HARMONY HAPPENINGS

Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and we will celebrate this special event next week. Lent originated in the early days of the Church as a time of preparation for Easter, when those who wished to become members of the Church were instructed in the faith and prepared for Baptism.

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 ‘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” (Matthew 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.

There is a very special opportunity for our community this year, as Sr Kate has organised a ‘Lenten Reflection’ time on a Friday morning during Lent and she hopes that many of you will join her. I have included her invitation below.

LENTEN REFLECTION

How many people do we encounter each day? each week? each year? throughout the course of our lives?

How often do we encounter Jesus present in these people?

“Encounter” is the name given to our Lenten Journey this year and it highlights the distinction between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus through our encounter with Him.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday March 5th and on each Friday during Lent you are invited to meet at the Parish House (Presbytery) at 9.00am for prayer, reflection and gentle discussion on “Encountering Jesus” and renewing our relationship with Him during Lent, even have a cuppa.

Everyone is welcome on Friday’s March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and April 4th and 11th.

Pre-schoolers welcome to join in.

COMMUNICATION—NEWSLETTER?

Thank you to those 17 families who responded to my question last week about reading the newsletter. Because I know you are so busy, I will ask again this week. So if you haven’t already responded and you do read the newsletter, please send a quick reply to the email to let Lisa know. Thank you in advance:)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – 9 – 15 MARCH – ‘More than a Great Education’

The partnership established between families and school at St Michael’s contributes greatly to our success in providing ‘More than a Great Education’ for your children. To celebrate CSW in 2014, St Michael’s will again open our doors to invited guests from our education, political and business community as well as our St Michael’s families, to celebrate and share a community breakfast on Thursday 13th March at 7.30am. Please RSVP to Lisa by Friday 7th March to help us with catering. We look forward to celebrating our partnership with all our families and 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

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 5th March
Ash Wednesday Mass
12pm

Thursday 6th March
Netball Clinics
Yrs 2, 3 & 4

Friday 7th March
Whole School Prayer Time
Yr 5/6C @ 12.50pm

Thursday 13th March
Catholic School’s Week
Breakfast @ 7.30am
Mass @ 9.30am

IMPORTANT DATES

26th/27th/28th March
Year 5/6 Sydney Camp

Sunday 30th March
Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival

NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK

- Catholic Voice
- Caritas Mission Boxes
As we celebrate the beginning of the season of Lent, we are reminded of ways we can ‘give’ to others through the launch of the Project Compassion appeal. For 50 years, Caritas Australia has been helping those less fortunate than us, and this appeal has been a significant part of providing that help. Donation boxes will be sent home to each family and also available at school. We encourage families to help the children understand the difference even a small donation can make. The poster near the entrance to the school gives some examples.

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

For over 20 years, International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) have taken place in schools throughout Australia. Your children are invited to participate in 2014. ICAS are initiatives of Educational Assessment Australia (EAA). EAA is non-profit organisation owned by the University of New South Wales (UNSW). ICAS provide opportunities for all students to gain a measure of their own achievements in external assessment situations. They provide teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing.

All students receive certificates and individual student reports, indicating which questions they answered correctly, their total scores, as well as their averages compared with the rest of the students in their states/regions. The student reports are also useful for highlighting students’ strengths and weaknesses in the skills and processes involved in the competitions in which they participated. Parents, students and teachers receive comprehensive feedback on the students’ achievements and this benefits every student.

Full payment of all competitions is required by Wednesday 26th March 2014. If payment is not received by the due date, your child will not be entered into the competitions, regardless of a nomination form being received.

The competition date and entry fee for each competition is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday 20 May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 4 June</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 16 June</td>
<td>$18.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 June</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 29 July</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will notice that some competitions are more expensive than others. This is due to the fact that these papers are hand marked by experienced teachers.

These competitions are open for students from Years Three to Six. There are no expectations placed upon students to compete. If you wish for your child to participate in any of the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools please complete the slip that can be found on the school website under Communication and then attachments and return it and payment to the office by Wednesday, 26th March 2014. No late entries will be considered.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival will be held on Sunday 30th March 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. St Michael’s Primary School will be entering teams in both the Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 age group. Due to the low numbers of students this year we are extending the closing dates for nominations for all teams until tomorrow, Friday 28th February. If you would like your child/children to participate these forms must come to school by close of business tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their forms and money.

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
Thank you to all the families who have returned their notes and money for this carnival on Tuesday 18th March. If you have not done this could you please get the note and money back to school no later than tomorrow, Friday 28th February. If your child is not participating in the carnival could you please let us know so that we can finalise numbers.

CAPITAL FOOTBALL 5-A-SIDE GALA DAY
Thank you to all the nominations for the Gala Day. I am in the process of finalising teams and transportation. Please watch your child’s bag for a final note regarding this day.

SAVVY SCHOOL WEAR
Saavy School Wear in Mitchell are currently having a 20% sale on all summer and winter uniforms until February 28th. A list of the current uniforms from Savvy is available from the following link: http://www.savvyschoolwear.com.au/uniforms-by-school/private/st-michaels-primary-school/

COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORNER
“The Interest Group form is now available from the website for your convenience.” Under Communication—Attachments.
Thank you to those families who have returned their Parent Volunteer Interest Group forms. Your willingness to help is very much appreciated by our school community. For those of you who have yet to return your form, please consider how you can help out throughout the year. Many hands make light work! We have two events coming up in the near future which require parent help.

SAVE THE DATE—MORE INFORMATION TO COME
- School Disco - Friday 4th April. Help is required from 4.30pm - 8.30pm. This provides a great social occasion for our hardworking students and we can’t do it without parent help!
- Bunnings Fundraising BBQ – Saturday 24th May. Setup begins 8.30am and the BBQ runs for most of the day. This event provides financial support for our canteen which provides a great service to our families.

We look forward to your support.
Community Council

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PROGRAM
Our school rules are:

St Michael’s Week Five SWPBS focus—
Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be a Learner

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:
Izabella 3/4B, Hayley 5/6C and Paige 1S
We hope you have a great day!
ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

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.

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.canbera.ymca.org.au

PETE MORTON ACADEMY OF JUDO JUJUTSU KARATE
Classes held in the school hall on a Thursday evening for children and adults. Please contact Peter Wilson 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.

CANTEN 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.

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

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