Dear Parents

The last few weeks have been difficult for members of our school community. Two of our families have experienced the loss of a beloved family member. One family has lost a father and another has lost a son. Earlier this year, another family also lost their baby son.

At times like this you get a real insight into the community and the care, love and support that is there for these families who have experienced such a terrible loss. It also makes us stop and reflect on the importance of our own family, how precious life is and how important it is to take the time to show love and care for each other.

There will be long days and weeks ahead for these families as they grieve. As a community, we will continue to offer our prayers and support.

Parent / Teacher / Student conferences

These conferences were very well attended. We received some very positive feedback with regard to these meetings. I think some parents were surprised to see how confident their children were in talking about their learning, their successes and the next step in their learning. These conferences are really important in supporting us by teaching the children that the teachers are there to facilitate their learning, to give them support and help them. Our students also learn that they play an important part in their own learning and know to take responsibility for their learning. Parents are also there to support them but it is really up to the child to have that passion to learn.

Respect

Unfortunately, there have recently been instances where children have neglected to respond in a respectful way to each other or to an adult.

As we all know there has been an increase in disrespect to an almost crisis point in our society as is evidenced in the increased violence and anti-social behaviours that are reported daily through the various forms of media.

Individually, we can’t change society but we can make a big difference in our little corner. It’s up to us to make sure that we’re doing our part to be respectful adults and to teach our children to be respectful emerging adults.

“Everyone expects respect
   No matter who they are.
   The only way to gain it is to treat everyone
      As a friend, as an equal person,
      As part of our extended family
         No matter their colour or creed.
            Only then, will you start to get
               The respect you so dearly need.”  David Harris

   And the moral:  Respect has to be earned, not demanded.

If we reinforce our children’s positive and respectful behaviour, and eliminate disrespect by immediately calling attention to it so as to discourage it, we are helping to develop the moral intelligence of our children. This will improve their ability to be able to apply critical analysis to television, films and music whose content is increasing in the portrayal of disrespectful behaviour. It is true that we can’t change society, but it’s also true that we can be a powerful influence in our little corner.

“God, our Father, we ask that the love
   You have for us, be evident in the love we have for our children.  Amen.”

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

**First Communion Facilitators needed 2015**

We are seeking Facilitators and home hosts from our Parish/School community. If you can facilitate or host a home group for this Programme beginning on 25th May please phone the parish office on 9639 0598. A Facilitators’ meeting will be held on 18 May 2015.

**What’s happening in Religious Education**

Last Friday I had the pleasure of visiting 2 Blue during their Religious Education. It was wonderful to see the children engaging with Scripture to try and deepen their understanding.

---

**Number-a-thon**

We are planning a fun event: a **Number-a-thon**. St Michael's is very appreciative of the support and generosity we have received from our community with previous “-a-thons”. Our students are currently enjoying new reading books purchased with the funds from last year’s “Read-a-thon”. We are looking forward to you supporting your child/ren as they seek sponsorship for this event. Money raised from our **Number-a-thon** is needed to purchase additional English and Maths resources, as well as new technology. These resources will assist the learning in our classrooms.

The **Number-a-thon** is to be held on **Tuesday 2 June, 2015**. Please note that the **Number-a-thon** event will go ahead regardless of the weather. The fun will begin in our **Hall** at **9.00am**. As each class parades [marching in time – Music is maths!] Following the parade, each class will participate in a rotation of maths activities. Most classes will be grateful for parent helpers. Please wait for further information from your child/ren’s class teacher/s regarding parent helpers.

The **Sponsor Cards** for each student will be distributed this week. Please read the information on the card, paying particular attention to keeping your child safe as they seek sponsors.

Something to think about…

> Somebody came up to me after a talk I had given, and said, “You make mathematics seem like fun.”
> I was inspired to reply, “If it isn’t fun, why do it?” - Ralph P. Boas

**Mrs Patricia Lee**
**Number-a-thon Coordinator**

---

**Social Skills and Mantras Program**

**Term 2 Week 5**

**Giving and receiving compliments**

- Good mates look for the good things about others.

**Term 2 Weeks 6 & 7**

**Approaching and joining in and including others**

- Go and join in—don’t wait to be asked. (The do’s and don’ts.)
- Including others makes everyone feel good.

---

**2016 Enrolling Now**

**Interviews currently being conducted for siblings and new families.**

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

Please return your Enrolment Application as soon as possible so that an interview can be arranged.

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

---

**Pentecost Day - The birthday of the Church**

Please accept this as a warm and personal invitation to attend the St Michael’s Parish Pentecost Day Celebrations that will be held on Sunday 24 May 2015 at the 10.00 am Mass and afterwards at 11.00 am multicultural lunch that will be held in the hall.

If you would like to bring a plate, that would be lovely, if you can’t we would love to see you at the Mass and at the lunch anyway.

More information from Lucy on 9899 9009 or by email - lvmmaquire@gmail.com

---

**SYMPATHY**

Please keep in your prayers the Gremmo family (Annaliese 6 Red and Ashley 4 Green) on the passing of their brother Nathan.

Eternal rest grant to him Lord. Let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.
**BAND**

The St Michael’s Performance Band were outstanding on Sunday 3 May competing at the Kenthurst Country Fair. They were up against 5 other local schools including St Bernadette’s Primary, Castle Hill, North Rocks, Glenhaven and Ermington Public schools all of which were equally impressive.

The crowd was massive and from the buzz afterwards were kept engaged and entertained. Glenhaven Public School took first prize and all the other schools were equally awarded.

The students from St Michael’s conducted themselves beautifully; they looked smart and graciously accepted their $500 cash prize.

I am very proud of them and would like to thank Mrs Maka and the staff for their ongoing support of the school band.

Lucia Bichara, Band Director, Teaching Services

---

**MUSIC**

The children from 3 Red and 3 Green will perform a song at Assembly on Friday 22 May (Week 5). All welcome to attend.

Lyndall Parker, Music Teacher

---

**Parish car park - Reminder**

Please do not park on the yellow lines marking the pedestrian crossing near the school fence on the left hand side of the entry into the carpark in the afternoons or mornings. There are only four spots close to the main entry gate for parking on the left hand side of the car park. Do not double park or park around or on the roundabout. This is a safety issue for pedestrians if you are parking your car anywhere in this area.

If you park in this area, you will be asked to move your car. Please do not be offended when you are asked to move your car in order to ensure the safety of all who use this pedestrian area. It is better to park in another area so that you do not have to move it when asked.

Please be considerate of others when you park and set a good example for your children to follow.

---

**Parent pick up area**

Our parent pick up area in the afternoon remains the top playground. Please go to this area and meet your child as this is where your child is expecting to see you. Please do not go to the classrooms, undercover area near the canteen or any other area to meet your child as some children are becoming confused about where they are meeting their parents. It is also disrupting the smooth transition of children to all areas when children want to run off when they see their parents. We understand that there has been confusion with the recent rains and the building works but we need parents to go to the top playground to pick up their children in order to ensure that all children can go to their designated areas at the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding.

---

**Assembly - Students of the Week**

From next week a Skoolbag notification will be sent to all parents on Thursday morning listing the children who will be receiving a Student of the Week and other awards at the next Assembly. This will give parents the opportunity to be present if they are able to.
5 Red News

One of the many ways 5 RED and 5 BLUE do spelling in their learning space is through a game called 'Boggle'. During the week, we try to make words out of the letters displayed and whoever comes up with the largest word, by following the Boggle rules, is the winner for the week. It is a fun way of practising spelling and using combinations of letters to form new words.

Canteen

New winter menu has been distributed. Please use new price list when ordering.

Apologies for errors on new menu list – Banana Moove is still no longer available. Please delete – sorry for any inconvenience.

Please add new fruit juice to your list – Berri 100% Juice 250 ml – Orange, Apple/Blackcurrant: Cost $1.50 (pop-top resealable bottle).

Mrs Judy Tamas

Baby news

Congratulations to the Hale family (Riley 2 Blue) on the recent birth of Hudson.

Year 6 Farewell—Friday November 27th

More information to follow—Mrs Fiona Issa

Sport

Congratulations to all the children who competed at the Diocesan Cross Country. In particular the following children who finished in the top 8 in their age group and will now progress to the CPS Cross Country next month:

Emma Boutros, Alana Curran-Jones, Ethan Garcia, Nathan Imms, Nicholas Iordanou, Chloe Nolan, Cornelis Rawlinson, Nathan Sarlog, Anneke van Zoggel

We have also had a number of team sport trials in the past few weeks:

Daniel Zorzit was selected in the Parramatta Rugby Union Team and will travel to Forbes later in the term for the CPS trials.

The CPS girls football trials also proved to be successful for Sheiden Jabour who was selected in the Mackillop Team and will now compete for Mackillop at the NSWPSA trials in June next month.

The biggest accolades for this newsletter has to go to Alec Ryan. Alec Ryan successfully represented St Michael’s in the Mackillop Basketball Team from 27-30 April. The Mackillop team won the Grand Final and were awarded the Catholic Cup. Alec has been selected in the NSWPSA Basketball Team and will now travel to Adelaide and represent NSW later in the year, something that has not been done by a St Michael’s student for many, many years.

Well done and all the best to all these children at their upcoming events.

Mr Steve Kovelis

Skoolbag App—Sport updates

We have been using our Skoolbag App. Sport category to advise of changes and cancellations to Representative Sport events due to inclement weather. If you are an existing user you may now wish to add this category to your list.

If you would like to subscribe to this free service go 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.

UNIFORM SHOP

Open every Thursday - 8.30 am to 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 Thursday and sent home with your child.

Please label all items of clothing clearly with your child’s name, including second-hand items.

Holy Family Primary School, Luddenham

25th Anniversary Mass & Morning Tea - For further information contact the School Office on 4773 4485
Email - Luddenham@parra.catholic.edu.au

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE—PARRAMATTA

OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on May 18, 2015.

Tour the College and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life and enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2016 and 2017.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1222 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

Mercy Music & Performance Academy May Workshops

This month, OLMC Parramatta is launching the Mercy Music and Performance Academy Parramatta. Building on the strong musical tradition established by the Sisters of Mercy at OLMC, the Mercy Music and Performance Academy cultivates and nurtures the creative talents of young performers. The Academy offers instrumental lessons and workshops for both boys and girls. Students aged 9 – 14 are invited to attend the Vocal Workshop (9am – 12pm) and/or the Woodwind Workshop (1-4pm) on May 23 and May 30 (over 2 days). Cost: $150 per workshop. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy for more information and to book.
REMINDER!
Book now!

Mum & Dad’s night out!

Saturday 23rd May 2015 - 7.30pm
In the school hall

Games • Prizes • Silent Auctions + More!

$20 per ticket. Create your own table (10 per table).
Or we can place you on a table.
BYO alcohol and nibbles. Sorry no children - it’s Mum & Dad’s night out!

Professional host!
Loads of fun & laughs!

Easy!

- Ask your children’s sports clubs, neighbours, friends, family, other parents at the school to form a table.
- Have grade tables i.e. a Year 1 table or a Kindy table etc.
- Pick a table name and dress up 80s theme! Be creative!
- Fill in the form on the back of this page!
- Person initiating the table (Table Coordinator) to send cheque, or bank deposit with completed details on the back of this note to school by Monday 18th May.

P.T.O.
Please return this form to school by Monday 18th May
You will receive a confirmation of receipt of payment by email

Your child’s name_____________________________________Your child’s class ______________________

Person organising the table - Table Coordinator is 1)______________________________________________

Your mobile number (must include mobile)__________________________________________________________

Your email (must include email) ________________________________________________________________

Your table name is _____________________________________OR   ☐ Please put me on a table

Names of your table’s players: 2)______________________________________________________________

3)____________________________________________________________________________________

4)____________________________________________________________________________________

5)____________________________________________________________________________________

6)____________________________________________________________________________________

7)____________________________________________________________________________________

8)____________________________________________________________________________________

9)____________________________________________________________________________________

10)___________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Cheque to “St Michael’s P&F” $200

- OR -

☐ Direct Bank Deposit $200 (Leave your surname as the statement text otherwise it will not be possible to identify your payment)

  M. Barton
  BSB 732164
  ACC 525827

Total: $___________
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Our newsletter is distributed via email to reduce paper use and to provide access to a full colour version.

An email is sent every second Thursday afternoon with the link to our website.

To ensure you receive the newsletter please ensure that we have your current email address and add St Michael’s to your contact list.

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

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