St Michael’s Primary School

THERE’S NO ‘I’ IN TEAM

For the first few weeks of school, classrooms have been focusing on the importance of teamwork. Students have worked on activities that link into this in the curriculum and have explored what it means to be an effective team member. We concluded our focus with a multi-age teamwork morning and then a guest speaker in the afternoon. The students showed that they are great at working together, solving problems and encouraging each other. This looks like it will be a great year for St. Michael’s judging by the teamwork skills that were shown on the day. In the afternoon, students listened to our guest speaker, Charles. Charles is a beekeeper and, as everyone knows, bees work together to look after the hive and produce their honey! The students asked amazing questions and showed a great understanding of how a bee hive functions (some of the classes studied teamwork in the context of bees). At St. Michael’s we are one big team – students, parents and teachers – and our aim is to work together to produce the best learning opportunities for the students so that they can fulfill their potential. Be part of our team!

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Once again Parents & Friends is organising their wonderful Easter Egg Raffle. Every year we are amazed at the success of this event and it is due to the overwhelming generosity of our families. Without your Easter egg donations the raffle would not be the big event that it has become. A note from P & F will be going home soon asking for donations of eggs and it will have raffle tickets attached for you to sell. The money from this fundraiser is going towards purchasing new sporting equipment – it’s amazing how many tennis balls and other balls that we go through! The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term - put the date in your diary!
Current & Upcoming Events

Church Cleaning
The Church Cleaning Roster will be drawn up very soon. Your patience is much appreciated. Once your family has received your designated date of cleaning the church, it is imperative you write it down and ensure you complete the tasks included. Your co-operation and completion in duties is much appreciated.

Parents & Friends AGM Meeting
The Annual General Meeting for St Michael’s Parents & Friends Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 13th March at 7:00pm held in the ICT Room.

Labour Day Public Holiday
Please remember that there is a public holiday on Monday 11th March.

EASTER LITURGY
On the 27th March we will be having an Easter liturgy. It is anticipated that Father Hilarion will be joining us for the liturgy to help celebrate this very important time in our Catholic faith. We would love to share this special time with you so please come along and join us. The liturgy will take place within the school grounds and is a reenactment of the major events of Easter and an opportunity to pray and reflect together. It will commence at 2pm.

School Closure – 18th March
It is with excitement and enthusiasm that we announce that our school along with a number of other Catholic primary schools in the Sale Diocese will participate in a full year program and explore a range of best practice in Literacy to benefit student learning. Monday 18th March the school will be closed as staff attends a professional development day at the Catholic Education Office in Warragul. This is an exciting time for teachers and students at St Michael’s Primary School.

Fundraising for Heyfield & District Bushfire Recovery Relief Fund
We are very proud of our students and their efforts to fundraise for the Heyfield & District Bushfire Recovery Relief fund. Students brought in their silver and gold coins and each of the grades made coin lines outside on the asphalt. There was much excitement to see which line was the longest. Thank you to our Year 5/6 students who had the massive task of counting up the money – there was a lot of it! The total figure that was raised was $287. A great effort from our students- thank you.

Bullying Awareness Raising
Our next whole school focus will be centred on raising awareness about bullying. Often, students are unclear as to what bullying is or isn’t, so we want to work on this with students. It is also important for students to know what to do if they are being bullied. Statistics show that bullying is prevalent in all school settings and cyber-bullying is on the increase. We will send information with the newsletters to keep parents informed so that you can reinforce the messages at home. The following definition is from the Safe Schools are Effective Schools Strategy (Vic Education Department) and it briefly explains what bullying is and isn’t.

What is Bullying?
Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, who have more power at the time, deliberately upset or hurt another person on more than one occasion. Bullying includes physical bullying such as hitting; verbal bullying such as name calling; and indirect bullying such as spreading rumours.

Bullying is Not
• A situation where there is mutual conflict—i.e. a balance of power where students are both upset and usually want a resolution to the problem.
• Social rejection or dislike (unless it is a repeated act and directed towards a specific person).
• Single episodes of nastiness or meanness or random acts of aggression or intimidation.

An excellent website that informs and helps with issues about bullying can be accessed at: http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/index.html
Birthday Notices & Calendar Dates

Happy Birthday to the following people!!!

March:

2nd  Charlie (8)
8th  Matilda (6)
13th Luke (11)
19th Serra (6)
21st Tahlia (7)
22nd Harvey (8)

Calendar Dates (please write these down)

March:

Mon 11th  Public Holiday – Labour Day
Wed 13th  Parents & Friends AGM @ 7pm in ICT Room
Fri 15th  Maria Kirkwood – Director of Education visit
Mon 18th  School Closure – PD @ Warragul for Staff
Thur 21st  Parent / Teacher Interviews – more details to come
Wed 27th  Holy Week Liturgy at 2:00pm
Thur 28th  End of Term 1 students finish at 2:00pm
Fri 29th  Good Friday

Milo Cricket “Have a Go” at Heyfield Main Reserve:

EVERY THURSDAY (including tonight)

3:30 until 4:30

From 5 years and above, go check it out and “Have a Go”.
WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT

All children can learn, but not all children learn in the same way, at the same time or at the same rate. Learning is an individual process. Some children may need more time to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to perform at the level of his or her peers, others move ahead quickly. When you are considering your child’s learning and development, it is important to look at where they have come from to where they are now; comparing your child with other children will not necessarily give you an accurate picture of your child’s development and often isn’t fair to your child.

Research into brain function and learning has shown that our brains mature at different rates. When you consider the differences in physical growth and the times when children reach puberty, it makes sense to recognise that the brain is no different.

In the American Psychological Society Journal, it states that ‘Just because you have a classroom full of students who are about the same age doesn’t mean they are equally ready to learn a particular topic, concept, skill or idea. It is important for teachers and parents to understand that maturation of the brain influences learning readiness........You should also know that all brain functions do not mature at the same rate. A young child with highly advanced verbal skills may develop gross and fine motor control more slowly and have trouble learning to write clearly. Another child may be advanced physically but not know how to manage his/her social skills. Others may be cognitively advanced but show emotional immaturity.’

Research into Brain Function and Learning: American Psychological Association

So keep in mind the words of the classic Mark ‘Jacko’ Jackson song “I am an individual”.

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ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

FOR THE KIDS: Face Painting, Jumping Castles, Activities, Hip Hop Workshop

AUCTION & SILHOUETTE


SUPER Raffles: Entry to the Reserve, BBQ Tenpin and Entry into Major Raffle

Price: $30 Single, $95 Family (2 Adults & Children under 6)

Sunday, March 10, 2013
Gordon Street Recreation Reserve, Heyfield (main oval)

Heyfield Recovery Bushfire Concert

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For more information: 0427310445

http://www.heyfieldbushfirefund.com.au
Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; and Working together is success!

St Michael’s Primary School
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HEYFIELD VIC 3858

Awards:

Kail - For sharing his knowledge about bees.
Wes - For sticking to a task and not giving up.
Jackson – For fantastic book club writing
Jack C – For fantastic book club writing
Elena – For being a motivated learner