Dear Parents

Parent Volunteer Thank You Morning Tea

Our parent volunteers give generously of their time to help the children and staff of the school in many ways and we appreciate their humour and goodwill as they go about their voluntary work at St Michael's. We would like to acknowledge their generosity by inviting our parent volunteers to a thank you morning tea on Wednesday 10 December from 10.15 am to 11.15 am. If you are a parent volunteer and will be attending, please let the school office know for catering purposes.

Parent Representatives

I have invited each teacher in the school to invite two parents of children in their class to “Coffee and Chat” with the Principal on Tuesday, 2 December at 2 pm in the staffroom. This is an opportunity for parents to reflect on the last 12 months and share their thoughts on what we can do to improve on what we are doing at St Michael's.

Building Resilience

There have been many studies highlighting the damage that overparenting can cause a child. I am not suggesting that we do not advocate for our children. It is important that we are always there to love and support our children. It is also important for us to help our children build resilience to life’s ups and downs. Life has its disappointments. We as adults understand that we will not always be the winner or the highest achiever. We may not always be the most popular. From my experience the students who are the happiest and most successful in their lives are those that were allowed to fail, held responsible for their wrong choices and who were challenged to be the best people they could be in the face of their mistakes.

Sometimes there may be no clear reason why we have been let down. It is important not to blame others for life’s events or the way things turn out. It is also important not to turn disappointment inwards stifling the desire to try again. We should strive to be free of any bitterness in our hearts so that disappointment can be a learning curve in how to build resilience to future disappointments. In the same way, it is wise to celebrate success with a humility that reaches out to others in their disappointment.

“Dear God,
Help us to be humble, kind and sincere each and every day.
Help us to strive to reach our goals in a way that brings us and those around us joy.
Help us to manage our disappointments with kindness, patience and forgiveness of ourselves and others.
Help us to celebrate our achievements with humility and grace.
Help us to celebrate the achievements of others with happiness.
Help us to be leaders in our world through peaceful means and with an open heart.
Help us to recognise the strengths of ourselves and others.
Help us to have the wisdom to know that we are all loved and valued for who we are. Amen.”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.
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.

Year 4 Eucharistic Liturgy

Year 4 will participate in their Eucharistic Liturgy on Friday 21 November at 10.15 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Year 3 Second Rite of Reconciliation

Year 3 will participate in the Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 26 November at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Year 5 Eucharistic Liturgy

Year 5 will participate in their Eucharistic Liturgy on Wednesday 3 December at 10.15 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

End of Year Whole School Mass

The whole school will gather for our end of year Mass on Wednesday 17 December at 10.15 am in the Church. All welcome to attend.

Sacramental programs

If you are seeking any assistance with Sacramental programs for 2015 please contact Monica from the Parish Office on 9639 0598.

Class masses

Children attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am during the term. Dates for Term 4 class masses 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

Mr David Ison
REC Coordinator

Parish News

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR FR MICK

Bishop Anthony Fisher has appointed Mick as the Administrator of Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains. Fr. Mick’s last Mass here in the Parish of Baulkham Hills will be on New Year’s Day. An Administrator of the Parish of Baulkham Hills will be appointed effective from 1st January, 2015. Fr. Mick has requested that there be no formal farewell arranged. A prayer for his continued welfare would be appreciated.

Papal Award for Fr Mick

Pope Francis has awarded Fr. Mick the medal of honour known as Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. It is also known as the “Cross of Honour.” This honour is given for distinguished service to the church by lay people and clergy. It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Pope. During the farewell Mass for Archbishop-elect Anthony Fisher at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta the award was bestowed upon Fr. Mick.

Congratulations!

St Vincent de Paul Society 2014 Christmas Hamper Appeal

The St Michael’s Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will again be providing Christmas hampers to the poor and disadvantaged families we have assisted over this past year. Profiles of these families will be displayed in the foyer of the church over the next two weeks. Your generous support for the appeal will be greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The social skill for Term 4 Week 8 is: Truthfulness

Being genuine and honest in all the things that you say.

YEARS 1-3 SWIMMING PROGRAM

Please return the Swimming program note by tomorrow, Friday 12 November.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ENROLMENT POLICY

Who can enrol in a Catholic school?

Children whose fifth birthday occurs on or before 31 July are eligible for enrolment for Kindergarten that year. By law, all children must be enrolled in school by their sixth birthday. A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools has been introduced which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese.

Where places are limited, priority will be given in order to:

- Catholic children who live in the local parish
- Catholic children from other parishes
- Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (e.g. siblings)
- Orthodox children
- Children from other Christian faiths
- Children of non-Christian faith

Catholic schools have a strong religious dimension and people of other faiths who wish to enrol in Catholic schools should be willing to participate in the religious activities of the school. Check with the principal of the school that you are applying to.

Siblings

Siblings of children already enrolled in the school are considered by the same criteria above. However, within each of these categories, a sibling of a child already enrolled will have preference over an applicant who does not have a sibling enrolled in the school.

What if my child already attends a Catholic primary school in the Diocese?

A child who has completed primary education in a Catholic parish-based primary school will usually be offered continuity of enrolment in a Catholic secondary school. If no places exist at the chosen school, Catholic Education’s Director System Performance will assist families to enrol in another Catholic secondary school in the Diocese.

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.
DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Nov</td>
<td>Year 4 Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Nov</td>
<td>1 Red and 6 Red at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Nov</td>
<td>2 Red and 2 Blue at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Nov</td>
<td>Year 3 Second Rite of Reconciliation—10.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 27 Nov</td>
<td>1 Green and 6 Green at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Nov</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free</td>
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<td>Mon 1 Dec-</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming program</td>
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<td>Fri 5 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 2 Dec</td>
<td>4 Blue and 4 Red at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Dec</td>
<td>K Red and K Blue at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Dec</td>
<td>Year 5 Eucharistic Liturgy—10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Dec</td>
<td>P&amp;F Annual General Meeting—7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 4 Dec</td>
<td>4 Green and 4 Yellow at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 4 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 5 Dec</td>
<td>Kindergarten Incursion—Water Smart Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 9 Dec</td>
<td>2 Green and 2 Yellow at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Dec</td>
<td>K Green and 5 Yellow at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 11 Dec</td>
<td>K Yellow and 5 Green at Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 11 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Awards Ceremony—6.15 pm Hall Year 6 Graduation Mass—7.30 pm Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Years K-5 Promotion Afternoon—Children meet their teacher and class for 2015</td>
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<td>Mon 15 Dec</td>
<td>Student and Citizen of the Term Award Presentation 2.30 pm</td>
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<td>Tue 16 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Sydney Olympic Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Dec</td>
<td>End of Year Whole School Mass 10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Dec</td>
<td>Students finish for Term 4—3.10 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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2015—Are you leaving St Michael’s?

If your family is not returning to St Michael’s in 2015, please let Mrs Maka, Principal, know as soon as possible.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday 28th November is a professional learning day for the staff. The staff will spend the day working with Fr Richard Leonard on ways to enrich their own spirituality and that of our students. All staff, including the office staff, will be offsite on this day. Please note that no supervision will be provided.

UNIFORM SHOP—2014

Every Thursday during the Term
8.30 am—1.00 pm

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.

The uniform shop will be open on promotions day
Friday 12 December from 12.00-3.00 pm.

Open Thursday 22 January 2015—10.00 am—2.00 pm

Banking

Only three more weeks of banking for the year. If you want to redeem your rewards it will have to be within the next three weeks. Redeem rewards by 2 December to receive by 9 December.

Last week for banking will be 9 December
Any unused coupons will roll over to next year.
Thank you.

Kim and Katrina, Banking Coordinators

STAR CORNER

Congratulations to Leroy (4 Green) and Travis (1 Green) Cupo who competed in their first ever Pollet’s National Club Tournament last weekend. Leroy achieved 1st place in Grappling Jiu Jitsu and Travis achieved 3rd place, also in Grappling. They were so excited, they showed off their trophies to their classmates.

Gazetted NSW School Terms 2015

Term 1: Tuesday, 27 January to Thursday, 2 April
Term 2: Monday, 20 April to Friday, 26 June
Term 3: Monday, 13 July to Friday, 18 September
Term 4: Tuesday, 6 October to Friday, 18 December
We currently need volunteers to assist with the remaining mornings in Term 4 as well as for 2015. 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

Name: _______________________________________
Email: ________________________________________
Home phone: __________________________________
Mobile: _______________________________________
Day/s available: Mon □ Tues □ Wed □ Thurs □ Fri □
Child:   _______________________________________
Class: _______________

STOP AND DROP VOLUNTEERS

The Challenge of Disciplining your Child

Assists parents with constructive techniques in disciplining and encouraging your children.

Topics include:
- Understanding what effective discipline means and how to set clear boundaries that children respect and internalize
- Use conflict as a tool to improve relationships
- Use natural and firm discipline techniques

Date: Monday 24 November
6pm – 9pm
Venue: Intermediate Family Centre
Suite 402, Level 4
14 Express Drive
BELMONT FMT
Cost: $25 / $15 concession
To register: Call 8882 7850
** BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL **

Go4Fun

FREE healthy lifestyle program for 7 – 13 year olds
Baulkham Hills and other locations
Limited Places! Register now!

1800 780 900
go4fun.com.au
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 7pm
ALL WELCOME

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 or you’ve got some new ideas, join the P&F, where many long standing friendships have been made whilst making a real difference to the school.

By joining the P&F, you do not need to give up a great deal of time to be involved. We believe that by being in the General Committee, you contribute when you can. We have many parents that do just that and we appreciate greatly everyone’s contribution no matter how big or small. If you have any questions about the P&F, please email: pandfstmichaels@gmail.com

Monster Christmas Raffle

Raffle books will be coming home in mid-end of November for a Monster Christmas Raffle. Fantastic prizes just in time for Christmas!
Let us create images you will love and cherish forever. Specialising in maternity, newborn and family, Images Unleashed Photography have affordable packages, and sessions that can be personalised to your individual needs. Conveniently located at Rouse Hill, let us capture these special times from pregnancy, right through to watching your family grow over the years.

We offer both studio and outdoor sessions.

- Maternity, Newborn, children and Family
- My first special moments package (a series of 3 photo sessions in bubs first 12 months)
- Cake Smash
- Because you're worth it Pamper Package - especially for mums needing some me time
- Toddler and children mini sessions

Visit our portfolio at www.imagesunleashed.com.au or contact us via email info@imagesunleashed.com.au or phone 0408 763 607 to discuss your requirements and let us show you how we can customise your photo shoot exclusively for you!

Find us to keep up to date with our news and special offers!
Book your holiday with Hello World Stockland Baulkham Hills and they will donate 1% to our school! This is an ongoing offer!

The team at helloworld Baulkham Hills in Stockland Mall would like to help your school by donating 1% of your travel costs back to the school. The next time you, your family or friends book a holiday mention your school name to us and your consultant will record your transaction in our Travel Bank. Not only will you be getting an amazing holiday at a great price but you will also be dealing with consultants who understand the importance of supporting our children and our local schools.
ST MICHAEL’S NETBALL CLUB

Is your daughter interested in playing netball in 2015?

St Michaels Netball Club is looking for players in the following age groups:

U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 and U13

For more information and to register, please refer to our website www.stmichaelsnetballclub.asn.au, or contact our Registrar Helen Knez on 0411 668 541 or email registrar@stmichaelsnetballclub.asn.au.

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 the child’s name.

They should not be played with before and after school.

This Newsletter is available for viewing on our website: www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au