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 another ‘Prayer’ option:

* Mass ~ If I do not consider it important to go to Mass as a family to share with the wider community the ultimate prayer experience then what mixed messages am I conveying to my child/ren?

Sr Kate invites you to the Parish house on Friday morning at 9am for a short lenten reflection and a cuppa.

‘I BELONG. YOU BELONG. WE BELONG.’ = HARMONY

Yesterday morning we shared a wonderful breakfast in celebration of Catholic Schools Week in a very full school hall. It was wonderful to share this event with so many of our families, with a particular welcome and thank you to our new families. Once again the spirit of St Michael’s was shared with the political, parish, community and business world in an atmosphere of harmony. Again I thank the School Council for their financial support for catering, and the staff for their preparation and assistance on the day.

GOOD NEWS

You may have heard the announcements from ACARA regarding the MySchool website updates, and seen our school named in the Canberra Times yesterday regarding our NAPLAN achievements in 2015. It was very pleasing to be notified that our school students had achieved above average increase from Year 3 to Year 5 in the Numeracy strand. Our results across the board were very pleasing against the national average. We are very conscious that this is a snapshot of student achievement. However this data, along with many other forms of assessment, contributes to the development of differentiated teaching and learning programs across the whole school. Our whole school focus on Literacy and Numeracy skills will continue to support this development.

MORE GOOD NEWS

On a completely different note…. We congratulate Erin and David Hardwicke on the safe arrival of a beautiful, healthy baby boy, Matthew David Hardwicke.

Thought for the week

‘Mercy is the tangible expression of God’s Love in the world.’
Fr. Geno Sylva

Yours in partnership

Judy
ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL
What an exciting day! Well done to all of the students for their participation on Monday. Ribbons were handed out at the carnival and at school yesterday and the children were very excited to receive these. We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who helped to make our carnival a success. Without your continued support days like this wouldn’t be possible.

We are in the process of booking our 2017 St Michael’s Swimming Carnival at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre so watch this space for a date once this is finalized.

BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
If your child has qualified to represent our school at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival on Thursday 24th March they received a note about this today. These notes need to make their way back to school by Wednesday 16th March (apologies for the quick turnaround of these notes). As with all representative carnivals there is a $7 fee for participants and there will also be a $2 spectator fee.

Unfortunately, if these notes don’t make their way back to school by Wednesday next week your child will be unable to participate in the regional carnival as late entries will not be accepted by the organisers. Thank you for your assistance with this.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL SUNDAY 3RD APRIL
Miss Peterson and Mrs McPadden are finalising teams for this event. At this stage there will be three 3/4 teams and two 5/6 teams (all things going well). They still need a few more players for the 5/6 teams, so if your child is interested and has not yet registered please encourage them to do so ASAP. The teachers will be handing out some extra notes for this carnival today or tomorrow.

DANCECORE
This week all students at St Michael’s participated in their first of 5 dance lessons with Cassie (from Dancercise) as part of sport for Term 1. All the children really seemed to enjoy dancing. We have been lucky enough to receive funding from Sporting Schools to have these lessons. Maybe you can ask your child/ren to show you some of the moves they learnt on Tuesday ;)

CROSS COUNTRY
The St Michael’s Cross Country Carnival is being held on Friday 8th 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.

SCARECROW
Congratulations to the Year 5 students and Mrs McKeough on your winning entry in the Canberra Show Scarecrow competition! St Michael’s won first place, collecting $500 in prize money which will now go towards additional resources for our school. You can view our award winning Scarecrow on display in the library, along with the first prize ribbon. Well done.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT 3 WAY CONFERENCES
3 Way Conferences will take place on Monday 4th – Wednesday 6th April (Week 10). Online bookings will be available from Monday Week 8 to Friday Week 9. Bookings will be made through Google Docs using a link that will be notified on Monday 21st March. We ask that all parents schedule a time with their child’s teacher and their child to meet together in Week 10. If you wish to have a separate parent/teacher meeting, please organise an alternative time directly with your teacher. 1/2S meetings will take place in Week 2 Term 2 as Miss Sams (Mrs Medway) will be on her honeymoon in Week 10!