



Dear St Michael's Families and Friends

WELCOME NIGHT – A GREAT START!

On Tuesday evening a number of families joined us for refreshments to welcome everyone to the new school year. A brief session with the group of classroom teachers allowed both parents and teachers to put faces to the names of those who will share in the children's education for this year. It was wonderful that our continuing St Michael's parents were able to share this time with a number of our new families. We look forward to more events of this nature.



SEASON OF LENT

Traditionally this has been a time to 'give something up'. At our Ash Wednesday Mass, Fr Loi reminded us that choosing to give up chocolate, desserts or alcohol are all good things to do, but we should also try to give up something to support our spiritual well-being. He suggested perhaps not gossiping about others or being more tolerant of others. Or maybe we can take up something? Going to Mass, praying with our children or, in this special year of Mercy, showing compassion to those who are less fortunate than us or who we find hard to like?

Let us all 'live in harmony' as we remember to 'do' something for others rather than (or as well as) 'give up' something for ourselves. Let's recall the words of Jesus: **"I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"** (Mathew 25:40). I encourage each family to take on a special commitment for this time of Lent. Every contribution to the **Project Compassion** appeal makes a difference in someone's life – what a wonderful lesson to share with your children!

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 their pride in themselves and their school.

NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

Our Newsletter now contains a review of events and essential information for parents. All other community information can be found on the noticeboards in the courtyard and library or on our website.

Yours in partnership
Judy

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

MASS

Yesterday 3/4 F assisted Fr Loi with Mass for Ash Wednesday. Fr Loi reminded us the Ashes were a symbol of God's love and a reminder of God's forgiveness of our sins.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Thank you to the St Michael's community. We had many generous offers of assistance to cook and help serve pancakes for the students. Over 400 pancakes were cooked which could not have been done without the generosity of the community.

PROJECT COMPASSION- CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Students have raised \$260 through gold coin donations on Shrove Tuesday. This is an extraordinary effort for a small school. Families have been sent home Project Compassion boxes to assist in raising funds for Caritas Australia. These boxes are due back after Easter. If you

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- 12/2/16 WSPT 5/6P @ 12.50
- 26/2/16 WSPT 1/2S @ 12.50
- 7/3/16 Swimming carnival @ Queanbeyan
- 9/3/16 CSW Community Breakfast
- 11/3/16 WSPT 1/2H @ 12.50
- 11/3/16 School Photos
- 16/3/16 First Eucharist Information Night @ 6:00pm, at the Church
- 30/3/16 Yr 5/6 Camp
- 31/3/16 Yr 5/6 Camp
- 1/4/16 Yr 5/6 Camp
- 1/4/16 WSPT 3/4W @ 12.50
- 3/4/16 Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival
- 3/4/16 Commitment Mass First Eucharist @ 5:30pm
- 8/4/16 St Michael's Cross Country carnival
- 15/5/16 Sacrament of First Eucharist @ 5:30pm
- 10/6/16 Grandparents/Good Friends Day
- 10/8/16 Sacrament of Confirmation
- 9/11/16 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Notes gone home this week

- Term 1 Fee Statements
- ICT use agreement forms
- Term overviews
- Project Compassion boxes



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.

ST MICHAEL'S CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE

This year St Michael's Cross Country Carnival will be held on **Friday 8th April** (Week 10). What a great way to end the term! Please keep an eye out for details about this event closer to the end of the term.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Nate 5/6P, Jayla 1/2H,
Andy KD and

Dante 3/4F

We hope you
have a
great day!



PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK (PRN) 2016

We are currently looking for parents interested in taking on the role of 2016 Parent Representative for their child's class.

Representatives:

- will be the liaison to assist and support the class teacher in conveying information about classroom and school activities to the class.
- are required to communicate with class teachers regularly.
- are required to send out weekly or fortnightly updates to their class, keeping the class informed of upcoming events and requests for volunteers.
- will be required to attend meetings at the beginning of each term to discuss upcoming events and updates.
- are expected to attend the Community Council Open Meeting on Tuesday 15th of March at 6.30pm in the school staffroom.

Our aim is to get the PRN running effectively and efficiently. Reps need to have access to email daily to be able to fulfil this position. **If you are unable to attend all PRN meetings please do not volunteer for this position.**

If you are interested and able to commit to the above please email breen.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au. Final appointments will take into consideration prior involvement in the school and current capacity to fulfil the role. We look forward to hearing from you.

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. Details on how to upload the app can be found on the school website under attachments.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO START THE YEAR SMOOTHLY

Student Information Checklist forms due back Friday 12th February.

Medical Alert forms are urgently required back 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 check parking information on the website under Newsletter/Notes (attachments)—Car Park Note.

School Fee Statements have been sent home. 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 Mrs Walsh 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.

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.

WELL-BEING FOCUS

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 24th FEBRUARY 2016 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 23rd MARCH 2016 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 School Years 5+6 and Secondary School Years 7-12.

Bookings are essential please contact 1800 068 698 free call.