Dear Parents,

In less than a month our Yr 6 students will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation when they will choose for themselves to become active members of the Christian community. This is a very special time in their lives.

The reality for all of us who have children is that they are never really ours like possessions; they are given to us for a short period of time during which we are asked to nurture and care for them. Henri Nouwen in his book, Reaching Out, puts it this way: “It belongs to the Christian message that children are not properties to own and rule over, but gifts to cherish and care for. Our children are most important guests, who enter into our home, ask for careful attention, stay for a while and then leave to follow their own way. Home is the place where they can be encouraged to listen to their inner selves and develop the freedom that gives them courage to eventually leave their home and travel on.”

Our children are really not ours, we are only their guardians. Like for us, God is the real parent and God’s love and care for them will always be greater than ours. Moreover, God has the power to touch the heart of our child and break through to our child in a way that we, as parents, often cannot. God can reach into places where we cannot reach. God is always there with a love more patient and strong than is our own. This can be of great consolation to us, if our children ever stop listening to us, turn their backs on us, reject our values and even turn away from everything we stand for. God, they cannot walk away from.

God’s partnership with us comes to the surface every now and then and one such occasion is when our children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Prior to the first Confirmation, Jesus’ disciples were in no-man’s-land. Jesus had gone from them and there was a void in their lives. For ten days after the Ascension they gathered together waiting for something to happen, as Jesus said it would. They had ten days to go over the past three years when Jesus had been the centre of their lives; ten days to reassess their own lives and be supportive of one another.

Our children, through our example and the preparation they receive at school, also have time to consider their lives, to become aware of the Seven special gifts of the Spirit and the practise of the fruits of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23. When the disciples, on the first Pentecost day, received the Holy Spirit into their lives, they were changed forever and they in turn changed the lives of thousands of other people. Likewise, our children, when they receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, will receive the potential for change. God is now with them, with the fullness of his presence, as they move ahead in their own individual lives. God will always be there, when perhaps we are not, with a love patient and everlasting.

Please pray for all our Confirmation candidates and their families during this time of preparation.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their guide and helper.
Give them wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of right judgement and courage, the Spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with wonder and awe in your presence. Amen

Congratulations
Congratulations to Hugh Dunbar and Jade Melbourne who represented St Michael’s school in cross country at State Level. We are very proud of their efforts and thank them for being such great representatives of our school.

Thank You
Thanks you to Fiona Said and her team for organising the St Michael’s Parish school ball last Saturday night. It was a huge success and fun was had by all.

Thank you also to the P&F who are continually working to provide funds for our school through many different ways; lunch orders, pie drives, stalls, walkathons etc. We appreciate all you do for our school community.

Keep smiling
Cathy Blackford
Principal

PARISH FETE RAFFLE
Results from the Combined Parish Primary School Fete.

1st Prize - Harry Thoppil
2nd Prize - Blair Wight
3rd Prize - Furlan Family

A big thank to The Green Olive and Lollypotz for donating the 2nd and 3rd prizes.
VALUES PROGRAM

Our focus is still 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:

- **Charlie Hamilton** for being thoughtful towards others.
- **Allie Cardillo** for being a responsible learner
- **Ava Van der Velden** for being co-operative
- **Medal Agrawal** for being patient and a responsible learner

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 **Week 1 / Term 3** are:

- **Ashlyn Murtagh**
- **Noah Demetriou**
- **Chase Stanistreet**
- **Lexi Charles**
- **Lola Hegarty**
- **Hannah Van Iwaarden**
- **Eliza Watts**
- **Noah Mallia**
- **Kieran Hanlon**
- **Cameron Farley**

Education Maintenance Allowance 2013:
Instalment Two

Education Maintenance Allowance - Instalment Two

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid-August onwards for parents/guardians who chose the ‘direct deposit’ or ‘pay direct to school’ payment option on their application form.

Parents/guardians who chose the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September.


Contact: School Office for an application form and further information.

Scholastic Book Club Issue 5:

The last day for orders to be back at school is **Thursday, 25th July 2013**.

Please note:
- If paying by credit card, follow the instructions on the receipt/order form.
- If paying by cheque, make cheques payable to ‘Scholastic Australia’.

Place order form and payment in an envelope and return to class teacher, orders must be returned to the year level they were issued from.

St Michael’s Parish PIETY STALL – Confirmation

Anyone wanting to purchase cards, gifts, etc for the Sacrament of Confirmation the Piety Stall at St Michael’s Church will be open at 1.00pm -3.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from **22nd July to 16th August 2013**. It will also be open after all weekend Masses. Enquiries please contact Lyn Kennedy on 5174 5848.
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. 20

Mrs Hannah likes dogs. At present all her adult dogs are spaniels while some of her puppies are spaniels and some are not. In all she has 11 dogs of which 7 are spaniels and 8 are puppies. How many spaniel puppies has she?

- a) Mrs Hannah has 11 dogs – 7 spaniels = 4 dogs which are not spaniels. These are puppies but not spaniel puppies. Thus she has 8 – 4 = 4 spaniel puppies.
- b) Mrs Hannah has 11 dogs but 7 spaniels + 8 puppies = 15 dogs. Thus 4 dogs must have been counted twice. These 4 dogs are spaniel puppies.

The Shirt Shop has a sale and sells T-shirts for $4 each during the morning, taking $240. After lunch, the price is dropped to $3 each and the shop sells twice as many.

What was the total taken for this day?

"HELP YOUR CHILD TO LOVE READING"

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th Wed</td>
<td>Lunch Order Day</td>
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<td>25th Thurs</td>
<td>Gr Prep – Warrook Farm Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Thurs</td>
<td>Gipps Region T-Ball - Maffra</td>
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<td>26th Fri</td>
<td>Gr 1/2 Old Gippstown - excursion</td>
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<td>27th/28th</td>
<td>Confirmation – Apostle's Creed Mass</td>
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<td>29th Mon</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Melbourne excursion</td>
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<th>AUGUST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Fri</td>
<td>Gr 3/4 Melbourne excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd/4th</td>
<td>Confirmation – collection of stoles</td>
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<td>7th Wed</td>
<td>Confirmation Parent/Child Workshop</td>
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<td>9th Fri</td>
<td>District Basketball</td>
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<td>10th/11th</td>
<td>Confirmation – Presentation of Pins</td>
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<td>14th Wed</td>
<td>Gr Prep – Puppet show</td>
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<td>15th Thurs</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting</td>
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<td>17th/18th</td>
<td>Sacrament of Confirmation</td>
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<td>19th Mon</td>
<td>Book Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd Fri</td>
<td>Lunch Order Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd Fri</td>
<td>Book Week – Dress Up Day</td>
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<td>27th Tues</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall – Gr 5</td>
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<td>28th Wed</td>
<td>Grade 5 – Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th Fri</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall for rest of the school</td>
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<td>30th Fri</td>
<td>Grade 5 – return from Camp</td>
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<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>4th Wed</td>
<td>Eucharist – Parent Meeting</td>
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<td>5th Thurs</td>
<td>Division Summer Sports</td>
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<td>6th Fri</td>
<td>Walk-a-thon</td>
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<td>10th Tues</td>
<td>Division Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Wed</td>
<td>Rehearsal – School Concert</td>
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<td>12th Thurs</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Mon</td>
<td>Footy Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Mon</td>
<td>Lunch Order Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Wed</td>
<td>Eucharist – Parent/Child Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Thurs</td>
<td>School Concert – Kernot Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Fri</td>
<td>Term 3 Finishes</td>
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IMPORTANT NEWS FROM ST PAUL’S CAMPUS OF LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Hello Parents and Students

We would like to advise the parents of **Grade 5 students** that the next important date for you is:

- **Grade 5 Visits to St Paul’s Campus : Friday 2 August 2013**

Further information regarding this day will be forwarded in the near future.

We would like to advise the parents of **Grade 6 students** that the next important date for you is:

- **2014 Individual Enrolment Interviews : to be held either 6 or 7 August 2013.**

Parents will receive a letter in the coming weeks to advise when their interview is, where it is to be held and who their interview is with.

Thank you

Bev O’Brien & Heather Thompson,  Transition Team

My name is Danielle Kenney and together with a fellow student Amber Lawrence and our University Lecturer Dr. Angela Gent, we are conducting research for our Honours degree in Psychology. I am writing to enquire if you could include a brief advertisement of our online survey, in your school newsletter. We are seeking fathers of children aged 1-4 years to participate in our study on fatigue and wellbeing, which can be completed online in less than 15 minutes. The survey and further information is available at, http://tinyurl/wellbeingdads . There is also a prize draw for participants to win a $50 Coles Myer Voucher. I am aware that this age group is younger than primary school aged children, however other primary schools have advertised the survey and we have gained participants that provided us with great information. The other primary schools that have advertised our survey were within the Melbourne region, and we don't want to miss out on valuable information from rural fathers. We are still seeking participants and would really appreciate it if you took us up on this offer.

PIANO LESSONS are available during school hours with Alison Darling. Practical and theory work is covered in the weekly lessons. Please contact Alison on 5134 4518 for further details.

Palms Australia is a Catholic organisation that has been sending volunteers to developing countries for over 50 years.

**Pope Francis calls Catholics back to Core Values. Volunteering to share your skills is a great place to start.**

Palms global volunteers mentor and exchange skills in countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Positions exist in education, health, administration, agriculture/farming, trades and other areas.

**ENQUIRIES:** Sarah Torcasio | 02 9518 9551 | sarah@palms.org.au | www.palms.org.au

**PIANO LESSONS** are available during school hours with Alison Darling. Practical and theory work is covered in the weekly lessons. Please contact Alison on 5134 4518 for further details.

Churchill, Pax Hill Traralgon, Trafalgar
Hazelwood North, Glengarry, Newborough, Toongabbie, Boolarra, Yarragon, Tyers
Call Sally: 0403282630 or Glen: 0408762679

**JUNIOR PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**
MLC Tennis Australia Hotshots for ages 5 – 10
FREE trial lesson available FREE tennis racquet and t-shirt upon enrolment in term program.

**LET’S PLAY TENNIS** - For children ages 11 and above
FREE trial lesson available. FREE tennis racquet upon enrolment in term program.

**MUM’S and DAD’S PROGRAMS**
LADIES’ and MEN’S GROUPS (beginners or experienced)

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS**
School holiday clinics will be offered during each week of the holidays. Phone for details.

PHONE NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

Reminder: School Rewards Program at ‘The Athlete’s Foot’. $5.00 from every pair of shoes purchased is donated back to the school when you mention St Michael’s School at the time of purchase. This applies to your whole family across the range of school, sports, work and casual shoes.