Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

How privileged I was to be able to accompany the Year Five and Six students and teachers on their trip to Sydney last week! The children were a credit to themselves, their families and their school, as they approached an amazing itinerary with interest and unbridled enthusiasm. There were many occasions when we stood with pride, as group leaders and guides announced that ‘they were an amazing group of children and it was a pleasure to work with them’.

One of the wonderful side effects of a school trip /camp (apart from the curriculum learning focus), is always to witness the personal growth that becomes evident in individual children. The children were challenged in a number of ways just by being there:

- organisationally: can all that gear actually fit back into that bag? Or where did you leave your towel?
- emotionally: yes, you really can go to sleep even though you might feel a little bit homesick.
- physically: what time did you say we had to get up? Or are there really 202 stairs to walk up?
- behaviourally: sometimes when you are tired (because you talked too much instead of going to sleep!), even your best friend can annoy you and you have to cope; or following instructions can be a little more difficult that usual!

They all learnt some History and Science, but there was also amazing growth in one or all of these areas by most of the children; well done!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Patterson, Mrs Holland and Mr Beerworth for their willingness to participate in this trip and provide our students with these amazing learning experiences and life-skill opportunities. These trips mean time away from their families too; and I thank them for their generosity and professionalism.

PARENT REP NETWORK  In a miscommunication between myself in Sydney and school preparing the newsletter, I offer an apology to Annette Vickery, mum to Cooper in 3/4RB who had also volunteered to be the class rep for this class. Annette can be contacted on avickery@iinet.net.au and she will share the load with Amy Miller.

CORRECTION: Email contact for Jenny Rixon should be— jirixon@optusnet.com.au

A reminder to all families to please send a quick email to your rep or reps from the email address that is your best contact, so they can add you to the general list for that class. Please note that the reps can include you as a blind copy (Bcc) should you wish to do so—just let them know. Please check the list on the website in last week’s newsletter for the rest of the email addresses.

UNIFORM SUPPLY - PLEASE NOTE!

Our badged school items (embroidered coloured logo) are currently only available from SAVVY School & Formal Wear; and negotiations are still underway with Lowes. The basic Catholic School uniform items are available from McDonald’s Children’s Wear but they DO NOT have the correct logo to provide the badged blue shirts. Please do not purchase screen printed uniform items as they are not our official uniform. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to provide a more convenient service as well as quality and uniformity in our school uniform.

CAR PARKING—AFTERNOON PICKUP

This is a further reminder that the staff car park is out of bounds for parents during pickup and drop off times. This is for the safety of ALL children. Please use the basketball courts and collect your children from the courtyard by 3.20pm. Please inform all family members or friends who collect the children. Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours in ongoing partnership,

Judy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
<th>Wednesday 14th March</th>
<th>SAVE THE DATE</th>
<th>Notes coming home this week:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9th March</td>
<td>Literacy Workshops 9.30am and 3.30pm</td>
<td>Wed 28th March</td>
<td>- ACT Govt Privacy Notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Michael’s Swimming Carnival—Big Splash Jamison</td>
<td>Eucharist Information Evening 7pm in the Church</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>- Blue Light Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12th March</td>
<td>Friday 16th March</td>
<td>Fri 30th March</td>
<td>- Year 6 Polo order form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canberra Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Whole School Prayer Time 12.30pm 6H</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
<td>- Spellodrome parent note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Alzheimers Brain Awareness Week Open Day note— Year 6 only</td>
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</tbody>
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Day—Yr 6 to attend 10am—1.30pm
ICAS is the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools conducted by Educational Assessment Australia, UNSW. Ten countries now participate in ICAS. In Australia and New Zealand there are over 1.7 million entries in the subject areas of: English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Skills, Writing, Spelling.

ICAS papers assess the skills students require to address the curriculum of each of the subject areas. ICAS test items are mapped to the curriculum of every Australian state and territory ensuring the relevance of ICAS test content.

St Michael’s Primary School will offer students from Years Three to Six the opportunity to participate in the University of NSW Schools Competition. The competition date and entry fee for each competition is:

Computer Skills: Tuesday 22 May $7.70
Science: Wednesday 6 June $7.70
Writing: Monday 18 – Friday 22 June $16.50
Spelling: Tuesday 19 June $11.00
English: Tuesday 31 July $7.70
Mathematics: Tuesday 14 August $7.70

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 attached to this newsletter and return it and payment to the office by Friday, 6th April 2012. No late entries will be considered.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

A Year of Grace is the Australian bishops’ gift to the Church to celebrate and renew faith and life as Catholics. Beginning at Pentecost 2012 this is an exhortation from the bishops of Australia to "Start afresh from Christ." So too we at St Michael’s are working toward increasing our awareness of Jesus in our lives as we Put on Love through grace and faith.

“We might experience grace as receiving God’s strength, power and healing (among other things), but what is actually happening is that we are being brought ever more closely into the very life of God”
Archbishop Mark Coleridge - 2012

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2012
Advance notice for our Sacramental dates for 2012:

Eucharist - Sunday 3rd June
Confirmation - Sunday 12th August, 11am
Reconciliation - Thursday 8th November

Specific details will be sent directly to the classes involved.

All families are always welcome to attend these community celebrations.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

This week St Michael’s students participated in Clean Up Australia Day by cleaning in and around our school. Through this each child has contributed to the conservation of our environment.
ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Everything is set and ready to go! The only thing we all need to do, is pray for good weather. Hopefully the sun will be shining tomorrow, Friday March 9th and we will have a successful swimming carnival. There are still a couple of outstanding permission notes. Please return them so that all children can attend the carnival. A huge thank you to the overwhelming response of helpers that have offered assistance in anyway. Notes with allocated jobs went home early this week. Please remember that the slides and the kiosk will not be in use on the day. Children need to wear hats, protective clothing and sunscreen. They will need to bring snacks as well as their lunch and plenty to drink. Finally, please be aware that any parent that is not a helper on the day is asked to pay a $5.00 entry fee as well as any siblings attending.

Reminder: All children are to wear their school shorts with their house colour t-shirt. The children are to wear their swimmers under their clothes and bring dry underwear to change into. Please also remember to bring a towel.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
The carnival will be held on Sunday March 18th at the University of Canberra. This week notes went home to coaches and managers advising them of their team. Please arrange at least one training session to get to know your team. Please look at the St Matthew’s School website www.stmattsps.act.edu.au for additional information.

CROSS COUNTRY
This year our Cross Country carnival will be held in Week 9. Again we will need parent volunteers to assist with a variety of jobs on the day. Notes will come home soon asking for help.

BELCONNEN REGION GIRLS NETBALL TRIALS
All girls in Year 5 or 6 that showed an interest in the trials this afternoon have collected a note. Please remember to bring the notes with you to the trails. Good luck! Details of the trials are below.
When: Thursday 8th and Friday 9th March 2012.
Time: 4:00 - 5.30pm (approx).
Where: Charnwood Netball Courts (outdoor courts)
Who: Girls 12 and under.

What to bring: Attached permission form signed (no permission form no trial), water bottle, hat, appropriate clothes.
If students are selected to be in the team they will be required to attend the ACT Girls Carnival which will be on the Monday 26th March 2012. Training sessions will take place on Thursday 15th and 22nd March 4:00 – 5:30.

Till next edition, stay healthy.

YEAR 5 & 6 CAMP TO SYDNEY
Last week Year 6 and 5 went to an amazing camp, we all loved it, it was great. Mitchell

We all had fun. We all saw things we have never seen before. It was quite sad when we headed home. Britney

My favourite part of our Sydney trip was the zoo, because we got to look and touch animals like, mountain goats, monkeys, Tasi devils, giraffes and much, much more. Miguel

My favourite part of camp was the Maritime Museum, because we got to see how the submarine works. Luis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children that celebrate their birthday this week: Laura 3/4RB, Phoebe 4M, Laura 6H, Clement 3/4RB, Gabriella 5P, Ellie 1/2H and Rosie 6H

We hope you have a great day!
St Michael's Parish  Contact Details and Mass Times
Parish Priest:  Father Peter HA, N. Doai
Address:  Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen, ACT  2617
Telephone:  (02) 6241 3364  Fax:  (02) 6241 0747
Email:  stm.kaleen@cg.catholic.org.au
Weekend Mass Times:  Saturday:  6.00pm,  Sunday:  9.00am and 5.30pm

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE
The family would like to extend their sincere thanks for helping out at this difficult time.  More donations of clothing and/or toys would be greatly appreciated.  Clothes sizes 6-8 and 3-4 years.
Donations can be left at the Front Office.  Thank You

IN BRANCH SCHOOL BANKING PROMOTION DAY!

Susan, the school banking specialist for your area will be attending the Dickson branch of the Commonwealth Bank on Friday 16th March between 3.30 and 4.30 to answer any questions you have regarding school banking and to assist you in getting the tools you need for your child to start saving for the future!

SPEN the Dollarmites Character will also be attending, and he would love to meet you!

Please bring your ID and your Childs Birth Certificate to open an account. It’s that easy

ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

DANCECORE
Every WEDNESDAY lunchtime.  Call Cassie 0417 442 750

GUITAR
Please contact Sam Strano 0408 196 855

PIANO
Please contact Mary-Liz Patridge 0413 425 753

SPEECH & DRAMA
Please call Elizabeth McIntosh on 6255 9054.

IMPORTANT
If your child has a private lesson booked and is unable to attend due to illness or a school excursion, could you please contact the appropriate person to enable them to reschedule your lesson or accommodate another student

YMCA OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS
After School Care is offered to St Michael’s by the YMCA; they now operate Monday to Friday from 3pm to 6pm.
For a casual or permanent booking please phone 6230 0165 or Email: oshc.admin@ymca.org.au

CANTEEN - Call Maria Cavalli on 6241 5780 or e-mail cavalli@grapevine.com.au to join the canteen team.  Help still needed on some days.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 6</th>
<th>Wednesday 14/3</th>
<th>Thursday 15/3</th>
<th>Friday 16/3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donna Blackwood</td>
<td>Leanne Cotter</td>
<td>Maree Tuohey, Krystle Schell</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Maddy Sealy, Raida Naidoo</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 6</th>
<th>Wednesday 21/3</th>
<th>Thursday 22/3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jad Matijevic</td>
<td>Caitlyn Frost</td>
<td>Di Nagel, Michelle Hastie</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Natalie Modric, Belinda Larner</td>
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</tbody>
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Wednesday & Thursday:  10.50am – 1.30pm  Friday:  9.00 am – 11.15am and 11.15am – 1.45pm