From the Principal

Dear Parents

Some time ago there appeared in an Australian newspaper an article written by a person named Jan Steele titled, “Parents Fail Literacy Test”. The article talked about the number of hours our children spend at school (1398 hours) as compared with the number of waking hours children spend with their parents (4382 hours).

The number of waking hours that children have with their parents is three times the amount they have with their teacher. Jan points out that it is no wonder that we parents are the first educators of our children.

Jan then goes on to ask a series of “nasty” questions:

“Did you give your children a set of positive values? By the time the child starts school the child firmly belongs to the parents; values are deeply embedded and there is no ordinary teacher on this earth who can change them.”

“When your children were young did you as parents turn off the TV, read to your children, tell them stories, encourage them to tell you stories, listen when they came home bursting to tell you of their last adventure?”

“Do you encourage your children to play outside, make up their own games using their imaginations? Do you encourage them to take a keen interest in what is going on around them? Do you value education and pass the value onto your children?”

Jan proposed a whole lot of other difficult questions to answer but probably that’s enough for the moment. So, how did you score with the ticks and crosses?

Articles such as Jan’s should always be read from the point of view of being a stimulus for us, as an injection to boost our determination to be positive, active parents in the lives of our children and not hand it all over to television/technology or allow other people to have a greater influence than us on our children. When children go to school, education becomes a partnership. We, the parents, invite the teachers to join with us in the education of our children, we do not simply hand them over. Parents and teachers need to communicate and support each other and, if we fail to do this, we undermine the authority not only of the other party but we undermine our own. The partnership between parents and teachers in a catholic school should be directed towards developing the potential of each child to be amongst other things:

  - Faithfilled
  - Loving
  - Forgiving
  - Intellectually competent
  - Physically active and
  - Motivated through self-esteem.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible next week when our grades hold their parent information evening. This is an important night for parents to gain a clear understanding of the teaching and learning in their child’s/children’s class and the role they can play in this partnership. Each grade will give an outline of the programme for the year, the outcomes the students are working towards and how parents can support their child’s learning.

“Lord, I look forward to your guidance and enlightenment as I work in partnership with the teachers and school during 2014. Amen.”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Faithfilled
Loving
Forgiving
Intellectually competent
Physically active and
Motivated through self-esteem.
**RE 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.

**After 10**

After 10 happens straight after 10 am Mass on Sundays. It’s a great opportunity to meet new people, have a good cuppa and catch up with others. WHEN: February 23, March 9 and 23. All welcome.

**Welcoming Mass—Friday 21st February at 10.15 am**

Our whole school Welcoming Mass will be held on Friday 21st February at 10:15 am in the Church. During this Mass we will present our 2014 Year 6 school leaders with their badges and also take the opportunity to welcome new students and staff and pray for success in learning in the year ahead. All family and friends are most welcome to attend.

**Elevate**

**SENIOR ELEVATE**

Senior Elevate is back on and it’s better than ever! Come along for a packed term of fun, games, relationships and much, much more! AGE GROUP: Years 9-12 WHEN: Friday 21 February WHERE: Sign-in at the Old Church TIME: 7-9pm

**J1 & J2 IS BACK**

Elevate is back for 2014! We have a lot of fun and exciting activities planned for this term. Don’t miss out! WHEN: 14 February WHERE: Sign in at Downey Room. Please bring a gold coin donation!

**Faith in Our Future**

*From Pastoral Planning Officer Daniel Ang’s Faith in Our Future Blog:*

It is an exciting time for our Diocese as we prepare to launch Faith in Our Future, on the weekend of the 22-23 February, 2014!

The culmination of two years of conversation and discernment about the future of the Diocese, Faith in Our Future will contain announcements about future directions, provide a vision for the growth and sharing of faith, and offer practical resources and ideas for parishes, migrant communities and each member of our Diocese to translate that hope into action.

Pope Francis recently reminded us that “Faith is no refuge for the faint-hearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love” (*Lumen Fidei* 53). Through Faith in Our Future, our Diocese will seek to respond to that calling and vocation of love, promoting pastoral initiatives and ideas for outreach so that the suburbs and mountains of Western Sydney might become a ‘true field of faith’.

However, it needs your prayers and support, gifts and talents to succeed. Look out for the complete and summary versions of the Pastoral Plan that will be soon sent to your parish and migrant communities, and keeping visiting our website [www.faithinourfuture.org.au](http://www.faithinourfuture.org.au) which will be refreshed and relaunched in the coming weeks.

**CARITAS**

Project Compassion helps to fight poverty and social injustice around the world. Project Compassion boxes will be distributed to all classes. We appreciate your support.

**PROJECT OF COMPASSION First Week of Lent Weekly Story**

Maristely, 18, lives in a *favela* (city slum) in São Paulo, Brazil. Caritas Australia’s partner Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents is working to improve living conditions within their community and other favelas in the city.

**Being a part of MDF has given me awareness of my dignity ... I know that to live in a favela is nothing to be ashamed of.” Maristely**

Dark and cramped, favelas are groups of irregular, self-constructed houses often built on land that no one wants to live on due to threats of floods, landslides, or their proximity to roads and train lines. Many locals face daily discrimination from the wider community. When Maristely was growing up, her family’s house, like many others, was made of cardboard and had no electricity, water or connected sewerage.

Caritas Australia’s partner, the Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents (MDF), is changing lives across 40 favelas in São Paulo. MDF understands the difficulties of favela life such as dense population, limited space, a lack of available jobs, constant threat of eviction and widespread poverty.

Through MDF, Maristely’s family, along with thousands of others, now has access to clean water, electricity and connected sewerage. They also have a certificate of home ownership which provides greater security and means they can no longer be evicted.

Across the favelas, up to 70 percent of families experience violence in the home, and there is a dominant gang culture. This culture of violence is closely linked to a lack of self-esteem. MDF attendees participate in sessions which address their identity, favela history, and issues around drugs, gangs, violence and unemployment. The program promotes peace so young people can attain education and employment rather than join local gangs.

Maristely is now a young leader with MDF’s Youth Empowerment Program, working to promote peace, improve access to basic facilities and increase citizens’ awareness of their rights and dignity.

David Ison  
Religious Education Coordinator

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**SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM**

The social skill for next week is:

**R-E-S-P-E-C-T**

**P—Play Safe: Be Safe**

**Week 4 Mantra**

‘Circle concept’ and ‘Network Hand’

The ‘Circle concept’ teaches a child about personal space and appropriate behaviour with others, depending on what their relationship is to the child.

‘The Network Hand’. The children list five people from various areas in their life, that they trust and can go to if they need help. These people must be over 18 years of age.

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**Student of the Week**

**Term 1 Week 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KBlue</th>
<th>1Blue</th>
<th>1Green</th>
<th>1Red</th>
<th>1Yellow</th>
<th>2Blue</th>
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<th>5Red</th>
<th>6Blue</th>
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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Feb</td>
<td>Links morning tea for Kindy parents or parents new to the school—Further details on this page of the newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night – Year 1 – 6.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Feb</td>
<td>Classes 1Red and 6Red attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Feb</td>
<td>Year 5Red CARES, Bike Education excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night – Year 3 – 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night – Year 5 – 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Feb</td>
<td>Classes 1Blue and 6Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Feb</td>
<td>Year 5Blue CARES, Bike Education excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night – Year 2 – 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 20 Feb</td>
<td>Classes 1Green and 6Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 20 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night – Year 6 – 6.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 20 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night – Year 4 – 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Feb</td>
<td>Welcoming Mass and Induction of School Leaders – 10.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Feb</td>
<td>Classes 1Yellow and 6Yellow attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Feb</td>
<td>Year 5Green CARES, Bike Education excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Feb</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival – Hawkesbury Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Feb</td>
<td>Classes KRed and 5Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Feb</td>
<td>Year 5Yellow CARES, Bike Education excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting—7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 27 Feb</td>
<td>Classes 5Green and KYellow attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Feb</td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival – Blacktown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 4 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 5Yellow and KGreen attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 5 Mar</td>
<td><strong>ASH WEDNESDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;9.15 am - Years 2-6 (1/2) Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church&lt;br&gt;10.30 am – Years K-1 Ash Wednesday service in the Hall&lt;br&gt;12.00 pm - Years 2-6 (1/2) Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 6 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 2Yellow and 2Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 7 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 6 Excursion – Narrabeen Sport &amp; Recreation Academy – Depart 7.30 am; return approx. 6.00 pm</td>
</tr>
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**CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S WEEK 9 – 15 March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 2Red and 2Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 5Red and KBlue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 4 Reconciliation – 10 am in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 13 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 3Blue and 3Red attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Mar</td>
<td>Catholic School’s Week Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church at 10.15 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Term 1 School Calendar is also available on our website at [www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au)
In order to become a school volunteer at St Michael’s Primary School the following must be completed:

- Child protection training on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website (instructions below).
- Read, complete, sign and return the school’s Confidentiality agreement available from the office or located on the school’s website under the Parent\School notes link.

**Instructions for Child Protection training**

- Go St Michael’s website - [http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au)
- Click on Parents, go to Parent Involvement, click on Child Protection Course.
- You will then be directed to the Catholic Education Office – Diocese of Parramatta to complete the training.
- Once you have successfully completed the training, an email will be sent to St Michael’s for our records.

**Bella Vista**

Upcoming events & programs

**Ideas for Parenting Teams**

- 2pm / 3pm start – 10 Mar 6-8pm – 17 June 6-8pm

A 3-hour seminar that will assist parents to:

- Understand what is normal adolescent behavior
- Reduce the anxiety parents in raising teenage children
- Closely allied to new laws, guidelines & regulations for parents
- The Challenge of Disciplining your Child

- $25 / $15 one time – 4 Apr 6-8pm – 24 June 6-8pm

A 3-hour seminar that will assist parents of children aged 3-13 years old to:

- Understand what positive discipline means and have set clear boundaries that children respect and learn to appreciate.
- Use conflict as a tool to improve relationships
- Use tips & tricks from different discipline techniques.

**Being A Mum**

- $25 / $15 one time – 2 Apr 6-8pm

A 3-hour seminar that will assist mothers to:

- Understand all the emotions as a mother
- Really connect with their children
- Understand the influence of different ages
- Learn positive ways to discipline children and communicate more effectively

**Positive Parenting**

- $25 / $15 one time – 17 Mar 6-8pm

A 3-hour seminar that will assist parents of children aged 3-8 years old to:

- Know and acknowledge each child’s personality
- Understand your child’s power of influencing on what children are doing well
- Deal with what’s sized in school that is not working for these children or others

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**CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**

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**UNIFORM SHOP—2014**

Every Thursday during Term time 8.30 am—9.30 am

Please ensure your child’s name is mentioned on all items of clothing.

**SUMMER UNIFORM PRICE LIST FORM**

Available on our website at the following location:


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**CANTEEN**

Happy New Year and welcome back!

Volunteers—It is time once again to ask for your valuable assistance in the Canteen. A separate note has been sent out. Please fill out and return by 14th February if you would like to help. Please fill out a form even if you are returning from last year.

New Canteen Menu and price list has been sent. Please make sure you are ordering from the new list.

Thank you in anticipation.

Judy Tamas

Canteen

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**Phone 8882 7850**

**Bookings essential**

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**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Our newsletter is distributed via email to reduce paper use and to provide access to a full colour version. An email will be sent every Thursday afternoon with the link to our website. If you have already provided us with your email address you will have received your newsletter link last Thursday.

The newsletter is uploaded to our website address at: [http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/latest-news](http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/latest-news) every Thursday at 3 pm.

Please email us on stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au if you would like to be added to our email list or if you have changed your email address recently.
2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This year the P&F is fundraising for further technology for the students as well as much needed literacy resources.

Term 1
Tears & Cheers for Kindergarten Parents - Friday 31st January ✔ Done
Kindergarten Teddy Bears Picnic - Saturday 8th February ✔ Done
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 26th February 7pm
Family Portrait Fundraiser - Mid March Date TBC
Crazy Locks and Socks Mufti Day - End of March Date TBC
End of Term Disco - April Date TBC

Term 2
Mother’s Day (Liturgy 10.15am/Morning Tea 11am/Gift Stall) - Thursday 8th May
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 21st May 7pm
Pyjama Mufti Day - Last Week June Date TBC

Term 3
Grandparent’s Day & Morning Tea - Friday 25th July
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 30th July 7pm
Tea Towel Fundraiser - End of July Date TBC
Father’s Day (Liturgy 10.15am/Morning Tea 11am/Gift Stall) - Thursday 4th September

Term 4
Girl’s Market Night In: Breast Cancer & School Fundraiser - October Date TBC
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 22nd October 7pm
Monster Christmas Raffle - December Date TBC
P&F Annual General Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 3rd December 7pm

The P&F endeavours to put on great family events and other fundraisers during the year. We couldn’t do this without the support of the school community. We always welcome additional parent helpers.

If you would like to be on our database for when the call goes out, please email us pnfstmichaels@gmail.com.

Being on our database is not a commitment to help at every event. Come along when you can.
Oakhill College Enrolments 2015

Applications for enrolment into Year 7 2015 will close on Friday, 21st February, 2014 and enrolment for girls into Year 11 2015 will close on Friday, 9th May, 2014.

Parents who wish to apply for enrolment of their sons in Year 7 and/or daughters in Year 11 at Oakhill College in 2015, and who have not yet submitted a form, are requested to contact the Registrar before the closing dates.

Contact: Mrs Maryanne Maree (Registrar)
9899 2288 or registrar@oakhill.nsw.edu.au

The Hills Swimming and Life Saving Club

Will again be holding our annual carnival for Primary School children in 2014. The date of the carnival is Saturday 22 February 2014 commencing at 5.45pm.

We invite any of your Primary School children who can swim 50 metres to enter and swim for their school. This carnival is not just for your best swimmers but any child who would like to swim. There is no need to pre-register for the carnival. Children can come to the carnival and select the events in which they want to swim.

DATE: Saturday 22 February, commencing at 5.45pm
VENUE: Waves Fitness & Aquatic Centre
44 Mileham Avenue, Baulkham Hills.

Further information about the carnival can be found at www.thes hil ls.org.au under the heading “Primary Schools Carnival”.

St Michaels Netball Club

Looking for players turning 7 (born in 2007) interested in playing netball. Please contact Rebecca O’Keefe on 0418 244 169

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PIANO / KEYBOARD LESSONS
(PRACTICAL / THEORY / MUSICIANSHIP)
BEGINNERS, ALL GRADES OR PLEASURE

Experienced Accredited Teacher (Sydney Conservatorium of Music)

Tel: 9614 6468 Mobile: 0401 744 732

Enjoy a new life with a positive attitude

Martial Arts for Kids

Register at: csdodance.com
Enquiries: Lynne 0419 233 531
Or Laura 0402 088 719

Baulkham Hills Brumbies Rugby League

Registrations

Registrations for the 2014 rugby league season will take place on Thursday 20th February in the Downey Room from 2.30-4.00pm. For players registering for the first time, please supply original copies of your child’s birth and baptism certificates. For returning players, you will again be able to register and pay online. An email will be sent to you shortly.

Registration fees for the 2014 season will be $120 for one child and $180 for a family. This is great value for money and includes a playing jersey, shorts, socks and training gear. Please note that we can only accept cash or cheque for registration in the Downey Room.

Any queries, please contact Simone on 0412 996 479

Enrol Now!