Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

The following information is provided to assist you in understanding some of the key facts about Catholic schools in Australia and the key issues facing Catholic education in the lead up to the Federal election.

Key facts about Catholic schools in Australia

- More than 765,000 students attend 1,731 Catholic schools across Australia.
- With 91,000 staff in those schools, Catholic education is a significant Australian employer.
- Catholic schools receive government funding, which covers 65 per cent of the cost of schooling in the ACT. Fees and private income cover the rest.
- Catholic schools are welcoming and inclusive communities, with the number of students with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doubling over the past decade.
- Almost one-third of students in Catholic schools are non-Catholic.

Key issues for Catholic schools

1. **Respect for religious freedom in Catholic schools.**
   Catholic schools, respecting the rights and freedoms of parents and carers to choose schooling for their children in the Catholic tradition, should continue to be free to form and instruct students in the Catholic faith and celebrate the faith as an integral and inseparable activity of the Catholic school.

2. **Government funding that keeps pace with school costs.**
   Government policy to increase school funding at the rate of CPI from 2018 could see funding increases fail to keep pace with school costs. That could lead to even larger fee increases, affect school quality or lead to school closures.

3. **Government funding that is needs-based.**
   School funding should reflect students’ learning needs, with greater educational need attracting additional funding. Catholic schools’ commitment to meeting the learning needs of all students requires appropriate government funding.

4. **Government funding to support the construction of new Catholic schools.**
   More than 70 new Catholic schools are planned in the next five years to meet growing demand for school places. Without additional capital funding, these schools may not be built. Government funding is also needed to maintain and upgrade existing Catholic schools.

5. **Respect for the autonomy of Catholic schools.**
   The ability of Catholic schools and systems to meet the local needs of a school community is one of their strengths. Government funding arrangements should respect the identity, integrity and autonomy of Catholic school and education systems.

Source: My School funding data 2014. Note: Catholic sector includes both systemic and non-systemic Catholic schools.* Includes deductions for capital improvements.

Please find attached to the newsletter email, an important media release from the Catholic Education Commission in response to the ACT Government budget release.

**Thought for the week**

Treat others as you want to be treated; respect others as you want to be respected.

Yours in Partnership

Judy
Harmony Happenings

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE
St Michael’s Athletics Carnival is being held in Week 9 on Thursday 23rd June (weather permitting!). A note with information about this whole school event went home last week. If you are able to help at this carnival, please fill in the slip at the bottom of this note and send it back to school. Thank you.

If you would like your child to be considered for the regional carnival in the long and/or high jump events, please send in their distance/heights from a certified long/high jump coach or official.

There will be a sausage sizzle available for lunch on the day of the carnival. If you would like your child to have a sausage and drink on the day, please fill in this note and send it back to school with appropriate amount of money by Thursday 16th June. If you are paying by QKR you will only need to send the note back to school.

There MAY OR MAY NOT be a canteen open on the day of the carnival. Please watch this space for more information about this as it comes to hand.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NETBALL CARNIVAL
Notes about this exciting event went home on Monday last week, if you would like your child to participate in this event, please send the player registration form along with the $25 back to school by Wednesday 15th June.

K-2 SWIMMING
If you have a child (or children) in Kinder, Year 1 or Year 2 you will soon be receiving a swimming note from them. If you would like your child to participate in this program, please fill in all the required information and send the notes back to school. St Michael’s swimming for these grades will be taking place in Term 3 in Weeks 7 (29/8-2/9) and 8 (5/9-9/9).

CHESS!!
Learn how to be a chess champion!
Coaching for students at St Michael’s Primary School is held every Tuesday lunchtime from 1:20pm – 2:00pm. New students are always welcome and it is possible to pay a pro-rata amount for the reminder of Term 2.

Chess is the world’s most loved board game. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment!

If your child is interested in taking part, you can pick up an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

THANK YOU
On Wednesday we celebrated International Education Support Staff Day, acknowledging our wonderful Office Staff, Learning Support Assistants and Groundsman. A big thank you to Lisa Monro, Maria Papasidero, Kylie Arena, Sonja Vociosano, Sharon Friend and Kim Kennedy for all of the work you do in our school. The St Michael’s community values your time, effort, care and support.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
James 3/4B, Victoria 3/4B, Oliver KD and Zoe 5/6M
We hope you have a great day!

MATHS OLYMPIAD
Congratulations to the 5/6 students that competed in the Maths Olympiad Test 2 on Wednesday. These students also had the opportunity to participate in a practice problem-solving session with Mrs Walsh, developing strategies to break down the problem and determine the operations required. Test 3 will be held on July 27 in Term 3.

WALKATHON
Well done to all the students, teachers and parents who participated in the St Michael’s Walkathon last Friday. The weather held off and the event was a huge success. Students embraced the onesie theme, raising awareness for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. The students have currently pledged over $7,000, just short of our $8,000 target. We still have the chance to reach our goal once money has been collected. Students now have until the end of Week 8 (Friday 17 June) to collect and submit their sponsorship donations at the office. Our Walkathon Prize Assembly will be held on Monday 20 June at 2:10pm. We will also present our school donation to Sarah Lamech and Nathalie Maconachie from the CPA.

2016 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK
New books are available at the Front Office or order online at https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/232g38. Only 2 books left!!!

EXCURSION
Kinder, 1/2H and 1/2S are off to the Canberra Theatre tomorrow! They are attending the production, There’s A Hippopotamus On My Roof Eating Cake. Buses will depart school at 12:00pm, after Grandfriend’s Day celebrations. Students will eat their lunch in Glebe Park before the show. Please ensure that your child’s food and drink is clearly labelled. They will return to school by approximately 2:30pm.

IMPORTANT CANTEEN INFORMATION
If you are able to assist in the canteen on any Friday, please contact Lisa to go on the emergency list. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Friday 10th June (Week 7)
9-11.30 11.30-2
Ellen Arena Kiran Grewal
Kathryn Sanft Krystle Schell
Jo McGrath Pepe Kish
Pete McGrath Kiran Grewal