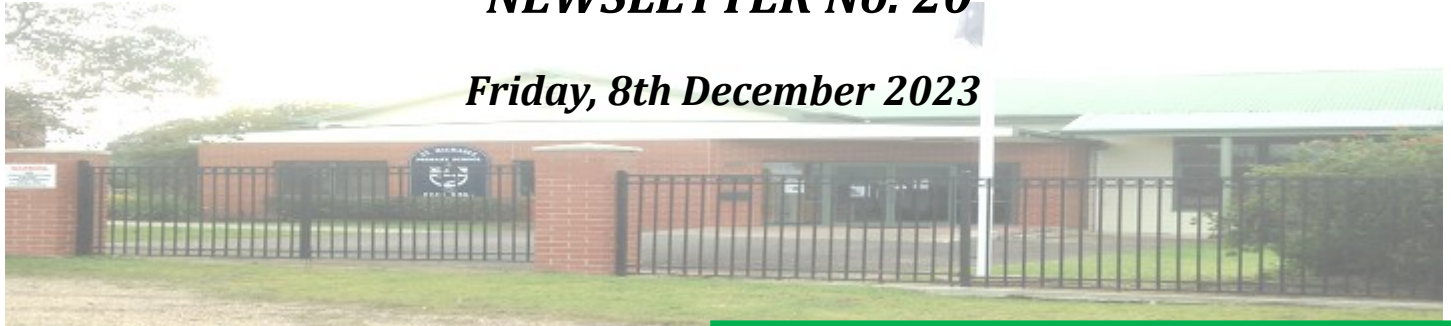




## NEWSLETTER No. 20

Friday, 8th December 2023



### DIARY DATES

#### TERM 4

#### DECEMBER

**Tuesday 12th** End of School Year Mass and morning tea for families at St. Michael's

Wednesday 13th Whole School Sale Cinema and Park Visit

Thursday 14th Grade 6 Graduation

Thursday 14th School reports sent home

Friday 15th Prep—Year 2 Big Day Out

Friday 15th Christmas Carols in Heyfield Park

**Monday 18th** Last day for students - 3pm dismissal

Wednesday 20th Last day for staff

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As this is my final newsletter for the year, I would like to share my heartfelt appreciation to the St. Michael's community for a fantastic 2023 school year. It is hard to imagine that another year is just about completed. 2023 at St. Michael's has been filled with amazing opportunities for the students to grow and develop academically, socially and emotionally. I would like to acknowledge our wonderful staff members at St. Michael's. They have an amazing commitment to supporting all students and families. I would also like to say thankyou to all our families for continuing to support your children in their schooling. On a personal note, I have felt the support and warmth that the St. Michael's school community are renowned for since beginning as Principal in Term 3.

This time of the year is often one of the busiest times with many things happening. As I write part of this newsletter, I am currently at Camp Coolamatong with the Year 5/6 students. The students have had to wait a little longer to attend the camp due to the weather and floods last week. Students are completing many different outdoor activities such as canoeing and stand up paddle boarding along with having a focus on team work.



St Michael's Primary School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gunaikurnai people, traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. As a school community, we commit to walk alongside our First Nations people for reconciliation, truth and justice.



### TERM DATES 2024

TERM 1 - 29th January - 28th March

Students commence 30/1/23



On Tuesday we invite families to attend our end of year school Mass and then come over to St. Michael's for morning tea. Prep students will be performing the Nativity Christmas story at the end of Mass. On Wednesday all students will visit the Sale Cinema and Fauna Park in Sale. We thank the Parents and Friends group for funding this trip. Year 6 students will have their graduation on Thursday night. This is a time for both students and families to reflect on their time at St. Michael's. I am assured that as the students grow older their time at St. Michael's will be etched in their memories, becoming a source of fond recollections of their schooling.

Our Prep to year 2 students are off on their Big Day Out on Friday. No doubt a great time will be had visiting the 'Christmas Under the Big Top' in Melbourne.

Over the last 2 weeks we have welcomed our 2024 prep students to St. Michael's for four transition sessions. We look forward to these students and families beginning their journey and partnership with the school community.

The school community would like to pass on our sincerest condolences to the Johnston family as well as extended family and friends for the loss of Chrissie. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

We have finalised our staffing for 2024. Please see the next page for the full details.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





## SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE



It has been our honour to be school captains of St. Michael's in 2023. We have at an awesome time leading the school. Some of our highlights have been developing our leadership skills by speaking at school assemblies, and understanding and listening to all people's opinions and thoughts. At the start of the year, speaking at assembly was quite nerve-racking but with more practice we become more confident. We would like to thank all the staff and students for helping and supporting us to become better leaders and people. We wish the Grade 6 students all the best and we hope that they have a easy and fun transition into Year 7. We hope everyone has a great Christmas and holiday break. We look forward to one day returning to St. Michael's and seeing everyone again.

## FAREWELL

We would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Louise Cheshire for the years of service she has provided at St. Michael's. Louise has built many positive relationships with the St. Michael's community. Her main role has been as a classroom teacher but this year she began in a new role as Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. Louise is looking forward to an extended break during the year where she will be travelling with her family. Thankyou for your contribution to St. Michael's Louise! You are always welcomed back! We also wish Mrs Marie Holt all the best as she takes 12 months leave from St. Michael's.

## 2024 ST. MICHAEL'S STAFFING

Our 2024 staffing has been finalised. We would like to welcome Mrs Amy Armstrong to St. Michael's. Amy will be at St. Michael's one day a week where she will teach a PE and Health specialist class. Mrs Suzi Herbert will take up the role as Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader.

**Prep-** Kellie Hole (3 days) and Amy Freeman (2days)

**Grade 1/2-** Jade Wheeler (5 days)

**Grade 3/4-** Liane Barry (2 days) and Tilka Brown (3 days)

**Grade 5/6-** Anika Duncan (4 days) and Lauren Bayliss (1 day)

**PE and Health-** Amy Armstrong

**Art-** Carmel Kuizenga

**ICT (Semester 1) and Music (Semester 2)-**Lauren Bayliss

**Italian-** Tilka Brown

**Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader-** Suzi Herbert

**Education Support Officers**

Tina McGill and Kerry Ashlin

**Office**

Jennie Missen and Tania Sawers

## COMMUNICATION



At St. Michael's, much of our communication to families is done via Class Dojo, school newsletter and Email. For certain events, reminders and absentees we will also now use text messages to communicate.



A reminder that St. Michael's are collecting and donating cans of food for the Heyfield Community Resource Centre in the lead up to Christmas. This initiative will support families that may require additional food over the Christmas and holiday period. Please send your donations to school with your child or drop them in at the front office where there is a trolley located for the items. Our SRC students are also using the money raised from Zooper Dooper Tuesday to purchase items for the centre.

## LIBRARY BOOKS

The school holidays are nearly here so that means it's time for all library books to be returned please. Don't forget to check your bookshelves at home and/or under the bed...thank you.



## SRC ARE SELLING ZOOPER DOOPERS ON TUESDAY AT LUNCHTIMES

The SRC have decided to do Zooper Dooper Tuesday for the rest of the school year. If you would like to buy a Zooper Dooper (1 per student) they will cost 50 cents. The money raised will go towards buying canned items for the Heyfield Community Resource Centre. The canned food will then be donated to people in the Heyfield community in the lead up to Christmas. Well done to the SRC on coming up with such a great initiative.



## BOOKLISTS 2024

With the Newsagency no longer stocking stationery items, the school has made the decision to purchase all books and stationery for students in 2024. We are currently awaiting approval from DOSCEL to incorporate a new levy for books (approximately \$80 per student) in our school fees. A letter will be conveyed to all families as soon as possible.



Truth



### 1st December

**Hayden:** For writing a lovely Haiku poem about spring.

**Isabelle:** For writing a lovely Haiku poem about dogs.

### 8th December

**Gus:** For creating a positive and respectful learning environment when playing classroom games.

**Ryder:** For working hard in Maths.

**Yvette:** For completing a neat and well measured Christmas Tree as part of a Maths task.

**Alex:** For taking greater responsibility for his belongings and for being more organised.

**Summer:** For completing a neat and well measured Christmas Tree as part of a Maths task.



St Michael, our archangel and patron: Pray for us.

St Michael, protector of us all: Pray for us.

St Michael, whose name means 'he who is like God': Pray for us.

St Michael, who gives us courage and strength: Pray for us.

St Michael, defender of us all: Pray for us.

St Michael, who stands for truth: Pray for us.

St Michael, a man of prayer: Pray for us.

St Michael, who guides us every day: Pray for us.

### BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday in the last fortnight.

Anika: 9th December



### OUR PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Edwin Ogbuka

Email: edwinogbuka@gmail.com 0469 733 929

PARISH SECRETARY: Willie Schoenmaekers

Email: marymaf@aussiebb.com.au

Mass is celebrated at St Michael's Church in Heyfield on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am and Saturday evenings at 6.00pm.

*We are a 'Parish in Partnership' with Maffra, Newry, Cowwarr and Dargo.*