From the Principal

Dear Parents

2017 Kindergarten Orientation

Next Tuesday 15 November and Thursday 17 November are our Orientation days for Kindergarten 2017. We look forward to the children spending time with the Kindergarten teachers and to welcoming our Kindergarten 2017 parents.

We would like to invite our Kindergarten parents to remain at the school for two important workshops which will be held in the school hall while your child is at their morning orientation session. The Literacy and Numeracy workshops will be held on both mornings only. These workshops will give you some very practical strategies which will help your child transition into formal learning.

P&F Trivia Night

On Saturday 19 November at 7.00 pm parents and St Michael’s staff are invited to attend the P&F Trivia Night. We look forward to this opportunity to spend time together enjoying each other’s company and challenging ourselves to answer the questions correctly! We thank the P&F Committee for all their efforts in organising this community event. It is not too late to organise your table or join a table. Please book your tables by Tuesday 15 November. Further information is contained in this Newsletter.

Finding the right perspective when looking at your child’s report

We are fast approaching the end of the year and teachers will be writing your child’s report in the next few weeks. It is important for us as parents to have a balanced view on where reports fit into our understanding of our children and who they are academically, socially and emotionally.

There are children who struggle academically and parents who worry disproportionately about their school performance. Some children worry excessively about grades. We, as parents and educators, want our children to work hard, do their best and learn without buckling under the pressure. It’s tough to strike that balance. Here are some ways to keep things in perspective.

- Everyone is not getting straight As. Our job is to help our children focus on more important goals, such as accruing knowledge, determining strengths and interests and developing a love of learning. You don’t need perfect results to be successful.

- Yes we do want to see academic rigour, but not at the expense of students leading balanced lives. University may suit some; a trades course others. Some may by-pass further education completely. A focus on the value and dignity of the individual will help children grow and make good choices for their futures.

- We need to foster independence and give our children autonomy and the freedom to experiment, problem-solve, self-advocate and make mistakes. Hovering over them may help them do better in school, but it’s not the best preparation for when they will have to stand on their own two feet. Overly protective parenting undermines children’s competence, independence and academic potential.

- If school is a struggle, point out to your child other strengths and urge them to look beyond academics for a sense of accomplishment. Set reasonable expectations and try not to compare them to other students. Shift the focus to developing traits such as integrity, resilience, critical thinking, perseverance and teamwork, all of which will be equally, if not more, important when they enter the workforce. We short-change these components of a successful life when we overemphasise grades.

- Hammering home the point that an assessment is critical to future success rarely helps students. Instead of asking children how they scored on an assessment, focus on effort and growth. There are many paths to success, and the goal should be to match students with the right fit. Children need to define success on their own terms. After all, success is measured over the course of a lifetime, not just at the end of a school year.

“God our Father, the qualities I see lived out so well in some people are a reflection of your own goodness, and I know that I have much to learn from other people who reflect your image and likeness in different ways. Inspire me to respect others fully as my equals, seeing and loving in them what you see and love in them. Amen”

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka
Social Skills and Mantras Program

**Term 4 Week 6: Integrity**
- Being honest and following your principles.

**Term 4 Week 7: Tolerance**
- Being able to accept the differences and opinions of other people.

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**Prayers**

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Maka and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law recently.

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

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**Enrolments 2017**

**Years K-6 enrolments**

Interviews are currently taking place for children who will join St Michael’s in Years K-6, 2017. For further information, please contact the school office on 9639 0518.

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**Families leaving St Michael’s at the end of the year**

If your family is not returning to St Michael’s for Years 1-6 in 2017, please let Mrs Maka, Principal, know as soon as possible in writing.

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**OPAL Bus Passes**

Re-applying for opal passes—Year 2 2016 students

Children going from Year 2 2016 to Year 3 2017 must reapply for their opal card in Term 4 2016. New passes are not automatically issued for children going into Year 3. Please go to the website: transportnsw.info/school-students, complete the form and return to school office as soon as possible.

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**Baby News**

Congratulations to the Thomas family on the recent birth of their baby girl, sister to Harrington (5 Green), Isaac (2 Red), Eliott (K Green).

Congratulations to the Prior family on the recent birth of their baby girl, sister to Daniel (1 Green).

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**Back path**

Please ensure that you walk to the back path to collect your children in the afternoon, particularly children in the younger grades. Children in younger grades without a sibling need to be collected by their parents at the back gate. Any child not picked up by a parent is brought back to Slow and Go.

For the consideration of our neighbours, please move out of the area as soon as possible and ensure that your children are not running through lawns or playing in the creek area. Please be mindful of the cars that are moving in and out of this area and the supervision of your children to ensure their safety at all times.

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**Driving courtesy**

Please ensure that you are modelling courteous and safe driving practices in our school area as we have received complaints of a few parents aggressively cutting into the Stop and Drop line in the morning.

It is concerning, especially when children are observing this behaviour. Please be mindful and respectful of all in our community.

We thank you for your support and understanding.
**Calendar Dates**

**Week 5**  
Fri 11 Nov  Whole School Remembrance Day Non Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am

**Week 6**  
Tue 15 Nov  Kindergarten Orientation  
4 Red & 4 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am  
2017 Parramatta Basketball Trials  
Wed 16 Nov  1 Blue & 1 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am  
2017 Parramatta Softball Trials  
Thu 17 Nov  Kindergarten Orientation  
1 Yellow & 1 Red Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Fri 18 Nov  School Assembly 9.00 am  
Sat 19 Nov  P&F Trivia Night 7.30 pm—Christmas Theme

**Week 7**  
Tue 22 Nov  2 Red & 2 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Wed 23 Nov  6 Red & 6 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Band concert 6 pm School Hall  
Thu 24 Nov  6 Blue & 6 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Fri 25 Nov  School Assembly 9.00 am  
Year 4 Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am

**Week 8**  
Tue 29 Nov  K Blue & K Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am  
5 Yellow & 5 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Wed 30 Nov  5 Blue & 5 Red Parish Mass 9.15 am  
P&F Annual General Meeting 7.00 pm  
Thu 1 Dec  1 Green & 1 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Parent Volunteer Thank You Morning Tea 10-11 am  
Fri 2 Dec  Assembly Awards 9.00 am

**Week 9**  
Mon 5 Dec  Years 1-3 Swimming Programme  
Tue 6 Dec  Years 1-3 Swimming Programme  
K Red & K Green Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Choir at Epping Club 10.00 am  
Wed 7 Dec  Years 1-3 Swimming Programme  
4 Red & 4 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Thu 8 Dec  Years 1-3 Swimming Programme  
4 Green & 4 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Fri 9 Dec  Years 1-3 Swimming Programme  
Assembly Awards 9.00 am  
Year 5 PBL Presentations 9.30-11.00 am

**Week 10**  
Mon 12 Dec  End of Year Thanksgiving Mass 10.15 am  
Students & Citizens of the Term Awards 2.30 pm  
Tue 13 Dec  Years 2-6 Swimming Carnival—Waves  
Wed 14 Dec  2 Blue & 2 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Year 6 Graduation & Award Ceremony 6.15 pm School Hall  
Year 6 Graduation Eucharistic Liturgy 7.30 pm Parish Church  
Thu 15 Dec  Year 6 Aquatic Centre  
3 Green & 3 Red Parish Mass 9.15 am  
Fri 16 Dec  K-6 St Michael’s Christmas Story 10.15 am Parish Church  
Promotions Afternoon 2.00 pm  
Term 4 concludes for students 3.10 pm

**Week 11**  
Mon 19 Dec –  
Tue 20 Dec  Staff Development Days

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**5 Green News**

As part of Mission Month, this term, 5J Green researched some Australian charities that follow the mission of Jesus. We have created our own presentations on charities including the Starlight Children’s Foundation, the Smith Family, and Meals on Wheels. We have seen what these charities and their volunteers do to follow Jesus’ mission of helping the poor and needy. We have studied the Catholic Mission website and focused on the message they are sending. This year, the theme of Mission month is “Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). We have seen the unfortunate circumstances some children are faced with. The focus this year is on Cambodia and the lack of education for the poor children. As part of our studies we were very lucky to be able to Facetime with Miss Jeffery’s cousin Hannah; who has worked in an orphanage in Cambodia and saw first-hand the difficulties these children have each day. It was an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn more about these children. Sometimes, the problem feels too big for us to solve; but Hannah showed us that one person can make a difference. We can now see that we don’t have to be rich or powerful to make a difference in our world. We just have to follow the mission of Jesus and serve “the least of these.” This mission is especially important in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**Band News**

Is your child interested in joining the band next year? Would you like more information on the School Band program? The School Band is now taking enrolments for 2017 and participation is open to all students who are currently in year 2-5. No prior experience is required.

Students will have recently attended a Concert by the band and Teaching Services Australia (TSA) staff demonstrating the variety of instruments available for tuition next year. They will also have received a green Instrumental Band Program—Introduction form. Students who return this tear-off form, Expression of Interest will be given the opportunity to test a variety of instruments to help them find the one most suited to them. They will then be given a comprehensive Enrolment Pack with the results of this instrument test.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. TSA is committed to providing a quality concert band program, with full band rehearsals, great value tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire.

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**2017**

Friday 27 January and Monday 30 January  
Mathematic Assessment Interviews

Tuesday 31 January—Years 1-6 Commence  
Wednesday 1 February—Kindergarten commence
Congratulations to all of the children who participated in the Mathematics competition this year. Well done to the following children on their achievements.

**High Distinction**

- **Year 3:** Cooper Crawford, Sienna Gwynne, Zach Haddad
- **Year 4:** Mischa D’Souza, Mitchell Essex, Sarah Zammit
- **Year 5:** William Cowling, Stephanie Wong Kee, Katherine Liu, Annabelle Mison, Angelina Woodward

**Distinction**

- **Year 3:** William Hayek, William Khoury, Dylan Senewiratne
- **Year 4:** Nathan Hayek, William Khoury, Dylan Senewiratne
- **Year 5:** Nathan Hayek, William Khoury, Dylan Senewiratne

**Credit**

- **Year 3:** Joshua Stevens, Joshvin Prakash, Reagan Smith, Emily Ward, Lachlan Carey, Naden Cooray, Aidan Donnelly, Jacob Kos, Audrey Martinez, Lily Roberts, Georgia Scollard, Lachlan Smith, Bailey Wright
- **Year 4:** Joshua Stevens, Joshvin Prakash, Reagan Smith, Emily Ward, Lachlan Carey, Naden Cooray, Aidan Donnelly, Jacob Kos, Audrey Martinez, Lily Roberts, Georgia Scollard, Lachlan Smith, Bailey Wright
- **Year 5:** Jacob Jones, Erik Maslic, Dulansa Rajawasam, Vince Romeo, Harrington Thomas

**Merit**

- **Year 3:** Elie Chammas, Holly Martin
- **Year 4:** Brendan Huynh, Kaitlin Giffney, Cheng-Lin Lai, Imogen Leahy, Caitlyn Lynch, Rylee Robinson, Amy Schier
- **Year 5:** Dean Komadina, Cooper Lindsay, Frederick Skaf
- **Year 6:** Georgia Cowling

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**Week 1 Students of the Week**

- **KBlue:** Chloe Carey
- **KGreen:** Leon Cooray
- **KRed:** Declan Woods
- **KYellow:** Max Miller
- **1Blue:** Grace Michaels
- **1Green:** Isabelle Hughes
- **1Red:** Zac Montesin
- **1Yellow:** Olivia Terlikar
- **2Blue:** Stella Azares
- **2Green:** Abigail Chan
- **2Red:** Isaac Thomas
- **2Yellow:** Jack Webb
- **3Blue:** Patrick Johns
- **3Green:** Charlize Olic
- **3Red:** Rawson Emanuel
- **3Yellow:** Alexander Iordanou
- **4Blue:** Kaitlyn Nada
- **4Green:** Mikiya Eleter
- **4Red:** Kitvaria Mkali
- **4Yellow:** Alexia Anezis
- **5Blue:** Amelia Harvie
- **5Green:** Lachlan Tinney
- **5Red:** Kyra Lau
- **5Yellow:** Oscar Nowak Allcorn
- **6Blue:** Max Ryan
- **6Green:** Matthew Apps
- **6Red:** Leoni Giannotti
- **6Yellow:** Bianca Zariello

**Music**

- Brendan Huynh, Cleo Papadopoulos

**Sport**

- Lachlan Kable

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**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2016**

**MATHEMATICS**

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- **Year 6:** Georgia Cowling
Dear Parent/s

St Michael’s school would like to say thank you to all of our parent helpers by inviting you to join us for morning tea on:

Thursday 1st December from 10.00 am—11.00 am

For catering purposes, please contact the school office by Friday 25th November.

We look forward to this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work and efforts during 2016.

Principal

RSVP 25th November 2016

Please call 9639 0518 or email stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Please join us for a free event on

PARENTING IN THE 21st CENTURY

Guest speaker: Catherine Redwood, CatholicCare Social Services, will share insights from the perspective of a working Mum, Teacher & Family Counsellor.

Q & A opportunity at end of presentation.

Dates: Friday 25 November & Friday 2 December.

Time: 7 pm—9 pm

Venue: Marie Therese Building, St Michael’s Parish, Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills (off-street parking available)

Childminding and activities by WWCC volunteers will be available for any children not attending the Youth Group.

Supper will be served.

Donation box provided to help us continue to facilitate seminars.

To reserve your spot and for number of children to be minded (for one or both evenings) please RSVP to St Michael’s Parish by 20 November on 9639 0598 or email: admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

WHERE LIFE BEGINS
& LOVE NEVER ENDS

Mercy International Association
Like friendly competition?

Mum & Dad’s night out!

Christmas Theme!

Saturday 19th November
7.30pm - School Hall

Like friendly competition? Christmas theme! Be creative!

• $10 per person. Create your own table (10 per table).
• Or we can place you on a table.
• BYO alcohol and nibbles.
• 18+ years only.
• Sorry no children - it’s Mum & Dad’s night out!
• Bring family, neighbours friends, work colleagues, other parents at the school, sports clubs.

Games • Prizes + More!

• Pick a table name and dress up Christmas theme! Be creative!
• Fill in the form on the back of this page!
• Person initiating the table (Table Coordinator) to send cheque, or cash with completed details on the back of this note to school by Tuesday 15th November.
Mum & Dad’s night out!

Trivia Night
Saturday 19th November
7.30pm School Hall

Please return this form to school by Tuesday 15th November
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” $100.

– OR –

☐ Cash $100.

All envelopes must be thoroughly sealed.

Total: $_______
2nd HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE IS BACK!

Tuesday 15th & Thursday 17th November from 2.30pm in the Hall

We invite families to donate back any no longer needed school uniforms, summer or winter. Please bring them to the school office on FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER.

All proceeds go back to the school towards educational resources for the children. Please email any questions to pandfstmichaels@gmail.com

Attention Kindy Parents! Come down after orientation

Limited supply across most sizes! Grab a bargain!
Hello Families!

We are excited to announce the production of our first school cookbook! We are now taking pre-orders.

Our cookbook is filled with family recipes from our school community. Our St Michael’s families have also shared why these recipes are meaningful to them. It is A5 size (210mm x 148.5mm), mainly a colour glossy book with meal photos that is also spiral bound so it lays flat when in use.

This book would make an excellent Christmas gift and school keepsake.

There will only be one print run before Christmas with limited quantities.

Any questions? Please email Sally Carey - ccarey74@optusnet.com.au

Please return to the office in a WELL SEALED envelope “P&F Cookbook” 😊

Child’s name:.....................................................................................................................................Class:...........................................................................................

Your email address:..........................................................................................................................................................................................

Your mobile:....................................................................................................................................................................................................

No. cookbooks ordered:.................................................. x $20 per book = Total enclosed $......................................................

☐ Cash    or    ☐ Cheque payable to “St Michael's P&F” please.
St Michael’s Skoolbag App

Our communication tool—Skoolbag—enables us to get alerts out to parents quickly. We 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.

Early collection of children from school

If there is a need to collect your child early from school, please send a note to the classroom teacher in the morning and proceed to the school office when you arrive. On your arrival at the school office, staff will contact the class teacher and your child will then meet you at the school office. While you are waiting for your child, you will be asked to sign them out of the school.

Parents are not permitted to go directly to classrooms or other areas to collect their children.

Recess is from 11.00—11.30 am and Lunch is from 1.00—1.40 pm.

If you are collecting your children around Recess and Lunch, we suggest you arrive at the school prior to or after the Recess and Lunch times.

Please allow plenty of time as it will take a few minutes to contact your child, have them pack their bag and walk to the school office.