



Dear St Michael's Families and Friends

As we move through the weeks of Lent, we continue to look at *Prayer, Self-denial and Helping Others* in this *Special Year of Mercy*, for a positive impact on our lives. This week's Lenten suggestion is for a 'Prayer' option:



* *God ~ Why is it that Prayer is so hard to fit into our lives? If we never miss our favourite television show, then maybe we need to prioritise prayer too. Prayer can be as simple as going for a walk and asking God to be a part of our lives. It can happen anywhere.*

One option could be to join the Lenten group with Sr Kate in the Parish house on Friday morning at 9am for a short reflection and a cuppa.

I BELONG. YOU BELONG. WE BELONG.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK BREAKFAST -

NEXT WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH – from 7.30am

This year we celebrate the value of every human being in the theme, 'I belong. You belong. We belong.'

The tradition of the St Michael's CSW community breakfast will continue on Wednesday 9th March from 7.30am. *This year the School Community Council will generously support this special event financially, by sharing the costs of catering with the school. External caterers will supply the breakfast this year, maintaining the menu we are all used to. We are very grateful for this gesture which allows the staff to also share the meal and mingle with the families and other guests.* We will again be joined by some of our political representatives, members from Catholic Education in Manuka who support us in our work, and members from the Parish community.

You, our families, are the most important guests, so we would really love to share this social opportunity with as many of you as possible.

Numbers for catering are essential to ensure everyone is provided for appropriately, so RSVP date has been extended to tomorrow, Friday 4th March. Names and number of guests to Lisa in the office please, by email, phone or in person.

HEAD LICE

Unfortunately several incidences of head lice have been reported in most classes in the School. Would you kindly check your child's head tonight and if lice are found, arrange for treatment with medication from the Chemist. **Children are not permitted to return to school until live lice are killed and all eggs have been removed.** Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE CARDS

Some cards are now ready for renewal. Once you have your new card, please remember to have your card copied at the Front Office. If you do not have a card, please see Lisa for paperwork to apply for your card.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Reminder that School Photo Day is on Friday 11th March, please return all envelopes to the school by next Tuesday 8th March. If your child/ren will not be here on photo day and would like their individual photo taken, please see Lisa to arrange for another sitting.

Thought for the week

'Let us pray for peace, and let us bring it about, starting in our own homes!' Pope Francis

Yours in partnership
Judy

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- 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
- 15/3/16 Open Council Meeting for parents
- 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 Grandparent's/Good Friend's Day
- 10/8/16 Sacrament of Confirmation
- 9/11/16 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Notes gone home this week

- Catholic Voice
- Communion Note—Year 4 only
- Social Skills/Friendship Group—Yr 4 girls only



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

This weekend St Michael's church will be conducting a prayer vigil from 9:00am on Saturday 5th March until the 8:00am Mass on Sunday 6th March. This is in response to a request by Pope Francis to conduct prayer vigils throughout every diocese in the world to celebrate the Year of Mercy. If you have a few spare minutes, call into the church and spend some time in prayer.

Harmony Happenings

ST MICHAEL'S SWIMMING CARNIVAL MONDAY 7TH MARCH

The big day is about to arrive. Thank you to those people who are able and have volunteered to help at our carnival. You should have received a note about this in your child's bag today.

Here are a few final reminders. All students will need to wear their swimmers underneath their sports uniform. Please note that students may wear a t-shirt in the colour of their house. Please make sure that all students have a towel and change of underwear in their bags so that they can get changed before returning to school. Students may also wear thongs or sandals to the pool.

Students must wear their school hats, protective clothing and sunscreen. They will need to bring plenty of water to drink. The kiosk will be open during recess and lunch. We are looking forward to a cracker of a day ;)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL

This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools' Soccer Carnival is being held on **Sunday 3rd April** 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. 3/4 teams will have 8 aside and 5/6 teams will have 11 aside. Over the last few years the Catholic schools sporting carnivals have attracted much interest and the day is greatly enjoyed by all involved.

The registration fee for each child will be **\$20.00** and we ask that payment be forwarded with the permission form by **Wednesday 9th March**. Payment should be placed in an envelope clearly labelled "**SOCCER CARNIVAL**" and given to the Front Office. This will be directed to St Benedict's at the time of payment and will be **non-refundable**. The registration fee will cover participation on the day, a goodies bag and a coaching session with Coerver Coaching.

Each team will need to have a Manager and a Coach. If these positions are not filled by parent volunteers then unfortunately the team will not be able to be entered. Please indicate on the permission form if you are able to assist with either of these roles.

Thank you to Mrs McPadden and Miss Peterson for organising the teams to attend this carnival.

CLEAN UP SCHOOLS DAY

This weekend is Clean Up Australia Day. St Michael's will participate in Clean Up Schools Day this Friday 4th March. 3/4B took on the responsibility of informing the school about safe ways to collect rubbish, reasons for keeping our environment unpolluted and tips for cleaning. Students are invited to bring along a pair of gloves to assist in cleaning our school grounds.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Save the date - 15th March @ 6.30pm. 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, and learn a little bit about the role of the council. We would love to see you there.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK

Thank you to the many parents and carers that put their hands up to be involved as part of the PRN. We would like to announce the following representatives for each class:

KD – Anna Lutz (Jackson) - **1/2H** – Rachel Gannis (Angelina)
1/2S – Ellen Arena (Zavier) - **3/4B** – Belinda Larner (Will)
3/4F – Pepe Kish (Mischa) - **3/4W** – Sophie Barrett (Mia)
5/6M – Mia Taylor (Austin) - **5/6P** – Fran Lauc (Michael)

The representatives will make contact with you using class group emails where you will be Bcc. **If you do not wish for your email address to be included, please inform Lisa at the front office.** We ask that all PRNs attend the **Open Community Council Meeting on Tuesday 15th March** in the school library at 6:30pm.

ICAS - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

ICAS provide opportunities for all students to gain a measure of their own achievements in external assessment situations. *The competition date and entry fee for each competition is:*

Digital Technologies	Tuesday 17 May	\$8.80
Science	Tuesday 31 May	\$8.80
Writing	Monday 13 June	\$18.80
Spelling	Wednesday 15 June	\$12.10
English	Tuesday 2 August	\$8.80
Mathematics	Tuesday 16 August	\$8.80

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.

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 ICAS please complete the slip that can be found on the school website under Communication/Attachments/Permission notes and return it and payment to the office by **Thursday 24th March 2016**. No late entries will be considered.

SCHOOLS CHESS CHALLENGE AT WODEN WESTFIELD

The tournament will take place on Sunday, 13th March 2016. For more information on the chess tournament, please visit the following link: <https://canberraacademyofchess.com.au/tournaments/school-chess-challenge-2016-westfield-woden>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Logan 1/2H, Matilda 1/2H, Sarah 3/4F
and Dylan 1/2S

We hope you have a great day!

