Dear Parents,

Can you believe we are up to week 11 of term 2; this year is certainly flying. Thanks to everyone who has made this term such a successful one; the staff, the captains, the many members of the St Michael’s committees, the parents and grandparents who attend Masses, sporting events, assemblies and classroom activities. We really are so lucky to have such a vibrant and committed school community.

We finish the term with the parent teacher interviews; these are a wonderful opportunity for you as parents to understand how your child is going, to share with your child’s teacher your child’s strengths and concerns and also to help your child set goals for the next term. The interviews are for 10 minutes and it is very important that we stick to the timetable but if you feel you need more time please ask your child’s teacher for an additional meeting.

I thought the following article by Michael Grose would help to make the interviews as productive and positive as possible.

Many parent-teacher interviews are tightly scheduled and can seem a little rushed. Teachers are generally highly organised so they can make the most of the time you have together. It makes sense also for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the brief time you have with teachers.

Here are some guidelines to make the most of these interviews:

1. Prepare well. Before the interview, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep questions short and to the point.

2. Attend with a partner or friend particularly if you are nervous or unsure. It is easy to miss a point and often difficult to relay information to a partner.

3. Give the teacher a chance to make an assessment of your child’s progress. This may seem obvious but some interviews never get off the ground because enthusiastic parents take over. Here are some guidelines to make the most of these interviews:

4. Take notes and clarify information that you don’t understand.
   “What do you mean by ‘he needs to spend more time reading’...?”
   Make sure you have a good understanding of the messages your child’s teacher is giving.

5. Be prepared to give an assessment of your child’s performance.
   You may be asked how you think your child is performing so give an honest, but realistic assessment.

6. Ask how you can help your child if there are any areas that need to be strengthened. No doubt your child’s teacher will have some strategies for you to assist your child, so make sure you have a clear understanding before you leave.

If there are unresolved issues or you wish to discuss your child’s difficulties in greater detail, consider asking for another interview. This is being respectful of the teacher’s time and of those parents who are to follow.

Once the interview is over consider how you will discuss it with your child.

Avoid giving generalisations or simplistic appraisals such as: “The teacher says you are a good girl.” Discuss areas that need work in positive terms. Talk about strengths or successes first before discussing areas that may need more work.

A clear message such as, “We talked about your reading and the teacher suggested that we should try...” is far more helpful.

Involve your child in discussing any plans for improvement. Avoid making big plans for your child to improve in a subject area without consulting him or her. By involving children and taking notice of their ideas plans are more likely to be successful.

I hope you enjoy your time with your children over the holidays and come back ready for another great term.

Some quotes to help you with your time with your children-

“Never do regularly for a child the things a child can do for him or herself.” Maurice Balson

“Character, like good soup, is made at home”. Unknown

“Correction does much, but encouragement does more”. Goethe

“The word No carries a lot more meaning when spoken by a parent who also knows how to say Yes wisely.” Joyce Maynard

“Consistency is the most important element in a parent’s relationship with their children.” Sal Severe

“Mothers always know.” Oprah Winfrey

“Parents are the bones on which children cut their teeth”. Peter Ustinov

“Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn’t have said.” Unknown

“Hugging has no harmful side effects. There are potential huggers in every household.” Diana Spencer

“People who say they sleep like a baby usually don’t have one.” Leo Burke

“We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sails.” Anon

Keep smiling

Cathy Blackford
Principal
### Dates to Remember

**JUNE**
- 27th Thurs: Term 2 finishes – 3.20pm
- 27th Thurs: Parent/Teacher Meetings 3.30pm – 6pm
- 28th Fri: Parent/Teacher Meetings

**JULY**
- 15th Mon: Term 3 commences
- 17th Wed: Confirmation Parent/Child Workshop
- 18th Thurs: Parents & Friends Meeting – 9.00am
- 20th Sat: Parish Ball
- 20th/21st: Confirmation Prayer letter Mass
- 22nd Mon: Gr 5/6 Retreat – Lavalla
- 25th Thurs: Region Winter Sports
- 25th Thurs: Gr Prep – Warrook Farm Excursion
- 26th Fri: Lunch Order Day
- 27th/28th: Confirmation – Apostle’s Creed Mass
- 29th Mon: Gr 5/6 Melbourne excursion

**AUGUST**
- 2nd Fri: Gr 3/4 Melbourne excursion
- 3rd/4th: Confirmation – collection of stoles
- 7th Wed: Confirmation Parent/Child Workshop
- 9th Fri: District Basketball
- 10th/11th: Confirmation – Presentation of Pins
- 14th Wed: Gr Prep – Puppet show
- 15th Thurs: Parents & Friends Meeting
- 17th/18th: Sacrament of Confirmation
- 19th Mon: Book Week
- 23rd Fri: Lunch Order Day
- 23rd Fri: Book Week – Dress Up Day
- 27th Tues: Father’s Day Stall
- 28th Wed: Grade 5 – Camp
- 30th Fri: Grade 5 – return from Camp

**SEPTEMBER**
- 4th Wed: Eucharist – Parent Meeting
- 5th Thurs: Division Summer Sports
- 6th Fri: Walk-a-thon
- 10th Tues: Division Athletics
- 11th Wed: Rehearsal – School Concert
- 12th Thurs: Parents & Friends Meeting
- 16th Mon: Footy Day
- 16th Mon: Lunch Order Day
- 18th Wed: Eucharist – Parent/Child Workshop
- 19th Thurs: School Concert – Kernot Hall
- 20th Fri: Term 3 Finishes

### Grade 5/6 Learning Assembly

A big thank you to all parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends who came for a “Taste of Asia” last Wednesday. The students presented fantastic displays of their learning in many different ways. The morning was spent sharing with each other across all classes and was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the learning of every person in our level.

Some comments from the grade 5/6s.
"We had fun ways to learn about Asia when we went around to other people."

"It was surprising to see some things other people had made."

"I liked that parents could wander around and see different booths."

"It was good seeing all the parents come in."

### Grade 1/2 Learning Assembly
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. 18

(a) Both ways by bus takes 30 minutes, so one way by bus takes 15 minutes. Then walking one way takes 60 - 15 minutes, i.e. 45 minutes. Therefore walking both ways takes 90 minutes.

(b) Algebraically:
Let walking both ways take t minutes.
Then, walking one way takes \( t \) minutes.
Therefore, one way by bus takes \( (60 - \frac{t}{2}) \) minutes.
So, \( 2 \times (60 - \frac{t}{2}) = 30 \)
i.e. \( 60 - \frac{t}{2} = 15 \)
i.e. \( t = 45 \)
i.e. \( t = 90 \)
Therefore, walking both ways takes 90 minutes.
(There are various other algebraic solutions.)

The average of five boys' scores in an English test was 8. If Brian scored 6, Mort 10, Bruce 7 and Kevin 7, what did Max score?

"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 and all children should be exposed to a variety of printed matter, this includes having opportunities to read, write and talk about the various forms of printed matter listed below. Not everything listed is suitable for all reading levels.

St Michaels Parish Ball – Saturday 20th July 2013
Tickets for the Parish Ball will be on sale this Wednesday 26th June in the School Hall between 3.00 - 3.30pm. When purchasing tickets please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. This will be your last chance to get tickets to what is shaping up to be a great night of entertainment and should not be missed.

If you have any queries you can contact Fiona Said on 0438 748 278.

Out of Dough Pies
For those who ordered pies they will be available for pick up this 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 this 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.