**From the Principal**

Dear Parents

Traditionally the month of May has been Mary’s month…..the month we pray the rosary. The following is a reflection of the role Mary should play in our life.

In a school play about the life of Jesus, several of the actors had to memorise a line or two from scripture. One of the actors got stage-fright and couldn’t remember his line. He caught his mother’s eye and she mouthed the line: “I am the light of the world.” With a huge smile on his face the boy declared: “My mother is the light of the world.” Catholics have as their universal mother, the Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus who truly could claim to be, “the light of the world.” Because Jesus had a human and a divine nature which cannot be divided, Mary holds the title of Mother of God.

Because Mary was “favoured by God” Luke 1:30, when she was personally chosen to become the mother of Jesus, we believe that we have a greater chance of obtaining God’s graces by asking Mary to intercede for us. When Mary told her cousin, Elizabeth, of her pregnancy, she stated, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” Luke 1:46. Mary is stating that Jesus is magnified by her soul. We still believe today, that Mary’s soul “magnifies the Lord” and so we petition her.

Mary is called ‘blessed among women’ Luke 11:27 because of her ‘yes’ in faith, ‘let it be done to me according to your word’ Luke 1:38, which brought Jesus into the world. Mary calls to mind the words of St Paul, ‘It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me’ Gal. 2:20. While Mary is the Saviour’s Mother, it is as his faithful disciple that she serves as the primary model of a Christ-centred life. Like Mary, we uncover the secret of who we are on discovering Christ at the centre of our lives.”

Mary’s human life helps her to be a bridge between earth and heaven helping us all to see what is possible. It is possible to be born poor into a simple life, yet achieve mightily in life. It is possible to be uncertain about ourselves, experience fear when opportunities arise and then accept with courage what is offered to us. It is possible to persevere through times of sorrow and disappointment and to keep our trust in God. It is possible to live our lives in hope, trusting that God’s spirit will be with us in all we do.

This term all schools across the diocese have been asked by Bishop Anthony Fisher to pray the Angelus. Every day after the sounding of the bells all children from K to 6 pray the Angelus. The Angelus prayer interrupts the daily routine to remind us that there is more to life than our daily toil and invites us to contemplate our own responsiveness to God’s work in our hearts with Mary, the Mother of God.

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead
**RE News**

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**
There will be no Children’s Liturgy for the next 2 weeks, due to the celebrations of Pentecost and First Holy Communion. Lessons will resume on Sunday, 2nd June during the 10 am Mass.

**First Holy Communion Practice Sessions**
Children must attend the practice designated for their communion Mass.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communion Masses</th>
<th>Practice Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 May @ 7.30pm</td>
<td>Tues 21 May @ 3.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 25 May @ 11.30am</td>
<td>Tues 21 May @ 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 25 May @ 2.00pm</td>
<td>Thurs 23 May @ 3.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 26 May @ 2.00pm</td>
<td>Thurs 23 May @ 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Church Gift Shop (Piety Stall)**
The stall has spiritual items on sale for our approaching First Holy Communion Celebration eg. Crosses, Holy Cards etc. The store will be open for the practice sessions as well as the First Holy Communion Masses.

**ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL RACE DAY IS ON AGAIN**
Saturday 1 June 2013 at Rosehill Racecourse

**An invitation from Bishop Anthony Fisher OP**
After 10 years, the St Patrick’s Cathedral Race Day is on again. Relive the excitement of this gala event with friends and colleagues to support a new cathedral initiative. Project Ten was launched on St Patrick’s Day to support a program of fundraising, commencing with the St Patrick’s Cathedral Race Day. Proceeds of this and other community events will continue to fund the adornment of the Cathedral and enhance celebrations.

Catholic Schools Parent Conference: 25-26 May
Join parents, educators and guest speakers for the 10th Catholic Schools Parent Conference at the Novotel Hotel, Parramatta. The theme for the 2013 conference is iConnect with Learning, in Partnership, in Faith and focuses on technology as a communication, learning and social networking tool. Daily rates available.

Full program and registration at [http://www.csp.catholic.edu.au/](http://www.csp.catholic.edu.au/)

St Michael’s Primary School are willing to sponsor two parents from our school to attend. Please ring the school office asap if you are interested.

**Year 1 Non Eucharistic Liturgy**
Year 1 will celebrate a Non Eucharistic Liturgy on Friday 24th May at 10.15 am in the Church. Focusing on the theme of Reconciliation. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

**Holy Hour – 22nd May**
Once a month St Michael’s Youth Movement will be having a ‘Holy Hour’ – an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This will occur each fourth Wednesday night of the month at 8pm at the church. Everyone is really welcome to come and join us.

David Ison

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**NAPLAN**

Naplan is an annual national assessment that provides parents, schools and policy makers with an important snapshot of information and how well students are performing in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN provides valuable information on student performance and enables schools and teachers to identify how they are doing and where there is room for improvement.

This will be the sixth year NAPLAN testing has taken place. States and territories conducted their own assessments for years prior to the introduction of NAPLAN and in some cases, such as NSW which previously held annual Basic Skills Tests, literacy and numeracy testing has gone on for decades.

NAPLAN takes just a few hours out of a few days every year, and has become a routine part of the school calendar. NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another day in schools.

In itself the testing of literacy and numeracy skill should not contribute to a narrowing of the curriculum. In fact ACARA believes that the best way to prepare for NAPLAN, beyond familiarisation with the test format, is for schools to provide a broad, well rounded curriculum.

Students should not stress about NAPLAN - while the test provides valuable information for parents, schools and others, it is low stakes for each student. Basic familiarisation with NAPLAN is appropriate, but beyond that NAPLAN is not a test for which students can or should ‘cram’.

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**Student of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Kelvin Cui</td>
<td>3R Chelsea Lum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIH</td>
<td>Lachlan Small</td>
<td>3RUGG Lilly Baranic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Huang-Gu-lai</td>
<td>4C Aidan Cassingena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Calum Bowles</td>
<td>4G Isabella Carrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFM</td>
<td>Emily Ward</td>
<td>4RB Maddison Hume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1K</td>
<td>Muskan Shrestha</td>
<td>4VG Mathew Hatton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q</td>
<td>Isabella Ponturo</td>
<td>5C Juliette Pialli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Naomi Gan</td>
<td>5M Hayley Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Sienna Hansen</td>
<td>5OC Jessika Griffith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2BT</td>
<td>Abbie Hatton</td>
<td>5S Annalise Ogilvie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Kaia D’Souza</td>
<td>6DD Mikayla Seymour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Mathew Grech</td>
<td>6F Bianca Carney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Andrew Norris</td>
<td>6ID Andrew Malysiak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Kartia Kustreba</td>
<td>6S Connor Shelley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Ashleigh Cheah</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM
The social skill for next week is:

COMPASSION
Feeling sorrow or pity for others who are having difficulties

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

4C

In 4C this term we are learning about writing descriptive Narratives. Each class in Year 4 has begun writing a class narrative to produce a class book with illustrations. 4C has chosen to write a horror story, called ‘The Dead Awakes!!’ We are really enjoying writing it together and hope you enjoy the orientation to our story.

‘THE DEAD AWAKES!’
On a dark, full – moon night, when the hairy, fierce, red-eyed wolf howled loudly like the grim – reaper, a ghostly, possessed spirit rose from the dead. Three fearless, curious children, called Virginia, Eugene and Spike, crept silently into an old, abandoned graveyard that was filled with misty, thick fog. The feisty children were there because they heard a moaning, shrilling noise coming from the evil, mysterious cemetery. They reluctantly started to move into the deep, red heart of the graveyard.

Dear Parents,
Local residents down the back path in Coolock Street have voiced concerns that many of the children of an afternoon appear to be unsupervised. The children have been playing on front lawns and down driveways, balancing on retaining walls and sitting and jumping off brick letterboxes.
Please respect ALL properties neighbouring the school and ensure your children remain only on the council nature strip. Please keep your children well supervised and safe at all times. Thankyou.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 19 May</td>
<td>Pentecost Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20 May</td>
<td>Captivate rehearsal 10am to 2pm John XX111 - Stanhope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 21 May</td>
<td>Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day, Rooty Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 May</td>
<td>Year 1 Non Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am in Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 30 May</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival – Blacktown Olympic Park, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 6 Farewell

Dear Year 6 Parents
Another farewell meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm in the Marie Therese building (located next to parish office). Please feel free to come along if you would like to help out. Thankyou

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
Don’t forget to collect your Earn and learn points from the checkout operator when you shop at Woolworths. We will have a box in the school office foyer to drop in your completed points sheets. Happy collecting!

FREE fun program for kids to become fitter

Do you have children 7 to 13 years old? Are you worried about their weight? Go4Fun runs for 9 weeks during school terms. Sessions are run twice a week. Held at Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulk 4 – 6pm Mondays and Wednesdays. Registrations for the next school term are now open! Don’t miss out! 1800 780 900 www.mendcentral.org/go4fun

ENROLMENTS KINDERGARTEN 2014

We are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2014. Applications must be returned before 31st May 2013. Please contact the school office hours for enrolment information and package between 8.30am– 4.30pm.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sunday, 19th May, St Michael’s Parish is celebrating Pentecost Sunday starting with Mass at 10 am and continuing with a multicultural lunch after Mass. We are looking for some school-aged children who would like to participate in this important Parish event by being a part of the Entrance Procession at Mass. The requirements are very simple, so no extra training time is needed. The children are asked to meet Mrs Day at the back of the Church at 9.45 am on the day, where instructions will be given to them.

Please complete and return the form below if your child/children are able to participate in this celebration.

Thankyou

Please return to the school, marked Attention: Mrs Day

My Child/children ____________________________

Class/classes ____________________________ will be available to participate in the Entrance Procession at Pentecost Sunday Mass on 19th May.

Parent Signature ____________________________
NEWS!

Saturday 22nd June 6.30pm
A great night out for
Mums and Dads!
Amazing prizes....
Jerseys, gift and dinner
vouchers
+ lolly bar!

P&F General Meeting
27th May 7pm
ALL WELCOME!

P&F Kindy Mum's Dinner
Tuesday 4th June
cost $35.00
RSVP by 24th May

St Michael's School Twilight Fair
Friday 11th October

Entertainment Books
Order forms distributed w/c 27th May or purchase online