From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Last Friday marked six months since Pope Francis was elected as Pope. How has his election to papacy impacted on our lives. According to Monsignor John Kennedy, an official at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, people love his simplicity and they’re uplifted by the initiatives he’s taking. He has chosen to leave the papal vehicle to interact personally with people, he has phoned others and he has given many a feeling of connectedness. Monsignor Kennedy comments, “You can see that he’s a man with a vision, he’s a man who has plans for the Church... His plans for further reforms of the Church. " He goes on to say the Pope also “has a message for the whole world” and “it’s not only Catholics who have an opinion of him.” Pope Francis is encouraging lapsed Catholics to consider reconnecting to their faith. Follow Pope Francis and read his letters and speeches through an app called simply “The Pope App”.

Technology allows us to be connected and learn in positive ways.

When considering a game or activity for children to play over the holidays please consider games that:

• explore real, day-to-day activities
• reveal fantasy worlds in creative, imaginative ways
• teach that playing fairly is better than winning
• provide opportunities to take turns and play as a team
• have multiple levels of difficulty, so the game can evolve and your child can progress through its stages
• be interactive and involve decision-making, giving your child an increased sense of control and independence
• be able to be played by several players
• not feature violent heroes.

Limit children’s on screen times and ensure that time is spent outdoors in physical activity.

INFANTS FUN DAY: Friday week 2 of term 4 will be our Infants Fun Day. This will be a day of physical activity, encouraging and developing team spirit for students in Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2.

As with our Primary Fun day, which was a great success, this day will not be a spectator event. While the building project is happening we have limited space and need to ensure that all children have the opportunity to enjoy this day of fun in a safe environment.

UNIFORMS: During Term 4 all students will wear their full summer uniform. The school hat is part of this uniform and is to be worn to school, home from school and at all times while outside the classroom.

NO HAT NO PLAY.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Thank you to all parents who were available to attend our meeting last Thursday evening. Please look forward to receiving correspondence from your child’s “class parent representative” in the very near future.

BUILDING PROJECT: The building project is on track for completion during term 4. Our teachers and students are planning and preparing for this exciting transition to our new agile flexible learning spaces. Last week the children and their teachers visited a furniture expo at St Michael’s to examine and trial furniture for our new spaces. Many teachers have been visiting other schools to understand their ways of organising the teaching and learning in agile flexible learning spaces.

NAPLAN: The board of studies have advised us that there has been an error identified in some of the NAPLAN student reports in years 5 and 7 and consequently no NAPLAN reports will be distributed to NSW schools this week. It is expected that the reprinted reports will be delivered to schools for release to parents from 14 October 2013.

It has been an exciting and robust term of teaching and learning at St Michael’s and we thank everyone for their dedication, enthusiasm and co-operation. May each of us enjoy a peaceful holiday.

Regards
Helen Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
RE News

On Sunday, Pope Francis, for his first celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday said the following as he reflected upon the story of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel. God is patient with us because He loves us and those who love do not give up. They do not burn bridges and they are able to forgive. Let us remember this in our lives as Christians. God always waits for us even when we have left him behind. He is never far from us and when we return to him he is ready to embrace us and love us just as the Father embraced and welcomed back his Prodigal Son with the tenderness of God without a word of reproach or anger. God is always waiting for us and never grows tired doing so.

On Friday we celebrate St Michael’s Day with a whole school Mass at 9.30 in the Church. Please feel most welcome to attend.

Anne Easton
REligiOuS E DuCATION COORDINATOR

Sport

PRIMARY FUN DAY (Years 3 to 6):

It was decided to hold a Primary Fun Day on Friday the 13th of September to reward students for their hard work this year and for the fact that they had missed out on an Athletics Carnival this year.

The following is a breakdown of all the results:

Newcomb Ball:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st (points)</th>
<th>2nd (points)</th>
<th>3rd (points)</th>
<th>4th (points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Green (8)</td>
<td>Blue (6)</td>
<td>Gold (4)</td>
<td>Red (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gold (8)</td>
<td>Red (6)</td>
<td>Green (4)</td>
<td>Blue (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gold (8)</td>
<td>Red (6)</td>
<td>Blue (4)</td>
<td>Green (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Red (8)</td>
<td>Gold (6)</td>
<td>Green (4)</td>
<td>Blue (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prison Ball:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st (points)</th>
<th>2nd (points)</th>
<th>3rd (points)</th>
<th>4th (points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Green (9)</td>
<td>Gold (5)</td>
<td>Blue (5)</td>
<td>Red (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Red (6)</td>
<td>Green (6)</td>
<td>Blue (3)</td>
<td>Gold (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gold (9)</td>
<td>Green (7)</td>
<td>Red (5)</td>
<td>Blue (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Blue (9)</td>
<td>Green (7)</td>
<td>Red (5)</td>
<td>Gold (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capture the Flag:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st (points)</th>
<th>2nd (points)</th>
<th>3rd (points)</th>
<th>4th (points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Blue (7)</td>
<td>Green (7)</td>
<td>Red (6)</td>
<td>Gold (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Blue (9)</td>
<td>Red (8)</td>
<td>Green (7)</td>
<td>Gold (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Not awarded</td>
<td>Not awarded</td>
<td>Not awarded</td>
<td>Not awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gold (8)</td>
<td>Green (6)</td>
<td>Blue (5)</td>
<td>Red (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crazy Relays:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st (points)</th>
<th>2nd (points)</th>
<th>3rd (points)</th>
<th>4th (points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gold (16)</td>
<td>Red (14)</td>
<td>Blue (13)</td>
<td>Green (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Blue (18)</td>
<td>Red (16)</td>
<td>Green (12)</td>
<td>Gold (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gold (17)</td>
<td>Blue (15)</td>
<td>Green (14)</td>
<td>Red (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Red (16)</td>
<td>Blue (14)</td>
<td>Green (13)</td>
<td>Gold (10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World's Biggest Scavenger Hunt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Year 3 (items recovered)</th>
<th>Year 4 (items recovered)</th>
<th>Year 5 (items recovered)</th>
<th>Year 6 (items recovered)</th>
<th>Total Items</th>
<th>Place / Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>3 / 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>2 / 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>4 / 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>1 / 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Points and Place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So the champion colour was Green but congratulations needs to be extended to all students who tried their very best and displayed good sportsmanship.

Thank you also to the staff that worked tirelessly to ensure that the day was a success.

Gymnastics:
Congratulations to Mackenzie Jones who has been selected to compete at the State Titles.

Football:
Congratulations to Mathew Dudgeon who has been selected to represent Metropolitan West at up coming State Titles.

Athletics:
Best of luck to Claudia Estrada competing at the MacKillop Titles this week.

Swimming:
Over the last week Lily Hardman represented her State at the National Championships. To make these championships is an amazing achievement in itself but here is a summary of what Lily was able to accomplish:

- 4th 100m Backstroke
- 4th 100m Breaststroke
- 5th 50m Backstroke
- 6th 100m Freestyle
- 6th 200m Individual Medley
- 7th 50m Breaststroke
- 9th 50m Freestyle
  - Gold in the Medley Relay
  - Gold and record in the 4 x 50m Relay

Also if your son or daughter is a competitive swimmer please note that we will be having a twilight carnival on the 3rd December next Term to pick our 2014 Zone Swim team at Nirimba Pool starting at 4:30pm

Kind Regards
Mr McKimm & Mr Phillips
Canteen
Thank You to all volunteers for your help in Term 3. I hope you have a happy and safe holiday.
Please make sure you are using the GREEN PRICE LIST when you return in Term 4.
Looking forward to working with you all again in Term 4.

Jan & Gene

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will be open during the holidays on:
Thursday, 3rd October 2013 from 9:00am closing promptly at 12:00pm.

Notice of Intention to Remove Students from St Michael’s School
The Catholic Education Office has developed a Policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their children’s enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this states that “A terms notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term’s fees will be paid. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term.” This means that unless the school receives a term’s notice no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition. Notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year’s enrolment. In this circumstance the requirement for 10 weeks notice will be waived.

2014 Resource Fees
Term 4 invoices will be issued this week and will show the 2014 Resource Fee due on 8th November, 2013, we have extended that date to 2nd December, 2013. These invoices will include Resource Fees for any Kindergarten child commencing in 2014.

Bishops Office
Grace & Silence Retreat Day for Young Women: 21 September
Young women aged 17-30 who are discerning their vocation to marriage, single or consecrated life are invited to the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa for a Grace & Silence Retreat Day. Grace & Silence commences with a short impulse followed by Eucharistic adoration; silent prayer and reflection and concludes with a group rosary and afternoon tea. Cost: $20 includes lunch. Time: 9.30am-4.30pm. Venue: 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Further information and registration contact Sr M Julie Brsar 0408 738 334 or juliebrsar@gmail.com

Feast Day of Our Lady of Penanfrica: 21 September
St Nicholas of Myra Church, High St, Penrith. Program: 9.15am novena; 9.45am concelebrated Mass; noon-12.30pm fluvial procession at Nepean River; assembly at Trench Reserve, Jamieson Rd, Penrith; 12.45-4pm lunch and entertainment, Factory Rd side of Trench Reserve. Details: Doc Tito/Neria Soliman tel 0404 011 524.

Day trip to Mount Annan Botanic Gardens: 1 October
Join the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, for morning tea at Koshigaya Park, Campbelltown, in manicured gardens with cherry blossom trees. Travel to Mt Annan Botanic Gardens for a driving tour of the theme gardens including Bottlebrush Garden, Wattie Garden and Banksia Garden. Cost: $35 includes morning tea. Lunch at Campbelltown Catholic Club (own expense). Bus departs 8.45am at 20 Virgil St and 8.50am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. Deposit of $20 required when booking with Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

DISCOVER Weekend for Young Women: 11-13 October
Young women aged 18-35 are invited to a self-knowledge weekend on identity, personality, dignity, womanhood, personal ideal, vocation and mission. At the Mount Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Registration essential. For further information or to register contact Sr M Julie Brsar: juliebrsar@gmail.com

Prayer and Reflection Day: 13 October
Everyone is welcome to this lovely day of quiet, peaceful prayer and reflection in beautiful surroundings of the Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Rd, Castle Hill. Time: 10.30am-3pm. Donation: $10. Bookings: CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0205.

Mass in Igbo language: 13 October
Mass celebrated in Nigerian at 11.30am in St Oliver Plunkett’s Church, 35 Wigram St, Harris Park. Details: Austin Okereafor: 0421 928 116, Evaton Onton: 0469 627 218 or Stella Nwosu tel 0405 478 472, 8678 2118, stellanwosu@msn.com

Remembering Marriages at St Mary’s Cathedral: 13 October
Those married at St Mary’s Cathedral are invited to return with their families for a special Mass of Thanksgiving, Blessing and Renewal of Vows on Sunday 13 October at 10.30am, followed by morning tea on the Crypt Veranda. Certificates will be presented for 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, or 60th anniversaries. Those with ancestors married at St Mary’s are also invited to join in this wonderful celebration. To register your interest, RSVP by 10 October to Helen tel (02) 9220 0414 or Event Coordinator: valentina.markovina@sydneycatholic.org
Our next Rollercoasters program for children aged between 6-11 yrs of age whose families are experiencing change through separation or divorce begins on October 17th at our offices at The All Saints of Africa Centre 53 Allawah St Blacktown

We meet after school from 4pm till 5.15pm for six Thursdays, ending on Nov 21st.

Using information, activities and games we explore areas such as:

* CHANGES that have resulted from the parent’s separation

* FEELINGS and the grief children experience around the parent’s separation

* ANGER and ways children can express it constructively

* PROBLEMS and situations children can and cannot change

The program allows your child to explore, understand, and talk about his or her experience, feelings and concerns in a safe environment with other children experiencing similar issues.

There is a nominal charge of $10 per child per session. Reduced fees are available for siblings and where there is financial difficulty.

If you feel that your child could benefit from attending the course, please phone Allan Mackey at CatholicCare Social Services on 9933 0222