Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

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 can ensure that we fulfil our aim for good communication, which includes that ‘the report should contain no surprises’. Obviously, this also means that discussions with parents are specifically about your own child and no other children.

One of my daughters shared a link with me just last week that was entitled; 

Dear Parent: About THAT kid... by Miss Night on 10 November, 2014

It starts off : - I know. You’re worried. Every day, your child comes home with a story about THAT kid. The one who is always hitting shoving...

It is a long letter, and it could have been written by any/every school teacher, but it is worth reading by all parents/guardians. I encourage you to read the full letter at the following link: http://missnightmutters.com/2014/11/dear-parent-about-that-kid.html

STAFFING

Following our recent interview process, I would like to congratulate, on your behalf, Miss Laura Frogley and Miss Abbey Peterson on gaining permanent teaching positions within the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn. They will continue their professional journey as part of St Michael's staff in 2015.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

I announced a couple of weeks ago that Claire Carton had joined the Community Council, but unfortunately there is now a clash with a previous commitment and Claire is no longer able to join. We will welcome her interest in the future. Fortunately we did have another expression of interest and nomination from Anna MacDonald and she will now be joining the Council for 2015. We welcome Anna to this important role and thank her for her commitment.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Two wonderful mornings were had by twenty-six eager children as they familiarised themselves with life in a Kindergarten classroom at St Michael’s. They were ably assisted by the current Kindergarten teacher, Mrs Mary de Smet; and their very excited ‘Mighty Mates’ began their relationship with their buddies which will continue when they welcome them back at the start of next year. The smiling faces were the best indicator that the mornings were truly a success.

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 or your family will be leaving St Michael’s this year, please ensure that your account is paid in full before Week 10 (17th December). Thank you in anticipation.

Thought for the Week (in the same theme as above)

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion. Dalai Lama

Yours in partnership

Judy

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**COMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st November</td>
<td>Whole School Prayer Time 2W @ 12.50pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th November</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th December</td>
<td>Giving Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th December</td>
<td>Year 3/4H Assembly</td>
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass &amp; Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th December</td>
<td>Last day of School</td>
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**NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

- Yr 6 End of Year Details & Dates
- Systemic Schools Letter
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As we set up our Giving Tree in the School Foyer, we are encouraging everyone to begin collecting gifts for others not as fortunate as ourselves. Contributions of non-perishable food, or Christmas gifts for children or adults would be appreciated. Please send them in unwrapped, to the Front Office, at any time from now until the end of Week 8. Our school Giving Mass will be on Thursday 4th December at 9.30am. Gifts will be donated to the St Vincent de Paul Appeal through the parish.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME

Tomorrow the whole school community will be led by Year 2W. They will show us the importance of acceptance in our community and school. We look forward to you sharing this prayer time with us at 12.50.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL’S

Graduation Mass: Thursday 11th December @ 6pm
Our Year 6 students will celebrate their graduation with Mass as they set out on their journey to secondary school.

Carols: Monday 15th December @ 5.30-7.00pm
Everyone is encouraged to come along with a picnic to share in our final community event for the year. All children are preparing their items for a Carol spectacular.

Light Ceremony: Wednesday 17th December @ 2pm
We will gather in the church for a prayer service at which the current Year 6 students will pass on the leadership to our 2015 Year 6 students.

PARENT SURVEY !!!!

Each year we ask the Parents/Guardians, the staff and the students to complete a survey about how well things are going at St Michael’s. This helps us make changes if needed and plan for the future. Your feedback is very important to us and I thank those families who have provided us with constructive feedback throughout the year.

Following the success of our Communication survey earlier in the year, we have also constructed this survey using Survey Monkey so you can complete it online. We trust this will make the process simpler and faster for you, as we would really like you to be involved and have your point of view heard. No names required. The responses will be considered in our planning, with consultation at Community Council level where appropriate. Thank you for helping us to make St Michael’s an even better school than it is already.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QV5XG9K

This link is also distributed through the Skoolbag App in news/school notices/parent survey.

2015 TWILIGHT FAIR CONVENORS NEEDED!

This year’s Twilight Fair was a hugely successful Parish, Community and School event. The community would like to publicly thank the hardworking convenors of this event Nicole Dwight, Stephanie Alves and Jo Krippner. Their efforts resulted in another fabulous evening however, after several continuous years of organising this event, Nicole and Stephanie have decided to step down as Fair Convenors.

This opens up an exciting opportunity for other parents to step into the role for 2015. A thorough handover and support will be provided to the new convenors to assist with transition into the role. We ask that you please consider being involved in making the 2015 Twilight Fair equally as successful. The role is one that is best shared so consider teaming up with other families / friends and work together.

If you are interested in this role or require further information please contact the front office for more details. Your ongoing support of our school is much appreciated.

KINDER ORIENTATION

On Tuesday and Wednesday we welcomed our 2015 Kindergarten students. The Year 5 Mighty Mates did a wonderful job welcoming them.

St Michael’s Week 7, Term 4, SWPBS focus — Be Safe!

Am I using sports equipment safely?
SANITARIUM WEET-BIX KIDS TRYATHLON
Your child/ren should have received a flyer about the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon last week. If you would like your child to participate in this event please go to the website and register them (try.weetbix.com.au). If we have 15 or more students from St Michael’s participate in this event we could win $5,000 or a Springfree Trampoline valued at $1,200.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Sienna KD, Peter 2T, James 2W, Sophie KD, Phillip KD and Ben 2W
We hope you have a great day!

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 and winners:
K-2: (42 sleeps) Hamish 1S
Yr 3-6: (Get off the Merry go Round) no correct entry

Congratulations to Hamish who has received a canteen voucher.

K-2
What date is the first day of school for 2015?

Year 3-6
Greg made 4 snowballs on Monday. He made 9 snowballs on Tuesday. He made 14 snowballs on Wednesday. How many snowballs did Greg make on Thursday, Friday and Saturday?

A BIG WEEK IN KINDERGARTEN
On Monday Kinder had a visit from the fire fighters. The class was very excited. They got to watch a short presentation and were able to practice what to do if there was a fire. They also got to explore the fire truck and turn the hose on.

Also, in Kinder this week the students have been participating in a ‘Hatching Chicks’ program. The school was given 12 eggs in an incubator to hatch some chicks. The students have been watching closely and so far we have eight little chicks. If anyone is interested in taking home some chickens, please see Mrs de Smet.

Parent webinar with Rob Randall, CEO ACARA
The Australian Parents Council (APC) will be hosting Rob Randall, CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) in a webinar to answer parent’s questions about the move to online assessment.

ACARA looks forward to moving NAPLAN online as soon as possible. Online testing provides a better experience for students, more precise results and faster turnaround of information. On 31st October Education Ministers agreed that NAPLAN online will be implemented from 2017 on an opt-in basis.

Please join us:
DATE OF LIVE WEBINAR: 20th November 2014
TIME: 8pm AEST
http://austparents.edu.au/webinars

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.
- Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.

Parentline ACT.
Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.
Phone: 6287 3833
Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am

Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am

Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

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

CANTEEN
Help required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2014
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

ST MICHAEL’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KALEEN

AVOID LOST PROPERTY

As a supporter of St Michael’s The Athlete’s Foot Belconnen donate $5 for every pair of shoes back to our school all year round. Simply join their ClubFIT program and select our School when in store. ClubFIT also offers exclusive sales and a $30 voucher for every $300 spent.

FOR 1 DAY ONLY
January 16th 2015
• $10 for every pair of shoes purchased donated back to the school
• Free Coffee for mum or dad (limit 1 per family)
• 50 bonus points added to your ClubFIT account.

Come and join the carnival type atmosphere as St Michael’s have a special bonus day in store at The Athlete’s Foot Belconnen. A copy of our current brochure is on our website under attachments.

CANTEEN NEWS
The new Summer Menu is now available. Please check the menu for new food items. The canteen will be selling freshly baked chocolate chunk cookies (gluten free) on Friday’s for $0.50 each. Sunfruit Frogs are no longer available.

CANTEN - Help required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2014
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

<table>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carmen Giucci</td>
<td>Liz Segeri</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder, Maria Mastoris</td>
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<tr>
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<td>HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Liz Segeri</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Debbie Snyder, Kathy Bartelj</td>
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</tbody>
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Wednesday & Thursday: 10.00am – 2.00pm Friday: 9.00 am – 11.30am and 11.30am – 2.00pm