Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

Last week we celebrated Mass together to celebrate the ‘spiritual’ beginning of our school year and to acknowledge our school leaders for 2012. This week we held an Information session to launch some of the Academic aspects of our school year and to ensure we are ‘all on the same page’ as we re-launch our partnership between home and school. It was great to see so many parents at this meeting and your children enjoyed taking you to the classrooms to meet their teachers and investigate the learning areas.

In my short talk to begin the session, I made the following points:

♦ Introduction of the Australian Curriculum will instigate some noticeable changes to programming and to what your children bring home in their books. Science and English were implemented last year, with History and Maths being added to the mix for 2012. I encourage you to talk with your children about their learning and to ask if there are things you don’t understand. I will also endeavour to keep parents well informed through the newsletter as processes change and we all move through this learning curve together.

♦ We are trialling a variation to the Homework policy for Term 1. The time allocation for each year level will remain the same. However, as the broader view of our lives does not really work on Monday to Friday timeline (when you add in sport training or dance classes or swimming lessons, or parent meetings etc); the homework will now be handed out on a Wednesday and will be due back to school on the following Tuesday. The amount of homework won’t change, but your child will now have six nights, and the weekend, in which to schedule their homework. We are hopeful that this will assist families in balancing their calendars and also help the children to develop good time management skills. I would appreciate your feedback when we ask for it at the end of the term.

♦ Communication is essential in a partnership and our partnership is between home and school.

- We need your support in saving the environment by making sure you read the e-copy of the newsletter, so you don’t miss out on the very important messages from school to home (and we don’t have to send home paper reminders!).

- It is essential that you sign in to the school at EVERY visit – we must know who is on the premises at all times for your safety and the safety of your children.

- If there are questions you have about school issues, the car park is not the place to get the right answers. I understand that you may wish to share your concerns or questions with others, but I ask that you share them with your child’s teacher or with me first, so that you have the right answers to share with others.

♦ My final point was regarding your support of the School through the School Community Council. A letter and commitment form was sent home on Monday, asking that each family commit to at least ONE way to assist our school community. The form contained many ways you could help, but this list was not exhaustive. If you have a particular talent or skill that you feel you could share with us to assist the school, please contact me directly. The main point is that we need every family – and there 161 families – to commit to help in one way! Please return the form to school by Friday 17th February; and then attend the Open Meeting next week on Tuesday 21st February to meet your Council members and other parent helpers!

Yours in partnership
Judy

Notes attached to this newsletter:
Information on ‘Sleep’ requirements
Community Council letter and commitment form

NEWSLETTERS 2012 – e-Copy!
All newsletters will be uploaded to the website and families will receive an email with a link to the site when it is available. If you do not have access to email and wish to receive a paper copy, please contact the front office and let Lisa know. It is essential that your Family Details form is returned to ensure we have up-to-date information, including your email addresses.

CAR PARK - SAFETY
Please ensure that you are escorting your child across the car park and to the footpath near the front office in the mornings. We have observed a number of cars simply stopping to let children out and then driving off. This is not an acceptable or safe practice. A child’s life is far more important than being a few minutes late.
LITERACY WORKSHOP  SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH READING AND WRITING

ATTENTION ALL PARENT HELPERS

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 I ask you to ring Lisa Monro at the front office (6241 4022) and let us know.

School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Programme

Our school rules are: Be Safe    Be Respectful     Be Responsible      Be a Learner

At St Michael’s we our endeavor to Live in Harmony. We work through a continuum of positive behaviour support for all students that is implemented in areas including the classroom and non-classroom settings (such as playground, hallways, buses, and toilets). This year we continue to apply the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Programme (SWPBS) which together with our Student Welfare and Behaviour Management Policy forms the platform from which we activate positive harmonious relationships. SWPBS program helps us at St Michael’s to create positive learning environments by developing proactive whole-school systems to define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviours.

What has SWPBS meant for St Michael’s staff, parents and students?

The development of a simpler, clearer and more consistent set of school-wide behaviour expectations;

◆ The development of simple and clear context-specific behaviour expectations (e.g. courtyard, bus);

◆ A greater increased focus on defining and explicitly teaching behaviour expectations and skills;

◆ Acknowledging and encouraging positive student behaviours.

In the introduction of ‘explicit teaching behaviours’ we have developed a program of teaching skills for Term One. Talk to your children about these things to see how they develop.

Week 1-2: Preparing ourselves for learning
Weeks 3-4: Whole body listening
Weeks 5-6: Showing on task behaviour

Weeks 7-8: Working well in groups
( cooperative group work)

Weeks 9-10: Managing my time

Weeks 7-8: Working well in groups
( cooperative group work)

Weeks 9-10: Managing my time

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

As we are now heading into Lent, we gather next Wednesday with our Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.45am.

This Friday at 12.30pm, Year 4 will help us begin our prayer celebrations with WSPT – they will focus on God’s creation and our care for all we are given. Please consider being involved and share with your children in these events and any others throughout the year, as we begin to PUT on LOVE together in Harmony.

“Grace is God’s gift of himself as God our lives”
Archbishop Mark Coleridge - 2012

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2012
Advance notice for our Sacramental dates for 2012:
Eucharist - Sunday 3rd June
Confirmation - Sunday 12th August
Reconciliation - Thursday 8th November

Details will be sent home to the specific classes as the preparations begin. All families are always welcome to attend these community celebrations.

MEDICAL-ALERT
Please complete and return this form for all children who have special requirements, to ensure we have current health information.

CANTEEN
A reminder that children should not be bringing amounts greater than a $5 note to school for use at the canteen.

Parent Information Night was a terrific example of community.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special wishes to those children that celebrated their birthday this week: Dante KP, Kimberley 3/4RB, Chloe 4M and Teagan 5P

We hope you have a great day!

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Join a community group in your local area: Volunteer your time to do on-ground, office or coordination work to help revegetate your local area. Get involved in tree planting, seed collection and weed control. Contact Landcare or Greening Australia.

Why not consider volunteering some spare time to help keep the school grounds neat and tidy.

POSITION VACANT

Janitor / Maintenance

A part-time position is available at St Michael’s for a Janitor / Maintenance assistant to work for 3 hours on two mornings a week.

Selection criteria and a list of the main duties/responsibilities can be found on the school website www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au or by contacting the front office of the school on 6241 4022.
ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

DANCECORE
Every Wednesday lunchtime in the hall. Enrolment forms available at the front office. Call Cassie on 0417 442 750

GUITAR
Private guitar lessons, please contact Sam Strano on 0408 196 855 to organise a lesson time.

PIANO
Piano lessons, please contact Mrs Mary-Liz Patridge 0413 425 753 to organise a lesson time.

SPEECH & DRAMA
A private class for Speech and Drama is held every Tuesday lunchtime. Please contact Elizabeth McIntosh on 6255 9054.

CHESS
Chess lessons will be held every Thursday lunchtime in the library with Mr Jarvis.

YMCA OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS
After School Care is offered to St Michael’s by the YMCA, they now operate Monday to Friday from 3pm to 6pm. For a casual or permanent booking please phone 6230 0165 or Email: oshc.admin@ymca.org.au

SCHOOL BANKING
OPENING ACCOUNTS FOR SCHOOL BANKING—GREAT NEWS!
School Banking accounts can now be opened at any Commonwealth Bank. You no longer need to complete application forms and return them to school. Just go to any branch and ask to open a Youthsaver account for school banking.

Take in identification for you and your child (such as drivers license and birth certificate) and you will receive your Dollarmite wallet on the spot, it is that easy! If you are a Commonwealth Bank Customer with Netbank you have the option to open the account on line as well!

From January 2012 when children make their first deposit they will get their first token and our school will also receive $5.00 commission. Thank you for supporting our school and teaching your child good saving skills.

Lois Griffiths
School Banking Co-Ordinator on behalf of The Commonwealth Bank.

ST MICHAEL’S Primary School, Kaleen

St Michael’s Parish
Contact Details and Mass Times
Parish Priest: Father Peter HA, N. Doai
Address: Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen, ACT 2617
Telephone: (02) 6241 3364
Fax: (02) 6241 0747
Email: stm.kaleen@cg.catholic.org.au
Weekend Mass Times:
Saturday: 6.00pm, Sunday: 9.00am and 5.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL DOORKNOCK APPEAL
St Michael Conference is looking for collectors to assist in its annual doorknock during February in the Kaleen, Giralang & North Lyneham suburbs.

The purpose of the doorknock is to raise funds to assist those in need in our community. If you can spare a couple of hours and would like to assist please contact Ted Smith on 6241 7432 or 0411 106 295.

CANCEEN - Call Maria Cavalli on 6241 5780 or e-mail cavalli@grapevine.com.au to join the canteen team.

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<td>Amanda Andriolo, Rebecca Cameron</td>
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Wednesday & Thursday: 10.50am – 1.30pm
Friday: 9.00 am – 11.15am and 11.15am – 1.45pm