Dear Parents

By now you have had some time to look through your child’s report and talk to them about their learning goal for the second half of the year. Please note that the A to E grading is a legislative requirement of the Government not something St Michael’s have implemented on their own. Please focus on what your child has learnt and the next step in their learning. Every parent wants the best for their child however it is important that we recognise that children develop at different rates. Our children have to feel valued for their effort and then their achievement.

Please note that the A, B, C, D, E grading system does not imply the traditional grades that we may have experienced at school. You may like to equate the grading to gaining a driving licence.

E means that you’re on your L’s. You have an elementary understanding of the road rules and driving. You’re still learning and need to have the instructor, Teacher present in order to complete work.

D means that you have your P’s. You’re no longer a learner. You have a basic knowledge of the road rules and driving. You can drive unassisted but you’re still gaining experience. You can’t drive to the speeds that a ‘black-licenced’ driver can yet.

C means that you have obtained your ‘black-licence’. You know all the rules and can drive wherever you like. You’ve got a sound knowledge of all the road rules and how to drive successfully.

B means that you have your ‘black-licence’ and have completed a defensive driver’s course. You have skills and a high knowledge that few other drivers have.

A means that you have your ‘black-licence’ and have completed an Advanced driver course. You have excellent skills and knowledge that very few other drivers have.

It is of great importance that we give our children a proper perspective of the value of education. From the time we are born we are all learners. From our earliest years we take in information that keeps us from harming ourselves and enables us to ask for assistance. Throughout our childhood and adolescence, we acquire skills that equip us to achieve our independence as individuals. It is our job as parents to keep putting before our children an optimistic view of life, to encourage them to see things as they might be - and can be - if they keep striving for their ideals. What better ideals than to encourage our children to ongoing education, integrity, and compassion.

Thank you to all our families, teachers and students for making St Michael’s such a wonderful school.

“May you recognise in your life the presence, power and light of your soul.
May you have a respect for your individuality and difference.
May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.” Irish blessing, Author unknown.

Best wishes for the holidays.
Religious Education News

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy of the Word takes place every Sunday during 10 am Mass throughout the term. All primary aged children are warmly invited to attend.

End of Term 2—Whole School Mass

Our next whole school mass will be on Friday 27 June at 10.15 am in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

Grandparents' Mass—Friday 25 July

We will celebrate the memorial of Sts Joachim and Ann on Friday, 25 July at 10.15 am in the Church followed by Morning Tea. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

Year 5 Reconciliation—Wednesday 30 July

Year 5 will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 30 July at 10 am in the Church. All welcome to attend.

Class masses

Children attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am during the term. Dates are as outlined in the Dates to Remember section of the newsletter and contained in the school calendar on our website at www.stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The social skill for Term 3 Week 1 is:

Pride

Having a positive opinion of your own worth and being proud of your achievements.

Student of the Week

Term 2 Week 8

KBlue  Annalise Eleter  YRed  Rory Goodchild
KGree  Caleb Parker  3Yellow  Paige Cassar
KRed  Jake Herrett  4Blue  Francesca Marino
KYellow  Edward Gonzalez  4Green  Jake Herden
1Blue  Hannah Kim  4Red  Casey Cruden
1Green  Patrick Johns  4Yellow  Angelique Cruden
1Red  Jonathan Drury  5Blue  Valentina Barbara
1Yellow  Anamaria Simic  5Green  Lucia Yoo
2Blue  Joshua Agnas  5Red  Bronte Clarkson
2Green  Ashley Jay  5Yellow  Ryan Sheridan
2Red  Joshua Stevens  6Blue  Isabella Corrao
2Yellow  Angelina Woodward  6Green  Alanis Da Cunha
3Blue  Madison O’Brien  6Red  Mark Anchique
3Green  Kayla Morris  6Yellow  Marc Cannone

PARISH NEWS

First Communion

Congratulations to the children of our Parish who made their First Communion last weekend. Thank you to all those who enabled the children to reach this important stage in their faith journey-parents, facilitators, home hosts and to all who in any way assisted in the children’s preparation and in the ceremonies to celebrate First Communion. A special thank you to Trish Finucane (Sacramental Coordinator) and the Sacramental Team for your continued commitment in facilitating, once again, the preparation of the children for this important sacrament.

Invitation to Enrol - Confirmation Preparation 2014

For children in Year 5 and above

Registration evenings for Confirmation will be held on Monday 21 July and Tuesday 22 July at 7.30 pm in St Michael’s Church. For children who have completed the sacrament of Reconciliation at a Church other than St Michael’s, Baulkham Hills, a copy of the child’s baptismal certificate will need to be provided at the time of registration.

Please note there is a cost of $20 payable at registration.

Volunteers Required - Confirmation

We are seeking Facilitators and home hosts from our Parish/School community. If you are able to offer your help in facilitating and or hosting a home group for our parish based Programme which will commence on 11 August please phone the parish office on 9639 0598.

The first Facilitators’ Meeting will be held in the Downey Room on Monday 4 August at 7.30 pm.

Father Mick

Father Mick is currently on sick leave. It is expected he will be absent from the Parish Office for a few weeks. Please keep Fr Mick in your prayers.

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Ison on the birth of a baby girl, Claire, born 26 June.

School fees

Term 2 school fees are now overdue. Thank you to the parents who have paid on time. Reminder letters have been posted.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty or have any enquiries regarding school fees, please contact Mrs Linda Borsato in the school office on 9639 0518 or alternatively you can email lborsato@parra.catholic.edu.au

Gazetted School Terms: 2014

Term 1:
Tuesday, 28 January to Friday, 11 April

Term 2:
Monday, 28 April to Friday, 27 June

Term 3:
Monday, 14 July to Friday, 19 September

Term 4:
Tuesday, 7 October to Friday, 19 December

St Michael’s students will finish on 17 December due to Staff Professional Development Days 18 & 19 December

Links Morning Tea—Friday 27 June 8.30 am

All St Michael’s families, new and existing, are invited to have a cup of tea from 8.30 am on Friday 27 June in the Parish Downey Room before the end of Term Mass.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 14 Jul</td>
<td>4 Blue &amp; 4 Red Incursion—CSIRO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 15 Jul</td>
<td>4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow Excursion—Old Government House/Elizabeth Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 15 Jul</td>
<td>5 Red &amp; K Blue @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16 Jul</td>
<td>4 Blue &amp; 4 Red Incursion—Old Government House/Elizabeth Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16 Jul</td>
<td>1 Red &amp; 6 Red @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 17 Jul</td>
<td>4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow Incursion—CSIRO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 17 Jul</td>
<td>1 Blue &amp; 6 Blue @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Jul</td>
<td>Year 3 Excursion—Taronga Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 22 Jul</td>
<td>2 Red &amp; 2 Blue @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23 Jul</td>
<td>3 Red &amp; 3 Blue @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 24 Jul</td>
<td>1 Green &amp; 6 Green @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 24 Jul</td>
<td>Yr 6 Personal Development &amp; Health Information Evening - Hall 6.30 pm—8.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Jul</td>
<td>Whole School Mass—Grandparents’ Day—10.15 am in the Church followed by Morning Tea in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 29 Jul</td>
<td>Years 3-6 ICAS English Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 29 Jul</td>
<td>2 Green &amp; 2 Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Jul</td>
<td>1 Yellow &amp; 6 Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Jul</td>
<td>Year 5 Reconciliation—10.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Jul</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting—7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 31 Jul</td>
<td>4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 31 Jul</td>
<td>Year 6 Debating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1 Aug</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival Years 2-6—School Census Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 5 Aug</td>
<td>Year 4 Incursion—Mark Greenwood, Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 5 Aug</td>
<td>K Green &amp; 5 Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6 Aug</td>
<td>3 Green &amp; 3 Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Aug</td>
<td>5 Red &amp; K Blue @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Aug</td>
<td>Kindergarten Non-Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Aug</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Aug</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 12 Aug</td>
<td>Years 3-6 ICAS Mathematics Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 12 Aug</td>
<td>1 Green &amp; 1 Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 13 Aug</td>
<td>4 Blue &amp; 4 Red @ Parish Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 14 Aug</td>
<td>5 Green &amp; K Yellow @ Parish Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 14 Aug</td>
<td>Year 6 Debating—9.45 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 15 Aug</td>
<td>Feast of the Assumption Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 15 Aug</td>
<td>Year 6 Debating—3.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18 Aug—Fri 22 Aug</td>
<td>Book Week—Bookathon and Dress up Day Wed 20 Aug</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The school’s calendar is now available on our website:
stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—AUGUST CENSUS**

In February and August each year the Department of Education conducts a school census.

The **August Census** date is **1 August 2014** which is the date of our Athletics Carnival for Years 2-6.

If your child is sick or absent on this day, please call the office on 9639 0518 or email the school at:

stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au.

A note explaining their absence will still need to be sent in to the school on their return.

If you are taking leave for more than two days at any time in the school year, please complete an Application for Leave prior to your departure. Further details outlined below.

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**Application for Leave for Students taking leave during the School Year Parent Information**

In 2013 new Government guidelines were introduced 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 your assistance in the matter and if you have any further questions please contact the school office.

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**UNIFORM SHOP—2014**

Every Thursday during Term time—8.30 am—9.30 am

**WINTER UNIFORM PRICE LIST FORM**

Available on our website at the following location:
http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/school-notes

Orders sent in during the week will be completed on Thursdays.

Please label all items of uniform clearly so that they can be returned to your child if lost and found.
DEBATING NEWS

On 24th June 2014, St Michael’s debating teams were winners at Round three of the competition.

The competing teams were St Madeleine’s Primary versus St Michael’s Primary. The team competing from the negative perspective was at school and the team competing from the affirmative perspective was away at Kenthurst.

All the participants were well prepared with their arguments and argued their team’s case with clarity and confidence.

The topic for the day was, ‘Social Media is Dangerous’.

The students provided plenty of ideas for the audience to ponder over and had the adjudicators astonished that such small heads could portray such big ideas.

Mrs Grib, coordinating the students for their deliberation, is very generous with her time for the team. She is very supportive and strives to help the students to do their best. Congratulations Mrs Grib for the teams first win and that too, a double.

Thanks also to Mrs Maloney for adjudicating for St Michael’s.

A big thank you to Mrs Bowles for chauffeuring the children to the venue.

3 GREEN NEWS

This term in 3 Green we have been researching animals as part of learning how to write an information report. We would like to share some interesting animal facts with you:

- A Great White Shark has a lot of sharp teeth – Anthony K
- An African Leopard likes to eat snakes – Sienna
- Piranhas teeth are one of the sharpest things on the planet – Dominic
- Some species of Dolphins have 8 teeth while others have 256 – Tiana
- Female Funnel-Web Spiders live in holes in trees or in the ground. They live there because they have babies and they don’t want them to be harmed – Kayla
- Zebras mainly eat green grass, shrubs, leaves and tree branches – Zane
- German Shepherds can jump a 6ft high fence – Ryan
- Dogs come in different shapes, sizes and colours – Oliver
- Wolves can smell a deer from a mile away – Tyrin
- Ducks keep themselves clean by preening themselves. They do this using water – Monique
- A Jaguar is the 3rd biggest cat – Erik
- Horses have the biggest eyes out of all mammals – Dylan Brette
- Large species of Crocodiles can reach over 5-6m in length – Christian
- Female ducks can lay up to 10 eggs per day – Sara
- A Kangaroo eats at night and lives in the bush – Lachlan
- Rosellas are warm blooded – Ella
- Rabbits teeth never stop growing – Dante
- Cheetahs are the fastest land animals on 4 legs – Victoria
- Cheetahs cannot roar but they can purr – Charlotte
- Turtles have a hard shell to protect them – Taylor
- Seahorses weigh more than a US penny – Abbie
- Dingoes are found in Australia and Asia – Dylan Biggs
- Snakes don’t have eyelids – Dean
- Tigers prey include deer, cattle and wild boars – Laura
- A Great White Shark can weigh up to 2268kg - Alex

STAR CORNER

Congratulations to Liam McCallum who has been selected in the NSWPSA Australian Football (AFL) team to play in the School Sport Australia Championships in Sydney next term.

If you would like to cheer him on as he represents our state, his first Round will be held on Sunday 20 July 10.30 am at the Sydney Cricket Ground—NSW Vs Northern Territory.

There is free entry for all spectators at the venue.
Changes have been made to Privacy legislation which came into effect on 12 March.

The Catholic Education Office has responded to the changes. Further information can be found on our website at the following location:


Please do not bring Nuts or Nut products to school

Due to a number of children with allergies to nuts, we ask that you do not send your child to school with products containing nuts, e.g. Nutella, peanut butter or any item containing nuts or traces of nuts. The canteen does not sell any products with nuts.

**COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES POLICY**

1. **Rationale**
   At St Michael’s Primary School, Baulkham Hills, the dignity of each individual is valued and the rights and beliefs of all members of the community are respected.

2. **Aims**
   However, from time to time concerns may arise between different groups within the school community. At St Michael’s we aim to attempt resolution as soon as any concerns arise.

3. **Implementation**

   **Parents**
   Complaints or grievances pertaining to classroom issues or that relate to other children are to be dealt with by school personnel. It is not appropriate for parents to approach other children or other parents while on school premises to resolve issues.
   The recommended procedure to be followed by parents is:
   
   3.1 The first point of contact is the child’s class teacher. An appointment with the teacher should be made via the school office or directly with the teacher.
   3.2 If parents are not satisfied with the solutions offered or believe they have not been given a fair hearing, they are encouraged to make an appointment with either the principal or assistant principal, to discuss the issue further.
   3.3 Parents are reminded that there are always two sides to every story and while it is important to listen to their own child, it is also just as important not to draw conclusions or make accusations until all the facts are known.
   3.4 Parents may also contact Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta for further discussion.
   3.5 All parties should aim to work towards a mutually agreeable solution to the grievance.

   **Students**
   The recommended procedure for students who have complaints or grievances is:
   3.6 If and when issues arise in the classroom, students are encouraged to speak to the class teacher in order to seek assistance in finding a resolution.
   3.7 Students encountering problems on the playground are asked to talk to the staff member on duty, who will then, if necessary, refer it to the class teacher or one of the school’s Leadership team.
   3.8 Students may also speak to any other staff member regarding any issues.

4. **Evaluation**
   Policy to be evaluated by staff in Term 4 of each year.

**STEPPING BEYOND**
A Support Group for Separated or Divorced Adults

**Faith in Marriage**
A Conference about Marriage for Couples

**Theme: Marriage – A Vocation to Love**
Incorporating the Ray Redd Memorial Lecture about the blessing and graces of marriage. This conference is aimed at married couples, engaged couples and any individual interested in marriage.
Pyjama Mufti Day!

The best way to keep updated is to go and “LIKE” our Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/PFStMichaelsPrimaryBaulkhamHills
Term 3
Grandparent’s Day & Morning Tea - Friday 25th July
P&F Meeting, All Welcome -
Wednesday 30th July 7pm
Father’s Day Gift Stall - Thursday 4th September
Father’s Day Liturgy 10.15am and
Morning Tea 11am - Friday 5th September

If you have any concerns or feedback, please email:
pandfstmichaels@gmail.com We thank you for your continued support!
ST MICHAEL’S PLAYGROUP
Kindergarten 2015 children social groups
Do you have a child starting kindergarten next year at St Michael’s 2015 and would you like the opportunity for your child to mix with others starting school next year? Come along with your child (and toddlers) to 2 hour play sessions on Tuesdays or Fridays at St Michael’s Playgroup for the rest of 2014.
Enquiries and registration:
Call Michelle 0415385353.
(If you are only available on other week days, please call and register your interest).

Mum & Bub— Sing-along Sessions
WHEN: Tuesdays in July 9.15am - 9.45am
WHO: 0 - 2 year olds and carers
WHAT TO BRING: Hand Rattle. Older siblings bring a bear/doll.
WHERE: St Michaels Playgroup Centre
No booking necessary just turn up!
QUERIES: Call Michelle 0415 385 353

ST MICHAEL’S NETBALL CLUB
Would you like to learn to play Netball?
St Michael’s Netball club are running a Net Set Go program for all girls aged 5-6 years.
Come and learn the basics to get you started. Build new friendships and have fun.

Starts: July 14th – runs for 8 weeks
When: Monday afternoons 3:30 pm-4:30 pm at Crestwood Netball courts.
Cost: $50 – no uniform required.
To register please contact Rebecca Vella on 0418 244 169 or rebeccav7@bigpond.com

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE, PARRAMATTA
Have you considered completing Years 11 and 12 at OLMC Parramatta?
Prospective Year 11, 2015 students and their families are invited to discover the benefits of a senior Mercy education at the Year 11 2015 Information Evening on Wednesday, July 23 in the Edith Angel Hall at OLMC Parramatta.
To attend, please contact the College Registrar on 8838 1222 or email registrar@olmc.nsw.edu.au

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT SCHOOL
From time to time photographs may be taken of your child whilst they are at school. These photos may be used in school Newsletters, publications and the school website. They may also be used by Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese in their publications and website. If you do not wish your child’s photo to be taken, please put this in writing and address to the Principal, Mrs Maka.