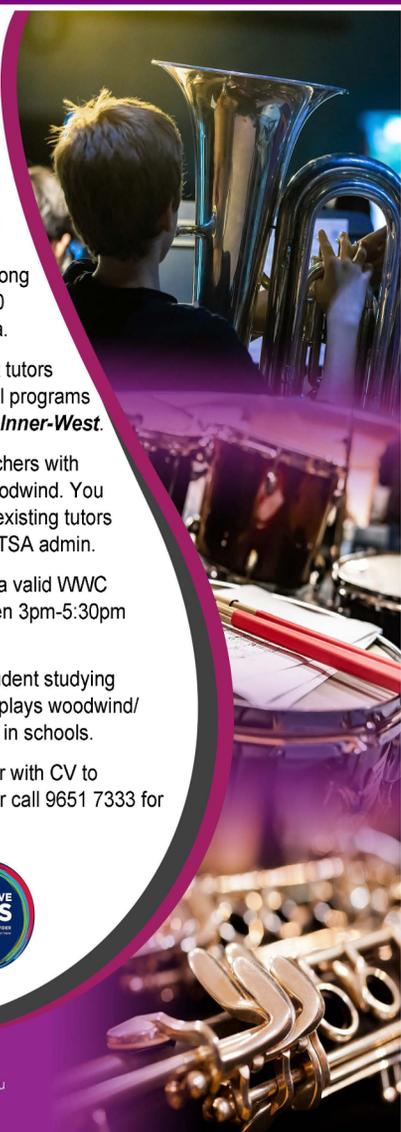
Successful candidates must have a valid WWC clearance and be available between 3pm-5:30pm on weekday afternoons.

The role would suit a university student studying education/music or someone who plays woodwind/brass and has experience working in schools.

To apply please send a cover letter with CV to steve@teachingservices.com.au or call 9651 7333 for further details.



(02) 9651 7333
enrolments@teachingservices.com.au
www.teachingservices.com.au



NAPLAN Information for parents and carers

2023

Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What if my school is closed on NAPLAN days?

Schools with compelling reasons may be given permission to schedule tests after the 9-day test window.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site.

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 15 March and finishes on Monday 27 March 2023. Schools are advised to schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations)	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be completed after the writing testTo be completed before the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. This scale indicates whether the student is meeting expectations for the literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

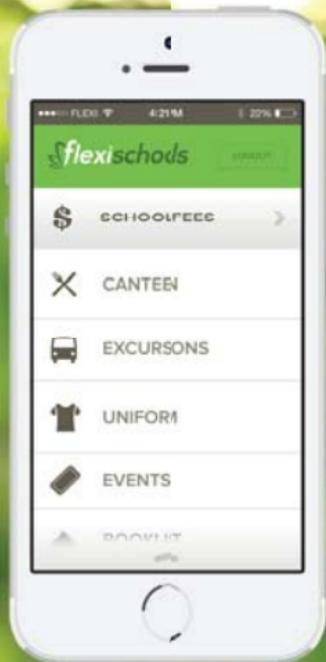
- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy.



Simplify your day.

Our school now has Flexischools for online ordering and cashless payment.

From your mobile or desktop:



Flexischools is the fast and secure way to order and pay for canteen, uniforms, events, excursions & fees.



**CASH FREE,
HASSLE FREE**



**PAY ANYWHERE,
ANYTIME**



**SAFE &
SECURE**

Take advantage of this convenient new service. Go to flexischools.com.au and click **register**.



 **flexischools**



The simple way
to order and pay.



STEP 1: Register for Flexischools

*Add your student and their year level to get started.



STEP 2: Top-Up your Account

*Choose from Visa, Mastercard, PayPal or direct deposit.



STEP 3: Order and Pay

*Select from a range of school services, add to your order pad and proceed to payment.



STEP 4: Review Orders

*Log back in to view transaction history or cancel an order via your Flexischools login.



TRY HOCKEY

FREE SESSIONS FOR JUNIORS

New and returning players 5 to 17 years of age are welcome to attend one or both sessions.

Sunday
12th Feb, 2023
5:00pm to 6:00pm
Pennant Hills Park, Pennant Hills

Sunday
26th Feb, 2023
5:00pm to 6:00pm
Pennant Hills Park, Pennant Hills

To register, or for more information, go to...



baulkhamhillshockey.org.au/come-and-try-hockey

WHAT TO BRING

Don't forget your hockey stick (we'll lend you one if you don't have one), mouthguard, shinpads, water bottle, hat and sunscreen!

ABOUT THE BAULKHAM HILLS HOCKEY CLUB

We're a family-focussed club that has been serving the Hills District of Sydney for more than 50 years. We train at Pennant Hills Park and field teams in junior, men's and women's divisions. For more information, go to the link above and choose FAQ from the menu.

If you're an adult interested in playing winter hockey, please email communications.bhbc@gmail.com.

PLAY NETBALL FOR ST MICHAEL'S

Boys, Girls and Seniors from U7

Registration links:

St Michael's Netball Club Inc
 stmichaelsnetballclub.asn.au

Enquiries:

registrar.stmichaelsnet@gmail.com

Players from all schools welcome



Player Vacancy

Under 6's Under 12's
Under 8's Under 13's
Under 9's Under 16's

Youth League



E. contactus@hillsknights.com.au
W. <https://www.hillsknights.com.au>



www.ogradydrama.com.au

We don't just
teach drama,
we teach life

The difference is dramatic.....

Boost your child's creativity, confidence,
communication skills & self-development
through drama.

Our drama programme covers Public Speaking,
Plays, mimes, Drama Games, Improvisations,
Play building, Speech and Productions

Students 5-17
Enrolling for 2023

Classes held at Dural, Castle Hill, Quakers Hill,
Bella Vista, Kellyville and Rouse Hill.

0438 788 080

sydneywest@ogradydrama.com.au

BELIEVE



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