Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

Last week I was fortunate to spend three days at the Principal’s annual retreat. This year we were led by Archbishop Christopher Prowse as we prayed together, and looked deeper into the relevance of some of the Gospel readings to our lives and our work. I am very grateful to have this opportunity and I appreciate the work done by Staff and Parents within in the school during this time. Thank you for your support in this spiritual renewal.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Today at St Michael’s Catholic Schools Week (CSW) breakfast we celebrated the work of Catholic Schools as they continue ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’. We were pleased to welcome Monsignor John Woods; our political representatives Ms Mary Porter MLA, Mr Steve Dozspot MLA, Mr Alistair Coe MLA, Dr Chris Bourke MLA; Ms Vicki Dunne MLA, Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA; Mrs Helen Casey Deputy Director of Catholic Education; a number of other Catholic Education (CE) representatives and those from our supportive business community.

I thank the St Michael’s families who came along to this event and I sincerely hope you experienced the feeling of community as well as enjoyed the breakfast.

I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the St Michael’s Staff, who prepared, cooked and served the breakfast to over one hundred people; and also those who coordinated invitations and the background organisational aspects. I offer a very big ‘thankyou’ to them all on your behalf.

Following the breakfast, the whole school joined with the Parishioners to celebrate the special meal of the Mass.

HARMONY AWARDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Beginning next week in the newsletter, we will be printing the names of the students who will be awarded a Harmony Award on the Friday of that week. We will not announce the reason for their award as that will be a surprise for them and for you. However, this will also give you the Parents/Guardians an opportunity to attend the Assembly should you be able to do so.

Today’s list of students were awarded last week.

THINK FEST

Think fest is described as a ‘Thinking Carnival’ – to promote Thinking, Cooperation and Inclusion. The day will be facilitated by Penny Doutre and Mary Cairncross from Learning Together. Both Penny and Mary are trained teachers. The program is based on the premise that EVERYONE CAN THINK! In Week 8, St Michael’s students will experience a Think Fest, where they will have the opportunity for creativity, innovative problem solving, inclusiveness and teamwork while working in vertical age groups. The groups will be led by our Year 6 Leaders who will be prepared by the facilitators on the day before the event. This will be a new experience for all students, and one which we are confident will bring a lot of fun while developing great skills.

HEAD LICE

Reminder that it is head lice season again and we have had a couple of incidences of head lice reported to the School. Please remember to check your child’s hair on a regular basis and treat as necessary. Prevention is better than a cure.

Thought for the Week

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Gandhi

Yours in partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS

Friday 13th March
Whole School Prayer Time 5/6H & KD @ 12.50

Sunday 15th March
Catholic School’s Soccer Carnival

Friday 20th March
Assembly 5/6H & 5/6W @ 12.50
24th, 25th & 26th March
3-Way Conferences

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 27th March
Whole School Prayer Time 3/4F @ 12.50
School Disco 5.00 & 6.30
Thursday 2nd April
School Photo Day

NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

- Cross Country Note
- ‘My Family, My Faith’

PLEASE NOTE

School Photo Day is Holy Thursday, 2nd April.
Harmony Happenings

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

The Sacrament of Eucharist information session held this week signifies the start of the journey for our young people in Year 4 who will celebrate this sacrament in Term Two. We ask that you keep them in your prayers throughout this time.

HARMONY DAY

Next week we will celebrate Harmony Day on Friday 20th - a very special day for St Michael’s. On this day we will also highlight the ‘National day of Action against bullying and violence’. The whole school will be celebrating the day with some fun activities one of which will be attempting to create a giant coin fish in the courtyard to support our Fishitas appeal.

If we can trace a giant fish with coins this will be very eye catching and encouraging for the students. It will highlight what we, the community of St Michael’s Kaleen, can do to help others in need. All the coins will be added to our growing collection that will be used in impoverished communities around the world to construct sustainable fish farms and educate villagers on how to use them effectively. **What we will need is lots of donations! Thank you in anticipation.**

Thanks again to all the families that have already contributed to our 2015 Fishitas Project Compassion campaign. Please watch out for more details early next week.

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Great Food, Great Company, Great Fun, Great School!

This week’s Lenten idea for ‘giving up’ something that will have a positive effect on your life - **Time Greed** “ the most precious commodity I have to share with others is my time. Instead of being consumed by the ‘big things’ can I make time for the little things, like listening to the very long and involved story that my child is longing to share? Or joining in an activity at school? Why not give it a try?

EUCHEERIST –Year 4

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<th>Sunday 15th March @ 8am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday 3rd May @ 8am</td>
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<td>Sacrament of Eucharist</td>
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CONFIRMATION –Year 6

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<th>Wednesday 10th June @ 7pm</th>
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<td>Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick</td>
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<td>Sunday 14th June @ 8am</td>
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<td>Commitment Mass</td>
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<td>Friday 14th August @ 6pm</td>
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<td>Sacrament of Confirmation</td>
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RECONCILIATION –Year 3

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<th>Wednesday 9th September @ 7pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Information Evening with Fr Warrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 13th September @ 8am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment Mass</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4th November @ 8am</td>
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<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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HOME READING

Reading at home is an essential component of the reading program at St Michael’s. It provides students with extended practice and engagement in comprehending texts they can read and want to read. Home Reading is part of the homework and will support students’ reading development and foster a positive home/school connection.

Through the Home Reading program at St Michael’s Primary School we endeavor to provide students the opportunity;

- to experience reading in a variety of situations so that it becomes a pleasurable and productive experience.
- to access a wide range of print materials, including all genres of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays, student’s own writing and a variety of print material.
- to progress in becoming selective in their choice of reading materials.
- to be knowledgeable about the purpose and organisation of books.
- to learn to read through a variety of methods.
- to nurture a love of reading.

All students have started the Home Reading Program. Students from Kinder to Year 4 have a Home Reading pack which includes a Home Reading Log, a First Steps Reading handout ‘Supporting Oral Reading at Home’ and their reading book. The reading book should be one or two levels below the student’s instructional level. This allows the child to read for pleasure, rather than find the book challenging. We encourage that all students read nightly from Wednesday to Monday and that parents sign off each night as the reading is done. This gives us the opportunity to track the amount of reading that is done and assist the reading development. Please feel free to support this program from your own family library.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
This year, the annual Archdiocesan Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival will be held on this 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 last 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 on Friday 27th March they received a note about this a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to all the families that have returned this note along with the $7 fee. This information will now be forwarded on to the organisers of this carnival.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
We hope you have a great day!

ST MICHAEL’S SCHOOL DISCO — FRIDAY THE 27TH MARCH
We are getting ready for a fun night of dancing at the St Michael’s School DISCO.
Kinder to Year 2 - 5.00pm till 6.00pm @ $4
Year 3 to Year 6 - 6.30pm till 8.00pm @ $5
There will be hot food and drinks for sale from the canteen. There will also be Glow Sticks available for purchase on the night. Your child brought home a note yesterday asking for volunteers to assist on the night. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible to make this a great night for all our wonderful children.

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.

THREE –WAY CONFERENCES
Communication between home and school is a vital link in your child’s learning. At St Michael’s we believe it is important for the students to be involved in the formal discussion concerning his or her progress. Our Three-Way Conferences are being held in Week 8, Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March 2015. It is most important that you put some time aside for this conference.

This year we continue to use the ONLINE procedure for selecting times for the Three Way Conference. This process will allow parents or carers to select their own times around their commitments. It should also allow equal access and opportunity for all families to gain suitable times and cut down on the amount of paper being used. The online booking facility will go live next week.

HARMONY AWARDS
Congratulations to the following children that received Harmony Awards last Friday:
1/2S: John & Kiara
1/2H: Ronin & Jorja
1/2W: Liana & Tad
3/4B: Vincent & Morgan
3/4F: Sarah & Declan
3/4P: Rocco
5/6H: Jana & Daniela
5/6W: Elom & Nina

CANTEEN - Help desperately required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2015
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

Wk 7
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<th>Wednesday 18/3</th>
<th>Thursday 19/3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Giucci</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder</td>
<td>Krystal Schell, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<td>Krystal Schell, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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Wk 8
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<th>Wednesday 25/3</th>
<th>Thursday 26/3</th>
<th>Friday 27/3</th>
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<td>HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder</td>
<td>Maria Mastoris, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<td>Katrina Mihalovic, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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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 week’s answers:
K-2 (6 stars on the Australian Flag) - Mitchell KD
3-6 (John would need to leave at 7.50am) - Harry G 5/6W

K-2
Jonathan collects pirate hats. He had 5 pirate hats before he went on a holiday. He bought 2 pirate hats when he was away on holidays. How many pirate hats does he have now? Draw a picture to help you find the answer.

Year 3-6
Tom and Bob have a total of 49 toys. If Bob has 5 more toys than Tom, how many toys does each one have?

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.

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.

Our Year 7 2016 information Evening is being held on Tuesday 12th May from 6pm to 7.15pm.
The Merici Open Day is on Wednesday 6th May from 9.30am to 7pm.

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

Our Year 7 2016 information Evening is being held on Thursday 26th March from 7-8pm.
The Daramalan Open Evening is Thursday 26th March from 5-6pm.

DARAMALAN COLLEGE
Cowper Street DICKSON
ph: 6245 6300

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am

Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am

Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm