Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

A GREAT START!

Our wonderful start to the school year included a presentation to the whole-school last Thursday by our guest speaker Lorin Nicholson. Lorin is an accomplished guitarist, cyclist, swimmer, and inspirational speaker; and he is Blind! Lorin was declared legally blind at the age of four, however he was determined not to let his disability exclude him from living a full and meaningful life. With amazingly supportive parents, determination and against all odds, he successfully completed mainstream schooling and then went on to receive a college diploma with high distinctions.

Lorin spoke of the how he needed resilience, determination and perseverance to succeed. He highlighted the differences in each of us and how that is OK; and he spoke about the incidences of bullying that were NOT OK. He entertained and inspired all of us; and then presented additional focused sessions for the senior children and the staff. Lorin Nicholson inspires and motivates people to use the gifts, abilities and talents they've been given.

His message is simple – you have the gifts – use them! This is an important message for all our children.

On Monday we had a very successful swimming carnival. The success of the day was a combination of great attitude, effort and participation from the students; wonderful preparation and organisation by the teachers; and amazing support from the very generous parents who assisted in a myriad of ways on the day! Our sincere thanks to our helpers; for without you the day would not be able to go ahead. The Kindergarten children were outstanding, on their fifth day of school! Well done!

INFORMATION NIGHT

On Tuesday evening we welcomed a number of families for our information evening. This year, I shared some thoughts and research on the changes that are required (and are already occurring) in Schools/Education, to prepare your children for the future. This included changes in approach to aspects of curriculum and also class structures. This was followed by mini workshops with the teachers and some time in the classrooms. I am very grateful for the feedback received on the presentations and also the way the parents entered into the essential discussions with the teachers. I have included the link for the Youtube clip that I used in the presentation, in case you missed it. Please note that this was originally presented to an American audience so some of the examples are not truly representative of us, but interesting none the less. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpl4U

CLASS ROLLS & LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DEPARTURES

To update the safety and recording procedures for children’s attendance at school, we have implemented some changes for this year. Teachers will now be marking an electronic roll, however it is still a requirement that all absences are explained in writing to the teacher. This can be a handwritten note or an email directly to the teacher.

To sign your child in and out in school hours, there is now a new register at the front desk. If your child is late, you must write a slip which they take to class for their teacher’s records. If you wish to take your child early, you must complete the slip and then collect your child from the classroom and give the slip to the teacher. These requirements apply anytime between the 8.50 & 3.00 school bell times.

PRINCIPAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Time has passed very quickly and this year is the fifth year I have been privileged to lead St Michael’s School. It is the policy of the Catholic Education Office to provide a process for the review of all Principals’ performance towards the end of each contract period. Please see details in an email to follow, including a link to the survey. Your feedback will be appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Yours in partnership

Judy

COMING EVENTS

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<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Whole School Prayer</td>
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<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Camp</td>
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Wednesday 18th February

| Year 5/6 Camp            | Ash Wednesday Mass    |
|                         | @ 12pm                |
| Friday 27th February     | Whole School Prayer   |
|                          | Time 1/2H @ 12.50     |

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
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NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

- Bookclub Order Forms
- Student Information Checklist
- School Fee Statements
- ICT Student Acceptable Use Agreement
- ‘Parental Engagement’ Parent Fact Sheet
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S
The Church season of Lent begins next week on Ash Wednesday. During this time Catholics are asked to do three things, pray, fast and give alms.

Tuesday 17th February is Shrove Tuesday. We ask that every child bring in a gold coin to contribute to our 2015 Project Compassion appeal. If you would like to come in and share a pancake with your child or you can assist your child’s teacher with the cooking of pancakes please let them know before Tuesday. Pancakes will be cooked and shared in classes between 9am and 10am on Tuesday 17th February.

LENTEN GATHERINGS
The Churches’ Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 18th February. During the six weeks of Lent we are invited to deepen our appreciation of Jesus’ love for us, and to renew our hope in His Resurrection. Throughout Lent you are invited to meet at the Parish house each Friday at 9:00am, to spend some time in prayer, reflection and discussion and to share a coffee. Our first gathering will be on Friday 20th February and everyone is welcome! Looking forward to seeing you-- Sr. Kate

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
This morning the school came together to celebrate our opening school mass. We congratulate our Year 6 students on receiving their leadership badges and we wish them well in their leadership roles for the year.

UNIFORM
Thank you for your efforts in honouring the agreement you made with the school on enrolment, by sending the children back to school looking very smart in the correct uniform items. Your efforts significantly help the children to further develop pride in themselves and their school. 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?

A couple of reminders –
Our policy is that sports shoes are ‘predominantly white’ and they are available in many shops and price ranges. I 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: - Please ensure your child has a suitable hat at school every day – navy blue and of appropriate size to afford them sun protection. Hats are available at the front office for $9 each. Thank you.
‘No hat, no play’ will be enforced.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Nate 3/4B, Vincent 5/6H, Jayla KD & Dante 3/4F
We hope you have a great day!

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 25th February
Session 1: 9.30am
Session 2: 5.30pm

EUCHARIST –Year 4
Wednesday 11th March @ 7pm
Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick
Sunday 15th March @ 8am
Commitment Mass
Sunday 3rd May @ 8am
Sacrament of Eucharist

CONFIRMATION –Year 6
Wednesday 10th June @ 7pm
Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick
Sunday 14th June @ 8am
Commitment Mass
Friday 14th August @ 6pm
Sacrament of Confirmation

RECONCILIATION –Year 3
Wednesday 9th September @ 7pm
Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick
Sunday 13th September @ 8am
Commitment Mass
Wednesday 4th November @ 6pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
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 the carnival and the children were very excited to receive these. 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.

If your child is selected to participate in the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival, they will be notified shortly. Please continue to watch this space for information about the regional carnival, which will be held on Friday 27th March at the AIS.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival will be held on Sunday 15th March. 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 about this carnival shortly. 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP US ALL START THE YEAR SMOOTHLY
The 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 were sent home last 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 were sent home this 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 Judy 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.

CANTINEE - Help desperately required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2015
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

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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

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS
Parents and Carers of children aged 2-10 years are invited to
Bringing Up Great Kids a parenting program developed by the
Australian Childhood Foundation which will be presented by
CatholicCare commencing WEDNESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2015
from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course
is 3 hours per week over a 4 week period and the
fee of $100 includes course materials and supper.

THE JOURNEY THROUGH ADOLESCENCE
Program for parents of Adolescents will be offered
by CatholicCare commencing WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2015
from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is run over
3 weeks and the fee of $80 includes course materials and
supper. This course is suitable for parents of children in Primary
Years 5 & 6 and Secondary School Years 7-12.
Bookings are essential please contact 61626100.

ST MICHAEL’S MASTERMINDS
To enter, place your solution along with your full name and class into the
competition box at the Front Office. Entries need to be in by next
Wednesday. The first correct entry drawn will be published in next week’s
newsletter and will receive a canteen voucher.

The winner of the canteen voucher for this week is……. Hamish from 1/2S.
The winner of the canteen voucher for this week is……. Daniela from 5/6H.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
DANCECORE - Dance classes commenced today at recess, forms are available from the Front Office.
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 is offering a private class (free) for any keen students, please contact her on 6255 9054 to arrange for your child to participate (limited spaces).
SCHOOL BANKING - Mrs Firth has kindly offered to run the school banking again. Banking day is Friday, forms to open new accounts are available from the Front Office.
BOOKCLUB - Scholastic Bookclub will run again this year, if you have any queries contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena.

K-2
What date is Easter Sunday?

Year 3-6
Sally is 54 years old and her mother is 80, how many years ago was Sally’s mother three times her age?