From the Principal

Dear Parents

Catholic Schools Week 6 March until 12 March

This year St Michael's will join Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

We would love to welcome as many of you as possible to our Whole School Liturgy on Monday 7 March at 10.15 am followed by morning tea and open classrooms after recess.

Each day a grade will provide parents with some tips on how to support their children with numeracy and literacy.

Monday 7 March Kindergarten parents at 2.30 pm in the staffroom
Tuesday 8 March Years 1 & 2 parents at 2.30 pm in the staffroom
Wednesday 9 March Years 3 & 4 parents at 2.30 pm in the staffroom
Thursday 10 March Years 5 & 6 parents at 2.30 pm in the staffroom

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2016 is "I belong, You belong, We belong" which encourages schools to showcase for their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic schools week is about strengthening relationships between those who have a stake in our schools—students, staff, families, priests, parishioners and members of the wider community, by showcasing what happens in classrooms every day. It is for this reason that I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to join us at St Michael's on Monday and then for one or more of the quick tip sessions.

Our school has a supportive community of teachers, parents, carers, P&F, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to focus on giving our students the best education possible encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Michael's and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

Some tips for home reading

On page 5 of our Newsletter I have included some tips for reading at home. I share with you a few thoughts:

The number of words a child knows when he or she enters kindergarten is the most predictor of a child’s success or failure.
In 1st and 2nd grade, children need to learn 800+ words per year, about 2 per day. (Biemiller: Nagy & Anderson)
If you haven’t heard the words, you can’t speak or understand the words to later read (and write) the words.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis’ hope for this Jubilee year of Mercy is: “A world without judgement, condemnation and forgiveness.”

How are we called to act?

To be merciful means to be a loving follower of Christ. A call to mercy is a call to be compassionate and forgiving. God showed us that we must display mercy to those in need. We can do this by giving hope and encouragement to others, having the courage to tell someone when they have done something wrong or by comforting those who are sad. Acting with mercy could mean that we need to be less judgemental of someone, or be more patient with others who provoke or annoy us. We can act mercifully to help others with their physical, material, emotional or spiritual needs. During this Jubilee year, we must try even harder to be “Merciful like the Father” in all we say and do.

How will you show mercy to others this week?

"God of mercy, you sent Jesus to teach us how to walk the path of reconciliation and peace.
His glorious Cross stands as a sign that love conquers hatred and evil.
Help us trust in the transforming power of your love within our hearts and in our world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.
**Religious Education**

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

**Works of Mercy**

"I was in Prison and You Came to Me"

This week’s focus on the works of mercy incorporate three works of mercy: Visit the Imprisoned, Admonish Sinners and Pray for the Living and the Dead. They have been combined because they are all concerned with some form of physical or spiritual imprisonment. Sin limits our freedom. So when someone points out our sinfulness (admonishes us) they give us the opportunity to repent and grow in the Christian life. This admonishment needs to be performed with delicacy, love and at the right moment. Praying for the living and the dead involves interceding for other people who are in need of prayers. This work of mercy also includes praying for our deceased family and friends. We can do this every day not just in November. Visiting the imprisoned gives hope to people who feel dejected and despised. We can help the imprisoned by:

- Understanding how families cope when one of their own is in jail by searching YouTube for a video: “A Shared Sentence.”
- Make a “Fresh Start Pack” for those who cannot afford personal items on their first day out of jail. (Prison Fellowship of Australia)
- Consider preparing an encouragement poster for someone in jail (Kairos Prison Ministries)"


For more detail about how you can buy slavery-free chocolate check out [www.acrath.org.au/resources/slavery-free-easter-chocolate/](http://www.acrath.org.au/resources/slavery-free-easter-chocolate/)

**Sacrament of Penance**

Congratulations to the children from St Michael’s community who received the Sacrament of Penance for the very first time this week. Our prayers and thoughts are with you as you continue your Sacramental journey. A special word of thanks to all the parents who supported this program either as facilitators or home hosts.

As a community we are called upon to support the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church.

**Project Compassion**

During the season of Lent St Michael's Community will support the annual Caritas Australia Compassion Project Appeal. This Year Caritas Australia is celebrating 50 Years of Project Compassion in Australia. Each classroom has a project compassion box. We appreciate in advance your generous support of this worthy appeal.

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross**

St Michael's Church (The Parish of Baulkham Hills) is currently looking for any children in Year 4 and up who would be interested in participating in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross service on Friday 25 March at 10:00 am. The Parish Youth coordinator Jerry Wilkes will be visiting classrooms from Years 3-6 this week to encourage the children to consider participating in this very rewarding liturgical experience. If your son / daughter is interested in participating in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross Role Play, please contact Jerry Wilkes on 0407 773 174

**Practice times and dates are:**

Monday 7, 14 and 21 March from 3.45-4.45 pm in St Michael's Church.

**Junior elevate**

Friday 11 March from 7-9 pm in the Downey Room. For further enquiries please contact Jerry on 0407 773 174.

Mr David Ison, REC Coordinator

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**Social Skills and Mantras Program**

**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.

**Week 9: Mantra 1—Stop! No! Go.**

- Stop! I don’t like it when you . . . (name what you don’t like).
- No! I asked you to stop . . .
- If the behaviour continues: Go and tell the teacher on duty.

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**Sympathy**

Please keep in your prayers the Raguz family on the passing of Daria’s (2 Green) paternal grandfather.

Eternal rest grant to him Lord. Let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

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**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.

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**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.

We are moving to a new system where letters are sent to parents for unexplained absences. Unfortunately there were a few issues with this on our first occasion last week and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused to parents who had already sent in a letter explaining their child’s absence.

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**School fees**

School fee statements have now been sent and are due 7 March 2016, if you have not received it or have any enquiries please contact:

Linda Borsato 9639 0518 or via email at [lborsato@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lborsato@parra.catholic.edu.au)
Music News

The Year 2 children will perform a song they have learnt in Music at the Week 7 Assembly (Friday 11 March).

News from 5 Blue

With Naplan just around the corner, students in 5Blue have been building their descriptive writing skills using their senses.

Each week we have been focusing on a spectacular photo or artwork to help inspire our imaginations.

First was an artwork displaying a tall city built on the aging statue of a giant figure.

I saw a big giant who has been put in the ground by an evil witch and then all of a sudden he turned to stone. The hair from the giant turned into a village.

Ryan

Second was an image of the person on a swing looking out into the skyline filled with clouds.

I saw things beyond the clouds that no one could see up here. The sun was rising and hitting the clouds which reflected to the luscious green grass and trees. What I saw could not be described in words nor thoughts.

Victoria

And finally a shadow of a backyard invader prowling through the night.

I heard the howling of the Tasmanian Tiger, It’s head was up and sitting. It looked awesome. I felt pounding in my heart, hoping it won’t kill me.

Alex

Morning routine at St Michael’s

In order for the children to develop their social skills, independence and confidence we ask that when you bring your child to the school playground that you give them a hug/kiss and leave the grounds as soon as possible.

Morning supervision commences at 8.20 am. This play time in the morning gives the children opportunity to socialise, make friends and play their ball games with each other. Please give them this experience and build their confidence by leaving the grounds once you have said your goodbyes. Please do not join in their ball games as some children are getting upset that their parent is not there / cannot join in.

For safety reasons, please say all your goodbyes to your children on the playground and do not go up the stairs with toddlers or assist your child in carrying their school bag.

We also request that parents do not go to classrooms without an appointment. If you need to speak with a teacher, please leave a message at the school office or send in via email. These messages are forwarded to teachers and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

We want all the children to feel St Michael’s is a happy and safe place. These small steps in establishing routine can help us all build the children’s independence.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

Calendar Dates

Week 6
Fri 4 Mar
Events
Celebration of First Penance
School Assembly 8.50 am
Year 1 Incursion ‘Year One Reading Club’, presented by Baulkham Hills Shire Library

Week 7
Mon 7 Mar
Events
Whole School Mass 10.15 am Parish Church followed by Morning tea in the Hall
Open classrooms from 11.45 am—12.45 pm
Early Stage 1—Kindergarten—Quick tips for Parents on Numeracy and Literacy session in the Staff Room 2.30-3.00 pm

Tue 8 Mar
4 Blue & 4 Red, Parish Mass 9.15 am
Stage 1—Years 1 & 2—Quick tips for Parents on Numeracy and Literacy session in the Staff Room 2.30-3.00 pm

Wed 9 Mar
6 Green & 6 Red, Parish Mass 9.15 am
Stage 2—Years 3 & 4—Quick tips for Parents on Numeracy and Literacy session in the Staff Room 2.30-3.00 pm

Thu 10 Mar
Cross Country Years 2-6
Stage 3—Years 5 & 6—Quick tips for Parents on Numeracy and Literacy session in the Staff Room 2.30-3.00 pm

Fri 11 Mar
School Assembly 8.50 am
P&F Family Disco 5-8 pm

Week 8
Mon 14 Mar
First Holy Communion Registration, Parish Church 7.30 pm

Tue 15 Mar
2 Red & 2 Yellow, Parish Mass 9.15 am
Kindergarten 2017 Open Morning 9.30-11 am
First Holy Communion Registration, Parish Church 7.30 pm

Wed 16 Mar
3 Green & 3 Red, Parish Mass 9.15 am
Year 5 Reconciliation 10.00 am

Thu 17 Mar
3 Blue & 3 Yellow, Parish Mass 9.15 am

Fri 18 Mar
School Assembly 8.50 am

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.

Star Corner

Congratulations to Ethan Garcia, Angus Lewis and Jacob Jones who were selected in the Parramatta Diocesan AFL team. The boys will travel to Wagga Wagga later in the term for the Mackillop selection trial.
**Week 4 Students of the Week**

- KBlue: Ava Kalal
- KGreeen: John Bazouni
- KRed: Orlando Schiavone
- KYellow: Brandon Mangano
- 1Blue: Anthony Naim
- 1Green: Travis Alford
- 1Red: Amelia Rowlandson
- 1Yellow: Teleigha Eleter
- 2Blue: Zahil Shah
- 2Green: Caleb Parker
- 2Red: Luke McDaniel
- 2Yellow: Jackson Carlos
- 3Blue: Annabelle Ewer
- 3Green: Lara Bugeja
- 3Red: Luke McDowell
- 3Yellow: Kaitlyn Grove
- 4Blue: Stephanie Wong Kee
- 4Green: Caelan Kustreba
- 4Red: Kitvarla Mkali
- 4Yellow: Amy Schier
- 5Blue: Rita Julca
- 5Green: Sophie Zimmatoire
- 5Red: Ivana Melching
- 5Yellow: Nathan Saliba
- 6Blue: Seth Dwyer
- 6Green: David Kennedy
- 6Red: Megan McCaughey
- 6Yellow: Kalize Jarvis

**Week 5 Students of the Week**

- KBlue: Elijah Khoury
- KGreeen: Ivy Sawkins
- KRed: Emily Sayers
- KYellow: Emily Mison
- 1Blue: Eadie Velez
- 1Green: Ashton Crawford
- 1Red: Emily Ryan
- 1Yellow: Olivia Terlikar
- 2Blue: Anisha Veluppillai
- 2Green: Mia Lepri
- 2Yellow: Lily Moore
- 3Blue: Matthew Urquhart
- 3Green: Elie Chammas
- 3Red: Isabella Clement
- 3Yellow: Zach Haddad
- 4Blue: Joshua Stevens
- 4Green: Angelina Woodward
- 4Red: Joshvin Prakash
- 4Yellow: Lucas Faulkner
- 5Blue: Charlotte Stewart
- 5Green: Alexia Terlikar
- 5Red: Dominic Altavilla
- 5Yellow: Carissa Anderson
- 6Blue: Jordan O’Brien
- 6Green: Amelia Jukic
- 6Red: Alana Manzotti
- 6Yellow: Lachlan Dirube

**Music**

- Robyn Deiri, Avril Chan, Thomas McGoldrick, Sophie Lynch, Mary Bassili, Benjamin Piccallo

**Sport**

- Daria Raguz

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**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 has been deleted.
- New “BUS” category—if your child catches the bus, please include this category for information on late running bus alerts.

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**Canteen**

- New ROSTER has been distributed. If you have volunteered and have not received your copy or have any enquiries please contact CANTEEN.
- New MENU has been sent and is also available on school website.
- WRAPS are also available. (Please Add to MENU) - Salad wrap - $4.50; Chicken salad wrap - $5.00
- Please note, Money must accompany order NO CREDIT FOR ORDERS
- Should it happen that your child is without lunch, the Canteen will provide a suitable lunch. We would appreciate payment the next day. Thank you.

*Mrs Judy Tamas*
**Some tips for home reading**

- Establish a home reading routine. Read aloud with your child everyday in your home language. Share your excitement for reading and this will be the model your child will adopt.

- Before you read a book with your child, talk about the illustrations and the title. Read the blurb and talk about the author.

- If reading time is stressful, move to a new location. Instead of sitting at the kitchen bench, move to the lounge room floor, or go outside and sit under a tree or take the books to the local coffee shop.

- Find a reading time that works for your family. Limit the time and set the timer if reading in the past has always been difficult. It is better to have an enjoyable 15 minutes than a laborious 30 minutes where everyone is left feeling frustrated.

- Ask questions that encourage your children to talk about what they have read. Questions such as: What was your favourite part? Tell me about the characters. What do you think will happen next? Where did the story take place? What do you like/dislike about this book?

- Encourage your child to read independently. A bed light is one of the best enticements for your child to read before going to sleep.

- Avoid judging your child’s reading with words such as: ‘good’, ‘excellent’ or ‘getting better’. Instead say things about the strategies your child uses when reading such as ‘I like how you read on when you came to that difficult word.’ ‘I like how you changed your voice to be the voice of the character in the story.’ ‘I noticed that you reread the bit that did not make sense.’

- Visit the local library—make it a family ritual on a set day every week. Let your children select their own books while you select books you are interested in reading. Not every book has to be read cover to cover. Your child might select books on the basis of illustrations or factual information about a topic of interest. Independent readers pick and choose what they read. They are entitled to read some and reject others.

- Turn the television off. Model what it means to be an enthusiastic reader. Create a home of readers where everyone is seen to read. Talk about what you have read. Read aloud what makes you laugh and share it with your child.

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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](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

- 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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**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:  

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.

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**Do you have “The Breakthrough for Young Catholics “ Bible you are not using any more?**

If you would like to donate it to the Uniform shop, it would be most appreciated.

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**St Michael’s Netball Club**

St Michael’s Netball Club is looking for netball players born in either 2004 or 2005 for the under 12 team. And born in 2006 for the under 10 team.

If you are interested please contact the Registrar, Helen Knez on 0411 668 541 as soon as possible so you don’t miss out!
First Holy Communion Preparation 2016

Dear Parents,

Registration for First Communion for children who received the Sacrament of Penance in 2015 will take place on:

Monday 14 March and Tuesday 15 March - 7:30pm at St. Michael's Church

You will need to attend one of the two registration evenings. (Expression of Interest is not Registration.)

Please bring a copy of your child’s baptism certificate, if your child did not make his/her reconciliation at St Michael’s. The cost will be $20.00 per child. Your child does not need to attend the enrolment evening. It is necessary for a parent to attend the enrolment evening; forms cannot be taken away.

An essential part of the programme is attendance at an Enrolment Mass and attendance at three preparation evenings. If you are unable to commit to all facets of the programme it would be better to defer your child’s First Communion.

We need your help to enable the programme to be a success. We are seeking Facilitators and Home Hosts from our Parish/School Community. The programme starts with Enrolment on the weekend 25th and 26th April. A Facilitators Meeting will be held on Monday 4th April at 7:30pm in the Downey Room. The dates for First Communion Masses are Friday 20th at 7:30pm Sunday 22nd May 12:00 and 2:30pm.

If you are able to offer your help by Facilitating a Home Group or Home Hosting for our Parish Based First Holy Communion Programme which runs for one evening per week for three weeks, please contact the parish office on 9639 0598 or send an email to sacasm@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

Thank you in anticipation of your help and assistance. Once again if you have any questions regarding this process please phone the Parish Office on 9639 0598 Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm or send an email to sacasm@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

Kind regards,

Trish Finucane
Sacramental Co-ordinator

Parish Priest

Gilroy Catholic College

Welcomes interested families to our Annual

“Open Evening for Year 7 2017”

on

Tuesday 8 March 2016

Principal’s address: 6.15pm
in the Brother Damien Harvey Hall

College Tours will be conducted at 5.30pm and 7.00pm (bookings not required).

Enrolment Packages will be available on the night and from the College office until 6 April 2016.

Gilroy Catholic College focuses on quality education within the nurturing environment of a faith community.

Gilroy is a Technology rich learning environment.

We aim to develop competent and confident young people who can think critically and make decisions informed by Catholic values.

Pastoral care is central to the organisation and operation of the school and endeavours to ensure that all students are able to recognise the dignity of their relationship with others.

Applications close 6 April 2016.

For further information visit our website or Email tpooole@parra.catholic.edu.au.
REMINDER!

P&F
Community * Friendship * Education

You’re invited to the school

**Family DISCO**

Friday 11th March 5pm - 8pm

Pre-purchase tickets $6 per person (adults or children)
Tickets at the door $8 per person (adults or children)
Bring a chair! BYO picnic dinner or purchase from food vans!
Family disco - all welcome!

Things to remember

When you arrive at the disco please check-in at the table.
The disco is a no-alcohol event.

**Safety**

Children must stay within the hall, undercover area and lower playground (long boat) areas.
For their safety, there should be no children elsewhere in the school.
So the night is safe and enjoyable for everyone........

Children must be under parent supervision during the disco.

Please return to the office in a WELL SEALED envelope “Family Disco Night” by Monday 7th March please 😊

Child’s name:_________________________________________ Class:__________________________
Your email address:________________________________________________________
Your mobile:______________________________________________________________
No. of people attending: __________ x $6 per person = Total enclosed $____________________
☐ Cash ☐ Cheque payable to “St Michael’s P&F” please.

HELPERS NEEDED! If you can spare some time on the night, it would be greatly appreciated. We need helpers for the door check in, merchandise stall, canteen and other tasks. Plus we need a bunch of Dads to help with security around the area. YES! I can help (tick): ☐ 1 hour  ☐ 2 hours  ☐ 3 hours

My Name:________________________________________ My Mobile/Contact No:________________________

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TEXT, TWITTER, TWEET
Couples, the Internet and Social Media

COUPLE EVENING
Friday, 18 March at 7.30pm
St Paul the Apostle Parish Hall, 40 Buckley’s Rd, Winston Hills

The evening will be addressed by Shane Smith on the topic: “Text, Twitter, Tweet – Couples, the Internet and Social Media.”

Shane Smith is the Director of Prepare/Enrich Australia and Vice President of the Marriage and Relationship Educators Association of Australia. He is an enthusiastic presenter who actively promotes and facilitates marriage and family relationships. He has a broad understanding of digital technology and his presentation will focus on the impact of the internet, mobile technology and social media on couple relationships, and how digital technology matters in the lives of Australian couples.

Come along and find out the latest research on how this technology affects relationships and how it can be managed in your relationship.

Free entry and a light supper will be served.

Please register your attendance to:
mariage@ccss.org.au
or ring Lyn Keane on 8822 2222

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Marriage Education Support and Enrichment

[Logo]
This Newsletter is available for viewing on our website: www.stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

The first Newsletter for 2016 of the Newsletter is sent home to each family. Second and subsequent issues are via the email link. If you do not have access to receive the email link, please send a note to the school office to request a black and white hard copy.