



Dear St Michael's Families and Friends

Welcome to 2016 at St Michael's! Welcome back to all our families and a special welcome to the Anderson, Barilla, Clark, Coghlan, Coric, Evans, Grewal, Holt, Hrobelko, Marks, McPadden, Musladin, O'Sullivan, Pham, Sharma, Taylor and Wood families who have joined our community this year. We look forward to supporting your children's educational journey, providing learning challenges in an atmosphere of harmony and respect.

I trust you have all received your invitation to the **Welcome Night next Tuesday, 9th February starting at 6.30pm**. We look forward to starting the year with this opportunity to catch-up with other parents in a social setting, before gaining a brief understanding of how your children's classes will operate, and also a chance to ask some questions. We appreciate your efforts to have your family represented by at least one adult.

Within the theme that 'Kids matter at St Michael's', we are continuing the introduction of the Kids Matter well-being program begun last year. This focus on mental and physical well-being of students extends and reinforces our positive behaviour values of *safety, respect, responsibility and learning*; and the key themes from our vision of *harmony, challenge, relationships and stewardship*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL'S

Welcome back to the new school year for 2016. I look forward to working with the whole St Michael's Community to enrich the spiritual life of this wonderful parish and school.



MASS

Today we celebrated our whole school opening Mass with Fr Loi. Thank you to all the parents and members of the community who were able to attend. On Wednesday 10th February, 3/4F will lead the Ash Wednesday Mass at 12:30pm at the Church. We hope you can join us.

EUCHARIST (YR4)

If you have a child in year 4 and would like them to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist this year then you will need to attend the information night for parents on 16th March at 6pm at the Church. The commitment Mass for the candidates for Eucharist will be Sunday 3rd April at 5:30pm. The Sacrament for First Eucharist is Sunday 15th May at 5:30pm.

LENTEN GATHERINGS

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 10th February. During the six weeks of Lent we are invited to deepen our appreciation of the **Loving Mercy of God** through prayer, reflection and sharing. This is a privileged time, particularly this year, which has been dedicated by Pope Francis as the **Year of Mercy**. Several groups have been formed within the parish, and an invitation is extended to the school/parent community to meet at the Parish House each Friday. Our meeting will take approximately an hour, coffee will be shared and pre-schoolers will be welcomed. Our first gathering will be on Friday 12th February at 9:00am and everyone is most welcome! Looking forward to seeing you-- Sr. Kate

ORIENTATION WEEKS

This structure in the first two weeks allows time for all staff and students to focus on getting to know each other and developing good working relationships; establish cooperative and thinking skills; and a thorough understanding of school and class routines and expectations.

During this time, the teachers will also be completing initial literacy and numeracy assessments on all the children, which will provide useful data for preparing their teaching programs.

Our Vision

At St Michael's Catholic Primary School we strive to foster hearts of compassion, kindness and forgiveness inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus. The rainbow and the cross are symbols that remind us to live in harmony with all of God's creation.

Our Mission

In the next five years, we will give expression to our mission by;

- * Being a people of **harmony** in a place of challenge inspired by the Gospels
- * Nurturing caring **relationships** that value the dignity of each person
- * Providing an authentic **education** for all students that is supportive and empowering
- * Taking **stewardship** of God's creation to ensure its preservation

2015

Important Dates and Events

- 9/2/16 Parent Welcome Evening @6.30pm
- 9/2/16 Shrove Tuesday-Pancakes-gold coin
- 10/2/16 Ash Wednesday Mass 3/4F@ 12.30
- 12/2/16 WSPT 5/6P @ 12.50

- 7/3/16 Swimming carnival @ Queanbeyan
- 16/3/16 First Eucharist Information Night @ 6:00pm, at the Church

- 3/4/16 Commitment Mass First Eucharist @ 5:30pm

- 15/5/16 Sacrament of First Eucharist @ 5:30pm

- 10/8/16 Sacrament of Confirmation
- 9/11/16 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Notes gone home this week

- Medical alert forms
- Student Information Checklists
- Lenten events
- Catholic Voice
- Camp notes Yr 5&6
- Book club order forms Issue 1

Harmony Happenings

ST MICHAEL'S SWIMMING CARNIVAL MONDAY 7TH MARCH

This year our Swimming Carnival is being held at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre on **Monday 7th March (Week 6)**. Please note the change of date from the one that was given at the end of last year. More details about the carnival, including event nomination forms and parent helper information, will be coming home in the next couple of weeks.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE

The Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival will be held on Sunday 3rd April. Please watch this space in the coming weeks for more information about this exciting event.

YEAR 5/6 BELCONNEN REGION TRIAL NOTES

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and they would like to represent the Belconnen Region in their chosen sport please talk to them about listening out for information about trial notes that will be brought to their attention throughout Term 1 and Term 2. These notes get sent to the school at different times as these carnivals are held throughout the first half of the year. Mrs McPadden and Miss Peterson will be receiving this information as soon as I (Mrs de Smet) am able to get it to them. Thank you for your patience throughout this process.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP US ALL START THE YEAR SMOOTHLY

A **Student Information Checklist** came home this week – 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.**

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.

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 Newsletter/Notes (attachments)—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. **Thank you.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Mia 5/6P, Maria 5/6P, Stefano 1/2S, Henry 3/4W, Grace 5/6M, William 1/2H, Jillian 1/2S, Cameron 1/2H, Quentin 1/2S, Gemma 3/4F, Jack 3/4B, Zac 3/4W, Noah 3/4F, Aimee 5/6P, Luca 3/4W and Anthony 3/4W

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

Jordan KD, Bailey 3/4W, Declan 3/4B, James 5/6P, Connor 5/6P, Luke 5/6M and Adam 1/2S

We hope you have a great day!



QKR!



St Michael's is trying to simplify aspects of our administration procedures to expand options for parents when making payments (small or large) to the school. We have introduced the Qkr (pron. 'Quicker') option which is based on an app for your phone. We can now accept payment through Qkr for school fees. More options will be added when required. Please see the flyer that has gone home with details on how to upload the app, or check the school website for the instruction sheet. The Skoolbag app has been a very popular way to distribute updates and reminders, so we hope this new app will also be of use in our very busy worlds.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

DANCECORE - Dance classes will be held on Friday's at recess, forms are available at the Front Office. Starting from Week 5.

CHESS - Chess classes are held in the Library on Wednesdays from 3.10-4.10, forms are available at the Front Office.

GUITAR - Sam is continuing guitar lessons, please contact Sam on 0408 196 855.

PIANO - Mary-Liz is continuing piano lessons, please contact Mary-Liz on 0413 425 753

SPEECH & DRAMA - Drama classes are being held on Tuesday lunchtimes, please contact Elizabeth McIntosh if you are interested. Mrs McIntosh can be contacted on 6255 9054

SCHOOL BANKING - Mrs Firth has kindly offered to run the school banking again. Banking day is Thursday, forms to open new accounts are available at the Front Office.

BOOKCLUB - Scholastic Bookclub will run again this year, if you have any queries contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena. **Issue 1 due back 15 February.**

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ATTACHMENTS ON OUR WEBSITE.