Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

As we move through the weeks of Lent, I will provide a few ideas each week for ‘giving up’ something that will have a positive effect on your life. One or more of these may be useful for you. For this week I put forward possibly giving up - Self-pity - this is the ‘I wish’ and the ‘if only’ club. Instead of complaining about what I lack, I could be grateful for what I have – a great lesson for our children to learn too. Perhaps a donation to ‘Fishitas’ would be a symbol of this.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - ST MICHAEL’S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Thursday 12th March from 7.30am.

We have a number of members of the wider community who are joining us for this celebration of Catholic Education. We are hoping they will also be joined by many of you, our families who have chosen Catholic Education for their children. Sharing a meal is always a wonderful symbol for a Catholic school, and who better to share it with than our ‘school family’. We would love to use this occasion to thank you for your trust and support. If you can’t be there at exactly 7.30, breakfast will be served up to approximately 8.15am. Please RSVP to Lisa by tomorrow, Friday 7th March, to help us with catering.

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 at Mass.

KIDS MATTER

KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing initiative for Australian primary schools. It aims to contribute to:
• improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students
• reduce mental health problems in students
• achieve greater support for students with mental health problems and their families.

We will be implementing this program into our school. This program supports our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program and will have a positive impact on children’s mental health. It has been proven, Children who are mentally healthy learn better, benefit from life experiences and have stronger relationships with their families, friends and school staff.

To get this initiative underway we have formed a ‘Getting Started for Action Team’, consisting of an Executive staff member, a teacher and a parent representative. Your parent representative is Michelle Hastie. Michelle is also part of the Community Council Committee.

The Action Team will attend their first professional learning day in April, which will prepare them to initiate KidsMatter into our school. It is a long term initiative which will begin to be implemented throughout 2015. KidsMatter is an Australian Government initiative and is also supported by Beyondblue. For further information please visit the website www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary

CONGRATULATIONS

Elise (5/6H) and Brooke (1/2S) entered the ‘Scarecrow Competition’ at the 2015 Royal Canberra Show. Congratulations to the girls for putting together two marvellous scarecrows. Elise was awarded first place, receiving a sash and $300-00 for the school. Brooke was awarded second place and also won $200.00 for St Michael’s. We will liaise with Elise and Brooke to determine how the money will be spent. The Scarecrows are proudly displayed in the Library. Well done girls!

Yours in partnership

Judy
Religious Education at St Michael’s

Project Compassion 2015 - Fishitas
Thank you to all the families who have contributed to our Project Compassion campaign of 2015 so far. The library windows are starting to fill with beautifully decorated fish.
Each fish stands for $10 that we have raised as a school community. 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. The fish are first and foremost a nutritious source of food, secondly they are a currency for trade and they can also be sold. Please encourage your children to give generously this Lenten season to assist others and also to act with kindness and harmony to those closest to them, their families.

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 2015. 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>
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<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 they received a note about this this week. 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 received a note about this last week. Thank you to all the families that have returned this note along with the $7 fee. If you have not brought this note back to school, and you would like your child to represent our school at the regional carnival, please do so on or before Thursday 12th March. If we do not receive a note from your child we will assume that you do not wish for your child to go to this event. Thank you for your assistance with this.

CROSS COUNTRY
The St Michael’s Cross Country Carnival is being held on Thursday 9th April (Week 10). We will be starting some training with the students soon, so please feel free to encourage them to get outside and run their little legs off. We will also be calling for some volunteers on the day, so if you can spare some time we would love to see you there.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year in the second full week in May. Please find below hyperlinks to the parent/carer information section of the National Assessment Program website.
Parents/Carers information page:
2015 NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Logan 1/2W, Matilda KD, Sarah 1/2W and Dylan KD
We hope you have a great day!

CANTEEN - 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>Week</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
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<td>HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<td>Kathy Bartelj, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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**ST MICHAEL’S PARISH CONTACT DETAILS**

Administrator: Father Warrick Tonkin
Pastoral Assistant: Sr Kate McMahon
Address: 2 Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen ACT 2617
Telephone: (02) 6241 3364  Fax: (02) 6241 0747
Parish Email: stm.kaleen@cg.catholic.org.au
Email: k.mcmahon3@bigpond.com

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**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 (Rosie is a spider, there are 18 legs in total) - no correct answer
3-6 (Total of 450 chocolate bars) - Patrick C—5/6W

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**K-2**

How many stars on the Australian Flag?

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**Year 3-6**

It takes John 45 minutes to drive to work and 25 minutes to walk from the car park to his office. At what time should he get out of the house in order to get to work at 9:00 a.m.?

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**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.

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**YEAR 7—2016 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING AND OPEN DAYS**

Our Year 7 2016 information Evening is being held on Monday 11th May commencing at 5pm with tours of the College and followed at 6.30pm with a formal information session.

SFX Open Day is Friday 15th May from 9am – 2.30pm.

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**MERICI COLLEGE**

Wise Street, Braddon
ACT 2612 | GPO Box 154, Canberra 2601
ph: (02) 6243 4100

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**DARAMALAN COLLEGE**

Cowper Street
DICKSON
Ph: 6245 6300

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**Weekday Masses**

Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am

**Liturgy of the Word**

Saturday: 9am

**Weekend Masses**

Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm