Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

Year 5/6 camp was an invigorating and fun way to start the week! Our senior students were a credit to themselves, their families and their school. Some of them learnt some very necessary independence skills as they survived three days without their parents, and realised they can do many things for themselves!! A number of them faced challenges a little fearfully; but then successfully achieved them with encouragement from their classmates. Those 21st century essential skills of communication and collaboration were certainly put to the test, with at least some measure of success from all students. Quite an achievement! A special thank you to Mrs Hardwicke, Mrs Mckeough, Mrs McPadden and Mr Wensing who also attended this camp and contributed in a myriad of ways, including being ‘on duty’ 24 hours a day. The children are very fortunate to have such dedicated teachers.

We also celebrated Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday this week, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent originated in the early days of the Church as a time of preparation for Easter and for the Baptism of new members of the Church.

Traditionally this has been a time to ‘give something up’. You often hear that people are giving up chocolate, desserts and alcohol! Whilst this may improve our physical health and are all good things to do, you have to wonder how it might help our spiritual well-being? If we have to give something up maybe it should be gossiping about others? Or maybe we can take up something? Going to Mass, praying with our children or showing compassion to those we find hard to like? For each of us the forty days of Lent provides an opportunity to examine the reality of our lives and plant seeds of change and new growth. It can be a time of healing, renewal and recommitment.

I encourage each family to take on a special commitment for this time of Lent. 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). This should be a reminder to us that Jesus dwells in those around us, especially the needy, downtrodden and the despised. We will only be cheating ourselves if we say we love Jesus while refusing to respond in peace to those around us. Becoming involved in our ‘Fishitas’ fundraising can be a great way to ‘give’. See weekly notes from Mr Wensing in our RE section.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – 8 – 14 MARCH 2015 – Advance notice

Educating for Today and Tomorrow will be the focus for this year’s Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2015 which will be celebrated across ACT and NSW schools in week six of this term. This theme is to tie in with the 50th anniversary of Gravissimum Educationis. Gravissimum Educationis, the Declaration on Christian Education, is a document of the Second Vatican Council and was created by the Synod Fathers in 1965. The document recognised the continuing need for the Church to support parents in the education of their children so that they might be better equipped to participate professionally in the social, political and economic life of their communities.

So, even 50 years ago it was recognised that our Catholic Schools must work develop a ‘partnership’ relationship with parents and families, to effectively educate our children for their future in society.

To celebrate CSW in 2015, St Michael’s will continue what has become a fairly recent ‘tradition’; we will open our doors to our St Michael’s families as well as invited guests from our political and business community, as we celebrate and share a community breakfast on Thursday 12th March.

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.

PRINCIPAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Time has passed very quickly and this year it 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 following the link to the survey. Your feedback will be appreciated. Thank you in advance.  

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZHQZ3PT

Yours in partnership

Judy

COMING EVENTS
Friday 27th February
Whole School Prayer Time
1/2H @ 12.50

Friday 6th March
Assembly 1/2S @ 12.50

DATES TO REMEMBER
Friday 27th March
School Disco

Thursday 2nd April
School Photo Day

NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK
- Catholic School’s Soccer Carnival Notes
REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

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.

CLASS ROLLS & LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DEPARTURES

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 the classroom.

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

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ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to the gold dingoes who came first at our swimming carnival. Well done to red kangaroos, blue tongue lizards and green crocodiles who came 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival will be held on **Sunday 15th March at the University of Canberra from 8.30am to 3pm (approximately)**. 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.

An email went out to all families earlier in the week about this carnival. If you would like your child/ren to participate, please return these by Friday at the latest. Once teams are finalised we will provide further details regarding any training and arrangements for the day.

An email was also sent out about free soccer clinics run by Coerver Coaching for children in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2. If you would like your child to be a part of this please send your nomination form to Jo Krippner at Jo.krippner@cg.catholic.edu.au

LITTLE ATHLETICS
This week every child in the school participated in a one off Little Athletics Clinic. The students had a great time doing some different activities. If you would like any more information regarding Little Athletics please see the flyer that your child received this week.

FUTURE BRUMBIES
Rosary school at Watson is seeking some Under 12s and Under 8s to be a part of their 'Eagles Rugby' teams. If your child is interested in being a part of either of these teams please contact David Dwyer on 0403 977 575 as soon as possible. Come along and have some fun.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP
COOBA 2015
This week Year 5/6 went to Camp Cooba from Monday to Wednesday. At Camp Cooba we had so much fun doing all of the activities. The Gladiator Challenge was the most popular because we got covered in muddy water and went down the biggest slip and slide we had ever seen. There were also a lot of other fun things to do like drive dirt buggies, play Earthball, conquer our fears on the flying fox and develop our team work skills during Team Manoeuvres, Team Initiatives and Bush Games. I don’t think that anyone will forget the massive hail storm on the first night that we were there! Mrs Walsh’s car got really badly damaged in the storm. We had a great trip and are very tired today! Paddy and Ella.

2ND HAND SCHOOL CLOTHING POOL
We have quite a few items of pre-loved school uniforms available at the Front Office for a gold coin donation. Please feel free to drop by the Office and check out the rack. Brand new school hats are also available for sale @ $9.00 each.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Ada KD, Zavier 1/2S and Joel 5/6H
We hope you have a great day!

CANTEEN - 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

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.

Last weeks answers:
K-2 (Easter Sunday 5th April) - no entry
3-6 (41 years ago, when Sally was 13 and her mother was 39.) - no correct entry

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
DANCECORE - Dance classes have commenced Thursday’s 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.

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am
Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am
Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

K-2
How many edges on a cube?

Year 3-6
Two girls were born to the same mother, on the same day, at the same time, in the same month and year, and they are not twins. How can this be?