Dear Parents

What an incredibly hot week this has been! Thankfully, over the past few years, we have planned well and ensured that all classrooms and the Hall have air conditioning to make our lives so much more comfortable. I have been really impressed with our beautiful students and there understanding of the need to remain well hydrated and to keep out of the heat.

Reconciliation Parent Information Night
The session for parents only will be held next Monday 15th February in the Year 3 classroom commencing at 5.00pm. Fr Greg Donovan from Catholic Education WA will be leading a very informative session. Fr Greg is a wonderful priest and his presentation will be very beneficial to you.

Board/P&F Meetings - These will be held in the staffroom from 6.00pm (Board) and 7.30pm (P&F) on Monday 15th February. The P&F are always looking for new members, so you are most welcome to attend. For the Board meeting, I have invited Mayor John Gangell and a couple of consultants from Landcorp to come and discuss the proposal for the BIC. After the meeting, the Board and I will make a summary available to you so you are better informed of the proposed changes.

Commissioning Mass for Teachers Next Wednesday 17th February, the whole staff will be attending the annual Commissioning Mass for Catholic school employees in the Eastern Region. The Mass will be held at Good Shepherd Lockridge and commences at 4.30pm. Usually one of the bishops or a monsignor celebrates the Mass and commissions us for the year ahead as we carry out our work in Catholic schools.

Leadership Development - One of my roles as a principal is to develop myself and develop others. This means identifying future leaders. This year, Mrs Liebregts has been accepted into the Aspiring Principals’ Program and Mrs Tucker has been accepted into the Emerging Leaders’ Program. Both programs are offered through Catholic Ed and are very competitive to get into. Mrs Fox, Mrs Liebregts and myself will also be participating in a Maths Pilot Program which is also offered through Catholic Ed. There is always plenty happening at St Michael’s!!

Laurie Bechelli PRINCIPAL
SCHOOL FEES

Our ANZ Bank Account details are as follows, for anyone wishing to pay directly into it.

BSB: 016-255   ACC: 4247 69155

*Your name must be included in any payments made through the bank account.*

Alternatively, direct debit forms are available from the school office if you wish to set up a regular payment.

If you wish to apply for **HCC discount** on the tuition fee portion of the account, please come to the office to fill in a HCC form and present a copy of your concession card.

**School Fee accounts will be sent home within the next week.**

**ABSENTEE LINE: 6278 9802**

Please phone the number above if your child is absent from school. We ask that you do not email individual class teachers regarding absence, but use the dedicated phone line instead. You will also need to give a **signed note** of explanation to the class teacher on your child’s return to school.

**TRASH FREE TUESDAY**

We ask that on every Tuesday you are mindful of the way you package your children’s lunchbox to minimise waste at our school. Ideally we would love to see no wrappers, and all food packaged into containers.

**NO PARKING IN KISS AND RIDE!**

Please don’t park in the Kiss & Ride and leave your vehicle. It badly impedes the flow of traffic and holds up other families who are trying to drop children off. **If you need to help your child out of the car or escort them to the classroom, please park your car elsewhere.**

**SCHOOL IS A NUT FREE ZONE**

St Michael’s School is an Allergy Friendly School. We have students who can experience a **life threatening** reaction to tasting, touching or smelling nuts.

Students should not bring ANY items of food where the key ingredient is nuts. This means pastes such as Nutella and Peanut Butter; raw nuts such as almonds, pistachios, cashews and peanuts; or foods with nuts as a main ingredient, such as muesli bars or chocolate bars containing nuts.

*We ask that these products not be brought to school.*

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**Kindergarten 2017**

If you, or someone you know, has a child born

1st July 2012 - 30th June 2013

please collect an application form from the school office, or download a form from our website. Kindergarten enrolments for 2017 will be finalised in April-May 2016.

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**lots of socks**

To help us celebrate World Down Syndrome Day, Down Syndrome WA is inviting schools right across WA to hold a ‘lots of socks’ day!

Ask your students to wear bright, fun, colourful socks to mark World Down Syndrome Day (on any chosen day in March), and to make a gold coin donation to Down Syndrome WA.

Your donation will help Down Syndrome WA continue to provide support to people with Down syndrome, families and the community.

Download the information pack for schools from:

[http://tinyurl.com/3dz20t](http://tinyurl.com/3dz20t)

To make a donation please visit our website:

Assistant Principals’ Update

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful start we have had to the school year. We would like to thank parents for their attendance at the Parent Information Night on Monday night and remind parents to please make an appointment to see the classroom teacher if you have any concerns about your child/children.

The Summer uniform is as follows:

GIRLS - School dress
BOYS - Grey shorts, white shirt.
SPORT - Faction T shirt
          Sport shirt
          Green shorts or skorts
          St Michael's sports socks
          Sports shoes need to be predominantly white

LENT

It is hard to believe that Lent is with us already! Ash Wednesday signifies the start of Lent and we had a special Mass on Wednesday 10 February at 9.00am in the St Joseph’s Church. Thank you to Mrs Liebregts and the Year 5 students for a beautifully prepared Ash Wednesday Mass.

1ST RECONCILIATION

The students in Year 3 will be making their First Reconciliation this year. We would like you to keep these children in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

We look forward to meeting with the parents of Yr 3 students on Monday 15th February at 5.00pm for an informative session run by Father Gregory Donovan from Catholic Education WA.

Thanking you for your anticipated support.

Jacquie Fox and Lisa Liebregts

CANTEEN NEWS

Hi everyone, wonderful news! There will be NO price increases this year.

FISH FOR LENT - All $4.50

1 Fish burger, sauce and salad
2 Fish Fingers, potato gems or mashed potato and mini corn cob.
3 Tuna Mac N Cheese
What is School Banking?

The first major step on this journey is to teach children the importance of saving. The emphasis of the School Banking program is on regular savings, not the value of each deposit. To support this there is no minimum deposit required when participating in the program. By nurturing this savings habit at a young age, we believe that consistent savings behavior will stay with them later in life. The Program helps them develop the knowledge, independence and confidence they need to manage their finances successfully as they get older. Not only does it teach them crucial money skills, it is also a great way for our school to engage with parents and the broader school community. The bank account is in your child’s name thus it is your child’s account for tax purposes with you as parent/guardian being the Administrator.

Best of all, the School Banking program makes saving fun with an exciting Rewards Program that encourages regular participation.

What is New in School Banking 2016?

School Banking will be starting again on Wed 3 Feb 2016. School Banking will be each Wednesday with your child/children leaving their deposit books at their respective classrooms in the Morning for collection and return making it easier for parents and children to participate. With regards to rewards to redeem you can complete name and tokens with selected reward to be put in a separate envelope or bag to be included each Wednesday or leave at Admin Office to be put in my basket for processing or place in the Red Mail Box. Week 2 commencing 8th Feb 2016, your child/children have been sent a School Banking Pack and other correspondence, so please check school bags.

Every time your child makes a deposit through the School Banking program, regardless of how much, they receive a cool Silver DOLLarmites token. Once they have collected 10 Silver tokens they can redeem them for a reward. In 2016 we are taking students on a Wild Adventure themed “Outback Savers”. As students venture through the heart of Australia, they will learn to master smart saving habits and equip themselves with lifelong money skills. There are eight new reward items to choose from our Outback Range. The reward items available during 2016 are:

Term 1: Flying Snake Tail or Wildlife Writer Set;
Term 2: Mud Splat Handball or Outback Pat Bag Tag;
Term 3: Backtrack Eraser Pen or Jump and Skip Rope;
Term 4: Bush Fly Pan or Wriggly Glow Worm;

The above Rewards change each year to keep your child/children excited for more tokens. Please note once Rewards are redeemed it can take 2 weeks to process from the bank and once received will be distributed to your child with a Certificate of Achievement. The Certificates of Achievement are Bronze, Silver, Gold and Green for 10,20,30 & 40 deposits per year respectively.

In 2016 there is Competition to Win a trip to Full day Platinum Zoo Adventure at Australia Zoo QLD for two adults and three children. Every student who makes 25 or more School banking deposits during 2016 will automatically go into the draw to win the trip to Australia Zoo Queensland.

What do we as a School get for Participating in the School Banking Program?

School Banking is a great way to help teach children to save and also get great benefits for our school. Every New Account opened through our school earns our school $5.00 and we also receive 5% commission with every deposit. A great win-win situation – improving our children’s financial literacy as well as assisting our school in raising much-needed funds administered via our wonderful P & F that provide events and facilities for our School Community. At St Michael’s we presently have 100 of our students registered for School Banking and hoping to grow even further.

How to participate in the School Banking Program?

In order to participate in the School Banking program your child will need a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. Currently the Interest Rate earned Youth Saver account on All Balances Standard Interest Rate 0.01%pa and Bonus Interest Rate 2.79%pa being 2.80%pa (subject to change) (To qualify for the Bonus Interest you need to make one deposit and no withdrawals each calendar month and you’ll earn Bonus Interest on top of your Standard Interest Rate). When your child/children joins the program they will receive a DOLLarmites deposit wallet and a Platypus deposit wallet along with a range of fun, engaging materials to help them learn and encourage them to save.

You can open your child’s Youthsaver Account:

- Existing Commonwealth Bank Customers with Netbank, apply for a Youthsaver Account online at commbank.com.au; or
- Visit any Commonwealth Branch (conveniently located at Bassendean Shopping Centre) armed with your child’s birth certificate or passport as well as driver’s licence, medicare card etc or passport of one parent/legal guardian (for 100 point check). The bank at the Branch will give you a deposit book and wallet and then your child is ready to start saving at school. Also refer to Application for Youthsaver Account if you have been provided with one for instructions and may be of assistance if you are unable to locate your child’s birth certificate Section 5 Option A; or Call 132221 for further assistance.

In school we have an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver Account your child can leave their deposit book and money in their respective classroom for collection and return each Wednesday.

School Banking takes place every Wednesday morning during the school term. If you require any assistance please do not hesitate to contact School Banking Co-ordinator, Jordan Knezovic on 0405-829-869 or jri@jrgroup.com.au.

The Council and Staff of the Parents and Friends Federation of WA would like to welcome everyone back to the new school year. We trust that at this stage, into week 2, you are all back into the routine of lunches, uniforms and searching for those elusive permission slips at the bottom of school bags.

The staff here in the office have hit the ground running and are currently working hard to get information about our upcoming conference in May out to all schools. The dates for the conference this year are Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May. The Awards of Excellence in Building Positive School Communities will be presented at the conference dinner on Friday 20th May. Nomination forms for the Awards of Excellence are already available on our website, so get your entry in early!

We are also receiving lots of calls in the office from parents who are working hard to ensure P&F’s and parent groups get off to a good start for the year. If you need any information about office bearer’s roles, governance or just some general advice please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Theresa McDonnell, the new Liaison Officer at the Federation, has settled beautifully into our small office and she, along with Siobhan Allen (our Executive Officer) is looking forward to getting out and about and meeting with parents and parent groups in Catholic schools throughout the state. If you would like to arrange a visit from PFFWA to your school, please contact the office or email theresa@pff.wa.edu.au and we would be delighted to organise a time.

Best wishes

PFFWA Council and Staff