Dear Parents, Carers and friends of St Michael’s

I would like to use this week’s newsletter to offer a brief history of Catholic Education in Australia.

Catholic Education was set up in Australia from the 1820s to help to improve the lot of the poor and marginalised Catholic population who were denied access to many opportunities in the new colony. From its earliest days, Catholic Education’s mission was to serve the poor and marginalised. You will often hear the term, “Option for the poor”, to describe our mission. Over time, Catholic schools have been so successful in raising the status of the Catholic population that we now need to continually refocus our efforts on helping the less fortunate.

The first Catholic school in Queensland was established in 1845 by the first priest stationed in Brisbane, Fr James Hanly who employed Michael and Mary Bourke as its teachers. The school opened with 56 students and was located in a slab-walled, bark-roofed building near where the Myer Centre now stands on the corner of Elizabeth and Albert Streets in central Brisbane.

In 2016, there are over 146,200 students attending more than 300 Catholic schools across Queensland. This number represents 18.33% of all Queensland students and 60% of the students in non-government schools.

Catholic schools originally received some government support to operate, but this was removed in the 1860s and only returned again in the 1970s. We must always remember the incredible sacrifice made by religious orders and the Catholic families who built our school system over those 100+ years without relying on government funding. We owe a great debt to our religious sisters, brothers and priests for their dedicated service in often difficult conditions.

My father-in-law who was one of Brisbane’s first lay Catholic Principals, recalls being paid from the collection plate and often having to accept that there was not enough money to cover his wages.

St Michael’s College keeps its fees at the minimum suggested by Brisbane Catholic Education so that we can help to support our families. We also offer concessions for our struggling families which are calculated against the Australian poverty index so that they are fair to all.

St Michael’s is a proudly Catholic school. We teach our students from a Catholic perspective and all parents and carers who enrol at St Michael’s have agreed that they will fully support St Michael’s Catholic ethos. We expect that all families will continue to support our religious education program and the Catholic religious life of our school.

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Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday February 29</td>
<td>South Coast Swimming Trials</td>
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<td>Tuesday March 1</td>
<td>Hinterland District Trials P&amp;F Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday March 2</td>
<td>South Coast Swimming Trials Year 12 QCS Immersion Day</td>
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<td>Friday March 4</td>
<td>College Assembly</td>
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<td>Monday 7 March -</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
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<td>Monday 7 March</td>
<td>Year 11 Information Evening</td>
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Information about the Year 12 Retreat was emailed to parents of year 12 students this week and hard copies were available for parents at the Year 12 Information Night on Tuesday February 23. Any parent who has not received the information is asked to send me an email, phone or pick up a hard copy of the letter and permission forms from Student Reception. Completed forms are due to be returned to Student Reception by Friday March 4.

As we progress further into Lent, it is an opportunity to continue to practise prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Pope Francis in this Year of Mercy speaks about mercy on many occasions. Pope Francis wants that “the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy” (Misericordiae Vultus, 17).

He picks up on that theme in his message for Lent 2016:

God’s mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church’s tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I expressed my hope that “the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy”

Donating to Project Compassion is one way to engage in the corporal works of mercy. Martin Fairweather and the Oxenham House are doing a wonderful job of spearheading the fundraising for Project Compassion within the College. As well as the fundraising ventures, students are also made more aware of the needs of many people in the world through the Caritas materials shared with them in Pastoral Lessons.

Assessment Calendars
All Year Level assessment calendars will be available on the College website, under Current Students/Junior and Senior Assessment calendars. Parents and carers please use these calendars to assist your son or daughter with organisation and preparation for assessment tasks.

Learning & Teaching Framework
On Monday March 14, we are going to ‘launch’ our newly developed Learning & Teaching Framework. I invite ALL parents to be involved. Come along and discover how students learn and how their learning can be enhanced.

Football Focus
The shirts and socks for the students involved in Football Focus have arrived. Students new to the course will be presented with these items at Assembly this Friday March 4. All students may purchase new shirts and socks from the uniform shop.
Assistant Principal Staff & Student Development...

HOMEWORK

As it is just past the mid-point in Term 1, it is timely to remind parents and students about the importance of completing homework.

As self-directed learners, students are responsible for completing set homework. I know in the busyness of home life that this sometimes becomes a chore that is easily written off as “it doesn’t matter”. If it didn’t matter then why do teachers set homework?

The purpose of homework is to set in place a habit of revision of main concepts taught in class. Homework does not always have to be “set” as the student can make decisions on what they need to do to ensure the best result possible on their assessments. Reading is considered homework; doing Hotmaths is homework; practising spoken presentations is homework.

How well developed this learning habit is evident in your student, will be reported on in the upcoming Term 1 report issued in the last week of this term. Failure to complete homework is notified to parents via their child’s planner/diary. Senior students studying authority subjects need to be spending 3 hours per week in every subject (so for most students 15-18 hours minimum per week) for a successful outcome.

All students should now have accessed their assessment calendar from the College webpage and planned their assessment schedule for Term 1. Assignments must be submitted on time. Extenuating circumstances must be notified by means of an application for extension of due date by means of forms available in Student Reception.

Leonie Trueman
APSS

Japanese Exchange Students...

International Exchange – Host Families Urgently Required

On Monday March 7 we have 17 girls arriving from our sister school in Hakata, Japan.

At this stage I have had a few generous volunteers, willing to care for a student for the two-week period, but I urgently need 9 more host families!

Could you please consider caring for one of these delightful students?

They are here to learn English, so no prior knowledge of Japanese is needed. They simply come to school and back each day with their St Michael’s host brother or sister.

If you can help out by opening your home for a wonderful international exchange experience, please contact Colleen O’Dea on: codea@stmichaels.qld.edu.au or phone St Michael’s College on 5530 2722.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Colleen O’Dea
Japanese Teacher
QLD School Sport Triathlon
Special congratulations to Grace Lane (Year 9) who finished 6th at the QLD School Sport Triathlon Championships last weekend. Her effort has her named as a reserve for the QLD team. Also Peter Harbulot was in 5th spot coming into the run leg when he succumbed to an injury. Well done to Nick Norton & Quinn Monaghan who also competed.

Hinterland District Swimming
Congratulations to all students who represented the College last Monday at the Hinterland District Green Swimming Trials. This year the selection criteria has been tightened up and it was great to hear that five of our students still qualified for the South Coast School Sport Championships that take place Monday night and Wednesday night. Special mention of Elliana Slade (15 Girls’), Braydon Laviolette (16 Boys’) and Britney Holloway (17 Girls’) who were crowned age champions for their respective age groups, as well as gaining entry to the Championships. Also to Chase Laviolette (13 Girls’) and Nick Norton (17 Boys’) who also qualified for the South Coast trials.

South Coast School Sport Success
Melita Watts was successful last week in being selected in the 16 Years South Coast School Sport AFL team, to contest the QLD School Sport Championships in May. This is the third year in a row that Melita has been selected.

Hinterland School Sport Selection
Congratulations to the following students who were selected in Hinterland District School Sport teams last week:
• Nikiah Campbell (15 Years’ Netball)
• Georgia Boevink (Open Netball)
• Levi Bellert (15 Boys’ Rugby League)
• Jack Molloy (Open Boys’ Rugby League)
• Ethan Pyatt & Mitch Roberts (15 Boys’ AFL)

Hinterland District & South Coast Sport Trial Dates
Information is available for the following School Sport trials.
• South Coast Cricket: 14 Years Boys’ Monday February 29
• HDSS Trials: Open Boys’ & Girls’ Basketball & Football Tuesday March 1
• HDSS Trials: 12 Years Boys’ AFL & Rugby League, plus 12 Years Girls’ Netball Tuesday March 8
• HDSS Trials: 12 Years Boys’ & Girls’ Football and 12 Years Boys’ Cricket Tuesday March 15
• HDSS Trials: 12 Years Boys’ & Girls’ Basketball and 15 & Open Boys’ & Girls’ Touch Tuesday March 22

AGCC Competition
This Thursday is the first round of the AGCC Inter-School Sporting Competition. The majority of sports are played at external venues. Buses depart and return during school sport time. All students must ensure they have checked their selected team with their Pastoral Teacher and alert Mrs Alexander to any errors by Tuesday morning. Students must also ensure they are fully prepared with school hats and appropriate footwear as required. Please ensure specific sports equipment is also attended to. For example football & futsal require shin pads and knee length socks.

Congratulations
Zara’s first show of the season was very successful taking out the Junior Show Jumping Championship at Grand Weekend of Show Jumping, held at Nambour over the weekend. She represented St Michael’s at the West Moreton Anglican College Interschool Qualifier jumping 1.10m.

Snow Trip 2016...
For those students taking part in this year’s Snow Trip, it might be a good idea to start thinking about snow fitness. Search the internet for some easy routines to help you get to peak condition.

Reminder that we are now taking payments for the next instalment of $300. Payments can be made via direct deposit.
Account name: SMC Snow Trip
Account number: 721224600
BSB number: 637-000
**What’s going on?**

Year 7 and 8 students are required to submit their final assessments this week.
Year 9 students will be sitting their HPE test on Tuesday March 1.
Year 10 students have completed their Orienteering unit and are now starting a new unit in practical lessons.
Year 11 students are continuing with preparation for their assessments.
Year 12 students will receive feedback on their drafts so that they can finalise their assessment.

**Gym**

Parents and students are reminded that the gym is open on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 3:00pm – 4:00pm. Students are asked to bring a full change of clothes, a towel and water bottle to every gym session.

**Healthy Hints**

Shake it up. Boredom can spell doom. Select two activities and alternate them. Try something new once in a while.

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**P&F News...**

P&F Meeting Tuesday 1 March - All Welcome  
Guest Speaker: Mrs Kathryn Janovsky, APC

Come along to hear how learning ‘takes flight’ at St Michael’s College for your children. Based on our Learning and Teaching framework, we aim to develop self-directed and responsible learners in a friendly learning Catholic community. This year we are launching our Learning and Teaching Framework as the culmination of the work of staff and students over the past three years. We would value your input into the framework. At the evening you will be stepped through the main aspects of our framework and be taken on the journey to assist your child in developing as a learner.

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**Tuckshop Roster**

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<tr>
<th>Monday 29 February</th>
<th>Tuesday March 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selena Duff</td>
<td>Kerri Donohue</td>
<td>Ake Pennings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>Sana Restaino</td>
<td>Sharon Vine (am)</td>
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<td>Thursday March 3</td>
<td>Friday March 4</td>
<td>Monday March 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamia Kelhear</td>
<td>Lara Aletti</td>
<td>Sue Angelucci</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyley Sutton</td>
<td>Gloria Jones</td>
<td>Jo Read</td>
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**Congratulations...**

Congratulations to Hannah Wood who won the Burleigh Lions Youth of the Year Public Speaking award. Thanks again to Marie Roberts for supporting and assisting Hannah with her preparation for this event.
Welcome to This Week’s Library News!

Our enthusiastic engineering teams have started work this week and the progress to date on their projects is simply amazing! Some groups are near completion and will be moving on to another project in the near future.

Please click on the following link to access our exciting selection of Latest Reads. As this is a protected site, students may need to login, using their network username and password.

If you can’t find what you’re looking for here, why not access Best Reads Ever for the genre of your choice. This collection is updated weekly and allows students to search for new fiction and non-fiction of interest.

For our parents, our Book of the Week is entitled ‘Freddie Mercury: The Definitive Biography’ by Lesley-Ann Jones.

‘Freddie Mercury was the greatest rock front man of all time. He was also the most mysterious. While his musical genius earned him the adoration of millions, few gained entry to his private world. Based on unprecedented access to key figures, this riveting biography is an accurate account, not only of how the world saw Freddie, but of how the legend saw himself. Compassionate and compelling, this is the most up-to-date portrait of one of music’s most complex and best loved figures.’

This is a must read for all the ‘Queen’ fans out there.

Narelle Flanagan
Teacher Librarian

Student Services...

Any questions or information required regarding any of the below, please do not hesitate to contact Student Services.

Trudi Neely
Vocational Pathways and Career Coordinator

IMPORTANT UMAT 2016 DATES
Any students in year 12 who are considering a career in medicine, dentistry or optometry need to sit a compulsory entry exam known as UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test). Registrations are open now and close 3 June 2016 with the UMAT test being held on Wednesday 27 July 2016. Please apply to universities by the published deadline. If you are in year 10 or 11 start preparing today.

MEDENTRY UMAT PREPARATION
Students interested in pursuing medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 27 July 2016. MedEntry is a government accredited Registered Training Organisations specialising in UMAT preparation. MedEntry offers discounts of 30% for groups, and numerous scholarships. For more information, please visit www.MedEntry.edu.au. Please note that Griffith University and Bond University no longer require students to sit the UMAT test.

BOND UNIVERSITY - RIGHT NOW PROGRAM
Listed below are the following opportunities at Bond University;

Student for a Semester Program – Semester two (May) program applications open on Friday, 18 March and close Friday, 8 April. Orientation day will take place Friday, 13 May 2016.

Criminology Day – Students in Year 11 and 12 who are interested in the world of Criminal Justice are encouraged to attend at Bond University Friday, 8 April 2016.

Allied Health & Sports Science – Students in Year 11 and 12 who want to find out more about nutrition, sports science and physiotherapy are invited to attend Bond University Thursday, 28 April 2016.

MOTOV8 AUTOMOTIVE WORK EXPERIENCE
Robina Auto Mall are looking for Year 10 students interested in participating in work experience career paths in an Automotive Dealership. Any interested student please come and see Mrs Neely in student services for further information on this program, commencing early April 2016.
2016 UNSW INDIGENOUS WINTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
The UNSW Indigenous Winter School Program is open for students in Year 10, 11, or 12 who are considering tertiary studies at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. If interested please visit http://www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au/ winterschool.html. Closing date for applications is 5pm on 8 April 2016. Incomplete or late applications cannot be accepted.

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN TRADES DAY
To celebrate women in trades Busy At Work are hosting a free sausage sizzle to connect with successful trades people and meet industry mentors and teachers at Roma Street Parklands, Brisbane (Amphitheatre) on Tuesday 8 March between 11am – 2pm. To register your interest please email fit@ecapprenticeships.com.au or call (07) 3881-3166 and ask to speak to Heather, Sam or Kim.

PRESTIGE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS
Cert III Hospitality
Zarraffa’s, Carrara
Fix Espresso Coffee Bar, Varsity Lakes
Dom Miguel’s, Southport Central
Busy Lounge, Dining and Bar, Surfers Paradise
Cert III Business Admin
Advance Family Law, Runaway Bay
Fighting Fit Physiotherapy, Nerang
Cert III Business Retail
Lucky Dragon Newsagency, Australia Fair, Southport
Pizza Capers, Nerang
Discount Grocery Outlet, Ashmore
Angus & Coote, Robina
Endota Spa, Broadbeach
Cert III ICT
Business Greenhouse, Carrara
Hirum Software Solutions, Arundel
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
Cert III ICT
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Social Media Department
Hirum Software Solutions, Arundel

PRESTIGE SERVICE TRAINING BUSINESS COURSE
PST are currently offering a diploma of business course to students in their Southport rooms. The cost of the course is $1,950 and will run over 12-18 months. The program is open to current year 11 students. For further information please contact Carmen Moana on 0439-134-293 or e-mail carmen@pst.edu.au

BUSY AT WORK SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS
Cert III Hospitality
MOS Burger, Australia – Australia Fair, Surfers Paradise & Pacific Fair
Cert II Warehousing Operations:
Reece Plumbing

IGNITE EDUCATION HOSPITALITY SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS
Cert III Hospitality
Gold Coast Convention Centre
Grill’d, Coolangatta
Zarraffa’s, Pacific Fair & Palm Beach
Crema Espresso, Robina & The Pines
Coolangatta Surf Life Saving Club
Surfers Paradise Beach Café
Crust, Surfers Paradise & Broadbeach
Coffee Club, Coolangatta

REDMAKO SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS
Cert III Commercial Cookery
Toscani’s Café Bar and Restaurant, Robina
Royal Thai Hut, Pacific Pines

AURORA SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS
Cert III Commercial Cookery
New York New York, Hope Island
Cert III Hospitality
Fiery Deli, Burleigh Heads
Raw Espresso, Southport
Wood Box Café, West Burleigh
Noodle Box, Robina Town Centre
Base Espresso, Broadbeach
Divet Tea & Coffee House, Marina Mirage
Michel’s Patisserie, Runaway Bay Shopping Centre
Subway, Burleigh Heads, Robina, Runaway Bay, Australia Fair, Coomera, Biggera Waters
Sunset Bar & Grill, Marina Mirage
Tail Ship Cruises, Main Beach
The Industrial Café, Nerang
Zarraffa’s, Runaway Bay
Donut King, Robina Town Centre

CERT III BUSINESS
Foodworks, Burleigh Heads
Julius Meinl Coffee, Main Beach
Resort News, Broadbeach Pacific Fair
Escape Hunt Gold Coast, Southport
Bakers Delight, Arundel, Hope Island

CERT III BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Aurora Training Institute, Robina
Illusions Magic Show: Matt Hollywood, Sanctuary Cove
Clear Accounting Solutions, Ashmore

CITY VENUE MANAGEMENT – SBT – CERT III SPORT & RECREATION
City Venue Management are currently offering traineeships in Cert III Sport & Recreation at the Miami Olympic Pool, Pacific Avenue, Miami. Successful trainees will gain qualifications in First Aid, Bronze Medallion, Pool Lifeguard, Cert III Sport & Rec, with optional qualifications available to gain a Swim Teacher Certification.

If interested, please attend Student Services for a City Venue application form.