Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

When God Created Mothers  by Erma Bombeck

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into his sixth day of “overtime” when an angel appeared and said, “You’re doing a lot of fiddling around on this one.” And the Lord said, “Have you read the specs on this order?

- She has to be completely washable, but not plastic;
- Run on black coffee and leftovers;
- A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair;
- And six pairs of hands.”

The angel shook her head slowly and said, “Six pairs of hands... no way.”

“It’s not the hands that are causing me problems,” said the Lord. “It’s the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.”

“That’s on the standard model?” asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. “One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, ‘What are you kids doing in there?’ when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn’t but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, ‘I understand and I love you’ without so much as uttering a word.”

“Lord,” said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, “Go to bed. Tomorrow...”

“I can’t,” said the Lord, “I’m so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick... can feed a family of six on one kilo of hamburger mince... and can get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower.”

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. “It’s too soft,” she sighed.

“But she’s tough!” said the Lord excitedly. “You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure.”

“Can it think?”

“No, not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise,” said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. “There’s a leak,” she pronounced.

“I told You, You were trying to push too much into this model.”

“It’s not a leak,” said the Lord. “It’s a tear.”

“What’s it for?”

“It’s for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride.”

“You are a genius,” said the angel.

The Lord looked sombre. “I didn’t put it there,” He said.

Special thanks to Kindergarten and Mrs deSmet for leading us in a beautiful Mother’s Day prayer service. It was wonderful so many mothers and grandmothers could join in the celebrations.

Happy Mothers’ Day to all our Mums, Grandmothers and mother figures!

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Earlier in the week you received information regarding the necessary changes to the days of operation for the canteen. Sadly, this change has impacted on Caitlyn our Manager and she has decided not to continue under the new arrangements. We thank Caitlyn for her contributions and efforts in this role over the last two years and wish her well.

ENROLMENT FOR 2016

The official enrolment period for 2016 continues till 24 May. Our Open Days will be tomorrow, Friday the 8th of May and next Thursday 14th May, with tours at 10am, 2pm and 5.30pm each day. I encourage all current families who have siblings who will turn 5 years by the 30th April 2016, to collect an application form from the front office and return it to the school before the end of the enrolment period to ensure a place for their child. Of course we would also love to give your child a special tour of the school.

Thought for the Week  (from a wonderful Mother figure)

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.
- Mother Teresa

Yours in partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS

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NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

- Walkathon helper note
- Walkathon sausage sizzle note
- ‘My Family, My Faith’
- Canteen Autumn/Winter Menu
- Changes to Canteen Operation note

SUPPORT FOR THE HARDEST JOB — PARENTING!
From Michael Grose
Helping your kids make sense of natural disasters.

Yours in partnership
Judy
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

Congratulations First Eucharist recipients 2015!
On Sunday 3rd of May students from St Michael’s Primary School received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. It was a lovely event celebrated with family, friends and supportive parishioners. Special thanks to Sr. Kate and Father Warrick for assisting the students to be ready for the day and understanding the significance of the sacrament.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME
On Friday 8th May at 12:50pm, Year 3/4P will be leading the school in a whole school prayer time on the theme of Harmony. All family and friends are welcome to join us.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)
The National Assessment Program is the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

The 2015 NAPLAN tests will be held next week on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May. Please check the following timetable which outlines the times at which the tests will be conducted. If you have a child in Year 3 or 5 please ensure that appointments are organised outside testing times. A make-up day will be held on Friday 15th May for students who missed a section of the testing or were absent on a particular test day. For more information about NAPLAN you can go to http://www.naplan.edu.au

The results of these tests will provide useful information for us as teachers and you as parents. In particular, they will help inform teachers in their ongoing efforts to address the literacy and numeracy needs of their students.

Year 3
- Tuesday May 12th
  - 9.30 Language Conventions
  - 11.30 Writing
- Wednesday May 13th
  - 9.30 Reading
- Thursday May 14th
  - 9.30 Numeracy

Year 5
- Tuesday May 12th
  - 9.30 Language Conventions
  - 11.30 Writing
- Wednesday May 13th
  - 9.30 Reading
- Thursday May 14th
  - 9.30 Numeracy

SCHOOL TIMES
I would like to remind families that the school times are from 8.50am to 3pm each school day. It is very important for both the individual child and the teacher and class that students are on time in the mornings and that they are able to complete the day’s activities. Firstly it fosters an understanding of the need to be on time - for school, work, parties, appointments etc - which will be a valued trait when they are adults. Secondly and just as importantly, our morning Literacy Block (2 hours) actually includes the morning gathering, where they are required listen and participate in the different aspects of this event. Often very important information for the day or reminders are given to the children, as we endeavour to develop their independence and foster responsibility for themselves. Children arriving late often detract from our prayer time and also distract others in their class.

Missing half an hour of learning/teaching time each day in a term equates to 5 full days away from school! I ask that you make every effort to be on time or even a bit early, and also that children are not collected early from class unnecessarily.
BELCONNEN REGION CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
If your child has been selected to run in the Belconnen Region Cross Country Carnival they should have received a note about this last week. This event is being held on the 22nd May. Please return your note along with the $7 fee (if your child is participating in this event) to school by Thursday 14th May. If we do not receive a note back by this date we will assume that you would not like your child to participate in the carnival. Thank you for your assistance with this.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Michael 5/6W who won the runners up award for the North’s Basketball team (Division 1) in the Grand Final match last semester. Michael has also been selected for the Under 12s ACT Development Squad (second year in a row) winning all three games in Albury on the weekend. More interstate games are to follow. We are very proud of Michael and wish him all the best.

BELCONNEN REGION TEAMS
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent the Belconnen region in the following sports this year. We are very proud of you.

12 Years and Under Boys Soccer: Izac and Will (5/6W) 12 Years and Under Boys Cricket: Harry (5/6H)
and Harry (5/6H)

WALKATHON
Our walkathon is being held on Tuesday 19th May this year. You should have received a note about this and a sponsorship card at the end of last term. We have now had a few barrel draws and the lucky students were very excited about having their name pulled out. Thank you for your efforts so far to collect sponsors. A note about helpers for this whole school event should have made its way home earlier in the week. There will also be a sausage sizzle on the day, so please fill these notes back in and get them back to school. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Samara 1/2W, Reuben 5/6H, Matthew KD and Daniel 3/4P
We hope you have a great day!

ACTION BUS CHANGES
On Monday 18 May 2015, ACTION will be introducing a revised timetable for all normal weekday route services and some dedicated school services. This is part of their commitment to continually revising and improving their current timetable!
Since September 2014, they have been monitoring the network using performance data and identifying areas for improvement. They have been able to address issues such as on time running and service reliability. The current dedicated school services have been reviewed and improvements have been made.
Please right click on the following link to open up the ACTION website to check for any changes to your regular bus service.

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 20th MAY 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.

Bookings are essential please contact 61626100.

CANTEEN - Helpers are required in the Canteen on Friday’s. Help is needed at 9.00—11.30 and/or 11.30—2.00. Please contact Lisa in the Front Office if you are able to volunteer on any Friday. Thank you in anticipation.

BOOK CLUB - Orders are due back to the Front Office by Monday 11th May 2015. Any queries please contact Lisa Monro or Kylie Arena on 6241 4022.
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

CHIEF MINISTER’S READING CHALLENGE 2015
This year St Michael’s has enrolled in the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. The Challenge requires students to read 12 books. We have decided to run the Challenge over 12 weeks. **12 books in 12 weeks.** Forms for students to record their books were sent home at the end of last term and were to be returned in Week 10 Term 2. By participating students can win book vouchers for our school library. The following is part of the Chief Minister’s message:

“This year you can choose your own books or ask your parents, teacher, librarian or Libraries ACT public librarian for their suggestions. You could even try one of my favourite books from when I was in year 6, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 ¾.

I encourage you to be adventurous in your reading and choose a variety of books by different authors. You may want to choose to read some books in a language other than English.

My challenge is for even more of you to get into reading in 2015!”

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.

Week 1 answers:
K-2 6 players left (Sienna 1/2S)
3-6 $111 withdrawn from the bank (Jana 5/6H)

K-2
There are 24 students in KD and 23 students in 1/2H. How many students are there altogether?

Year 3-6
A painter charges $225 for materials and $35 per hour for labour. The total cost of painting an office is $330. How many hours did it take the painter to paint the office?

REMINDERS - WINTER UNIFORM
Term Two means winter uniform! As usual, Canberra weather at this time of the year is very erratic, so, should we have a little burst of Summer again, **full winter uniforms should be worn from next week.** However, if the weather is indicative of Autumn / Winter, all students should be in full winter uniform please from the start of term. Please ensure that the uniform fits and that items (particularly jumpers) are labelled clearly. Thank you. There are many items in the second hand pool at the moment, so you may be able to **check if you need extras.**

YEAR 7—2016 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING AND OPEN DAYS

Our Year 7 2016 information Evening is being held on Monday 11th May commencing at 5pm with tours of the College and followed at 6.30pm with a formal information session.

SFX Open Day is Friday 15th May from 9am – 2.30pm.

The Merici Open Day is on Wednesday 6th May from 9.30am to 7pm.

Our Year 7 2016 Information Evening is being held on Tuesday 12th May from 6pm to 7.15pm.

MERICI COLLEGE
Wise Street, Braddon ACT 2612 | GPO Box 154, Canberra 2601
ph: (02) 6243 4100

DARAMALAN COLLEGE
Cowper Street DICKSON
Ph: 6245 6300

Year 7 2016 Enrolment
Monday 4th May– Enrolment open.
Friday 22nd May– Enrolment closes.