Dear Parents

Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of a new year in our Church and a new season of preparation before Christmas. We call this season Advent and it lasts for four Sundays. The word “advent” means coming. Advent takes up this theme in looking forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas and especially in looking towards the future coming of Christ.

Advent invites us to prepare for the commemoration of God’s coming by taking time to have a closer look inside ourselves away from the busy outside. This looking inside is not about remorse or regret, nor about listing ways of life over the past year that could have been different; it’s not about wishing we were better people. It’s about forward movement, getting new bearings, relying more on God for directions. It’s about a fresh start, getting closer to the “fire” and the “light” that are God’s love and compassion. Advent is a time to “Rejoice, let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” (St Paul, Phil. 4:4,5)

Hot weather

With the change in the weather we would ask your assistance in reminding the children to drink plenty of water. Many children aren’t consuming enough liquids, especially water, and that lack of hydration could affect their physical and mental health.

Proper hydration is crucial for physical processes such as circulation, metabolism, temperature regulation and waste removal. Excessive dehydration can cause serious problems but even mild dehydration can cause headaches, irritability, poor circulation, reduced physical performance and poorer mental functioning.

However, the good news is that this is a problem with a simple solution. By helping children drink more plain water, we can improve their hydration, which may allow many children to feel better throughout the day and do better in school. By increasing water intake by even 1 cup a day, hydration is improved.

Some tips to help boost children’s water intake:

- Keep water cold. Add frozen water bottles to a child’s lunch pack. The bottles will keep the lunch cold and thaw throughout the day so the water is cool to drink. Cold water often tastes better to children than water at room temperature.
- Don’t rely on a child’s thirst. Thirst is not always a good indicator of hydration. Children need to have access to water throughout the day.
- If a child dislikes water, try infusing water with fruit (such as lemons), vegetables (such as cucumbers), or herbs (such as mint) to give the water a flavour without adding extra sugars.

The children have access to water at all times throughout their day at school. During these hot summer months it may be advisable to supply your child with two drink bottles. This could be a good way for you to know how much your child has been drinking during the school day.

Canteen

Mrs Judy Tamas who has worked as the Canteen Manager at St Michael’s for many years is retiring at the end of the year. We thank Mrs Tamas for her hard work and the support she has given the children and teachers. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Our school canteen will be outsourced from 2017 onwards. The process for calling for tenders to operate the canteen will take place. Our aim in finding a suitable company will be to ensure that the quality of food, hours of operation and pricing remain the same or as close as possible to our current canteen. This isn’t an easy decision but reflects the recommendations made to us by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.

Reflection

“I shall pass this way but once;
Any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being;
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

(Etienne de Grellet (1773-1855); Quaker Missionary)

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.
Religious Education

First Communion
Congratulatio ns to the children of our Parish who made their First Communion recently. Thank you to all those who enabled the children to reach this important stage in their faith journey—parents, facilitators, home hosts and to all who in any way assisted in the children’s preparation and in the ceremonies to celebrate First Communion. A special thank you to Trish Finucane (Sacramental Coordinator) and the Sacramental Team for your continued commitment in facilitating, once again, the preparation of the children for this important sacrament.

Vincent De Paul Society—Christmas 2016 Hamper Appeal
The St Michael’s conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will again provide Christmas hampers to needy families in our community. Profiles of the families will be displayed in the foyer of the church over the next two weeks. Your generous support for the appeal will be gratefully appreciated.

We are asking each family to donate non-perishable food items to help those in need throughout our parish and surrounding areas. Some examples are: Christmas cake, puddings, biscuits, tinned ham, any tinned food, cereals, soft drinks, cordials, juice. All items will be kept in the classroom and collected on Friday 2 December. Please send items in to your child’s class before Friday 2 December. Thank you.

Xt3 Advent Calendar
This year’s free Xt3 Advent Calendar looks at the nativity scene through the eyes of a child. The website and app contain videos, meditations and podcasts for the Christmas season. Available on the First Sunday of Advent: www.xt3.com/advent

Mr David Ison, Religious Education Co-ordinator

Social Skills and Mantras Program

Term 4 Week 8: Forgiveness
- Ceasing to have bad feelings against another for what they may have done to you.

Term 4 Week 9: Independence
- Having the ability to act and work alone without the need for help from others.

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers those in our community who may be unwell or suffering at the moment.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

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.

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.

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.

Photographs taken at school

From time to time photographs may be taken of your child whilst they are at school. These photos may be used in school Newsletters, publications and the school website. They may also be used by Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese in their publications and website. If you do not wish your child’s photo to be taken, please contact the school office on 9639 0518.
**Staff Development Days**

Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December will be professional learning days for the staff. There is no school for the children on this day.

The Staff of St Michael’s will be participating in CPR and First Aid Awareness training.

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**Calendar Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 22 Nov</td>
<td>2 Red &amp; 2 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band concert 6 pm School Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 24 Nov</td>
<td>6 Blue &amp; 6 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Nov</td>
<td>School Assembly 9.00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 29 Nov</td>
<td>K Blue &amp; K Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Nov</td>
<td>5 Yellow &amp; 5 Green Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;F Annual General Meeting 6.00 pm (Time change)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 1 Dec</td>
<td>1 Green &amp; 1 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Volunteer Thank You Morning Tea 10-11 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2 Dec</td>
<td>Assembly Awards 9.00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Eucharistic Liturgy 11.45 am (Date change)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 5 Dec</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 6 Dec</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Red &amp; K Green Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir at Epping Club 10.00 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7 Dec</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Red &amp; 4 Blue Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 8 Dec</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Green &amp; 4 Yellow Parish Mass 9.15 am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9 Dec</td>
<td>Years 1-3 Swimming Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Awards 9.00 am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 PBL Presentations 9.30-11.00 am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19 Dec – Tue 20 Dec</td>
<td>Staff Development Days—Pupil Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Calendar Dates—2017**

**Term 1**

Friday, 27 January to Friday, 7 April

*Mathematics Assessment Interviews – K-6:*

Friday 27 January & Monday 30 January

Years 1-6 commence – Tuesday 31 January

Kindergarten commence – Wednesday 1 February

**Term 2**

Monday 24 April to Friday, 30 June

**Term 3**

Monday, 17 July to Friday, 22 September

**Term 4**

Monday, 9 October to Tuesday, 19 December

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**Thank You Morning Tea for Parent Volunteers**

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.

Kindest regards

Mrs Danuta Maka

Principal

RSVP 25th November 2016

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

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**OOSH**

OOSH are closing at 6.15 pm on Tuesday 20 December and reopening 7.15am on Monday 16 January.

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**School Banking**

The last day for school banking for the year will be Tuesday 6 December.

If you have any rewards to be redeemed, please send them in next week with your banking and hopefully we will receive them from the bank before school finishes for the year. Please be patient. As soon as we receive the rewards they are sent to the child’s classroom.

I would like to wish all our School Banking families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to having you back with us again in 2017.

School banking will resume on Tuesday 13 February 2017.

A very BIG thanks to Mandie and Pauline for helping with the banking this year. It certainly makes it easier with a couple of extra hands.

Thanks and Merry Christmas

Kim, Mandie, Pauline – School Banking Team

PS Pauline will be leaving our Team at the end of the year. If you think you might like to join our team, please call Kim 0409 741 465.

No experience necessary. Two hours on a Tuesday morning is all it takes.
**What is Yellow?**

Yellow is the sun
The shimmer in the darkness
It’s the smile on your face
And the sheen of grape jelly.
Purple is the butterflies,
And sometimes the sky
When purple is a feeling
You describe it as an injury.
Purple is a birthday cake,
You describe it as an injury
When purple is a feeling
It’s the smile on your face
In plain sight.

Yellow blazing all around me
A burning fire in my heart
The beachy breeze
The sun set
Crimson
Hot nights
The reflection on the ocean
The sand between my toes
Pineapple on a hot summer’s day
Tasty, sweet and sticky
Butter dripping off your pancakes
It takes away the sadness
Every now and then.

For people to drink,
To make juice,
When the weather changes.
Where all the celebrations are made.
When you’re around it.
You get all happy.

Purple is a birthday cake,
You describe it as an injury
When purple is a feeling
It’s the smile on your face
Is a grape being mashed,
And a grape.
An Amethyst,
A Starfish,
And sometimes the sky
What is Purple?

**What is Blue?**

Blue is the water,
And the ice,
It is the smell,
Of ocean waves,
And a blueberry,
Sometimes the land is blue
It is a coolness,
Of all things around me,
A butterfly fluttering in the sky,
Blue is me,
The sweet smell of a cup of blueberry sorbet.
A kind of cheese,
It’s a fish swimming,
And a jelly flavour.
The sound of blue is a water trickle,
Blue is the world,
It is the sky,
After the rain,
All pretty and bright,
Again.

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**Literacy Tip**

"Are we there yet?"

Use the time spent in the car or bus for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of? When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.

Tips are taken from a website called Reading Rockets—
http://www.readingrockets.org
2017 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

Any Primary students enrolled in Parramatta Diocesan Schools in Year 5 and 6 in 2017 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One/Two in 2017 (Winter Sports - AFL, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League League, Rugby Union & Touch).

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2017 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials in 2017 will be held in the following sports: "AFL (boys), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), & Touch(B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the 2017 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY and MUST be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. Please complete all fields and especially “Representative Experience”.

Please ensure that the SUBMIT button has been pressed upon completing the form and notification email will be sent to the parent/guardian listed on the form confirming this expression of interest has been received.

Your child’s school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

Winter Sports Registrations close Friday 3rd February 5pm.

Please contact your school sports coordinator for any further information.

Yours In Sport,
Margaret Thornton
Teaching Educator – Primary Sport
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta
Sensational night with a great crowd! Thank you all who came and supported this event! If you build it, they will come! And they did! Well prepared with costumes, nibbles, drinks, tablecloths and decorations! In addition to the crafty trivia questions, we had the ever popular coin toss game to get as close as possible to a lovely bottle of drink, and amongst other games, the hilarious paper plane and heads or tails which always gets everyone in hysterics. Our mystery key raffle Pizza Oven (from our major sponsor Bunnings Castle Hill) was won by one of our teachers Colleen Smith. Congrats! And our main raffle prize was won by our “Elfie” Natalie Grove. Over $3000 worth of prizes won on the night. So many kind businesses and individuals including local business Mums donated gifts for our prize pool. A huge thank you to them. A night like this can’t be pulled together without the committee & and helpers from our P&F. A very grateful thank you to you all.
More Trivia Night Photos!
Annual General Meeting 6pm
Wednesday 30th November 2016 in the Staffroom

1) Report on 2016 (incl. Trivia Night)
2) Financial Report
3) Donation to School
4) Voting

Light refreshments will be available

Voting

All executive positions in the P&F Committee;
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
are vacated and a new Committee is voted in for 2017.

Please return the note below to the office’s P&F mailbox by Tuesday 29th November 2016. Sorry, anonymous forms cannot be accepted

My Name................................................................................... Child/Class........................................................................

Nominations for Committee 2017

☐ I nominate for -
President...............................................................................
Vice President......................................................................
Secretary...............................................................................
Treasurer..............................................................................

☐ I would like to be on the General Committee
and actively participate in the P&F
My Name.............................................................................
Email....................................................................................
Phone..................................................................................

☐ I would like to be on the Helper Database and
receive an email or SMS when help is needed
(there is no obligation if you can’t help at that time).
My Name.............................................................................
Email....................................................................................
Phone..................................................................................
Dear parents and carers

Please find below the 2017 Diocesan school fees schedule which includes a modest 3.0% increase on the fees from 2016. Every effort has been made to keep the fee increase to a minimum and I am pleased to report that the increase is less than the 3.3% education CPI increase for the same period.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 3.0% increase to ensure we have consistency across our Diocese. School-based fees cover the costs of important things such as technology and school administration.

I appreciate that from time to time, some families might experience financial challenges. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to remind you that confidential fee support is available through:

- discounts for families with multiple siblings in our schools
- flexible payment plans
- hardship concession policies for families in need
- the Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- the Byawalla Co-contribution Scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Tuition Fees - 2017

The 2017 diocesan tuition fees are outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUAL FEES</th>
<th>No charge for 4th+ children</th>
<th>1st Child (100%)</th>
<th>2nd Child (75%)</th>
<th>3rd Child (50%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Kindergarten</td>
<td>$1,131</td>
<td>$849</td>
<td>$567</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1 – 6</td>
<td>$1,461</td>
<td>$1,095</td>
<td>$732</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 8</td>
<td>$2,028</td>
<td>$1,521</td>
<td>$1,014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Years 9 – 10</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
<td>$1,689</td>
<td>$1,125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 11 – 12</td>
<td>$2,874</td>
<td>$2,157</td>
<td>$1,437</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2017 term rate for each of the first three terms is outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM FEES</th>
<th>Charged in Terms 1, 2 &amp; 3</th>
<th>1st Child (100%)</th>
<th>2nd Child (75%)</th>
<th>3rd Child (50%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Kindergarten</td>
<td>$377</td>
<td>$283</td>
<td>$189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1 – 6</td>
<td>$487</td>
<td>$365</td>
<td>$244</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 8</td>
<td>$676</td>
<td>$507</td>
<td>$338</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Years 9 – 10</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$563</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 11 – 12</td>
<td>$958</td>
<td>$719</td>
<td>$479</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diocesan Building Levy - 2017

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas, and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. This levy has replaced the various building levies that parents previously paid to school building funds (managed by either parishes or schools). **The levy for 2017 is $756 per family, payable in three equal instalments of $252 payable in Terms 1, 2 and 3.**

Annual Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents - 2017

The Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents for 2017 **is $1,869 per student, payable in three equal instalments of $623 in Terms 1, 2 and 3.** The fee applies to new students on the following visa numbers: 173, 401, 402, 411, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 456, 457, 459, 462, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 884, 944, 956, 976 and 977 including where any of these are the preceding visas for families on bridging visas 010 to 090.

Families charged this fee in 2016 will continue to be charged on a per family basis to the eldest student whilst the family has continuous current students.

Thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education. Please be assured that we will continue to provide exciting learning experiences for them within our Catholic faith environment.

With warmest wishes

[Signature]

Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Parramatta of Diocese