From the Principal

Dear Parents

This week we welcomed 118 Kindergarten children to St Michael’s school.

At St Michael's our aim is to provide a student centred dynamic quality educational environment that has at its basis the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ. An environment where all can learn, experience success, feel included, challenged and inspired to create, produce and share information with each other and the world.

Kindergarten marks the first formal year of your child’s primary education. It is well accepted that children are learning from birth at a rate faster than at any other time of their lives. The early years are therefore an opportune time where we as primary educators can take an active role in your child’s construction and acquisition of learning and understanding.

This is a time where we are able to carefully cultivate and guide each child's intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and moral potential. This is a stimulating and challenging point in time for your child, children and your families as they become part of St Michael's school community.

Reflection

“When we plant an Iris bulb in the earth, we notice that it is small, but we do not criticise it as ‘rootless and stemless’. We treat it as a bulb, giving it the water and nourishment required of a bulb. When it first shoots up out of the earth, we don’t condemn it as immature and underdeveloped; nor do we criticise the buds for not being open when they appear. We stand in wonder at the process taking place and give the plant the care it needs at each stage of its development. The Iris is an Iris from the time it is an Iris till the time it dies. Within it, at all times, it contains its whole potential. It seems to be constantly in the process of change; yet at each stage, at each moment, it is perfect as it is.”

Because a parable is a story that contains some moral or lesson for the reader, it is obvious that the “bulb” can easily be translated into the “child” and so perhaps the lesson might go something like this:

As parents, we are firstly responsible for the existence of our children and after that we are totally responsible for their welfare. The type of children they turn out to be, depends to a very large extent on the type of welfare we offer them. We need to be patient and accepting of our children and the manner in which they emerge from being babies to being children, from children through to the difficult time of adolescence and eventually to adulthood. If anything destructive happens to the first shoots of the bulb as it comes up through the soil, the future full blooming of the flower is very likely to be spoiled. So too with children; they will always need to be corrected, counselled, guided, but all of this should be effected in a positive, constructive way. After all, children are not miniatures of their parents, they are unique individuals gifted and graced and destined for eternal life.

“Lord, you have made our children as varied as the flowers of a garden.
You have blessed each one uniquely.
Each fragile, growing child is infinitely precious in your sight.
You have trusted us to nurture them and blessed us with the joy of seeing them grow.
Lord, please guide us as we walk through life with our children. Amen.”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka
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.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Children’s Liturgy will be on this Sunday 17th November during the 10 am Mass. All primary aged children are warmly invited to attend.

After 10 (On Sunday after 10 am Mass)
After 10 happens straight after 10 am Mass. It’s a great opportunity to meet new people, have a good cuppa and catch up with others. Hope to see you all there!

Year 4—Eucharistic Liturgy
Year 4 will gather as a grade in the Church for a Eucharistic liturgy on Friday 22 November at 10.15 am. All welcome.

Junior Elevate Dates—Term 4
Remaining dates this term: 22 November, 6 December, 20 December.

Faith at the Fiddler - 21st November
Special guest Bishop Anthony Fisher OP - Reframing the debate on 'same-sex marriage'. Faith at the Fiddler is a forum for young people to gather together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality. From 5pm-7pm at The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Education, Parramatta. Details: Linda Ducksbury tel (02) 9840 5743, linda.ducksbury@parrra.catholic.edu.au

Midnight Mass Choir
The parish is looking for anyone who would like to be involved in the Midnight Mass Choir. Whether you are a trained singer, would like to have a part in the celebration or simply want to have a bit of fun! All the music is traditional and very simple. Rehearsals will be held each Monday evening in the Church, commencing 25 November at 7.30pm. For any questions, please call Iain Bylsma on 0414 266483. All welcome!

Vincent De Paul Society—Christmas 2013 Hamper Appeal
The conference will again provide Christmas hampers to needy families we assisted during the past year. Including a reduced number of families in St Michael’s Family Centre. Profiles of the families will be displayed in the foyer of the church over the next two weeks. Your generous support for the appeal will be gratefully appreciated.

David Ison
Religious Education Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS 4VG
While learning about Mission over the last few weeks, the children of 4VG decided to put their faith into practice. For three weeks, the children donated their pocket money, their canteen money or money earned by doing jobs at home. Altogether, we raised over $83! With this fantastic amount we purchased a number of gifts from World Vision including a fish farm, chickens and immunizations. These will help less fortunate children and families in countries, like Africa, become self sufficient and lead a healthier, happier life. Congratulations to a very generous and caring class of children!

SCHOOL BANKING
The Commbank has advised that the current grey tokens will not be valid in 2014. If you are holding onto 10 or more tokens, now is the time to send them in for redemption. Commbank will only allow one redemption of the grey tokens per person in early 2014.

Thank you for your cooperation

Kim and Tracy
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Mon 25 November—Fri 6 December</td>
<td>School swimming program—Years 1, 2 and 3</td>
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<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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<td>Mon 9 December</td>
<td>Choir at Epping Club—11 am</td>
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<td>Wed 11 December</td>
<td>SWIMMING CARNIVAL—WAVES, BAULKHAM HILLS (CONCLUDES 2.15 PM)</td>
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<td>Thu 12 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Awards Ceremony—6.15 pm in the Hall</td>
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<td>Fri 13 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass—7.30 pm in the Church</td>
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<td>Mon 16 December</td>
<td>Years K-5 Promotion day—Children meet their teacher and class for 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 17 December</td>
<td>Student and Citizen of the Term Presentation—2.30 pm in the Hall</td>
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<td>Wed 18 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Aquatic Centre Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 19 December—Fri 20 December</td>
<td>Whole School End of Year Mass—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<td>2014—Date changes</td>
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<td>Tue 28 January</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day—MAI Testing Years 1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 29 January</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day—MAI Testing Years 1-6</td>
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<td>Thu 30 January</td>
<td>Years 1-6 commence</td>
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<td>Fri 31 January</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence 9.20 am, finish at 2.45 pm</td>
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**SPORTS NEWS**

Congratulations to Liam McCallum, Jarrod French and Michael Blinman who were all selected in the combined Parramatta/ Sydney/ Wollongong team for 2014. This is the first time in many years, if not ever, that three boys from the same school have made it this far in the representative cricket trials. The three boys now progress to the Mackillop trials later this team. We wish them the best of luck.

*Steve Kovels*
Sports Coordinator

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**BAND NEWS**

Is your child interested in joining the band next year? Would you like more information on the School Band program? The *School Band* is now taking enrolments for 2014 and participation is open to all students who are currently in year 2-5. No prior experience is required and all students will have recently attended a Concert by the band and *Teaching Services Australia (TSA)* staff demonstrating the variety of instruments available for tuition next year. They will also have received a green Expression Of Interest form (*Band Program Introduction*). Students who have returned this form will be given the opportunity to test a variety of instruments to help them find the one most suited to them. They will then be given a comprehensive Enrolment Pack with the results of this instrument test.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. TSA is committed to providing a quality concert band program, with full band rehearsals, great value tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire.

This green Expression Of Interest form is due back to the school office within 5 days.

You can download this note at [www.teachingservices.com.au](http://www.teachingservices.com.au) or for more information email [info@teachingservices.com.au](mailto:info@teachingservices.com.au).

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**APPLICATION FOR LEAVE FOR STUDENTS TAKING LEAVE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

**PARENT INFORMATION**

This year there are new Government guidelines for schools to follow when marking the attendance registers (class rolls). These new guidelines require parents who are taking their children on holidays or other leave, during the school terms, to complete a request for ‘Exemption from School Attendance’ form.

These new guidelines also cover employment in entertainment industry, and participation in elite sporting events for short periods of time (i.e. for one or two days and at short notice).

These forms must be completed before taking your holiday or leave. The School Principal can only approve up to 50 school days leave. Longer periods need the approval of the Director of Schools Parramatta and the Catholic Education Commission.

Once these forms (one for each child) have been completed and returned, you will then be issued with a certificate allowing the exemption from school. This certificate needs to be kept with you while on holidays/leave in case you are requested to present it. Holidays of more than 20 days require a copy of all travel documents as well.

The forms are available on our website and at the school office for you to collect. Please complete and return the Application for Exemption from School form as soon as possible and return before leaving for your holiday. Thank you for assistance in the matter and if you have any further questions please contact the school office.

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**BABY NEWS**

Congratulations on the birth of a baby girl born Friday 1st November to the Bray family, Mrs April Bray (KB).

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**SCHOOL GATES**

For the continuing safety of our children, please note that the gate at the back path and the side gates are locked at 9 am each morning including Fridays.

Entry and exit to the school is via the main gate in Chapel Lane.

If you are visiting the school for Assemblies or Mass please use the main gate.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

**Thursday 21st November, 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](http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/school-notes)
NEWS FROM KIH CLASSROOM

As the year is coming to an end, KIH have been reflecting upon all the fun we have had and the wonderful things we have learnt together throughout the year.

Jemma A – I’ve learned how to share toys with my friends during developmental play and write.

Daniel G - I know how to be responsible.

Isabella B - I learnt about Claude Monet’s Water Lily artworks.

Zach - I learnt to sound out words and stop at full stops.

Benjamin - When I write, I have to use a full stop at the end of sentences.

Sienna - I learnt how to make a number sentence using addition AND subtraction together.

Zoe - Noah built an ark for his family because God asked him to.

Lachlan - We helped the teacher do some ‘shared writing’ and editing.

Kristijan - Paul Cezanne is an artist that loved to paint fruit.

Claire - Picasso painted semi-abstract paintings.

Tayla - We used water colour paints to blend the colours.

Sophie - We blended colours using oil pastels.

Matthew - I learnt how to be kind.

Marisa - I learnt how to write sentences. I use letters, finger spaces and full stops.
St. Michael’s Primary School, Baulkham Hills

**Twilight Fair**

Our Sponsors from the Fair!

*Give your support to the businesses that supported our school!*

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**JIN YAN ASIAN CUISINE**

Platinum Sponsor


Castle Hill RSL Club,
77 Castle St. Castle Hill 2154
Ph: 8858 4848
E: jinyan@castlehillrsl.com.au

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**Carl Presley**

Gold Sponsor

Ph: 0416 212 959

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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All round design and print service for any graphic design needs. With over 25 years experience, give us a call and see what design magic we can do for your business or event.

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UnLock the beauty within

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Over the next few weeks, our Twilight Fair sponsors will be providing a brochure or a flyer for the school note pouches as a part of their generous sponsorship of our school. Keep an eye out and support the businesses that supported our school.
At the Annual General Meeting all positions in the P&F are vacated including all Executive positions and a new Committee is voted in. If you are interested in a more active role in your child’s school, join the P&F, where many long standing friendships have been made whilst making a real difference to the school.

••••• Survey •••••

We have a survey on our web site, please take a look. About 5-10 min of your time. It would give us valuable feedback on 2013 and a view of what you’d like to see in 2014. It’s on our web site below, under the “Survey” tab. 100% anonymous. Thank you!

www.pandfstmichaelsbaulkhamhills.com

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