From the Principal

Dear Parents

Catholic Schools Week 8-14 March 2015

We would like to invite you to share in the activities planned for Catholic Schools Week next week. The theme ‘Educating for today and tomorrow’ encourages schools to showcase for their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness, and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day. We understand parents' work commitments and have organised two open classroom times to give you an opportunity to view your child’s class on either Monday or Friday. We hope that you are able to attend to learn more about the great things that take place at St Michael’s every day.

Monday 9 March—10.15 am - We will be celebrating by participating in a Eucharistic Liturgy in the Church followed by morning tea in the Hall. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the school office via the note sent home, phone or email. After morning tea from 11.30 am – 1.00 pm we will have Open Classrooms where there will be an opportunity for you to visit your child’s classroom.

Tuesday 10 March—9.30 am – 11.00 am - Kindergarten 2016 Open Morning. Meet with Mrs Maka in the Hall for a school overview; tour of the school by the Year 6 leaders; morning tea; collect Enrolment packages for 2016.

2.30 pm – We have invited Paul McDonald (lecturer, speaker, teacher) from the Children’s Book Shop, Beecroft to discuss ‘Reading today for tomorrow’. A 20 minute engaging talk sharing tips and current topics for parents who are passionate about supporting their children’s reading progress. [Please note – this is an informative talk, no books for sale.]

Friday 13 March—8.50 am – School Assembly followed by Open classrooms from 9.30 am – 11.00 am.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Michael’s and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

Absenteeism

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. Please telephone or email the school. If telephoning, please provide a note on your child’s return to school.

There have been changes to the requirements for leave from school related to holiday travel. If your child will be absent for less than 10 days, you are required to send in a note to the teacher. Leave of 10 days or over requires the submission of an Application for Extended Leave form.

If your child will be absent at any time due to accredited Elite Sports Program / Elite Arts Program / Employment in the Entertainment Industry you will be required to submit an Exemption from Attendance form.

All forms can be downloaded from our website. Please contact the school office for any further information.

The Temple of Jesus’ Body

Next Sunday’s Gospel reading is rich in meaning. It prepares us to understand the death of Jesus at the heart of our Easter celebrations. The story is set in the Temple in Jerusalem on the Jewish feast of Passover.

For Jesus, to see the place where God was to be worshipped reduced to a common marketplace was a blasphemy. For this reason he caused the disturbance that showed what Jesus saw as the prime value, the authentic worship of God.

Our human customs must never take precedence over what is essential: reverence and worship for God alone, love and compassion for God’s people. All our practices must lead us there.

“Lord, During this season of Lent, let us be reminded that we are servants of God. Let us be patient, slow to judge and quick to forgive so that we can continue to build strength and resilience in our own human life and in the lives of those we meet.” Amen

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.
Religious Education News

Our School formation goal in 2015 is looking at deepening children's understanding of Scripture. Throughout this year teacher's will be engaging the children with learning experiences that help to develop the children's understanding of the scripture message and its application to their daily lives. Every classroom has a word wall which is used by the children to help deepen their understanding of key religious literacy words.

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting Year 6 and participating in their learning experience. Year 6 are currently undertaking a unit of study entitled Servant Leadership. As our leaders of the school, the Year 6 children were talking about what it means to be a true servant leader and how we are called to serve others. In 6 Yellow children were encouraged to write a commissioning prayer which talked about their desire to ask for God’s help in supporting them in their call to service. The children completed the lesson by taking part in a prayer circle, where the children could either read their prayer aloud or say it in their mind.

Our children need to be continually encouraged to reflect on their Scripture experiences through prayer and discussion as it helps to deepen their relationship with God.

Invitation to Enrol - First Communion Preparation 2015

Registration evenings for First Communion will be held on Monday 4 May and Tuesday 5 May at 7.30 pm in St Michael's Church. For children (Year 4 and above) 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.

Volunteers Required - First Communion

We are seeking Facilitators and home hosts from our Parish/ School community. If you are able to offer your help in facilitating and or hosting a home group for our parish based Programme which will commence on 25 May please phone the parish office on 9639 0598. The first Facilitators’ Meeting will be held in the Downey Room on Monday 18 May at 7.30 pm

Project compassion

During the season of Lent, St Michael's is continuing the annual Caritas Australia appeal through Project Compassion to support needy families in Fiji. The theme of the campaign is “Food for Life’. Every classroom has a Project compassion Box where children are invited to make a coin donation.

Mr David Ison
REC Coordinator

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Role Play

Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday 3 April at 10.00 am. We are asking children in Years 4-6 to volunteer to participate in the Stations of the Cross role play in the Church during the 10 am service on Good Friday. 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.

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 3 April.

Signed: _____________________________

School fees

School fees are due on 6 March 2015. Thank you to the families that have paid or set up an arrangement. If you wish to discuss payment options, please contact Linda Borsato on 9639 0518 or via email at stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Library Helpers

Do you arrive early for ‘pick-up’? Happy to cover reading books? If yes, please pop into the library and assist us with covering our wonderful new reading books. We will welcome any spare minutes you have available.

These books have been purchased with the funds raised via our Read-a-thon in 2014. We are all very grateful for the generosity of our school community which has enabled this purchase.

Mrs Patricia Lee & Mrs Marianne Seny

Position vacant

The Parish of Baulkham Hills is seeking a receptionist at its St Michael’s Parish Offices - Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. The Parish receptionist has responsibility for managing phone calls and visitors through reception as well an interesting variety of administrative duties. The job description can be found at http://www.seek.com.au/Job/28228277, but applicants should contact careers@parra.catholic.org.au for details as to how to apply. Applications close by close of business 13 March.

ANZAC DAY PRIMARY SCHOOLS KIT

The Year 6 Captains, Kristian Knezevic and Juliette Mkali, and Vice Captains, Callum Alvaro and Georgia Simic attended the launch of the ANZAC Day Primary Schools Kit at Castle Hill RSL.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6 Mar</td>
<td>School Assembly: 8.50 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 9 Mar—Saturday 14 March: Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Mar</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week Whole School Mass: 10.15 am followed by morning tea in the Hall; Open classrooms: 11.30 am—1.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 10 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 3 Green &amp; 3 Red: 9.15 am Open morning for Kindergarten 2016: 9.30 am—11.00 am Paul McDonald, speaker, “Reading today for tomorrow” - 2.30 pm Staffroom—Parents invited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 5 Blue &amp; 5 Red: 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 12 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 5 Green &amp; 5 Yellow: 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Mar</td>
<td>School Assembly: 8.50 am Open classrooms: 9.30 am—11.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16 Mar</td>
<td>Celebration of Reconciliation: 7.30 pm</td>
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<td>Tue 17 Mar</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Feast Day School Cross Country Years 2-6 Celebration of Reconciliation: 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 3 Yellow &amp; 3 Blue: 9.15 am Year 5 Reconciliation: 5 Red 10.00 am; 5 Blue 10.30; 5 Green 11.40 am; 5 Yellow 12.10 am Celebration of Reconciliation: 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 19 Mar</td>
<td>Year 3 Skyworks Incursion Parish Mass: 2 Red &amp; 2 Yellow: 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>School Assembly: 8.50 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 Mar</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day</td>
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<td>Tue 24 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 2 Blue &amp; 2 Green: 9.15 am</td>
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<td>Wed 25 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow: 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 26 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 1 Green &amp; 1 Yellow: 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27 Mar</td>
<td>School Assembly: 8.50 am P&amp;F Family disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 30 Mar</td>
<td>Students and Citizens of the Term Awards: 2.30 pm</td>
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<td>Tue 31 Mar</td>
<td>Holy Week Liturgy Kindergarten-Year 3: 11.45 am-12.45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1 Apr</td>
<td>Holy Week Liturgy Years 4-6: 11.45 am-12.45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 2 Apr</td>
<td>School finishes for the End of Term 1 at 3.10 pm</td>
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**School holidays—Friday 3 April—Sunday 19 April**

- Mon 20 Apr First day Term 2
- Fri 24 Apr Whole School Anzac Day Liturgy: 10.15 am
- Wed 29 Apr Whole School Photo Day

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

Please note that from time to time there may be unavoidable circumstances that may occur and dates advertised for events may need to be changed. Every effort is made to give as much notice as possible when changes occur. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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**MUSIC NEWS**

Year 1 students will perform a song at Assembly on Friday 13 March (Week 7). All welcome to attend.

**Drumming Group**—rehearses Thursday lunch, after eating. Term 1 Weeks 4 and 8 no rehearsal. New members welcome—Years 4-6.

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**2P RED NEWS**

**Six word stories**

- I love to hug my mum. Jacob
- I like learning in Year Two. Olivia
- I like playing with my friends. Cameron
- I do not have a pet. Emily
- I like going to the beach. Sarah
- I like riding my bike safely. Isabella M.
- I like to play Mine craft. Isabella B
- I like riding with my Dad. Charlize V
- I follow the Western Sydney Wanderers! Jonathan.
- I like playing outside at home. Sebastian
- I am a good football player. Riley M
- I like scootering with my brother. Dallas
- I like reading my favourite story. Jade
- I like to go on holidays. Toby
- I like it when it is quiet. Lucas
- I like going to the beach. Ciara
- I love lego so, so much! Patrick
- I like riding my bike safely. Lara
- I love my Mum and Dad. Breannah
- I have a pink helmet. Alyssa
- I love BMX biking on ramps. Kai
- I like drawing lots at home. Natalia
- I like to play soccer lots. Phoenix
- I like playing with my Ipad. Jude
- I like reading books before bed. Celina
- My birthday is on March 31st. Charlize O
- I like wrestling with my brother. Riley G

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**Year 6 team building and leadership day**

On Monday 20 March, Year 6 students took part in a team building and leadership day. The students participated in many activities that involved making decisions, supporting and encouraging each other, as well as turn taking and cooperating. Some comments from the students:

I learnt how to help my group to solve conflicts.

You need to work with the strengths of the people in your group and help them if they have a weakness.

Be tolerant and patient.

Listen to all ideas as you may miss a really good one if you don’t consider all ideas.
**Student of the Week**

**Term 1 Week 3**

KBlue: Caleb Parslow  
KGreen: Angus Herriott  
KRed: Maeve Guckian  
KYellow: Elijah Padjan  
1Blue: George Savill  
1Green: Andrew Saliba  
1Red: Sienna Mangano  
1Yellow: Lucianne Mansour  
2Blue: Elizabeth Semenov  
2Green: Jamie Lee-Alam  
2Red: Rylee Mangano  
2Yellow: Lucianne Mansour  
3Blue: Cornelis Rawlinson  
3Green: Aidan Donnelly  
3Red: Rylee Robinson  
3Yellow: Megan Loveridge  
4Blue: Amelia Harvie  
4Green: Oliver Lepri  
4Red: Lachlan Gow  
4Yellow: William Johns  
5Blue: Natasha Hardy  
5Green: Amelia Jukic  
5Red: Thomas McGoldrick  
5Yellow: Zoe Rutkin  
6Blue: David McKay  
6Green: Tristan Bollard  
6Red: Kirilee Stanmore  
6Yellow: Sofia Del Rio

**Student of the Week**

**Term 1 Week 4**

KBlue: Ava Galang  
KGreen: Grace Zaltzony  
KRed: Meng-Wei Lai  
KYellow: Ashleigh Kriessel  
1Blue: Archie Ferguson  
1Green: Tony Bazouni  
1Red: Lachlan Cefai  
1Yellow: Benjamin Piccalo  
2Blue: Riley Hale  
2Green: Claire Maunder  
2Red: Jonathan Drury  
2Yellow: Orlando Pellegrini  
3Blue: Amy Schier  
3Green: Audrey Velez  
3Red: Charlie Pascoe  
3Yellow: Marcus Borg  
4Blue: Lilli Davison  
4Green: Emily Robson  
4Red: Zarya Plebani  
4Yellow: Madison O'Brien  
5Blue: Patrick Horner  
5Green: Liam Edmilao  
5Red: Karta Kustreba  
5Yellow: Braeden Thomson  
6Blue: Callum Alvaro  
6Green: Ashleigh Simpson  
6Red: Alana Curran-Jones  
6Yellow: Brody Sheridan

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**Sport News**

**Monday 23 February:** Congratulations to all of our zone swimming competitors who swam last Monday. All who were there behaved well and did their best. Thank you to our parent volunteers on the day.

Well done to the following students who made it to the Diocesan carnival last Friday.

- Felicity Arundell
- Dominique Barbara
- Darcy Brette
- Emma Hallam
- Jake Hallam
- Amelia Harvie
- Elizabeth Harvey
- Nicholas Iordanou
- Angelina McLean
- Kristian Kezevic
- Emily Woodrofe
- Daniel Zorzit

Congratulations to Amelia Harvie who was awarded Junior Girls’ Age Champion.

**Friday 27 February:** Well done to all of the competitors who went to the Diocesan swimming carnival on Friday.

Particular congratulations to the following students who will progress to the CPS swimming carnival later this term:

- Dominique Barbara
- Emma Hallam
- Jake Hallam
- Amelia Harvie
- Elizabeth Harvey
- Nicholas Iordanou

Congratulations to Amelia Harvie who was awarded Diocesan Junior Girls’ Age Champion. Amelia also broke the record for the 10 year girls’ 50 m freestyle. Well done!

Congratulations also to the following students who were selected in representative teams in the last week:

- **Noah Jackson**—combined Sydney/Parramatta/Wollongong AFL
- **Sheiden Jabour** and **Kalize Jarvis**—Parramatta Girls’ Football (Soccer)
- **Mr Steve Kovelis, Sports Coordinator**

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**SKOOLBAG**

Our new communication tool—Skoolbag—has commenced with approximately 468 subscribers so far.

Our goal is to use this tool as an addition to our existing methods of communication. Skoolbag provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, providing instant push notification messages, such as news, events, newsletter posts, last minute cancellations. It provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications and is a free service to families.

Go to the itunes App store or Google Play Apps and search for the St Michael’s Primary Baulkham Hills ‘skoolbag’ app and download the app to your device.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Open every Thursday 8.30 am—1.00 pm

Uniform price list form is 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 and sent home via your child. Please label all items clearly, especially hats and jackets. Children are responsible for their own belongings. Lost property is placed in a tub outside the Uniform Shop.
Catholic Schools Week Competition

$5000 in prizes to be won!

- Individual primary and secondary entries
  win an iPad plus a $250 JB Hi-Fi voucher for your school
- Group primary and secondary entries
  win an iPad plus a $1000 JB Hi-Fi voucher for your school
- Runners up in each division
  win a $100 JB Hi-Fi voucher

Tell us in a 30 second video...
What will your Catholic school of tomorrow look like?
The competition is open to all primary and secondary students in NSW and ACT in four entry categories:

1. Primary Individual
   An individual (one) Primary school student, from Kindergarten to Year 6
2. Secondary Individual
   An individual (one) Secondary school student, from Years 7 to 12
3. Primary Group
   More than one student from a Primary school
4. Secondary Group
   More than one student from a Secondary school

Competition opens on 23 January 2015 and closes 18 March 2015
Visit the Catholic Schools NSW/ACT website to register

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING (QCS) SURVEY

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey.
The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.
Between 9-20 March all staff and (all/all Year 5 & 6) students, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.
An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential. Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement.
As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, we would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

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.

Recently we sent home a form requesting permission for photographs to be taken / not taken of your child. Thank you to the families who have already returned these forms. Please return these forms by Friday 13 March.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta—Enrolment Criteria

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 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.
2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term 1
Tears & Cheers for Kindergarten Parents - Friday 30th January ✔ Done
Kindergarten Teddy Bear’s Picnic - Saturday 7th February ✔ Done
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 4th March 7pm ✔ Done
Family Portrait Fundraiser - Friday 20th & Saturday 21st March
Family Disco - Friday 27th March
Easter Raffle - Wednesday 1st April

Term 2
Mother’s Day Gift Stall - Thursday 7th May
Mother’s Day Morning Tea (about 11am after Liturgy) - Friday 8th May
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 6th May 7pm
Trivia Night - Saturday 23rd May
Pyjama Mufti Day - Wednesday 24th June

Term 3
Grandparent’s Day Morning Tea - Friday 24th July
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 5th August 7pm
Father’s Day Gift Stall - Thursday 3rd September
Father’s Day Breakfast BBQ & Morning Tea 7.30am to 10am - Friday 4th September
Rides Night - Friday 11th September

Term 4
P&F Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 21st October 7pm
P&F Annual General Meeting, All Welcome - Wednesday 2nd 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.
Hello Families!

The P&F have again teamed up with Laura Jean Fundraising this year to have the extremely popular 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 on a first in best dressed basis.

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

Friday 20th March 4pm to 8pm - school hall studio portrait.
Saturday 21st 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.

After the RSVP date, the P&F will be in touch with you by SMS to confirm your 15 minute time slot for your photographic session and when best to arrive at the school. For any queries, please contact Melanie Barton - mbartonp_f@hotmail.com

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 Monday 16th March to the school office with your payment of $20 in an envelope marked “P&F Portrait Fundraiser”. We cannot take bookings after 16/3.
CALLING FOR NEW UNDER 6 and UNDER 9 PLAYERS

Does your child love watching Rugby League on the television and is always kicking a ball around the backyard? Then playing rugby league may be the game for him/her. The Baulkham Hills Brumbies play in the Parramatta Catholic Schools Convents Association and games are played on Sunday’s. Children learn the skills of rugby league in a safe and enthusiastic environment. All Mini League games are played with the coach on the field and allow all children to remain safe, get involved and have fun!

Registration fees for the 2015 season are $130 for one child and $190 for a family. This is great value for money and include shorts, socks and a drink bottle.

Please call Simone if you are interested in registering your child. If you have any questions about our club or the game itself please call today.

Registrar - Simone Urquhart - 0412 996 479 (St Michael’s)