Dear Parents

Welcome back to a short and sharp week, which is probably a nice way to ease ourselves back into a new term. This week, we commemorated ANZAC Day at the assembly and a meaningful reflection was led by Year 3. It is important to remember those who have served our country for us so that we can live the amazing lifestyles that we lead. It is also important to do everything possible to avoid war and the horrors that it brings.

USA and Canada Schools Visit - As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, I have been very fortunate to have been selected along with 23 other principals from Catholic dioceses around Australia to visit New York and Toronto as a part of a leadership course. I fly out this Sunday 1st May and return on Sunday 15th May. During the tour, we will be visiting a range of schools in these regions and we will also be having discussions with system leaders and academics about best contemporary practice. I am especially looking forward to visiting a school in the Bronx (apparently, we have to use public transport for the week in New York—that will also be interesting!!)

Mother’s Day - Sadly, I will be away for Mother’s Day this year. However, I have already organized for Hedgehogs to cater a light breakfast next Friday 6th May in the Hall starting at 8am. It will be very similar to the one we held last year. Please remember that this day is for mothers and grandmothers and we will only be catering for them. I believe that every day is ‘Children’s Day’ and it will be nice for our mums to be treated. The children are welcome to sit with you in the Hall until 8.30am when the bell goes for then go into class. Please don’t allow them to run around outside during this time as we don’t want accidents.

NAPLAN - This will be held during Week 3 for the students in the Year 3 and 5 classes. The teachers will be in touch with the details.

COMMITMENT MASS - A combined Holy Communion (Yr 4) and Confirmation (Yr 6) classes Commitment Mass will be held at 6.00pm Saturday 30th April and 9.00am this Sunday, 1st May.

During my absence, Mrs Liebregts will be the Short Term Principal and she will be ably supported by Mrs Fox. I’m sure they will do a great job. See you in a fortnight!

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.

**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.*

**PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

Final reminder - Closing date of entries
Friday 6th May 2016 (Week 2)
Please see Mrs Stewart for entry forms.

We invite the mothers and grandmothers of the St Michael’s School Community to our Mother’s Day Breakfast and Assembly.

Where: St Michael’s School Hall
When: Friday 6th May 2016
Time: Light breakfast at 8:00am and Assembly at approximately 8:50am

**TAKING IT IN OUR STRIDE ON FRIDAY 20TH MAY**

Well it’s that time of year again when our school seriously starts talking about walking! Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn’t realistic for many of us, it’s quite easy to figure out how you can build walking into your family’s daily routine. You can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:

- Walking with them the whole way to school.
- If you catch the bus, get off one stop early and walk the rest of the way.
- If you have to drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

Regular exercise like walking with your child, not only helps them (and you) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes, it also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child, safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

Active Kids are Healthy Kids - so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 20th May 2016. For more information visit www.walk.com.au
Assistant Principals’ Update

Nature Playground
The children are busily enjoying the new addition to our wonderful play areas in the Junior Primary Area. We might have some budding MKR contestants soon!!

Winter Uniform
Students will need to start wearing their Winter Uniform, which consists of the following:

**Girls:** Skirt, White Shirt, Tartan Tie and School Jumper.

**Boys:** Grey Trousers, White Shirt, Tartan Tie and School Jumper.

There will be a 2 week period of grace for the transition from summer to winter uniform. Please assist us by ensuring your child is dressed neatly in the appropriate uniform.

SCHOOL REPORTING - The system is changing and you may or may not have problems accessing the portal. We will advise you of new logon details closer to the end of the term. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Lisa Liebregts & Jacquie Fox

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK
The New Entertainment Book is in production and will be available very soon. Enjoy savings as well as supporting the St Michael’s School fundraising efforts!

Order your new Entertainment™ Book or Entertainment™ Digital Membership before 4th May, 2016 and you will receive up to $230 worth of additional offers that you can use right away!

I look forward to receiving your order soon.
Grazia Redolatti

Welcome back for Term 2! We hope you have had a wonderful and relaxing break and are ready for some fun this term.

Footy Tipping News:
Footy Tipping has launched with a huge bang again this year! We have 44 players all up including teachers, parents, students, grandparents and even former St Michael's families still supporting our wonderful school. A weekly prize of $20 can be won by being the player with the most correct tips (and lowest margin in the event of a tie-breaker). There can be more than one winner each week if number of correct tips and margin are exactly the same - in this case each player will receive $20. Players who tip a perfect round - all 9 games correct - will receive an additional BONUS point, giving them 10 points for that particular round. It looks like 2016 is going to be a very interesting season, so keep up the good work everyone, it's anyone's game!

Purchase updates:
This year the P&F are allocating funds across a number of different areas including new literacy resources for the upper years as well as new music and art resources and some equipment upgrades for our canteen. So far the following items have been purchased:

- Lisa Mueller, our wonderful school Social Worker, has purchased a set of Kimochi (Japanese emotions resource) for our Year 1 class at a cost of $600. They are coming all the way from the USA and should be with us shortly.
- New literacy resources for the upper grades totalling almost $6000. All books have been ordered and delivered.
- New Leavers’ Shirts for our graduating Year 6 class.

Walk-a-thon
The Walkathon is set for 20th May at 12:30pm with all monies raised from this event going straight back into the school. We need volunteers to walk with the students and also people to cut fruit earlier in the day in preparation for the walk. Keep a look out in your eldest child's bag for a letter with further details, but for now put it in the diary and please email Karen Swindale on matnkaz@iinet.net.au or Tanya Farrant on tanyafarrant@bigpond.com if you are able to volunteer.

As always, if you would like to contribute to the P&F, please come along to a meeting - the next one is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday May 23rd in the school staffroom.

Thanks for your continued support.

St Michael’s P&F Association
**Volunteer Mentors Wanted**

Our school is fortunate to participate in a school mentoring program called EdConnect (formerly known as the School Volunteer Program). We are eagerly looking for caring adults who are prepared to volunteer to work alongside students who are struggling educationally, socially and/or emotionally and often a combination of the three. We would very much like to bring on board new Mentors for 2016. You will be fully trained and supported in your role.

Volunteer Mentors commit to one hour per week, during school hours and on school days only, and will be placed with a student based on your skills and abilities and also your personality, activities and interests. You will not be placed alongside any student you do not feel comfortable and happy to work with.

This school has had some outstanding volunteer Mentors over the years. Those Mentors have found the work not only rewarding for the student but also for themselves, in helping them feel more connected to current young people and their community.

One Mentor said, “I thought I was doing this just to help a child, I didn’t realise how much I would look forward to doing it every week and over many years.” As one student commented, “She helps me believe in myself and to go on with life.” That’s pretty powerful, and it’s a real statement by a student from a Year 5 class.

If you feel you cannot commit to one hour per week every week, we also appreciate classroom support and again, in this you will be amply trained by EdConnect Australia staff. You are also insured in your role within the school by EdConnect Australia.

We would deeply appreciate you assistance and time to help our school. Please pass this on to any family or friends who you believe might like to be part of this valuable program and the strengthening of our school. Brochures are available in the school office, and further information is available at [www.edconnect.org.au](http://www.edconnect.org.au)

If you would like to be a volunteer Mentor in our school, please contact Lee Patrick at EdConnect Australia on 9444 8646 for further details or to get the application pack. Lee may also be contacted on email: lee.patrick@edconnect.org.au

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**Give your child a head start in Money Matters**

**School Banking – Every Wednesday**

Deposit wallet to be placed in each classroom inside CBA grey satchels each Wednesday for collection and return. Please check your child’s school bag to make sure that the deposit wallet has been processed and returned. In the event that the deposit wallet has not been returned the same day each Wednesday, please check with your respective class teacher. In the event that your child arrives late at school, and the CBA grey satchels have been collected, please come and see us at the Multi-Purpose Room (only up to 9.55am) to drop off your banking wallets or with money to be banked accordingly as per your instructions if you have forgotten your wallets but still wish to make a deposit.

**Congratulations to Students who redeemed 10 tokens this week:**

Jack S.

**Reminder to make one deposit per month:**

In order to ensure that your child’s Youthsaver account earns bonus interest on top of the standard interest you must make at least one deposit per month.

**Calling for School Banking Volunteers!**

Please confirm your interest in volunteering for this great program by contacting me on details provided.

Regards and thank you.

*Jordana Knezovic - School Banking Coordinator*

0405829869 or jr@jrgroup.com.au

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**Lest We Forget**