From the Principal

Dear Parents

Parent / Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all our families who attended our parent information nights. It is very important that all of us have a clear understanding of the learning taking place in each class and how we can support our children to maximise their learning. By now all of our children would have a learning goal worked out for the term. Please talk to your child/children about their goal and what they need to do to achieve it.

As always we look forward to working in partnership with our families. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any concerns about their learning or wellbeing. We will also contact you firstly by way of your child’s diary or a phone call. Appointments can also be made with Mrs Knispel or Mrs Maka should you require further clarification on an issue.

Uniform Policy

Thank you to all our families who support our school uniform policy and have sent their children to school in the correct uniform. We very much appreciate your support in promoting the children’s pride in wearing the correct school uniform.

P&F

Thank you to the P&F for their very generous support of the school and for organising the Kindergarten Teddy Bears’ Picnic. What a wonderful way to build community. It was a fantastic day for our Kindergarten children and their families. Thank you to Mrs Patricia Lee for coordinating the Year 6 leaders to take part in the day. We thank the Year 6 leaders for being wonderful advocates for St Michael’s at this event.

P&F Committee 2016
President - Marina Grainger
Vice President - Melanie Barton
Secretary - Phil Grainger
Treasurer - Alison Gwynne

General Committee
Sally Carey, Kate Flood, Natalie Grove, Bernard Fisher, Melissa Small, Brooke Boswell, Danielle Henson, Christine Faulkner, Veronica Sharma, Kate Timbs, Jennifer Ison, Michelle Montesin, Lydia Liu

Slow & Go and Stop & Drop

Thank you for your patience and support for Slow & Go and Stop & Drop through the church car park. Both morning and afternoon sessions seem to be working well. Please remember the volunteers in the morning and assist them by ensuring your child is ready to be assisted out of the car and directed to the new entry of the school. Bags should be with your child and not in the boot.

Parish car park

There are three reserved spots in the car park. One is for anyone with a disability and two are for the office administration staff. Thank you for being respectful and not parking in these areas unless they apply to you.

School crossing

Please be mindful of the children and other pedestrians on the pedestrian crossing in Chapel Lane. Please slow down and wait for the children and other pedestrians to cross before you drive through the crossing, particularly in the peak times.

Please do not stop on or before the crossing to let your children alight from your vehicle. Not only is it extremely dangerous but it is illegal. See information on parking around schools and the penalties that apply contained in this week’s Newsletter.

Lent

There is nothing like the prospect of death to get things into perspective. At those times in our lives when we experience the death of someone who is dear to us or face our own imminent death, it takes only a moment to realise what really matters is Life. That is what Lent is about. It is about getting things into perspective. It focusses our attention on what is really worth living for, on what life is about and where we are heading.

Lent is the time to take a kind of maintenance check on our self control. It is about letting go and freeing ourselves of the things that distract and control us. It is a means of cleansing our hearts and minds.

Let us set our minds and hearts on the things that matter, making more room for God and others in our lives.

“Lord Jesus, Son of the living God, be merciful to us sinners!
We are formed from the dust of the earth, yet you recognise in us great dignity and promise.
Forgive our failings and lead us to the living waters of rebirth.

Danuta Maka
Religious Education

This term all classes are looking at ways they can show mercy in their daily lives.

What is Mercy?
In God, mercy is an attribute we often call “Divine Mercy.” Divine Mercy is God’s infinite and burning love for his creatures that provides for our needs and overcomes our miseries. As you can see in the image above, the red and white rays of Jesus’ mercy flows to us from the furnace of his Sacred Heart. The most supreme act of God’s mercy was the sending of Jesus to die for our sins. On the cross, when his heart was pierced, blood and water (red and white) flowed from it for the salvation of all mankind.

Works of mercy

“I was hungry and you gave me food;
I was thirsty and you gave me drink.”

In the first week of Lent we focus on the first two corporal works of mercy. These works of mercy deal with the most fundamental needs of our bodies. Jesus experienced this during his time in the desert. Despite their importance, many people around the world struggle to access these most basic needs of food and water often due to natural disasters, war, corruption or poverty.

The Corporal Works of Mercy call us to kindness and consideration to others.

Social Skills and Mantras Program

Week 5: P from Respect
Play safe, be safe.

Week 6: E from Respect
• Earn St Michael’s a good name.

Week 7: C from Respect
• Cooperate with all members of the St Michael’s community.

Week 8: T from Respect
• Think before I act. Know what triggers anger

Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers the Essex family on the passing of Mitchell (3 Red) and Madeleine’s (1 Green) paternal grandmother.

Please keep in your prayers the Urquhart family on the passing of Matthew’s (3 Blue) paternal grandfather.

Please keep in your prayers the Harvie family on the passing of Amelia (5 Blue) and Elizabeth’s (3 Green) maternal great grandmother.

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

SKOOLBAG

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.

The Newsletter continues to be published fortnightly. Parents will receive a weekly email with the link to the school calendar. All other communication via letter/email will continue in 2016.

Alert category changes 2016:
• Please change your alert categories to the current Year/Grade that your child is in so that you receive the correct alerts. (eg if your child was in Year 1 last year, please change the category to Year 2 for this year). The Kindy 2015 category will be deleted shortly.
• New “BUS” category—if your child catches the bus, please include this category for information on late running bus alerts.

2017 ENROLMENTS

School Open Morning for 2017 Enrolments
Tuesday 15 March from 9.30 am to 11.00 am

Enrolment packages for Kindergarten 2017 can be collected from the school office from 1 March. Please contact the school office on 9639 0518 for further information.

Mr David Ison, REC Coordinator
Parish Mass Cancellations - Week 5

Due to an upgrade of the sound system in the Parish Church and the presence of scaffolding in the Church we have to advise that from Monday 22 February to Thursday 25 February, the children in 1 Red & 1 Yellow and Year 2 will not participate in the Parish Masses previously advertised.

The Year 2 Non-Eucharistic Liturgy on Friday 26 February will take place in the School Hall at 10.15 am.

Music News

Kindergarten children will perform a song they have learnt in Music at the Week 5 Assembly (Friday 26 February).

News from 4 Blue

SIX WORD STORIES FOR LENT

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent. Year 4 Blue students have written ‘six word stories’ to try and capture the meaning of LENT.

Lent is for forgiving and praying - Robyn Deiri
Lent is for fasting - Stephanie Wong Kee
During Lent we pray for Jesus - Blake Fitzgerald
Lent is a time to pray - Tyron Halpenny
Lent is a time for preparation – Zachary Hume
In Lent we pray to God - William Cowling
Easter is the end of Lent - Angie McLean
In Lent you love God deeply - David Haddad
In Lent we remember Jesus’ sacrifice – Cooper Hume
Ash Wednesday begins Lent, and is purple – Thomas Barakat
Lent is a time to prepare – Elizabeth Paton
On Ash Wednesday we burn palms – Caitlin Hughes
Preparation for the rising of Jesus – Luke Alderson
Lent is a time for fasting – John Barakat
We prepare for Jesus’ miraculous resurrection – Caiden Gellel
We will fast, pray and give – Rylee Robinson
There are forty days in Lent – Jacinta Gomez
In Lent we pray and fast – Kaitlyn Nada
In Lent we give up something – Sarah Duda
Lent is preparation for Jesus’ resurrection – Raphael Kim
It’s Lent, can you give up ???? – Beatriz Hendry
During Lent we prepare for Easter – Audrey Martinez
Lent is also the colour PURPLE – Aidan Donnelly
Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season – Stephanie Chue Hong
In Lent we pray to God – Joshua Stevens
Lent is a time for fasting – Annabelle Mison
Lent always starts with Ash Wednesday – Lucas Teng
Jesus was in the desert praying – Adrian Komadina

Catholic Schools Week

Sunday 6 March to Saturday 12 March
“I Belong, You Belong, We Belong”

Star Corner

Congratulations to all the St Michaels students who competed in the Oz Tag State Cup Championships in Coffs Harbour on 12th-14th February. A special mention to Chloe Nolan (Yr 6), Emily Knez (Yr 5) and Kayla Morris (Yr 5) from the U11s Hills Bulls team who won their grand final and are now the 2016 NSW Oz Tag Champions.

Baby news

Congratulations to the Lawrence family (Dominic, 1 Green) on the recent birth of a baby boy.
Police Visit to St Michael's

Police attended St Michael’s on Wednesday 17 February in order to speak with students in relation to online safety, cyber bullying, social media awareness and gaming responsibilities. Three separate (and slightly different) sessions were held for Years 4, 5 and 6.

Senior Constable Rob Paterson addressed the students, and covered respect, the police role, and how to report offensive, threatening or bullying online behaviours.

A specific website was mentioned to the students, where further information can be found. This website covers being a good bystander and making good choices online, and is also a great avenue for reporting cyberbullying or offensive material.


Another extremely useful resource is offered by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), and has fact sheets on social media for parents and students.

http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/

The students listened intently and had many questions. Please engage with your children over this topic and remember that cyber safety is a parent issue. If you do not understand or learn about social media or the internet, you cannot safely assist your children.

S/Cst Paterson will be guest speaker at an upcoming free community forum for parents (Sunday 6th March 2pm, Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Road). This will cover cyber safety, social media and other topics (see attached).

S/Cst Paterson has been Youth Liaison Officer at The Hills Local Area Command for 8 years and works with schools, parents and young offenders.

2016 NSW Storytelling Competition for students in Years 5 & 6

Do you know a child who likes telling stories? Can spin a good yarn?

Here is a wonderful opportunity for:

- students to develop arts literacy skills, self esteem and win wonderful prizes.
- the school to encourage children to participate in an educational activity that is fun and supports development in skills across a number of Key Learning Areas.

This is the 7th year the competition is hosted by the Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) Inc www.storytellersnsw.org.au

Over this time we have viewed entries of high quality from State and Independent schools that showcase young people’s love of language and literature.

FREE ENTRY

What to submit.

A video storytelling performance of a published or well crafted original story that takes between 2 and 6 minutes to tell. Students are encouraged to tell the story in their own words to capture the essence of the story rather than learn the story word for word. For this competition we are not accepting poetry or rhymed stories.

Conditions of entry

- Storytellers may be filmed performing either in front of a live audience or directly to the camera
- Filming should show the performer in a full body or half body shot so that the arms and hands are visible
- Stories are to be told, not read
- The story is to be no longer than 6 minutes
- Consideration should be given to pace and tone of voice, expression and gesture
- Please send your video file on a USB stick to The Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW)

Deadline

All entries must be postmarked by Friday 6th May 2016 or earlier
There are now increased penalties and demerit points associated with all offences in School Zones.

- **No Parking**
  - You have no more than 2 minutes for drop-offs or pick-ups and must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.
  - Penalty from $177 and 2 demerit points

- **No Stopping**
  - Under no circumstances are you permitted to stop on a length of road to which a No Stopping Sign applies.
  - Penalty from $319 and 2 demerit points

- **Bus Zone**
  - You must not stop your vehicle in the indicated zone unless you are driving a public bus.
  - Penalty from $319 and 2 demerit points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double parking</td>
<td>$319 &amp; 2 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on path or nature strip</td>
<td>$177 &amp; 2 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on / near marked pedestrian/children’s crossing</td>
<td>$425 &amp; 2 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach children’s crossing too quickly to stop safely</td>
<td>$531 &amp; 4 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal U turns</td>
<td>$425 &amp; 4 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop across driveway</td>
<td>$177 &amp; 2 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive using a hand held mobile phone</td>
<td>$425 &amp; 4 demerit points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallel park close to (within 3 metres) double centre line</td>
<td>$248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Fines current as of July 2015

For a complete list of school zones offences visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au
Uniform shop
Open every Thursday during the school term: 8.30 am—1.00 pm
Uniform price list form is available on our website at the following location:
http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/school-notes

Volunteers required
Every Thursday 8 am—Please contact Mrs Joanne Angseesing via the school office or email stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au
Orders sent in during the week will be completed on Thursdays and sent home via your child.
Please label all items clearly, especially hats and jackets. Children are responsible for their own belongings. Lost property is placed in a tub outside the Uniform Shop.

Welcome to 2016 Banking
New account packages have been sent to all Kindergarten classes. If you wish to open an account, please take the paperwork to your local Commbank and they will open the account for you. Once the account is opened your child can then start bringing their wallet in each Tuesday. Please ensure the deposit slip is filled in and the correct money is in the wallet. I look forward to seeing many new bankers this year.
Thank you. Kim, Banking Coordinator

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Child Protection Training for School Volunteers
In order to become a school volunteer at St Michael’s Primary school the following must be completed:
- Child protection training on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website (instructions below).
- Read, complete, sign and return the school’s Confidentiality agreement available from the office or located on the school’s website under the Parent/School notes link.

Instructions for Child Protection training
- 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 to complete the training http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home
- Once you have successfully completed the training, an email will be sent to St Michael’s for our records.
- Please forward to us your completed Confidentiality agreement.

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Thank you. Kim, Banking Coordinator
Teddy Bear’s Picnic Saturday 13th February

A fabulous day with over 300 guests arriving - kindergarten children, their siblings, parents and grandparents, all armed with teddies and smiles :-) All craft tables filled with little people quickly taking advantage of the different activities. We had Minion Bob and Scarlett Overkill (characters from The Minion Movie) keep the kindy kids entertained with games. The face painting corner was very busy. A huge THANK YOU to all the helpers. An awesome job! Tea, coffee and cake was a popular spot with P&F Kate Flood & Danielle Hensen. The BBQ with Mike Barton, Phil Grainger, Tim Flood, Melissa Small & Michelle Montesin. And the welcome desk with Veronica Sharma. We received lovely feedback throughout the course of the day from parents. They felt the picnic was a fabulous opportunity to meet the other parents. A huge thanks to the Year 6 Leaders and Mrs Lee on the day and the Kindy Teachers that were able to come! The Year 6 students ensured the passport activities were completed and helped with any tasks they were given. A big thanks to the P&F committee who helped to make the day a success! Not to forget some of our older kids who also worked on the day - Tayla & Brayden Barton, Jackson & Eliza Flood & Catherine Grainger helped at the welcome desk and anywhere they were needed.
St Michael’s Netball Club is looking for netball players born in either 2004 or 2005 for the under 12 team.

If you are interested please contact the Registrar, Helen Knez on 0411 668 541

OAKHILL COLLEGE
ENROLMENTS 2017

Applications for enrolment into Year 7, 2017 will close on Friday, 19 February 2016. Parents who wish to apply for enrolment for their sons at Oakhill College for Year 7, 2017 and who have not yet submitted a form, are requested to contact the Registrar before Friday, 19 February 2016. Phone: Mrs Nicole Beamish (Registrar) 9899 2288 or registrar@oakhil.nsw.edu.au

St Michael’s Playgroup

If you are the parent / grandparent of a young child, aged 0-5 years, looking for an opportunity for your child to play and socialise with children of a similar age, why not join St Michaels Playgroup? This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to mix and have fun in a safe environment, whilst you enjoy the company of other adults from our local community. Groups meet on Wednesday or Friday mornings between 9 and 11am, in the Sisters of Mercy Building.

Please contact Bernadette Savill 0421 413 754.

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