Dear Parents

This Sunday 180 children from our school and from the parish will be making their First Communion.

A couple of years ago, Pope Benedict had a question and answer session with a group of First Communion children. When the Pope was asked about his memories of his First Communion, his response contained the following: “I understood that Jesus had entered my heart, he had actually visited me. And with Jesus, God himself was with me. And I realised that this is a gift of love that is truly worth more than all other things that life can give.”

Holy Communion is an incredible gift and the amazing thing about the gift is that it can be unwrapped time and time again in our lives, and every time we do this, the gift will be brand new. Each new unwrapping gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what the gift actually is.

In 2003, Pope John Paul II published a letter on the Eucharist and gave a clear insight into the nature of the gift: “We talk of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, because Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist is a presence in the fullest sense, where Jesus is wholly and entirely present. The Consecration at Mass changes the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the Body of Christ and the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his Blood.” Adapted version.

When St Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, he gave the earliest description of the Last Supper in the New Testament. Paul points out that Jesus said, “This is My Body”, and that he did not say, “This is a symbol of My Body”. Jesus was most definite in what he said: “This is My Body” and, likewise, “This is My Blood”.

Pope John Paul further reminds us that we are all united through the Eucharist, that though we are many, we share one bread. Bread is made up of many grains of wheat but in the bread the difference between them is not apparent; likewise, we are joined to one another and united in Christ through the Eucharist. Hence, we have good reason for a family to celebrate when a family member receives Communion for the first time.

The people who lived and associated with Jesus, had the comfort and support of his actual presence. Jesus foresaw the need for his presence to remain with them so they could carry on with his mission and so, the events of the Last Supper. For us, who have so many distractions in life, we might sometimes forget about God, forget about the Eucharist, forget to pray each day, forget to read the New Testament. First Communion day for a family member, can be a time of renewal for all family members, perhaps a time to unwrap the gift again and discover an understanding that is truly relevant to where we are in life. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of God’s love and love is something that all of us can use plenty of.

“Jesus, we ask you to bless the children who are to receive you in Communion for the first time. We ask you to bless each one of us, so that we might have a renewed understanding of your gift of love. Amen.”

Wishing you every blessing for the week.
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
Please pray for the children of St Michael’s Primary School who are making their First Holy Communion over this coming weekend. They have been preparing for the last few weeks and are looking forward to this very special day in their lives.

Church Gift Shop (Piety Stall)
The stall has spiritual items on sale for our approaching First Holy Communion Celebration e.g. 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.cccsp.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. Focussing on the theme of Reconciliation. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

David Ison
SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM
The social skill for next week is:
RESPECT
Recognising the worth, quality and importance of others despite their differences.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM
5OC
This term we have been learning about gold and the gold rush. So on the 3rd of May, all of Year 5 went to the Bathurst goldfields. We did all sorts of things and had a lot of fun. We learnt about how people lived in the gold rush and their lifestyles. At the end of the day, we made mud bricks and cooked damper over an open fire. We also panned for gold, I found 3 specks! On the way back, we got McDonalds for dinner and then we got back to school at 7.00 pm. I went home to get a good night sleep as I was exhausted!

By Lara Angseesing

This term in HSIE we are learning about gold so we went to a place that is famous for two things. Its famous racetrack and Gold!!! We went to Bathurst for a whole day. We had so much fun because we got to go in an awesome indoor museum and an outdoor museum, plus we got to play some games played in the 1800's. After that, we panned for gold, it was so much fun but I fell into the pond. Next, we got on the bus for our next stop, 2 hours away Maccas! Then it was another 2 hours back home. We had a fantastic time!

By Brayden Marshall

At Bathurst, the whole Year Five grade went through different parts of the goldfields. In the museums, it was interesting to see the things that they used in those times. The way, they showered was absolutely revoltiong! As we went through the mini museum, we started doing activities like making damper, mud bricks and tents. The boys made their tent inside out and the girls built a fire place in their tent. We all had a great time, especially panning for gold. This is a method the Asians brought to Australia to find gold. We had a wonderful time!

By Mark Anchique

On Friday 3rd of May, all the year five classes went on a long, three hour trip to Bathurst to learn about the gold rush in Australia. It was really cold when we arrived at Bathurst. We got to walk through an indoor museum and an outdoor museum and learnt a lot about how gold was found and how it was formed. Towards the end of the day, we got to pan for real gold flakes! It was a really fun excursion! I loved Bathurst!

By Georgie Lamond

UNIFORM SHOP
Thursday 30th May… 8.30am - 9.30 am

CAPTIVATE SHOWCASE
A reminder that tickets for the Captivate Showcase go on sale on at Monday May 27 9:00am. The choir are performing in both the 6:30pm and 8:00pm shows on Tuesday June 18. The link for ticket sales is www.trybooking.com/CIRQ and then select St Michael's from the list of schools.

Congratulation Boys Soccer Gala Day
Well done to the Year 5 and 6 boys who competed in the Soccer Gala Day at Rooty Hill on Tuesday 21st May. They came together without much practice and had great improvement throughout the day. They finished with an overall 3rd placement. Congratulation on a great effort!

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 May</td>
<td>Year 1 Non Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am in Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 30 May</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival – Blacktown Olympic Park, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31 May</td>
<td>Year 3 Non Eucharistic Liturgy, 10.15 am in the Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6 June</td>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am in the Church.</td>
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For the continuing safety of our children please note the gate at the back path will be closed 9am each morning.

CONGRATULATIONS to Julian Villanueva 4G who became an Australian Citizen on Monday along with his mother.

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Please note in your diary the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>Tues 21 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wed 5 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Mon 17 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tues 18 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Wed 31 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tues 13 August</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS

Anthony and Wendy are overjoyed to announce the birth of
Mathew Joseph Komadina
Born: Monday, 20 May
Time: 19:54
Weighing: 3.5kgs (7 pounds)
Baby arrived safely at Norwest Private Hospital.
Big brother Dean is over the moon!

- Grand Opening Special -

☐ Do you lack motivation and willpower?
☐ Would you like to exercise with a friendly group who are at the same training level as you?
☐ Would you like to stay warm and fit this winter?
☐ Can you afford just $60 for 12 weeks?

Then, join ‘Active Walkers’ this June, July and August!

Follow these easy steps to start power walking with us:

1. Phone Alison on 04 888 999 75 or email to join at aglezos@activegoodness.com.au
2. Meet every Saturday at 7:00am in Castle Hill or Wednesday at 8:30am in Dural, where you can store and lock your keys and valuables.
3. Power walk for 1 hour through the lovely Hills area.

Your $60 will include:

1. 12 x 1hour power walking sessions under the supervision of Alison Glezos - Dip (ACU), Cert III, Cert IV (AIF) Master Trainer & Class Champion 2013.
2. Active Goodness T-shirt to wear with your group.
3. Advice on good nutrition emailed to you weekly.

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!

This Newsletter is available for viewing on our website: www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au.