Message from the PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of St Michael’s,

Welcome to an exciting new year at St Michael’s College and to our Year of Justice. This year we look to our final St Michael’s pillar of Justice. It is a wonderful pillar to complete our first cycle through all of our pillars over the past six years. Justice is very close to my heart and one of the driving forces behind me becoming a teacher.

Justice is at the very core of a Catholic school. We were created as schools to live the Gospel message and serve the poor and marginalised (in all forms), and this must always continue. Catholic schools are not “private” schools and we should never be elitist schools. We are here to meet the needs of all in our community.

Last weekend, we held our Senior Leaders Conference with our wonderful 2017 Senior Leaders (pictured) at Sea World Nara Resort. At this conference, they came up with a great motto for our year of justice, “Give colour to the invisible, restore the balance.” It follows on nicely from our “Be gold when it’s grey” motto from last year and challenges all not to let the poor and marginalised remain invisible in our society, school and world. Bronte Maund and Ross Burrell, our 2017 College Captains introduced this year’s theme at our Opening Assembly on Wednesday. It was also wonderful to have our 2016 Captains, Georgia Boevink and Harry Lincoln share their experiences and wisdom with this year’s leaders.

This year, we welcome a number of new staff to St Michael’s:

• Veronica Wasiak (acting Deputy Principal)
• Christopher Oakes (Assistant Principal Staff and Student Development)
• Tayla Kelleher (returning from leave)
• Sharon Young, Jenny Dodd, Suzanne Arnold, Natasha Ranke, Jessica Cobb, James Ingham (Teachers)
• Natalie Clapoudis (Counsellor)
• Barbara Kristo (Teacher Librarian)
• Courtney Gibbons (Library Aide)
• Kristie Brimelow (Speech Pathologist - Wednesdays)
• Stephen Chadburn (Indigenous Liaison - Thursdays)

There are a number of important events in the first couple of weeks to be aware of:

• Thursday, Jan 26: Australia Day Holiday
• Monday, Jan 30: School photo day (Full and correct College Formal Uniform required)
• Thursday, Feb 2: Year 7 Swim Trials
• Tuesday, Feb 7: Opening Mass (9am); New Family Welcome afternoon (3.30pm); P&F Meeting (7pm)
• Thursday, Feb 9: College Swimming Carnival

St Michael’s College respectfully acknowledges that we are on the sacred lands of the Kombumerri clan of the Yugambeh people.
Each year, St Michael’s staff develop our goals for the year ahead. This year, our goals are that by the end of 2017, we will:

1. aim for improved literacy outcomes (especially in writing) for our Year 7 & 8 students.
2. embed our St Michael’s Justice pillar through prayer and social action.
3. consolidate our guiding principal of creating “Self-Directed & Responsible Learners”.
4. work toward the new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance system.
5. review our current Pastoral roles, lessons, programs and camps.
6. focus on staff wellbeing, cohesion, induction and mentoring.
7. assist all to have a better understanding of differentiation and inclusive education.
8. investigate improvements to the current College infrastructure – rooms, buses, toilets.

I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging 2017.

Yours in Christ
Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Message from the DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Happy New Year to all and welcome back to what is shaping up to be a great year. I would like to extend a sincere thankyou to the St Michael’s Community for the warm welcome I have received. I am excited about the year and look forward to working with students and their families.

A little about me. I have come from St Thomas More College in Brisbane where I spent 10 years. I served the community in different roles. In my early years I was the Sports Coordinator and Year 9 Pastoral Coordinator. Over the last 7 years at the College I was the Assistant Principal-Pastoral Care and also spent some time as the Deputy Principal (Acting). I also spent 7 years at Carmel College as the Sports Coordinator.

I come to St Michael’s College with a passion to serve the community and to work with students in helping them achieve to the very best of their abilities. My hope for our students when they exit Year 12 is that they leave with a learning outcome that enables them to pursue whatever direction they choose (University, Trade, Workforce, Tafe). Secondly and just as important, is that students leave with a great awareness of community and can action in their everyday lives the values we in partnership with their families teach them and therefore making the world a better place. St Michael’s College is very proud of the fact that students leave here as remarkable young men and women and I am committed to ensure this continues.

It is important that families continue to work in partnership with the College and uphold the high standards of the College. I would like to make it very clear from the onset that classrooms are places where high quality teaching and learning takes place and students are expected to be engaged and take responsibility for their learning. It is also an expectation that students meet the presentation and uniform standards of the College. The way we present is important and does matter in creating a sense of pride and equity. Again, thank you for the warm welcome and I look forward to the year ahead.

Veronica Wasiak
Deputy Principal

Message from the ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL STAFF & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
The welcome I have received from the St Michael’s community; staff, students and parents alike has been wonderful. There is a tangible presence and sense of acceptance, which seems to underpin the notion that we are all in this together. That kind of interdependence is crucial in fostering a compassionate and relational environment, necessary to guide and support our youth through school.

It is also the kind of liberating environment that a teacher new to a community feels happy to be in. My wife, daughter and I have made the move from Brisbane; something we have wanted for some time. Your welcome has given my family so much more confidence in our choice.

The core values of presence, compassion and liberation are the reasons I and many others teach. They seem to be unconsciously intertwined within the College’s charism and pillars. In this year of Justice, I look forward to seeing what social concerns the student body will illuminate in an effort to restore balance in our community. I feel honoured to be a part of it.

Thank you for welcoming me as you have and I look forward to working with you.

Chris Oakes
APSSD
Welcome to 2017 for all our students, staff and parents. This year the pillar of focus for our charism of St Michael is **Justice**.

**Justice**

*Be fair to all*

Therefore we aim to:

- speak out against injustice.
- prevent harm.
- restore right relationships.
- uphold the principles of social justice.

Our College Student Leaders met at Sea World last Friday and Saturday to plan the year and develop their motto which will help them speak about and implement Justice in the school community during the year. The staff of the College have also explored the concept of Justice and how to encourage students to be just to one another.

As we approach Australia Day on Thursday January 26, it is fitting to remember our first Australian saint, Mary Mackillop known as St Mary of the Cross, who was renowned for her sense of social justice. In addition to her well known quote of ‘never see a need without doing something about it’, I would also like to share another quote written in a letter to Fr Tenison Woods on October 28, 1870 from South Brisbane; ‘Without quite knowing why, I always in a way long for short, simple and yet loving ways of doing some things.’

This could be a good approach for us all in this busy time of year.

Margaret Petherbridge
APRE

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**P&F MEETING**

St Michael’s Parents & Friends first meeting is Tuesday February 7. All are welcome to attend.

Our purpose is to support both parents and students of the College and we always finish on time!

Please join us for our first meeting on Tuesday February 7, 7pm through to 8pm in the College Boardroom at the Main Office.

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**Message from the HPE FACULTY**

A warm welcome back to everyone from the members of the HPE team, who during 2017 will consist of: Mr Clint Daddy, Ms Jacqueline Bell, Mr Michael Esdale, Mrs Peita Laffranchi, Mr Corbin Levick, Mr Jacob May, Mrs Jody van den Driest, Mr Rick van den Driest, and Ms Bianca Zorn.

A reminder to students participating in PE, that you must be prepared for all classes in order to take part. That includes a full change of clothes (shirt, shorts, correct runners and hat) and your planner.

**Gym 2017**

Parents and students are reminded that the gym is open on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3pm – 4pm. Students are asked to bring a full change of clothes, a towel and water bottle to every gym session.

**Healthy Hint**

Protect your skin against skin damage and skin cancer by using a combination of these 5 sun protection measures:

- Seek shade.
- Wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
- Wear hats that protect the face, ears and neck.
- Wear wrap-around sunglasses.
- Use SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and reapply it every two hours.

Mr Clint Daddy
HPE Faculty Leader
Message from the GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING TEAM

Welcome to all new parents and returning families. We are pleased to be expanding our services in 2017. Natalie Clapoudis is joining our counselling team and will be at the College five days per week. Jeff Kemp will continue to be at St Michael’s for 4 days per week, with one day release to facilitate the Asteros Program throughout the Gold Coast region. Heather will continue at St Michael’s every Tuesday, to facilitate the Girls’ Group. We are looking forward to a great team this year with a diversity of skills to support your children in their high school journey.

Natalie is a registered Psychologist (Educational & Developmental) and Teacher who has been working at Aquinas College for the past three years. In her role at Aquinas she supported students in their educational journeys and continually collaborated with parents, teachers and Pastoral Leaders to meet students social and emotional needs. She is excited about joining the St Michael’s family and comes to us with a wealth of knowledge about school refusal and attendance issues, social-emotional and educational challenges and mental health issues. Natalie has been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid. She brings all her experiences from both school and mental health settings with her to St Michael’s College to help support students and the challenges they will face during the school year.

You can contact the Guidance & Counselling team by phone or email.

Phone details: (07) 5530 2722 extension 3212.

Email details:
Jeff Kemp: jeffkemp@stmichaels.qld.edu.au
Natalie Clapoudis: nclapoudis@bne.catholic.edu.au
Heather Clark: hclark@stmichaels.qld.edu.au

Jeff is also available on the school mobile: 0438 184 994.

Stay on top of your studies with some help from the Chill Zone. We have student leaders ready to help you with your homework and assignments.

Everyone is welcome!
So come in and say hello.

Monday • Wednesday • Friday
Lunchtime in HEC5