11 October 2016

Principal’s Report

Prayer of the week

Prayer for our School Community
Father,
we thank you for our school community,
knowing that
we can learn from each other
and grow in faith.
We pray for all involved in our school
that all of us may grow
as the people you call us to be.
Amen.

Br. Nicholas Hutchinson

Dear Parents and Care Givers,

Our prayer reflection this week focuses on
thanking God for our community and
knowing that as a community we can grow
together learning from each other.

At the end of last term parents, staff
and students were invited to participate in the
annual School Satisfaction Surveys. The feedback from these
surveys is very much valued. At the next Parents and Friends
meeting I will share feedback from the surveys in some detail.

There were 131 parents who responded to the surveys. The
overall satisfaction score for St Michael’s was 78%. The survey
was broken into 5 categories with 39 statements overall. In
each category we were given an overall average score out
of a total of 5. Catholic Ethos rated 4.04. Leadership 4.03,
Learning and Teaching 3.73, Resources 4.02 and Improvement
Processes 3.76.

There was certainly lots of very useful information gained from
these surveys which will help drive some of the future school
direction. Thank you to the many parents who took the time to
contribute to the surveys.

School Pick-Up and Drop Off Area

One area of concern raised through the surveys was the
pick-up and drop-off area at the front of the school. This is
something that has also been discussed at P&F meetings. I am
following up on this with the Department of Transport to see if
there are any ways to improve this area.

Just a reminder that when using the ‘Stop Drop & Go Area’,
you need to ensure that you drive as far forward as possible to
help other cars get in behind you. Please try not to stop directly
in front of the school entrance if there is room further forward.
The area in front of the Church is a no parking area.

Staffing

Sport was another area that was raised throughout the surveys
not only with parents but also with students. I am presently
advertising for a PE teacher for next year. If I am able to fill
the position with a suitable candidate he or she will take PE lessons
for all classes from Prep to year 6.

In next week’s newsletter I hope to be able to advise the class
teachers for 2017.

P&F Meeting

Tuesday 18th October at 5.30pm will be our next P&F
Meeting. We would love to see some new faces. Our meetings
are very efficient and usually over within the hour. Looking
forward to seeing you.

The Rosary Way

This Sunday 16th October at 3pm, our parish will celebrate
the Rosary Way. This is a great opportunity for students to
participate in the celebration of Mary as Mother of Jesus. All
families are invited to attend.
Towards 2017
As we begin our planning for next year, it is essential that we have accurate figures for our 2017 enrolment. If your child will not be attending St Michael’s next year, please let the office know in writing. As our school receives funding based on enrolments, accurate information is needed. Please let us know any changes as soon as you can.

Class Allocation Process
This term we will allocate children into classes for 2017. The process that we will be following this year is as follows:

Rationale
St Michael’s is moving towards a two-stream school, thus enabling an annual reallocation of class groupings for most classes. The task of drafting the following year’s class groupings is the responsibility of the current Year level teachers in association with the School Leadership Team (Principal and Assistant Principal) and the Student Support Admin Team (Learning Support teachers and school counsellor). The main contributors to this process are the current classroom teachers given they are the ones who spend every day with the students and know them best in the classroom setting. The principal’s role is to oversee the process and verify the final groupings.

There are many considerations taken into account when putting students into new class groupings.

These are some of the main factors -
- A mix of academic abilities (we do not ‘stream’ according to ability levels)
- Social and emotional maturation and mixings
- Gender
- Friendships
- Special needs
- Behaviour
- Work habits
- Twins who may or may not need to be separated.

Ideally we aim for an equal spread of both positive and challenging characteristics in each class.

The Process
Parents who wish to make the school aware of particular educational concerns regarding the placement of their children in particular classes should put the concern in writing, explaining their reasoning, and address it to the Principal by Friday 28th October (week 4). Parent concerns will be seriously considered during the process. It must however be clearly understood that no definite guarantees can be given regarding parent requests.

1. During week 4 children will be asked to nominate four peers they would like to be with in the same class the following year. We will then try to make sure that they will be with at least one of the four nominated. (This may be negated if a parent has requested in writing an arrangement that does not allow for one of these four peers to be in this group).

2. During week 5 and week 6 class teachers will meet with the principal/assistant principal to discuss particular issues that need to be considered in class allocations. Where appropriate advice will also be sought from the Learning Support Teachers and/or school counsellor, etc. during this time.

3. The process of class allocation is lengthy, difficult and finely balanced.

4. Children will be informed of their class placement for the following school year in the last week of school.

5. Throughout this process the Principal reserves the right to make the final professional decision regarding the placement of children.

Thank you for your support,

Greg Hoare
Email: principal.gordonvale@cns.catholic.edu.au
A/Hours 0427 118 522

APRE Thoughts
Faith Life of the School
A reminder that Sunday 16th at 3pm the Parish is celebrating the Rosary Way. The Rosary Way is a wonderful tradition in the St Michael’s Parish that celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of The Rosary. The children place flowers in a basket for Our Lady and receive a special blessing. After their blessing, they then act out the Mysteries using tableaus or freeze frames, whilst the people of the parish pray the Rosary. Afterwards, there is a shared afternoon tea. This is a great opportunity for us to live our values of community and faith.

Year 4 will share assembly prayer on Friday October 13th, and Liturgy on Thursday October 20th.

Curriculum News
As you would be aware, St. Michael’s have built upon our resources in technology significantly during 2016. The school has purchased 60 new chromebooks and 60 new iPads throughout the year. The P&F committee have provided funds for 12 spheros and 6 beebots, which are important in teaching children coding.

On Wednesday 23rd November at 9am the Curriculum team from Catholic Education services and myself are inviting parents to join us in the Library for a Parent Engagement session in the area of Digital Technology. This session will help parents to understand the technologies their children are using in the school context.

Social and Emotional Learning
Our Peer Support Session in Stronger Together this week looked at the impact of how working together as a team with similar beliefs, we can provide a barrier to bullying. When everyone is focused on promoting positive behaviours that respect diversity and individual need, bullying can be reduced. Activities that focussed on building the strength of teams and
awareness of the responsibilities of bystanders were covered, helping to build a school school approach. As a parent, you could talk to your child about how they could help others that are not experiencing good relationships.

**Blessing**

Over the holidays Winnie Johnson and her family welcomed a beautiful baby sister into their family. Last week Winnie’s family brought her in to meet the Year One class and receive a special blessing and gift.

**Pet Blessing**

*Blessings Sarah Hession*

**Administration/Finance News**

**SCHOOL FEES**

Term 4 fees will be processed in week 3 on Friday 21st October. Accounts must be finalised before Friday 25th November for your child’s report cards to be posted. Thank you for your understanding in the prompt payment of fees.

**SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNT**

There is the Health Care Card/Pension Card that may be able to assist you with a 70% discount on your tuition fees, this discount cannot be back dated however come in and see Justine or Dorina in the Office to find out if you are eligible for this discount. If you are already receiving the HCC discount, it is as the owner of the HCC your responsibility to keep your card details and expiry up to date with the administration office. If you have any enquiries regarding other finances, a request is to be emailed to Justine on email address secretary.gordonvale@cns.catholic.edu.au

**ABSENT CHILDREN**

If your children are away during school hours, families must contact administration regarding their absence. Families can simply email the Office on secretary.gordonvale@cns.catholic.edu.au OR phone the Office on 4056 1614. Email is a quick and easy way to report your children are absent, even the night before. If your child/ren are going to be absent for a long length of time due to a holiday or personal reasons, administration request a letter either by hand or email stating the dates. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter. A reminder that if your child/ren are absent for more than two consecutive days a medical certificate is required for administration.

**Piccones Community Benefit Points**

St Michael’s has been registered at the Edmonton Community Benefit list. If you are shopping at Piccones Edmonton, you can now nominate St Michael’s as your preferred charity. Community Points go towards the P&F for resources for the school. Thank you for your support.

**Date Claimer**

Term 4 Tuesday 4th October until Friday 2nd December – School concludes at 12pm

**October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 16th</td>
<td>Parish Rosary Way @ 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 18th</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting @ 5.30pm ALL WELCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21st</td>
<td>Ball Games Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28th</td>
<td>Day for Daniel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fir 28th</td>
<td>World Teacher’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 30th</td>
<td>School Mass</td>
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**November**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue  1st</td>
<td>All Saints Mass @ 9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed  2nd</td>
<td>All Souls Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed  2nd</td>
<td>Year 5 Christian Leadership Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur  3rd</td>
<td>First Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur  10th</td>
<td>Prep 2017 Orientation Day in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur  10th</td>
<td>Bump Up Morning Prep – Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur  10th</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation Day St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri  11th</td>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon  14th</td>
<td>Year 5 Leadership Speeches begin whole week</td>
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St. Michael’s Sports News

Ball Games Carnival – Friday 21st October

Our final big sport’s event for the year will be our Ball Games Carnival. It will be in Week 3 on Friday 21st of October. Our Year 1 – 6 students will be competing in Ball Games. This event will start at 1.15pm and will conclude at 2.40pm. This is an extremely fun afternoon of sport, where all children get to compete and support their Sport’s Team.

All Year 1 – 6 students will be expected to wear their Sport’s Team uniform (gold, green, blue shirt), sports pants and shoes, have sunscreen applied from home and have their own water bottle.

The program for the day is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.15pm</td>
<td>Children gather on Basketball court and sit in their team groups. Seniors and teachers start to organise class group teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25pm</td>
<td>Tunnel Ball - Yr 1, Yr2, Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5, Yr 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.40pm</td>
<td>Corner Spry - Yr 1, Yr2, Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5, Yr 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.55pm</td>
<td>Leader Ball - Yr 1, Yr2, Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5, Yr 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10pm</td>
<td>Exchange Ball - Yr 1, Yr2, Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5, Yr 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Presentations and pack up</td>
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</tbody>
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We look forward to seeing lots of parents coming to cheer on all our students and enjoying this fun afternoon with us.

Regards,
John Gravagna

Library News

Bookclub

Brochures went home today for Book Club

Scholastic Book Club is due Wednesday 19th October.

The final book club of the year will be sent out in week 6 and for that issue all orders must be ordered and paid for on-line.


Class Awards

Prep A

Will Powell – For your awesome feedback to your buddy after paired reading. You nailed it.

Prep B

Shaytanni Neal Yeatman – Demonstrating the value of community and respect for her class friend.

Year 1A

Paul Hitchings – Always trying your best in everything you do. Keep up the hard work.

Dante Misic – For being a kind and generous student and giving everything a Red Hot Go!

Year 1B

Brodie Williams – For starting the Term 4 with confidence and determination. You are working beautifully.

Ayden Piccolo – For being well mannered and considerate. Thank you for always helping.

Year 2A

Stevie Spilstead – For starting the Term with a bang! You’ve worked with determination and always showing your best effort. Well done!
Year 2B
Tino Madero – For staying on task and working hard to complete set tasks on time.

Year 3A
Alex Booij – For being a helpful member of the class. Keep up the great work!

Year 3B
Chloe Savage – For working enthusiastically on your information report. Keep up the good work!

Year 4A
Tara Hennessy – A great effort in learning division.
Christian Tardiani – Great Maths work.

Year 4B
Ava McIntyre – For your excellent effort through the whole week. Well done Ava!

Year 5A
Douglas Molony – Brightening our classroom with your kindness and smile every day!
Averie Snoad – Always completing work in the set time, well done!

Year 6A
Grace Harlow – For your positive have a go attitude in all that you do!

Year 6B
Kelly Carter – For your very original electronic helicopter design.
Grace Hession – For your hard work and enthusiasm when creating your electronic diorama

ICAS Awards

Birthdays
October
10th - Natahilia Neemia
13th - Ethan Cremen
13th - Cooper Walsh
13th - Jenna White
14th - Bella De Gregorio
15th - Brodie Grauf

Year 4 Wall Hangings Term 3

Year 1 Fire Brigade Visit Term 4

Summer Swimming Season
Vicki Coutts is resuming the summer swimming season. Classes commence 5th Oct, mornings and afternoons available. Catering for Babies, Toddlers, School age and stroke correction.

Enquires ph. 40554467, email vickiknb@bigpond.net.au or see Facebook page

Principal Awards

Mrs Watson – Simon McGowan – Emily Warncke
Advertising

DANCE FIT

FUN, FREE, FITNESS
TUESDAYS
MEET AT 9.15AM FOR A 9.30AM START
ST. MICHAEL’S HALL
$5 RECOVERY SHAKE AVAILABLE

CONTACT CARLA
0439012221

Playgroup

ST MICHAELS SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

ST MICHAELS SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
When: Every Thursday (during term time)
Time: 8:45 TO 10:45 AM
Where: St Michael’s Parish Church Hall

Children ages 0-5 years welcome along with parents, carers, grandparents.
Join us for lots of fun play activities.
Singing, Dancing, Stories, Arts and Crafts
Please bring a small piece of fruit to share, spare clothes and hat.

For more information please contact: Free on 0419 679412
or St Michael’s school 4056 1614

Your local community kindergarten is accepting waiting list applications for 2016 onwards.
Please call, email or drop in to the kindy to fill in an application form.

- C&K Affiliated Service
- Beautiful natural setting with large shaded play areas
- Government approved program and play based curriculum
- University qualified teacher and Cert III experienced assistants
- Community minded centre
- Readiness for Prep
- KindyPlus and Concession card discounts available

Gordonvale Community Kindergarten
69 Mallier Street, Gordonvale
Phone: 4056 3301
Email: office@gvalekindy.com.au
GordonvaleCommunityKindergarten
Parish News

Parish No: 4056 1187
Office No: 4056 3313
For all enquiries regarding Baptism for children or adults.
Please contact Fr Jude on 4056 1187
Email: stmichaelsparish@cairns.catholic.org.au

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PARISH NEWS:

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

Every Sunday at the 8am Mass at St Michael's Church, Mrs Gravagna, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Houghton run a Children’s Liturgy program. All kids are welcome! Come join us, it’s lots of fun!

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Uniform Shop News

Uniform Shop Hours

Monday
2.45pm – 3.15pm

Friday
8.15am – 9.00am

Lay-By, EFTPOS and Direct Deposit are available for your convenience. Please make cheques payable to Helen Booij.

Direct Deposit Account Details - NAB: 858 084 679  AC: 18556 1153

For all uniform shop enquiries please contact
Helen: 0407711501
hbooij@iig.com.au