Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends,

The school year always seems to start at what seems like a greater pace than the year before! The students return with a new eagerness and everyone gets back into the routines required both at home and at school. Already, in just three weeks, we have welcomed 24 new Kindergarten students and in total 13 new families; we have celebrated our Opening School Mass; had our swimming carnival and our Information Evening; prepared for the year through our ‘O’ weeks; held the first School Community Council meeting; staff members have attended Professional Learning; and tomorrow we share our first Whole School prayer Time together.

All of these events have provided opportunities for the many facets of our school/parish community to interact, share the load, develop relationships, support, cooperate, guide, help, understand, trust and communicate – all the attributes (and I’m sure there are more) required for a healthy, successful partnership between home and school. My thanks to all those who have been involved already in such a short time frame.

You will see in the Community Council Corner that we have some new volunteers for this important role in our school. One of their tasks involves the volunteer sheet you received following our information evening. Please take the time to complete this sheet by selecting the way you can help your child’s school (and so help your child) to provide all the wonderful experiences that lead to a great education for life.

Parenting expert, Dr Michael Grose states: “Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.”

In an attempt to streamline our school-home communication in 2014, I will start by asking you to send a quick email to the office.stmichaelsps@cg.catholic.edu.au to let me know if you find the newsletter format the best way for you to receive school information and do you read it all? Thank you.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – 9 – 15 MARCH – Advance notice

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2014 will be celebrated across ACT and NSW schools in week six of this term. This year the focus will be on how Catholic Schools provide ‘More than a Great Education’ – highlighting the work done by Catholic Schools ensuring that every student has the opportunity for a great education, as well as the nurturing and support to develop to their full potential as an individual, guided by the teachings of Jesus and supported by dedicated teachers and support staff. CSW is also about strengthening relationships among all who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

To celebrate CSW in 2014, St Michael’s will continue what has become a fairly recent ‘tradition’; we will open our doors to invited guests from our political and business community as well as our St Michael’s families as we celebrate and share a community breakfast on Thursday 13th March. Please see the invitation attached to the email or on our website and contact Lisa to put your names on the list. We look forward to celebrating with all our families as a means of thanking you for your support.

At 9:30am following the breakfast, the whole school will join with the Parishioners to celebrate Mass in the church. All families are invited and welcome to join us.

Yours in partnership
Judy

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**COMING EVENTS**
- **Friday 21st February**
  - Whole School Prayer Time 5/6P @ 12.50pm
- **Wednesday 26th February**
  - Literacy Workshops 9.30am & 5.30pm

**Thursday 27th February**
- Yrs 2. 3 & 4 Netball Clinics

**IMPORTANT DATES**
- **Wednesday 26th February**
  - Literacy Workshops 9.30am or 5.30pm

**NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**
- Sacramental Programs note
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

As we move into the term we are faced with the many challenges which will help us to learn, to grow and to appreciate our school, our families and our world.

Whole School Prayer Time: We come together with the school in prayer tomorrow for our first WSPT for 2014. You are invited to share this time with the children at 12.50pm in the Church. Year 5/6 P will direct our prayer as we look at our world in all its beauty and our place in it.

Weekday Mass: Today Year 1F attended morning Mass with the parish. It is always terrific to see parents come along with their children to these events. Next Thursday Year 2W will attend the 9.30am parish Mass.

Ash Wednesday Mass - 5th March: The whole school will attend Mass at 12.00pm. All parent and friends are welcome.

Sacramental Reception at St Michael’s: Some changes in the school scheduling for sacramental reception have been put in place as of this year. Please refer to the note that was sent home this week. Any questions please feel free to contact us at the school. The sacrament of Confirmation will take place on August 20th with a 6pm Mass celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

HOME READING

Reading at home is an essential component of the reading program at St Michael’s. It provides students with extended practice and engagement in comprehending texts they can read and want to read. Home Reading is part of the homework and will support students’ reading development and foster a positive home/school connection.

Through the Home Reading program at St Michael’s Primary School we endeavour to provide students the opportunity;

- to experience reading in a variety of situations so that it becomes a pleasurable and productive experience.
- to access a wide range of print materials, including all genres of fiction, non fiction, poetry, plays, student’s own writing and a variety of print material.
- to progress in becoming selective in their choice of reading materials.
- to be knowledgeable about the purpose and organisation of books.
- to learn to read through a variety of methods.
- to nurture a love of reading.

This week we started the Home Reading Program for all students from Years One to Six. Students from Years One to Four have a Home Reading pack which includes a Home Reading Log, a First Steps Reading handout ‘Supporting Oral Reading at Home’ and their reading book. Students in Years Five to Six will keep their Reading Log as a Wikki on the LiFE platform. We encourage that all students read nightly from Wednesday to Tuesday and that parents sign off each night as the reading is done. This gives us the opportunity to track the amount of reading that is done and assist the reading development. Kindergarten home reading will commence the second half of Term 1 following preliminary testing.

There will be a Literacy Parent Workshop on 26th February 2014 where we will discuss the parents role in assisting with reading whether it be at school or at home. Two sessions will be run for your convenience, one at 9.30am and the other at 5.30pm. This workshop 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. If you are attending could I ask you to ring Lisa Monro at the front office (6241 4022) and let us know.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The St Michael’s Community Council held our first Council meeting for 2014 last Tuesday evening. Our Council members for this year are:

Council Chair – Colleen Welsh  Treasurer – Leon Sanft
Vice Chair – Nicole Dwight  Parent Representative – Stuart Duncan
Secretary – Felicity Greenville  Parent Representative – Michelle Hastie

Following our meeting we all attended a Professional Development Session on School Governance which was run by the CEO for all northside schools and hosted by St Michael’s. The session outlined the roles and responsibilities of the council and validated the good work we are doing here at St Michael’s. These sessions are held once a year and are invaluable for new council members.

We look forward to working with the Staff and Families of St Michael’s this year. Should you wish to contact the council please email us on council.stmichaelsps@catholic.edu.au

Colleen Welsh
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival will be held on **Sunday March 30th** 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. Notes for this event were sent home last Friday.

**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 by **Tuesday 25th February**. The registration fee for each child will be **$20.00**. Food vouchers will also be offered for an additional cost of **$5.00** per child. Each team must have a Manager and a Coach. Unfortunately if these positions are not filled by parent volunteers then the team will not be entered in the carnival. Please indicate on the permission form if you can assist with either role. Details of the carnival are available on the St Thomas the Apostle Website and will be progressively updated in the lead-up to the carnival.

BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
If your child has been selected to represent our school at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival on **Tuesday 18th March** they would have received a note on Tuesday. Please return this note (along with the $5 cost) in an envelope clearly labelled with your child’s name and ‘BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL’ written on it. These notes will need to be returned to school no later than **Wednesday 26th February**.

CAPITAL FOOTBALL 5-A-SIDE GALA DAY
On **Wednesday 12th March** Capital Football is running a 5-a-side Gala Day for Year Three and Four students. The focus for the day is on enjoyment and participation and will provide students with the opportunity to experience soccer in a fun environment. Interested students in Years Three and Four have been given a permission note for this event. If you would like them to participate please fill in the appropriate information and return it to school by **Thursday 27th February**. Unfortunately we are only allowed to register a limited number of teams so it will be first in best dressed. Thank you to those people who have already returned their note.

WOOLIES EARN AND LEARN
Last week our school received a very exciting package containing lots of great resources from the Woolies Earn and Learn points that we collected last year. Some of the resources we received included; trundle wheels, fraction bingo games, magnetic numbers, numbered sacks for sack races, a dance CD and even some craft items! Thank you for your support of this program in 2013.

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

**St Michael’s Week Four SWPBS focus—**
Be respectful, specifically

**DO I BACKCHAT?**

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Joel 5/6P, Charlotte 5/6C, Thomas 5/6C and Will 2W,
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

KEEP CONNECTED WITH THE LATEST SCHOOL ALERTS AND INFORMATION
SKOOLBAG COMMUNICATION APP
Get us on your Smart Phone…
We currently have 138 users of Skoolbag. Our School has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name “St Michaels Primary School Kaleen” in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. You can download the app for free. Please go to the Attachments section under Communication of the school website for comprehensive instructions on downloading the App. For those who do not have a smart phone can also access all the same information via the control centre for the app, available on the school’s website.

BOOKCLUB
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. If further enrolments are not received today the lessons will be cancelled.

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.

ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

ST MICHAEL’S 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. On Thursday the 27th of February there will be homemade Cinnamon Scrolls for $1.20 each.

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTENE - Help required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2013
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

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<th>Thursday 27/2</th>
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<td>Erin Slinger, Maree Tuohy</td>
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<td>Liz Segeri</td>
<td>Kathy Bertelj, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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Belinda Larner, HELP REQUIRED

Wednesday & Thursday: 10.00am – 2.00pm  Friday: 9.00 am – 11.30am and 11.30am – 2.00pm