From the Principal

Dear Parents

Catholic Schools Week 8-14 March 2015

Thank you to everyone who helped bring our community together in a very positive way during Catholic Schools Week.

Thank you to: our teachers for all their efforts each and every day to ensure that our children have the best possible learning environment; our wonderful P&F volunteers who once again generously gave their time and worked tirelessly to organise and cater for the morning tea; and our parents and other visitors for their participation in the day. It is heart warming to see events such as this bringing out the best in everyone.

Capital works funding

With less than two weeks before the state election, I urge you to contact your local MPs and candidates to talk to them about the importance of capital works funding for Catholic schools in western Sydney. Without capital works funding for Catholic schools, it will be difficult to meet growing enrolment demands for Catholic schooling. This will place an even greater burden on the tax payer if places for these children need to be found in government schools.

Recently, our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby met with Minister Adrian Piccoli to urge him to consider the needs of the 25% of children and young people who attend Catholic schools in western Sydney. Although the meeting was positive, no commitment to capital works funding was made. I urge you to email your local STATE member, David Elliott and STATE opposition candidate, Ryan Tracey, to tell them that capital works funding is an important issue for you in the upcoming election.

The capital works at St Michael’s was funded by the Catholic Education Office. Capital works funding is very difficult to receive because there are so many applications across 11 Dioceses in NSW. It is extremely important that the government continue to support our Catholic Schools in this way. Further information on funding is contained in the newsletter.

Cyclone Marcia

We have been asked to give assistance to school communities and families affected by Cyclone Marcia in the Rockhampton Diocese. In order to help the school communities and families affected, we have organised a gold coin donation day which will take place this Friday 20 March. Thank you in advance for any donation you are able to make.

Years 5 and 6 Mathematics

Last Tuesday (17 March) our Year 5 and 6 teachers together with 16 other primary schools from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta took part in a professional learning opportunity in the area of Mathematics.

St Michael’s has agreed to be part of a research collaboration exploring ways of engaging students with learning mathematics, using the teaching of fractions as the context. Our Years 5 and 6 will engage with the mathematical ideas, to solve problems, and to explain their reasoning. The lessons will all prompt students to think about fractions in new ways. These lessons will address all aspects of the Australian Curriculum.

Reflection

Sunday’s reading is taken from the Gospel of John. John’s Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. John’s Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish.

God of paradox and infinite possibility, when we would say “enough”, you would say “more.” When we prefer apathy, you call us to engagement. Encourage our new steps in faith, that we might know the new life you promise, and the joy of sharing it with an ever-expanding family of sisters and brothers. We ask this in your Spirit. Amen.

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Principal Danuta Maka with David Elliot MP and School Captains Callum and Juliette
Religious Education News

Our School formation goal in 2015 is looking at deepening children's understanding of Scripture. Throughout this year teachers 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 5M Red and 5X Blue and participating in their learning experience. The children are currently learning about practices and promises that are important preparation in our Lenten journey. In particular, the children are looking at covenants or promises that were made by God in the Old Testament. After an interesting game of definition bingo to start as a warm up game to help improve the children's understanding of key words, the children proceeded to look more closely at the Scripture passage (Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17) - which talks about the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses. The children were encouraged to think about the importance of the Ten Commandments in their own daily lives.

In 1S Green I was able to witness the children playing hot potato as the children in groups wrote down ideas they had about key Lenten themes taken from Scripture. The children then went on to write Good News Stories about how they can help others during this Season of Lent. In preparation for this lesson, Mrs Shields encouraged the children to look out on the playground for opportunities and ideas about helping others. Mrs Shields then linked their ideas to key words that were displayed on the word wall.

In KQ Blue I was able to hear about the wonderful ideas in which the children came up with in terms of their Lenten goal to be more like Jesus. It was really lovely to see the children thinking about simple everyday ideas where they can be more like Jesus both at home and at school.

In KvG Green I was able to hear about the wonderful gifts God has given the children. The children were asked to think about a special gift God had given them and how that could be used to help others.

Social Skills and Mantras Program

The social skill for Term 1 Week 9 is:

Public or Private

Children need to be responsible for their language and actions. Certain behaviour may be acceptable at home or in a private place that is not acceptable in the classroom or playground.

The social skill for Term 1 Week 10 is:

The Network Hand

Children list five people from various areas in their life that they trust and can go to if they need help. These people must be over 18 years of age.

Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers the Burley family (Kye 2 Green) on the passing of their son, Tate, and maternal Grandmother.

Eternal rest grant to them Lord. Let Your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Understanding Faith Resource

A new resource has been purchased by the Diocese for our children to access both at school and at home. This is a wonderful resource that contains Scripture, interactive clips, printable activities and much more. The resource serves as an excellent learning tool that will support the children in their Religious Education.

At present, the resources have only been activated for children in Stage 2 and Stage 3. The activities, however, can be adapted to include children in Early Stage 1 and Stage 2. This is a wonderful resource that can be used to help the children improve their Religious Literacy Skills.

Steps involved to access the site.

- Insert understandingfaith.org.au in your web browser
- Click on the primary login link.
- Insert Username: ceo.parra.1880
- Insert Password: ceo.parra.2015

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to all of the children from St Michael's who made their First Reconciliation this week. A special word of thanks is extended to the parents and parishioners who volunteered as facilitators and home hosts.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Role Play

Practice time—Monday 23 March from 4 pm - 6 pm in the Downey room.

Mr David Ison, REC Coordinator
### DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>Tue 24 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 2 Blue &amp; 2 Green: 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow: 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 26 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass 1 Green &amp; 1 Yellow: 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<td><strong>School holidays—Friday 3 April—Monday 20 April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 20 Apr</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—staff only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 21 Apr</td>
<td>First day Term 2—date change—students return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24 Apr</td>
<td>Whole School Anzac Day Liturgy: 10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 29 Apr</td>
<td>Whole School Photo Day</td>
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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.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

**Monday 20 April** is a professional learning day for the staff. The staff will spend the day working with the new Curriculum for English.

### QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING PROJECT (QCS)

Insight SRC has been conducting a survey on behalf of our school and the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The aim of the survey is to collect valuable information from staff, parents and Year 5 and 6 students about the cultural behaviour, relationships, and learning community of our school.

The results will enable our school to build on our successes to date and focus on ways we can continue to improve.

It would be appreciated if the 60 families who have been randomly selected to participate in the survey could complete the survey online or return the hard copy to the school office by no later than Friday 20 March.

Your views are very important and combined with the responses from the staff and student surveys, the value of the QCS Project will be greatly enhanced.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and for contributing to quality data about our school and system.

### 2016 ENROLLING NOW

Enrolment packages for Kindergarten 2016 can be collected from the school office.

**Enrolment at St Michael’s Primary**

Enrolment at St Michael’s Primary Catholic Primary School includes your return of the **Enrolment Application** with supporting documentation including copies of the following:

- Passport photo of your child (original)
- Birth Certificate*
- Baptism Certificate*
- Immunisation History Statement* (visit [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or call 1800 653 809 and request your statement)
- Passport with visa* (if not Australian Citizens).

*Originals of all documents must be sighted at the interview or upon lodgement of the Enrolment Application via the school office.

It is essential that both parents/guardians sign the different sections of the Enrolment Application.

When you return your Enrolment form, you will be invited for an interview. Both parents/guardians and child are asked to attend this interview. The school office will contact you to organise a time for this interview.

**Further Information**

For further enquiries please contact the school office on 9639 0518.

### SKOOLBAG

Our new communication tool—Skoolbag—now has 519 subscribers.

We are using this tool in addition to our existing methods of communication. Skoolbag is providing us 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.

### STAR CORNER

Congratulations to the following students who played for St Michael’s Softball Association this year were Runners-Up in the Cumberland Nepean Softball Association U/9 T-ball competition:

- Mitchell Essex (Yr 2);
- Cooper Crawford (Yr 2);
- Cameron Lee (Yr 2);
- Scarlett Jackson (Yr 3) and Ashton Crawford (Kindergarten)

The students played with true sportsmanship, enthusiasm and big smiles on their faces! They should be very proud of themselves. Well done!
Calling all Dad BBQ extraordinaires!

Family DISCO

If you are a master of the hot plate and not too shabby with a spatula - we need you!
If you have 1 hour to spare on the night of the Family Disco.
Please email if you are able to help:
pandfstmichaels@gmail.com
Thank you! We appreciate any assistance.😊

**Student of the Week**
**Term 1 Week 6**

KBlue Charlotte Lucak
KGreen Ava Griffiths
KRed Matthew Timbs
KYellow Jackson Ward
1Blue Lauren Nada
1Green Anthony Khoury
1Red Connor Smith
1Yellow Jemma Donnelly
2Blue John-Paul Agnas
2Green Cristina Hurtado
2Red Lauren Farrell
2Yellow Mary Boutros
3Green Adrian Komadina
3Red Angelina Woodward
3Yellow Jihan Cooray
4Blue Sophie Zimmatore
4Green Teresa Tanna
4Red Tim Goh
4Yellow Ella Ryan
5Blue Dylan Thorpe
5Green Liana Abdelki
5Red Thomas Saad
5Yellow Georgia Cowling
6Blue Ashleigh Petrovic
6Green Thomas Gomez
6Red Tané O’Brien
6Yellow Charlie Horner

**Student of the Week**
**Term 1 Week 7**

KBlue Andrew Zammit
KGreen Joshua McAndrew
KRed Scarlett Boswell
KYellow Chloe McKinney
1Blue Analise Eleter
1Green Olivia Pellicano
1Red Isabelle Stevens
1Yellow Ethan Chaar
2Blue Holly Martin
2Green James Henderson
2Red Kai Ormandy
2Yellow Sarah Hanna
3Blue Georgia Scollard
3Green Sarah Cheah
3Red Joshua Scollard
3Yellow Keira Mirosevic
4Blue Samuel Durantini
4Green Kaia D’Souza
4Red Christopher Lucin
4Yellow Sienna Hansen
5Blue Melissa Cassar
5Green Thomas Grech
5Red Sophia Grainger
5Yellow Noah Scollard
6Blue Thomas Cowling
6Green Lara Cappetta
6Red Joseph Maait
6Yellow Emily Barton

REMINDER

Family DISCO

Friday 27th March 5pm - 9pm

Bring a chair! BYO picnic dinner or purchase from the BBQ! Entertainment for the kids!
Pre-purchase tickets $5 per person (adults or children)
Tickets at the door $7 per person (adults or children)
Family disco all welcome! · pandfstmichaels@gmail.com
Please return by Wednesday 25th March

**Student of the Week**
**Term 2 Week 6**

KBlue Charlotte Lucak
KGreen Ava Griffiths
KRed Matthew Timbs
KYellow Jackson Ward
1Blue Lauren Nada
1Green Anthony Khoury
1Red Connor Smith
1Yellow Jemma Donnelly
2Blue John-Paul Agnas
2Green Cristina Hurtado
2Red Lauren Farrell
2Yellow Mary Boutros
3Green Adrian Komadina
3Red Angelina Woodward
3Yellow Jihan Cooray
4Blue Sophie Zimmatore
4Green Teresa Tanna
4Red Tim Goh
4Yellow Ella Ryan
5Blue Dylan Thorpe
5Green Liana Abdelki
5Red Thomas Saad
5Yellow Georgia Cowling
6Blue Ashleigh Petrovic
6Green Thomas Gomez
6Red Tané O’Brien
6Yellow Charlie Horner

**Student of the Week**
**Term 2 Week 7**

KBlue Andrew Zammit
KGreen Joshua McAndrew
KRed Scarlett Boswell
KYellow Chloe McKinney
1Blue Analise Eleter
1Green Olivia Pellicano
1Red Isabelle Stevens
1Yellow Ethan Chaar
2Blue Holly Martin
2Green James Henderson
2Red Kai Ormandy
2Yellow Sarah Hanna
3Blue Georgia Scollard
3Green Sarah Cheah
3Red Joshua Scollard
3Yellow Keira Mirosevic
4Blue Samuel Durantini
4Green Kaia D’Souza
4Red Christopher Lucin
4Yellow Sienna Hansen
5Blue Melissa Cassar
5Green Thomas Grech
5Red Sophia Grainger
5Yellow Noah Scollard
6Blue Thomas Cowling
6Green Lara Cappetta
6Red Joseph Maait
6Yellow Emily Barton
Please do not bring Nuts or Nut products to school
Due to a number of children with allergies to nuts, we ask that you do not send your child to school with products containing nuts, e.g. Nutella, peanut butter or any item containing nuts or traces of nuts. The canteen does not sell any products with nuts.

Sports News

Congratulations to all the children on their cross country efforts on Tuesday 17 March. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the day a great success.

House points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross country results

**GIRLS**

**7 years**

1st Izabella Maslic
2nd Jemma Adamek
3rd Sarah Hanna
4th Jade Dimaacquiat
5th Ciara Jean-Baptiste
6th Alyssa Romeo

**8 years**

1st Beatrix Hendry
2nd Mikayla Eltenn
3rd Tayla Harris
4th Mary Boutros
6th Julia Patanjali

**9 years**

1st Angelina McLean
2nd Kitwarl Mkali
3rd Charlotte Finnerty
4th Kate Kennedy
5th Rachel Wong
6th Kaitlyn Nada

**10 years**

1st Chloe Nolan
2nd Chanelle Maikhael
3rd Carissa Anderson
4th Amelia Harvie
5th Emily Knez
6th Kayla Morris

**11 years**

1st Beatrix Hendry
2nd Mikayla Eltenn
3rd Tayla Harris
4th Mary Boutros
5th Julia Patanjali

**12/13 years**

1st Alana Curran-Jones
2nd Annaliiese Gremmo
3rd Sheiden Jabor
4th Ashleigh Petrovic
5th Lana Jukic
6th Bronte Clarkson

**BOYS**

**7 years**

1st Xavier Saffy
2nd Samuel Kable
3rd Patrick Johns
4th Travis van Niekerk
5th Lachlan Small
6th Lai Huang-Gu

**8 years**

1st Riley Nolan
2nd Dallas Bettle
3rd Kye Burley
4th Harrison Habib
5th Calum Bowles
6th Kristijan Magdic

**9 years**

1st Luke Alderson
2nd Joshua Patrick
3rd Vince Romeo
4th Joshua Stevens
5th Roko Buric
6th Cornelis Rawlinson

**10 years**

1st Ethan Garcia
2nd Dylan Bettle
3rd Patrick Horner
4th Ryan Imms
5th Aaron Bruton
6th Jake Harris

**11 years**

1st Thomas Knez
2nd Nathan Sarlog
3rd Nathan Imms
4th Claudio Pellegrini
5th Charlie Homer
6th Lachlan Nada

**12/13 years**

1st Noah Jackson
2nd Nicholas Iordanou
3rd Christian Abal
4th Darcy Bettle
5th Kayden Anderson
6th Blake Heylbut

Congratulations to the following students who now move onto Diocesan:

**GIRLS**

8/9 years Angelina Mclean, Kitwarl Mkali, Charlotte Finnerty, Kate Kennedy, Rachel Wong, Beatrix Hendry
10 years Chloe Nolan, Chanelle Maikhael, Carissa Anderson, Amelia Harvie, Emily Knez, Kayla Morris
11 years Anneke van Zoggel, Emma Boutros, Felicity Arundell, Nicola Kasto, Isabella Charon, Melissa Cassar
12 years Alana Curran-Jones, Annaliiese Gremmo

**BOYS**

8/9 years Ethan Garcia, Dylan Bettle, Patrick Horner, Ryan Imms, Aaron Bruton, Jake Harris
10 years Thomas Knez, Nathan Sarlog, Nathan Imms, Claudio Pellegrini, Charlie Homer, Lachlan Nada
11 years Noah Jackson, Nicholas Iordanou, Christian Abal, Darcy Bettle, Kayden Anderson, Blake Heylbut

Mr Steve Kovelis, Sports Coordinator

School Terms 2015

Term 2: Tuesday, 21 April to Friday, 26 June
Term 3: Monday, 13 July to Friday, 18 September
Term 4: Tuesday, 6 October to Friday, 18 December

Please email us on stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au if you would like to be added to our email list or when you have changed your email address.
Catholic Education: responding to demand

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta employs over 4,500 teachers and staff and provides quality Catholic schooling for over 43,000 students in 56 primary, 22 secondary schools and four early learning centres in greater western Sydney. We have a strong history of using evidence-based practice to improve our student outcomes. Through certainty in State government capital works funding, we can efficiently respond to demographic demands of a Catholic education in high growth areas.

DID YOU KNOW? On average, it costs around $13,000 per year to educate a child in a NSW school. In most Catholic schools, school fees cover less than a quarter of this cost. The rest comes from taxpayers like you! This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? According to the most recent figures available (2012), the average net cost of educating a student in a NSW Catholic school was $11,532 per year. This is less than the cost of educating a student in a government school ($12,118) or in an independent, non-government school ($16,654). Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? Catholic schools support increased Government funding for ALL schools – government and non-government – because each school is an integral part of NSW’s economic and social infrastructure. Every student is entitled to receive the best education possible, regardless of the school they attend. This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? Non-government schools educate more than one-third of all NSW students, yet receive just 12% of the capital funding provided to schools by the NSW Government. Furthermore, non-government schools will receive almost 20% LESS funding in 2014/15 than they did six years ago – despite educating 33,600 more students in that time. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? To keep up with demand for Catholic schooling in the next two years, the Diocese of Parramatta will need at least $19.3 million to build new schools and learning spaces in the Northwest sector. The Diocese will need an additional $7.1 million to upgrade schools in other areas. Catholic schools need certainty from State and Federal Governments in capital works funding to effectively and efficiently respond to demand for Catholic schools changes.

DID YOU KNOW? Local Council infrastructure charges are placing an unfair burden on Catholic schools, incurring substantial additional costs. Over the past three years, the Sydney-based dioceses paid $18.5 million in levies and bonds - almost cancelling out the entire capital funding provided by the NSW Government for all Catholic schools. In the Parramatta Diocese, developments at Westmead incurred an additional $464,000 in local council infrastructure charges. This is money that could have been invested in the schools themselves, to benefit students – the cost of five teachers.
PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE
WITH THE BRUMBIES

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
School Holiday Gymnastics Clinics
For school aged boys and girls
Come and experience the fun and excitement of gymnastics
- Fun in a safe and structured environment
- Qualified and Professional Coaches
- Olympic Standard Equipment
- Foam-filled Landing Pits
- Trampolines
- Affiliated with Gymnastics Australia and WAG

Full Day Sessions (9:00am-3:00pm) $45.00 per day
Half Day Sessions (9:00am-12:30pm) $25.00 per session
3rd – 10th April and 13 – 17th April

Term 2 2015 Enrolments Now Being Taken
Classes for Boys and Girls 2 years and above
Book now on 9620 8323 or sydneycym@hotmail.com
Unit 7/32 Artisan Rd Seven Hills
Unit 5/1a Gibbon Rd Winston Hills
www.sydneygymnastics.com.au

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 with your child.