Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends,

Over the last two years we have been guided by themes of Love and Peace in conjunction with our aim to ‘Live in Harmony’. This year we have created a ‘wordle’ as our focus symbol. In an environment of harmony, we will ‘seek Wisdom through Challenges’ with the end goal being the achievement of a level of personal excellence.  Be the best you can be in everything!

‘ORIENTATION WEEKS’
These first two weeks of the year are being dedicated across the school for all staff and students to focus on getting to know each other and developing good working relationships; cooperative and thinking skills; thorough understanding of school and class routines and expectations. All these skills and understandings have their base in our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program (SWPBS) where we promote and acknowledge safety, respect, responsibility and learning. This focus will provide the setting for the children to develop the strategies needed to be their best self. The teachers will also be completing initial assessments on all the children to ensure their learning is tailored to their needs.

OPENING MASS
Our Opening Mass today was a fitting way to begin the year as we joined the Parish community to receive God’s blessing for our new year together. The special blessing of our Year Six school leaders and their leadership badges for 2014, was a fitting start to their very important role. It was wonderful to be joined by members of the parent community for this celebration and we always welcome their presence on these occasions.

INFORMATION NIGHT – Tuesday 11 February, 6 – 7pm
I invite you all to attend this short information session to start the year. This evening will provide an opportunity for everyone to strengthen the partnership with school! Come along to the hall and have a cuppa, while you receive some brief general school information relating to 2014. You will then have the opportunity to choose two areas of the school curriculum that you would like a bit more information about. Our Teachers will lead these sessions for 15 minutes; we will signal the changeover for the second session with a bell. At the end of the second session, you will visit your child(ren)’s classroom to meet their teacher and collect the term overview which will outline the focus areas for learning and any other events that will be happening in your child’s class this term.

Children may attend this evening but it is not essential. It would be wonderful to see at least one parent from every family. Thank you in anticipation.

WWVP Registration Cards
Thank you to the parents/guardians who have registered for this card so they can participate in school events and in the classrooms. It is imperative that you bring the card to the front office as we are required to have a copy of the actual card on our files before you participate at the school. We do need your help at the school so we encourage all parents/guardians to register – forms are available at the front office. It is free for all volunteers.

Yours in partnership
Judy
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S
After a lovely summer break we prepare ourselves for the new year of learning and growing at St Michael’s. We are asked to accept the challenges which present themselves.

This year’s Catholic Education Office theme comes from Pope Francis: *Everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.* So what are we entrusted with here in our school and parish community? How are we placed to protect that trust? What does this responsibility mean?

If, as the Pope suggests and our new Archbishop refers to, we are all “Christ –bearers”, it is our responsibility to allow Jesus into our hearts. Then we may find the Wisdom to answer these questions. Then we can be the face of Christ to others and others are Christ to us.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP US ALL START THE YEAR SMOOTHLY

Coming home today is a **Student Information Checklist** – please make sure that all details are correct and that your preferred email address is included and correct for the newsletter.

**Medical Alert** forms have been sent home this week – please complete and return as soon as possible. All the puffers that are currently at school are out of date and must be replaced. Action plans must be updated and provided to the school. Parents must contact Lisa to sign a form if medication is to be administered by staff at school.

**School Fee Statements** will be sent home next week. Please check your statement – there may be a need to adjust direct debit payments. Forms are available from the front office. Please make an appointment to meet with me to discuss any potential issues in payment. Families of Year 5 and 6 students need to adjust payments to cover school camp or can opt to pay the amount in full.

**Mobile Phones:** Please remind your children that all Mobile phones and iPods etc must be left at the Front Office and not kept in school bags or desks.

**Playground equipment:** Unfortunately we are unable to have a teacher supervising the school equipment before or after school; hence we have instructed the children that they are NOT permitted to play on the equipment even if their parent is present. It is not public equipment so there is a conflict of responsibility when staff are on the premises.

I appreciate your understanding and cooperation, thank you.

**Parking / pick-up** from Tyrrell Circuit beside the oval – please ensure that NO vehicles are parked in the turning circle as the Action bus needs to be able to turn safely.

Please check parking information on the website under Community Notes—Car Park Note. To ensure safety for everyone on the basketball courts. The **staff carpark and drive through across the front of school** is NOT to be used to drop-off or pick-up children at any time.

ATTENTION ALL PARENT HELPERS

**LITERACY WORKSHOP**

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH READING AND WRITING

In response to enquiries from parents who requested guidance in helping their children become more proficient readers and writers, we are offering an information session. This session will outline reading and writing strategies that can be implemented to help children become more efficient readers and writers. This workshop is also for parents who come into the school and help in classrooms.

**All parent helpers must attend these information sessions;** these sessions will provide strategies that you as parents can implement in the classroom and at home. Two sessions will be run for your convenience. If you are attending could you please ring Lisa Monro at the front office (6241 4022) and let us know.

Workshops will be held

**Wednesday 26th February**

Session 1: 9.30am  
Session 2: 5.30pm
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special wishes to those children who celebrated their birthdays in the holidays:

**December**
- Pharrell 3/4H, Jack 5/6P, Cosimo 1S, Leo KD, Hamish 1S, Josie & Ruby 2T, Reece 5/6M, Lucas KD, Alex 2T, John 1S, Jazmine 2W, Chelsea 1S, Ellie 2T and Mrs de Smet

**January**

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


We hope you have a great day!
ST MICHAEL’S PARISH CONTACT DETAILS
Administrator: Father Warrick Tonkin
Pastoral Assistant: Sr Kate McMahon
Address: 2 Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen, ACT 2617
Telephone: (02) 6241 3364  Fax: (02) 6241 0747
Parish Email: stm.kaleen@cg.catholic.org.au
Email: k.mcmahon3@bigpond.com

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am
Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am
Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is carried out every Wednesday. Please leave your banking books at the Front Office.

DANCECORE
NO Dancecore for Term 1. If you have any enquiries please call Cassie on 0417 442 750

GUITAR
Please contact Sam Strano on 0408 196 855

PIANO
Please contact Mary-Liz Partridge 0413 425 753

SPEECH & DRAMA
Tuesday lunchtimes. Please call Elizabeth McIntosh 6255 9054.

FUN AND FITNESS IRISH DANCE CLASSES
Friday’s at 11am. For more information contact Fiona Dunn on 0418 687 781. Enrolment Forms available from the Front Office.

YMCA OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS
For further information, please contact the YMCA of Canberra Children’s Services Headquarters on 6242 4040 or cscanberra@ymca.org.au. Vacancies available Monday to Thursday. Please register your interest for Fridays’ on our website www.canberra.ymca.org.au

PETER MORTON ACADEMY OF JUDO JUJITSU KARATE
Classes held in the school hall on a Thursday evening for children and adults. Please contact Peter Wilson on 0412 628 450 or email: info@pjtracks.com.au

BOOKCLUB
Bookclub due back Friday 14th February. Please contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena if you have any queries regarding BookClub.

Remember if your child is unable to make a private lesson due to an excursion or illness you will need to contact the appropriate person to cancel their lesson.

CANCEEN NEWS

The Canteen has some new food items for sale this Term. We have vegetable sushi rolls available for recess and lunch for $2.50 each. We also have Banana milk as well as Chocolate and Strawberry for $1.70 each.

We are desperately in need of helpers for all shifts, please contact Caitlyn.