Dear Parents

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity in supporting the bushfire appeal. St Michael’s community as always opens their hearts to those who are in need.

This week I had the opportunity to speak to our Year 5 students about the up coming elections for our student council for 2014. In preparation for seeking nominations for the student council I spoke about the qualities that make a good leader.

At St Michael’s we consider that all of our Year 6 students are leaders in our school, however, there are some specific positions that students are elected to e.g. School Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains and Community leaders.

I spoke about the importance of our leaders being role models to the rest of the school and living our school motto of Knowledge, Faith and Love. Some of the qualities that I talked about were: enthusiasm for the school and learning, humility, confidence, trustworthiness, courage, good communication, being a team player, being an authentic person, and having a sense of humour.

Sometimes we read about leaders being different but I would want our leaders, not to be different, but to make a difference. Leadership is not about power, position, or claiming privilege.

Leadership is about making a difference in the lives of others and using one’s gifts and talents in the service of others. This is the model of leadership that Jesus espoused. Hundreds of people followed him not because he was fearful but because he served them and led them with love.

I do not believe that there is any truth in the cliché that “Leaders are born not made.” There is nothing in one’s DNA or genetic makeup that lets the world know that a leader has arrived. Leaders come from a variety of backgrounds with differing education, creeds, colours and race. It makes no difference. I read once that while great leaders may be as rare as great runners, great actors or great painters, everyone has leadership potential, just as everyone has some ability at running, acting and painting. How can this potential become a reality?

It happens when we deliberately choose to act in a certain way; when we make a commitment to others that is based on service and love.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not self seeking. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes . . .”

St Paul’s words above written many centuries ago to the people of Corinth, could have just as easily been written about leadership. Leadership that is kind, patient and not self seeking will always create a community where people will find protection, trust and hope.

This is our vision for leadership at St Michael’s.

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

[Signature]
Masses. make a monetary contribution for these remembrance altar for the duration of November. There is no need to Mick. All names will be typed up and placed on the place it on either of the collection plates or give it to Fr. volunteering yourself. The website is

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy will be on this Sunday 27th October during the 10 am Mass. All primary aged children are warmly invited to attend.

Year 3—Non-Eucharistic Liturgy

Year 3 will gather as a grade in the Church for a Non-Eucharistic liturgy on Friday 25 October at 10.15 am. All welcome.

Junior Elevate Dates—Term 4

25 October—Cancelled due to Canberra Year 6 Excursion. Scheduling dates this term: 8 November, 22 November, 6 December, 20 December.

Thinking about becoming a Catholic

What does it mean to be a Catholic? Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism? Do you have friends who are questioning what Catholicism is all about? Would you like to investigate the truth about Catholicism by joining the RCIA group here at St Michael’s?

Come to an Inquiry Wine and Cheese Night, 28 October, Downey Room @ 7.30 pm RSVP Parish Office 9639 0598 or email admin@stmichaelsbh.org.au

November Masses

November is traditionally the month in which we remember our deceased family members and friends. If you would like to have those who have gone before us remembered in all Masses during November, could you please write their names on an envelope or piece of paper and place it on either of the collection plates or give it to Fr. Mick. All names will be typed up and placed on the altar for the duration of November. There is no need to make a monetary contribution for these remembrance Masses.

Year 1—Non-Eucharistic Liturgy

Year 1 will gather as a grade in the Church for a Non-Eucharistic liturgy on Friday 1 November at 10.15 am. All welcome.

Year 2—Non-Eucharistic Liturgy

Year 2 will gather as a grade in the Church for a Non-Eucharistic liturgy on Friday 8 November at 10.15 am. All welcome.

Letters of Kindness

“Letters of Kindness” is a new pen pal service for the elderly, isolated and lonely. A small personal gesture can mean so much to the poor in spirit. Please consider either registering someone to receive letters or volunteering yourself. The website is www.lettersofkindness.org

Remembrance Day 2013

Monday, 11 November—Remembrance Day Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church.

In preparation for our Remembrance Day Ceremony, we would like to invite the children to bring in any war service medals their families may have in honour of the brave Australians who fought for our protection to bring peace to our World. We would like to include them in our Remembrance Day Liturgy. If you would like your son/daughter to bring in some Service Medals please complete the slip on this page and return to the school office.

RE News

Sunday Mass 27 October—Parents Passing on the Faith in the Family

This Sunday, thousands of families are gathering around Pope Francis in St Peter’s in the culmination of a “Pilgrimage of Families” to the Tomb of St Peter in Rome. It is part of the celebration of the Year of Faith. Let’s pray for all families that they may be ever more effective places where the faith is passed on.

Letters of Kindness

“Letters of Kindness” is a new pen pal service for the elderly, isolated and lonely. A small personal gesture can mean so much to the poor in spirit. Please consider either registering someone to receive letters or volunteering yourself.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

I will be bringing in Service Medals for the Remembrance Day Ceremony on Remembrance Day Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church

Name: ___________________________

Class: ___________________________
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25 October</td>
<td>Year 3 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten—Storyteller visit: Bronwyn Vaughan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1 November</td>
<td>Year 1 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<td>Kids’ Fun Dress Up Disco Night—POSTPONED—New date pending</td>
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<td>Mon 4 November</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting—7.00 pm</td>
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<td>Wed 6 November</td>
<td>Year 2 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8 November</td>
<td>Infants Sport Fun Day—9.30 am—1.00 pm—Kindergarten and Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 November</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<td>Kindergarten 2014 Parent Night—7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 12 November</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation: Group 1—9.30-11.30 am Group 2—12.30-2.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 14 November</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation: Group 2—9.30-11.30 am Group 1—12.30-2.30 pm</td>
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<td>Fri 15 November</td>
<td>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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<td>Fri 22 November</td>
<td>Year 4 Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<td>Mon 25 November—Fri 6 December</td>
<td>School swimming program—Years 1, 2 and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 December</td>
<td>P&amp;F Annual General Meeting—7 pm</td>
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<td>Mon 2 December—Thu 5 December</td>
<td>World of Maths Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11 December</td>
<td>SWIMMING CARNIVAL—WAVES, BAULKHAM HILLS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 12 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Awards Ceremony—6.15 pm in the Hall Year 6 Graduation Mass—7.30 pm in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 17 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Aquatic Centre Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18 December</td>
<td>Whole School End of Year Mass—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<td>Thu 19 December—Fri 20 December</td>
<td>Staff Development Days—Pupil Free Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 28 January</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 29 January</td>
<td>Students Years 1-6 commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 30 January</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM**

The social skill for Week 3 of Term 4 is: **INDEPENDENCE**

Having the ability to act and work alone without the need of help from others.

**Music News—”Count Us In”**

Next Thursday October 31, we are taking part in the Music: Count Us In event for the first time. The event is supported by the Australian Government and is all about celebrating the value of music education to students development. More than 600 000 students from schools all over Australia will stop to perform the same song on the same day at the same time. Our students have been working very hard in music lessons to learn the song "Keep On" and are excited about joining with the rest of the school to sing it next week.

*Mrs Parker and Mrs Southern*

**2014—are you leaving St Michael’s?**

If your family is not returning to St Michael’s in 2014, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

We will be starting to place students in classes for next year in the next few weeks.

**LUNCHTIME DRUMMING GROUP**

Starting week 5—Thursday lunchtime

- Children to meet in music room after eating your lunch.
- All children welcome to come along for some drumming fun.

*Ms Southern*

**Canteen News**

Canteen Volunteers

Please join us for an **END OF YEAR NIGHT OUT**

- When: Wed, 30th October
- Where: Jin Yan at Castle Hill RSL
- Time: 7.00 pm
- Cost: $40 per person, for a banquet meal

RSVP: to Judy in Canteen—please send $10 deposit by 25th October.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Thursday 31st October, 8.30-9.30 am
SUMMER UNIFORM PRICE LIST—FORM
Available on our website at the following location:
http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/school-notes

**SCHOOL FEES**

Thank you to the families who have paid their school fees for the year.

If you are experiencing difficulties in finalising payment, please contact Mrs Linda Borsato in the school office on 9639 0518 as soon as possible.
NEWS FROM 3F CLASSROOM

In 3F this week, we have been doing Reader’s Theatre. Reader’s Theatre is a style of theatre in which the actors use vocal expression to help an audience understand a story. Last week in English Groups, we practised using our vocal expression to entertain each other during sharing time.

Gianluca Plebani: “We always practise reading the scripts as a group before presenting to the class. It helps us to present the story better.”

Simone Pai: “Performing our Reader’s Theatre to the class is fun because we get to take on new characters and use funny voices.”

Helping children after the Bush Fires

Here are a few tips on how to support your child/children if they are unsettled or anxious after the bush fires we have been experiencing.

Some children react and behave differently after experiencing a frightening event. This is normal and will generally resolve with time. The sorts of things you may notice are:

- Worries about safety (a bit more clingy or irritable)
- Changes in behaviour such as angry outbursts, withdrawal, decreased concentration and increased or decreased activity levels.
- Changes in sleep or appetite
- Regression in behaviours e.g. baby talk, bedwetting, tantrums.
- No noticeable changes!

What can parents do?

- Let children talk about the event and what is on their minds without pressure and at their own pace. Tell them the facts of the matter in language they can understand. Sometimes this may be hard for parents who have also been frightened but it is important to give the children the message that nothing is too scary that it can’t be talked about.
- Reassure them that it is all over and that they are safe, that adults acted to make sure that they were safe.
- Stick to normal routines in the family, particularly around sleeping and eating and other family activities such as sports, church etc.
- Plan to have a calm, soothing bedtime ritual which involves ‘tucking in’ children and making them feel as safe as possible.
- Plan for some enjoyable activities for everyone.
- Set the usual limits on their behaviour in as calm and kind a manner as possible. Be patient!

Please contact the school office if you would like further advice or to speak to a school counsellor. Catholic Care is also available on 99230233 for families who may require assistance.

Belinda Burgess
School Counsellor

Links

Kindergarten 2014 children’s play sessions
If you have a child or know a child starting kindergarten next year at St Michael’s . . . invite them along to the four play sessions that LINKS organise, so they can meet other parents and kindergarten children. Sessions begin in the last week of October. Flyers available from the school office, or call Michelle on 0415 385 353

Martial Arts for Kids From 3 yrs

Grand Maste Inchsel Yoo 9th Dan Black Belt

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

On the last Tuesday of each month Catholic-Care Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support.

The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?”

Venue: CCSS Centre
51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown.
Cost: $5.00.
Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.
Our Sponsors from the Fair!

Give your support to the businesses that supported our school!

JIN YAN ASIAN CUISINE
www.jinyan.com.au
Castle Hill RSL Club,
77 Castle St. Castle Hill 2154
Ph: 8858 4848
E: jinyan@castlehillrsl.com.au

Carl Presley totally rocked our Twilight Fair! What a fantastic show!
Carl sounds brilliantly like the King of Rock 'n' Roll himself and dressed in a showcase of original suits direct from Las Vegas. If you are looking to shake up your birthday, wedding, or special function with some colour, fun and laughs, contact Carl Presley & have the audience screaming for more.

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www.carlpresley.com.au
Ph: 0416 212 959

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The Facial Rejuvenation Specialist
www.euphoriaskinclinic.com.au
Ph: 8677 1565
97 Cecil Ave, Castle Hill NSW 2154

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Ph: 9624 8555
Cnr Old Windsor & Powers Rd. Seven Hills NSW 2147
Fast delivery of equipment - what you need, when you need it!
NEWS

CONGRATS TO THE TWILIGHT FAIR RAFFLE WINNERS!
1st Prize - Sam Grib
2nd Prize - Jessica Betros
3rd Prize - Mrs. Normoyle
4th Prize - M. Borg
5th Prize - Michelle Cooper

www.pandfstmichaelsbauklhamhills.com.au

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

P&F Meeting - all welcome
Monday 4th November

Kids’ Fun Dress Up Disco Night
Late November - Date TBA

P&F Annual General Meeting
all welcome - Monday 2nd December

Have a look at our website below for more information about the P&F

www.pandfstmichaelsbauklhamhills.com.au

More Sponsors from the Twilight Fair
Give your support to the businesses that supported our school!

Nads laser clinic
Hair Removal Specialists

Silver Sponsor

www.nadsclinic.com.au
Ph: 9634 8621

Shop 517, Castle Towers Shopping Centre
6-14 Castle St, Castle Hill NSW 2154

Waves Fitness & Aquatic Centre

Silver Sponsor

www.wavesfitnessandaquatic.com.au
Ph: 9639 6133

44 Mileham Ave
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Parramatta • Sydney

Bronze Sponsor

Christmas Day Lunch with festivities & gift for every child
Triple Groom Room Buffet Lunch $99 per person Children 0-4 free of charge; 5-10 $27.50; 11-15 $49.50 (Conditions apply)
functions_parramatta@rydges.com Ph: 02 8863 7600

Muirfield Golf Club

Bronze Sponsor

Barclay Rd North Rocks NSW 2151
www.muirfieldgolf.com.au Ph: (02) 9871 1388

Mardon Meats

Bronze Sponsor

Shop 8, Kings Langley Shopping Centre
Kings Langley 2147
www.mardonmeats.com.au Ph: 9674 3336
Present this to Mardon Meats and receive a 10% discount if you place your Christmas order prior to 1/11/13.

Starlets Cheerleading

Bronze Sponsor

Hills Action Centre Hudson Ave Castle Hill 2154
www.starletscheerleading.com Ph: 8854 0389

Rydges Parramatta

Bronze Sponsor

108/2-8 Brookhollow Ave
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
www.virginactive.com.au Ph: 9639 6133

Bronze Sponsor

www.plusfitness.com.au Ph: 9639 7177

More Sponsors from the Twilight Fair
Give your support to the businesses that supported our school!
Guess who’s watching you now!

In this Year of Faith, it is worth remembering that our faith and our core values are passed on primarily in the home. TV advertisements for responsible drinking often end up with the reminder ‘Your children are watching you’. And if a child’s behaviour at school is particularly difficult, who does the school call in to enlist help? The parents, of course! Most parents are not trained teachers but, for better or for worse, they are the prime nurturers in faith of their children.

“So is it time for some ‘In-service training’?”

A major way in which we nurture our children’s faith is by letting them see how ours is lived out in daily life. So it’s always good to reflect on where we can brush up our own faith life and make it more relevant and attractive to our children.

This leaflet presents a collection of ideas that different families found worked for them.

“Worry not that your children don’t listen to you. Worry that they watch you.”

© Australian Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life (BCPL), July 2013.
Text and design: Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council
For further resources:
Previous Parish Kits of BCPL: www.acmfc.org.au
‘Walking Together in Faith’: www.teresapirola.net/wtf3
Family Rituals

Family rituals are repetitive family activities that distinguish our particular family and often reflect some of our deepest desires. For example:

Blessing
We deeply desire that God will bless our children and look after them. As we help them snuggle into bed at night we can kiss them or make a sign of the cross on their forehead and say something like, “May God bless you and keep you safe always.”

Give thanks
“In one family I know, the father often can’t get home until after dinner but then the family gets together and each person shares one thing that happened that day for which they can thank God.”

Family prayer list
There is always someone we know in special need of prayers. The ritual of lighting a candle for them each evening acts as a simple reminder to pray for them and helps involve others.

Make Sunday special
Go to Mass as a family, preferably a Mass attended by other families. Explain what is happening to little children. Afterwards enjoy a simple treat or outing together and discuss the readings or homily with older children. Avoid cramming the day with activities.

“My husband is not a Catholic, and it is difficult to get the kids up to Mass each Sunday. Being involved in running the Children’s Liturgy has helped. To my surprise, my own children have taken an interest and help out. Also, it gives me extra motivation to be there”.

Celebrate Feast Days
The saints are our heroes in faith. Identify a saint for each family member – preferably their Christian name or their Confirmation name. Discuss how that saint’s particular virtues can be lived today. Retell the story of their saint’s life (see www.catholic.org/saints). Mark the feast day in the calendar.

Choose Your Friends

It makes sense to cultivate good friends with common values. They become significant other adults in the lives of our children. As relatable role models, they give credibility from a different perspective to all that we try to teach. Think about arranging to go to the same Mass together and maybe going to the beach or a BBQ afterwards. In this way, other families can become like extended family and bring healthy fun into our lives.

Good Behaviour Patterns

All of us need to rethink our patterns of behaviour as we go through life. If you wrote your own list of Good Habits of Effective Catholic Parents, what would it be? Examples might include:

1. Talk naturally about God. Sprinkle the conversation with comments such as “Thank you Lord” (when something good happens) or “Praise God!” (on seeing a beautiful sunset), “God willing” (as we talk of our plans), “God bless you” (when saying goodbye).

2. Show practical concern for others. The Church’s Option for the Poor begins with us. Be quick to respond to someone in need and, if possible, engage the rest of the family in the response.

3. Praise the Church!
“Often after Mass we would criticise the singing, the homily, or an annoying parishioner. Then our kids started to complain about going to Mass: ‘All you do is complain about it. So why should we go?’ It made us realize that our negativity undermined our children’s faith and did not reflect our deep love for the Church.”

4. Encourage questioning. Questions about faith are opportunities to enter into their world of discovery and help us to discover more about our own faith. When you are not sure of the answer, show your willingness to learn more about it yourself.

5. Pray. Pray often. Pray with confidence. Our prayers are always answered, though not always in the way we immediately expect.

Kids toys, books, music
Just as some games and toys can encourage violence or premature sexualisation of children, others can encourage their faith. eg colourful bible stories we can read to our children, songs that promote faith values.

Grandparents

Many grandparents provide the gift of time, so valuable in the frenetic pace of today. Also, they are the ‘central bank of memories’ for the family and can give special insights into faith practice. Just their physical presence, especially at Mass, gives a strong sense of continuity.