Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

This week our Year 3 and 5 students have participated in the NAPLAN assessments. Whilst there was some nervousness displayed, the children responded very well. As stated frequently in media reports, NAPLAN can’t be studied for, is not a pass/fail test and is only a snapshot of each child for one test on one day. The children were, however, prepared for the process of the style of testing.

Also, over recent days I have seen two examples of a message from teachers that have been sent to children taking these tests. Essentially the message is - that the people marking these tests don’t really know the uniqueness of the individual; they don’t know that they are a great friend to others and people can depend on them; that they love to dance or play sport; that they spend every moment of their free time drawing or creating; that they know every small detail about ancient Egypt or the workings of a computer; that they are great at helping around the house or the classroom; that they care about other people and the environment; or that they are caring and thoughtful and always do their very best. These things can’t be tested, so these people are only reporting on what they scored in these tests on one day. It does not report on the effort they show every day and the successes they have had through hard work. So they are encouraged to do their best and try not to worry about it. A very important message!

WALKATHON – We have less than a week to go! We greatly appreciate your efforts so far with gaining sponsors for this event. Every child’s/family’s contribution, no matter how big or how small, helps support the students learning. The funds raised will be used to continue to increase our iPad collection and our Sporting equipment. We also thank all those who have offered to walk with the children next Tuesday, helping to send the message of the importance of exercise. BUT we would really welcome some more walkers, and we also need some more help to monitor checkpoints to ensure the safety of all your children. If you can spare a couple of hours on Tuesday, PLEASE call the school and let us know. Thank you in advance😊

ENROLMENT FOR 2016

The official enrolment period for 2016 continues till 24th May. I encourage all current families who have siblings who will turn 5 years by the 30 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.

CANTEEN

Thank you for your understanding and support of the changes to the operation of the canteen. Last week’s service went well and I thank those parents who utilised the service and also those who were able to assist on the day. Currently the ongoing operation of the canteen is reliant on volunteer help, under the guidance of the School Council. If you can spare an hour or two on any Friday to ensure the service can continue, please contact Lisa at the office. All help is greatly appreciated.

Thought for the Week

“Whatever they grow up to be, they are still our children, and the one most important of all the things we can give to them is unconditional love. Not a love that depends on anything at all except that they are our children.” Rosaleen Dickson

SUPPORT FOR THE HARDEST JOB – PARENTING! From Michael Grose

The following articles have been uploaded to the parenting folder on our website for your reference: ‘Don’t Yell, Move Closer’; and ‘What it means to be Emotionally Intelligent Parents’

Yours in partnership

Judy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
<th>Thursday 21st May</th>
<th>Thursday 22nd May</th>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
<th>NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th May</td>
<td>Touch Clinics—K-6</td>
<td>Whole School Prayer Time 3/4B @ 12.50pm</td>
<td>Monday 27th July</td>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
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<td>Assembly 1/2W and CBA Banking Presentation @ 12.30</td>
<td>Friday 22nd May</td>
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<td>Tuesday 19th May</td>
<td>St Michael’s Walkathon @10am</td>
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<td>Incursion—Indigenous Performer @ 2pm</td>
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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S**

**Mother’s Day**
Kindergarten celebrated a beautiful mother’s day liturgy on Wednesday 13th May, thank you to all those who could attend and we trust all mother’s in our community had a wonderful mother’s day.

**Whole School Prayer Time**
Every even week at 12:45pm in the Church the school gathers together in prayer. Our whole school prayer times for Term 2 are as follows:
- **Week: 4** Class: Year 5/6W Theme: Relationships
- **Week: 6** Class: Year 1/2S Theme: Education
- **Week: 8** Class: Year 3/4B Theme: Stewardship

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
- Sarah 3/4F, Isaac 1/2W, Hannah 1/2H
- And Ivan 3/4P

We hope you have a great day!

**ST MICHAEL’S WALKATHON TUESDAY, 19TH MAY 2015**
The St Michael’s Walkathon campaign for 2015 has been launched, and the students will be walking next Tuesday, 19th May. All students were given a sponsorship card to start collecting as many sponsors as possible amongst family, friends and workmates. (We do not encourage knocking on stranger’s doors!). Once again St Michael’s has been very fortunate to receive lots of wonderful prizes from ACT businesses to be awarded to our participating students.

**FOR EVERY $5.00 COLLECTED, STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN A TICKET TO GO INTO A BARREL FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF MANY PRIZES FROM OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS. VOUCHERS WILL BE DRAWN AT A SPECIAL WALKATHON ASSEMBLY.**

Congratulations to Brooke H-O 1/2S, Orla KD and Stefano KD for winning a Smiggle or ITunes voucher in our weekly barrel draws.

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH**
Don’t forget to bring your note back by tomorrow to order your sausage and drink to have after the Walkathon.

We are desperately looking for helpers to sit on checkpoints and help out on the day, please contact the school if you can help out on the day.

**CONFIRMATION – Year 6**
- **Wednesday 10th June**
  - @ 7pm Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick
  - **Sunday 14th June**
    - @ 8am Commitment Mass
    - **Friday 14th August**
      - @ 6pm Sacrament of Confirmation

**RECONCILIATION – Year 3**
- **Wednesday 9th September**
  - @ 7pm Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick
  - **Sunday 13th September**
    - @ 8am Commitment Mass
  - **Wednesday 4th November**
    - @ 6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

**WHOOPING COUGH**
School communities can help reduce pertussis transmission through informing staff and parents that pertussis is currently circulating and:
- Recommending that children and teachers with a cough should be assessed by their general practitioner
- Ensuring that children or staff confirmed to have pertussis are excluded until they are no longer infectious (five days of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been given, or 21 days after the onset of cough, whichever is sooner)


**YEAR 1/2 EXCURSION TO TIDBINBILLA**
Last week, on Thursday, 7th May, the Year One and Two classes travelled by bus to Tidbinbilla. We were all very excited to visit a place that is special to us and especially our Indigenous community.

A ranger named Jackson, taught us about some of the tools and weapons that were once used in the area. He demonstrated throwing a spear using a woomera. We were all amazed how fast and hard it hit the nearby trees.

After lunch we had a lovely bush walk where we saw animals and water. We were really quiet for a minute and heard loads of animals calling out to us. We saw plaques with pictures and information about the Bogon Moths. On the trip home we were so tired that some of us fell asleep.

Thanks for a great experience.
BELCONNEN REGION CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
This event is being held on Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May. All notes, along with the $7 fee (if your child is participating in this carnival) should have made their way back to school by today. If we have not received a note back by now we are assuming that you would not like your child to participate in the carnival. Thank you for your assistance with this. We are looking forward to an exciting carnival next Friday (hopefully it won’t be quite as cold as it was this morning!).

WALKATHON
Our walkathon is being held next Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} May. Thank you for your efforts so far to collect sponsors. If you are able to assist us in any way on the day please make your way to the courtyard at 9.30am and we will go from there. If you would like to walk with your child/ren’s class this would also be fantastic. There is a sausage sizzle on the day, so please ensure that these notes make their way back in to school ASAP (if you haven’t already done so). Every child will receive a free ice block to say thank you for your efforts.

TOUCH CLINICS
For the next four weeks all students at St. Michael’s will be participating in Touch Clinics. They had a great first session today and can’t wait for Thursday to roll around again next week! A big thank you to Miss Peterson for organising this unique sporting experience.

POSITION VACANT - The Cathedral Administrator invites applications for the position of Parish Secretary at, St Christopher’s Cathedral Parish, Forrest. The role involves the provision of a range of clerical and administrative duties to ensure the smooth and effective operation of the parish office. For more information, please see Lisa at the Front Office.

HARMONY AWARDS
Congratulations to the following children who will receive a Harmony Award at tomorrow’s assembly.
KD: Delilah, Cameron & Jayla
1/2H: Hannah & Anthony
1/2S: Jett & Chelsea
1/2W: James & Angelina
3/4B: Emily & Patrick
3/4F: Bryce & Daniela
3/4P: Ashley, Amelia, Pharrell & Zoe N
5/6H: Reuben & Isabella F
5/6W: Saverio, Cooper V & Isabella M

THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK IS BACK!
We have books available for sale at the Front Office or you can click on the link above and purchase a digital membership for your smartphone. Please see Lisa in the Front Office if you have any queries.

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 desperately required in the Canteen on Friday’s, without your help the canteen will not be able to operate. 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.
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 47 students (no correct answer)
3-6 It took the painter 3 hours (Zoe M 3/4F)

K-2
I have 8 smarties and I give 4 away to my sister. How many do I have left? Hint: Draw a picture.

Year 3-6
I buy a tracksuit for $79.95, a soccer ball for $39.85 and a pair of boots for $89.75. What change will I get from five $50.00 notes?

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.

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

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

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