**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

Welcome to a new school year everyone. I am very excited to be back at St Michael’s and am looking forward to working with our students, staff and parents to build a strong and vibrant learning community. We are starting the year with the theme ‘Ready to learn’ and teachers will be focusing on the qualities of being a good learner. This year, we are also introducing the ‘Keys for success’ to help everyone focus on the traits that make us better learners. These traits are: Getting along, Resilience, Persistence, Confidence and Organisation. Each term we will have a whole school focus on one of these ‘keys’, starting with ‘Getting along’. Building positive relationships is such an important life skill.

**NEW TO OUR SCHOOL**

This year we welcome Jade Wheeler to our staff. Jade is a Heyfield local so I’m sure some of you already know Jade and her family. Jade is in the 2/3/4 classroom; she brings lots of experience and expertise to our school. Jade is highly qualified to support the different needs of our students. Jade has accepted the role of Deputy Principal at our school. Among her many duties, she will also take up the Religious Education Leader’s role and the Literacy Leader role. Jade will be responsible for coordinating our Levelled Literacy Intervention (this supercedes Reading Recovery).

We also welcome our new Preps who have made a great start to the year. They seem to have taken to school like ducks to water. Luckily they have the grade ones to show them the ropes and I know Mrs Blair and Mrs Hole have been putting in a lot of groundwork to make the transition smooth. We welcome Alexa, Alyssa, Lottie, Luther, Tahlia, Poppy and Michael and we pray for God’s blessing as they begin school life.

**DIARY DATES**

**TERM ONE**

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th February</td>
<td>Years 2-6 Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13th February</td>
<td>School Closure (Staff PD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th February</td>
<td>Years 2-6 Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th February</td>
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GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS
Maintaining efficient communication is crucial within a school community. Currently we have the newsletter, the website, the phone app., and email. The newsletter and parish news will be uploaded regularly to the website and on the app. The newsletter can be emailed to you if you prefer to be paperless. Calendar dates are also recorded on the website and app.

However, the feedback I am getting is that many parents are utilising the parents Facebook page and this has become the preferred option. Although this is not an official school site, we will be discussing this further at P & F and will survey parents to find out what their preferred options are.

CLASS DOJO
Each classroom this year is going to trial using Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an online program that helps to connect teachers, students and parents. I used this last year and found that it was a great way to maintain communication with parents and share what their children were doing in the classroom. One of the options I used was Class Story. We posted photos and articles about the learning that was taking place in the classroom. Another feature was the private messaging between parents and teacher. This really enhanced communication as messages could be sent at any time without having to find a time where both parent and teacher were available.

CLASS NEWSLETTERS
Very soon, you will receive your child’s class newsletter. Each newsletter will outline important features and expectations of your child’s class. For example, information about homework, helping in the classroom, specific class routines, classroom rules and consequences, behavioural expectations, learning topic for the term, and so on. Please read this information carefully and get in touch with your child’s classroom teacher if you require additional information.

UNIFORM
The new uniform is looking very smart but I believe there has been a bit of confusion with it. I have purchased sample uniforms to display at school and will have a flyer ready soon showing the uniform and pricing. JSM in Sale are the stockists. The uniform policy will be updated to reflect the changes but there will be a phase in period of two years. Please note that the nominated sports days are Monday and Wednesday this year so these are the only days where students can wear their sports uniform. On all other days, school shoes and the correct socks need to be worn whether your child is wearing the old or new uniform. Just a reminder that in terms 1 and 4 hats are compulsory, although we would encourage students to wear their hats all year.

Please note, the long navy girls socks are a part of the winter uniform. In summer, girls wear white anklets (must be above the ankle). I will also be including grey dress shorts in the girls’ summer uniform, to be worn with the same shirt as the boys, and long grey pants for girls in the winter uniform.

The lightweight navy jacket was originally intended to be worn when students were representing the school in regional sports however it has been sold as a general sports jacket. I would like to know how many people have purchased this jacket and ask you to hold off for the moment if you intend purchasing it but haven’t yet. The reason for this is we will try to coordinate the jacket with the sports uniform and have it in navy with white contrasting trim (not pale blue). P&F had intended purchasing these jackets as part of the representative uniform.

SCHOOL CLOSURE
Monday the 13th February is a closure day for staff professional learning. I apologise for the short notice and the early date for this training but it was set in 2016. St Michael’s is now a member of a diocesan literacy collective. This learning community aims to improve student learning outcomes in reading so as a staff we are very pleased to be a part of this group. The closure day is being run by renowned educator Deb Sukarna.
SWIMMING
Swimming commences next Monday for students in years 2-6. Your child will have been given a permission form today, which will need to be sent back to school. If you are available to help with walking to and from the pool, please get in touch with your child’s classroom teacher. Please make sure your child is ‘Sunsmart’ for this activity and wears sunscreen and a rash vest.

Start looking for those white, orange or purple clothes (bit tricky with bathers!), get out your streamers and coloured zinc, it’s time for the Swimming Carnival again. On Friday, 17th February from 10am – 12 we will be at the pool; the older students will be competing in age group races and the juniors will participate in novelty events. A permission form will be sent home with the junior students so look out for this (we already have the middle/senior students permissions).

PICNIC TEA
We will be having our beginning of the year picnic barbecue on Thursday, 16th February at 6.00pm. This is a great opportunity for new parents to get to meet our school community and a chance for everyone to catch up with each other after the holiday break. The school will provide the meat and bread for the barbecue; we ask each family to bring a salad that can be shared with other families. Just a reminder to parents that our school policy states that bikes, skateboards, scooters, etc. are not to be ridden in school grounds so we ask that your children don’t bring these on the night. We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing everyone.

LUNCH ORDERS
Lunch orders are now available through both the Corner Store and Busy Bees. The format is the same—call into either store and place your order. Please be aware that soft drinks and lollies are not allowed. Ho has given us a list of what is on offer and how much it costs which is attached to this newsletter. We encourage you to see lunch orders as a special treat and not every day food. Friday seems to be the popular day for lunch orders!

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
We cannot thank our parents enough for volunteering. It makes our job as teachers that bit easier. Just a reminder though to make sure that you have a current Working With Children Check card as a safe guard for yourself as well as the school. If you need a WWCC you can apply at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/ Volunteer applications are free! Please show your card to Jennie or Jane in the office.

REMINDEERS
FRONT OFFICE ENTRANCE: Children are not to enter or leave the school via the front office entrance, unless accompanied by an adult.
VISITORS BOOK: All parents and visitors to the school must sign in and out using the visitor book that is located at the school office. This does not include times that parents are dropping off or collecting children, but any time where you will be present in the school for a period of time (e.g. reading, sport, attending Mass etc.) Please remember to sign out when leaving the school. This book is also used to record times when children need to leave the school early (e.g. Dentist appointment, sickness) and they must be signed out by a parent/guardian. If the child will be returning on the same day, they must be signed back in using the same book.
LATE ARRIVALS: If you are bringing your child into school late it is necessary to sign them in and let the teacher know the reason for the late arrival (note or verbal).

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
We had a visit from Kerry Henry and Russell Hodgson today. Kerry is a coordinator of a before and after school care company, Sherpa Kids. She is currently organising this care for Rosedale and Heyfield and has been working out the details for implementing the program in Heyfield. This has been instigated by Heyfield PS and they have been very proactive in sourcing a qualified provider. We have been invited to participate in this program so I will be sending out information in the near future. It’s a great opportunity for working parents as it is often difficult to access child care in small rural towns.
SCHOOL BOARD

Our School Board is another way that parents at our school can get involved and participate in the smooth running of the school. The School Board consists of the Parish Priest, 2 parent members, 1 P & F representative, a staff representative, the Principal and sometimes a community member (voluntary and co-opted). The School Board is an advisory body; it helps the Principal and Parish Priest to make decisions about many aspects of the school’s function. This input is invaluable as having perspectives from different stakeholders is very important. It goes without saying that confidentiality is paramount if you nominate for the School Board. Information about nominations for the School Board will be sent out soon, once we’ve established how many vacancies there will be.

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

Remember the church key is always available from Timberline so you can clean the church and support our parish at a time convenient to you.

Jennings & O’Brien Families 6th February
Stray & Higgins Families 13th February

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Michael’s School Church Cleaning Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrange a mutual time to clean the church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church key to be picked up from and returned to school office or Timberline General Store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum all carpet areas including the sacristy (which is the room on the right of the altar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lift kneelers and vacuum underneath including any cobwebs. Then place kneelers back down and vacuum the kneelers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dust the seats only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check the vacuum cleaner bag and change when required. When on to the second last bag (found in cupboard in room left of the altar) please let the School office know so that we may purchase new bags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet: please clean and place rubbish in outside school bin. Check that there is a toilet cleaner, toilet paper and hand towel available. (Please let the School office know when more needs to be purchased.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB. The ladies of the Parish organise the flowers and dust everywhere else.</td>
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