Dear Parents

Nelson Mandela is a special person not only to his own people but to humankind. He spent 27 years in jail as a political prisoner but emerged untouched by bitterness. Nelson Mandela refused to harden his heart or poison his mind with hatred and vengeance.

His example in dealing fairly with all the groups of people that composed the nation of which he was President, is worth reflecting upon as we act as role models for children. We must be consistent in how we treat other people and in our commitment to tolerance. If we, as parents, treat people differently based on characteristics such as race, gender, appearance, wealth or religious belief, our children are likely to do the same.

Children of all ages are attuned to pick up the differences of others. It’s perfectly normal. However, how children respond to these differences is imparted largely by parents, teachers and other adults in their lives. We should always be aware of what we say and do in front of our children and so avoid negative or demeaning comments about other people. Children seldom misquote adults; in fact, they usually repeat word for word what we shouldn’t have said.

No one group is entitled to special privileges and no group should put another group down so as to elevate the status of its own.

One the other hand we should not tell children that we are all the same; we are not. We experience the world in different ways and these experiences matter to other people, as strongly as they matter to us. We should help children understand the viewpoints of other people and encourage empathy and respect.

There is no justification for thoughtlessness or sheer rudeness but neither should causing offence by truth be avoided when necessary. The confident announcement of our Christian faith is not an arrogant attempt to impose Christian values on other people. It is giving witness to a way of life that is based on love, care, and forgiveness—virtues that will never lead to “hearts hardened” or “minds poisoned” by “hatred and vengeance”.

Jesus is the centre of the Christian outlook on the world and reference to his words in the Gospels teaches us the values that should be part of our life. We should tell our children to be proud of their Christian heritage and to exemplify Christian values in their daily lives.

“Do not judge others and God will not judge you;
Do not condemn others and God will not condemn you;
Forgive others and God will forgive you;
Give to others and God will give to you.

Indeed, … the measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.”

Luke 6: 37, 38

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Damita Mako
**RE News**

*Children’s Liturgy of the Word*
Children’s Liturgy will be on this **Sunday 15th September** during the 10 am Mass. All primary aged children are warmly invited to attend.

*Year 1 and Year 6 Buddy Mass*
Years 1 and 6 will celebrate Mass together on **Friday 13th September** at 10.15 am in the Church. All family members are invited to attend.

*Diocesan Review of Religious Education*
The survey period will continue until the 20th September. We appreciate your support in this matter.

*St Michael’s Feast Day End of Term Mass*
Our whole school End of Term Mass to celebrate the feast day of St Michael will be held on **Friday 20th September** at 10.15 am in the Church. On this day we remember St Michael the Archangel and protector of our faith. We also pray and give thanks for the Sisters of Mercy who played such an important role in the history of our school community. We honour and give thanks for their commitment and service to St Michael’s school. All are welcome to attend.

*St Michael’s Social Justice Group*
Do you want to help raise social awareness in your local community? Are you looking for a way to help those in need? We’re looking for a group of parishioners who would be interested in being a part of this new venture. The Social Justice Group would look to raise awareness of social justice issues as well as provide our services to those in need in the local community. Come along to the first meeting **Sunday 6th October** after 10:00am Mass. We’ll meet outside the Church and head to lunch from there. If you would like any additional information or would like to be involved but cannot make it on the 6th, please contact karina.anthony@gmail.com or 0431 366 362

*Parramatta Institute for Mission*
Enjoy some new insights this Spring. Four interesting presentations to explore from the Gospel of John. Scripture scholar Father John McSweeney, Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral, will put us in touch with the early meaning and themes for our day in this fascinating book of our Bible. 
Venue: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown (upstairs)
Date: **Wednesday September 4, 11, 18 & 25**—Time: 7-9pm
Cost: Donation
Booking: mh@instituteformission.com.au or 9831 4911

*Carols by Candlelight*
St Michael’s Parish is looking to hold another carols event at the end of the year. However, we need your support from our local business community. If you or your business would like to sponsor the event please contact Jeanette on 0423 553 641 or email the parish youth@stmichaelsbh.org.au. Many thanks The Carols Team.

**URGENT HELP REQUIRED**
Can you empty some garbage bins around 2.30-2.45 pm next week while our maintenance man is on leave? Please contact the school office on 9639 0518 if you can help.

**SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM**
The social skill for next week is: **TOLERANCE**
Being able to accept the differences and opinions of others.

**Student of the Week**
**Term 3 Week 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KB</th>
<th>Senon Ranasinghe</th>
<th>3F</th>
<th>Joses Idehen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KIH</td>
<td>Daniel Grib</td>
<td>3RUGG</td>
<td>Dominique Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Mia Jurcevic</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Nathaniel Mustac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Georgia-Marie Barakat</td>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Aphrodite Madsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1FM</td>
<td>Charlie Pascoe</td>
<td>4RB</td>
<td>Sheiden Mabais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1K</td>
<td>Jalen Metierre</td>
<td>4VG</td>
<td>Aramic Joukhadari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q</td>
<td>Isaac Kot</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Ethan Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Kayla The</td>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Kurtis Grech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Teresa Tanna</td>
<td>5OC</td>
<td>Teone Altavilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2BT</td>
<td>Claudia Lahoud</td>
<td>5S</td>
<td>James Cassar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Charlotte Finnerty</td>
<td>6DD</td>
<td>Sarah Marcellino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Dylan Brette</td>
<td>6F</td>
<td>Harrison Wilde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Georgia Cowling</td>
<td>6ID</td>
<td>Stephen Kocsis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Jake Harris</td>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Sarah Hatton</td>
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<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Dylan Thorne</td>
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**J1 Jungle Night**
Who: All year 6 Students; When: This **Friday 13th September**
Where: The Downey Room; Wear: Come dressed for the jungle
Bring: a gold coin, a good attitude and a parent to sign you in and out. For any inquiries please contact Laura Burton (J1 coordinator) 0433259234 or Jerry Wilkes (youth minister) 0433242215

**Diocesan Youth Festival 2013**
Friday 27th September
“I have come to cast fire upon the earth” Luke 12:49
Speaker: Bishop Anthony Fisher OP and Gary Pinto
Time: 7:00pm; Place: St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 59 Allawah Street, Blacktown
For more information email youthevent@parra.catholic.org.au

David Ison
Religious Education Coordinator

**DRIVING COURTESY**
Please consider everyone when dropping your children off at school. The ‘zipp’ effect of allowing one car in from Wandoona St into the stop n’ drop queue allows for less traffic congestion and promotes harmony in our community.

**SCHOOL FEES:**
Thank you to the families who have paid this term’s fees. School fees are now overdue. Please settle your school fees as soon as possible or contact Mrs Linda Borsato in the school office on 9639 0518.
## DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Sept</td>
<td>Year 1 &amp; Year 6 Buddy Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 17 Sept</td>
<td>MacKillop Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 19 Sept</td>
<td>Student and Citizen of the Term Presentation—2.30 pm in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Sept</td>
<td>St Michael’s Feast Day End of Term Mass—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 8 Oct</td>
<td>Term 4 Resumes—all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Oct</td>
<td>TWILIGHT MARKETS/FAIR—3.30-9.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18 Oct</td>
<td>Kinder Excursion—Calmsley Hill Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18 Oct</td>
<td>Whole School Catholic Missions Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23 Oct</td>
<td>Year 4 Reconciliation—10.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Oct</td>
<td>Year 3 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Oct</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Oct</td>
<td>Kindergarten—Storyteller visit: Bronwyn Vaughan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1 Nov</td>
<td>Year 1 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1 Nov</td>
<td>Kids’ Fun Dress Up Disco Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 4 Nov</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 6 Nov</td>
<td>Year 3 Reconciliation—10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Nov</td>
<td>Year 2 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2014 Parent Night—7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 12 Nov</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation: Group 1—9.30-11.30 am</td>
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<td>Group 2—12.30-2.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 14 Nov</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation: Group 2—9.30-11.30 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group 1—12.30-2.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 15 Nov</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22 Nov</td>
<td>Year 4 Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 25 Nov</td>
<td>School swimming program—Years 1, 2 and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting—7 pm</td>
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## DEBATING NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEBATING TEAM

During Term 2 and Term 3 our Year 6 Debating team has been very busy competing in an inter-school competition. They have dedicated themselves to the task in a very mature way. Numerous lunchtimes and many hours at home have been spent in preparation for each debate. It is so impressive to see the skills they have gained and the manner in which they are able to present arguments and rebuttals. Congratulations to: James Bhatti, Ellie Hoogervorst, Paige Brosnan, Luke Kennedy, Alexa Murray, Sarah Hatton, Madeline Cove, Caleb Magua, Candace Thurbon and Shannon Salama. Our grateful thanks to Danielle Toubji and Aaron Lyte-Mason who ably stepped in to assist when members of our team were absent. We are very proud of you all!

Special thanks to Mrs Moloney (Abbie Year 5) who has helped us each week as our adjudicator and Mrs Hatton and Mr Salama who assisted in preparing our team. We appreciate your generosity and expertise.

Many thanks!

*Year 6 Teachers*

## UNIFORM SHOP

**Thursday 19th September, 8.30-9.30 am**

**SUMMER UNIFORM PRICE LIST—FORM**

Available on our website at the following location:


There are quite a lot of unnamed school jackets in lost property. If your child’s jacket is missing please ask them to go and check lost property. Any unclaimed jackets will be donated to the second hand clothing stall for the Twilight Markets/Fair.

## STAR CORNER

Congratulations to the Under 12F St Michael’s Netball team who won their Grand Final on the 31st August against Tangara—score 24-15. Well done to the team members: Ariella Azzopardi, Cassandra Biggs, Ruby Caruana, Jessica Curran, Grace Miltenburg, Bethany Roberts, Shannon Salama, Chelsea Zec; and coach, Janet Curran!
NEWS FROM KS CLASSROOM

In KS, we have been focusing on developing our writing skills. We have started to do creative writing where we write about a given topic. Recently the topic was My Dad. Here are some of the students’ pieces of writing:

My dad likes to play soccer and he works at the bank and he loves me and I love him as well. He makes me laugh because he likes me and he takes me to school.

Elie

My dad is nice to me. He tickles me. My dad is funny and he likes me. He cares for me and he plays with me.

Holly

My dad is a granny-flat builder. He is fun and he is nice. He is a funny dad. He helps me with my homework. He buys me ice-cream.

Dominic

My dad is a computer fixer. He loves me. He makes yummy barbecues and I love him too. He pulls funny faces and plays with me.

Cristina

My dad likes to eat lettuce. My dad is funny because he likes me.

Xavier

My dad makes me laugh. He eats fruit. My dad likes to play with me. He loves me and my dad is special.

Sarah

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

Well done to all of the children who participated in the 2013 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools-English. Congratulations to the following children for their exceptional achievements.

ENGLISH

**Distinction**

Year 3: Georgia Cowling, William Khoury, Francesca Marino, Thomas McGoldrick

Year 4: Isabella Carney, Matthew Hatton, David McKay, Kim Pham

Year 5: Therese Barbara, Georgie Lamond

Year 6: Tulizo Mkali

**Credit**

Year 3: Kristen Betros, Jackson Flood, Madeline Ledesma, Jacynth Ondethu, Jessica Wahab

Year 4: Lachlan Barron, Grace Bittar, Alana Curran-Jones, Nicholas Melching, Juliette Mkali, Ashwin Rodrigues, Georgia Simic, Brooke Woodroffe

Year 5: Chloe D’Lima, Dylan Grib, Hayley Jones

Year 6: Joshua Beattie, Jaden Ranasinghe

WHISPER PHONES

We would like to have class sets of ‘whisper phones’ and are asking the school community for donations or supply contacts of PVC and plumbing tubing. Children learn to read, write and speak better by hearing their own voice reading aloud, as well as to control their voices (because their voices goes right back into their ear). It also muffles their voices so they don’t distract others and lets them hear their words to process the story.

Mrs Aguirre

Literacy Leader

ST MICHAEL’S NETBALL CLUB 2014 SEASON

Is your child interested in becoming a part of a sporting team? Did you know that St Michael’s Netball Club is open to all players. You do not need to attend St Michael’s Primary School to join!

All training is held at Crestwood netball courts. We have positions available for players 7 years and up.

New Member Registration day is

Thursday 19th Sept 2013 2 pm—5 pm

(in Downey Room – St Michael’s Parish Car park)

Visit our website at: www.stmichaelsnetballclub.asn.au for more information or contact our Club Registrar – Rebecca Vella on 0418 244 169.
FOR KIDS WHOSE FAMILIES ARE CHANGING

Group activity for children age 6-11 who are experiencing and struggling with family separation, Parent’s divorce, or family change.

Six Thursdays 17th Oct 2013 – 21st Nov 2013

Time: 4.00pm – 5.15 pm. After school
Venue: The All Saints of Africa Centre, 33 Alannah St Blackburn
Bookings: Phone 98930222 to reserve a place
Cost: $60 per child per session (includes snacks) Concessions may be available

Topics Covered:
Week 1: Everything is different
Week 2: It’s my body
Week 3: I wish everything was back to normal
Week 4: I see small
Week 5: How can I manage
Week 6: What have I learned?

Rollercoasters

Dear Parents,

Working with children holds both rewards and challenges. For many children, one of their challenges will be to cope with family change. They need support and information to navigate these uncharted seas successfully. When parents and counselors work together, sending similar messages of encouragement and hope, children’s anxieties diminish.

For this reason, a group for children of changing families, called Rollercoasters, is being formed for primary aged children. This group is designed for children who have recently experienced parental separation, divorce, or other changes in family composition. Whether your children reacted strongly or mildly to changes in their family, they often benefit from working with other children who have had similar feelings and experiences.

Rollercoasters utilizes discussions, games, role-plays, art and craft to help children cope with feelings and loss, manage anger and improve self-esteem. Groups will meet once a week for 6 weeks from 4.00pm – 5.15pm. There is a small weekly cost of $10 for the programme. Currently the group runs each term alternating between our Fernwood and Blackburn group rooms.

There is a ‘Zip Short for Parents’ available on request and a flyer with the dates and venue for the next group. I look forward to having your child in our group. Together we can support your child to adjust to these changes.

If you have any questions or if you are interested in having your child participate in this group please contact me.

Kind regards

Alice Mackey

Education and Group Coordinator

CatholicCare Social Services Parramatta

Ground Floor | 1A Villiers Street | Parramatta NSW 2150 | PO Box 2023 North Parramatta NSW 1770 | Phone (02) 9833 0322 | Fax (02) 9833 0399 | landsyn.e虑k@cccs.org.au |
WESLEY PRESCHOOL CASTLE HILL IS CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!
All past pupils, teachers and parents of the Wesley Preschool are warmly invit-
ed to join us in marking 40 years of educating children in The Hills. Come and relive those magic years on Sunday, October 27th 2013. Celebrations begin with a 9.30 am church service and continue throughout the day. Also join us on Facebook: Wesley Preschool Castle Hill 40 Years
We are eager to hear from anyone who has photos or memorabilia from their time at the preschool.
Please email Jane Harvey at wesleyucps@uccs.org.au or send photos into the preschool to be scanned and returned to you. For further information phone the preschool on (02) 9634 5282
We look forward to seeing lots of old friends again.