Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

As we move into the third weekend of Advent, the focus on Joy is very appropriate. We have the opportunity to be joyful as we celebrate, on multiple levels, in these last days of school, including: White-Band reward, orientation days, the whole-school Nativity Concert, Showcase Assembly, Year 6 Graduation, and the light ceremony.

Let us rejoice this week!
Let us choose to thank.
Let us choose to forgive.
Let us choose to hope.
Let us choose to love.
Let us choose joy.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Another activity that always brings joy and excitement is next Friday, when all students and teachers will have the opportunity to meet at ‘Stepping Up’. The finalised new class lists will be displayed in the Library windows at 3pm on Friday 16th December.

2017

The St Michael’s community would like to formally congratulate two current staff members who will be moving on to new adventures at the end of this year. Well done to Mrs Skye McPadden on her permanent appointment at St Joseph’s in O’Connor. We also farewell and commend Ms Kylie-anne Swan on her permanent appointment at St Vincent’s in Aranda. We wish you both every success and happiness in your new roles.

I am very pleased to announce St Michael’s staffing for 2017:

Kinder: Mrs Sarah Medway
1/2: Miss Laura Frogley
1/2: Miss Cassandra Halls
3/4: Mrs Mary de Smet
3/4: Mrs Yvette Whalan
3/4: New: TBA
5/6: Mrs Shannon Blakey
5/6: Miss Abbey Peterson

Principal: Mrs Judy Walsh
Assistant Principal: Mrs Jo Krippner
Religious Education Coordinator: Mrs Mary de Smet

Learning Support: Mrs Jo Krippner
Indonesian: Mrs Zita Clifford
Library: Mrs Cathy Holland
Executive & Project Release: Mrs Jane McKeeough
Office Manager: Mrs Lisa Monro
Office Support: Mrs Maria Papasidero
Learning Support Assistants:
Mrs Kylie Arena
Mrs Maria Papasidero
Mrs Sonja Vocisano
Mrs Sharon friend
Mr Kim Kennedy

Janitor/Maintenance:

UPDATE

Mrs Walsh is recovering well and will return as Principal in 2017. We hope that the additional rest time over the holiday break ensures a full recovery.

HEAD LICE

Unfortunately we have had a couple of incidences of head lice reported. Could you please check your child’s hair and remove any eggs and/or live lice.

Yours in partnership,

Breen Fox
Acting Principal

“A thankful attitude releases joy. Gratitude is an attitude”.
Anonymous
**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 last Tuesday. If you would like your child to participate in volleyball sessions during a lunch time next year, please fill in the form that was sent home last week. These must be back at school by tomorrow (Friday 9th December). At this stage we do not have enough students expressing an interest to run these sessions, so if your child/ren is keen please get this note back to us ASAP. Thanks.

**NEW EQUIPMENT**
We have bought some new soft balls and netball bibs with our PE/Health budget. These will hopefully be arriving at school in the next few days and the students will be able to use them in the new year.

**NATIVITY CONCERT**
It was wonderful to see so many families who were able to be a part of our Christmas celebration and final whole-school community event on Tuesday evening. Our Year 6 students lead us through a wonderful performance, supported by our very talented singers from Kinder to Year 5. Thank you to the students and teachers for all of your efforts in rehearsals over the past weeks to present the wonderful story of Jesus’ birth. Thank you also to the parents for preparing costumes, facilitating the craft stall and sharing the event with us.
Big thanks to Mrs Monro for cooking the bbq.

**LOST PROPERTY**
There is a table set up near the library with various unnamed items. All unclaimed items will be disposed of or put into the 2nd hand clothing pool before the end of next week. Please remember to check your children’s clothing to ensure that they are all labelled correctly and that you don’t have another student’s clothing item.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
- Jemima 3/4W
- Daniela 3/4W
- Gabriella 1/2S
- Apajok 3/4B
We hope you have a great day!

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
- **Friday 9th December (Week 9)**
  - 9-11.30 Lea Gocentas
  - 11.30-2 Pepe Kish
  - 9-11.30 Ellen Arena
  - 11.30-2 Debbie Snyder

A special Thank You to everyone that has volunteered throughout 2016, your help has been greatly appreciated. At this stage the canteen will still be operating on a Friday in 2017, more information to come next year.

**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.

**GIVING MASS**
Thank you to KD for leading our Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday. Your generous donations will be collected tomorrow from some lovely volunteers from the St Vincent de Paul society. It is not too late to donate.

**GOVERNOR GENERAL’S SPORTS FUN DAY**
Last Friday some lucky students were invited to participate in the GG’s Sports Fun Day on the lawns of Government House. The students did a rotation of different sporting activities and enjoyed a sausage sizzle lunch. They had a visit from Santa who arrived in a helicopter and received a bag of lollies. All the students were excellent representatives of our school and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Thank you to Mrs McPadden, Ms Swan, Mrs Vocisano and Mrs Monro who all got out of the office for the day to help transport and supervise the children.

**GRADUATION**
Year 6 students will celebrate their graduation next Tuesday 13th December. Mass will begin at 6pm, followed by dinner on the school grounds after 7pm. We look forward to this momentous occasion as the students prepare for high school.

**WHITE BAND REWARD**
We had a blast!
We had a jumping castle, ice-cream, chips and extended play! What a great way to celebrate with students who achieved a white band. Congratulations also to the many students who earned blue bands throughout the year. Collecting 10 Gotchas for a blue band is a massive achievement in itself. Well done!!

**SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY @ 12.50 TOMORROW**
A reminder that tomorrow’s assembly will be a performance 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. All welcome.