From the Principal

Dear Parents

Principal’s Coffee and Chat

Thank you to the parents who were able to join me for the Principal’s Coffee and Chat. We invited two representatives from each class and 44 parents were able to attend and have a conversation with me around a number of areas including homework, class groups, teachers, teaching, rote learning, flexible spaces, as well as plans for our future.

Thank you for your attendance and openness. I plan to continue to have a coffee and chat opportunity for parents each year.

Arrangements for going home in the afternoon

We are reviewing our current policies and procedures for children going home in the afternoon to ensure the health and safety of our children, staff and parents.

This includes the privilege we have of using the Parish car park. It is essential that everyone using the carpark in the afternoon bears in mind safety first in this area. It is important to park in designated parking areas only. There is no parking along the school fence to the left of the entry into the carpark. If you are parking in this area and are asked to move, please move and be courteous and respectful at all times. The health and safety of everyone who uses this area is paramount for this privilege to continue.

Parent Helper Afternoon Tea

We would like to say thank you to all of our parent helpers by inviting them to join us for afternoon tea on Tuesday, 10th December. A separate invitation will be going home to parents.

Advent

This Sunday is the commencement of the Season of Advent, the season during which we await the arrival of Christ on Christmas Day.

Sometimes, we Christians are so involved with the busy preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we forget that the main purpose in Advent is to prepare ourselves in heart, mind and deed to welcome Jesus, who comes to us in different ways:

- He came to us in our humanity at Bethlehem about 2000 years ago.
- He comes to us in the Eucharist and in the readings of scripture; he speaks to us in our consciences.
- He comes to us in the person of the needy, the suffering, the dispossessed.

We should be ready to welcome Him whenever he comes, however He comes.

As we move through Advent, our excitement builds for the Christmas holiday break. Amidst the gift buying and holiday preparations, we need to be mindful of the gift that God gives to us every day in Jesus. It’s the gift of life, the gift that keeps giving.

“Lord, in the rush of day-to-day things, we often leave You out of our life’s activities. Enliven Your Spirit within us this Advent, so that we may engage You to be part of each day’s doings. Amen.”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

[Signature]
RE News

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Children’s Liturgy will be on this Sunday 1st December during the 10 am Mass. All primary aged children are warmly invited to attend.

Vincent De Paul Society—Christmas 2013 Hamper Appeal

Parish:
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. Please return all hampers between Saturday 7th and Saturday 14th December. Thank you.

School:
We are asking each family to donate non-perishable food items to help those in need throughout our parish and surrounding areas. Some examples are: Christmas cake, puddings, biscuits, tinned ham, any tinned food, cereals, soft drinks, cordials, juice. Please send items in to your child’s class before Monday 16th December. Thank you.

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

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 7.30 pm. For any questions, please call Iain Bylsma on 0414 266483. All welcome!

St Michael’s Christmas Brunch
Last year on Christmas morning we had our very first St Michael’s Christmas Brunch. It was small but beautiful!! We expect that this year will be a lot bigger... We want to make sure that every person in our community will have a place to celebrate Christmas and to experience real community.

If anyone would like to be part of this years organising team - please contact David Dowling at david.dowling@raywhite.com or call on 0421 051 029.

David Ison
Religious Education Coordinator

2014 Resource fee – Years 1-6
The current resource fee for 2013 is $90. With the increasing costs of classroom resources it has been necessary to increase the resource fee to $105 for 2014. This, however, now includes the cost of the school diary which was not previously included in the resource fee.

Year 6 Leaders 2014

Well done to Year 5 for their enthusiastic involvement in the voting process for school leaders for 2014.
Congratulations to those who have received leadership roles. Leaders’ badges will be presented at the Opening Mass early in 2014

Captains: Isabella Bovino
Dylan Grib

Assistant Captains: Nancy Boutros
Cameron Tan-Lim

Colour House Captains
Blue: Jarrod French
Sarah Wadih

Gold: Samuel McGoldrick
Madeleine Wahab

Green: Liam Bowles
Brooke Weinert

Red: Tiana Anderson
Samual Sakr

Community Leaders:
Lara Angseseing
Mark Anchique
Matthew Betros
Jack Darroch

Gabrielle Pacheco
Rosario Perez-Christie
Juliette Piali
Luke Shields

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) is undertaking a survey of parents and staff in its Catholic schools. Your school is supporting this project.

The results will help improve our communication with you and our ability to support and represent Catholic schools.

Identification of your school is for the purposes of data segmentation.

Responses are completely confidential and will not be revealed to anyone in your school or in the Catholic Education Office.

The survey is being conducted by an independent ISO 20252 accredited research company.

Please help us to help you and your school by completing this survey and encouraging others to do the same. Surveys can’t cater to every opinion so please answer each question with the response that best fits your view.

Complete our Catholic Education survey on school communication
& your school can win 5 new iPads
PLUS YOU COULD WIN ONE OF
10 x $50 Visa Gift Cards
10 x $50 iTunes Gift Cards
20 x Double passes to Hoyts
See terms and conditions

Congratulations to those who have received leadership roles. Leaders’ badges will be presented at the Opening Mass early in 2014.
DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 25 November-</td>
<td>School swimming program—Years 1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6 December</td>
<td></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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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 December-</td>
<td>World of Maths Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 5 December</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 December</td>
<td>Choir at Epping Club—11 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11 December</td>
<td>SWIMMING CARNIVAL—WAVES, BAULKHAM HILLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 12 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Awards Ceremony—6.15 pm in the Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass—7.30 pm in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 December</td>
<td>Years K-5 Promotion day—Children meet their teacher and class for 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16 December</td>
<td>Student and Citizen of the Term Presentation—2.30 pm in the Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 17 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Aquatic Centre Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18 December</td>
<td>Whole School End of Year Mass—10.15 am in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 19 December—Fri 20 December</td>
<td>Staff Development Days—Pupil Free Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014—Date changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 28 January</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day—MAI Testing Years K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29 January</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day—MAI Testing Years K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 30 January</td>
<td>Years 1-6 commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 31 January</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence 9.20 am, finish at 2.45 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The social skill for Week 8 of Term 4 is: TRUTHFULLNESS
Beig genuine and honest in all the things that you say.

Student of the Week
Term 4 Week 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Oscar Cheah</td>
<td>3F</td>
<td>Julian Jay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIH</td>
<td>Jonathan Drury</td>
<td>3RUGG</td>
<td>Thomas Saad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Kye Burley</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Hannah Garton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Jay Puglisi</td>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Georgette Pellicano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1FM</td>
<td>Morgan Thorpe</td>
<td>4RB</td>
<td>Thomas Cowling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1K</td>
<td>Kayley Roles</td>
<td>4VG</td>
<td>Kim Pham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q</td>
<td>Audrey Martinez</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Chloe Alderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Naomi Gan</td>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Ailin Wu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Erik Masic</td>
<td>5OC</td>
<td>Olivia-Rose Tarantolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2BT</td>
<td>Oliver Lepri</td>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Tiana Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Kaia D’Souza</td>
<td>6DD</td>
<td>Aaron Lyte-Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Seth Pascoe</td>
<td>6F</td>
<td>Lachlan Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Francesca Marino</td>
<td>6ID</td>
<td>Shannon Salama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Thomas McGoldrick</td>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Sophie Baranic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Isabella Charon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reminder—Year 6 Farewell

Friday night 6.30 pm Castle Hill RSL
Entry is next to the Bowling Club. Parents must sign their children in at reception.

Choir Of Angels

On Monday 9th December, the school choir will be singing Christmas carols in the foyer of the Epping Club from 11:00-11:30 am. This is a community event and anyone welcome to attend. The Epping Club is in Rawson Street Epping.

Lyndall Parker

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to the Linsangan family, Sheree (5C) on the birth of a baby girl.

Children’s liturgy gift giving

At St Michael’s, the children of our Parish donate gifts at Christmas for those less fortunate than themselves. This year, these gifts will be collected on Sunday, 8th December at the 10 am Mass. The children will bring these gifts to Children’s Liturgy and then place them on the steps of the altar during the offertory procession. It would be appreciated if gifts could be wrapped and labelled with a tag indicating boy or girl and approximate age.

UNIFORM SHOP

Thursday 5th December, 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
STOP AND DROP VOLUNTEERS

A very special thank you to Doreen Roveto who coordinated the Stop and Drop Volunteers for a number of years and has her last child leaving St Michael’s. Thank you to all the volunteers who are leaving us this year as their youngest child moves on to high school. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by everyone in our community.

As we have a number of volunteers leaving, we will need to recruit some new volunteers to assist with S&D next year. All it requires is half an hour one morning once a month, so if you have ever thought you’d like to volunteer now is the time! Please contact Debbie Grehan at deborah.grehan@bigpond.com or return the following with your details to the School Office.

STOP AND DROP VOLUNTEERS—2014

Name: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________
Home phone: __________________________
Mobile: _______________________________
Day/s available:
Mon ☐ Tues ☐ Wed ☐ Thurs ☐ Fri ☐
Child: ________________________________
Class: ___________
Child: ________________________________
Class: ________________________________
Child: ________________________________

YEAR 3 BIBLES

There has been a delay in receiving the Bibles from the supplier. Please continue to send in your money to purchase the Bibles. As soon as the Bibles arrive at St Michael’s, your payments will be processed and the Bibles will be forwarded home.

Joanne Angseesing

NEWS FROM 4VG

The children in 4VG have spent much of this year learning how to write wonderfully interesting and descriptive stories to entertain many different audiences. They have been practising using a wide range of techniques including adjectives, adverbs, similes, metaphors and alliteration, with great success. Here are just a few ‘snapshots’ of their work.

“The sky was filled with dark red clouds and upon them was a huge snake with two glistening white horns.”

Matthew Hatton

“I suspiciously and anxiously walked up to the huge staircase, with lightning striking behind me.”

Ashwin Rodrigues

“As I was looking around the dirty, old, dusty mansion, I felt an ice-cold breeze, like snow, and then a picture flew across the room with a suspicious glide.”

Aramic Joukhadar

“Pawing the floorboards, ready to charge, all of the madness ceased and at once a trapdoor opened where I was standing.”

Kim Pham

“I crept up the chocolate-brown stairs and peered around the corner and ‘pop’ - a ghost jumped on me!”

Chelsea Sunderland

“I opened the door and walked inside, trembling. Suddenly, a massive bat, leading a squadron of smaller bats, flew out of no-where!”

Juliette Mkali

St. Michael’s Netball Club

Places available for girls turning 7, 9 and 10 years in 2014.

If you are interested in playing for our Club in the 2014 season, please contact our Club Registrar:

Rebecca Vella on 0418 244 169 or email rebecca.cav7@bigpond.com
**REMINDER**

All soccer balls, netballs, basketballs etc MUST be carried to and from school in a bag (either school bag or other bag) for safety reasons and should be labelled with your name. They should not be played with before and after school.

**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*
*Banking Co-ordinators*

**MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW (MAI) 2014**

MAIs for Years K-6 will be completed on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January. A letter with the details for booking assessments will be sent home at the end of next week.

**FREE Fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier & happier**

Go4Fun Tip: Ditch the screen and get active!

Go 4: 60 minutes of physical activity every day!

Call now for more information or to find a program near you!

1800 780 900
www.go4fun.com.au

**COUNSELLING AND LIFE SKILLS COURSE**

The Fr Colin McKay Institute of Counselling, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment and in the workplace. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30 pm – 9.45 pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on Tuesday 4 February 2014.

For enquiries please contact:
Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 432;
Carol Harding - 9639 0096 or 0411 022 478;
Jannelle Carlile - 0431 598 004 (Mon – Fri between 7.00 & 9.00 p.m.); or Email: counselling1969@gmail.com

**SPORTS NEWS**

Congratulations to *Jamie Munro* for his selection in the Parramatta Basketball Team

*Liam McCallum* and *Sam McGoldrick* yesterday attended the Parramatta Softball Trial and were both selected in the team. Great job both of you!!!

Well done also to *Jessica Windsor* who is the first St Michael’s student selected in the Parramatta Waterpolo team.

*Joshua Rodgers* last week flew to Brisbane to compete in the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships for Long Jump. In order to go Joshua had to raise over $1000 to be eligible to compete. As well as doing a lot of hard work themselves the P&F also made a very generous donation.

Joshua competed last Sunday and jumped 4.53 m, meaning that he is the 5th best 10 year old long jumper in the country. It was an amazing achievement to even make it this far, let alone finish in 5th place. Well Done!!!

Monday is the Final of the Mark Taylor Shield Cricket Competition. All the best to our boys—I’m sure that you’ll do us all proud.

Thanks.

*Steve Kovelsis*
*Sports Coordinator*

**KOBI’S Ladies Only Salon**

Bridal, Massage, Nails, Hair, Waxing, Tinting, Facials,

Wedding, Special Occasions

Trading Hours: Monday-Sunday—9 am—9 pm

By appointment only

0403 712 132

75 Beethoven Street

Seven Hills NSW 2147

This Newsletter is available for viewing on our website:

www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au
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Give your support to the businesses that supported our school!

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

NEWS
DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR
P&F Annual General Meeting
all welcome -
Monday 2nd December

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