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.

SEMESTER TWO REPORTS
Reports will be coming home tomorrow, Friday 4 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 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.

STAFFING UPDATE
We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Breen Fox will continue at St Michael’s for 2016 in the role of Assistant Principal (Acting). Mrs Kylie-anne Swan will also continue in the role of Religious Education Coordinator (Acting REC) for next year. We thank these two ladies for their ongoing contributions in these important roles.

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 the 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.

SCHOOL FEES 2016
The school fee schedule for 2016 was recently passed by the School Community Council. The Catholic Education Commission and Catholic Education tuition fees and the Building Fund contribution reflect the usual small increase for 2016. To help us to maintain pace with the rising costs of the essential services in the school, the School Council approved small increases in both the Operation and Resource Levies. A copy of the schedule for 2016 will be sent home today, 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 and for honouring your commitment through the consistent payment of the fees. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Lisa if you have any questions.

Thought for the Week: Very appropriate in the Christmas season
FAMILY - Father (F) And (A) Mother (M) I (I) Love (L) You (Y)
Filipino quote.

Yours in partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th December</td>
<td>Giving Mass 1/2S @ 9.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th December</td>
<td>Junior Christmas Concert @ 12.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner @ 6pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Big Day Out</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18th December</td>
<td>Graduation Assembly and Light Ceremony @ 2.15</td>
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NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK
- Cricket for Juniors
- My Family, My Faith
- Catholic Voice
- 2016 Fee Structure note
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

ADVENT
This week begins our second week in Advent. The candle of Peace will be lit. In light of many tragic events in many countries at the moment, Peace seems to be something we all need to be praying for. May we all find Peace.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
On the 8th December Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica. This will mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis says, “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

The motto for the year, Merciful like the Father, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME
1/2W are leading WSPT at the Church at 12.50pm this Friday, 4th 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.

LOST PROPERTY
A table will be set up near the library for the next two weeks for all lost property. Please remember to check the table for any missing items. Any clothing left behind will be put into the 2nd hand clothing pool.

QUESTACON EXCURSION
Best excursion ever! Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 students visited Questacon today for a day full of investigation, facts and fun! They explored the Secret World of Spiders through the eyes of tarantulas, funnel-webs, redbacks and giant water spiders. They also viewed two shows: Balloonicat – to discover the science of the humble balloon; and Rip Slash – the ultimate game of survival between predator and prey!

GOVERNOR GENERAL’S SPORTS FUN DAY
St Michael’s students were invited to participate in the GG’s Sports Fun Day on the lawns of Government House. The weather was perfect and all students enjoyed fruit break, lunch and activities, hosted by the Governor General. All of the activities promoted a healthy and active lifestyle. The students were excellent representatives of our school. Thank you to Mrs Blakey, Mrs McKeough and Mrs Papasidero for assisting on the day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
Mischa 1/2W, Caitlin 1/2S, Isabella 5/6W & Elise 5/6H

We hope you have a great day!
ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016
We are in the process of trying to finalise a date for this carnival which will be held early in Term 1 next year. Please watch this space for details as they come to hand. Thank you.

PACIFIC SCHOOL SWIMMING GAMES
Congratulations to Susan (5/6W) for doing an amazing job at the Pacific School Swimming Games which were held from the 21st-27th November. Susan swam in many different races and from all reports had a great time. You go girl!

THANK YOU
Thank you to Tad (1/2S) and Ilijana (3/4F) who donated a cricket set to go along with all of the equipment that is now available for the kids to play with at recess and lunch. What a lovely gesture!

START SMART
Next Monday and Tuesday, Years 1-6 will participate in facilitated Start Smart workshops, integrated with our financial literacy units in Maths. The Start Smart program changes the way young people learn about money. By making money management interactive, engaging and fun through a series of free workshops and online resources, students are equipped with basic competencies to make smart decisions about money. Each Stage Level will have a different focus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage One (1/2)</th>
<th>Stage Two (3/4)</th>
<th>Stage 3 (5/6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• introduction to notes and coins</td>
<td>• credit cards and key cards</td>
<td>• goal setting</td>
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<tr>
<td>• recognition of Australian currency</td>
<td>• earning money</td>
<td>• earning money</td>
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<tr>
<td>• keeping money safe</td>
<td>• spending habits</td>
<td>• saving strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• the difference between needs and wants</td>
<td>• comparative shopping</td>
<td>• interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• using money in exchange for goods and service</td>
<td>• maximising savings</td>
<td>• banks</td>
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CAROLS & FAMILY PICNIC NIGHT
We will be celebrating the spirit of Christmas on our annual Carols Night, next Tuesday 8th December. All family and friends are invited to watch and join in as each class performs festive songs. You are welcome to bring along a picnic or there will be a sausage sizzle and light refreshments available for purchase. The event begins at 5:30pm till 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there. If you are able to assist with set up of BBQ, cooking or pack up, please see Lisa at the front office or email breen.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
Earlier this year, two of our students won a prize for their home-made scarecrow creations, in the Canberra Show. The Mihajlovics have generously donated their prize money to the school! Another donation was also made earlier in the year from the Cairns family. Elise, Brooke and Poppy have now been shopping and have purchased their choice of books and sporting equipment for everyone at school to share. The St Michael’s community thanks these families for their generous donations for students to utilise in the classroom.

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. THERE WILL BE NO CANTEEN IN WEEK 10, PLEASE CONTACT LISA IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP CLEAN.

PLEASE NOTIFY LISA IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER IN THE CANTEEN OR CAN PURCHASE THE SHOPPING ANY TIME DURING TERM 4. YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday:  9.30am

Weekend Masses
Saturday:  9am
Sunday:  8am and 5.30pm

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 has gone home with details on how to upload the app, or check the school website for the instruction sheet. 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.