Dear Parents,

With the season of Lent upon us and the old problem of “what to give up” circling around us, perhaps the following might offer some new alternatives:

- Fast from anger and hatred: be more patient and understanding
- Fast from judging others: think kindly thoughts
- Fast from discouragement: be full of hope
- Fast from complaining: focus on gratitude
- Fast from resentment or bitterness: turn to forgiveness.

We need the season of Lent if we are to live as in imitation of Christ, to be Christian.

We need to work out for ourselves what it is in our life that needs to be changed, worked on and improved. If we can achieve getting rid of all the negatives then Easter will be full of meaning.

The season of Lent is a time to review the past, admit our shortcomings, reaffirm our commitment to the higher values that we live out and prepare ourselves to try harder in the year ahead. It is a time to acknowledge our less than best choices and to feel sorry for lost opportunities.

The name LENT came from an Anglo-Saxon word, which simply means Spring. Easter is always the first moon on or after the first day of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This association of Lent and Spring can be compared to our house needing to be spring cleaned. Our spirituality is also in need of a ‘spring clean’ after a year of negative influences and trying to live up to the ideals of Christ.

“Jesus, May we be encouraged this Lent as we reflect on the difficulties you had in your life. Give us the courage to face the challenges that enter our daily lives. Lead us to always strive to be more like you.

School Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to all the children for the wonderful way they participated in BOTH days of our Athletics Carnival. Our children really are amazing the way they behave, participate and encourage each other: they are a real credit to their parents.

I don’t think we have had the score so close before, which is great to see. At the end of Friday there was only 5 points between 1st and 4th which is amazing and then yesterday it was the very last activity that separated first from second.

Congratulations to Green team with a winning score of 270
2nd was Red team with a score of 268
3rd was Gold with a score of 265, and
4th was Blue team with 258.

In the Aerobics again it was very close and the winning team was Red team- Congratulations!
2nd Green
3rd Blue
4th Gold

All the Captains were amazing and worked really hard to enthuse and organise their teams- Well done and thank you. All the teams were motivated, participated to the best of their ability and were very supportive of each other- well done one and all.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends who came to help set and pack up, help with events and supported us on Friday and yesterday, we are lucky to belong to such wonderful school community.

School App

Just a reminder that you can download the St Michael’s School App from the Apple App store and via Google Play for Android devices (by searching for the school name). It is very handy to have as we send out a message if we have different activities or changes that may be happening.

Please see end of newsletter for Twitter information.

Keep smiling
Cathy Blackford, Principal

Parents & Friends Group

The Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, 17th March 2016 at 9.00am in the school staffroom.

Please consider taking up a position on this important group within our school. If you would like any further information please see the school office, a nomination form can also be collected from the office.

We look forward to seeing lots of new faces.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Each week students from each class are awarded Student of the Week certificates. These children are nominated for the example they have been within the school. The award winners for Weeks 6, 7 & 8 / Term 1 will be given out at our next School Assembly on Monday, 21st March 2016.

Dates to Remember

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<tbody>
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<td>Lunch Order Day</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24th Thursday</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 – finish at 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th Monday</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Monday</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 indoor swimming – 2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Tuesday</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Monday</td>
<td>Public Holiday – ANZAC Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Tuesday</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 indoor swimming – 2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Friday</td>
<td>School Closure – Literacy PD</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Friday</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>10th, 11th, 12th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>24th Tuesday</td>
<td>2017 Prep Information 7.00pm</td>
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<th>JUNE</th>
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<td>2nd Thursday</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 Camp Coolamatong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 return from Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>Feast Sacred Heart – Giving Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th Monday</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th Friday</td>
<td>Term 2 finishes – 12.30pm</td>
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Learning Together Session - invite

This Thursday, 10th March 2016 our school will be participating in activities in recognition of the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

This day occurs across Australia on Friday 18th March but due to our grade 6 students being on camp next week, we will recognize the day on Thursday 10th March.

Students will participate in multi age activities and then from 2.00 -3.00pm, all levels will be holding Learning Together Sessions where families are invited to come into their children’s classrooms to participate in activities linked to our anti bullying focus. We hope many family members will be able to join with their children on this afternoon and participate in a variety of activities.

Friday, 11th March - Casual Clothes Day

We are having a casual clothes day at St Michaels on Friday. This is to support the Parish Schools Fete and all students are able to come to school in casual clothing for the cost of a “mystery jar”. The mystery jar can contain anything: pencils, hair ties, craft items, lollies, pasta sauce, etc. These will be used at the Parish Schools Fete on 19th March

Casual clothing must be appropriate for school:
- Tshirt covering shoulders (outside – SunSmart)
- Footwear - sneakers

Regional Swimming

The following students have progressed to the Regional Swimming carnival on Thursday, 17th March we wish them well as they represent our school in individual and relay events.

Charlie Hamilton | Sienna Affleck | Emily Scholtes
Emily Atheri | Eliza Watts | Sophie Fothergill
Scarlet Green | Georgia Robinson | Noah Mallia
Alyssa Furlan | Eliza Watts | Lucas Furlan
Sam McLuckie | Elliot Johnson | Joel Wharton
Josh Hamilton | Noah Addison | Ethan Jarvis

School Photos

School Photos will be taken on the second day back of Term 2 – Tuesday, 12th April 2016. Students are to wear summer uniform.

The photo order envelopes will be sent home at the end of this week.

CHILDREN AND SPORT AFTER SCHOOL

Being involved in an after school sporting activity has many benefits for children. The health and social benefits have been well documented. If there are any families in the school who are currently having difficulty paying the sporting club fees/subscriptions for their children or there are children unable to play sport because of financial issues, please contact Cathy Blackford or the school office. The school has access to some assistance.

SCHOOL FEES

A friendly reminder that Term 1 school fees were due on 26th February 2016.

First Communion
Mass 3/4C&D

Friday, 11th March

Violence.

5.00pm School Assembly & Easter Liturgy, P&F Easter Raffle drawn

PREPS FULLTIME

MARCH

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

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SCHOOL FEES

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Scripture Challenge

This week’s Scripture Challenge is based on the gospel—'The Prodigal Son'.

This week we talked to the children about forgiveness and saw the example of the father’s unconditional forgiveness in the story of the prodigal son.

The boy who left home and spent all his money ended up looking after pigs and wishing he could eat as well as they ate.

- How sad must he have been?
- How did his father show he loved his son when he returned home?
- When we return to God because we are sorry how does God treat us?

After reading the story we let the children tell us what they heard so that we could see that the main parts of the story had been grasped.

- What did we find out about the younger son?
- What did we find out about the father?
- Suppose you were the father in the story: would you have acted differently toward the son?
- What might you have made him do? (Put a curfew on him? Make him pay back the money by working for free? Keep a careful eye on him? Let him know how much he has hurt the family by his bad conduct? Restrict him to his room at night? Forbid him to see any of his friends?)

The father acted completely differently to how we probably would. What did he do? Who do you think the father in the story represents? Who does the son represent?

This is the kind of love Jesus had for God and for us: he gave his life so we could belong to him. He asks us to live like him, to imitate his love for us by loving all others as God and Jesus love us. Sometimes that will seem like a big job, especially if people make it hard for us to love or forgive them.

Ask the children if it is easy to forgive people who upset them in some way. Tell them that it is easier to forgive someone if we pray for that person. Ask them to pray this week for someone who has hurt them in some way. As they do, they will be imitating God's love.

If we could ever really believe and accept God's absolute love for us, it might not be so difficult for us to love others as we love ourselves. In the story of the runaway son, Jesus shows us that God's love never lets go of us; God waits for us, forgives us, and runs to meet us when we decide to return to him.

The story of the prodigal son is simultaneously challenging and encouraging. It is a story that speaks to every person in every era and is another good ‘checkpoint’ for us in our preparation for Easter.

Parents please take time this week to talk with your children about forgiveness.

Education News

FAMILY MATHS

How many line segments are needed to join each point to every other point?

To get to its den, a dingo has to go through two fences. The first fence has 3 holes in it and the second has 4 holes. How many different paths can the dingo take?

Answer

12 paths in all.

The dingo can go through the first fence in 3 ways. The dingo can go through the second fence in 4 ways. The total number of ways (paths) is $3 \times 4 = 12$. 

![Diagram of dingo's path through fences](image-url)
Increasing Women’s Options!
Due to the incredible success of our Increasing Women’s Options course over the past 5 years we will be offering this life changing course to local women in 2016

Brand New Course Starting April 2016!

So.........

√ Are you looking for a change in direction in your life?
√ Do you want to improve your skills and explore your potential?
√ Do you want more self-confidence to explore your goals in life?
√ Do you need a supportive environment in which to learn?

The Increasing Women’s Options course is full of fun, challenges and new experiences for women who want to discover and explore their potential. It is also for women who want to know how to re-enter the workforce, return to study, follow a goal and have a voice in their communities. Participants will build new strengths and talents, become aware of new possibilities in life, practice assertiveness and clear communication, in addition to developing computer and workplace skills.

An information day will be held on Tuesday 22nd March at 1pm
Places are limited for this popular course so register your interest now on 51 74 6199

Two of our students were finalists in the 2013 Victorian ACFE Awards Most Outstanding Pre-Accredited Learner category. Pictured is finalist Marg Wilson, tutor Jen Dentoom and winner Michelle Jenkins. We are very pleased to announce that Michelle will be facilitating the Increasing Women’s Options course in 2016.

Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House
11-13 Breed Street, Traralgon www.tnlh.org.au Ph: 5174 6199

LATROBE CITY

Pre school Storytime @ your local library
Pre school Storytime is a special time to share with your child.
It is held at the Traralgon Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.30 am and 11.30 am (repeat session) during the school term.
Also we have

Afterschool story time for families on
Wednesdays at 3.45 pm during school term

mailto: Noeline.Grayden@latrobe.vic.gov.au
Direct: 03 5176 3312
Fax: (03) 5128 5672
Phone: 1300 367 700
PO Box 264, Morwell 3840
141 Commercial Rd, Morwell 3840

TRARALGON NETBALL ASSOCIATION is currently looking for new umpires. Beginner umpires must be in a minimum of year 8. All beginner umpires are required to attend a beginners course.

Dates are:
Tuesday 8th March 4.15-5.30
Wednesday 16th March 4.15-5.30
Wednesday 23rd March 4.15-5.30

Please contact Jan Enjees for umpiring information on 0407 396 900

Changes to Working with Children Check fees
From 27 March, the fees structure for the Employee Checks will change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Fee to 27 March 2016</th>
<th>Fee from 27 March 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employee card</td>
<td>Volunteer card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New application</td>
<td>$108.80</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>$108.80</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace a card</td>
<td>$13.60</td>
<td>Free</td>
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* Note. Renewal must occur within three months of card expiring, after this time people must complete a new application at the higher fees.

These changes follow the government's review of the fee structure to ensure: volunteers are not discouraged, fees reflect the cost of the scheme, and savings generated for some services are passed on. The new fees are independent of the government's annual indexation of fees in July. For more information visit our website.

Working with Children Check
St Michael’s Parish Schools Fete – 19th March 2016

Just a few quick reminders as we head into the final two weeks before the fete.

Raffle Tickets

All raffle books need to be returned this week regardless of whether the tickets are sold or unsold. If you still have a book outstanding please return it to the school office.

Colouring Competition

The Bendigo Bank are sponsoring our school once again with a colouring competition. The pictures will be handed out to school today. A prize of $25 is offered to each area of the school. The completed pictures can be handed in until the day of the fete and the winners will be announced at assembly in Term 2.

Casual Clothes Day

On Friday 11th March we are having a casual clothes day at St Michaels. All children are able to come to school in sensible clothing for the cost of a “mystery jar” The mystery jar can contain anything: pencils, hair ties, craft items, lollies, pasta sauce.

Cake Stall

One of our popular stalls on the day of the fete is the Cake Stall. Everyone loves to buy some homemade cakes, biscuits or slices! What are you good at making? All items to be donated to the cake stall need to have a list of the ingredients and the date that it was made on the package. Your donation can come to school on Friday 18th or delivered on Saturday morning to the stall outside the Grade 3/4 area.

Devonshire Tea

We are also looking for some donations of Homemade Scones for our Devonshire tea. The hall is a great spot to sit and enjoy a beautiful homemade scone lavished with homemade jam and whipped cream. All scones can be delivered to the school hall on the morning of the fete.

 Helpers

Thankyou very much to the people who have responded to our call for help already. If everyone gets in and gives a little bit of their time then everyone has the chance to enjoy our day. If you haven’t yet returned your helper slip then please do so this week.

Ride Bands

Ride band order forms were sent home last week. You can order your ride band at a cheaper price before the fete and save yourself time in the queue on the day. Tickets can be ordered by returning your order form with cash or a cheque or you can purchase your tickets with debit / credit card on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday this week between 8:35 – 9:15am or 2:45 – 3:30pm.

St Michael’s School – Twitter

If you’re not a tweeter, this website proved to be very handy for us when learning how to!
http://edudemic.com/2010/06/the-ultimate-twitter-guidebook/

Follow these steps to follow us;

Step One… If you don’t already have an account, either go to www.twitter.com and set yourself up a new account or download the app on your smart phone and join that way. Don’t be too complicated with usernames! Make it easy for us to recognise you ie: we recommend you use your surname. So we know your username please send back the slip below when you have an account.

Step Two… These are our usernames and will be where all the tweets come from. When you request to follow us, it will say pending. When we receive your request, we will approve it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Username</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>@prepteamroom16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2 A, B, C, D</td>
<td>@12stm2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3/4 A, B, C, D</td>
<td>@34stm16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5/6 A, B, C, D</td>
<td>@56stm16</td>
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Step Three… After being approved, turn on Notifications from us. This will make sure that you get tweeted when we post something new.

A range of mobile devices support Twitter, including any Apple products (iPhone, iPad, iPod), Android, Blackberry, Nokia and Windows Phones as well as a PC or laptop.