Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends,

5/6 CAMP
Our Year 5/6 leaders are currently challenging themselves in many outdoor sport and recreation pursuits at Camp Cooba, near Berriedale. There is a lot of fun and a lot of learning happening in a myriad of ways. Some are learning organisation (of their belongings!!); others are learning acceptance of others’ idiosyncrasies away from the school setting; and some are learning new skills.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL
On Tuesday we had our first School Council meeting for the year, where we welcomed Mia Taylor and Gabriel Walsh to our committee. We thank Stuart Duncan (Chair), Fiona Scherl (Deputy Chair), Anna Lutz (Secretary) and Jeremy Lane (Treasurer) for taking on these important roles for another year. Please save the date - 6.30pm, 21st March, when the next Council meeting will be an Open Meeting for all Parents/Guardians. You can take the opportunity to meet your representatives over some wine and cheese and learn a little bit about the role of the council. You will also have the chance to investigate (Play with!) the Robotics/Electronics equipment that the Council purchased last year for the school. We would love to see you there.

DOORKNOCK APPEAL – St Vincent de Paul
In the spirit of lighting the way for others, the Kaleen St Vinnies group have requested our families to help with the annual February Doorknock Appeal. This is a very important collection to support the work of Vinnies throughout the year, as they help those in need in our community. There is one weekend and a lot of daylight saving evenings left in February when you and the family could take a walk to help with this cause. It only takes a couple of hours, so we encourage you to please collect a brochure from the front office and contact Mr Tim Power on 0437 013328 to volunteer for this very worthy cause.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Last week school photo envelopes were sent home with the students. Each student has their own Shootkey to make tracking the photos easier. To help the day run smoothly, we are asking that all envelopes be returned to the Front Office before photo day. If you would like to have sibling photos taken there are envelopes available for purchase from the Front Office.

PARENTING TIPS
Michael Grose also offers short online parenting courses. The term 1 topic is ‘Cracking the confidence code’; the details can be found at: http://www.parentingideasclub.com.au/info/2016-courses

Thought for the Week
“An smile is the beginning of peace.”  Mother Teresa (1910-1997);

Yours in partnership,
Judy
BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
If your child has qualified to represent our school at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 22nd March they will receive a note about this next week. These notes need to make their way back to school by **Monday 13th March**. As with all representative carnivals there is a $7 fee for participants and there will also be a $2 spectator fee.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE
The Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival will be held on **Sunday 26th March**. Notes have been returned and teams are being organised. Look out for a note to come home shortly regarding this carnival. We are still looking for a couple more Year 5/6 players, please contact Mrs Krippner as soon as possible if you are interested.

ST MICHAEL’S CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE
This year St Michael’s Cross Country Carnival will be held on **Friday 7th 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.

ICAS - 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 2017. 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 Digital Technologies, 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 Friday 24th March 2017**. 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. Please note: There is a minimum of three participants per competition per school. If there are less than three entries, that competition will be closed and the entry fee will be refunded.

The competition date and entry fee for each competition is:

- **Digital Technologies**  
  - Tuesday 23 May  
  - $9.90
- **Science**  
  - Tuesday 30 May  
  - $9.90
- **Writing**  
  - Monday 12 June  
  - $19.80
- **Spelling**  
  - Wednesday 14 June  
  - $13.20
- **English**  
  - Tuesday 1 August  
  - $9.90
- **Mathematics**  
  - Tuesday 15 August  
  - $9.90

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 Newsletter/Notes/Attachments and return it and payment to the office by **Friday 24th March 2017**. No late entries will be accepted.

LENTEN GATHERINGS
The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 1st March. During the six weeks of Lent we are invited to welcome Jesus more deeply into our lives by focusing on the heart of our faith, the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of our Redeemer. We do this through prayer, reflection and sharing. Several groups have been formed within the parish, and an invitation is extended to the school/parent community to meet at the Parish House each Friday. Our meeting will take approximately an hour. Coffee will be shared and pre-schoolers will be welcomed. Our first gathering will be on Friday 3rd March at 9:00 am and everyone is most welcome! Looking forward to seeing you. Sr. Kate

LITERACY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS
Thank you to all those parents that attended this mornings workshop. There are still places available for this evenings 5pm workshop. Please contact Jo at jo.krippner@cg.catholic.edu.au.

ST MICHAEL’S PLAYGROUP COMING SOON
For children aged 0-4 and their parents/carers. More information to follow. Contact: Kylie Arena or Lisa Monro

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK
Thank you to those parents who have nominated for the role of PRN. Roles are now being confirmed and will be announced in next week’s newsletter.

The class PRN will be given a list of email addresses for each class. If you do not wish to be included, please let Lisa in the Front Office know as soon as possible to have you removed from the list.

STUDENT INFORMATION CHECKLIST
If you haven’t already returned your checklist, could you please do so as soon as possible to ensure all records are up to date. Thank you for your assistance with this.

CANTEEN ROSTER
**Friday 24th February (Week 4)**
9.11-30 11.30-2  
Ellen Arena

**Friday 17th February (Week 5)**
9-11.30 11.30-2  
Amelia Sitauti  
Amelia Sitauti  
Pepe Kish

 Helpers are required on Friday’s from either 9-11.30 or 11.30-2. If you can assist in anyway, please contact Lisa in the Front Office, any help is greatly appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Zavier 3/4W  
Will Z 5/6P

We hope you have a great day.