Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

In our current global world and in many areas closer to home, the word ‘tolerance’ is being used to convey both positive and negative points of view. When dealing with children, I believe this graphic depicts the message/meaning that is relevant for our children to learn in today’s world. Tolerance does not mean ‘putting up with’ others, it is appreciating and respecting diversity in all its forms.

Every day there are occasions when we support our students to develop their understanding and respect for diversity in our community, and how to continue to ‘live in harmony’ with each other at St Michael’s Catholic School and elsewhere. Many of these occasions also serve to reinforce their resilience in managing their personal relationships at school; and so support their mental health and well-being. Remember, every child is at their own unique point of development. As ‘respect’ is one of the key components of our school-wide positive behaviour, I ask that all families support the development of this definition of ‘tolerance’ in the children as a vital ingredient for their future success.

I have uploaded two very relevant articles from expert Michael Grose to our website for your information – Tolerance: a vital ingredient for your child’s success; and 10 ways to promote good mental health and well-being in kids. Thank you for working alongside us in this very important aspect of the children’s education.

CONFIRMATION

Next week many of the children in Year 6 and other children in the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Freely and lovingly, they are saying, Come Holy Spirit, and they are acknowledging that God is coming to stay with them for the rest of their lives so that they will never be alone. The word Spirit means breath. Just as breath comes into your lungs, giving life to your body, so the Holy Spirit gives God’s life to the whole of your being. Just as we cannot see our breath, so too we cannot see the Holy Spirit. Just as we know that breath is present and enables us to walk, laugh, cry, talk and call out, so the Holy Spirit is just as really present to enable us to live in the way Jesus has taught us. He is guiding us and never leaving us alone for every moment of our life. The characteristics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control are the fruits of the Spirit which we can action in our everyday lives. I encourage you to take some time this week to find opportunities to display these to your children and to affirm these traits in your children’s behaviour.

I congratulate our young people, their parents, and others who have helped in preparing for this wonderful Sacrament. I ask that you please take the time to say a special prayer for the young people in our school and parish who are taking this next step in their journey of faith. Perhaps this short prayer that the children are saying at the start of each school day, could also be used as you begin your evening meal together? ‘We pray that the Holy Spirit will touch the lives of all those who will soon receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Amen’

REMINDEERS

- An important reminder that school starts at 8.50 and finishes at 3pm. 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.
- HATS: Thank you for your support in ensuring your child now has their hat at school each day. There were a large number of students who had their hats on before school this week, which is great, and our aim is for everyone to have them on before and after school, as well as at the breaks. Keep up the good work of protecting the children’s skin! Thank you to the families who were able to donate packets of lollies for the Tombola Stall. Ongoing donations are more than welcome.

A quote for your consideration:

Tolerance is giving to every other human being, every right that you claim for yourself.

Robert Green Ingersoll

Yours in partnership

Judy
PARISH NEWS
Assumption of Mary: The feast of the Assumption of Mary is one of the few Holy Days of Obligation on the Catholic calendar. Mass will be held on Monday 15th August at 9:30am at St Michael’s Church. Everyone is welcome.

St Michael’s Feast Day, Parish Celebrations: Sunday 18th September at 10am for Mass with a shared morning tea in the school hall afterwards. Please contact kyleanne.swan@cg.catholic.edu.au if your child would like to assist with a role during the Mass.

Mini Vinnies
Our dedicated team of Mini Vinnies students are fundraising for two organisations. If you would like to assist their efforts you can by:
- St Vincent de Paul appeal - Seeking all unwanted jackets and blankets. Please drop off to the front office.
- Juvenile Diabetes - Jelly Bean guessing competition. 50cents a guess. Multiple entries are of course accepted. Teachers and parents are eligible to guess. The prize will be the jars of jelly beans. All money raised will be donated to Juvenile Diabetes.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
I (Mrs de Smet) will be attending this carnival next Tuesday 9th August. I will be there from around 8am in the morning. Please ensure that your child/ren is at the AIS at least 30 minutes prior to their event/s as the times provided on the note are only approximates. We are looking forward to a great day! It can be a little chilly in the morning though, so if you are planning on staying to watch your child compete you may like to consider bringing something cozy to sit on ;)

K-2 SWIMMING
Thank you to the families that have returned their swimming notes. Swimming lessons for these grades will be taking place this term in Weeks 7 and 8. More information will be sent home shortly.

BOOROWA CARNIVAL
We are in DESPERATE NEED of a few more children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who would like to play netball at this carnival. If your child would like to participate please fill in a form ASAP and return it to school. We are very excited about sending teams to this event and it is a great day out in Boorowa.

CONGRATULATIONS
Well done to Will 3/4B who competed in the ACT and NSW Interschool’s Skiing Championships on 28/29 July at Perisher Valley. This was Will’s first time in a ski race and he did exceptional in his two events. In Will’s own words “Even though I was nervous before the start, I had lots of fun and it was a great experience!”

STUDENT VOICE FORUM
On Thursday 28th July, we went to the Students’ Voice Forum to discuss ways to make students have more of a voice in regards to decisions in our schools. We discussed ways that students can get their voice heard. We also spoke about roles that can be made for students’ ideas to get to the Principal. Thank you to Mrs McPadden for accompanying us on the day.
Written By James and Grace 5/6M

NAPLAN ONLINE
Last term we informed you that NAPLAN online is being introduced across Australia from 2017, with an aim for all Australian schools to be administering NAPLAN online by 2019.

Our school is participating in a trial of the new NAPLAN Online platform (the computer system the test will be taken on) on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 August. This trial is not ‘another’ NAPLAN test for 2016, rather, it is a chance for teachers and students to test the new platform in a real-life classroom environment. Students in Years 4 and 6 will participate in the trial, providing them with a preview for next year. Students will undertake two online tests that include examples of the new NAPLAN online questions. Each of these tests will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. It is recommended that students bring their own headphones for the tests.

Participating in this trial is important as it will help us make sure we have adequate bandwidth capacity, wireless connectivity, and whether students have access to a sufficient number of devices for NAPLAN testing. During the trial, we will also have the opportunity to practise managing the classroom for an online assessment, as well as the new test administration processes. Further information is available on the Education Directorate Website www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/naplan-online

IMPORTANT CANTEEN INFORMATION
We require your help. If you are able to volunteer for the Term 3 Canteen Roster, please contact Lisa on 6241 4022. We are also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the Canteen Roster. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

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Educational Experience presents
FUNDRAISING
A brochure came home this week from Education Experience with a range of toys and games to purchase. With every purchase from the brochure, families can nominate St Michael’s Primary to receive 20% off their purchase in valuable learning resource vouchers for the school to spend at Educational Experience.
Harmony Fair Update

If you have any capacity to volunteer, organise an event, to get your dance or judo troop on the stage, to assist with First Aid, to donate a prize, or if you have an idea that you want to pursue, then let us know.

Contact us on our email—harmonyfaircoordinators@gmail.com

Please like ‘St Michael's Harmony Fair’ on Facebook to show your support for the fair and our sponsors.

We appreciate the support from those who have attended the Fair meetings and volunteered to coordinate stalls!

We are seeking donations of prizes to the Fair, which will be used towards the raffle and the tombola. If you or a family member own a business and would like to make a donation please contact the school or the coordinators for details.

STALL HOLDERS
We are looking for quality stall holders to expand the fete - the premise is that each stall holder will pay $40. Please ask any family or friend contacts that would be interested in any stalls eg beauty products, candles or craft. Please speak to them regarding having a stall and provide our email address as contact and we can take it from there.

CRAFT STALL DONATIONS
This year we are hoping to put together some amazing handmade items for sale! Potential items that we are hoping to make include girls skirts and t-shirts, ribbon wands, hair clips and hair ties, handmade jewellery, bunting, handmade play dough, hand towels and a variety of Christmas craft items.

To make these items we are seeking your support through the donation of craft and sewing supplies such as fabrics, elastics, ribbons and snagless hair ties.

If you think you may be able to assist in this way, please drop them to Lisa at the front office. In addition, we are also looking for donations of handmade items suitable to sell at the craft stall. If you or anyone in your family (including grandparents) might be able to assist by contributing items for sale, please contact harmonyfaircoordinators@gmail.com.

Our new option to pay through Qkr will make your life easier for this Fair!

When the time comes, you will be able to pay for wrist bands; Mick the star; raffle tickets; and any new innovations that are introduced for this Fair.

Download the app now so you are ready;
Details for this are available on our website under attachments.

Thanks to our Fair Sponsors so far...