



Dear St Michael's Families and Friends

As we move through the weeks of Lent, the links between the Church's Lenten focus of *Prayer, Self-Denial and Helping Others* and the *Special Year of Mercy*, are providing a few options for 'giving' and/or 'giving up' that will have a positive effect on your life.

For this week I put forward possibly giving up - **Self-pity ~ this is the 'I wish' and the 'if only' club.** *Instead of complaining about what I lack, I could be grateful for what I have – a great lesson for our children to learn too.* This could also expand into sharing what we have with others through Project Compassion, or perhaps sharing our time by helping with the Vinnies doorknock appeal?

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 6-12 March 2016 - Advance notice

During this week in March, our school will join with more than 620 Catholic Schools across NSW and ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week (CSW). This year's theme is **'I belong. You belong. We belong.'** This theme ties with the Church's celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which recognises our catholic faith values of forgiveness, compassion, strength, aid and love. It also aligns well with our school focus on the well-being of everyone, as we investigate the 'Kids Matter' program.

In 2016 we will continue the tradition of sharing a meal together with our St Michael's families, members of the parish, and invited guests from our political and business community. We will come together for **breakfast on Wednesday 9th March from 7.30am.** An invitation is attached to the newsletter email, with **RSVPs due by 3rd March for catering purposes.**

Our school **Swimming Carnival** will also be held this week on **Monday 7th March at Queanbeyan** pool and we would love to see you there if that is possible.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL'S

Project Compassion- Caritas Australia

In order to raise awareness for the communities that Project Compassion look after, the students have been walking small distances with small amounts of water in buckets. The children are learning about how far some children have to walk to; go to school, collect water, get food and receive basic care.

*'A little bit of mercy
makes the world less
cold and more just!'*
- Pope Francis

Thank you to the Families who have bought back their Project Compassion box. To see how much money we have raised for Project Compassion there is a display at the end of the library facing the courtyard. Each foot is valued at \$50. We almost have enough to put another foot up. If you would like to learn more about Project Compassion, head to: <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This week the school Community Council met for the first time this year. We welcomed Fiona Scherl, Belinda Larner and Jeremy Lane, (in his absence), along with Stuart Duncan who is returning for a second term, to the Council Executive. These new representatives joined Anna Lutz and Nicole Dwight, who are the continuing members of the team. These Parents are your representatives on a vital council who support me in the running of the school through a governance role. This year the Council roles are Chair, Stuart; Deputy Chair, Fiona; Secretary, Anna; Treasurer, Jeremy; and Parent representatives, Belinda and Nicole.

One of the important practical roles they have is the organisation of the Parent Representative Network (PRN) across the classes. *Please see the message regarding the PRN elsewhere in this newsletter to see if this is an area in which you may be able to help.*

Please save the date - 6.30pm, 15th March. The next Council meeting will be an **Open Meeting for all Parents / Guardians**, where you can take the opportunity to meet your representatives over some wine and cheese.

*Yours in partnership
Judy*

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- 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

- School Photo envelopes
- Swimming Carnival notes

Our first Blue Band recipients for 2016 - well done to Caitlin & Stella



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)**. Your child/ren should have brought home a note about this carnival today. Please read all the information carefully and send the consent form and event nominations (only for children in years 2-6) back to school by next Thursday 25th February. If for some reason your child is unable to attend the carnival please send the consent form back to school with 'DO NOT GIVE' circled at the top of the form. This will ensure that we are not chasing your child for this note and the event nomination form unnecessarily.

If you would like to help with the carnival in some way please send the slip at the bottom of the first page of the note back to school with the relevant information selected. Thank you for your assistance with all of this.

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.

CANTEEN

The Community Council would like to announce that the Canteen will reopen in Term 2. After analysing data, surveys and financial viability, the decision has been made to trial outsourcing to Empire Catering. The Canteen will continue for one day per week and an assessment of sustainability will be made at the end of Term 2. Whilst the Canteen will be run and managed by Empire Catering, we will continue to ask for the support of St Michael's community members to volunteer for counter service. More information, including an updated menu, will be provided throughout this term as we prepare to reopen. Thank you for your support.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Ada 1/2S & Zavier 1/2S

We hope you have a great day!



LITERACY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

St Michael's staff will facilitate two literacy workshops for parents and volunteers. These workshops will demonstrate strategies to support successful learners at home and school. We ask that all volunteers offering to participate in classrooms attend one of these workshops to maintain a consistent approach with strategies and skills being taught at school.

Workshop 1: Thursday 25th February 9:15-10:00am

Workshop 2 (repeat session): Thursday 25th February 5:00-5:45pm

Please RSVP to breen.fox@cq.catholic.edu.au

SPELLODROME

Homework began in many classes this week. Your child's class is now also using Spellodrome – an online resource to assist students to develop independent learning skills and spelling awareness. All students have been provided with a username and password, allowing them to access Spellodrome from school and home.

We encourage you to spend time with your child to look at the program and gain an understanding of the content and benefits.

To view Spellodrome:

1. Visit www.spellodrome.com.au
2. Ensure pop-ups are enabled for the website
3. Select, **Sign In**, enter your child's details



IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO START THE YEAR SMOOTHLY

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.

School Photos: An envelope has gone home today to order your school photos. Please ensure they are returned by Friday 4th March. Sibling envelopes are available from the Front Office.

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.

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.



PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK

Thank you to those parents who have nominated for the role of PRN. We still require representative nominations for **1/2S, 3/4B** and **5/6M**. Nominations are also still open for all other classes. If you are available to liaise with the class teacher and assist in conveying information about classroom and school activities to the class, please contact breen.fox@cq.catholic.edu.au.

Roles will be confirmed by Week 6 as all appointed PRNs are asked to attend the **Community Council Open Meeting on Tuesday 15th of March at 6.30pm.**