Dear Parents,

Happy Father’s Day to all our dads, grandpas, pops, uncles - we hope you have a great day on Sunday. I thought it was worthwhile reflecting on the important jobs dads do in our lives and this article by Michael Grose explains it well.

**He’s a bit of a rascal**

This is how Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge described his new born son in a recent televised interview. Watching the interview it’s apparent that Prince William is totally smitten by his son. He is a changed man. As any dad knows, there’s no turning back. Early indications are that the Duke of Cambridge is going to be a modern, hands-on dad who wants to be an active participant in the life of his son. It was he who carried the baby from the hospital to greet the media pack, and it was he who put the baby capsule in the back seat of the car before heading home. "I’m a hands-on dad" was the message beamed around the world. Good on him.

**Father time is valuable time**

**Building up frequent father points**

Prince William is typical of many modern dads. Gone are the days when the only relationship many men had with their children was through their wives. Men, increasingly, recognise that their effectiveness is dependent on first-hand interactions with their kids. That means their presence is needed far more than any presents they may provide for their kids. For some dads first-hand interactions with children are easier said than done. Family separation, work circumstances and busy lifestyles are all factors affecting their capacity to become involved in their children’s lives. In these circumstances it’s important that men maintain an emotional attachment to their kids; do their best to know what’s going on in their children’s lives; and respond appropriately to the developmental imperatives of their children.

**The impact of fathering on children**

**Good fathering matters.**

It matters to mothers as a supportive father makes a mother’s life easier. It matters to girls. Good fathering has been linked to higher confidence levels in girls, particularly during the tricky adolescent years. The notion of a father who is present, available and attentive affords a sense of security to a girl, which is necessary for healthy development. Dads are also the first introduction to the world of men for girls so it’s important that fathers treat their daughters with gentleness and respect, but also encourage them to be assertive. In a sense, fathers teach their daughters how they should expect to be treated by males as they get older.

Good fathering matters to boys. They learn their first lessons of manhood from their dads. Early primary-aged boys usually want to spend a great deal of time with their dads. Steve Biddulph, author of *Raising Boys*, describes this phenomenon as ‘father-hunger’ and suggests that dads need to be around their sons in the primary school years so they can ‘download the software’ of how to be male.

The father-son relationship during adolescence can be problematic. While teen boys seem to be hard-wired to challenge their fathers, most desperately want their dads to be proud of them. Teen boys need a dad who can be firm when needed as they don’t always make great decisions. They need a dad who remembers the awkwardness and insecurity of being a teenage boy themselves. And they relate best to dads who don’t take themselves too seriously. The judicious use of humour, particularly with boys, is a great fathering strategy.

**Fathering matters to men**

And, of course, involved fathering matters to men. Most health scales state a healthy relationship with their children is a predictor of good health and longevity for men, as well as of life satisfaction levels. I suspect there is something relaxing and de-stressing for a man to get into a child’s space and time. There is a big kid in most men just busting to get out. Parental well-being would be the last thing on Prince William’s mind as he attends to his young son’s needs. It is through these early forays into parenting that Prince William, like countless other men, will find his feet as a dad, and also discover his place in the life of his son.

Don’t forget the “Date with Dad” evening for Grades 3 to 6 students on Thursday, 5th September from 6-8pm. It promises to be a great night of laughs, learning and fun.
Our school value focus is still on 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 practice 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.

VALUES PROGRAM

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

- **Andrea Benc** for being responsible
- **Pasquale Scotto di Perta** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Chelsey Webster** for being a responsible learner
- **Thomas Harris** for being a responsible learner
- **Lexi Charles** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Tara Whelan** 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 within the school. The award winners for Week 6 / Term 3 are:

- **Jorin Joske**
- **Harry Linehan**
- **Lexi Charles**
- **Tahlia Emery**
- **Patrick Richmond-Miller**
- **Emily Scholtes**
- **Wil Brent**
- **Elaina Domagala**
- **Lachlan Rickwood**
- **Ruby Storm**
- **Chelsey Webster**
- **Jayda Fehlberg**
- **Caleb Spehr**
- **Tanya Wandue**
- **Noah Georgeson**
- **Lilli Slaby**
- **Femke Shears**
- **Jordy Ross**

We are hoping to start up a “Knitting Group” at school. The group would get together on every 2nd Tuesday at lunchtime, starting Tuesday, 20th August in the Grade 5/6 Learning Area. Wool and needles will be supplied but any donations of 8 ply 100% pure wool or size 4mm needles would be most appreciated. We will meet 3 times this term, and if there is enough interest, continue in Term 4. If any parent or grandparent would like to help us they would be very welcome. We aim to knit squares to make into blankets for the poor. Hope to see you there!

(Note: Please leave any wool/knitting needles at the School Office. No children are to bring knitting needles to the classroom.)
Mathematical Problem

Solution for Mathematical Problem in Newsletter No. 25

There is the same number of desks in each row in my classroom and the rows are straight.

My desk is third from the front and third from the back. It has one desk to its left and 5 to its right.

The room has how many desks?

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On Thursday, 29th August 2013 from 8.30am Woolworths will be at the Seymour Street entrance to the school handing out a piece of fresh fruit to each student, promoting healthy eating.

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Years 3 – 6 students ‘Date with Dad’

Thursday, 5th September 2013 at 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Students are asked to bring just one special Dad or Grandad or Step-Dad or Male Friend to an evening where they can laugh, learn and connect. Featuring the Logie winning game show, PRIZES! PIZZA! DAD JOKES! Cost: $4.00 per person or $10.00 family

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Please return note and money in an envelope by Monday, 2nd September 2013

We are coming to Date with Dad on Thursday, 5th September 6.00pm start

Adult’s name: ........................................................................................................

Student name................................................................. Class......................

Student name................................................................. Class......................

Student name................................................................. Class......................
For the close of Book Week, last Friday we had a Relax and Read Day. Students, teachers and staff came to school dressed in pyjamas, comfy clothes or a book character. It was a fabulous day for the children they really enjoyed the zumba, reading, stories and meditation. Below are some samples of work from Prep children.

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
Dear Parents,

The **Fathers’ Day Stall** will be run on **Tuesday, 27th August for Grade 5 only** and for the rest of the school on **Friday, 30th August 2013**. Gifts will range in price from 50c to $9. If you would like to help with the stall on Friday, 30th August please text message Nicole Dunbar on 0417 105 859. Even if you can only spare an hour that would be most appreciated.

This year’s **Walkathon will be held on Friday, 6th September at 11.30am**. We will be seeking lots of parent helpers on the day so please keep this date free if you are able. A sponsorship form and information letter should be coming home later this week.

Save the date!! The **Shopping Tour** is on again and is planned for **Friday 15th November**. This is always a fantastic night and a good chance to get all your Christmas shopping done while supporting local businesses.

The Parents & Friends Committee will again be running the **Calendar fundraiser**. Your child draws a picture which is then printed onto a high quality calendar. These are a great Christmas gift for Grandparents and loved ones far away as they are easily posted. Information letter will be sent home this week.

Just a reminder about the "**Stuck on You**" fundraiser: when ordering online or using the order form please remember to nominate St. Michael’s School, Traralgon so the school will receive a portion of the profits.

Thanking you in advance for your support, St. Michael’s P&F Committee

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**Sports News**

**ST MICHAEL’S NETBALL CLUB NEWS**

The St Michael’s Netball committee would like to congratulate ‘**Molly Grieve**’, from Grade 6, on receiving the Leanne Harris Memorial Award for 2013. This award was created in honour of Leanne and is for the Grade 6 player who puts in 100% every week at training and on match day, and who is always a team player. We would like to thank Phyllis (Leanne’s mother) for coming along to present this award.

We would also like to congratulate the Grade 5 teams ‘Thunder’ and ‘Lightning’ for making the Grand Final. They will be playing on Saturday 31st August at Agnes Brereton at 10.00am (Thunder) and 12.00pm (Lightning). So please come down and support the girls.

Good Luck Girls!!

Thank you to all the committee for working together to make the Presentation Day a great success.

Michelle Cameron
President

Molly & Phyllis