Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

In the spirit of our goal to work with you to educate your children so they can be the best they can be; and also prepare them for a new and rapidly changing future; I have included this graphic. This approach to life is evident in all the classrooms and reinforced by the teachers through the class rules and the focus on ‘Be a Learner’ from our school wide positive behaviour program. This is an essential life skill for children to learn, which is relevant to both the home and school settings.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This week the school Community Council met for the first time this year. We welcomed Debbie Snyder and Anna Lutz as new representatives, joining Nicole Dwight, Michelle Hastie, Leon Sanft and Stuart Duncan who are the continuing members of the team. These Parents are your representatives on a very important team who support me in the running of the school through a governance role. Two major roles they have is the governing body for the school canteen and also 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, 17th March. Come along to the next Council meeting which will be an Open Meeting for all Parents / Guardians, and take the opportunity to meet your representatives over some wine and cheese.

In response to requests from some parents at the Information evening, we will also present some specific information about the teaching of Maths to assist you in helping your child at home. Your involvement in your child’s learning is crucial, so we offer this as a support for this important role.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – 8 – 14 MARCH 2015 –Educating for Today and Tomorrow

Once again you are invited to come along and help us celebrate our Catholic School by joining the families and invited guests at our community breakfast on Thursday 12th March from 7.30am. The formalities begin at 7.30 but you are welcome to come when you can up to 8.30am, for a bite to eat or a cup of tea/coffee. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

Obviously for catering purpose, RSVPs are required to the front office by Tuesday 10th March.

The school community will then join the Parish for Mass at 9.30am in the Church, and we would welcome you sharing this celebration with us if you are able.

PRINCIPAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

If you would like to provide some feedback for this process, please access the survey through https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZHQZ3PT and complete by 5th March. Thank you in anticipation.

POSITION VACANT

Unfortunately our Janitor/Maintenance Support, Stuart, has had to resign from this position due to other work commitments.

We are very grateful to Stuart for the work he has done in maintaining and presenting our school. The position will be advertised in the next few days through the Catholic Education employment website. The position is for 12 hours/week and involves a variety of tasks. Ideally the work is done in the mornings, commencing before the arrival of students. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested, details can be obtained from Mrs Lisa Monro at the front office, and the application form can be accessed through http://cg.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Application-For-Advertised-School-Employee-Position-2015.pdf

Yours in partnership

Judy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
<th>Thursday 12th March</th>
<th>DATES TO REMEMBER</th>
<th>NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd March</td>
<td>Catholic School’s Week Community Breakfast @ 7.30am</td>
<td>Friday 27th March School Disco Thursday 2nd April School Photo Day</td>
<td>Catholic Voice Cartooning Workshop Yr 5/6 Excursion Note PSSA Swimming Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6 Excursion to Canberra Theatre</td>
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<td>Friday 6th March Assembly 1/2S @ 12.50</td>
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Religious Education at St Michael’s

Project Compassion 2015 - Fishitas

Thank you all for your overwhelming support of Shrove Tuesday’s pancake brunch!! Our Project Compassion (PC) Campaign has begun for 2015 and what a great start it was. By now every family would have received their PC donation box and begun collecting donation towards Fishitas. For every $10 we raise as a school community one fish is placed on display in the library windows. For every $100 we collect we can assist a community in need to build a sustainable fish farm. A sustainable fish farm assists communities in numerous ways. More news to follow soon.

Archdiocesan Assembly - “Embrace the Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family Life”

All family and friends of St Michael’s Primary School are invited to attend this year’s Archdiocesan Assembly, which will be held on March 20th and 21st. The theme for the conference is “Embrace the Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family Life”. Mass will be celebrated at St Christopher’s Cathedral on Friday 20th March at 7:30pm and the keynote speakers include Archbishop Prowse, Professor Greg Craven (Educating children and balancing Family and Professional life) and Tim and Lara Kirk (Marriage, Family and Relationships coordinators). Child minding facilities will be available and activities for Primary and Secondary students will be provided. For more information and to register your attendance please visit http://embrace2015.org.au/.

Fr Hilton Roberts 80th Birthday

St Michael’s first parish priest, Fr Hilton Roberts is celebrating his 80th birthday on March 14th. Afternoon tea will be held in St Michael’s school hall from 3:30-5:30pm on Saturday 14th March. Please bring a plate and RSVP to Sr Kate on 6241 3364 by Monday 9th March.

Lenten Gatherings

Just a reminder that throughout Lent you are invited to meet at the Parish house each Friday at 9:00am, to spend some time in prayer, reflection and discussion and to share a coffee. Everyone is welcome! Looking forward to seeing you—Sr. Kate

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 25th March 2015. 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:

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<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 3 June</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 15 June</td>
<td>$18.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 16 June</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 28 July</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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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, attachments and then permission notes and return it and payment to the office by Wednesday, 25th March 2015. No late entries will be considered.
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). If your child is participating in this carnival please look out for any further information. Thank you to all the people who have offered to coach or manage a team or umpire. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
If your child has qualified to represent our school at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival they should have received a note about this today. Please return this note, along with the $7, before Thursday 12th March so that the organising schools can upload this information into the carnival program. Thank you.

WEEN-BIX KIDS TRYATHLON
Congratulations to the following students from St Michael’s who participated in this event on the 15th February. Laura (1/2S), Patrick (3/4B), Liam (1/2W), Maggie (3/4P), Bethany (3/4P), Grace (5/6H) and Will (3/4B).

SYDNEY THUNDER AND ADA TALK
On Monday Years 3-6 had a visit from the Sydney Thunder cricket team. As part of the presentation the students listened to a talk by the Australian Dental Association on ways to keep our teeth healthy. We were reminded about healthy eating and how being active is an important part of living a healthy lifestyle. All the students loved finding out how fast they could throw a ball using the radar gun. Miss Peterson tried her best but unfortunately was unable to beat Mrs Hardwicke.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Ilijana 3/4F who won the award for most improved U10 player for 2014 for the Ginninderra Rats Basketball Team. Ilijana has now been selected for the Under 12s ACT Development Squad. Ilijana is determined to make the most out of this wonderful opportunity!

REPRESENTATIVE REQUIRED FOR PRN 2015
We are currently looking for parents interested in taking on the role of 2015 Parent Representative for their child’s class.

Representatives will be the liaison to assist and support the class teacher in conveying information about classroom and school activities to the class. Representatives are required to meet with class teachers regularly.

Representatives are required to send out weekly or fortnightly updates to their class, keeping the class informed of upcoming events and requests for volunteers. Representatives will be required to attend meetings. The first meeting will be an introduction meeting, where all representatives must attend. At the beginning of each term PRN Reps will meet and discuss upcoming events and updates. Representatives are expected to attend the Community Council Open Meeting on the 17th of March at 6.30pm.

Our aim is to get the PRN running effectively and efficiently. Reps need to have access to email daily to be able to fulfil this position. If you are unable to attend all PRN meetings please do not volunteer for this position.

If you are interested and able to commit to the above please email jo.krippner@cg.catholic.edu.au. Final appointments will take into consideration prior involvement in the school and current capacity to fulfil the role. We look forward to hearing from you.

CANTENE - 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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<tr>
<th>Wk 5</th>
<th>Wednesday 4/3</th>
<th>Thursday 5/3</th>
<th>Friday 6/3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tatyana Kaganets</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder</td>
<td>Allison Roberts, Maria Mastoris</td>
<td>Allison Roberts, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wk 6</th>
<th>Wednesday 11/3</th>
<th>Thursday 12/3</th>
<th>Friday 13/3</th>
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<td>Carmen Giucci</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder</td>
<td>Erin Slinger, HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Kathy Bartelj, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
We hope you have a great day!
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 (12 edges on a cube) - Elizabeth KD
3-6 (The girls were part of triplets ) - Matthew P—5/6H

K-2
If Rosie joins the circus party, how many legs would there be altogether?

Year 3-6
A large box contains 18 small boxes and each small box contains 25 chocolate bars. How many chocolate bars are in the large box?

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.

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.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
DANCECORE - Dance classes are 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 - Please contact Sam on 0408 196 855.
PIANO - 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 - Banking day is Friday, please leave your banking books at the Front Office. 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.