Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

It’s eSmart Week next week!  www.esmart.org.au

Cyber safety, or eSafety, has been a priority in schools since we first had computers and internet access. The rapid growth rate in this industry has also fuelled the ways we share information with the children and the families about the importance of safety in these areas. Our breadth of knowledge as adults would vary considerably, and our children appear to know so much more, but they actually have limited knowledge of all the platforms available. The recent information regarding a pornography ring involving school students has further highlighted the dangers for our children.

We are aware from the children’s conversations that many of our students have accounts or access to apps such as Instagram and Facebook, despite the age limits that are set for the use of these apps. As we move into eSmart week, I would like to share some specific information that might be of help. If you do not have rules in your home about internet use and device access, it may be worth considering banning this use in areas where it can’t be monitored (eg. bedrooms).

The following information is taken from a cyber-safety website. Instagram is a lovely app... for adults. Yes, it’s available for teens aged 13+ but here’s the thing: Instagram is really a search engine for billions of images. Your child can search for anything on Instagram: cats, celebrities, dogs, funny photos and.... pornography. Instagram is also a photo sharing and messaging app. For cyber savvy parents the biggest problem is that if you have any adult content filters on your child’s device or on your home internet, Instagram bypasses all of these. It’s an app, so it won’t be able to be filtered for adult or violent content.

The type of content your child can come across via a perfectly innocent search within Instagram’s search engine could include: drug use, violence, pornography, gun sales, sub-cultures that include pageant style beauty and ugly competitions, anorexic and self-harm cultures, sexual role playing, pretty much anything really.

Kids also share #hashtags (search terms) for Instagram, and even though some obvious search terms on Instagram like #boobs are banned by the site, other more obscure versions have been created to take their place. Instagram and popular messaging app, Kik Messenger also have a very unhealthy relationship. Putting the search term for Kik user names “#KikMe” in Instagram not only brings up every single user with their Kik name on their Instagram profile... over 15 million now...but also the most explicit type of pornography available on the internet.

How do you prevent your child from using the search feature in Instagram? You can’t. You can, and should enable the “Posts are Private” setting under the “Edit Profile” setting. This will hide your child’s pictures from public viewing, it also means they must approve. http://thecybersafetylady.com.au

Useful websites
https://www.thinkuknow.org.au site/ ThinkUknow Cyber Safety

You can be assured we monitor internet use at school and are proactive in educating the children cyber safety.

ILLNESS

There are currently many children and adults across the school community being affected by a range of winter illnesses. I ask that you keep your children at home if they have been ill overnight or in the morning before they leave home. An extra day at home can help break the cycle of infection, and help your child be fully ready to return to their learning. Thank you in advance. We are looking forward to Spring!

A quote for your consideration:
It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change. Charles Darwin

Yours in partnership
Judy
**K-2 SWIMMING**
We are almost half way through our swimming program for the year. Thank you for making sure that your child’s swimming things are dry for the next day. The children are feeling tired, but are doing a great job at the pool. They are extremely hungry after all the extra physical activity, so if you think they need a bit more food please feel free to pack some for them.

We have a couple of items of clothing that have gone missing over these first few days. If you manage to find anything that doesn’t belong to your child could you please send these items back to school so that we can hopefully return it to the right person. Thank you so much for your assistance with this.

**Mini Vinnies** is hosting a cupcake stall on Wednesday 21st September (Week 10). We are asking for donations of cupcakes either home-made or bought ready for the Wednesday of week 10. The cupcakes will be sold by Mini Vinnies members for $1 at recess and lunch, while stocks last! All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Council. If you have any questions please see Miss Frogley, Mrs Whalan or Ms Swan. Mini Vinnies appreciates your assistance in either donating or eating cupcakes or both!!!

**FATHER’S DAY PICNIC: Friday 2nd September**
All families are invited to our annual Father’s Day Picnic from 3:00, following 5/6M’s Prayer Celebration at 2:15. There will be a free sausage sizzle and light refreshments available. Wet weather is predicted! In exchange for non-uniform, we ask families to donate a bottle of wine for the Tombola Stall at the Fair. If you do not wish to send it with your child, please drop it to the office before or after school. Thank you for your support.

**ATHLETES FOOT SHOE LACE TYING**
Next Tuesday Athletes foot will be visiting our junior classes to practise tying shoe laces. Ask your children to give you a demonstration when they get home and keep practising!

**ST MICHAEL’S FEAST DAY, PARISH CELEBRATIONS**
Please join us to celebrate St Michael’s Day at mass on Sunday 18th September. This year’s St Michael’s Day celebration is extra special as 2016 marks 40 years since the inception of our parish. Please stay to celebrate after mass with a brunch/morning tea to be held in the school hall. Bring a plate and mingle with current and former students, parents and parishioners of St Michael’s. If you have any questions or are able to contribute to the catering. Please contact Nicole Dwight on 0412115903.

**FINALS FEVER!**
This Friday 2nd September is Tombola dress up day. Students are invited to dress up in their favourite team colours. Students may choose to wear a full team kit (no studs), hair ties, jersey, socks, hat or simply a coloured top representing their favourite sport. Students may wear their school sports uniform if they are only adding one team item or if they choose not to participate. Clothes must be weather appropriate and include safe footwear and a hat. In exchange for non-uniform, we ask families to donate a bottle of wine for the Tombola Stall at the Fair.

**SCHOOL CAR PARK**
Congestion in the school car park is inevitable at peak hours of the day. To avoid unnecessary confusion and encourage safe driving, we ask all parents to follow the same routine. Please enter the basketball courts via the first driveway off Tyrrell Circuit and exit via the driveway through the staff carpark. Thank you for your cooperation.

**ST MICHAEL’S HARMONY FAIR**
The Raffle Tickets for this year’s fair are coming home today. We would love each family to try and sell one book of tickets. If, however, you are unable to sell your tickets, please return the book to the Front Office as soon as possible. There will be a prize to the family that sells the most tickets. Happy selling !!!

**MATHS OLYMPIAD**
The final Maths Olympiad Test will be on Wednesday 7th September. Congratulations to the students who have participated in the 5 tests throughout the year. Your results will be available soon!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
- Caitlin 1/2S, Levi 3/4F
- Laura 3/4W
We hope you have a great day!

**IMPORTANT CANTEEN INFORMATION**
We require your help. If you are able to volunteer for the Term 3 Canteen Roster, please contact Lisa on 6241 4022. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
**Friday 2nd September (Week 7)**
- 9-11.30: Pepe Kish
- 11.30-2: Help Required

**Friday 9th September (Week 8)**
- Ellen Arena
- Debbie Snyder
Harmony Fair Update

If you have any capacity to volunteer, organise an event, to get your dance or judo troop on the stage, to assist with First Aid, to donate a prize, know someone that would like to hold a stall, or if you have an idea that you want to pursue, then let us know.

Contact us on our email—harmonyfaircoordinators@gmail.com

Please like ‘St Michael's Harmony Fair’ on Facebook to show your support for the fair and our sponsors.

We are seeking someone with computer design skills to draw up a plan of the Harmony Fair. If you are able to help, please email harmonyfaircoordinators@gmail.com

CRAFT STALL DONATIONS
Can’t contribute any handmade items for the craft stall? Maybe you could show your support by donating one of the following as your contribution:
- Ribbons
- Plain flour
- Cream of tartar
- Lengths of dowel
- Zippers
- Snagless hair ties
We are also looking for some volunteers to help by making some handmade playdough. Please email harmonyfaircoordinators@gmail.com if you can assist.

Our new option to pay through Qkr will make your life easier for this Fair! When the time comes, you will be able to pay for wrist bands; Mick the star; raffle tickets; and any new innovations that are introduced for this Fair.

Download the app now so you are ready:) Details for this are available on our website under attachments.

ST MICHAEL’S HARMONY FAIR 2016 RAFFLE
A book of Raffle tickets are coming home today for families to sell. This year’s prizes include:
- 1st Prize: $1000 cash
- 2nd Prize: $400 cash
- 3rd Prize: Sage Restaurant Voucher ($250)
- 4th Prize: Akiba Restaurant Voucher ($200)
If you are unable to sell your tickets, please return them to the school as soon as possible.

Thanks to our Fair Sponsors so far...