Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

I hope you have managed some quality time with your families this week. As your children’s teachers are well into the report writing mode, they have made contact with many of you to provide a timely update on your child’s progress. This is just one of the ways we continue to fulfil our aim for good communication, which includes that ‘the report should contain no surprises’. Please remember that the semester report reflects your child’s specific learning over the last two terms. This is not all they learnt and it is certainly not all they can do. Talk with them about their achievements in their areas of interest and their efforts in the ones they find hard!

They are all learning ‘how to learn’ because it is all too easy these days to find out the ‘what’.

STAFFING

Following our recent interview process, I congratulate Mrs Skye McPadden on her appointment to the temporary teaching position for Mrs Hardwicke’s maternity leave during 2016.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It was extremely encouraging to receive seven (7) nominations for our three (3) vacant positions on the School Council. Whilst this situation does create an additional task for our families, I feel this is completely outweighed by the positive attitude parents are displaying towards their involvement in our school and in their children’s education. I thank these parents for accepting their nomination; and I thank all of you in advance for your votes. I ask that every parent in our community reads the profiles that will be coming home tomorrow, completes the voting slip and returns it to school by the due date. Make your vote count – follow the instructions and then get it in on time! (These forms will also be accessible through the communication tab on the website.) Thank you!

SCHOOL FEES

Just as your electricity account or your phone bill have a due date, unfortunately so do school fees. (This is to ensure we can also pay our electricity and phone bills on time and continue to provide your children’s education needs). Reminders for Term Four fees (and any other outstanding amounts) have been sent home this week. I ask that you check your statement and ask the following questions:

- Can I ensure my account balance is zero by the end of term? Are my direct debit payments keeping pace with the fees?
- Have I taken additional costs for camp or swimming into account?

If your child is in Year Six and your family will be leaving St Michael’s this year, please ensure that your account is paid in full before Week 10 (18th December). Thank you for your attention to this aspect of our partnership. Please contact me should you need to discuss this arrangement.

HOMEWORK

A reminder that this week is Family Week. Homework will be sent home on Thursday for Week 7.

Thought for the Week:

In the light of recent events across the world, these two quotes ring true – let’s remember...

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.  Mahatma Gandhi

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. Mother Teresa

Yours in partnership

Judy

COMING EVENTS

Friday 20th November
Whole School Prayer Time 5/6W & KD @ 12.50

Thursday 26th November
Year 5/6 Excursion to National Museum of Australia

Friday 27th November
Showcase Assembly @ 12.50

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 2nd December
Open Classrooms

Thursday 3rd December
Year 1/2 Excursion to Questacon

NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

- Systemic Fee letter
- Year 6 Graduation note
- Fee reminder statements
- Community Council Nomination Forms
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S
WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME
5/6W and Kindergarten are leading WSPT at the Church at 12:50 this Friday, 20th of November. All are welcome to join us.

THANKSGIVING MASS
1/2S are leading our Thanksgiving Mass on the 10th December at 9:30am in the Church. All are welcome to join us. In the lead up to our Thanksgiving Mass we are asking families to donate, if you can, any of the following items:
- Toys - not wrapped
- Non Perishable festive type foods.

Please leave items at the Front Office and members of St Michael’s Parish will collect all our donations and create hampers for those in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

SHOWBAGS
We have some showbags left over from the Twilight Fair for sale at cost price.
- Totally Girls - $3
- Tricks & Jokes - $3
- JJs Snacks - $3
- Freddo Frog - $3

Please see Lisa in the Front Office if you are interested in purchasing any of these bags.

3/4 EXCURSION TO THE NATIONAL ZOO AND AQUARIUM
Today, all 3/4 classes visited the National Zoo and Aquarium as part of their Geography unit on animal habitats. Students participated in guided tours, where they fed lions and giraffes and learnt about threats to endangered animals. They then had the opportunity to roam around in smaller groups to observe the animals. Thank you to the parents who were able to assist and to the students for displaying excellent manners and behaviour, whilst representing St Michael’s.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Sienna 1/2S and Phillip 1/2H
We hope you have a great day!

YEAR 5/6 EXCURSION IN WEEK 7
Year 5/6 are off to the National Museum of Australia as part of their History unit on immigration. Students will travel by bus, departing school at 9:15am and returning by approximately 2:30pm. Please return permission slips this week.

SLIP, SLAP, SLOP
With the warmer weather approaching, please remember to send your child to school with a hat and to apply sunscreen before school. Extra sunscreen can be applied throughout the day from the extra dispensers in each block.

IMPORTANT DATES
Friday 4th December
WSPT 1/2W @ 9:30am
Tuesday 8th December
Carols @ 5.30pm
Thursday 10th December
Thanksgiving Mass @ 9:30am
Tuesday 15th December
Graduation Mass @ 6pm
Friday 18th December
Light Ceremony @ 2:15pm

CYBER SAFETY PARENT NIGHT
MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 6PM (WEEK 8)
We can now confirm that ThinkUKnow and the AFP will be presenting a parent information session on cyber safety, at St Michael’s. We received a high level of interest when we originally promoted the event. In order to gauge the number of participants, please RSVP to Lisa at the school office or directly to breen.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au.

The venue will be confirmed when we know numbers attending. With the school holidays just around the corner and students heading to high school, the program comes highly recommended. It will help to keep you informed about keeping children safe online and explain some of the implications regarding social media.
CANBERRA CAVALRY TICKETS
A couple of weeks ago every child at St. Michael’s received a free ticket to a Canberra Cavalry game this season. These have been provided because we have fruit break every day and they are supporting healthy initiatives within schools. If you would like to take your child/ren to a game please use this link to access their calendar online. http://web.theabl.com.au/schedule/index.jsp?sid=t4066

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
To assist Archbishop Christopher in furthering the mission and ministry of Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, you are invited to forward an expression of interest in one of the following CEC positions for 2016, noting that the Commission meets of an evening eight times per year (this may change):
- Chair, Catholic Education Commission. Experience and expertise in the chairing of meetings and an understanding of the Mission of Catholic Education are essential.
- Member, with experience and expertise in the financial area.
- Member, with experience and expertise in the legal area.
A one page CV including a reference from your Parish Priest is to be sent to:
Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Email: archbishop@cg.org.au
Closing Date: 4 December 2015
For further enquiries please contact Cathy Moffitt on 6201 9811

IMPORTANT CANTENE NEWS!!!!
The Community Council are in the process of implementing a new summer canteen menu, the new menu will be available for Term 1 2016. In the meantime chips and /or gravy have been deleted from the menu as these are a winter item.
Please keep your eye out for the new look menu. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT
is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service.
Phone Parentline if you would you like:
- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.

Parentline ACT.
Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.
Phone: 6287 3833

LOST PROPERTY
The lost property box is full once again. Please remember to look in the box as you are passing to check for missing items. Please also remember to label all clothing and food containers. Could parents please check the labels on their children’s clothing as we have families missing labelled items.

BOOK CLUB
Issue 8 of Scholastic Bookclub is due back on 25th November. This is the last issue for 2015. Any queries, please contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena. Thank you for your support throughout 2015.

IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!!
The canteen are selling homemade mini pizzas. The pizzas are made on a wholemeal muffin base and the filling contains, ham, cheese, spinach and EGG. Please avoid the pizzas if your child has an egg allergy.
ST MICHAEL’S PARISH CONTACT DETAILS
Administrator: Father Loi Viovicente
Email: loi.viovicente@cam.org.au
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

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am
Weekend Masses
Saturday: 9am
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

DANCECORE
Dance classes will be held on Wednesdays at recess, forms are available from the Front Office.

CHESS
Chess classes are held in the Library on Wednesdays from 3.10-4.10, forms are available at the Front Office.

GUITAR
Sam is continuing guitar lessons, please contact Sam on 0408 196 855.

PIANO
Mary-Liz is continuing piano lessons, please contact Mary-Liz on 0413 425 753.

SPEECH & DRAMA
Drama classes are being held on Tuesday lunchtimes, please contact Elizabeth McIntosh if you are interested on 6255 9054.

SCHOOL BANKING
Mrs Firth has kindly offered to run the school banking. Banking day is Friday, forms to open new accounts are available from the Front Office.

BOOKCLUB
Scholastic Bookclub runs twice a term, if you have any queries contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena.

YMCA - OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
Quality OSHC is important to all families. YMCA Canberra is one of the leading providers of OSHC in the ACT. If you are looking for after school care or vacation care the YMCA is the solution.

Existing families looking to add days to your current booking please email us on cscanberra@ymca.org.au or call 6242 4040 with your request.

New families wishing to start After School Care for the first time in 2016 or have a Kinder child starting in 2016 you will need to complete a wait list application. https://ymca-arawangoshc.hubworks.com.au/registrations/register?waitlist=true

Diamantina Scouts are running a car wash between 8:45 and 12:00 on Sunday, 6th December in the carpark between the Caltex Service station and the Kaleen Supaexpress (Gwydir Square). Scouts are raising funds to help get them to Jamboree in January. Cars $12, 4x4 $15.

QKR!
St Michael’s is trying to simplify aspects of our administration procedures to expand options for parents when making payments (small or large) to the school. We have introduced the Qkr (pron. ‘Quicker’) option which is based on an app for your phone. We can now accept payment through Qkr for school fees. More options will be added when required. Please see the flyer that went home last week with details on how to upload the app. The Skoolbag app has been a very popular way to distribute updates and reminders, so we hope this new app will also be of use in our very busy worlds.