



Truth

NEWSLETTER No. 1

Friday, 9th February, 2024



DIARY DATES

TERM 1

FEBRUARY

Monday 12th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Tuesday 13th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming Pancake Day Big Breakfast
Wednesday 14th	Prep Rest Day Ash Wednesday Mass 12 noon Yrs 3-6 Swimming— Pyjama session
Thursday 15th	NO SWIMMING
Friday 16th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming (last session)
Saturday 18th	Heyfield Timber Festival
Sunday 19th	Timber Festival Street Parade 10am
Wednesday 21st	Prep Rest Day Swimming Carnival Yrs 1-6 Interschool Equestrian Challenge
Thursday 22nd	Welcome BBQ & Bootball— 5-6.30pm
Tuesday 27th	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 28th	Prep Rest Day
Thursday 29th	HDSSA Swimming Carnival Parent/Teacher Interviews

MARCH

Wednesday 6th	Wellington Division Swimming
Friday 8th	Student Free Day

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2024 school year. It was lovely to welcome back all students and in particular our new Prep students along with Lily in Grade 2 to St Michael's. It is so nice to be back and focused on another year of schooling for our students. On Monday 29th January our staff participated in Professional Development. Part of this day was spent looking on strategies to build positive relationships and connections with students. Connecting with students to build trust and form positive relationships is instrumental in creating learning environments where students feel safe, respected and motivated to learn. Our thought from

TERM DATES 2024



- TERM 1 - 29 January—28 March
- TERM 2 - 15 April—28 June
- TERM 3 - 15 July—20 September
- TERM 4 - 7 October—20 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Labour Day—11 March
- Good Friday—29 March
- Easter Sunday—31 March

STUDENT FREE DAY

- Friday 8th March

the day was, 'From the very first moments students interact with you, they're identifying if you're someone to approach or avoid. Investing time and effort into connecting positively with all students and getting to know them will help you build relationships'.

Over the coming weeks we look forward to catching up with all families with a number of opportunities to keep developing our positive family and school partnerships.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

We are looking forward to being the 2024 school captains at St. Michael's. We feel very proud that the students voted us into the position. We can't wait to help out with different activities and students throughout the year. Well done to the Prep students on continuing to settle into school at St. Michael's. We are especially impressed with the way you are lining up waiting for the teachers. The year 3-6 students are doing a fantastic job at swimming, keep up the great work. We have started our PE and Health classes with Mrs Armstrong and everybody has been enjoying having these classes at St. Michael's. We hope everyone has a great weekend and we are super excited for the year. From Molly and Justin



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.



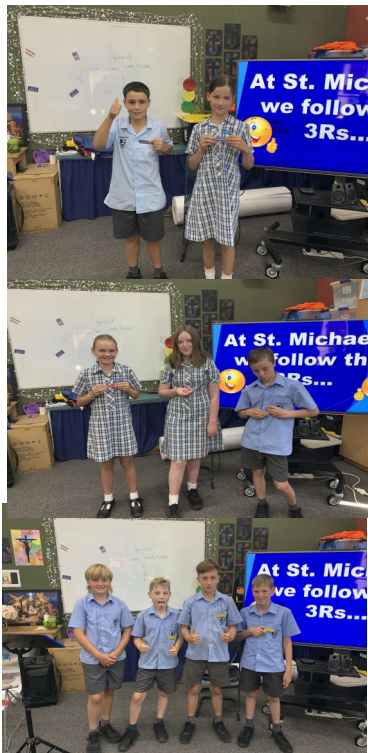
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our student leaders for 2024. Our school captains are Justin and Molly and our vice-captains are Noah and Lilly. I am sure they will be excellent role models and leaders of our school. I am looking forward to working with them all.



The Student Representative Committee is made up of our Captains and Vice-Captains and each grade elects a class representative who will attend meetings and be involved in the decision making. Our SRC plans at least one social justice activity per term in keeping with our Catholic social responsibilities. Currently classrooms are finalising their members. The School Captains represent our Prep class. Selected students will receive their badges at assembly next Friday.

This year the House Captains for each House are: Joseph (Yellow) Captains are Noah, Henry, Justin and Cooper, MacKillop (Red) Captains are Archie, Chloe and Molly and Michael (Blue) Captains are Oscar and Lilly. Our House Captains are active leaders within the school and their role extends beyond the sports carnivals.



ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Josephite sisters set up schools in Australia and New Zealand. They also set up houses for elderly women, young girls and women without jobs. They gave their life to people in need often giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.

Throughout the year we will be looking at the life and work of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite sisters (who founded our school). St Mary of the Cross is a terrific role model for our lives. She was the model of an independent woman who showed great strength and persistence, dedicating her life to the promotion of justice for all and education for everyone, especially in small towns that might not otherwise have a school.



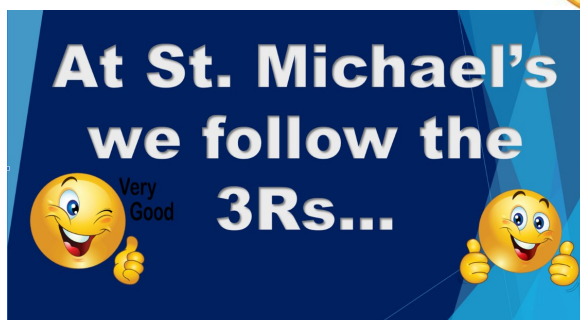
We will also be connecting with our local Parish story and are excited about finding out about the history of both the church and the school.

RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT

Underpinning everything that we do at St. Michael's and the way we conduct ourselves are our core rules of respect:

- Respect for ourselves
- Respect for others
- Respect for our environment

Each classroom has revisited what this means and what it looks like in our school.





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2nd February

Prep Class: Congratulations on completing your first week of school.

Lily. P: Welcome to St. Michael's and our Grade 1/2 class.

William: For a great start to the year! Well done.

Jayden: For persisting with his holiday writing and finishing a lovely sun.

Yvette: For her critical thinking and showing a deeper level of understanding in maths.

Oliver: For making a positive start in our class and setting a wonderful example to his peers.

9th February

Dean: For displaying great learning habits in the classroom.

Ged: For settling to tasks and being a good role model for others.

Gus: For displaying positive learning behaviours and completing set tasks.

Alex: For being helpful and showing others how to use technology during our 2D & 3D shapes lesson.

Aiden: For displaying good manners to others during class time.

Lily. T: For setting high expectations for herself as a learner in all areas, especially maths.



Earlier in the week your child brought home an envelope with school documents for you to complete and return to school. These include the annual media permissions form and digital technology user agreements. Our apologies to our Prep parents, there are a lot of forms to complete for new students —some of these only need to be completed once whilst your child is at our school.

All families: Please make sure that you record any changes to your personal details.

ASSEMBLY AND AWARDS

Each week we have assembly, led by our School Captains. This is on a Friday at 2.20pm. Classroom teachers also present students with their classroom awards at assembly. Families are always welcome to attend assembly. We will notify you if there is no assembly for the week—sometimes things come up and we need to postpone it. The Mary MacKillop Award is also presented at assembly but it isn't necessarily every week. The Mary MacKillop award is given to students who show the qualities of Mary MacKillop in their actions. At the end of the year the recipients of this award are invited to a special lunch with the Principal.



FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

We welcome our new Preps who have made a great start to the year. We have been amazed at how organised and confident they are even though it's only been a short time. They've also impressed us with their independence, in the classroom and outside in the playground. We welcome Willow, Frankie, Scarlett, Willow, Kobe, Lily, Georgia, Hudson, Dean and Quynn, and we pray for God's blessing as they begin school life.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

In Digital Technology with Mrs Bayliss, we have started with being safe online and being an ethical user of technology. It is so important for children to understand what to do if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable and know what they can and can't share online. It is also important that they think about ethics in an online space and don't cause hurt or harm to anyone else.

Please go over the important parts of our Digital Technologies Policy and User Agreement with your child so that they understand at their level.



UNIFORM & SPORTS DAYS

Sports days for this term are **Monday** and **Wednesday** so these are the only days where students can wear their sports uniform. If your child is out of uniform, please notify their classroom teacher of the reason. Just a reminder that in terms 1 and 4 hats are compulsory, although we would encourage students to wear their hats all year.

Please monitor your child and their uniform throughout the year and make sure they are wearing the correct uniform. Our school rules of RESPECT include respecting yourself and a part of that is presenting yourself well and wearing the uniform with pride.

SWIMMING

The swimming program has commenced for students in Years 3-6. There will be 10 swimming lessons and then on Wednesday, 21st February we have our whole school swimming carnival. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the carnival day. The P-2 swimming program will be in Term 2 at Kemp Aquatics in Maffra.



CLASS NEWSLETTERS

You should have received a class newsletter. Each newsletter will outline important features and expectations of your child's class. For example, information about homework, specific class structures, classroom expectations, 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.

You should also receive a request to join Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a very easy and effective way for parents and classroom teachers to communicate with each other in this busy world.

CLASS DOJO

All grades will be using Class Dojo again this year to enhance communication between home and school. We have also added a school story on Dojo which will communicate whole school messages to families. We strongly recommend that you sign up when you receive the information—it is a simple and easy way to keep in contact with your child's teacher.

Please be aware that during the school day, classroom teachers do not have time to check and/or respond to Dojo messages as they are too busy teaching.

Please ring the office if you have a message to pass on.



GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

Maintaining efficient communication is crucial within a school community. Currently we have the newsletter, the website, email and Class Dojo. For certain events, reminders and absentees we will also now use text messages to communicate. **In an emergency, we will use text messages which allows us to quickly send out important information to our whole school community.**

The newsletter will be uploaded regularly to the website. The newsletter is also emailed out to all families every second Friday. Calendar dates are recorded on the newsletter and website.

The P & F Facebook page is not part of the school's official communication. It is to keep you up to speed with what the P & F are doing and connected with other parents. Notifications will not be sent out via Facebook.

WELCOME BBQ & BOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Join us at 5.00pm for our beginning of the year BBQ where we welcome our new families and gather together as a school community. Sausages, bread and drinks will be provided. Bring your running shoes as we will then do our annual boot ball challenge, children against the adults.



CONGRATULATIONS

A big congratulations to the Young, Baranowski and Prow families on the new arrivals to their families during the holidays. We hope all is going well! We would also like to congratulate Amy and Alan Pardoe on their recent wedding.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday during the holidays.

Ruby	4th January
Penny	4th January
Aiden	9th January
Corbin	19th January
Ged	20th January
Kobe	24th January
Heath	26th January
Harper	28th January
Mitchell	29th January
Eli	30th January
Tommy	30th January



PARKING ZONE REMINDER

At drop off and pick up times, please make sure not to park in the area between the sign posts at the Davis Street entrance to the School. **This area is reserved for School buses only** and if a car is parked there it makes it difficult for the bus to deliver and pick up the students in a safe manner.

If you park on Davis Street to collect your children, it is also important to park on the school side of the road.

Davis Street is far too busy at pick up time and children should not be crossing the road on their own. Children are to remain inside the school grounds until they are collected by a parent/carer.



TIMBER FESTIVAL

We are participating in the Heyfield Timber Festival this year. We will be marching in the parade on Sunday 18th and our students will be doing some artwork for the festival so make sure you visit the stadium to see what all the school students love and value about living in and around Heyfield. A note was sent home yesterday with the details.

FINANCIAL CONCESSIONS

Financial concessions are available to eligible families. It is important to note, when concessions are provided, there is no impact on the overall school funding situation.

These concessions may include the Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) of \$150 per child. Concessions are available through the following two categories.

Category 1: Eligible, means-tested Centrelink Concession Card holders:

A family in which the fee payer holds an eligible, means-tested Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) is automatically eligible for a school concession. There is a simplified application form and streamlined approval process.



fee

Category 2: Special Consideration:

A family experiencing genuine financial difficulty and not eligible under Category 1, is encouraged to apply for a fee concession. This application requires detailed information in order that an equitable assessment may be made of eligibility for and level of a fee concession.

Application forms are available from the school office and only need to be completed if this is a new application. Current concession holders do not need to reapply.



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RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Social Media, Impacts of Screen Time, Online Gaming, Cyber Bullying, Child & Tween Online Trends, Managing Devices in the Home, Explicit/Adult Content, Strengthening Family Communication

St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Thursday 22 February | 7.30pm

90 minute presentation
Parents/carers only
Exclusive access to resources

Register to attend the webinar:
bit.ly/22feb2024

Martin McGauran
Primary School Teacher & Digital Safety Educator

Carley McGauran
Psychologist & Mum to 3 primary and secondary aged kids

"Marty and Carley were simply sensational. Their presentation was relevant, honest and informative. A MUST for each school, every year." Principal

"An evening that provided some reality checks! A Few new changes in our home this week!" Parent of 9yo & 11yo

INFORM & EMPOWER
Digital Safety & Wellbeing

Trusted eSafety Provider
esafety.gov.au

Upcoming Digital Safety Parent Webinar- Thursday 22nd February

As part of St. Michael's ongoing commitment to Digital Safety and Wellbeing we are providing families with the opportunity to participate in a parent webinar run by Inform and Empower. Inform and Empower also run online workshops and sessions for students in Years 1-6. The webinar will take place on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm. If you are unable to make this webinar, you will have access to the recording for 30 days. This allows you to view the webinar in your own time.

Here is the link for parents to register for the webinar :

bit.ly/22feb2024

Once parents register (with an email address and name), you will be emailed a link to the webinar. You will also receive reminder emails. The following day, you will receive a link to access the replay.

CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAYS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

St Michael's PS is now on the Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) which means that we are required to close on days rated as 'Catastrophic Fire Danger'. This was previously called a 'Code Red' day. Determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner, a Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger day is the highest level of Fire Danger Rating and signifies the worst conditions for bushfire and grassfires.

These are our Bushfire/Grassfire Emergency Response Procedures for Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger Days

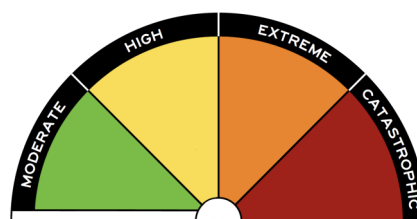
St Michael's School will **close** on days declared *Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger*.

Where possible, three days' notice of a planned closure will be provided. However, experience indicates that a *Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger day* fire danger rating day may be forecast at short notice. Parents and guardians should expect that in some instances less than three days' notice may be provided.

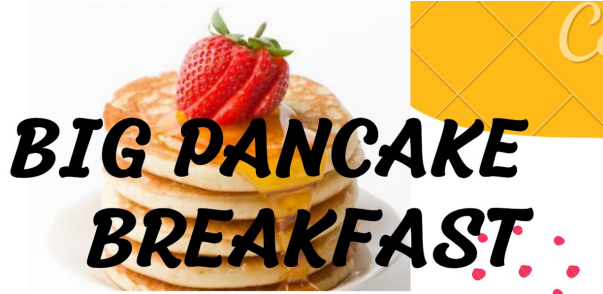
Once the final decision to close is confirmed at 12 noon the day prior, this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help families plan for how their children will be cared for when their school is closed.

Notice of a 'code red/Catastrophic fire danger' closure will be provided via the school app and email.

When a school is closed in response to bushfire risk, no one, including staff, contractors and other users, will be permitted on site.



MODERATE Plan and prepare	HIGH Be ready to act
EXTREME Take action now to protect life and property	CATASTROPHIC For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas



We hope you and your family can join us on **Tuesday 13th February** (Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day) for our **BIG PANCAKE BREAKFAST** out on the asphalt. We will set up tables so that you can sit down to eat yummy pancakes with maple syrup.

TIME: FROM 8.20am

**DATE: Tuesday, 13th
February**

HELP NEEDED

We are looking for parents to pre-cook pancakes for us just before Tuesday 13th February. These will be heated in the microwave on the day.

If you are available to do this, please call in and take a pancake mix from the office.

THANK YOU

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to learn and to work together.

Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak and when it is better not to speak.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen