From the Principal

Dear Parents

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. By and large, schools deliver on these expectations. They are generally safe places for children, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student well-being are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.

Despite best teaching practice things may go wrong at school. Some children may experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school life. During these times your children may come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. The following six points are some suggestions as to how we, as parents, can address any difficulties our child may be experiencing at school.

1. Stay calm and rational
It's natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always wise. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school or emailing, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Get all the facts
Once you've calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Children are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there's a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can't see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It's the job of parents to help children process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and they understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. Assess whether to go to school or not
Children, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving children some commonsense tips to help them cope.

If your child has a recurring problem that he/she can't solve, or you think adult intervention may be needed to sort out an issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's teacher or year level leader of learning.

4. Go through the right channels
Approach the school calmly, contact your child's teacher via the school office. Your child's teacher may be on class or on supervision duty, but a message can be left for them to return your call if they are not available.

5. Look for solutions rather than blames
Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally, not a foe. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6. Stay in touch
Be realistic with your expectations remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child's teacher or the school over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other. Parenting is easy when things are going well but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

“God our Father, As we go about our life today, may Your Spirit go with us. Help us in our efforts to be participants in the lives of our children in ways that are helpful to their development as persons made in your image and likeness. Amen.”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka
**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.

**Visiting Priests at St Michael’s Parish**
Over the next two weekends and most weekdays, Masses at St Michael’s will be celebrated by visiting priests. The Capuchin Friars and Fr. Paul Roberts will celebrate most of these Masses. Fr. Mick will be saying weekend and weekday Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes, South Baulkham Hills.

**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**
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: Friday 28 Feb WHERE: Sign-in at Downey Room 7-9pm.
Please bring a gold coin donation

**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 Second Week of Lent Weekly Story**
“We survived on wild fruits and bush meat, but many people died from starvation or sickness.”

When Deng was six, he became very ill and with no medical facilities available, fell into a coma. After regaining consciousness, he awoke to find his right side partially paralysed. Not letting this deter him, he happily returned to the peaceful life he knew and loved.

In 1983 when civil war broke out and everything changed. Frightened and taken by surprise, Deng, his family and other villagers fled for the bush, leaving their homes, crops and livestock behind.

“We were unable to be in our village, life was unbearable and all the time we kept hiding from the militia in the bush … We were always on the move.”

Over the course of time, Deng and his wife, Aketch, 38, had eight children, but three passed away. Later on, Deng’s eyes became infected. As the head of the household, he was responsible for providing for his family. Losing his eyesight meant he could not do this anymore.

In 2005, the civil war ended and they were able to move back home. Due to this refurbishment we currently have student desks and chairs that we no longer require.

We would be happy for you to take desks and/or chairs for a small donation.

Please contact the office for further information on 9639 0518.
If any child is currently participating in the sport of Diving (off a diving board) for which they are having lessons, could they please speak with Mr Kovelis as soon as possible.

Mr Steve Kovelis
Sports Coordinator

Application for Leave
for Students taking leave during the School Year

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. If you have any further questions please contact the school office.

The Term 1 School Calendar is also available on our website at www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au

CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S WEEK 9 – 15 March

Tue 11 Mar Classes 2Red and 2Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am
Wed 12 Mar Classes 5Red and KBlue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am
Wed 12 Mar Yr 4 Reconciliation – 10 am in the Church
Thu 13 Mar Classes 3Blue and 3Red attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am
Fri 14 Mar Catholic School’s Week Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church at 10.15 am
Fri 14 Mar Sat 15 Mar P&F—Family Portrait Fundraiser

CANTENEEN
Volunteers—Thank you to those parents who have volunteered this year. It is lovely to meet some new faces and have you involved.

We still need some more volunteers for Thursdays. If you are able to assist, please contact Judy on 9639 0518 during school hours.

Thank you in anticipation.

Mrs Judy Tamás
Canteen

CARPARK
Thank you to those parents who do not abuse the use of the Parish carpark and do not park in the spaces allocated to the Parish.

It is essential that the Parish carpark spaces are left for the parishioners of our Parish.

SPORTS NEWS
If any child is currently participating in the sport of Diving (off a diving board) for which they are having lessons, could they please speak with Mr Kovelis as soon as possible.

Mr Steve Kovelis
Sports Coordinator

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:
http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/school-notes
School hats
Please check the names on your children’s hats as children’s hats are going missing and your child may be picking up someone else’s hat by mistake.

DATASE TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Feb</td>
<td>Links morning tea for Kindy parents or parents new to the school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Feb</td>
<td>Welcoming Mass and Induction of School Leaders – 10.15 am</td>
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<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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<td>Tue 25 Feb</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival – Hawkesbury Pool</td>
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<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>ASH WEDNESDAY</td>
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<td>9.15 am - Years 2-6 (1/2) Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church</td>
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<td>10.30 am – Years K-1 Ash Wednesday service in the Hall</td>
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<td>12.00 pm - Years 2-6 (1/2) Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 6 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 2Yellow and 2Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<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>
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The Term 1 School Calendar is also available on our website at www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au
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 - Friday 14th & Saturday 15th March
  - Crazy Locks and Socks Mufti Day - End of March Date TBC
  - End of Term Disco - April Date TBC

**Term 2**
- Mother’s Day Gift Stall - Thursday 8th May
- Mother’s Day Liturgy 10.15am/Morning Tea 11am - Friday 9th 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 Gift Stall - Thursday 4th September
- Father’s Day Liturgy 10.15am/Morning Tea 11am - Friday 5th 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 pandfstmichaels@gmail.com. Being on our database is not a commitment to help at every event. Come along when you can.

Find us on Facebook: PFStMichaelsPrimaryBaulkhamHills
Family Portrait Fundraiser

$20 for one 10” x 13” framed colour portrait

The P&F have teamed up with Laura Jean Fundraising to have professional family portrait photos taken at the school on the dates shown below. For $20, you receive a 10” x 13” framed colour portrait! The sessions are in 15 minute blocks and you can select a day and am or pm from below.

**Friday 14th March 4pm to 8pm - school hall studio portrait**

**Saturday 15th March 8am to 12pm, 1pm to 6pm - outdoor school grounds photography.**

Laura Jean Fundraising will organise a time with you on the day to pick up your framed portrait from the school. Additional optional photo packages will be available for your consideration at that time. Please use our P&F form below to make any bookings.

After the RSVP date, the P&F will be in touch with you to confirm your 15 minute time slot for your photographic session and when best to arrive at the school.

For any queries, please contact Lyndal Purcell - lynda1017@yahoo.com.au

We apologise, but as this is a fundraiser, we cannot refund if you cancel your booking or are not present on the day.

Please select your preferred day AM or PM below and RSVP by **Friday 7th March** to the school office with your payment of $20 in an envelope marked “P&F Portrait Fundraiser”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 15th March</td>
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Home: ........................................................................................................ No of people attending sessions: .....................................................

Email address: .................................................. Phone: ................................ Included with this booking is $20 □ cash or □ cheque

{cheques payable to “St. Michael’s P&F”}
TEDDY BEAR’S PICNIC Saturday 8th February

A fabulous day with over 250 guests arrived consisting of kindergarten children, their siblings, parents and grandparents all armed with teddies and smiles :) All craft tables filled with little people quickly taking advantage of the different activities, face painting queue was full the whole day and the many animal faces that emerged were impressive, sausage sizzle was a hit- thank you to Melanie’s husband Mike! Tea, coffee and cake was a popular spot! We received lovely feedback throughout the course of the day from parents. They felt the picnic was a fabulous opportunity to meet the other parents, they loved that the kindergarten teachers were there to talk to - thank you Mrs. Van Gend, Mrs. Restuccia, Mrs. Tierny & Mrs. Quintana. The kids enjoyed the variety of activities and the recently introduced show bags. The raffle was expertly announced - thank you Mrs. Kniupel! A huge thanks to the 13 Year 6 helpers and Mrs Lee on the day! The Year 6 students ensured the passport activities were completed and helped the whole time with any tasks they were given. A big thanks to the volunteers who braved the heat to make the day a success - Natalie & husband Mark, Sally, Christina, Marina’s husband Phil, Kindy Mum Melinda, not to forget some of our older kids – Tayla & Braydon Barton & Sophia & Catherine Grainger.

(Kindy kids that were unable to attend will receive a show bag in class shortly).
OLMC Parramatta Open Day - Sunday March 2

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to its 2014 Open Day on Sunday March 2, 2014. Discover the College’s rich tradition and cutting edge education, enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ and join in the celebrations as we mark 125 years of Mercy Excellence at OLMC in 2014. Sunday, March 2, 10am-2pm.

Principal’s welcome at 10am and 12noon. Reservations can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.