‘Try to meet all with peace and ease’
Catherine McAuley
Letter to Elizabeth Moore, 1838

Dear Parents,

In this, our Year of Mercy, we are called to offer hope, compassion and love through our daily words and actions and as Catherine McAuley so aptly says ‘Try to meet all with peace and ease.’

Our mothers and grandmothers are great examples of the mantra promoted by Catherine McAuley. This Mothers’ Day is a wonderful opportunity to embrace the value of mercy and compassion with all who are dear to us.

Performing Arts
St Michael’s has always been a great supporter of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival. This year we are pleased to have many classes performing in both sections and a number of individual entrants. Thank you to Mrs Stewart for coordinating this wonderful program in our school. A special thank you also to Mrs Panizza and class teachers for all their hard work. Once again this year we look forward to the much anticipated biannual Art Exhibition. We are so fortunate at St Michael’s there is a strong focus on the arts.

Many blessings,
Lisa Liebregts Assistant 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 fees reminder 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.*

---

**Postcard from New York**

On Tuesday this week, I visited the Catholic Education Office in New York. They have a very different set up to us as they receive no government funding whatsoever. By contrast, our schools receive about 85% government funding with the remainder being made up from school fees and fundraising.

Last year, they had to close around 60 schools as they simply could not afford to keep them open which was truly heartbreaking and extremely difficult. Currently, they are just managing to keep afloat as a system. Although we did not get to go into a Catholic school here, they sound very under-resourced and are in poor condition (very different to our situation).

On Wednesday, I spent a fascinating day in Brooklyn looking at Uncommon schools. These schools operate in very low socioeconomic areas where the state schools perform very poorly. The Uncommon Charter schools have only been around for the past 10 years and there are 44 of them in the US. They base their teaching around very strict Direct Instruction practices that are intensive. The school day goes from 7.30am to 4pm every day and they almost exclusively teach only literacy and numeracy. Their teaching has a huge amount of classroom management built into it and it is very explicit and repetitive. For a teacher, it is extremely exhausting and most of them only last for a few years before burning out. Most of the teachers are very young. The Principals were only about 30 years old!!

However, they are producing incredible results and can guarantee a 100% success rate of their students going to college. I looked at what I thought was a Year 2 student's work and was very impressed with the standard, only to discover that the student was actually in Pre Primary!! It was a very challenging day as the students and teachers do things very differently to us. However, they are getting amazing results in very disadvantaged areas and these children have true hope of becoming successful adults.

On Thursday, I will be visiting state schools in the Bronx and will give you an update on this next week!!

*Laurie Bechelli*

PRINCIPAL
**Assistant Principals’ Update**

**MORNING FITNESS**
This term for Morning Fitness we will be concentrating on Cross Country Training, as last year our Interschool Carnival results improved quite considerably. We will have the training on the BIC 8:40-8:55am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The students can either wear their sports shoes to school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, or bring them along to school and change into them.  
*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!  
I look forward to receiving your order soon.  
*Grazia Redolatti*

---

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

Final reminder - Closing date for entries  
**Friday 6th May 2016 (Week 2)**

Please see Mrs Stewart for entry forms.

---

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Welcome back to Term 2! This term’s specials (all green light) are:
- Macaroni cheese $3.50
- Honey soy chicken with rice $3.50
- Beef stir fry with noodles $3.50

With the chilly weather on the way, soup will be back on the menu. Please let me know your favourites. Warm Milo will also be available before school and at Recess.

Students, I am seeking creative suggestions for toasted sandwiches.  
*There will be a prize for the winner.*  
Please leave your suggestions in the red letter box, or drop them into the Canteen.

*Kindy parents,* please note, lunch is available from the Canteen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thank you to all those who support the Canteen.

Finally, it has been wonderful to see so many of the students enjoying Hopscotch (and a few mums too)!

*Linda Ford*
*Canteen Manager*
*0437 375 079*

---

**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](http://www.walk.com.au)
**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 will 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.

---

**Secondhand St Michaels Uniforms**

*Price reduced, all in good condition.*

- 2 x St Michaels School Bag - $10ea
- 1 x Blue Stockings - $2
- 1 x Size 14 Windcheater - $5ea
- 4 x Size 12 Pleated Tartan Skirt - $15ea *(1 Smaller Size)*
- 2 x Size 12 Shirts - $5ea
- 2 x Green Scarf - $2ea
- 1 x Size 12C Kelleher Shirt - $5
- 1 x 14 Knitted Jumper - $30

Contact Shannon Taylor – 0421 871 755

---

**Upcoming Cross Country**

Could all parents available to help marshall, set up and pack down for the school cross country on the 24th May from 8:00am to 10:45, please email chatt.leigh@cathednet.wa.edu.au including your name and your students schools name (as I work at 2 different schools).

Thanking you.

Leigh Chatt - Sports Teacher