Dear Parents

Where has the year gone to? Only a few weeks of the school year remaining! However, when you look into faces you can see from the lines of weariness that a year has gone by and it will be great to have a break from the usual daily routine. I suppose the quick passing of a year illustrates in some way how brief the measure of our own life really is; the author of Psalm 102 further illustrates that a couple of thousand years haven’t made much difference to the way in which people have their ups and downs:

“Good Lord where are you? If you really do exist, why don’t you come out of hiding and do something about this creature in distress. I am physically weary, I am mentally depressed, I am spiritually defeated. I can’t eat, can’t sleep. I feel like discarded refuse in the back alley; like yesterday’s rubbish shuffled around by the wind.”

If you’re feeling as bad as the psalmist seems to be, then thank heavens for holidays. They allow for a change in routine and, if you’re lucky, a change in scenery. Also, they allow some time for plain “peace and quiet”. In times of serenity when the hustle and bustle is far away, it is possible to answer the question “Good lord, where are you?” and maybe like the psalmist you can experience the answer:

“I know that God is with me today - just as surely as he was with his saints of old. I have neither to fear nor doubt the eternal love and presence of my Lord.”

Hopefully, the remaining weeks of the school year will be a time of enjoyment and cooperation so that the rewards of a year’s fine effort can be experienced by everyone to the very last day.

Thank You

Thank you to the outgoing 2013 P&F executive for all the support and hard work this year. Your time, efforts and dedication to assisting the community of St Michael’s has been outstanding. Thank you for the cheque of $27,000 which was the money raised at the Spring Fair. This money will go towards building up our stock of iPads, Mac computers and other technology which will be available to all our children from K-6.

On Wednesday morning I had the opportunity to have morning tea with our student leaders. I wanted to say thank you to them for the special way they have represented the school and the excellent way they have each carried out their particular role. It was a pleasure to have their support and I wish them every success in the future.

2013 Leaders

School Captains: Ellie Hoogervorst & Joshua Cavallo
Vice Captains: Amy Hassarati & Christopher Kharoufeh

Colour House Captains:
Gold: Abby Wakefied & Tom Watson
Green: Paige Brosnan & Jack Holliday
Blue: Sophie Cruden & Samuel Horner
Red: Ashleigh Jablonski & Matthew Kubatka

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead

Danuta Maka
RE News

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Children’s Liturgy will be on this Sunday 8th December during the 10 am Mass. All primary aged children are warmly invited to attend.

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.

Parish Christmas Party
The Parish Christmas Party will be held in the Downey Room next Friday 6th December, 6.00-8.30 pm. All parishioners are welcome to pop-in for a drink during this time. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Christmas Cards and 2014 Columban Calendars
The S.V.D.P. Society will be selling Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars after each Mass this weekend. Christmas Cards will cost $6.00 per pack of 10 cards and calendars will cost $6.00 each. Both cards and calendars are also available at the piety store courtesy of the Catholic Women’s League.

Junior Elevate Dates—Term 4
Remaining dates this term: 6 December, 20 December.
J1 & J2: On 6 December starting at 7pm, J1 and J2 are going rock climbing at the Edge Rock Climbing Centre! It’s great fun so come along. AGE GROUP: Years 6-8 COST: $18.00; ADDRESS: 9/10 Hudson Ave, Castle Hill NSW 2154

Any questions please contact Jerry Wilkes or email us at youthmovement@stmichaels.org.au

Vincent De Paul Society—Christmas 2013
Hamper Appeal

Parish:
Thank you for the response to the Hamper appeal. Parishioners who were unable to get a profile card may still wish to donate a spare hamper of non-perishable groceries which will be distributed during our visits to needy families in the new year.

Please identify these hampers as ‘SPARE’. To facilitate the distribution of hampers in the weeks leading up to Christmas we would be grateful if all hampers, with the family profile card attached, be returned to the Church by Sunday 15th 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.

End of Year Mass
The whole school will gather for our end of year Mass on Wednesday 18 December at 10.15 am in the Church. All welcome.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation
Mon 16 December Communal Rite of Reconciliation - 7.30pm St Michael’s Church

Christmas Masses
Christmas Eve (Tue): 6pm (outdoors, weather permitting), 8pm, and Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day (Wed): 8am & 10am (please note there is no 6pm Mass Christmas Day).

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 lain Blysm on 0414 266483. All welcome!

St Michael’s Christmas Brunch
This Christmas morning, if you are a single person, a couple, or a family, you are warmly invited to share Christmas with your St Michael’s community. We would love to share Christmas with you!! Equally, if you know anyone who even might be spending Christmas by themselves, bring them along, and we’ll celebrate together. A delicious Brunch will be served at 11am, and we can spend a joyful couple of hours together and still finish up by 1.30 or 2. We can even pick up and drop home!! So that we can cater for the right numbers let me know if you’re coming at david.dowling@raywhite.com or call me on 0421 051 029.

Invitation to participate in Vatican questionnaire
An invitation from the Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, to participate in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta’s survey for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family 2014.

My Dear Sisters and Brothers, You may have heard that Pope Francis has called for an Extraordinary Synod (meeting of Bishops) to consider the Pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelisation. This Synod will be held in Rome in October 2014. On behalf of the Pope, the Vatican has asked every Bishop around the world to consult within his Diocese and ensure input to this Synod is received from as many members of the Church as possible.

I ask you, therefore, prayerfully and purposefully to consider the questions prepared by the Vatican. It is important that we respond to these questions after a suitable time in prayer so that our responses may be guided by the Holy Spirit and will properly inform me, the Holy See, the Synod and, ultimately, His Holiness.


David Ison
Religious Education Coordinator
### Social Skills Program

The social skill for Week 9 of Term 4 is:

**Inclusion**

Being included and being able to include others despite differences.

### Student of the Week

**Term 4 Week 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Annabelle Ewer</td>
<td>3F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIH</td>
<td>Claire Maunder</td>
<td>3RUGG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Sarah Zammit</td>
<td>4C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Sarah Chue Hong</td>
<td>4G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1FM</td>
<td>Emily Ward</td>
<td>4RB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1K</td>
<td>Osman Cui</td>
<td>4VG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q</td>
<td>Lachlan Carey</td>
<td>5C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Alexander Sobb</td>
<td>5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Anastasia Dinos</td>
<td>5OC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2BT</td>
<td>Hannah McGoldrick</td>
<td>5S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Angus Lewis</td>
<td>6DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Madison O'Brien</td>
<td>6F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Piper Watson</td>
<td>6ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Sophia Grainger</td>
<td>6S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Isabella Charon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Swimming Carnival

If you have not already returned your swimming permission slips—please do so by Monday 9 December at the latest.

You may drive your child to and from the pool, or you may grant permission for another parent to drive your child, or your child may walk with staff from school. However, we need to know how your child is going to and from the swimming carnival.

### 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.

### P&F Committee 2013

Thank you to the outgoing 2013 P&F committee for a wonderful year!

**President**—Linda Jurcevic  
**Vice President**—Narelle Harvie  
**Treasurer**—Claudia Marino/Leah Kable  
**Secretary**—Marina Grainger  

**Committee members**—Melanie Barton, Tammy Darroch, Kate Flood, Alicia Hatton, Leah Kable, Davina Kustreba, Lauraine Marshall, Christina Muscat, Vaughn Roles.

### P&F Committee 2014

At the P&F Annual General Meeting on Monday 2 December the following parents were nominated and have accepted the following positions for 2014.

**President**—Melanie Barton  
**Vice President**—Lyndall Pascoe  
**Treasurer**—Leah Kable  
**Secretary**—Marina Grainger  

**Committee members**—Sally Carey, Kate Flood, Natalie Grove, Alicia Hatton, Davina Kustreba, Christina Muscat, Suzanne O’Brien, Melissa Small

We look forward to working with them next year!
Dear Parents and Students,

The following items are required for Years 2 to 6 students for each school year. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child’s name. Some items will need to be replenished throughout the year as needed.

Items to be purchased from the school uniform shop and maintained by the student:

- Break Through Bible for Young Catholics (Years 3-6 only)
- Collins Australian School Dictionary
- Homework pouch

Each child from Year 2 to 6 is required to have a medium-sized pencil case with the following items:

- Red ball point pens (Years 3 to 6 only)
- Blue ball point pens (Years 4 to 6 only)
- HB pencils
- Scissors
- Sharpener with barrel
- Erasers
- Coloured pencils and crayons
- Calculator
- 30cm ruler (no flexible rulers please)

Other items to be supplied by the student:

- USB (at least 4GB)
- Ear buds (no hard head sets)
- Tissue box
- Art apron / shirt
- Sturdy material library bag
- A3 Spiral sketch book (to be used from Years 2-6. Can be purchased from discount shops)

Thank you for ensuring your child is well equipped for the school year.

Joanne Angseesing

**Student Requisites – Years 2 - 6**

Across the school, we have been talking about the season of Advent and what it means to us as Catholics. To help us to prepare ourselves for the coming birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, 5S have written Advent prayers which we are reading every morning in class. Here is the Advent prayer written by Tiana Anderson. It reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas.

**NEWS FROM 5S**

Dear Lord,

Jesus is here to save us,
Save us from our sins.
He will bring hope to Your people,
Sight to the blind,
Voices to the dumb,
Sound to the deaf,
People everywhere are preparing for this special day. They are lighting candles,
Hanging wreaths,
Putting up Jesse trees and covering them with decorations.
You are bringing joy to everyone,
by sending us a Saviour.
We will be singing, “Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Come and save us!”
Teach us that Christmas isn’t about receiving a present,
But giving one.
It is not about eating the turkey,
But sharing it.
Jesus come and save us.

**WORLD OF MATHS**

This week, St Michael’s played host to Mr. Ed from World of Maths. Every grade had the opportunity to spend time working through a series of hands-on applied Mathematics activities. The activities were fun and interactive while challenging and extending the children’s mathematical abilities. Most of the children did not even know that they were learning! Make sure you ask your child what they did in Maths this week!
Mark Taylor Cricket Shield

On Monday 2nd December, our St Michael’s Primary School cricket team played the Grand Final of the Mark Taylor Shield against Christian Brothers Lewisham at Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills.

We had to win five games just to make it to the final and we were excited about playing because we knew Mark Taylor was coming to the game to umpire which would give us a chance to get his autograph and photo.

We lost the toss and Lewisham chose to bat first in the 30 over a side game. We bowled really well and despite some dropped catches we got them out for 103 runs which was a really good effort by our boys. The wicket takers were Jack 3, Liam 2, Michael 1, Jarrod 2, and Tom 1.

When it was our turn to bat we felt confident but really nervous because our school has made one final before today and lost. We wanted to win this year because seven of us are going to high school next year and this would be our last chance to represent our school.

We went into bat and lost some early wickets before some of the boys scored well to win the game. We ended up scoring the 104 runs and only lost five wickets with the best scores being Connor 26, Michael 16 not out, Matt Melching 14 not out, Matt Roveto 14 and Tom 14. We were so happy to win the shield for the first time and hope our school can continue to perform well in the future. Well done to Connor Shelley who was awarded Player of the final.

We would like to congratulate Lewisham on reaching the final as they were a really good team and made us work hard to win the game. Thank you to Mr Kovelis for coaching, Mrs Shelley for scoring and Mr Watson for umpiring. A big thank you to all of the parents for making sure we got to training and games and thanks to Mrs Maka for allowing our Year 6 friends to attend the game and give us support.

Finally, we would like to thank the organisers of the carnival for making it possible for us to play in the tournament. It was great to meet Mark Taylor and is something we will always remember.

Our winning team for the tournament were: Jack Holliday (C), Tom Watson (VC), Matt Roveto, Jarrod French, Connor Shelley, Matt Melching, Michael Blinman, Harrison Wilde, Liam McCallum, Samuel McGoldrick, Jaden Ranasinghe and Mark Anchiche.

By Jack Holliday (C) and Tom Watson (VC)
Dear Parents and Students,

The following items are required for Year 1 students for next year. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child’s name. Some items will need to be replenished throughout the year as needed.

Each child in Year 1 is required to have the following items:

- Homework pouch (available at the Uniform shop)
- Library bag
- 1 x Paint shirt
- 1 set of Ear buds (no hard headsets – for laptop work – these can be purchased at Kmart, Big W, Target)
- 2 x 12 pack Crayons

Please also include the following item UNLABELLED as they will be shared within the class:

- 2 x 12 pack coloured pencils
- 1 x box of tissues

Thank you for ensuring your child is well equipped for the school year.

Year 1 Teachers

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**2014 - Student Requisites – Year 1**

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

Next Tuesday the 10th December will be the last school banking day for 2013.

Please remember that the Commbank has advised 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

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

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Thank you for your cooperation

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Thursday 12th December, 8.30-9.30 am

Please ensure second hand clothing has your child’s correct name, as we have had lost property from children who have left our school.

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**SUMMER UNIFORM PRICE LIST—FORM**

Available on our website at the following location:

http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/school-notes

Then, click on

2014 - Student Requisites – Year 1

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**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.

Depending on your answers, this survey should take between 8 and 20 minutes.

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**CHANGE**

Please note that the school office is unable to provide change for out of school Sport or P&F fundraising activities. Please send in the correct money in an envelope with the details of the activity. Thank you.

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**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
2014 Dates

The PRC would like to take this opportunity to thank all the representatives for our Catholic school for being part of our council and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Guest Speakers</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd Mar 2014 7pm</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>PRC Welcomes Ms Monique Dalli, Leader of e-Learning, Gilroy Catholic College, Castle Hill Presenting iPad Awareness. (Attendees to bring iPad)</td>
<td>DAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Term 1 | Wednesday 26th Mar 2014 7pm | PRC Welcomes The Resilience Donut Presenting The Transition to High School: Helping your child to build resilience and navigate change | TBC – Parramatta/Holroyd Cluster Venue |

| Term 2 | Sunday 18th May 2014 9am to 3pm | PRC Welcomes Fr. Richard Leonard, Director, Australian Catholic Film and Broadcasting | “Winbourne” Edmund Rice retreat & Conference Centre 1015 Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa |

| Term 2 | Monday 2nd June 2014 7pm | General Meeting PRC Welcomes Most Rev. Bishop Anthony Fisher | DAC |

| Term 2 | Tuesday 17th June 2014 7pm | PRC Presentation PRC Welcomes Remy Lowe, Academic Counsellor, Western Sydney Presenting Senior subjects and UAC selection guidance for year 10 to year 12 students. Parents and student to attend. | TBC – Penrith/Blue Mountains Cluster Venue |

| Term 3 | Monday 14th Aug 2014 7pm | General Meeting PRC Welcomes Mrs Sue Walsh, Catholic Education Office Parramatta (Leader of Systems Learning) and/or Mrs Mary Creenaune, Catholic Education Office Parramatta (Team Leader of Student Services Presenting Learning Difficulties - How do I know if my child has a learning difficulty? What do I do? What support is available in our Catholic schools? | DAC |

| Term 3 | Monday 17th Sept 2014 7pm | PRC Presentation PRC Welcomes Dr Andrew Martin Presenting Anxiety & Children | TBC – Hills/Hawkesbury Cluster Venue |

| Term 4 | Monday 10th Nov 2014 7pm | General Meeting PRC Welcomes Michelle Nolan, Coordinator Healthy Weight Promotion Team (Healthy Children's Initiative) Health Promotion, Western Sydney Local Health District and/or Jenny Plaskett, Live Life Well @ School Coordinator, Health Promotion, Western Sydney Local Health District Presenting Childhood Obesity/Healthy Eating | DAC |

| Term 4 | Wednesday 29th October 2014 7pm | PRC Presentation PRC Welcomes Danielle Mantakoul Presenting Smart Start School Readiness | TBC – Greater Blacktown Cluster Venue |
NUT FREE ZONE

St Michael's is a Nut Free school. The canteen does not sell any products with nuts. We ask that parents please do not send their child to school with food containing nuts, ie Nutella, peanut butter or any item containing nuts or traces of nuts.

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 attached to next week’s newsletter.

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

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.

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

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 is welcome to attend. The Epping Club is in Rawson Street Epping.

On Friday 13th December, the school choir will also sing at the school assembly.

Lyndall Parker
Music Teacher