Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

Since last newsletter, St Michael’s has been involved in the community in a number of ways. Last Friday the school community shared fun and sporting achievement at the swimming carnival. Despite the cool start, we were blessed with a lovely day. By way of clarification, St Michael’s was among a number of schools in the area who had to re-locate their carnivals as a result of ‘lost booking data’ at the Dickson pool. Thankfully, the change of venue proved to be a positive aspect to the day. A huge thank you goes to the families who were able to help on the day in one of many ways.

The inclusion of the Year Six student leaders in ‘Brain Awareness Week’ activities with the Alzheimer’s Association members, provided insights for both the elderly members and the children. This involvement in the local community broadens the children’s outlook on life in general and deepens their understanding the behaviour of other people. Answering the same question over and over again took on a whole new meaning for the students! It helps move them out of the ‘me’ mode and into the ‘we’ approach. Once again, the children were a credit to themselves, their families and their school.

Finally, this week in our Parish / Home / School community, we began the journey to Eucharist with our Year Three students and their families. The program includes the direct involvement of families through the ‘family group’ activities, acknowledging the importance of the role of Parents as the first educators of their children. I ask for a whole school involvement in this journey; as you sit down for a family meal would be an appropriate time to offer a special prayer for these students – they are preparing for the ultimate meal in the Eucharist.

St Michael’s is an amazing ‘Community’ on many levels; it is important to take the time to acknowledge and applaud it!

HARMONY DAY

Next week we will celebrate Harmony Day with some special activities throughout the day. In an effort to promote our rainbow symbol, we are asking the children to bring in a plain coloured T-shirt to wear over their normal uniform for some part of the day. To cover all the colours of the rainbow we ask that students in Gold house wear either yellow or orange; Red house wear either red or purple (violet); Blue house wear either light blue or dark blue (indigo); and Green house wear shades of green. This will be a practice for our school photo day when we will capture this rainbow effect in a whole school photo! Further details of the day will be sent home with the children and posted on the website through the ‘Events’ link on the home page.

Yours in ongoing partnership

Judy

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

EMAIL CONTACT!

Given situations such as the need for a last minute decision regarding the swimming carnival last week, I have decided we will utilise the email contact list used for the newsletter to send emails of an urgent nature. This will alleviate the issues created by messages being incorrectly relayed or not passed on at all. In situations such as these in the future, please check your email first, before contacting the school. I hope this will lead to smoother communication channels.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK – PRN

New email contact for Geraldine Dennis – 3T: latterdennis@gmail.com

NCEC STATEMENT

The NCEC have released a statement since the release of the My School 3 data. It is attached for your information and a hard copy is available at the front office.

Notes attached to this newsletter: ICAS Registration Form, NCEC media release re My School 3 data

COMING EVENTS

Friday 16th March
Whole School Prayer Time
12.30pm 6H

Tuesday 20th March
Community Council meeting 6pm

Wednesday 21st March
Harmony Day

Friday 23rd March
Assembly 5P—12.30pm
Belconnen Region
Swimming Carnival

SAVE THE DATE

Wed 28th March
School Photos

Fri 30th March
School Disco

Notes coming home this week:
- St Michael’s Disco note
- School Photo envelopes
- NAPLAN information
  (Years 3 & 5 only)
- Swimming notes for Belconnen Regionals
Harmony Happenings

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

The national tests will be undertaken in Week Three of Term Two. The purpose of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is to assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of these tests will provide useful information for teachers and parents. In particular, they will help inform teachers in their ongoing efforts to address the literacy and numeracy needs of their students.

On 15th, 16th and 17th May 2012, all students in Australia at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN.

Test schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 15 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 16 May</th>
<th>Thursday 17 May</th>
<th>Friday 18 May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 45 minutes</td>
<td>Catch up day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions 50 minutes Writing 50 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 minutes</td>
<td>Catch up day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A make-up day on Friday 18th May for students who missed a section or were absent on a particular test day. For more information about NAPLAN you can go to [http://www.naplan.edu.au/](http://www.naplan.edu.au/). A NAPLAN pamphlet will be sent home today.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

Loving God, as we continue our Lenten reflection, we pray for the grace we need to respond to your call – to PUT on LOVE

As we journey through LENT please continue to remember to contribute to Project Compassion. Please remember to send the boxes back to school when you have filled them.

Whole School Prayer this week will be led by Year 6 and focus upon our Harmony theme. All families are encouraged to share this time with the children at 12.30pm tomorrow in the Church.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Last night we gathered to begin our program for Eucharist. Our enthusiastic parents will now work in family groups alongside their children. Thanks to those who have volunteered to lead these sessions.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2012

Advance notice for our Sacramental dates for 2012

**Eucharist Commitment Masses:**
- Saturday 24th March or Sunday 25th March
- 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.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

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. The competition date and entry fee for each competition is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 May</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 6 June</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Mon 18—Fri 22 June</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 June</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 31 July</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 August</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
</tr>
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ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Leave your car at home: Leave the car at home one day every week—if everyone did this it could make a huge difference. Why not think about car pooling!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special wishes to those children that celebrate their birthday this week: Patrick KP, Maggie 5P, and Mason 1/2SM

We hope you have a great day!

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ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL

What a successful day! All our prayers were answered and we were so lucky to see the sun. A huge thank you to all the wonderful helpers who offered assistance with morning tea, time keeping, novelty events and providing fabulous yummy treats. Special events like this do not go ahead without the assistance of many. Thank you also to the teachers and learning support assistants for their hard work and contributions to the day. Notes will go home to all the students that made it to the next level today. The Belconnen zone carnival is being held next Friday March 23rd at the AIS.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL

The carnival will be held this Sunday March 18th at the University of Canberra. Copies of teams and draws have gone home. Most coaches have organised at least one training session. Please look closely at the draw to make sure your child is there early. The children will need to wear their sports uniform. Please make sure that they also have shin pads. Please look at the St Matthew’s School website for additional information. See you all there.

BELCONNEN REGION GIRLS NETBALL

Congratulations to Jessica and Abbey who have been selected to represent the Belconnen region in the ACT netball carnival on Monday March 26th. Well done girls.

Till next edition, stay healthy.
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

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2012
WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 7</th>
<th>Wednesday 21/3</th>
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<th>Friday 23/3</th>
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<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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<th>Wk 8</th>
<th>Wednesday 21/3</th>
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<th>Friday 23/3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louise Hazel</td>
<td>Julie Raccosta</td>
<td>Jo Lemon, Bernie Griffiths</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Bartelj, Amy Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wednesday & Thursday:  10.50am – 1.30pm  Friday:  9.00 am – 11.15am and 11.15am – 1.45pm