Dear Parents

Awards

This year Castle Hill RSL again hosted the SHINE Hills Schools Excellence Awards ‘Inspiring our Youth’. The program recognises the achievements of our youth across academic, sport, music and arts, leadership and community service. Schools in the Hills Shire local government area are invited to nominate up to five students. The Annual Presentation took place on Monday 1 December.

Congratulations to the following students who were finalists and received a commendation award from Castle Hill RSL: Chloe D’Lima, Academic Finalist; Liam McCallum, Sports Finalist; Therese Barbara, Academic Finalist; Kim Pham, Academic Finalist. Well done on your commendation awards!

The PDCPSSC Primary Schools Sports Awards took place on Thursday 27 November. Congratulations to Liam McCallum who won the Ann D Clark Memorial Award for Excellence in Sport and the PDCPSSC Sports Medallion for Excellence in School Sport in 2014. A great achievement!

Coffee and Chat

Thank you to the parents who were able to join me for a coffee and chat. It was great to have the opportunity to hear what parents are happy with at St Michael’s and what are the areas that need clarification.

Thank you for your attendance and openness.

P&F Committee

A big thank you to the outgoing 2014 P&F Committee for all the support and hard work this year. The dedication, commitment, time and effort that you have put into assisting the community of St Michael’s has been outstanding and warmly appreciated. A special thank you to Lyndal Pascoe and Simone Smith who are leaving the committee this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Committee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President: Melanie Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President: Marina Grainger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer: Alison Gwynne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Sally Carey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Fisher, Kate Flood, Philip Grainger, Natalie Grove, Kylie Leprì, Andrew Loveridge, Melissa Small, Gabby Scanlon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Reports

School reports will go home on Wednesday 10 December.

Reflection

Christmas is an anniversary celebration of when God gave us the gift of Himself without splendour or opulence but in poverty and weakness, in the form of a tiny baby in an animal enclosure. Jesus, Son of God, emptied himself of power, privilege and possessions and was born into the human race in the humblest of manner. Boris Pasternak in his book, Dr Zhivago, wrote: “Something in the world had been changed. The story of a human life became the story of God and filled the Universe.” Indeed a worthy anniversary to celebrate.

The goodness of a Christian, one who models life on Christ is letting the wonder of God’s love come through our lives and allowing it to be available to other people. Love is given so that love can be born in another and given in return.

“As a baby, Jesus came
From his home above
He left his throne and where he was
To teach us how to love.

As a baby, Jesus came,
The hope of eternal life,
Recalling us back to God,
Giving meaning to our lives.”

Danuta Maka
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.

St Vincent de Paul Society 2014 Christmas Hamper Appeal

We are inviting people to donate non-perishable food items that will be used to support needy families over the Christmas period. We would ask if donations can be brought in by Friday 12 December please. The donations will be stored in classrooms and will be collected by members of the St Vincent De Paul Society. Many thanks in advance for your support of this worthy appeal.

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

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Cards and 2015 Columbian Calendars

The St Michael’s Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will again be selling Christmas Cards and Columbian Calendars after each Mass throughout November. Christmas Cards will cost $6 per pack of 10 cards and calendars will cost $6 each. Both cards and calendars will also be available for purchase from the piety store throughout November courtesy of the Catholic Women’s League.

2014 Christmas Eve / Christmas Day - Special Rosters

This Christmas the Parish needs assistance from all ministries and groups to help with the smooth running of the Christmas Masses. Can you help?

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

On Christmas Eve at 6 pm Vigil Mass, we require many Ushers and Welcomers to “direct traffic”.

If you can help at any of the Masses, please contact the Parish Office on 9639 0598 no later than Monday 8 December or contact Barb Oakes direct on 9624 2334.

The roster for Christmas Eve / Christmas Day will be printed in the Bulletin for the weekend of 13/14 and 20/21 December.

Please Note: There will be NO 6 pm Mass (Christmas Day).

St Michael’s Christmas Brunch

No-one Should Spend Christmas Alone...

This Christmas morning, if you are a single person a couple, or a family, you are warmly invited to share a Christmas Brunch 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!! Let me know if you’re coming or you’d like to help:
david.dowling@raywhite.com or call me on 0421 051 029.

Dear Parent/s

St Michael’s school would like to say thank you to all of our parent helpers by inviting you to join us for morning tea on:

Wednesday 10 December from 10.15 am—11.15 am

For catering purposes, please contact the school office by Monday 8 December.

We look forward to this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work and efforts during 2014.

Danuta Maka
Principal

RSVP 8 December 2014

Please call 9639 0518 or email stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The social skill for Term 4 Week 10 is:

Good Sportmanship

Doing all you can to win whilst showing commitment to fair play and concern and respect for opponents.

iPhone users

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

Android users

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

Thank you Morning Tea for Parent Volunteers!

Dear Parent/s

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Danuta Maka
Principal

RSVP 8 December 2014

Please call 9639 0518 or email stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5 Dec</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming program—final day</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Dec</td>
<td>Thank You Morning Tea for Parent Volunteers 10.15 am-11.15 am</td>
</tr>
<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—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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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 Dec</td>
<td>Student and Citizen of the Term Award Presentation 2.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Dec</td>
<td>Students finish for Term 4—3.10 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**2015—Term 1**

- **Thu 15 Jan**: Uniform Shop Open 10.00-12.00 pm—please note date/time change
- **Tue 27 Jan**: Staff Development Day—Pupil Free —MAI Testing Years K-6
- **Wed 28 Jan**: Staff Development Day—Pupil Free —MAI Testing Years K-6
- **Thu 29 Jan**: Years 1-6 commence
- **Fri 30 Jan**: Kindergarten commence 9.20 am, finish at 2.45 pm

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

**Music News**

The children in 2Red and 2Blue will perform a song at the Week 9 Assembly – 5 December.
The choir will be performing a few Christmas carols at the Week 10 assembly – 12 December.

**UNIFORM SHOP—2014**

Every Thursday during the Term
8.30 am—1.00 pm

* * * *

**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.

* * * *

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

**2015**

*Open Thursday 15 January 2015—10.00 am—12.00 pm (*Please note date and time change)*

Thursday 29 January 2015—8.30 am—1.00 pm

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**Banking**

Only one more week of banking for the year. Redemption of rewards was finalised on 2 December. All rewards redeemed will be handed out on 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*

---

**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

**STOP AND DROP VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you to all the volunteers who are leaving us this year as their youngest child moves on to high school. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by everyone in our community.

As we have a number of volunteers leaving, we will need to recruit some new volunteers to assist with S&D 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home phone:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day/s available:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Tues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child: _______________________________________
Class: _______________________________________

Child: _______________________________________
Class: _______________________________________

Child: _______________________________________
Class: _______________________________________

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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 via letter, email or phone contact.
1. Winning the rugby league knockout
2. We had so much fun at excursions
3. We had so much fun at the Yr6 farewell
4. Making so many friends
5. Having a great PBL presentation

**Liam Bowles**

My favourite memory from this year was when we went to Narrabeen. This was my favourite because we got to participate in sporting activities. Even though the high rope was scary I got over it and it became fun. Kayaking was funny because Catherine was steering the wrong way! We both couldn’t stop laughing. Narrabeen was the best excursion!

**Olivia Rayner**

Year Six has been an amazing experience! The things that have happened this year have been crazy. I have enjoyed it so much. The friends and memories I have made will never be forgotten. Being a leader has been such a great experience. My favourite thing I took part in was the Infant Fun Sport Day. Good Luck next year to all the Year Fives, have a great year!

**Brooke Weinert**

- Memories about our Year Six Farewell.
- Going to the Aquatic Centre.
- Going to the Parliament House.
- Our Graduation.
- The younger years are going swimming.
- Our Graduation Mass.

**Ethan Langan**

On the first day of our final year at St. Michaels’ we were so excited, we couldn’t wait to go to High School. This year we have been making our life story for our parents. We have put so much work and effort into them. We are sad that we will be leaving so many memories behind, but so excited to go to High School because we are all going to the same High School.

Olivia Sheppard, Emma Hyem, Victoria Tindale.

Year Six has been such a ride. The journeys I have experienced have been crazy! This year will never be forgotten. Especially the new friends I have made, I’m so grateful! To all the Year Fives who will be the Year Six of 2015, good luck and make the most of your last year of Primary School!

**Madison Daher**

Year Six was such a great year for me with so many great opportunities and experiences. As a school leader I got to participate in many things such as Young Leaders Day and attending many masses including the farewell mass for Archbishop Anthony. As a Year 6 grade we also attended many fun days such as Narrabeen, infants sport fun day, St Mary’s Cathedral, The Art Gallery and soon to come, Canberra. We have learnt so many interesting things as a Year 6 student and it has been such a wonderful year and it has been great practice for high school. I wish the best of luck to our Year 6’s for 2015.

**Sarah Wadih**

- Winning the rugby league knockout
- Year 6 Farewell
- Had a good PBL presentation
- Having fun excursions
- Doing sport

**Anon**

I have had many memories in Year 6 which I will never, ever forget. One of my funny memories is from Narrabeen. It is embarrassing though!! Narrabeen was a day of learning about teamwork, which is basically the opposite of what I did. We were up to the canoeing part of the day. We were all able to relax in either a canoe or a kayak. I had already had a turn in the canoe so I went in the kayak. Everything was going fine until, I capsized. I screamed like a little girl and was about to start crying!! I was so embarrassed!! The teachers and my peers helped me out of the water after I screamed out that I was supposedly drowning. I was so embarrassed and whenever I think about it, I start to cry!!

**Nancy Boutros**

In Year 6 there were a lot of memories. For example: Narrabeen! At Narrabeen there was a lot of fun - we went canoeing and got to do some archery, just to name a few. Also in Year 6 we went to the Year 6 farewell, which was a lot of fun. We went to school that day and in the night we partied until 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. There was a lot of music and a lot of dancing. All of the Year 6 students had a lot of fun and we all wished that it can go over and over again. I would like to wish the Year 5 of 2014 who are going to be the Year 6’s for 2015, good luck and hope you have a great year. Just some advice - to have so much fun in your last year of school.

**Rebecca**

My favourite memory of Year 6 is about my friends because they make me laugh everyday! They are hilarious and make me happy.

My favourite memory about Year 6 was our PBL. We made a cake stall and raised $108. We sold Cupcakes, Honey Joys, Jellies, Brownies, Rocky Road and heaps more.

**Jake O’Keefe**

**YEAR 6 FAREWELL THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the Year 6 Farewell evening. The students had a wonderful night and the night was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who generously gave their time and donations to make the night such an enjoyable successful evening.

- Mrs Helen Christie for donating the spectacular cake.
- Mrs Jackie Hyem for donating cake boxes.
- Mrs Jackie Boutros for organising fundraising.
- Mrs Kylie Griffith for organising fundraising gifts.
- Mrs Bronwen Wahab and Mrs Lee-Anne Sarlog for creating a memorable DVD.
- Mr Steven Sarlog who was the MC for the evening.
- Mrs Karen Lamond for organising lucky door prizes.
- Parents and companies who generously donated lucky door prizes.
- Mrs Tereza Miletic for organising invitations and banners.
- Mr Michael Laing and Mrs Liz Pacheco for decorations.

Thank you
Year 6 Farewell Committee
The shed sale went over 2 days due to popular demand. Approx $500 was raised from selling excess P&F stock!

Monster Christmas Raffle

1st Prize $1000 cash donated by the P&F
2nd Prize - Samsung Galaxy 10” Tablet
3rd Prize - Lollipops Playland Birthday Party for 8 children

Plus over 40 other prizes:
- Parramatta NRL Jersey
- Girl’s Bike
- Wine Packs
- Hamper Packs
- Smiggle Packs
- Loom Band Packs
- Hair Pamper Pack
- Sound Bar Amplifier System
- Wireless Weather Station
- Australian Brewery Voucher
- Ettamogah Voucher
- Bunnings Voucher
- AMF Bowling Voucher
- Boing Central Family Passes
- Flip Out Vouchers

Ticket ends must be returned by Monday 15th December 2014
Raffle drawn Tuesday 16th December 2014

Raffle books will be coming home shortly

Annual General Meeting

The P&F 2014 Committee was pleased to present a $6,000 cheque to the school and put forward approx $4000 of donations during the year for our larger morning tea events.

A new Committee was voted in for 2015:
- President - Melanie Barton
- Vice President - Marina Grainger
- Secretary - Sally Carey
- Treasurer - Alison Gwynne

A Christmas buffet and cake was served to those who attended. Many laughs and good conversation was had by all.
GIRLS NIGHT IN
Fundraiser

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www.bellavistahotel.com.au
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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.

BAULKHAM HILLS 02 96861088
baulkhamhills@helloworld.com.au
SHOP 26 STOCKLAND MALL, Baulkham Hills
Cnr Olive & Old Northern Rd, NSW 2153
Request for school shoes

A disadvantaged school in South Africa is looking for donations of school shoes. A family from the school will be visiting at the end of December.

If you have school shoes that you do not need for 2015 could you please send them into the school office from Monday 8 December to Thursday 11 December.

All children who have donated their school shoes will be able to wear sports shoes but a note must be sent to the teacher advising that this is the reason.

Thank you for your support.