Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

A few weeks ago members of the school community, Parents and Teachers, were asked for feedback, through an online survey, as part of the Principal Review process undertaken by the Catholic Education office. I thank you for your input if you were able to complete it.

Yesterday, Parents, Staff and Students were involved in a day of consultation, with Mrs Stacey Ozanne from HR in Catholic Education and Mr Bill Maiden, an independent consultant who also is an experienced Principal, as the panel.

After consideration of all this information, the panel members provided me with some very affirming feedback about my role as Principal of St Michael’s over the last four and a half years. It has been my privilege and my vocation to serve and to work alongside members of this special community, and I look forward to continue our partnership in the years to come. Thank you.

THINK FEST – Wednesday 25th March.

We are looking forward to our first ‘Thinkfest’ at St Michael’s next week. Students will experience a day, where they will have the opportunity for creativity, innovative problem solving, inclusiveness and teamwork, while working in vertical age groups. The groups will be led by our Year 6 Leaders who will be prepared by the facilitators on the day before the event. This will be a new experience for all students, and one which we are confident will bring a lot of fun while developing great skills.

Think fest is described as a ‘Thinking Carnival’ – to promote Thinking, Cooperation and Inclusion.

The day will be facilitated by Penny Doutre and Mary Cairncross from Learning Together. Both Penny and Mary are trained teachers. The program is based on the premise that EVERYONE CAN THINK!

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

This week we welcomed a small group of parents who joined the elected Council members for a short workshop about understanding the ways Mathematics is taught today and how you can help your children where necessary. This came about in response to a request from a few parents at the parent information night earlier in the term. Some information was provided and parents had an opportunity to ask questions. Two resources were shown to the group, which should be very useful for all parents, so I have included them here.

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au has a homework and study tab among others;
http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com by Jenny Eather is very helpful also. The quick reference in the centre of the homepage takes you to a definition and an example for all maths terms. Should there be further interest, we are happy to look into providing additional information sessions later in the year. Thank you to those who attended.

UNIFORM – Socks

A reminder to parents and children that our uniform requirements regarding socks does state that they should be white ‘ankle socks’ – meaning they cover the ankle. I fully understand that there are many styles of socks available at the present time. However, there are a growing number of students who are wearing socks that can’t actually be seen at all below their shoes! This is not within our uniform policy. The uniform is not enhanced by the students appearing to be without socks at all, nor by a range of coloured or patterned socks.

I ask that you please support us in this matter by providing the appropriate style of socks for all your children, and insisting they are worn to school. Pride in their uniform contributes to the development of pride in themselves.

FOUND MONEY

Yesterday afternoon there was a sum of money found in the courtyard, if you have misplaced some money please see Lisa in the Front Office.

Thought for the Week

“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.” James Baldwin (1924-1987)

Yours in partnership

Judy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
<th>Thursday 26th March</th>
<th>DATES TO REMEMBER</th>
<th>NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>3-Way Conferences</td>
<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>- NAPLAN Information Sheet</td>
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<td>Assembly 5/6H &amp; 5/6W @ 12.50</td>
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<td>School Photo Day</td>
<td>- Holiday Happenings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March</td>
<td>Whole School Prayer Time</td>
<td>Thursday 9th April</td>
<td>- Fee Reminder Statements</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Way Conferences</td>
<td>3/4F @ 12.50</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
<td>- School Photo Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>School Disco 5.00 &amp; 6.30</td>
<td>Walkathon Launch Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Way Conferences ThinkFest</td>
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HARMONY DAY
Friday 20th March is Harmony Day and the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. St Michael’s will be celebrating the day with a range of activities. The students have been asked to bring in all their Project Compassion donations so far, so that we can create a giant coin fish on the playground. Also the students have been asked to wear a particular coloured shirt in order to take a whole school rainbow photo. Kinder = red/purple, Year 1/2 = orange/yellow, Year 3/4 = green/Blue and Year 5/6 = red/Purple.

PARISH EVENTS (Please see the Parish Mass Easter timetable on the back page.)

REMININDERS
NAPLAN: NAPLAN Information sheets went home this week for Yr 3 & 5 students. Please see previous newsletters for more information.

SCHOOL PHOTOS: School photo envelopes have gone home today and are due back on or before photo day. Please see Lisa at the Front Office for sibling envelopes. All late orders incur a $20 fee.

COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR TERM 2: School resumes for Term 2 on Monday 27th April, please see note from Catholic Education Office attached to the newsletter email.

LOST PROPERTY: The lost property box is filling up again, please check the box for any missing items. Please also remember to label all your child/children’s clothing and lunch boxes.

ONLINE FORMAT FOR SELECTING THREE WAY CONFERENCE TIMES
Once again this year we are using an ONLINE procedure for selecting times for parents to meet with their child’s teacher. We are using this system in an attempt to minimise disruptions to classrooms and valuable teaching time. 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.

PLEASE NOTE: The 3 Way Conferences are to be held in Week 8 of Term 1 - Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March

Parents are asked to go online and using the Chrome web browser Type in/copy: http://goo.gl/P4Ds5m

You will find a window with one spreadsheet available called: Three Way Conferences 2015.

• Click on the relevant class tab located at the bottom of the page
• Choose an available timeslot
• 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.
• Double check the time and make a note for your records

Please complete this task by Monday 23rd March 2015

The ONLINE procedure for selecting times for parents to meet with their child’s teacher is filling up quickly. If you have any trouble with this system, please contact Mrs Monro at the Front Office.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated support. The 3 Way Conferences are a wonderful chance for your child to share their learning with you and their class teacher.

HOME READING
Reading at home is an essential component of the reading program at St Michael’s. It provides students with extended practice and engagement in comprehending texts they can read and want to read. Home Reading is part of the homework and will support students’ reading development and foster a positive home/school connection.

Through the Home Reading program at St Michael’s Primary School we endeavour to provide students with the opportunity;
• to experience reading in a variety of situations so that it becomes a pleasurable and productive experience.
• to access a wide range of print materials, including all genres of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays, student’s own writing and a variety of print material.
• to progress in becoming selective in their choice of reading materials.
• to be knowledgeable about the purpose and organisation of books.
• to learn to read through a variety of methods.
• to nurture a love of reading.

All students have started the Home Reading Program. Students from Kinder to Year 4 have a Home Reading pack which includes a Home Reading Log, a First Steps Reading handout ‘Supporting Oral Reading at Home’ and their reading book. The reading book should be one or two levels below the student’s instructional level. This allows the child to read for pleasure, rather than find the book challenging. We encourage that all students read nightly from Wednesday to Monday and that parents sign off each night as the reading is done. This gives us the opportunity to track the amount of reading that is done and assist the reading development. Please feel free to support this program from your own family library.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL
Congratulations to all the students who participated in this carnival on Sunday. By all reports, a great day was had by all. A huge thank you to all the parents and families who helped to make this day run smoothly by offering their time to coach, manage, umpire or form part of a St Michael’s cheer squad. We can’t wait for next year’s carnival.

BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This event will be taking place on Friday 27th March. Mrs Blakey will be the supervising teacher on the day and she will be at the AIS from 8.30am in the morning.

CROSS COUNTRY
The Saint Michael’s Cross Country Carnival is being held on Thursday 9th April (Week 10). We will be starting some training with the students soon, so please feel free to encourage them to get outside and run their little legs off. A note went home last week with information about this day. If you would like to assist us with this carnival please fill in the slip at the bottom of the note. We would love to see you there.

As there are some students attending an imaginarium on this day we will be holding this event for them at an earlier date and recording their times. This will ensure that they are accurately placed in their year group.

12 YEARS & UNDER SCHOOLS TENNIS - SINGLES
This event is taking place on the 29th April. If you have a child who will be 10 or older by 1st October, 2015, and you would like them to participate in this event, please send me an email (mary.desmet@cg.catholic.edu.au) and I can forward you all relevant information. Please note that; your child must be able to serve and score, there is a cost of $7 per player and there will not be a supervising teacher on the day.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Susan 5/6W who competed in the ACT swimming championships. Susan achieved 4 personal best times out of the 7 events she contested and won three medals. Well done Susan.

HARMONY AWARDS
Today in the newsletter, we are printing the names of the students who will be awarded a Harmony Award tomorrow at Assembly. We will not announce the reason for their award as that will be a surprise for them and for you. However, this gives you, the Parents/ Guardians, an opportunity to attend the Assembly should you be able to do so. Congratulations to the following children.

KO: Elizabeth, William & Arna
1/2H: Alicia & Hannah
1/2S: Cooper & Hamish
1/2W: Poppy & Isaac
3/4B: Heidi & Jack
3/4F: Katie & Marko
3/4P: Christopher & Bethany
5/6H: Andrea, Connor & Elise
5/6W: Hayley, Pat F & Maja

COOL KIDS
The Cool Kids program is a skills-based program that teaches children (6-12yrs) and their parents how to better manage the child’s anxiety. Please see flyer attached to the newsletter email.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Tamika 1/2W, Mason 5/6W, Massimo 3/4B and Jacinta 5/6H
We hope you have a great day!

ST MICHAEL’S SCHOOL DISCO — FRIDAY 27TH MARCH
We are getting ready for a fun night of dancing at the St Michael’s School DISCO.
Kinder to Year 2 - 5.00pm till 6.00pm @ $4
Year 3 to Year 6 - 6.30pm till 8.00pm @ $5
There will be hot food and drinks for sale from the Canteen and there will also be Glow Sticks available for purchase on the night. We are still seeking volunteers for the Year 3-6 disco, please contact Caitlyn on 62414022. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible to make this a great night for all our wonderful children.

CANTEEN - Help desperately required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2015
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

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<tr>
<th>Wk 8</th>
<th>Wednesday 25/3</th>
<th>Thursday 26/3</th>
<th>Friday 27/3</th>
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<tr>
<td>HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder</td>
<td>Maria Mastoris, HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Katrina Mihalovic, Krystle Schell</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wk 9</th>
<th>Wednesday 1/4</th>
<th>Thursday 2/4</th>
<th>Friday 3/4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Debbie Snyder</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am

Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am

Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

EASTER MASS TIMETABLE  * The Archbishop blesses the Oils that will be used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick throughout the coming year.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location and time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>2nd Rite of Reconciliation</td>
<td>St Michael’s 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Masses</td>
<td>as normal</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th March</td>
<td>Chrism Mass*</td>
<td>St. Christopher’s Cathedral 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Holy Thursday (the Last Supper) Mass</td>
<td>St Michael’s 7:30pm with adoration until 10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd April</td>
<td>Good Friday (Passion of the Lord) Mass</td>
<td>St Michael’s 11:00am and at St Monica’s 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Easter Vigil Mass</td>
<td>St Monica’s at 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>Easter Sunday Mass</td>
<td>St Michael’s 8:00am and 5:30pm and at St. Monica’s 10am</td>
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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 weeks answers:
K-2 (7 pirate hats)  
- Joshua 1/2H  
3-6 (Tom has 22 toys, Bob has 27 toys)  
- Massimo 3/4B

K-2
Leslie planted seeds early in Spring. In October two flowers bloomed. In November six flowers bloomed. How many flowers bloomed altogether?

Year 3-6
A factory produced 2300 TV sets in its first year of production. 4500 sets were produced in its second year and 500 more sets were produced in its third year than in its second year. How many TV sets were produced in three years?

THE JOURNEY THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

Program for parents of Adolescents will be offered by CatholicCare commencing WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2015 from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is run over 3 weeks and the fee of $80 includes course materials and supper. This course is suitable for parents of children in Primary Years 5 & 6 and Secondary School Years 7-12. Bookings are essential please contact 61626100.

YEAR 7—2016 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING AND OPEN DAYS

Our Year 7 2016 information Evening is being held on Monday 11th May commencing at 5pm with tours of the College and followed at 6.30pm with a formal information session. SFX Open Day is Friday 15th May from 9am – 2.30pm.

The Merici Open Day is on Wednesday 6th May from 9.30am to 7pm. Our Year 7 2016 Information Evening is being held on Tuesday 12th May from 6pm to 7.15pm.

MERICI COLLEGE
Wise Street, Braddon ACT 2612 | GPO Box 154, Canberra 2601  
ph: (02) 6243 4100

The Year 7 2016 Daramalan Open Evening is Thursday 26th March from 5-7pm. The Information Session is being held on Thursday 26th March from 7-8pm.

DARAMALAN COLLEGE
Cowper Street