

HARMONY HAPPENINGS 2016



Term 4, Week 8 Thursday 1st December 2016
St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen
Tel: 6241 4022
Email: office.stmichaelsps@cg.catholic.edu.au

Dear St Michael's Families and Friends

We began the first week of Advent on the weekend, reflecting on the *coming* of the Messiah. As the Church lit the first *purple witness candle*, we were reminded to stay alert, in the *hope* of someone special coming to guide the way. God asks us to continue to pay attention to our responsibilities and the needs of others by considering our choices. The second week of Advent focuses on *peace and preparation*, calling us to make others feel welcome, proclaim forgiveness and prepare for Christmas. As we approach the final two weeks of school, we prepare for: goodbyes, new beginnings, celebrations, announcements, family time, holidays and change. We look forward to coming together as a community to celebrate the year and share the story of Christ's birth next week. Everyone is welcome next Tuesday 6th December in the school courtyard at 5:30pm for the Christmas concert.



SEMESTER TWO REPORTS

Reports will be coming home tomorrow, Friday 2nd December. If your child is absent, their report will be posted on Friday afternoon, unless alternate arrangements are made between the parents and teacher/front office. Please check with your child for this item. Your visit to your child's classroom this week would have provided you with the physical examples of work to complement the grades in the report. All workbooks will be sent home at the end of term, as there is still work to be done! Please read the accompanying letter to the report as it will also help explain what it contains. In keeping with our aim for open communication, there should be no surprises in any report. However, if any Parent/Carer would like to discuss the report, I would ask that you contact your child's teacher directly by email to arrange a suitable time; in Week 9 only please. I'm sure you appreciate that the final week of term is always a very busy time for teachers. I thank you for your consideration of the teachers in this way.

WHITE BAND REWARD

Next Wednesday 7th December, all students who have achieved a white band will be invited to attend a reward playtime. As part of our School Wide Positive Behaviours program, these students have achieved 50 Gotchas = 4 blue bands + white band. Students can wear plain clothes, appropriate to the weather. There is still the opportunity for some students to achieve their last Gotchas to reach their final goal. Students are asked to provide their own recess and lunch on this day and we will provide the entertainment during an extended lunch break!

GOODBYE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HELLO SECONDARY!

PARENTING INSIGHTS by Michael Grose

The end of primary school is a significant milestone in children's lives. They've spent half their lives in primary school, in many cases in the same school, which is significant. Please see Michael Grose's article attached to this week's newsletter for a reflection on: celebration, gratitude, friendships and looking ahead.

CANDY CANES

The season of Candy Canes has arrived. It is wonderful to see the children being involved in 'giving', but I have spoken to them regarding the eating of candy canes at school. **Whilst not wishing to spoil the fun, they have been told that all candy canes are to be taken home to eat.** I have given the children a number of reasons - firstly health; extra sugar, preservatives and colouring (that don't assist their attention at school); secondly, the safety aspect of running on the playground with sharp sticks in mouths; thirdly, the sticky fingers on everything; and finally the rubbish. I ask for your support in this issue.

Yours in partnership,

Breen Fox

Acting Principal

"Gifts aren't to be paid back, they're to be paid forward" Cedric Crawford



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

TOMORROW

2/12/16 Assembly 1/2H @ 12.50
Reports go home
Governor Generals Sports Fun Day

NEXT WEEK

6/12/16 Giving Mass—KD @ 9.30
St Michael's Christmas Concert @ 5.30
7/12/16 White Band Special Lunch
9/12/16 Showcase Assembly @ 12.50

COMING UP

12/12/16 Scrubbing Day—Year 6
13/12/16 Year 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner
14/12/16 Year 6 Big Day Out
Scrubbing Day—K-5
16/12/16 Year 5/6 Light Ceremony @ 2.15
Last Day of school for 2016

NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

- Catholic Voice
- BYO Ipad Purchasing Agreement Yr 4&5
- Volleyball note
- Year 6 Big Day Out note

HARMONY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who will receive a Harmony Award at tomorrow's assembly:

KD: Cameron, Oliver, Katija & Axle
1/2H: Jett, Hannah, Poppy & AJ
1/2S: Jorja, Dylan, Gabby, Stefano, Eamon & Caitlin
3/4B: Jack, Liam, Apajok & William
3/4F: Beth, William & Pat
3/4W: Laura & Anthony
5/6M: Jack & Emily
5/6P: Aimee, Connor & Michael



Harmony Happenings

ST MICHAEL'S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2017

St Michael's 2017 swimming carnival will be held at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre on Wednesday 15th February (Week 3). Please watch out for nomination forms which will come home very early in Week 1 next year.

VOLLEYBALL

The students in Years 3-6 completed their final volleyball lessons on Tuesday. If you would like your child to participate in volleyball lessons during a lunch time next year, please fill out the note that went home today and send it back to school by next Friday 9th December. Payment will not need to be made until Term 1, 2017.

ECO BUS TOUR

Last Wednesday we were lucky enough to go on the Eco Bus Tour. On the Eco Bus Tour we went to 3 different schools, Ainslie, Evatt and Chapman Primary. Each school showed us their educational practices to help the environment. We brainstormed some ideas on projects that we would like to try next year at St Michael's:

- *Playpods
- *Waste free lunches
- *Waste free classrooms
- *Sensory Garden

We got a tour through each school. We had a great time. *Jazmine 3/4W*



SCHOOL DISCO

Thank you to all the students and parent helpers for making last Friday night a success at the St Michael's



Disco. A lot of fun was had by all the students that attended. Also a big thank you to Rachelle Clark for coordinating the event.

KENNY KOALA

Students from Kinder to Year 6 had the opportunity to meet with Constable Kenny Koala on Tuesday. Kinder and 1/2 focused on road safety; remembering to STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK GO and being safe in



the car. 3/4 discussed privacy around social media and cybersafety. 5/6 focused on the bigger picture of staying safe for life, with discussions around wellbeing, and healthy minds and habits.

SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY

A reminder that next week's assembly will be a showcase of some students' extra-curricular talents in piano, guitar and dance. Students who have participated in lessons with Mary-Liz, Sam and Dancecore will provide a snippet of what they have been learning this semester.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Mischa 3/4F, Katija KD,
Caitlin 1/2S, Tayla 3/4W
and Elise 5/6M

We hope you have a great day!



CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 2nd December (Week 8)

9-11.30 11.30-2

Ellen Arena Eileen Wood

Friday 9th December (Week 9)

9-11.30 11.30-2

Lea Gocentas Pepe Kish

Friday 16th December (Week 10)

9-11.30 11.30-2

Ellen Arena Debbie Snyder

GIVING MASS

Kindergarten are leading our Giving Mass on the 6th December at 9:30am in the Church. All are welcome to join us. In the lead up to our Giving Mass we are asking families to donate, if you can, any of the following items:



- Toys- not wrapped
- Non Perishable festive type foods.

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.

PARISH THANKSGIVING MASS

The St Michael's community are invited to attend the Parish Thanksgiving Mass and celebration on 8th December. Mass will begin at 6:00pm, followed by pizza, drinks and great company in the Church grounds. All welcome.



BYOiPad DISCOUNTS

A letter was sent home this week to current Year 4 and Year 5 students, providing information on purchasing. St Michael's has successfully set up a Family Funded Program with the Apple Store Canberra and a purchasing portal through JB Hi-Fi. Both of these providers are offering significant discounts to *any family* in our school wanting to purchase an iPad. Information on accessing these deals can be found through the BYOiPad tab on our school website. Please be aware of other great deals



JB HI-FI

through many other suppliers over this festive and silly sale season!

LOVE IN A BOX

Year 3/4 students have been working on improving their financial literacy skills through their MoneySmart unit. Students investigated the possible contents of 'shoeboxes of love', which can be donated to children in need. They discussed needs versus wants, and compared the needs of others to their own.



Students solved problems involving purchases and the calculation of change. They compared prices of items across a range of vendors. Each student presented a plan for a shoebox of love, using the mathematics of the unit. The students then worked in small groups to prepare a final plan within a budget for a shoebox of love. The required items will be purchased by the school and these boxes will be sent to children in need, via Operation Christmas Child, who distribute hundreds of thousands of shoeboxes each year to disadvantaged kids overseas. For most of these kids, it is the first gift they have ever received. Each shoebox must be filled with an item from each of the following areas:

Something to wear, Something to play with, Something to love, Something for personal hygiene, Something special, Something for school

All students have thoroughly embraced the task and should be very proud of their contributions through outreach to others in the wider community.