Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

ADVENT
The focus for the third week of Advent, beginning on Sunday, is ‘Joy’ in the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. How appropriate that our Year 6 students will celebrate their Graduation from Primary School during this week of joy. It is only right that we celebrate next Tuesday with a Mass followed by a family celebration at the school. Today at our Giving Mass, families also participated in the spreading of joy through their amazing generosity for the Giving Tree. Fr Loi explained ‘thanksgiving’ to the children: thanks – an attitude of gratitude; giving – share what we have received. A great message for the Christmas season and I have shared a few more ideas below.

Thought for the Week: EIGHT GIFTS THAT DON’T COST A CENT - (gift wrapped with a smile).

The Gift of Listening...
But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening!

The Gift of Affection...
Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter...
Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, “I love to laugh with you”.

The Gift of a Written Note...
A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

The Gift of a Compliment...
A simple and sincere, “You look great in red”, “You did a super job” or “That was a wonderful meal” can make someone’s day.

The Gift of a Favour...
Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of Solitude...
There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give solitude to others.

The Gift of Cheerful Disposition...
The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone; really it’s not that hard to say, Hello or Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS
Elly and Robert Paragalli along with Kiara and Victoria recently welcomed a new little girl, Valentina, in to their family. The St Michael’s family sends our best wishes on this wonderful occasion.

2016
Kindergarten  Mrs Mary de Smet/ Mrs Jane McKeough
Year 1/2  Miss Sarah Sams
Year 1/2  Mrs Cathy Holland
Year 3/4  Mrs Shannon Blakey
Year 3/4  Mrs Yvette Whalan
Year 3/4  Miss Laura Frogley
Year 5/6  Miss Abbey Peterson
Year 3/4  Mrs Mary de Smet

Learning Support  Mrs Breen Fox
Indonesian  Mrs Zita Clifford
Library  Ms Swan /Mrs McKeough
Reading Recovery  Ms Kylie-anne Swan
Office Manager  Mrs Lisa Monro
Office Support  Mrs Maria Papasidero
Learning Support Assistants  Mrs Kylie Arena

Assistant Principal:  Mrs Breen Fox
RE Coordinator:  Mrs Kylie-anne Swan
Coordinator:  Mrs Mary deSmet
Principal:  Mrs Judy Walsh

Janitor/Maintenance  Mr Kim Kennedy

CLASS LISTS
Class lists will be displayed on Library windows at 3pm on Friday 18th December. All relevant information and the teachers’ professional judgements have contributed to these lists. There will be no changes made. Thank you for trusting us to do the best for your children.

Yours in partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS

Friday 11th December
Kenny Koala visit

Monday 14th December
Junior Christmas Concert @ 12.30

Tuesday 15th December
Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner @ 6pm

Wednesday 16th December
Year 6 Big Day Out
Cleaning Day K-2

Friday 18th December
Graduation Assembly and Light Ceremony @ 2.15

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2015
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2015
NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK

MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2016
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2016
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

ADVENT
Sunday is the beginning of the third week of Advent. The candle of Joy will be lit. Where in our lives do we find joy? Where do we find joy when our lives are so busy that joy feels so distant?

THANKSGIVING MASS
Thank you to 1/2S for leading our Thanksgiving Mass today at 9:30am in the Church. Tomorrow, your generous donations will be collected to create hampers for those in need. If you are still able to donate any items in the list below, please send in tomorrow morning.
- Toys - not wrapped
- Non Perishable festive type foods
Thank you for your generosity.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORNER

Farewells: As the final meeting/ Christmas celebration has occurred, we must formally thank the outgoing council members; Michelle Hastie, Leon Sanft, Debbie Snyder and Stuart Duncan for their commitment and contributions to the Council in various roles during their time on the executive.

Elections: We are very pleased to welcome back Stuart Duncan, and welcome Jeremy Lane, Belinda Larner, and Fiona Scherl to the Council executive for 2016. We also sincerely thank the other nominees and hope we can welcome them in future years. Thank you to all the parents who submitted voting forms for our Council elections. Fr Loi and I opened and tallied them this week.

Harmony Twilight Fair: All accounts have now been paid and follow up sales of plants and craft items banked! The School and Parish Twilight Fair cleared a profit of $12 366, of which a percentage is allocated to the Parish. Again we thank everyone involved for making this such a successful event. The Council will allocate these funds for projects in the school across next year. A Council review of 2015 happenings can be found in the Year Book coming home next week.

SHFPACT SUMMER SCHOOL 2016
Learn about Cyber Safety, Puberty and Personal Development, Friendships, Respectful Relationships, Healthy Body Image, Resilience...AND MORE. SHFPACT Summer School starts Monday 11 January 2016 – a series of short workshops for young people 10-14 years & their parents & carers. SHFPACT is an NDIS registered provider. See our website for details and bookings: shfpact.org.au/summerschool or call 6247 3018.

PARENTING – In support of the hardest job we have!
The following link will provide you with the latest Parenting Ideas Magazine by expert Michael Grose. We have also uploaded two articles to the attachments file – It’s a (Christmas) Wrap! & Staying sane when travelling with kids! http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parent_Magazine.html

WHITE BAND LUNCH
Congratulations to all of the students who received a white band this semester. Students were invited to wear casual clothes on Wednesday and enjoyed a special treat lunch with Mrs Walsh. We had an exceptionally large group of participants which is a reflection of the many students acting out the school rules and working hard at St Michael’s. Well done to all students who set the challenge of earning blue and white band during the year. Let’s see if we can beat our total next year!

LOST PROPERTY
A table has been set up near the library 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.

SCHOOL BANKING
This will be the last week for School banking for 2015, there will be no banking in Week 10. A big Thank You to Mrs Firth for volunteering to coordinate the banking for this year, she has kindly offered her services again for 2016.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:
We hope you have a great day!
ST MICHAEL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL FOR 2016 SAVE THE DATE
For all families returning to St Michael’s in 2016 our swimming carnival will be held on Friday 26th February (Week 4) at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. Please write this date in your diaries now (or when you get a diary for 2016!). Notes about this will be going home in the first couple of weeks of school next year.

CAROLS & FAMILY PICNIC NIGHT
Feliz navidad - We want to wish you a merry Christmas! Tuesday night was a relaxed and festive community event. It was wonderful to see so many families sharing a picnic and singing along to the carols. The students performed with great enthusiasm. Thank you to Mr Kennedy, Mr Dwight and Mr Monro for cooking the bbq and to the teachers who assisted with set up and pack up.

HOME READER
As the end of the year draws near, it is time to collect and stocktake all of our home readers. Please return books by the end of the week so that we can sort and store these resources for next year. If you have any library books at home, these should also be returned before the holidays.

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION
On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to attend a workshop on Anxiety and Depression in Children, through iTalk Mental Health. Narelle Wickham presented an overview of the many mental disorders that are prevalent in primary schools and strategies and support for students and teachers. Narelle is an accredited mental health social worker, specialising in adolescents. She runs a private practice and was formally the coordinator of Mind Matters. Narelle also conducts parent workshops Just Say Know. Details of these workshops for 2016 will be available at italkmentalhealth.com soon. If you would like more details about whether this might be relevant to you or your child, please email breen.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au

CORRECTION
Apologies, there were two small errors in the fee schedule sent home last week. Corrected copy now uploaded to website. Thank you to the helpful parent for letting me know.

RSPCA
Kids N’ Kritters
EDUCATION SESSIONS
Age range: 8 - 12
Cost: $60
Location: 12 Kirkpatrick Street, Weston ACT
Program dates: 4 - 29 January
Program times: 8:30 - 10:30 am
Description of program: RSPCA ACT will be running a series of fun education sessions over the month of January for youngsters interested in learning more about animals. Activities will vary from class to class and could include:
- Kitten cuddling
- Playing with puppies
- Dog walking
- Making toys and other enrichment for cats and dogs
Book now by calling 6287 8100 or email RSPCA@rspca-act.org.au

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENT VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE ASSISTED WITH SHOPPING, SPECIAL LUNCHES, SPORTS DAY AND HELPING OUT IN THE CANTEEN FOR 2015, YOUR HELP HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED. PLEASE CONTACT LISA IF YOU AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH CLEANING NEXT WEEK.
HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>9.00—11.30</th>
<th>11.30—2.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11th December</td>
<td>Pepe Kish</td>
<td>Maria Mastoris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Larner</td>
<td>Louise Dong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne McGrath</td>
<td>Ellen Arena</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>9.00—11.30</th>
<th>11.30—2.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th December</td>
<td>Canteen closed</td>
<td>Canteen closed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Help required to clean

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: kaleen@cg.org.au
Email: k.mcmahon3@bigpond.com
Archdiocesan Website: www.cgcatholic.org.au

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
Second Rite of Reconciliation to be celebrated at 7pm on:
- Thursday 10th December at St Matthew’s Page
- Friday 11th December at St Monica’s Evatt

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
- St Michael’s: 8pm on Christmas Eve and 8am on Christmas Day
- St Monica’s: 6pm on Christmas Eve and 10am on Christmas Day

POSITION VACANT
St Matthew’s Parish, Page requires a new Secretary. The position is part-time, 18 hours per week. All expressions of interest and for duty statement contact the parish office on 6254 1827 or stmattp@bigpond.net.au. Applications close December 31st.

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

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.

SPECIALISED WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Located at Campbell Primary
This holiday period we are offering workshops on topics such as Forensics, Robotics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Anthropology, Geography, Geology and more for students in Kindergarten through to year 6.
For more information please phone the Education Director on 0412 402 204 or Operations Director on 0488 265 122. Bookings taken via the website at www.swisheducation.edu.au