Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

ADVENT
The focus for the second week of Advent is ‘Peace’. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remind ourselves that Jesus came to bring Peace to the world. Our words and actions can further the message of peace at Christmas time, if we choose them well. As a family, spend some time sharing ideas about how your family can – See Jesus in your life; Hear Jesus in your life; Speak to Jesus in your life.

A REASON TO CELEBRATE
On Tuesday St Michael’s School gathered to hear a special surprise announcement – Year 6 student, Thomas R, was awarded the ‘Prime Ministers NAIDOC Medal for excellence’. During Naidoc Week in July, the senior students were set the task of writing a ‘rap’ to be entered into the writing competition. Only five of these medals are awarded in the ACT, and it was revealed that there had been over 100,000 entries from primary schools across Australia. Mr Dylan Williams from the NAIDOC Week Committee presented the medal, accompanied by Mr Sid Eades from the Department of Agriculture. Thomas’ parents also joined in the surprise and stayed hidden till the announcement was made! Congratulations Thomas, an amazing achievement!

STAFFING
I have been keeping you up to date with changes and permanent appointments that have been occurring since the start of Term Three. This year we sadly farewell Miss Kayla Tait who is leaving St Michael’s and Canberra to pursue further study and challenges in another Diocese. We thank her for her many contributions to our community and wish her well in these new ventures. We also farewell, thank, and congratulate, Mrs Sarah Cannon who will take up a permanent teaching position at Holy Spirit Nicholls; and also Mr Robert Read will be moving on to a position at St Clare of Assisi in Conder. The latest information is that Miss Leah McInerney will not be returning to St Michael’s as she and her husband have now settled in Sydney. We wish them well in this new chapter of their lives. However, in 2015 we are happy to welcome back Mrs Cathy Holland, who has also been on leave for this year. We are also pleased that Mrs Jane McKeough and Mrs Skye McPadden will be returning in part-time roles for 2015. In a spirit of harmony, I am sure you will also warmly welcome all new and returning staff as valued members of the wider St Michael’s community.

SEMESTER TWO REPORTS
Reports will be coming home tomorrow, Friday 5th December. 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 - except maybe a good one. However, if any Parent/Carer would like to discuss the report, I would ask that you contact your child’s teacher directly 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; and this year in particular it is also very short. I thank you for your consideration of the teachers in this way.

SCHOOL FEES 2015
The school fee schedule for 2015 was recently passed by the School Community Council. The Catholic Education Office tuition fees and the Building Fund contribution have been increased slightly for 2015. To help us to maintain pace with the rising costs of the essential services in the school, the School Council approved increases in the Operation, Council, ICT and Excursion Levies. A copy of the schedule for 2015 was sent home earlier this week, to allow you some time to make any adjustments that are required to direct debits and other payment schedules. I sincerely thank you for your continued support of our school through the consistent payment of the fees. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Lisa if you have any questions.

SCRUBBING DAYS
At the end of each year scrubbing days are allocated to each block. We are looking for any helpers to assist the teachers with general classroom clean up and scrubbing of desks and chairs. Please email your class teacher if you are able to assist.

Thought for the Week
“…use our words to build caring relationships …” - quote from our School Prayer.

Yours in partnership

Judy
Our Giving Tree has resulted in many thoughtful contributions over the last couple of weeks. The gifts received are greatly appreciated. Please continue to send the gifts to the front office any time from now until next week, they will be donated to the St Vincent de Paul Appeal through the parish.

ADVENT FAMILY JOURNEY
This Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. As we wait for the coming of Jesus, we light the second (purple) candle. This is a time of love and preparation and we are reminded of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. 

‘A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’ (Luke 3:4-6)

WHOLE SCHOOL THANKSGIVING MASS
Today, Year 2T led a beautiful Mass to celebrate and share all the good things we have done this year. The children brought forward some of the gifts collected by the entire school community to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree Appeal.

MISION MEXICO
Last term we collected funds to send to Mexico with Miss Sarah Sams. We can now report on the positive results of your generosity. The orphanage has purchased a collection of classroom supplies. They are very grateful for the donation. A huge thank you to all!

CAROLS EVENING
The children are enthusiastic about their role in the Carols evening. Please come along and share in our last whole school event on Monday 15th December between 5.30-7.00pm. The younger children may enjoy to dress up as angels or shepherds on the night. Please remember to bring your picnic dinner or there will also be steak sandwiches, kransky’s and light refreshments available to purchase.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL’S
Graduation Mass: Thursday 11th December @ 6pm
Light Ceremony: Wednesday 17th December @ 2pm. We will pass on the leadership to our 2015 Year 6 students.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING 2015
At the beginning of each year St Michael’s holds a parent information evening to inform parents of some of the great things we do at St Michael’s for our students. Over the past couple of years we have slightly changed the format where we have led short information sessions which have all been very successful and we have received positive feedback. Next year we would like to continue this format and are asking for topics of interest as to what content you would like these sessions to contain. Please email Jo at jo.krippner@cg.catholic.edu.au with possible topics of interest.

REPORTS
Semester Two reports will be sent home tomorrow. If your child is absent, their report will be posted to your home address. Please read the letter included in the report as this explains the context of the report and how this information can benefit your child. Celebrate the successes and remember the real purpose of a school report.

As part of the school report, the ‘A – E’ key explains what each grade represents. It does contain phrases that need to be read carefully to comprehend the meaning. Staff members across our system are very conscious that it is very important for the children to understand the grades and what they mean. With this in mind, one version of an explanation of ‘A – E’ in ‘Kidspeak’ is printed here, (although directed at the children, I think it is very helpful for all of us!).

A  ALWAYS AWESOME
B  BRILLIANT
C  CAN DO THE WORK ON MY OWN
D  DOES THE WORK ON MY OWN SOMETIMES
E  EXTRA HELP NEEDED, PLEASE?

There are some variations on this version – and certainly it is not the perfect explanation but I think it will help remind us and the children what the reports are telling us. Always remember that the grades mean nothing without the comments and what you have witnessed during the Open Classroom evening.

KINDERGARTEN
Experiencing difficulty: Extra assistance and Encouragement Every time;
Developing: Doing tasks on most occasions; Direction still needed sometimes;
Competent: Can do it well; Consistently at level or above; Complete it independently

The ‘Developing’ grade is a very broad band and the accompanying comments and achievements are especially pertinent.
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 9th 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.

NETBALL NEWS
Congratulations to the Allstars Netball Team who won the 11 years Summer Belconnen Netball Competition. The girls were undefeated through the whole competition. Missing for the photo is Lucy and Elise. Well done girls!

SANITARIUM WEE-TIX KIDS TRYATHLON
Your child/ren should have received a flyer about the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon a few 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.

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PROGRAM
Our school Rules are:
Be Safe      Be Respectful
Be Responsible      Be a Learner

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:  (12 chicks) Shakira 2W
Yr 3-6: (10 to 10) Cooper 3/4B

Congratulations to Shakira & Cooper who have both received a canteen voucher.

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!

CANDY CANES
The season of Candy Canes has arrived. It is wonderful to see the children getting 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 no candy canes are to be eaten at the school. I have given the children a number of reasons - firstly health; extra sugar, preservatives and colouring (that they don’t need at all); 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.

St Michael’s Week 9, Term 4, SWPBS focus— Be Respectful!
Do I follow instructions straight away?

K-2  There are five Reindeers and 15 carrots, how many carrots does each Reindeer get?

Year 3-6 Using only addition, how do you add eight 8’s and get the number 1000?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Caitlin KD, Isabella HO 3/4H, Elise 3/4H, Jemima 1S and Daniela 5/6C
We hope you have a great day!

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.
Wednesday & Thursday: 10.00am – 2.00pm
Friday: 9.00 am – 11.30am and 11.30am – 2.00pm

**CANTEEN NEWS**

THE CANTEEN WILL NOT BE OPEN IN WEEK 10. HELP IS DESPERATELY REQUIRED ON WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER (LAST DAY OF SCHOOL) TO HELP CLEAN THE CANTEEN. PLEASE ADVISE CAITLYN IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP OUT.

**CANTEEN -** 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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Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am

Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am

Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm