Dear Parents,

Each week we try to encourage the students to ‘put their faith into action’; we find mottos from faith filled people to help them identify ways they can actually be active in their faith.

The following article has some ideas and examples of ways to help us to be aware of how we can be examples to others in our everyday living.

In her book, The Black Dress, Pamela Freeman has this rather delightful image to put into our minds: “Poor little sad soul! Sister Aloysius sent him to me that first week. I was standing in the playground, looking down at the mangroves and the bay, relishing the fresh salt air. Mick, his name was, came sidling up to me reluctantly, eyes down, terror in every movement. ‘Sister says I have to tell you,’ he said in a quavering voice. He gulped. ‘I stole a bun in the kitchen.’ God love him! I almost laughed. But I put my arm around him. ‘Were you hungry?’ He nodded. He was twisting his hands together in a combination of misery and fright. That movement alone told of months of abuse and fear. ‘Well, you go back to Sister and tell her I said to give you another bun.’ His head came up, astonished, and he met my eyes for the first time. I smiled. He grinned and hugged me hard and raced off to Sister Aloysius, leaping as he went. Then, I did laugh.”

Mary Mackillop’s action towards little Mick was one of total kindness. A century later, Mother Teresa made a statement so relevant to Mary Mackillop’s action when she said, “Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness, kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”

The Roman Emperor, Julian, (355-363) tried desperately to limit the influence of growing numbers of Christians but reluctantly, made this observation about them: “As children are coaxed with cake, so have these Christians enticed the poor to join them by their kindness. Strangers they have secured by hospitality. By brotherly love they have won the multitude.”

John Abbott. The History of Christianity.

If we are to take too much notice of the sensational side of media reporting, we might begin to doubt our personal safety in a ruthless society where kindness is, seemingly, becoming such a rare commodity. Perhaps media reports could include a few words from St Paul such as, “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another.”

Eph. 4:31,32.

As parents, we all know how self-absorbed young people can be. It’s part of their development, discovering their own identity and deciding who they want to be. It’s quite possible that they might think that because they are “family”, they are entitled to get what they want, when they want it, even if it means that their selfishness is to the disadvantage of other family members. They will need strong parent models from whom they can learn by observation and influence that they need to be more aware of other family members and their needs, their feelings and their concerns. They will need to be lead from self-absorption to sensitivity of others, so that kindness becomes part of their nature as they mature towards adulthood. Here’s a thought to keep at the back of your mind: “You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.” Author Unknown.

God our Father, we thank you for your “random act of kindness” that enabled us to have the children we do. Help us to establish kindness in our household, so it is found in our words, our attitudes and behaviours. Amen.

Keep smiling

Cathy Blackford
Principal

Thank you to our wonderful Parents & Friends committee members who organised the very successful ‘Lunch Order Day’. Without such a supportive school community these great events would not be possible.

Thank you also to all the families who contributed to our ‘Giving Mass’ last week. Our school alone collected nearly 600 items of food for St Vinnies thank you so much.

On Thursday, our Grade 3/4 children leave for school camp at Coonawarra. All children need to be in the School Hall at 8.45am to be marked off the roll, ready for a 9.00am departure.

On Friday parents will need to collect their child from the bus in Kay Street at 2.30pm. When collecting your child please let their class teacher know they are leaving.

Monday, 24th June : School Closure Staff PD
Friday, 28th June: School Closure Parent/Teacher Meeting
VALUES PROGRAM

This week we commence our focus on the value of ‘Joy and Optimism’. Martin Seligman suggests that, “The basis of optimism does not lie in positive phrases or images of victory, but in the way you think about causes”. In our classrooms, the children will be learning skills that promote positive habits of mind that support an optimistic approach to life and in turn enhance their full academic, social, emotional and behavioural potential.

Congratulations to the following children who this week received our school Values awards:

- **Alana Cameron** for being patient
- **John O’Brien** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Billy Porter** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Immy Henry** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Victoria Luque** for caring for her world
- **Harriet Williams** for caring for her world

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 8&9 / Term 2** are:

- Chase Stanistreet
- Alana Cameron
- Jaslyne Salerno
- Sarah Toms
- Cameron Farley
- Nahkia Parr
- Claudia Lear
- Max Mead
- Joel Wharton
- Ben Miller
- Makayla Brand
- James Lynch
- Reuel Lim
- Ella Blackford
- Jai Maloney
- Angus McNair
- Serenta Donchi
- Aaron Benc

Education in Faith News

St Michael’s Parish - Sacrament of Confirmation 2013

A meeting for all Parents of Catholic children in Year 6, who would like their child to celebrate their Confirmation this year, will be held on: **Date:** Wednesday 19th June 2013 **Venue:** St Michael’s School Hall **Time:** 7pm, please arrive 10min prior to meeting to allow time for signing in.

A parent or representative from each family **must** attend this meeting.

Important details to note:

- All children wanting to celebrate Confirmation or Eucharist in 2013 should already be enrolled. Please contact this office if your child is not enrolled.
- If you have changed residential address or email address since enrolling last year please contact this office.
- **Confirmation Celebration Preference Forms** will be mailed to all enrolled families in the next couple of weeks.
- If your child did not celebrate Eucharist at St Michael’s Parish, you must provide a copy of your child’s Reconciliation and Eucharist Certificates.

**Confirmation** (Grade 6) – Saturday 17th August 6pm and Sunday 18th August 9.30am

For further information, please phone 51747703 Office hours: Tue & Wed between 9.30am & 1pm during school terms.

FAMILY MASS / PARISH MORNING TEA / FORUM this Sunday, 23rd June

The next Parish Family Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am in St Michael’s Church on Sunday, 23rd June and this will be followed by Morning Tea then the Parish Forum.

The first Family Mass was a great success with many coming along to celebrate Mass and then having a chat afterwards. There will be a Morning Teas after the Mass in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Please bring a small plate to share. The Morning Tea will be followed by a Parish Forum. It is important that all Parish Groups send along at least one representative to the Forum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th Wed</td>
<td>Learning Assembly – Gr 5/6 – 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Wed</td>
<td>Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Meet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Thurs</td>
<td>Regional cross country</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Thurs</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Camp</td>
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<td>21st Fri</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 return from Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st Fri</td>
<td>Mass – Gr 5/6A&amp;C – 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st Fri</td>
<td>Learning Assembly – Gr 1/2 – 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd &amp; 23rd</td>
<td>Sacrament of Confirmation –Commit. Mass</td>
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<td>23rd Sun</td>
<td>Parish Family Mass – 9.30am</td>
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<td>24th Mon</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSURE – Staff PD Day</td>
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<td>27th Thurs</td>
<td>Term 2 finishes – 3.20pm</td>
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<td>27th Thurs</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Meetings 3.30pm – 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Fri</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>JULY</td>
<td>Term 3 commences</td>
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Mathematical Problem

It would be great if you as parents could work the problem with your child or against your child and then compare your results. Have fun thinking mathematically.

Solution for Mathematical Problem in Newsletter No. 17

Since the first pile contains four more cubes than the second pile, a reasonable first try for the number in first pile is 5.

If the first pile contains 5 cubes, then the second pile contains 1 cube. The third then contains 2 cubes and the fourth 2 cubes. This would give a total of 10 cubes which is too few.

Thus try 6 in the first pile, then if necessary try 7 cubes in the first pile, and so on.

See the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st pile</th>
<th>2nd pile</th>
<th>3rd pile</th>
<th>4th pile</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table it can be seen that for 20 cubes, the first pile contains 7 cubes, the second 3 cubes, the third 4 cubes and the fourth 6 cubes.

There are two different ways that John travels to school. Either he walks to school and catches the bus home, or else he catches the bus in the morning and walks home. In each case, his total travelling time is 1 hour.

If he were to catch the bus both ways, it would take 30 minutes. How long would it take if he walked both ways?

“READ, READ, READ, FOR THE MORE YOU READ, THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU GROW, SO READ, READ, READ”

Reading is a complex process beginning from the role play reader to the advanced reader with a few stages in between. So this week, we will focus on advanced readers: those who confident and efficient with their reading. They can critically reflect on and respond to text by providing different levels of interpretation and points of view.

How I can help my child with reading?

- Look for opportunities to discuss and share excerpts and ideas from a variety of different reading materials.
- Value your own reading and be informed by that of your child. Widen each other's horizons.
- Discuss ways in which tasks can be handled. Recall strategies that have been effective in the past.
- Recognise that both you and your child may have quite different ideas about what you want to read and respect choices made. Broaden reading experiences by exchanging books.

Parentingideas

“Strong families build up their own rituals and traditions, which help define them and set them apart”.

Michael Grose parentingideas.com.au
St Michaels Parish Ball – Saturday 20th July 2013

Tickets for the Parish Ball will be on sale this Friday 21st June in the Staffroom between 8.30 - 9.00am. Tickets are $60.00 per head – 3 course meal. If you have any queries or you are unable purchase the tickets this Friday, you can contact Fiona Said on 0438 748 278. This event is shaping up to be a great night of entertainment and should not be missed.

Out of Dough Pies

For those who ordered pies they will be available for pick up on Wednesday 26th June in the School Hall between 3.00 - 3.30pm. If you have a small order it can be sent home with your child.

School Fete – Saturday 15th March 2014

Just a reminder that the Fete Raffle Tickets are due back next Thursday 27th June (last day of Term). There are great prizes on offer so make sure you purchase your tickets.

We would like to say a big thank you to our sponsors, the Green Olive and Lollypotz for their generous donations for 2nd and 3rd prize. The raffle will be drawn on the night of the Parish Ball and all winners will be notified immediately.

‘Stuck on You’ fundraiser

This is a great way to eliminate lost property problems at our school while raising money at the same time. A letter and order form was sent home today with the eldest in the family. Any questions please contact Michelle Crosby at school or ‘Stuck on You’ on 1800645849.

Online application form

Starting from July 2013...

From July 2013 applicants will fill out the form online before lodging it with Australia Post.

From July an easy 2-step application process for a Working with Children (WWC) Check will involve filling out the form online.

Step 1 – From July 2013 submit your details online

- Go to the WWC Check website
- Fill out the form online
- Print out the Application Summary and Receipt with all the details you entered

Step 2 – Lodge your documents at Australia Post

Go to a participating Australia Post outlet to lodge your application, taking with you:

- the Application Summary and Receipt
- relevant proof of identity documents
- a passport size photo
- and if you are applying for an Employee card the application fee.

Further updates on the online application form

Revisit the website closer to July for details on when applicants can start to fill out the application form online.

- See more at: http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/online

St Michael’s Parish - MUMS GROUP

Coffee and cake for the Mums and fun activities for the kids.

Meeting each Tuesday during the School term.

Where: St Mary MacKillop Hall (St Michael's)

When: 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m

Any inquires call Jenifer - 0437492349