Dear Parents

“A recent survey of 1000 parents found that the basics of good old-fashioned courtesy were rarely used by children. Words such as ‘please’, ‘thank you’, ‘may I?’ and ‘excuse me’ were replaced by grunts and demands. The survey commissioned by the Disney Entertainment Group to mark the release of a new DVD edition of Beauty and the Beast, indicated that three out of four parents thought that children were less well-mannered than in previous generations.” Heather Zubek

There is no doubt that our earliest relationships provide a model for all our future relationships, and learning to trust other people as feeling, thoughtful human beings, will form the basis for having happy, satisfying relationships. To develop these happy, satisfying relationships, we will need good manners and basic courtesy.

Good manners need to be taught for they are important skills that our children should develop when they are young, so they can enjoy the benefit of them for the rest of their lives. It is in the family home that the “manners seed” needs to be planted and nurtured, along with core values and ethics. It is in the family home that children learn to be considerate, tolerant and respectful; this learning comes through parental guidance and example.

Actions really do speak louder than words: “I can’t move it, you can’t move it. It won’t move an inch. But if we work together, Moving it’s a cinch.” Author unknown.

When children are polite, kind, honest and cooperative, they develop character and exhibit social skills that help others feel comfortable. These relationship building skills, also help children—and adults—to get on with friends and neighbours and, if the occasion arises, to resolve differences of opinion in a courteous and healthy way.

It has been said that “Rudeness is the weak person’s imitation of strength”. Author unknown

It is also an expression of ignorance of courteous behaviour and children who do not have social skills, can have a difficult time making lasting friendships with their peers and being accepted generally. They have missed out on learning the “Golden Rule”: Treat others as you yourself would like to be treated.

Manners are respect in action and should be learnt and taught through the experiences of daily living. “Mind your manners” often used to come from the lips of parents and indicated that their children knew what it was that need to be “minded”. In a society that rarely offers example or support for parents, teaching manners to our children can be lonely and tedious. However, to see our children grow in respect and consideration for themselves and others will be a rich reward for effort.

“Lord, I pray for wisdom and patience that I will be a positive influence on my children. Amen”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Haka
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 9-15 MARCH**

St Michael’s will celebrate this event with a whole school Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church at 10.15 am on Friday 14 March followed by morning tea and open classrooms from 11.30 am-1.00 pm.

Please join us to celebrate this event.

**No Assembly on Friday 14 March**

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**PARISH NEWS**

**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: 9 and 23 March. All welcome.

**St Michael’s Playgroup**

A new playgroup is forming Thursday 10-11.30am. New mums and dads welcome. The current age range for children is from 4 months to 3 years, but parents with younger or older children are welcome. Call Mary on 0404 049424 for more information on the Thursday group. Vacancies are also available on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please phone Christine Bauer, Play Group Enrolment Officer on 0412 175661, for further information. Come along and have some fun.

**Total Division Of Our Lady Of Lourdes Baulkham Hills South**

By a Decree issued on the 5th March 2014, Bishop Anthony OP decreed the total division of the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Baulkham Hills South into the Parish of St Michael’s, Baulkham Hills and the Parish of St Monica, North Parramatta and the Parish of St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills. The Decree states that “Given the geographic location of the physical assets of the Parish, including the Parish School of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, and respecting the intentions of the donors, and with the consent of the Parish Priests concerned, I further decree that all the temporal goods, including assets and liabilities, of the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Baulkham Hills South are to become the temporal goods, including assets and liabilities, of the Parish of St Michael’s, Baulkham Hills. The records of the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Baulkham Hills South are to be kept at the Parish of St Michael, Baulkham Hills. This Decree is to take effect from the 9th March, the First Sunday of Lent”. Copies of the Decree are available at the Church doors.

**Diocesan Pastoral Plan**

Our Pastoral Plan Faith in Our Future provides resources and ideas for every parish of our Diocese to grow in its faith and to evangelise with fresh energy. This weekend a summary version is included in each copy of Catholic Outlook.

Our Pastoral plan includes:

- Almost 100 ideas for the renewal of your parish life
- Ideas for parishes to work together and collaborate more often
- Announcements of new initiatives to support faith and outreach across the Diocese
- Guides for you and your family, parish pastoral council, parish ministry group or community to make the most of the ideas on offer

Visit our website to read and download our Pastoral Plan ([www.faithinourfuture.org.au](http://www.faithinourfuture.org.au)) or contact the Pastoral Planning Office for ongoing pastoral support for your community or ministry on (02) 9831 4911.

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**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.

**Catholic Schools Week—Whole school Mass**

This week is Catholic Schools Week. We will celebrate with a Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church at 10.15 am on Friday 14 March. The Liturgy is followed by morning tea in the Hall and open classrooms.

**Year 6 Reconciliation—Date change**

Year 6 will now participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 26 March at 10 am in the Church. All welcome to attend.

**First Communion Preparation 2014**

Invitation to Enrol - First Communion Preparation 2014 Registration evenings for First Communion will be held on Monday 5th May and Tuesday 6th May 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.

Mr David Ison
Religious Education Coordinator

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**Good Friday Stations of the Cross Role Play**

Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday 18th April at 10.00am. We are asking children to volunteer to participate in the Stations of the Cross role play in the Church during the 10 am service on Good Friday. Children in Years 2 – 6 are invited to participate. A note will be sent home to interested children outlining practice dates. If you would like your child to participate, please complete the tear off slip below and return to Mr Ison.

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS ROLE PLAY

I would like my child: ________________________________

in class: ______ to participate in the Stations of the Cross Role Play on Good Friday, Friday 18th April.

Signed: ________________________________
13 March 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE AFTERNOONS

Car park
Thank you to our families who support our school policies and respect the requests of the Parish by not parking in the restricted spaces.

Please do not park on the roundabout, the parish car spaces or in any other manner which blocks the vision of people and cars in the carpark. It is an accident waiting to happen when people disregard the safety of others in the carpark. Please do not ask your children to meet you in the carpark which puts their safety at risk when cars are moving in and out of the carpark.

Supervision
Children waiting for collection are supervised until 3.40 pm in the slow and go area.

Slow and Go
We have been alerted by Crestwood High School to a hazardous situation involving slow and go in the afternoon. Staff members from Crestwood are observing parents from our school doing "U Turns" in the middle of traffic, parents cutting in line to get closer in the waiting queue for the slow and go, and parents waiting across the staff driveway blocking teachers from exiting the car park.

Given the contours of Peel Rd, the waiting St Michael’s cars are on the crest of the hill and on rainy days curl around the road into Chapel Lane. Visibility is already limited at the top of this hill without another line of traffic adding to this, in fact it is highly dangerous. There is a potential danger near the Crestwood High School bus stop. So much so, that it is feared that this current predicament is "an accident waiting to happen".

There are approximately 1,800 children being collected from Crestwood High and St Michael’s with another 660 being collected from Crestwood Public School in Peel Road.

With such a high concentration of pedestrians and cars, failure to do so could lead to a tragic "accident" that could have been prevented. **It is essential for the safety of all children and others that parents collecting children follow safe driving practices and obey the road rules to prevent an "accident" from occurring.**

Monitoring of parent behaviour will continue in the short term and it is highly likely that should drivers continue to act in an unsafe manner that the police and Hills Shire Council will be investigating the situation.

The slow and go is such a wonderful, safe option for our families when safe driving and thoughtfulness of others is followed each afternoon. We would like to see slow and go continuing at St Michael’s.

We understand that the majority of parents are always doing the right thing and we thank you for your support and assistance in keeping the children and everyone else safe. It is disappointing when a few people disregard the safety of others which leads to a major impact on the safety of everyone.

Once again, thank you to our parents who are aware of the safety of everyone at this critical time in the afternoon, and who do follow safe practices to ensure that accidents do not happen and that each and every child gets home safely.

Yours faithfully

Danuta Maka
Principal

Learning for a Brighter Future
### DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S WEEK</strong> 9 – 15 March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Mar</td>
<td>Catholic School’s Week Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church at 10.15 am followed by morning tea; and open classrooms from 11.30 am—1.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;F—Family Portrait Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 16 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 3 CSIRO Space Incursion in the Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 4Yellow and 4Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 3Yellow and 3Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 20 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 1Green and 6Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Mar</td>
<td>School Cross Country Years 2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 1Red and 6Red attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Mar</td>
<td>Classes 4Red and 4Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 6 Reconciliation – 10 am in the Church (Date changed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 27 Mar</td>
<td>Classes KYellow and 5Green attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 5 Liturgy in the Church at 10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Mar</td>
<td>NSWCPs Swimming trials - Homebush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 31 Mar</td>
<td>National Young Leaders Day (Yr 6 Leadership team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 1 Apr</td>
<td>Classes 1Yellow and 6Yellow attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 2 Apr</td>
<td>Classes 1Blue and 6Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 3 Apr</td>
<td>Classes 2Green and 2Yellow attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 3 Apr</td>
<td>Yr 4 CSIRO Incursion in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 8 Apr</td>
<td>Classes 5Yellow and KGreen attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9 Apr</td>
<td>Classes KRed and 5Blue attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 9 Apr</td>
<td>NSWPSA Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 10 Apr</td>
<td>Classes 3Blue and 3Red attend Parish Mass at 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 10 Apr</td>
<td>Student and Citizen of the Term Awards – 2.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Apr</td>
<td>Whole School Mass 10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>End of Term 1 Concludes 3.10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School holidays Mon 14 April—Fri 25 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 28 Apr</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The social skill for next week is:

**Responsibility**

Responsibility means being willing to be accountable for your behaviour.

### Student of the Week

**Term 1 Week 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KBlue</th>
<th>Sebastian Van Jour</th>
<th>3Blue</th>
<th>Charlotte Finnerty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KGreen</td>
<td>Abigail Chan</td>
<td>3Green</td>
<td>Nathaniel Idehen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRed</td>
<td>Samuel Duda</td>
<td>3Red</td>
<td>Daniel Fernandes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYellow</td>
<td>Reana Eltakchi</td>
<td>3Yellow</td>
<td>Cooper Lindsay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Blue</td>
<td>Charlice Olic</td>
<td>4Blue</td>
<td>Bianca Zariello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Green</td>
<td>Xavier Saffy</td>
<td>4Green</td>
<td>Piper Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Red</td>
<td>James Henderson</td>
<td>4Red</td>
<td>Jordan O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Yellow</td>
<td>Emily Cory</td>
<td>4Yellow</td>
<td>Dominique Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Blue</td>
<td>Morgan Thorpe</td>
<td>5Blue</td>
<td>Christain Abal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Green</td>
<td>George Simeone</td>
<td>5Green</td>
<td>Emily Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Red</td>
<td>Sarah Cheah</td>
<td>5Red</td>
<td>Harry Roufogalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Yellow</td>
<td>Mikyla Eleter</td>
<td>5Yellow</td>
<td>Matthew Hatton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 ENROLMENT PROCEDURES

Enrolment packages for Kindergarten 2015 can be collected from the school office from 10 March—20 May 2014.

School Open Morning for 2015 Enrolments is Thursday 10 April from 9.30 am to 11.00 am.

Please contact the school office on 9639 0518 for further information.

### SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 school fees have been issued and were due to be paid 7 March 2014. Thank you to those parents who have paid their fees in full or taken up the flexible payment plan offered. Please contact Mrs Borsato if you would like to discuss your payment plan on 9639 0518.

### STAR CORNER

Congratulations to Scarlett Jackson (Year 2), Mitchell O’Brien, Cameron Lee and Cooper Crawford (Year 1) who were part of the St Michael’s U/9’s T-ball team who played in the Final of the CNSA U/9’s Competition on Saturday. For many, it was their first season playing the sport, so it is an amazing achievement to have made it to the final three teams. Well done.
**News from 5Green**

**Term 1—General**

We have enjoyed Year 5 because of the great teachers, new furniture, awesome subjects and getting kindy buddies. We are happy because we have a larger space to work in and new people to participate with. We are thankful that we get to teach kindergarten what is wrong and what is right. We also like the variety of technology and equipment we get to use.

**Subjects**

The subjects we are learning about are fantastic. In English we are learning about fables, suffixes, narratives, similes, metaphors and things (nouns, adjectives, etc). In Religion we are learning about parables and Lent. This year in HSIE we are learning all about rainforests. In PDH we are learning about bike safety. In Science we are learning about Australia’s deserts.

**Teachers**

This year we all have new teachers – Mrs Joseph, Mrs Day, Mrs Downie, Mrs Messina and Mrs Xuereb. All these teachers are awesome, even though some of them we don’t know very well. They help us when we don’t know what to do, they teach us things we need help with and they educate us for the future. Without our wonderful teachers we would be lost.

**Conclusion**

Year 5 has been fun so far. We can’t wait for the future year!

*By Lachlan Barron, Emily Barton, Juliette Mkali, Elie Nammour*

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**NUT FREE ZONE**

St Michael’s is a Nut Free school. The canteen does not sell any products with nuts. We ask that parents please do not send their child to school with food containing nuts, ie Nutella, peanut butter or any item containing nuts or traces of nuts.

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**SPORTS NEWS**

- Congratulations to the following boys who were selected in the **Combined Parramatta/Sydney AFL** team.
  - Jarrod French, Liam McCallum, Gabriel Pellegrini
  - They will be attending the MacKillop Trials in Wagga Wagga on Friday 4th April.

- Congratulations to the following children who were selected in the **Parramatta Soccer Team**.
  - Tiana Anderson, Jarrod French, Sheiden Ja-bour, Abbey Moloney, Gabriel Pellegrini, Olivia Rayner

- Congratulations to **Liam McCallum** who was selected in the **Mackillop Softball team**.

- Biggest congratulations of the week to **Michael Blinman** who was selected in the 24 man **NSWPSSA training squad for cricket**. The 24 boys will now attend a training camp in the school holidays. From this camp a 12 man squad will be picked to go to Darwin to represent NSW later in the year.

*Mr Steve Kovelis*
*Sports Coordinator*

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**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry is holding its second fortnightly Bereavement Support Group Session on Tuesday 18th March, for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. The topic for this Session is “Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief”. Venue: 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, from 10am – 12pm, cost $5.00. This is an opportunity to gain some information about the grieving process and to support each other during this most difficult and painful time. Details and Registration:

*soloparentministry@ccss.org.au* or Ph. 99330205.

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**STUDENT BANKING**

If you have ordered any rewards; please be patient. Your rewards have been transmitted to the bank, but their current turnaround time is approximately 2-3 weeks at the moment. The rewards will be forwarded to the children as soon as they are received. Thank you.

*Kim, Banking Coordinator*

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**TAEKWONDO WORLD**

5 Gladstone Rd, Castle Hill
8850 7771 tkdworld.com.au

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This Newsletter is available for viewing on our website: [www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsbhills.parra.catholic.edu.au)