HARMONY HAPPENINGS

Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

This week is Family Week – a time set aside to focus on spending some quality time with your family. This was a very special family week for me with the arrival of a new grandchild, the first granddaughter!

Needless to say, interactions with my grandchildren often initiate some conversations with my own children about the dos and don’ts of parenting. In addition to the Nanna advice I am compelled to provide, I also refer them to several leading specialists for current professional advice. I think Family Week is an appropriate time for me to share some of this professional advice with your families too. Families today face many new challenges and expectations when raising children in a rapidly changing world.

Michael Grose provides great information about raising exceptional kids through the website www.parentingideas.com.au. He has also produced a list of 25 Great Parenting Ideas and it is these I will share with you over the coming weeks. They are applicable to all families but obviously to varying degrees. I hope that you will be affirmed by the ones already present in your parenting regime and that you can be open to giving the others a try. Here are the first group -

PARENTING TIPS FOR RAISING EXCEPTIONAL KIDS - from Michael Grose
DO MORE THINGS WITH KIDS THAN FOR KIDS.
IF YOU WANT HAPPY RESILIENT KIDS, YOU GO FIRST.
RAISE YOUR SMALL FAMILY WITH A BIG FAMILY MINDSET.

Family week is also a great week to celebrate Harmony Day, as we all strive for harmony in our families and communities. Yesterday St Michael’s celebrated Harmony Day with colour and enthusiasm. We started with a prayer to give thanks for each other and that we are blessed with opportunities to live in harmony. We built a coin line and raised money for Snowy Hydro SouthCare. The children worked in their house colour and participated in many sporting and creative activities to enrich their experiences and decorate our school with all the colours of the rainbow. We ended the day in a magnificent display of harmony by creating a human rainbow that captured the essence of Harmony day 2012.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORNER
Where we keep you informed of the role of the Council and how the Council works!

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK - The PRN is one of a number of working groups (committees) who operate as members of the School Community Council. The Council Constitution requires that each of these groups develop ‘Terms of Reference’ for their operation. The PRN is the first of our groups to have developed these terms of reference last year; and this will pave the way for all remaining groups. One important aspect of these guidelines is that individual working groups do not make decisions independently from the Council; however they present recommendations and suggestions that are relevant to their area of interest and the Council Executive make a considered decision. The Council thanks all the volunteers for this working group and encourages all families to contact their class rep by email to register their best contact email address. If you do not have an email account, messages can be sent through SMS or a phone call, so please get your name on the list.

Yours in ongoing partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23rd March</td>
<td>Assembly 5P—12.30pm</td>
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<td>Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival—AIS</td>
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<td>Sat 24th March</td>
<td>Eucharist Commitment Mass 6pm</td>
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<td>Sun 25th March</td>
<td>Eucharist Commitment Mass 9am or 5.30pm</td>
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<td>Monday to Friday</td>
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<td>Eucharist Family Group Meetings</td>
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<td>Wed 28th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Fri 30th March</td>
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<td>School Disco</td>
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<td>3 Way Conferences</td>
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<td>2nd May thru to 4th May</td>
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<td>Bookings open today</td>
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<td>Thursday 22nd March</td>
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Notes coming home this week:
- Cartoon workshop flyer
- Bookclub order forms
- Cross Country notes
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 9, Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th April 2012. With the exception of 3/4RB they will do their Three-Way Conferences in Week 10, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th April 2012. It is most important that you put some time aside for this conference.

Three-way conferences actively involve parents, teachers and students in reflecting on previous achievement and setting goals to guide the learning program during the coming year. Three-way conferences are different from the past practice of parent-teacher interviews which talked about the progress of the child; they seek to involve the child in this discussion. Even from the earliest years children can reflect on things they have learned and things they still find challenging. Their voice is an important guide to assist us as we plan curriculum which meets their needs as well as the aspirations of parents and teachers.

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 today, Thursday 22nd March 2012. Parents are asked to go online and using your web browser:

- Type in docs.google.com (no www)
- Look for ‘Sign in to Google docs’ (right hand side)
- Email: stmickparent@stmichaelsps.act.edu.au
- Password: parentstmick12
- Click: Sign in

You will find a window with one spreadsheet available called: Three Way Conferences 2012. Click on the relevant class tab located at the bottom of the page.

1. Choose an available timeslot.
2. Please indicate your preferred time on the spreadsheet by typing your Surname, the first names of the adults attending and your child’s name. Repeat for each child you have at St Michael’s on their class spreadsheet. The blanked out grid squares indicate times that the teacher is not available for conferences.
3. Click on Save.
4. Double check time and make a note for your records.
5. Click on the Save and Close.
6. Click on Sign out

The Kindergarten to Year Six ONLINE procedure for selecting times for parents to meet with their child’s teacher will open today Thursday 22nd March and will close on Thursday 28th March 2012 at 12.00pm. Please complete this task by 12.00pm Thursday 29th March 2012.

Teachers will confirm your time to you in writing on Friday 30th March 2012. Your child/ren’s workbooks will also be sent home on this day for you to view. All workbooks must be sent back to school on the following Monday.

If you have any trouble with this system, please contact Mrs Monro at the Front Office. Thank you in advance for your anticipated support with this. The Three Way Conferences are a wonderful chance for your child to share their learning with you and their class teacher.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S
Give up to Grace. The ocean takes care of each wave till it gets to shore.

Thank you to Year 6 who did so well to lead us into Harmony Week with their Whole School Prayer. All children worked happily yesterday as we explored the reason why we are a harmony inspired school.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
The Year 3’s will begin their Eucharist program this weekend with their Eucharist Commitment Masses. Please remember all children are required to attend a Mass at St Michael’s this weekend to complete this. Our enthusiastic parents will begin their family group sessions next week. Expect a call from your leaders. Boxes will be sent home this week.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP
Simplify: Simplify your life as much as possible. Only keep belongings that you use/enjoy on a regular basis. By making the effort to reduce what you own, you will naturally purchase less/create less waste in the future.
BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This Friday March 23rd, 18 students will be representing St Michael’s at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival held at the AIS. We wish all these students all the best.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
Last Sunday St Michael’s had 5 teams playing in the Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival. All the teams played extremely well and showed great sportsmanship. The 3/4 Kewell team came out winners in their pool and received a lovely medal. A huge thank you to the committed parents who were coaches or managers for the teams. We are still waiting on one team to return the soccer balls and gloves that were given out to each team.

BELCONNEN REGION GIRLS BASKETBALL TRIALS
Trials for the Belconnen 12Yrs & Under Girls Basketball teams to play on Thursday 10 May, 2012 at the ACT Basketball primary school championships will be held on Thursday 29 March & Monday 2 April 2012 from 4.00 – 5:15pm at Kaleen Primary School Gym. Please see Miss Pelle if you are interested. Each girl will need to collect a note to bring to the trials.

COLES FOR SCHOOLS
This week we received all the equipment that was ordered at the end of last year. We have received lots of fabulous things for all the students to use.

ST MICHAEL’S CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
St Michael’s will be holding their Cross Country Carnival on Tuesday 3rd April 2012. Notes will be going home today with information about the carnival and distances each age group will be running. We are seeking parental assistance with marshaling and supervision, please complete the form and send into the school by Wednesday 28th March.

Till next edition, stay healthy.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthday this week:
Massimo 1/2SM, Vincent 3/4RB, Jacinta 1/2H, Jana 1/2H and Ben 3T
We hope you have a great day!

**ST MICHAEL’S DISCO**
**FRIDAY 30TH MARCH 2012**
Kinder to Year 2 5pm-6pm $3 entry
Year 3 to Year 6 6.30pm-8pm $4 entry
Soft drinks, chips and glow in the dark items for sale from $1. No children will be allowed to leave the hall until an adult collects them.
Helpers are still required for each session, please call Leanne on 0409 496 440 or 6241 0009

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE TO ALL OUR SOCCER TEAMS THAT COMPETED IN THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL LAST SUNDAY.
ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is carried out every Wednesday. Please leave your banking books at the Front Office.

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.

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

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 and also to accommodate another student

BOOKCLUB
Thank you for all of the orders placed in the first issue of Bookclub for 2012. Catalogues for Issue 2 will be sent home today. In order for books to be delivered before the end of Term 1 orders must be placed with the school by Friday 30th March 2012. Please remember that from Term 1 the oldest child in each family will receive one of every Bookclub order form rather than each child receiving forms appropriate for their age. Orders should be returned to the front office. If you have any questions about Bookclub please contact me on 0449 697 871.

Kind Regards. Penelope Malu - Bookclub Coordinator.

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
Last Friday envelopes went home for the 2012 School Photos.
- Please fill in and return the envelopes complete with payment to the Front Office prior to photo day.
- Please check the spelling of your child’s name and amend if incorrect.
- If you do not have your envelope on photo day, you will still be able to order photos, but there will be an additional surcharge.

CANTÉEN - Call Maria Cavalli on 6241 5780 or e-mail cavalli@grapevine.com.au to join the canteen team.
Help still needed on some days.

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<th>Wk 8</th>
<th>Wednesday 28/3</th>
<th>Thursday 29/3</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>Kathy Bartelj, Amy Miller</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 9</th>
<th>Wednesday 4/4</th>
<th>Thursday 5/4</th>
<th>Friday 6/4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cristina Simoncini</td>
<td>Jeanette Jelfs</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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Wednesday & Thursday: 10.50am – 1.30pm     Friday: 9.00 am – 11.15am and 11.15am – 1.45pm