Dear Parents,

This weekend 63 children from the St Michael’s Parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray for them that they may be true witnesses of the Catholic faith and live their lives with the Holy Spirit as their guide. We also thank the teachers and helpers who, with their parents, have assisted in the students’ preparation for this wonderful sacrament. We welcome Bishop Christopher who will confirm the children and pray for him in all he does as our guide and leader in the Sale Diocese.

Many a parent has sat in the Church on the day of their child’s Confirmation and wondered about the meaning of what they are about to witness. They and their children have been told that confirmation is similar to baptism, in that as Baptism enabled us to become children of God, so confirmation enables us to become mature Christians. Carol Luebering in her book, “Your Child’s Confirmation”, offers us a more acceptable understanding of this concept:

“It is difficult to speak of Confirmation as a Sacrament of ‘mature’ commitment. Human commitment is forever an evolving commitment. The vows made on a wedding day have to be rethought and remade over the years. Our faith commitment undergoes similar stress and change. Every time we brush against mystery - the wonder of birth, the pain of loss, the frustrations of everyday life - our concept of God changes a bit. We have to choose belief all over again.

Confirmation can be understood as a deepening of the gifts received at Baptism as it:

- Deepens our identity as God’s children.
- Unites us more firmly with Christ
- Increases in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Binds us more closely to the church and ‘gives us special strength to witness to our Catholic faith.

However, Confirmation might be compared to the fate of two soccer balls given as gifts to two separate people. The first person, when given the ball says, “Wow, let’s go out and play with it!” this they do on a regular basis and so develop a variety of skills and knowledge about how to use the ball, when alone and in association with other people. The second person accepts the ball graciously, appears happy with the gift but when the party is over puts the ball in a cupboard and doesn’t give it another thought. The moral of the story: gifts need to be used if they are to fulfill their potential value.

Maybe you, as a child, put your “soccer ball” into the cupboard. Perhaps your child’s confirmation could be a trigger for you to take it out again and begin to consciously model its “gifts” to your children by the actions of your life.

Kathy Coffey, Catholic author and mother has an exciting insight to offer when she writes: “The genius of the Catholic Sacraments is the bold claim they make: that through the Sacramental actions, God comes among us. Through the laying of hands, this anointing with chrism (oil mixed with balsam) and the saying of words, we receive the same Spirit that Jesus received at his Baptism and that the apostles received at Pentecost. We join the same spirit-filled community to which great saints belonged: St Francis of Assisi, Thomas, Moore, Teresa of Avila.”

As we sit in the Church and take part in the ceremony, we witness our children go forth from Confirmation, anointed, signed with Christ’s cross, gifted with peace and empowered for service. We can continue to pray for our children in the words of Bishop Christopher as he lays hands on them:

“Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their guide and helper. Give them the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Right Judgment and courage The Spirit of Knowledge and Reverence. Fill them with the Spirit of Wonder and Awe in your presence. Amen”

Keep smiling,
Cathy Blackford
Principal

School Board is meeting this Wednesday, 14th August at 6.00pm in the meeting room. We are still looking for some new members so if you would like to be an active member of our school community please see Lyn for a nomination form and join us on Wednesday.

Thursday, 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a holy day of obligation and we will be celebrating a whole school Mass at 12.00noon. There will be no Friday Mass for the school this week.
This week our school value focus is patience. This value encourages our students to work to be people who are thoughtful and attentive, conscientious and compassionate in their commitments to others. The children will be encouraged to practise patience in their interactions with others at school and at home. As well, the children will be encouraged to show patience in their learning by persisting at tasks and seeing them through to the end, no matter how challenging a task may be. Parenting expert, Michael Grose, provides suggestions for parents to assist with the promotion of persistence at home. He suggests:

Here are four practical strategies you can use to promote a sense of persistence in your children:

1. Develop a vocabulary for persistence.
   Words like “Hang tough”, “Work Hard” and “Hang in there” can become part of their everyday vocabulary.

2. Point out to children when they stick at a task.
   Most parents know it pays off when they catch their children being good but it also pays off to catch them being persistent. The behaviours you focus on as parents expand so let them know when they have been persistent. Also remind them that persistence generally pays off.

3. Help children to remember times when they experienced success by HANGING IN when they were younger. Let them know that persistence has paid off before and it will again.

4. Talk about HARD WORK with your children.
   They need to understand that to be successful they need to do things that are NOT fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality, this is not always the case. Published by Michael Grose Presentations.

VALUES PROGRAM

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

- **Keeley Smith** for caring for the world
- **Tarquin Crosby** for being a responsible learner
- **Zahrarose Beaty** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Bryson Gibbons** for being a responsible learner
- **Harry Cooper** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Emma Spagnolo** for being a responsible learner
- **William Tripodi** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Declan Massaro** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Braxton Lawlor** for being a responsible learner
- **Taya O’Donoghue** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Alex Pearce** for being a responsible learner
- **Urma Ratnayake** for being a responsible learner
- **Sebastian Poole** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Ben Justin** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Jared Rodway** for being a responsible learner
- **Emma Spagnolo** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Brad Rickard** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Bryson Gibbons** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Emma Spagnolo** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Liam Willaton** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Ben Justin** for being patient and thoughtful towards others
- **Ella Blackford** for being patient and thoughtful towards others

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 seen demonstrating within the school. The award winners for **Week 4 / Term 3** are:

**Keeley Smith**  **Eden Smith**  **Bryson Gibbons**  **Makeyala Geary**

**Tarquin Crosby**  **Vyas Mageswaren**  **Zahrarose Beaty**  **Emma Spagnolo**

**Jared Rodway**  **Harry Cooper**  **William Tripodi**  **Brad Rickard**

**Cooper Taylor**  **Ben Grumley**  **Declan Massaro**  **Alex Pearce**

**Todd Elliot**  **Liam Otter**

On Friday, 23rd August we will be celebrating Book Week and promoting the importance of reading with a ‘RELAX AND READ’ morning. On this day, the children will be asked to wear pyjamas to school (children may choose to come dressed in comfy clothing if they prefer) and bring along one of their favourite story books to share with other children.
Solution for Mathematical Problem in Newsletter No. 23

A rectangular swimming pool has a 140 metre perimeter. What is the area of the pool if it is 50 metres long?

Twice the length is 100m.
Twice the width is 140m – 100m = 40m
The width is 20m.
The area is 50m x 20m = 1,000m²

Selecting Books for Your Child: Finding ‘Just Right’ Books

How can parents help their children find books that are not “too hard” and not “too easy” but instead are “just right”? Here’s some advice.

Five finger rule
1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of, or do not know.
4. If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.

Still think it may not be too difficult? Use the five finger rule on two more pages.

Choose a book that is a good fit for you!
Read two or three pages and ask yourself these questions:

Will it be an easy, fun book to read?
- Do I understand what I am reading?
- Do I know almost every word?
- When I read it aloud, can I read it smoothly?
- Do I think the topic will interest me?

If most of your answers were “yes”, this will be an easy book to read independently by yourself.

Will this book be too hard for me?
- Are there five or more words on a page that I don’t know, or am unsure of?
- Is this book confusing and hard to understand by myself?
- When I read it aloud, does it sound choppy and slow?

If most of your answers were “yes,” this book is too hard. You should wait awhile before you read this book. Give the book another try later, or ask an adult to read the book to you.

Tips on reading with your child
When they can’t read the word, say...
- Can you sound it out?
- Finger tap it.
- Can you think of the word or movement that helps you remember that vowel sound?
- What is the first and last sound? What word would make sense?
- Does it have a pattern that you have seen in other words?
- How does the word begin?
- You said_______. Does that make sense?
- What word would make sense that would start with these sounds?
- Put your finger under the word as you say it.

When they want to read a book that is too hard, say...
- Let’s read it together.
- This is a book you will enjoy more if you save it until you are older — or later in the year.
- [Be honest!] When people read books that are too hard for them, they often skip important parts. You will have more fun with this book if you wait until you can read it easily.
LOST PROPERTY
The lost property cupboard is located opposite the School Office reception window. Parents and children are welcome to check the lost property cupboard anytime. There are four baskets in this cupboard and currently they are overflowing with jumpers and tracksuit tops, all unnamed. Please come and reclaim your child’s items of clothing before the end of term as they will be washed and sent to the Secondhand Uniform Shop.

A special request for parents to check their child’s woollen jumper as there is a named jumper from the Grade 1/2 area missing. We understand that with jumpers and school bags the same it could have mistakenly been placed in the wrong bag.

Please label your child’s school clothes, lunch boxes etc. so these can be returned if lost. Teachers have a difficult time trying to find the owner of unnamed items when children are reluctant to say it might belong to them.

Scholastic Book Club – Issue 6 The last day for orders to back at school is Thursday, 22nd August 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.

SCHOOL FEES Just a reminder that payment of Term 3 school fees was due last Friday. Your attention to this payment would be greatly appreciated.

Help St Michael’s to Win! We encourage everyone in our school community to register for St Michael’s chance to win 1 of 3 $5,000 school grants. If we are the school with the highest number of registrations we will win a massive pallet of stationery products worth $2,700. Please remember the more registrations we get the more chances we will have to WIN one of the grants. Maximum one vote per person. To enter, visit books4schools.com.au

Several past and current students from our school are performing in Class Act Productions Inc. production of “Beauty and the Beast”. Shows are: Fri 16th, Sat 17th and Sunday 18th August 2013. At Lowanna College Auditorium, Newark Avenue, Newborough. Tickets: 0412 478 975 or 0412 871 696. classactproductions.com.au

Sports News

ST MICHAELS NETBALL CLUB BREAK UP
The committee will be putting on a break up for all the St Michaels netball players, coaches, sponsors and umpires to thank them for all their hard work, and to celebrate a great season. There will be presentations and raffles held on the day.

So come along and enjoy!!

Wednesday 21st August, 2013
Time: 3.30 – 4.30pm
Venue: St Michaels Hall, Food and drinks will be supplied
Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

In 2001 (over 12 years ago) the Government introduced the ‘Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

Act now! Time is running out fast!

HAVE YOU MISSED OUT ON THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS?

If your child was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements.

The government has now put a deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au to receive more information.

Twelve Chartered Accountants ABN 61 712 659 747
Suite 2, Level 1, 10-14 Boyle Street, Sutherland 2232
P: (02) 9524 2744 www.twelve.com.au Principal: Derek Nolan CA

Your Family Tax Specialist