From the Principal

Dear Parents

Grandparents’ Day Thank you

The number of people who attended our celebration of Grandparents’ Day last Friday was incredible. The generosity of our families in providing morning tea was overwhelming. Thank you to everyone—the P&F, and everyone involved on the day, for making this celebration a wonderful experience for the children’s grandparents. We are a very fortunate community.

School Attendance

It is important for your child’s wellbeing and academic progress that they attend school regularly and complete each school day. Children need to attend school every day from 8.45 am until 3.10 pm unless illness prevents their attendance. Please ensure that appointments are made outside of school hours in order to ensure that your child can maximise their learning potential. Learning takes place from 8.45 am until the final bell at 3.10 pm. Being late or taking your child early from school, particularly on a regular basis, may hinder their personal and academic progress. This is often reflected in school reports.

This term we will be sending out letters to parents for unexplained absences at the end of every month. Unfortunately there were a few issues with this on our first occasion this term and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused to parents who had already sent in a letter explaining their child’s absence.

When your child is away, please send in a note to their class teacher on their return. We also accept communication via email or our Skoolbag App to record explanations.

Parking in St Michael’s Place, outside the Church

Please be aware that children are crossing streets around the school. Please do not park in no stopping zones, disabled zones, on the corner of streets, or block driveways. If you are parking near the corner outside the Church, please be aware that children are crossing the roads and cannot see other cars due to cars blocking this area by parking too close to the corner. Please follow safe driving and parking practices.

Reflection

Each of us has had an experience when the power has failed and we are left in darkness. What was familiar and assuring to us is no longer visible and trickles of fear and apprehension course through our body. What a relief when a match is struck and our familiar surrounds come back to comfort us. Likewise, if we are out and have to walk through an area that is poorly lit, we might feel frightened and less hopeful about our safety till we reach where it is well lit.

It could be that as parents we experience a child of ours getting “off track” in life. It might appear to us that they are simply being in defiance of us, whereas, they might be struggling with self-confidence and a lack of hope about their ability to cope with life as we wish it to be.

There is nothing more certain in life than the knowledge that our children will forever appreciate “the gentle hand that guided me along” and for us to be “a shining light” that is always there for them. As Christian parents we, likewise, need our guiding light and when Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life,” John 8:12. He was offering Himself as our guiding light. The Catholic Catechism tells us that, “The light of Jesus illumines the eyes of our heart and teaches us to see everything in the light of His truth and compassion.” No. 2715.

The challenge for us as parents is to somehow be the shining light on the hill for our children when it comes to living Christian values such as truthfulness and compassion, love and forgiveness, patience and gentleness. In as much as God the Father revealed Himself to us through Jesus, so we can reveal Jesus to our children by the words and actions of our lives.

“Our Father, Creator of all, to love you, we must also love our neighbour as ourselves and be as merciful to others as you are toward us.
Remove whatever hinders our living your command to love and help us model your loving care as clearly as did the Samaritan.
We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka
**Religious Education**

**Confirmation Program Sacramental Facilitators Meeting**

Facilitators meeting will be held on Monday 8 August at 7.30 pm in the Downey Room. We invite anyone who would like to assist as a facilitator to contact the Parish Office on 9639 0598.

**Confirmation Program**

The Confirmation Program starts on Monday 15 August.

**Religious Literacy Assessment**

This term Year 6 and Year 4 students will complete the Religious Literacy Assessment. All Year 6 and Year 4 students across the Parramatta Diocese undertake this assessment. It is administered in two parts. Part A is an on-line multiple-choice quiz, which both years complete. Year 4 students only complete Part B, which requires them to creatively interpret the message of God’s healing and forgiveness from either the story of ‘Jesus and Zacchaeus’ or ‘The Parable of the Prodigal Son’. Year 4 students will be working to deepen their understanding of these two stories. Students have a choice of how they will present their understanding (e.g. poster, storybook, diorama, sculpture, collage, song etc). The Year 4 students will be given an opportunity to discuss their ideas with their family members. All work will be completed at school.

The results of the Religious Literacy Assessment will be available in Term 4.

_Mrs Colleen Smith, Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator_
**Calendar Dates**

**Week 3**  
**Fri 5 Aug**  
Events—Olympic-a-thon week  
School Census Day  
Olympic-a-thon Events Day  
K-6 Peer Support 1.40-3.00 pm

**Week 4**  
**Mon 8 Aug**  
Events  
Sacramental Facilitators Meeting, Downey Room 7.30 pm

**Tue 9 Aug**  
Parish Mass 1 Yellow & 1 Red 9.15 am

**Wed 10 Aug**  
Parish Mass 1 Blue & 1 Green 9.15 am (Please note change of classes))  
Reconciliation 5 Blue 10.00 am  
Reconciliation 5 Red 10.30 am  
Reconciliation 5 Green 11.45 am  
Reconciliation 5 Yellow 12.15 am  
P&F General Meeting 7.00 pm

**Thu 11 Aug**  
Parish Mass 3 Green & 3 Red 9.15 am

**Fri 12 Aug**  
Parish Mass K-2 Incursion “Hansel & Gretel” Opera Australia 1.45-3.00 pm (Please note change of grades for this incursion)

**Sat 13 Aug**  
Enrolment Ceremonies for the Sacrament of Confirmation

**Sun 14 Aug**  
Parish Mass 1 Blue & 1 Green 9.15 am (Please note change of grades (note change of classes))

**Week 5**  
**Mon 15 Aug**  
Years K-6 Feast of the Assumption Eucharistic Liturgy 11.45 am

**Tue 16 Aug**  
Parish Mass 3 Blue & 3 Yellow 9.15 am

**Wed 17 Aug**  
3 Green & 3 Red Cumberland State Forest Excursion  
Parish Mass K Yellow & K Blue 9.15 am

**Thu 18 Aug**  
Parish Mass 6 Blue & 6 Yellow 9.15 am

**Fri 19 Aug**  
School Assembly 8.50 am

**Week 6—Book Week—“Australia—Story Country”**

**Week 6**  
**Mon 22 Aug**  
Event  
Year 3 Incursion—Rebecca Johnson, Author  
Year 6 Incursion—Martin Chatterton, Author and Illustrator

**Tue 23 Aug**  
Parish Mass K Green & K Red 9.15 am

**Wed 24 Aug**  
Book Character Parade 9.15-11.00 am  
4 Blue & 4 Red Reconciliation 11.30 am  
4 Green & 4 Yellow Reconciliation 12.15 pm

**Thu 25 Aug**  
Parish Mass 2 Blue & 2 Green 9.15 am

**Fri 26 Aug**  
Year 6 Debating  
Year 5 Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am

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**6 RED**

Last term Year 6 went on an excursion to the NSW Art Gallery and St Mary’s Cathedral. At the Gallery we had two people talk to us about finding a story through the paintings and sculptures. We also got to look around at the other artworks. We were mind blown from some artworks that looked like photos.

At St Mary’s Cathedral, there was so much to look at. It is very big. There were signs with information about the history of the church. There were multiple altars, baptismal fonts and Reconciliation rooms.

We had a great day and learned lots of things.  **Kristen Betros**

**COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES POLICY**

1. **Rationale**

At St Michael’s Primary School, Baulkham Hills, the dignity of each individual is valued and the rights and beliefs of all members of the community are respected. St Michael’s follows the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures which is available from the school office and on the school website.

2. **Aims**

However, from time to time concerns may arise between different groups within the school community. At St Michael’s we aim to attempt resolution as soon as any concerns arise.

3. **Implementation**

**Parents**

Complaints or grievances pertaining to classroom issues or that relate to other children are to be dealt with by school personnel. It is not appropriate for parents to approach other children or other parents while on school premises to resolve issues.

The recommended procedure to be followed by parents is:

3.1 The first point of contact is the child’s class teacher. An appointment with the teacher should be made via the school office or directly with the teacher.

3.2 If parents are not satisfied with the solutions offered or believe they have not been given a fair hearing, they are encouraged to make an appointment with either the principal or assistant principal, to discuss the issue further.

3.3 Parents are reminded that there are always two sides to every story and while it is important to listen to their own child, it is also just as important not to draw conclusions or make accusations until all the facts are known.

3.4 Parents may also contact Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta for further discussion.

3.5 All parties should aim to work towards a mutually agreeable solution to the grievance.

**Students**

The recommended procedure for students who have complaints or grievances is:

3.6 If and when issues arise in the classroom, students are encouraged to speak to the class teacher in order to seek assistance in finding a resolution.

3.7 Students encountering problems on the playground are asked to talk to staff member on duty, who will then, if necessary, refer it to the class teacher or one of the school’s Leadership team.

3.8 Students may also speak to any other staff member regarding any issues.

4. **Evaluation**

Policy to be evaluated by staff in Term 4 of each year.

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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.

Please note change of classes)}
**Help us become Olympic Readers**

Do you want to help send our readers to Rio?! Do you have a business or know a business that produces or sells goods or services? We want our students leaping with excitement!

Students and teachers at St Michael’s are busy planning an Olympic-a-thon for the children to be held on Friday 5 August. “This date coincides with the opening of the Rio Olympic Games. It will be competitive in a fun way,” said Mrs Knispel.

Children will be raising money for literacy books. Why literacy books? “We want our readers to unlock their potential and be the best readers they can be,” explained Mrs Maka.

Would your business or businesses you know, be able to provide incentive prizes for the students who raise the most money in each grade? “Prizes would definitely motivate a lot of people,” said Thomas McGoldrick. “It would get people interested,” agreed Jessica Wahab.

We look forward to accepting your donations at the school office. As a thank you for your generosity, a free advertisement will be placed in the next five school newsletters.

Oliver Lepri & Kieran Franklin-Browne
Members of the School Media Team

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**Star Corner**

 Congratulations to **Oscar van Zoggel** who represented St Michael’s in the Parramatta Diocese Rugby Union Team in Forbes on 27 June 2016. Well done!

Congratulations to all the students who represented St Michael’s in the Science Fair at Oakhill College in July. Two groups were successful in winning awards and were commended on their efforts. Congratulations to **Nicola Kasto and Simone Pai** for the best Science Report and **Taylor Barton and Felicity Arundell** who won the Challenge Award. Well done!

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**Stop and Drop Volunteers**

Thank you to all the volunteers who have volunteered for this year. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by everyone in our community. Due to changes with some of our volunteers’ commitments, we need to recruit some new volunteers to assist with Stop and Drop.

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 Rebecca Duda at rduda@westpac.com.au

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**School Opal Cards—Bus Students**

Please remind your child to tap on and off their Opal Card when they travel to and from school.

Busways have advised that Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students don’t tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.

With this in mind, we ask for your assistance in reminding your child that tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card.

Your assistance helps us ensure that Busways are able to provide the appropriate level of service to our students.

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**Literacy Tip**

**I read to you, you read to me**

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

Tips are taken from a website called Reading Rockets—

http://www.readingrockets.org

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**Are You Interested in Netball?**

Come and join **St Michael’s Netball Club** for a 6 week skills program.

“Net Set Go” is a modified netball program with a focus on skills and fun for beginners.

**Ages:** 5 and 6 year old boys and girls

**Time:** Friday afternoons 3:45 – 4:45pm

**Dates:** Fri 19th August – Fri 23rd September

**Venue:** St Michael’s top playground

**Cost:** $50. Each child will receive a great netball pack of goodies to keep.

**Enquiries:** Catherine Kos 0407246124 or cathkos@hotmail.com

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**123 Magic & Emotion Coaching**

For parents with children aged between 2 - 13 years. A 6 week program for parents that aims to teach effective and well researched ways to manage difficult behaviours in children aged 2 -13 years. Each session will teach you: key ideas about children’s abilities; common problems that parents face; some ways to help you make parenting as enjoyable as possible.

Childcare is available for this group and must be pre-booked as there are limited places. Wednesdays 3rd August to 7th September 2016 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Cost: $30.00 single, $45.00 couple - payable upon registration.

Wesley Family Centre, The Hills, Unit 437, 14 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista - rooftop parking. Contact: Tanya at Wesley Family Centre, The Hills on 8805 7208.
GRANDPARENTS’ DAY!

Last week we had our annual Grandparents’ Day Morning Tea. We think this was the biggest one we’ve had. So many grandparents! This year, we asked our school community for their assistance by bringing in a plate of food. We were overwhelmed by the response and the generosity. There was such an incredible variety of cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and more! So many things home made! The P&F is very grateful and would like to thank everyone for their support for our Morning Tea.

NEW DATES FOR FATHER’S DAY
Due to Year 6 Canberra Excursion

**Tuesday 30th August**
Father’s Day Gift Stall

**Wednesday 31st August**
Father’s Day Breakfast BBQ & Morning Tea 7.30am to 10am
Father’s Day Liturgy 10.15am

If you have any concerns or feedback, please email: pandfstmichaels@gmail.com - We thank you for your continued support!
This Newsletter is available for viewing on our website: www.stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au
P&F General Meeting - School Hall
Wednesday 10th August 2016 - 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Agenda:
1) Brief report on recent P&F events & upcoming events

2) Mrs Maka will present a sample of the proposed St Michael's sports tracksuit for feedback.

3) GUEST SPEAKER
Senior Constable Rob Paterson
“Digital Security”
A talk for parents, what every Mum & Dad must know

4) Open forum with Mrs. Maka & Mrs. Knispel Ask questions about any issues – all questions need to be in writing below with the parent’s name. Regrettably, we cannot accept anonymous questions.

Light refreshments will be available

RSVPs are a must!

R.S.V.P. Yes! I am attending the meeting. No. of people
Please return to office by Tuesday 9th August 2016 in an envelope to “P&F Secretary” or email pandfstmichaels@gmail.com

Thank you.

Your Name: Child’s Name: Child’s Class:
Any questions for Mrs. Maka or Mrs. Knispel? My question is :

Comments or suggestions?: 