May the Peace and Hope of Christ’s birth be with you now and in the days ahead.
Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

It has been a week of celebrations, thanks and farewells this week as we bring another year to a close. On Tuesday evening a beautiful celebration of Mass was followed by a wonderful family gathering in honour of our graduating Year Six students. I wish them every success, commencing a new chapter on their journey. The Year Six parent organising committee worked together to make the event very special. A big thank you to Maria Papasidero for her outstanding coordination of the evening. St Michael’s is very grateful for the amazing artwork painted by Leah Brideson, presented from the class of 2016, which is now hanging in the school’s front foyer. I also applaud and thank the team of Year Five parents; Mia Taylor, Uta Mitchell, Amanda Barry, Libby Heasman and Ida Sergi, for their generosity of spirit, skills and time, as they continued the tradition of support for the Year Six families by preparing and serving a wonderful meal. A further example of continuing to Live in Harmony with each other. Well done everyone!

Class arrangements and class teachers for 2017 were printed in last week’s newsletter. Class lists have been drafted and will be displayed at 2.45pm tomorrow afternoon, on the library windows. Staff have spent many, many hours compiling these lists. They have taken into account considerations Judy received in writing earlier this term and have included a balance of friendships, gender, learning needs, behavioural concerns, etc, in line with our practice of mixed ability classes. There will be no changes to lists, as one change creates a flow-on effect for others. Please be positive and supportive in this process. Thank you.

I thank Fr Loi and Sr Kate for their commitment to St Michael’s, continuing the strong connections that already existed between the school and the Parish; and I thank the Community Council members for their efforts this year and I look forward to continuing our work together as we welcome new members to the team.

We will farewell a number of staff and students as they venture to new schools, locally, interstate and across the globe. I wish everyone a positive start in the new year. Remember that you are life-long friends of St Michael’s and welcome back at any time.

As some familiar faces depart, we also welcome some back to our school community in 2017. Mrs Judy Walsh will return as Principal and Mrs Jo Krippner as Assistant Principal. I am also pleased to announce, after a formal interview process, Miss Simone Rankin has been appointed to the final Temporary Classroom Teacher position. Miss Rankin will be the third teacher on 3/4.

The end of 2016 also brings my time at St Michael’s to a close. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to fill Mrs Krippner’s role whilst she has been on maternity leave. I was welcomed into the school community and have built positive relationships with staff, students and families. Although I have only been here a short time, it feels much longer. Whist I am sad to be leaving, I am also looking forward to my new role as Assistant Principal at St Bede’s in Red Hill. Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership and contributions to the life of the school.

Yours in hope for the future,

Breen Fox
Acting Principal

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been”
Rainer Maria Rilke

On behalf of the whole community of St Michael’s, Mrs Walsh would like to formally thank Mrs Breen Fox for her time and commitment to our school. Over the last eighteen months, she has provided consistency, energy, commitment, leadership, organisation, skills, knowledge, fun and love to the children, staff, parents and community. She will be missed, but we wish her ongoing success in her permanent position at St Bede’s Red Hill. Thank you, Mrs Fox!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this month:

We hope you all have a great day!