From the Principal

Dear Parents

Happy Father’s Day, Happy Grandfather’s Day

Over 500 people attended our breakfast yesterday morning. Thank you to the P&F committee for their generous support and their hard work in making this community building event such a wonderful success.

St Michael’s Feast Day

On Monday, 19 September we celebrate St Michael’s Feast Day with a whole school mass at 10.15 am. All our families are cordially invited to join us in this special liturgy. St Michael is the patron saint of men and women who serve and protect our community. If you belong to one of these services: police, fire and ambulance officers; paramedics; armed forces personnel; nurses; and SES volunteers; you are invited to come to our mass dressed in your uniform.

Reflection

Has common sense gone out the window? / Are we helping our children build strength of character and resilience for the future?

Parents provide children with the basic “road map” for navigating through life by equipping them with a variety of skills and attitudes. We know that children need praise, encouragement and kind words to strengthen their self-image and to make them feel that they are important members of our family. However, author, John Rosemund, has a few rather blunt words to offer us in his work, “Parents Need Common Sense”.

“Children should not be the centre of attention in their families; parents should be the centre of attention if they aren’t, children won’t pay attention to them. Parents should expect their children to obey. They should not wish that children would obey, they should not plead with children to obey, they should not rant and rave at children to obey. They should simply, without apology expect them to toe the line.

A child who does something bad ought to feel bad about it. All too often, the child does something wrong and the parents feel bad about it. Why should a child accept responsibility for his own behaviour, if someone else is accepting it for him?

Children should receive all those things they need and a conservative amount of those things they want. Today’s children desperately need more “vitamin NO” the most character building two-letter word in the English language.”

Robin Givhan, of the Washington Post, has this bit to add:

“A child is now the equivalent of a minor Royal who should be coddled, revered and praised at all times! Heaven forbid, to push a child on a tricycle down the street at a ¼ kph without a helmet! To put a child in a position of possibly skinning a knee, is unacceptable! To risk bruising a child’s delicate ego, is an abomination! To make a child cry, could signal the end of civilised society! What’s more, it takes a TV nanny – a “Suppernanny” to remind parents that it’s ridiculous to negotiate with a toddler!”

Well, shock and horror! How are we parents supposed to deal with all that? Well, I suppose we could use our common sense.

“God, our Father, there are some days when life seems to spin out of control, when I panic, when I fear, when I doubt myself, when I lose perspective. Show me the way to confidence, to common sense, to You. Amen”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka
Religious Education

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the children who will be confirmed during one of the Sacrament of Confirmation masses which will take place next week on:

- Monday, 5 September at 7.30 pm;
- Tuesday, 6 September at 7.30 pm;
- Wednesday, 7 September at 7.30 pm.

A special word of thanks goes to the parents who have supported the children in their sacramental journey. A word of gratitude goes out the facilitators and home hosts who helped prepared the children for this very important sacrament.

Thank you also to Father Wim, Father Zvonimar, Father Pio and the sacramental team for their support in the preparation of the children.

Jubilee Year of Mercy – The Way of mercy Cross

The Way of Mercy is a diocesan-wide initiative of the Pastoral Planning Office in cooperation with the Year of Mercy Committee, centred upon the journey of a large cross of mercy. Where possible, the Cross will be accompanied by a relic of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and a letter penned by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. The Cross and Relics of Mary MacKillop and Mother Teresa of Calcutta (who will be St Teresa by the time the cross comes to us) will be at our school on Monday 12 September. A prayer celebration will be held for the children in the school hall at midday. Opportunity will be provided for individual classes to visit the Mercy Cross after lunch for prayer reflection.

As a community we need to continue to foster mercy in our daily lives and in our community.

The Cross and Relics will also be in the Parish of Baulkham Hills on the weekend of 17-18 September, with a prayer afternoon planned for Sunday 18th from 2.00-4.00 pm at St Michael’s. The Cross and relics will also be at the 10.00 am and 6pm masses. On Saturday 17 September the Cross and Relics will be at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Please keep this weekend free for worship and praise. All families are invited to attend the weekend worship and praise.

Mr David Ison, Religious Education Co-ordinator

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers those in our community who are unwell at this time.

We pray for them through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

School Volunteers at St Michael’s

All volunteers at St Michael’s need to complete Steps 1 and 2 below as follows:

- Go St Michael’s website - http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au
- Click on Parents, go to Parent Involvement, click on Child Protection Course. You will then be directed to the Catholic Education Office – Diocese of Parramatta website http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home

Complete Steps 1 and 2

1) **Step 1:** Complete ‘Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers’ Form (New procedure across all CEDP schools)

2) **Step 2:** Complete the online training module (Updated content to be completed every two years)

Once you have successfully completed the training, an email will be sent to St Michael’s for our records.

If you have any questions regarding Volunteering at school, please contact the school office on 9639 0518.

Social Skills and Mantras Program

Week 8: Wait for a turn when playing with others

- Games which include more children than are needed should include a fair rotation system.
- Wait patiently for your turn. Don’t favour others and let them in front of you at the expense of others waiting.

Week 9: Suggesting and persuading (Instead of being bossy)

- Don’t be a “bossy boots”. Use good ideas and good reasons instead.

2017 Enrolling Now

Interviews are currently taking place for Kindergarten to Year 6 2017

For parents wishing to enrol their child in Kindergarten, or any other year level for 2017, applications are now being accepted. Enrolment packages can be collected from the school office.

If you have any relatives or friends considering enrolling their child at St Michael’s in 2017, now is the time to remind them to apply.

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

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## Calendar Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2 Sep</td>
<td>Jersey Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mackillop Boys' Cricket Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmation practices 3.30-5.30 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 5 Sep</td>
<td>Celebration of Confirmation Mass 7.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 6 Sep</td>
<td>4 Blue &amp; 4 Red Excursion—Old Government House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1 History Immersion Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Celebration of Confirmation Mass 7.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7 Sep</td>
<td>4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow Excursion—Old Government House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Red &amp; 6 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Celebration of Confirmation Mass 7.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 8 Sep</td>
<td>1 Blue &amp; 1 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peer support final session and picnic lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9 Sep</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—Pupil free</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 13 Sep</td>
<td>3 Blue &amp; 3 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14 Sep</td>
<td>3 Green &amp; 3 Red Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 15 Sep</td>
<td>Year 1 Fair Tale Dress up</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Yellow &amp; 5 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16 Sep</td>
<td>School Assembly 9.00 am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19 Sep</td>
<td>Whole School St Michael’s Feast Day Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liturgy 10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 20 Sep</td>
<td>1 Yellow &amp; 1 Red Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 21 Sep</td>
<td>5 Red &amp; 4 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 22 Sep</td>
<td>4 Yellow &amp; 4 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students and Citizens of the Term Awards, School Hall, 2.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 23 Sep</td>
<td>School Assembly 9.00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>End of Term 3—3.10 pm</td>
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### School holidays 24 September—9 October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Oct</td>
<td>School Resumes Term 4—8.50 am</td>
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</table>

Events, including representative sport are regularly added to the school’s calendar on our website:

http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/calendar-of-events

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.

## 2016 School terms

Term 4—Monday 10 October to Friday 16 December
Congratulations to Scarlett Butterfield, 6 Green, who is one of 56 girls from across the country selected to tour Europe with the Australian Girls Choir during the school holidays. Leaving on Friday 16 September and travelling for three weeks, the choir will perform concerts in London, Villers-Bretonneux, Paris, Marostica and Rome.

Year One have been using the "Blue-Bots" to learn about programming and directional language. The "Blue-Bots" are interactive robots that give the children an introduction to coding and teach sequencing, estimation and problem-solving. They are see-through so the children can see the components needed to make the robot work.

Year One had a lot of fun and learned about how precise we need to be when giving a computer instructions.

"We press forward, backward, right, left and cancel to tell it to move. It will stop when it is finished and the Blue-Bot is ginormous!" Natalie

"I like the Blue-Bots because they glow! I found it interesting. It follows your directions, even the wrong ones! Nicola"

"I liked that they could light up. I learned how to make it go in different directions." Matthew

"The blue bots remembered everything if you didn't press clear! The Blue-Bots never forget!" Isabelle

"You get to use a lot of buttons. There are directions we have to put in to make it move." Anthony

"I learned that robots will only do what we tell them to do." Tay

"I learned that you have to press cancel before you start and that you have to press in the directions before you press go." Daniel.

Mrs Carmel Shields

Congratulations to the 90 boys and girls who attended the Netball Gala Day in Week 2. We had 10 teams attending the day from Years 3-6. Everyone was there for different reasons, some people playing their first ever netball game, some had their first ever netball win and some were in contention for champions in their pool.

Well done to all who attended, particular congratulations to the Junior Boys who won their pool. Thank you also to the 10 coaches and umpires who gave up their day to volunteer, your efforts are essential for our participation on such days.

This year we had two teams representing St Michael's at the State Rugby League Knockout. The Under 11's won through their pool with victories of 6-0, 18-6 and 22-0. They then won their Semi-Final, 18-6. In their Grand Final at St Mary's Stadium they play Harbord Primary School. In the final they fought back from 12-0 down to 12-6 and on the attack on the verge of tying which they would have done except for the bounce of the ball.

The Under 9's also won though their pool, winning 28-6, 24-0, 26-10. Their Semi-Final was also a convincing victory 34-12. Their Grand Final, also against Harbord, was a ding dong battle with each team taking turns at scoring tries. The final minute saw St Michael's score to leave the score 16 all with a kick to come. Dallas Brettle, cool as a cucumber, stepped up and kicked it over the black dot as the hooter sounded and St Michael's was crowned State Champions.

Final Congratulations to the approximately 40 students who attended the Hills Zone Athletics Carnival. A beautiful day saw some fantastic athletic achievements. It also saw St Michael's have a great deal of success with the biggest group in many years with 17 competitors being selected from the Hills Zone team to compete at the Parramatta Diocesan Athletics carnival.

Mr Steve Kovelis

Congratulations to Scarlett Butterfield, 6 Green, who is one of 56 girls from across the country selected to tour Europe with the Australian Girls Choir during the school holidays. Leaving on Friday 16 September and travelling for three weeks, the choir will perform concerts in London, Villers-Bretonneux, Paris, Marostica and Rome.

Star Corner

Talk, talk, talk!
Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

Tips are taken from a website called Reading Rockets—
http://www.readingrockets.org

Mobile Phones

Please refrain from calling your children straight after school while your children are on bus lines and Slow & Go as we have a no phone policy during this time. This is to ensure children are not distracted and can hear their bus number and Slow & Go number. Thank you for your support.
Over 300 pilgrims, consisting of teachers, high school students and parishioners, from the Diocese of Parramatta joined Pope Francis in Krakow for World Youth Day 2016. This year focused on the theme of mercy and the reference “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” (Matthew 5:7) was the centre of the celebration.

The pilgrimage began in the Philippines where we were placed in small groups to undertake different roles in the less fortunate communities on the island of Bohol. In 2013, an earthquake struck Bohol. Their communities were destroyed and 3 years later they are still trying to rebuild one step at a time with the limited money they have. My group and I were placed in a High School called Infant King Academy, for the week. We were fortunate enough to be immersed into their school environment and help by painting, teaching and playing sport with the students and teachers. I witnessed many acts of Mercy while I was there. One story that stood out to me was one of the students giving up her Valiterian medal to one of the Parramatta priests. This is one of the highest academic achievement awards you could get in Year 6 in the Philippines. These children have nothing yet they still have something to give and offer to others. The most precious and valuable possession this girl had and she gave it up. This just shows the merciful qualities that come from the heart of these people- generosity, hope, love, compassion, trust, and willing to make those around them happy. This experience gave me the opportunity to see the extraordinary in the ordinary.

The second half of my journey brought me to the city of Krakow in Poland. Once again the week was packed with different events and masses. Throughout the week we visited concentration camps, St Faustina’s Divine Mercy Chapel, St John Paul the Seconds Church and the salt mines. Each place had its own special significance to our faith. World youth day also served as a tribute to significant Polish religious figures. One of them included Saint John Paul II. He attracted many youth people to the church by beginning the celebration of World Youth day in 1986 in Rome. In 1981 an attempt was made on Pope John Paul’s life in Saint Peters Square. He was shot several times but didn’t die. In unbelievable act of mercy, he forgave the attempted assassin. From this, he intensified his pastoral commitments to others.

The second significant figure of World youth day this year was named Sister Faustina. It was through her that Jesus communicated to the world the great message of God’s mercy. We visited St. Faustina’s Divine Mercy Chapel where her body lay at rest in the white coffin. Jesus appeared to her and even spoke to her. Jesus told St. Faustina to have an image painted just as he looked when he appeared to her. At the bottom of the image, Jesus wanted a prayer written, which was “Jesus I trust in you.” He promised to give great graces through it. You can view this painting in St Michael’s church near the statue of Mary.

Another highlight of my time in Krakow was getting a selfie with Pope Francis. I waited 2 and a half hours to keep my prime position at the front behind the barriers ready to get a snap with the pope. It was well worth it. I was very blessed to get this. Pope Francis had many messages during his homilies. He spoke about accepting ourselves. God counts on us for who we are not what we have. God loves us more than we love ourselves. No one is insignificant but rather important. God is always cheering for us like our fans. The pope said that he is sad to see a young person without joy. Now is a time to love and to be loved.

On the second last night in Krakow, nearly 3 million pilgrims from around the world attended the closing mass and overnight vigil with the Pope. It was beautiful to see that many lit candles in the dark while we prayed.

I would like to thank Mrs Maka for asking me to go on this memorable pilgrimage, one in which I was able to celebrate my faith with so many others around the world.

**Miss Gabriella Herzog, Year 3 Teacher**

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**The Big Vegie Crunch: Vegetables are Funky**

St Michael’s were the lucky hosts to the Healthy Kids Association and The Vegetable Plot band on Thursday 1 September. Fruit and Vegie Month is to raise awareness of the benefits of eating fruit and vegetables. The Big Crunch was a state-wide promotion. Schools were asked to register their students and at 11:00 am all of them crunched a vegetable. Over 18,000 students across New South Wales participated to break last year’s record of 13,000 children eating vegies at the same time.

The students were also given advice on how to continue to crunch at home. For more information visit [www.healthy-kids.com.au](http://www.healthy-kids.com.au).

**Miss Amanda Jeffery, Year 5 Teacher**
**The Garden Story**

How many of you have heard about our new school veggie garden? This is how it all started . . .

Isabella Habib and Chloe Nolan took the idea to a Year 6 Student Leaders’ leaders meeting. They wanted to start a vegetable garden and supply the canteen with vegetables so that they could have healthier food options. A group was formed out of school leaders including Jackson Flood, Anneke van Zoggel, Patrick Horner, Ruby Carlick, Jessie Wahab, Georgia Cowling, Emma Boutros, Lachlan Dengate, Simone Pai, Dylan Thorpe, David Kennedy and Liam Donnelly.

A Garden Committee was formed to make the project happen. Pairs or threes researched and a report written: how much it would cost to get a vegetable garden, where to get it from, what vegetables to grow and how they could be used in the canteen. But the questions were: where to put it and how to pay for it?

After this the Garden Committee came up with the idea of having a worm farm and compost buckets to go to all the classrooms in the school to compost “Crunch n sip scraps. The food that could be composted are: banana peels, apple cores, a very unusual one is vacuum bags, and worms aren't allowed to eat much citrus.

The lemon tree near the chosen site was laden with fruit. The Garden Committee decided to have a stall at dismissal time. Amazing – we raised $73.50!

One member of the Committee suggested contacting Bunnings. An email was sent and a quick reply. Mrs Trudi Kury [community Involvement organiser from Bunnings] and Mrs Suzette Poole [a horticulturalist from Bunnings] made a short visit to check our garden site and make suggestions on preparation and to inform us on how Bunnings could assist. They also suggested finding out what veggies the canteen uses for our lunches. Mrs Tamas was interviewed to find out: carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Mr Watts removed a large plant and a palm before Bunnings delivered three garden beds! Mr Watts ordered organic garden soil and members of the Garden Committee helped him construct the veggie gardens. Every Garden Committee member helped shovel and carry bucket loads of soil to fill the gardens. The garden was ready for planting!

The following week Mrs Kury and Mrs Poole arrived with a van full of goodies! Gloves, hats and drink bottles [essential equipment for safe gardening], two worm farms and all that is necessary to get them started [mats and worms], fertilizers and seedlings. Mrs Poole showed how to construct the worm farms, how to maintain the worm farms and how to use the worm waste in the veggie garden.

The garden beds were prepared with the manure before Mrs Poole demonstrated how to plant the seedlings. Liquid fertilizer was prepared in the watering cans and the seedlings were watered. Mrs Poole and Mrs Kury also discussed with the Garden Committee how to grow the veggies, maintain the veggies and what seasons they grow to full potential. They gave many tips and tricks on how to use the veggie garden and they were very kind. We also have taught some Year 5s how to use the garden when our Year 6 leaves.

We are extremely grateful for all the support and donations from Bunnings. Without their generosity, St Michael’s would not have a vegetable garden at all. The Garden Committee is overwhelmed by Bunnings’ generosity and look forward to the continued partnership.

In the meantime, a small garden shed would be helpful. Watch out for another lemon sale!

*Written by the* 
**Garden Committee**
Father’s Day!

On Tuesday the 30th August we held our annual Gift Stall. One by one, all the classes came through to make their special selections for Dad.

At 7.30 am Wednesday 31st August we had our Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast. Dads, Grandads, Uncles and kids! Almost 500!

The breakfast was to acknowledge our fantastic Dads and a chance for them all to meet and chat. The bacon and egg sandwiches were going out faster than they could be cooked!

We had an army of volunteers and P&F committee on the days of the Gift Stall and BBQ. Our sincerest thanks to those that came to help and those who jumped in to help on the day. We couldn’t do it without you all.

The P&F would like to thank the Annabel family for their kind donation of some bacon & eggs for our BBQ.

www.facebook.com/PFStMichaelsPrimaryBaulkhamHills
Please go and “LIKE” our page for updates & news!

If you have any concerns or feedback, please email: pandfstmichaels@gmail.com - We thank you for your continued support!
OLMC Parramatta
Open Morning Tour

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for Life at our Open Morning Tour on September 5, 2016.

Tour the College and enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ with the College Leadership Team and get a sense of the rich tradition and cutting edge education at OLMC Parramatta.

The College is now enrolling for 2018.

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

Granny Flats Australia

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Hip Hop, Acrobatics

Locations: Norwest | Bella Vista | Crestwood | Winston Hills
Enquiries: 1300 823 239 or info@taniasdancing.com.au
www.taniasdancing.com.au

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