Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends,

It is a wonderful situation for our community when, so early in the year, we already have a number of people/families to thank for their assistance. Over the very hot Christmas break there was a team of generous families who braved the elements to keep our gardens in the courtyard and the tank area alive. On behalf of the whole community, I would like to thank the Larner, Daly, Ciuffetelli & Nagel families for their efforts in helping St Michael’s in this way.

Another group requiring a big ‘Thank You’ are the wonderful people who were able to assist at the swimming carnival this week. This assistance took many forms, but every task contributed to the smooth running of the carnival. Thank you to the families of the 3/4 classes who contributed by providing a very delicious morning tea for the staff and helpers on the day.

Specific year levels are asked to assist in this way for different events meaning that there is not an excess of food, and families are not being asked to continually contribute. (It is not expected that families involved in more than one year level contribute every time.)

INFORMATION NIGHT

On Tuesday evening we had a small number of families join us for our information evening. I thank them for coming out in the heat; and it was good to receive feedback on how the mini presentations assisted their understanding of some of the experiences the children have each day at school. I understand there are many calls on your time, but even the smallest involvement in your child’s schooling has been shown to contribute to developing your child’s general attitude to school and learning. If you were unable to attend, along with your class overview for the term, you would have received a volunteer sheet for assisting at the school through the Community Council. Please consider this sheet and nominate to help in at least one way throughout the year by returning the sheet to the front office. Don’t forget a WWVP card is a legal requirement for all adults involved in school activities. Card must be recorded at front office please.

UNIFORM

Thank you for your efforts in sending the children back to school looking very smart in the correct uniform items. Your efforts significantly help the children to further develop their pride in themselves and their school. There are two areas of concern I would like to address, but I would like to begin with a very big thank you to those parents who already support these requests. Providing the correct uniform forms part of the agreement you made with the school on enrolment; and I find it a little disturbing that these requirements at primary school are sometimes not considered as important as they are at secondary level. Surely this is good preparation for those later years?

The coloured sports shoes – Over the last twelve months I have regularly written to remind families and verbally reminded the students that our uniform requires predominantly white sports shoes. I fully understand that the shops are no longer filled with white shoes, however, they are available in mainly white with a splash of colour (preferably blue to fit our uniform) in almost all shops and covering a wide price range as well. I also appreciate that the children may want the bright coloured ones, but the school clothing is referred to as ‘uniform’ for exactly that reason – it should be uniform across all students.

School Hats: - Again the school hat is designated as ‘navy blue’ and is designed to protect the children’s faces. There are still a handful of children wearing very aged hats that have lost so much colour they are now brown or grey. This also detracts from the uniform and does not instil any pride. I also ask that you check that your child’s hat is the right size to afford them suitable sun protection. As I have mentioned before, hats are available at the front office for $9 each. Thank you.

Yours in partnership

Judy

**COMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st February</td>
<td>Whole School Prayer Time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5/6P @ 12.50pm</td>
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th February</td>
<td>Literacy Workshops 9.30am or 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th/27th/28th March</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Sydney Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 30th March</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival</td>
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**NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

- Fee Statements
- Term Overviews
- Community Council Note/
  Interest Groups Note
- Camp Note
- Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival Note
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S**

This week as we settle into the routines of another learning year, we begin to look at what we are asking of ourselves as members of the school community. Ecclesiastes 7:25a “I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things.”

We are encouraged to seek Wisdom which comes fully through accepting the challenges ahead of us. So we challenge each other to get out of our comfort zones, to go that little bit further to do our best, to use that incredible potential on the inside and to share it with one another. God has put gifts and talents in us that we probably don’t know anything about. Only by sharing these gifts can we fully develop the Harmony of our community.

**Attending Weekday Mass:** Each week one or more classes will be encouraged to attend the Thursday Parish daily Mass, this week Year 1S led the way. Please consider attending with your children when and if you can make it! Our Lenten path will be with us in March at which we will come together for Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 5th March.

**Whole School Prayer Time:** This is a regular chance to come together with the school as we share in our hopes and prayers. Next week we begin our first Whole School Prayer Time for 2014. You are welcome to join the school at 12.50pm on Friday. Year 5/6 P will be set our path and direct our prayer.

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP US ALL START THE YEAR SMOOTHLY**

You should have received 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 – 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 were sent home this week. Please check your statement – there may be a need to make adjustments to 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.

Phones & IPODS

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.

Lost Property

Could we request that parents please label all their children’s clothing. Could they also please check their children’s clothing to ensure they have their child’s clothes.

We now have a lost property box in the courtyard where any items left laying around will be placed in, please remember to check the tub on your way in or out of the courtyard.

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**SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL - CANTEEN**

During the holidays, cleaning contractors were engaged to complete a well overdue ‘spring clean’ in the canteen. The entire area was thoroughly cleaned and a number of equipment items were also renewed. The floor is now shining and walls and bench tops gleaming. The Canteen operates as a sub-committee under the governance of the School Community Council, providing a service to the students and their families. Assistance in the canteen is essential or it cannot operate. Please consider volunteering to help in this way. Contact details for Caitlyn Frost, canteen manager are on the back page of this newsletter. You will also find weekly specials and we would appreciate your constructive feedback as we strive to create a menu that is enticing but also supports our healthy lifestyle agenda; and also ensures the service remains a viable operation. Thank you in anticipation. Council Exec

Advance Notice – Open Council Meeting on March 18th at 6.30pm – everyone welcome.

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**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
ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL
What an exciting day! Well done to all of the students for their participation on Monday. Ribbons were handed out at morning assembly yesterday. If your child is selected to participate in the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival, they will be notified shortly. We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who helped to make our carnival a success. Without your continued support days like this wouldn’t be possible.

There were a number of items of lost property left over from the day. Could you please check your child’s clothing and ensure that it is clearly labeled with your child’s first and last names. If your child has brought home someone else’s clothes could you please return them to the school? Thank you for your assistance with this.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival will be held on **Sunday 30th March at the University of Canberra**. This Carnival is open to both boys and girls and involves combined Years 3/4 and combined Years 5/6 teams competing with Catholic schools from across the ACT and surrounding regions. 3/4 teams will have 8 aside and 5/6 teams will have 11 aside. Over the last few years the Catholic schools sporting carnivals have attracted much interest and the day is greatly enjoyed by all involved.

All interested students will receive a note tomorrow. St Michael’s Primary School will be entering teams in both the Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 age group and we hope to finalise our team entries as soon as possible. Once teams are finalised we will provide further details regarding any training and arrangements for the day.

NETBALL ACT
Netball ACT is looking for teams to participate in the After School Competitions commencing from Term 2. Competitions are available on Thursday afternoon with game times at 4pm and 4.50pm. Teams can enter into the Years 3/4 age group or Years 5/6 age group. For more information please contact: competitions@netballact.com.au.

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PROGRAM

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 Program (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 (eg 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.

10 Gotcha cards = a blue wrist band
4 blue bands + 10 Gotchas = 1 white wrist band
White wrist band = photo on honour board

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
Many thanks to all the families that attended the Parent Information Night. If you were unable to make it on the night, please remember to pick up your class overview for the term and a community council volunteer note from your child’s teacher.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Dante 2W and Chloe 5/6M
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

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

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

DANCECORE
NO Dancecore for Term 1. 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

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.

CANTEEN 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.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL BANKING 2014
This year we are all deep sea divers!! Keep an eye out for the bright blue parent packs that went home with your children, inside is a fantastic token tracking chart that your children can use to let them know when they have saved for a reward! Also a perforated rewards chart to let the children know what reward is available throughout the year.

School banking has been teaching children smart savings habits and life-long money skills for over 80 years by simply bringing their money in each week, as little as 5 cents!

As we are an underwater theme this year there are fantastic rewards which includes, penguin or shark plush toy keyrings, whale pencil case, swimming bag, sea streamers to name a few.

Don’t forget that your school earns commission thru the School Banking program with $5.00 for every new child that joins thru the school and 5% commission on all the children’s deposits throughout the term.

Why not join in the fun at your school!!

ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

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