Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

ADVENT

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the season of Advent; a time of preparation for Christmas! The scenario seems to always be the same for this time of the year! As the busyness increases, we cannot ignore the need to physically prepare - food, presents, cards, holiday bookings, travel, family gatherings, staff parties, the list goes on - but we must also take time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the season of Christmas. By setting aside this special time of Advent in the liturgical calendar, the church encourages us to slow down, take stock, reflect and prepare our hearts for Jesus at Christmas. The themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love guide our prayers and reflections in each of the weeks. After all, if Jesus had not been born, we wouldn’t have a reason for all these celebrations!

Christmas is about giving – giving of ourselves; our time, our skills, our talents; to listen when we would rather be rushing off to another task; to smile when it seems easier to frown; to laugh at our mistakes and the mistakes of others. Sounds simple? Not really, but we should not give up just because something seems too difficult.

Thought for the Week

KINDNESS: A language the deaf can hear, the blind can see and the mute can speak.

Participating in our Giving Tree Appeal, the Giving Mass; and joining in the Carols picnic are two ways on offer over the next week!

If you are able to, we ask you to contribute some appropriate festive items – non-perishable Christmas food items, sweets, tinned hams, cakes etc; or an unwrapped new toy/gift that will brighten up someone else’s Christmas celebrations! These items can also be brought directly to the front foyer of the school and placed under the tree. On behalf of the recipients in our community, I thank you in advance for your generosity.

OPEN CLASSROOMS - Wednesday 3rd December

Next Wednesday, we will hold Open Classrooms for all classes, so that the children can showcase what they have been doing in class. Classrooms will be open from 3.15 till 6.00pm for the children to take you through their classroom and show you what they have been involved in over the last semester. This opportunity provides an overview of what has been done and will support your understanding of the semester report which will come home on Friday next week. We look forward to seeing you for this celebration of your child’s achievements and the teaching and learning that they have been a part of at St Michael’s.

AND THE LEARNING KEEPS ON GOING.....

Yours in partnership
Judy

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<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
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<td>Year 5 Excursion—Questacon</td>
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<td>Open Classrooms 3.15-6pm</td>
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<td>Block B Scrubbing Day</td>
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<td>Year 6 Big Day Out—Big Splash</td>
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<td>Carols 5.30-7.00pm</td>
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<td>Light Ceremony 2pm</td>
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<td>Last day of School</td>
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
We have set up our Giving Tree in the School Foyer and are anticipating many contributions to our appeal for 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 any time from now until the end of Week 8. Gifts will be donated to the St Vincent de Paul Appeal through the parish.

ADVENT FAMILY JOURNEY
This Sunday with the new Liturgical Year we begin our preparation for Christmas. As we wait for the coming of Jesus, we light the first (purple) Advent candle This is the prophecy candle or the candle of hope – " May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13)
By showing love to one another may we light each other’s way to Christmas. Bless our families.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME
Last week Whole School Prayer Time was presented thoughtfully by Year 2W who shared with us the beauty of including and accepting everyone in our community as Jesus did.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL’S
Thanksgiving Mass: Thursday 4th December @ 9.30am
Graduation Mass: Thursday 11th December @ 6pm
Light Ceremony: Wednesday 17th December @ 2pm

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.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SURVEY IS 5TH DECEMBER

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 working 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.

YEAR 6 MARKET DAY
Monday 15th December
Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the St Michael’s Community
Please help support the Year 6 Market Day by providing your child with some money to purchase from the stalls.

All money raised will be donated to the St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree to help those less fortunate than ourselves!
ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL FOR 2015
For all families returning to St Michael’s in 2015 our swimming carnival will be held on Monday 9\textsuperscript{th} February (Week 2). Please write this date in your diaries now (or when you get a diary for 2015!). Notes about this will be going home on the first day of school next year.

SANITARIUM WEE-T-BIX KIDS TRYATHLON
Your child/ren should have received a flyer about the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon two weeks ago. 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.

PRO TENNIS HITS CANBERRA
Canberra Velocity is hosting 2 rounds of the Asia Pacific Tennis League on the 6-7\textsuperscript{th} December at the Canberra Tennis Centre, Riggall Pl, Lyneham. The matches will feature internationally ranked tennis players with the team playing at 1pm Saturday and 10am Sunday. There will also be community activities from 10am-2pm each day, including the Australian Open Trophies (Saturday only), Hit the target competitions, speed serve, and ANZ Tennis Hot Shots. Entry and all activities are free.

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: (First day of School is 2nd February) \textit{no entries}
Yr 3-6: (Thursday 19/Friday 24/Saturday 29) \textit{Daniela 5/6C}

Congratulations to Daniela who has received a canteen voucher.

K-2
How many chicks hatched at school in the ‘Hatching Chicks Program’?

Year 3-6
Correct this time equation by adding one line?
9:50 = 10 10 10

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Declan 3/4H, Isabella 3/4B & Mischa 1S
We hope you have a great day!

Hello Boys and Girls,
Just a reminder that the last chance to use your vouchers for school banking this year will be 5\textsuperscript{th} December, so if you have lots of tokens please choose your reward by next Friday. Scented pencils, Shark keyrings, Sea streamers, and moneyboxes are all available to order.

If there are any students who have a school bank account and are leaving the school can they please contact the Front Office ASAP.

Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

\textbf{Parentline ACT}
is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service. Phone Parentline if you would you like:
\begin{itemize}
\item To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
\item Help with some ideas on raising children.
\item Support in the important job you are doing.
\item To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
\item To build better relationships in your family.
\item Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Parentline ACT.}
Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.
Phone: 6287 3833
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 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

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<td>Debbie Snyder, Maree Tuohy</td>
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Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am
Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am
Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

Wk 8
Wednesday 3/12
HELP REQUIRED

Wk 9
Wednesday 10/12
Carmen Giucci