



NEWSLETTER No. 2

Friday, 23rd February, 2024



DIARY DATES

TERM 1

FEBRUARY

Monday 26th	Years 3-6 Tour of Australian Sustainable Hardwood Plant
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
Sunday 24th	Duck Cup

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been another busy 2 weeks with so much happening at St. Michael's. We began with Shrove Tuesday. Thank you to the amazing families who generously cooked pancakes for our students and families to enjoy. We appreciated your efforts. It was magnificent to see so many people attend the breakfast. We then acknowledged the beginning of the Lenten Season with our Ash Wednesday Mass with Father Edwin.

Years 3-6 completed their swimming lessons which then lead into our school swimming carnival on Wednesday. We were blessed with fantastic weather for our carnival. It was inspiring to see sportsmanship and resilience on display as our students showcased their swimming abilities and team spirit. It was great to see our Year 1/2 students join us later in the afternoon and participate in some fun novelty events. A big thank you to Mrs Hole for her organisation on the day.

Our welcome BBQ and annual Bootball challenge was a great success and a great way to come together as a school community. On an extremely warm night families were able to mingle and catch up with one another.

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

STUDENT FREE DAY

- Friday 8th March

Congratulations to the kids for winning Bootball against the adults.

We look forward to catching up with families next week for our Term 1 Parent Teacher interviews. They are a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher and discuss how they have settled into school. Bookings can be made via PAM.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

We have had a busy time at St. Michael's lately. Everyone did such a great job at the swimming carnival! We especially enjoyed seeing the Year 1/2 students have so much fun. Thanks to Mrs Hole for organising the day and for all the teachers for helping out. We think we are very lucky at St. Michael's because we have lots of great things always happening. The Pancake breakfast was awesome and then the kids against adults Bootball was so much fun at the family BBQ. Sorry adults we were just too good! We have seen lots of students playing well together and making sure they are keeping hands and feet to themselves. This is about respecting others. Have a great weekend.



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– SRC

Congratulations to Ruby (1/2), Lily (3/4) and Emmy (5/6) who have been elected in their class as SRC for 2024. Along with Molly and Justin they will form our SRC and are a vital members of our school as they represent the student voice. We look forward to working with them.



ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!

Congratulations to Yvette for receiving the Mary MacKillop award.

Yvette received the award for demonstrating the qualities of Mary MacKillop in her actions and attitude. Yvette is a kind and caring person who always does the fair thing and wants things to be fair for others as displayed during the swimming carnival. She is reliable and responsible and aims to do her best. We thank you Yvette for being a great role model for others and making our school a better place.

This year we want to be on track with Mary Mac and...

“Never see a need without doing something about it”

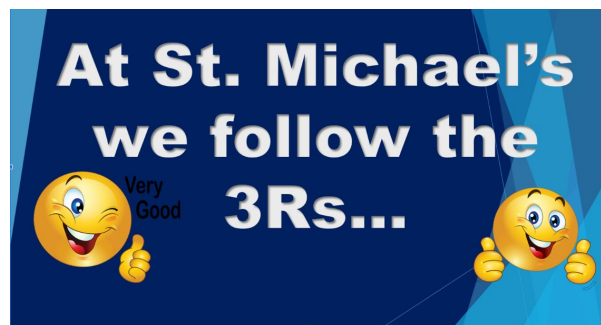


RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT

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

We continue to positively educate the students on St. Michael's 3R's. Staff continue to teach students all of the ways that we expect them to behave, model it for them, provide examples and non-examples, and allow practice opportunities that showcase the 3R's.





Truth



16th February

Georgia. S: For her enthusiasm in the classroom and setting a shining example of eagerness to learn.

Fletcher: For excellent reading at Ash Wednesday Mass.

Mia: For excellent reading and participation at Ash Wednesday Mass.

Heath: For excellent reading and participation at Ash Wednesday Mass.

Izzy: For being a wonderful role model and for always being so willing to help others.

Molly: For being a responsible and reliable class member. Well done Molly.

Eli: For great thinking during our daily reviews. Keep up the awesome work Eli!

23rd February

Quynn: For being an attentive listener and contributing to class discussions.

Frankie: For being a thoughtful member of our class.

Lilly. P: For a great "science" mind and participation in Questacon.

Olivia: For her "super" sentences using correct punctuation.

Lily D: For being such a positive and helpful role model for her Year Three classmates.

Noah.C: For pushing himself out of his comfort zone and trying new things. Well done!

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The weather was fantastic for our swimming carnival on Wednesday. Results from the day:

1st place: MacKillop (Red)

2nd place: Joseph (Yellow)

3rd place: Michael (Blue)

Age Champions

9/10 Girls– Lily Downs

9/10 Boys– Arthur McKinnon

11 Girls- Molly Johnston

11 Boys– Wally Killeen

12 Girls– Lilly Thompson

12 Boys– Justin Stephens

WELCOME BBQ BOOTBALL CHAMPIONS FOR 2024: THE KIDS



Mr Fyfe's kick couldn't get the adults the win against the kids in 2024!



So far we have had many families set up a PAM account. Families have already begun to send absences, book Parent teacher interviews and provide permission for excursions through PAM.

The following information was from the email sent last week in regards to PAM:

At St. Michael's we would like all parents to set up a Parent Access Module or PAM account. PAM works in conjunction with our St Michael's administration system. Some of you may be familiar with PAM if you have had children attend Catholic College Sale as they also use PAM.

Setting up PAM will allow parents to access a range of features. At this stage at St. Michael's, the main features that you will have access to with PAM will be:

-Parent Notified Absences: This section will allow you to submit a Parent Notified Absence for your child(ren)

-Parent Teacher Interviews: This section will allow you to make Parent Teacher Interview bookings when an interview run is opened by the school. You will be notified when these bookings are opened. (As Parent Teacher Interviews will be occurring on February 27th and 29th, we will look to open these bookings by early next week)

-Student personal details- can be updated by you

-Student medical details and profile- can be updated by you

-Provide consent and permission for your child(ren) participation in excursions and camps- the medical details and profile will be attached with this, so you shouldn't need to fill out the same details for each permission note

Please follow the instructions and links from the email you received to begin setting up your PAM account.

When you are logged into your PAM account you will be asked to fill in medical details for your child(ren). I ask that you do this over the coming weeks. Although you have just returned your child(ren) medical reports back to school, your PAM account will allow you to provide even more details as well as updating these details when they change.

If you have any issues with setting up PAM I'm more than happy to help out. I'm happy for you to come into school and we can set it up together.

There is an App available called, SIMON Everywhere, that can be downloaded free from the App Store or Google Play. The App includes the same features that you will find on a laptop or iPad when you log into PAM. There is no need to download the App if you are happy to use PAM via an internet browser.

We believe PAM will allow parents and the school a range of features that can be easily accessed online. As always with something new, it may take time to fully master all areas from a parent level as well as a school level.

Again, please feel free to contact me if you require any support or are unsure of something.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday during the last two weeks.

Justin	14th February
Jimmy	17th February
Marshall	19th February
Arthur	20th February
Molly	23rd February



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.



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 fee concession. There is a simplified application form and streamlined approval process.



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.

TIMBER FESTIVAL

It was great to see so many students attend the Heyfield Timber Festival Street Parade.



QUESTACON VISIT

We were lucky enough to have a visit from Questacon. Questacon are based in Canberra and are currently touring regional areas. They present shows to students based on Science and Technology.



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

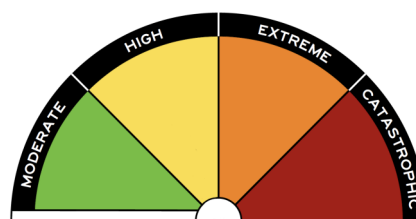
St Michael's School will **close** on days declared *Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger*.

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