Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

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. We start with Hope.

After all, if Jesus had not been born, we wouldn’t have a reason for all these celebrations!

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
I again thank the 7 parents for accepting their nomination to this very important role. I ask that every parent in our community reads the profiles that will were sent home last week, and completes the voting slip and returns it to school by the due date. I thank all of you in advance for taking the time to do this task. Make your vote count – follow the instructions and then get it in on time! (If you have misplaced your voting form, please contact the front office for a replacement.) Thank you!

OPEN CLASSROOMS
The Open Classroom component of the reporting process allows the students to showcase their work for their parents. It is a time to celebrate the achievements and growth and acknowledge any areas for growth, from the students’ viewpoint. Current teaching methods mean many aspects of the children’s work are not always contained in a book. Please come along to your child’s classroom and spend some time, with your child guiding you through their learning. Your child’s report should reflect what you see. Hoping to see you next Wednesday between 3 - 6 pm.

SCHOOL FEES
Reminders for Term Four fees (and any other outstanding amounts) were sent home last week. I ask that you check your statement and ask the following questions: - Can I ensure my account balance is zero by the end of term? Are my direct debit payments keeping pace with the fees? Have I taken additional costs for camp or swimming into account? If your child is in Year Six and/or your family will be leaving St Michael’s this year, please ensure that your account is paid in full before Week 10 (18th December). Thank you for your attention to this aspect of our partnership. Please contact me should you need to discuss this arrangement.

SIBLINGS IN SYSTEMIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Please return the form sent home last week, if you will have children in a secondary systemic school and also at St Michael’s in 2016. This information is essential for a discounted fee to be applied to your first child at St Michael’s.

ACT SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME
Financial assistance for low income families with student(s) attending secondary schools is available through the Bursary Scheme. Criteria and details for applications are available through; http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families.

Thought for the Week:
Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.– Pope Francis

Yours in partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th November</td>
<td>Showcase Assembly @ 12.30</td>
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<td>Monday 30th November</td>
<td>ThinkUKnw Parent Session @6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd December</td>
<td>Open Classrooms 3-6</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd December</td>
<td>Year 1/2 Excursion to Questacon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th December</td>
<td>WSPT 1/2W @ 12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th December</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th December</td>
<td>Carols &amp; Family Picnic 5.30-7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th December</td>
<td>Giving Mass 1/2S @ 12.50</td>
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SAVE THE DATE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th December</td>
<td>Junior Christmas Concert @ 12.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner @ 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Big Day Out</td>
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<td>Friday 18th December</td>
<td>Graduation Assembly 2.15</td>
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NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Holiday Happenings</td>
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<td>AMF Bowling flyer</td>
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<td>Catholic School Parents flyer</td>
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<td>Graduation Year 5 Helper note</td>
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

ADVENT
This Sunday is the beginning of the first week of Advent. As the first candle is lit we recall the hope we have in Christ. The light of the candle reminds us that even in the dark there is hope; a light will shine through.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME
1/2W are leading WSPT at the Church at 12:50pm, next Friday, the 4th of December. They will be enriching our knowledge of Advent. All are welcome to join us.

THANKSGIVING MASS
1/2S are leading our Thanksgiving Mass on the 10th December at 9:30am in the Church. All are welcome to join us. In the lead up to our Thanksgiving Mass we are asking families to donate, if you can, any of the following items:
- Toys - not wrapped
- Non-perishable festive type foods.

Please leave items at the Front Office and members of St Michael’s Parish will collect all our donations and create hampers for those in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS
Catholic School Parents Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn (CSPACG) was formally launched during 2014. This official body represents the interests of families of children in all Catholic schools across the Archdiocese. Please see the flyer coming home today for further information.

5/6 EXCURSION TO NATIONAL MUSEUM
Both 5/6 classes attended an excursion to the National Museum of Australia today. As part of their History unit, they explored immigration in Australia. Students participated in a guided group session, exploring exhibits, activities and stories from Australian history.

5/6 EXCURSION TO NATIONAL MUSEUM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
We hope you have a great day!

IMPRESSANT DATES
Friday 4th December
WSPT 1/2W @ 12.50
Tuesday 8th December
Carols @ 5.30pm
Thursday 10th December
Thanksgiving Mass @ 9:30am
Tuesday 15th December
Graduation Mass @ 6pm
Friday 18th December
Light Ceremony @ 2:15pm

GOVERNOR GENERAL’S SPORTS FUN DAY
Sixteen students, accompanied by staff, have been invited to the GG’s Sport Fun Day next Thursday 3rd December. Over 1000 students from 64 schools and organisations will attend in a fun and memorable day on the lawns of Government House, in Yarralumla. The day will be about sport, fitness, healthy lifestyles, and encouraging all children to ‘have a go’. All students attending are asked to return their permission notes to Mrs Fox by Tuesday 1st December.

OPEN CLASSROOMS
Parents are invited to visit their child/ren’s class to see what they have been learning about this semester. This is an opportunity for your child to share with you, guiding you through tasks, workbooks and displays. A reminder that if you wish to discuss your child’s progress, please make an appointment with your classroom teacher, for an alternate time.
NEW EQUIPMENT
This semester St Michael’s was fortunate to receive some funding from Sporting Schools (a government funding initiative). We have been able to use this money to assist with the payment of Sport in Schools, which was run this term. We have also been able to purchase some new soccer goals and gym mats.

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
To assist Archbishop Christopher in furthering the mission and ministry of Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, you are invited to forward an expression of interest in one of the following CEC positions for 2016, noting that the Commission meets of an evening eight times per year (this may change):

- Chair, Catholic Education Commission. Experience and expertise in the chairing of meetings and an understanding of the Mission of Catholic Education are essential.
- Member, with experience and expertise in the financial area.
- Member, with experience and expertise in the legal area.

A one page CV including a reference from your Parish Priest is to be sent to:

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Email: archbishop@cg.org.au

Closing Date: 4 December 2015
For further enquiries please contact Cathy Moffitt on 6201 9811

HARMONY AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who will receive Harmony Awards at tomorrow’s assembly:

KD: Adam & Jillian
1/2H: Caitlin & Amelie
1/2S: Pearl & Hamish
1/2W: Samara & Mischa
3/4B: Sofia & Ellie
3/4F: Alex, Katie & Noah
3/4P:
5/6H: Whole class award
5/6W: Will, Cooper & Susan

IMPORTANT CANTEEN NEWS!!!!
The Community Council are in the process of implementing a new summer canteen menu, the new menu will be available for Term 1 2016. In the meantime chips and/or gravy have been deleted from the menu as these are a winter item.

Please keep your eye out for the new look menu. Sorry for any inconvenience.

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

Parentline ACT
is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service. Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!!!
The canteen are selling homemade mini pizzas. The pizzas are made on a wholemeal muffin base and the filling contains, ham, cheese, spinach and EGG. Please avoid the pizzas if your child has an egg allergy.
ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CONTACT DETAILS
Administrator: Father Loi Viovicente
Email: loi.viovicente@cam.org.au
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

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

DANCECORE
Dance classes will be held on Wednesdays at recess, forms are available from the Front Office.

CHESS
Chess classes are held in the Library on Wednesdays from 3.10-4.10, forms are available at the Front Office.

GUITAR
Sam is continuing guitar lessons, please contact Sam on 0408 196 855.

PIANO
Mary-Liz is continuing piano lessons, please contact Mary-Liz on 0413 425 753.

SPEECH & DRAMA
Drama classes are being held on Tuesday lunchtimes, please contact Elizabeth McIntosh if you are interested on 6255 9054.

SCHOOL BANKING
Mrs Firth has kindly offered to run the school banking. Banking day is Friday, forms to open new accounts are available from the Front Office.

BOOKCLUB
Scholastic Bookclub runs twice a term, if you have any queries contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena.

YMCA - OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
Quality OSHC is important to all families. YMCA Canberra is one of the leading providers of OSHC in the ACT. If you are looking for after school care or vacation care the YMCA is the solution.

Existing families looking to add days to your current booking please email us on cscanberra@ymca.org.au or call 6242 4040 with your request.

New families wishing to start After School Care for the first time in 2016 or have a Kinder child starting in 2016 you will need to complete a wait list application. https://ymca-arawangoshc.hubworks.com.au/registrations/register?waitlist=true

Diamantina Scouts are running a car wash between 8:45 and 12:00 on Sunday, 6th December in the carpark between the Caltex Service station and the Kaleen Supaexpress (Gwydir Square). Scouts are raising funds to help get them to Jamboree in January. Cars $12, 4x4 $15.

QKR!
St Michael’s is trying to simplify aspects of our administration procedures to expand options for parents when making payments (small or large) to the school. We have introduced the Qkr (pron. ‘Quicker’) option which is based on an app for your phone. We can now accept payment through Qkr for school fees. More options will be added when required. Please see the flyer that went home last week with details on how to upload the app. The Skoolbag app has been a very popular way to distribute updates and reminders, so we hope this new app will also be of use in our very busy worlds.