Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends,

We are approaching the 5th Sunday of Lent and the following week we will begin Holy week with Palm Sunday celebrations. Over the last few weeks I have offered some suggestions aimed at taking a new look at the purpose of Lent as being an opportunity to further develop our relationship with our God! Communication is vital in any relationship, so this week we can turn our focus directly to God ~ Why is it that Prayer is so hard to fit into our lives? If we never miss our favourite television show then maybe we need to prioritise prayer too. Prayer can be as simple as going for a walk and asking God to be a part of our lives. Share a prayer with your children before a meal. It can happen anywhere at any time!

3-WAY CONFERENCES

Thank you for the way you have participated in this very important part of our reporting process making a positive experience for your child/ren. This early contact between students, parents and teachers allows your child to have a positive view of their learning and know that they are supported both at home and at school, in their goals for development and further achievement. Please remember that these meetings are designed to allow the child an opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning, and are not meant to be a time to discuss other aspects of school. St Michael’s works on the premise that ongoing open communication is vital in the interest of your children’s development. So should an issue or concern arise, then a timely meeting should be organised by either the Parent or the Teacher as appropriate. We thank you for respecting the professional courtesy of making an appointment.

YEAR 5/6 IN SYDNEY

Last week we managed to avoid the constant rain of Canberra and only had to deal with a few showers as we explored some of the sights of Sydney. Some children even faced fears of heights and came away very proud of themselves. The children were kept very busy as we packed in as many experiences as possible, so the common response on our return has been “had a fantastic time but I was really tired”. (That came from the staff too!) The camp experience for primary children has a number of aims and one of those is to strengthen their independence in safe and supported surroundings. Over recent years I have noticed that there are more students who struggle to do everyday things for themselves. For your reflection, I have shared below a couple of statements from Parenting Educator Michael Grose about resilience. He refers to them as Resiliency Robbers and the corresponding notion we should be developing.

Robber # 1 – Neglect to develop Independence.

Don’t wait till they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so they can look after themselves if you are not around.

Resilience notion #1 – Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Robber # 2 – Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations

There are many times kids are put in situations outside their comfort zones for a time. For instance, giving a talk, singing at the concert or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with, so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

Resilience notion #2 – Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Thought for the Week

‘It’s a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the very best, you very often get it.” Somerset Maugham

Yours in partnership

Judy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
<th>IMPORTANT DATES</th>
<th>NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th April</td>
<td>Thursday 8th May</td>
<td>- Catholic Voice</td>
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<td>Whole School Prayer Time</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Mass</td>
<td>- ‘My Family, My Faith’</td>
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<td>3/4H @ 12.50pm</td>
<td>Monday 28th July</td>
<td>- Chess Note</td>
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<td>School Disco</td>
<td>Grandparents’ Day</td>
<td>- Walkathon sponsorship card and note</td>
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<td>K-2 – 5pm-6pm</td>
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<td>3-6 – 6.30pm-8pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10th April</td>
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<td>Whole School Easter Liturgies</td>
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<td>Friday 11th April</td>
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<td>End of Term 1</td>
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<td>Monday 28th April</td>
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<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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RELIGION

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER TIME
Tomorrow, Friday 4th April at 12.50pm, Year 3 /4 H will be leading our focus. You are most welcome to join us.

HOLY WEEK PRAYER SERVICES
On Thursday 10th April we will spend time together in prayer and reflection. The schedule will include 3 sessions:
- 10.20am - Kinder & Year 1 will lead us as we hear about Palm Sunday
- 12.50pm - Year 3 and Year 4 will share a Pascal Meal with the classes in small groups, reenacting the First Eucharist of Holy Thursday.
- 2.10pm - Year 5/6C and Year 5/6P will retrace the steps of Jesus on his Good Friday Passion journey.

In Week 1 of Term 2, on Tuesday 29th April we will have our final gathering:
- 12.50pm - Year 5/6M & Year 2 will celebrate the significance of the Easter Resurrection

Please feel free to be with us in prayer for any or all of these commemorations.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH GRIEF PROGRAM  LEARNING TO LIVE WITH CHANGE AND LOSS
Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some time in our lives. At St Michael’s School we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering an education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence early next term. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practice new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. We focus on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Every family will have received a notice about the Seasons for Growth program. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth we encourage you to talk to him/her about participating. A copy of the note is on our website under attachments. St Michael’s is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable experience for those who request to be involved.

If you require further information please contact Zita Clifford.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)
The National Assessment Program is the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

The 2014 NAPLAN tests will be held in Week Three of Term Two on Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May. Please check the following timetable which outlines the times at which the tests will be sat. Please ensure that if you have a child in Year 3 or 5 that appointments are organised outside testing times. A make-up day will be held on Friday 17th May for students who missed a section of the testing or were absent on a particular test day.

The results of these tests will provide useful information for us as teachers and you as parents. They provide a snapshot from one time on one day, which will be analysed in conjunction with all other assessment, to help inform teachers in their ongoing efforts to address the literacy and numeracy needs of their students.

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<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Language Conventions Writing</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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A NAPLAN 2014 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy, Information for Parents pamphlet was sent home on Tuesday to parents of students in Years Three and Five. For further information about NAPLAN you can go to www.nap.edu.au

St Michael's Disco
Friday
4th April
Kinder to Yr 2 @ 5.00pm-6.00pm
Admission $3.00
Years 3 to 6 @ 6.30pm-8.00pm
Admission $4.00

Chips, drinks, pizzas and glow sticks will be available for purchase on the night.
Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival
As you are all aware this event was cancelled due to the amount of rain we experienced last week. We have received a list of all of the raffle prizes and unfortunately there were no winners here at St Michael’s. We understand people’s disappointment at the cancellation of this event and send our support to St Thomas the Apostle School community who put countless hours into the preparation of this day. Your $5 refund for any hands purchased will be refunded next week.

Cross Country
The St Michael’s Cross Country Carnival is being held next Tuesday 8th April (Week 10). We have started training with the students, so please continue to encourage them to get outside and run their little legs off. I will meet all of the parent helpers at around 9.10am in the courtyard.

Walkathon
Today we launched our Walkathon for 2014. The students are all very excited and ‘happy’ to participate in this day on Friday 23rd May. Sponsorship cards were sent home, along with a parent letter which outlines how this event works. Please start to get some sponsors for your children (and remember that we don’t encourage knocking on stranger’s doors).

Sydney Academy of Chess
Sydney Academy of Chess is looking at running chess coaching at St Michael’s, and are looking for expressions of interest. If your child is interested in chess coaching, could you please fill in and return the note that went home today.

Year 5/6 Camp Sydney 2014

Merici College Open Day: Wednesday 7 May 2014
9.30am to 7.00pm
Come and see the College in action!

Information Evening:
For Year 7 Students for 2015
Tuesday 13 May 2014
6.00pm-7.15pm
For Year 11 Students for 2015
Thursday 15 May 2014
6.00pm-7.15pm
Careers Expo from 4.00pm

Daramalan College Enrolment Dates 2015
Open Evening:
Thursday 3rd April 2014
Tours 5.00-6.00pm
followed by Year 7
Information Session
from 7.00-8.00pm
Contact the
Registrar on
62456348 to find
further information about
enrolments on our website
ww.daramalan.act.edu.au

St Francis Xavier College—Enrolment 2015
Our Year 7 2015 Enrolment Information Evening is
Monday 12th May commencing at 5.30pm with tours of
the College and followed at 7pm with a formal
information session. We are also having an Open Day on
Friday 16th May where families are free to come for a
tour of the College between 9am – 2.30pm.

School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program
Our school Rules are:
Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be a Learner

St Michael’s Week Ten SWPBS focus—
Be a Learner, specifically
How much effort am I putting in?

Happy Birthday!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate
their birthdays this week:
Joseph 3/4B, Tom 5/6M, Tali 5/6P and Izac 5/6C
We hope you have a great day!
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

ST MICHAEL’S NOTICE BOARD

BOOKCLUB
Please contact Mrs Monro or Mrs Arena if you have any queries regarding
Bookclub.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is carried out every Wednesday.  Please leave your banking books
at the Front Office.

DANCECORE
NO Dancecore for Term 1.  Please call Cassie on 0417 442 750

GUITAR
Please contact Sam Strano on 0408 196 855

PIANO
Please contact Mary-Liz Partridge 0413 425 753

SPEECH & DRAMA
Tuesday lunchtimes.  Please call Elizabeth McIntosh 6255 9054.

YMCA OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS
For further information, please contact the YMCA of Canberra Children’s Services
Headquarters on 6242 4040 or cscanberra@ymca.org.au.
Vacancies available Monday to Thursday.  Please register your interest for
Fridays’ on our website  www.canbera.ymca.org.au

PETER MORTON ACADEMY OF JUDO JUJITSU KARATE
Classes held in the school hall on a Thursday evening for children and adults.
Please contact Peter Wilson  0412 628 450 or email: info@pjtracks.com.au

Remember if your child is unable to make a private lesson due to an excursion
or illness you will need to contact the appropriate person to cancel their lesson.

CANTEEN NEWS
The price of the Moove milk (Chocolate, Strawberry and Banana) has increased in price, they are now $1.80 each.

We are desperately in need of helpers for all shifts, especially next Friday 4th April.  Please contact Caitlyn.

CANTEEN - Help required on all Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2013
Please contact Caitlyn Frost on caitlyn.frost@cg.catholic.edu.au

Week 10  Wednesday  9/4  Thursday  ’0/4  Friday  11/4
Term 1  HELP REQUIRED  Liz Segeri  Erin Slinger, Bernie Griffths

Week 1  Wednesday  30/4  Thursday  1/5  Friday  2/5
Term 2  Carmen Giucci  Liz Segeri  Debbie Snyder, Kathy Bartelj

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