March 14 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of St Michael’s

With Easter fast approaching, I thought that it may be worth revisiting the Jesus story, but from the perspective of those who did not believe that Jesus was God. There are a number of ancient writings from Jewish and Roman (non-Christian) writers who mention Jesus and his story. From these writings, we can know that Jesus was a real person, who lived and died in Palestine. Of course, the question of Jesus as God, remains a question of faith. A few of these writings are below:

Tacitus (56-120AD) - Speaking about the fire of Rome in 64AD

“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.”

Pliny the Younger (61-113AD)

“They (the Christians) were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food—but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.”

Suetonius (69-140AD) Describing the expulsion of Christians from Rome in 49AD

“Because the Jews at Rome caused constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus (Christ), he (Claudius) expelled them from the city (Rome).”

Josephus (37-101AD) This account is believed to have had some later revision by Christian writers but mentions Jesus’ crucifixion by Pilate.

“Now around this time lived Jesus, a wise man. For he was a worker of amazing deeds and was a teacher of people who gladly accept the truth. He won over both many Jews and many Greeks. Pilate, when he heard him accused by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, (but) those who had first loved him did not cease (doing so). To this day the tribe of Christians named after him has not disappeared.”

Last week, there were a number of significant events, a couple of these included:

• Japanese Sister School: We welcomed our Japanese sister school, Hakata Girls’ School to St Michael’s. I would like to thank our families who are generously hosting these students during their stay. It was great to have an opportunity to show the girls a few of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artefacts that I have been given over the years. I also had the opportunity to meet with the accompanying teachers to talk about our communities and joined them for the Australian Outback Spectacular show. I would like to acknowledge Ms O’Dea for her great work in organising this experience.

• Year 7 Camp: I had an opportunity to visit our Year 7s and see some of the great activities they were doing on camp. The most popular activities were the archery, rock-climbing and canoeing. Overall, our Year 7 students seemed to have had a wonderful camp and came back full of energy and with lots of happy memories. I would like to thank Mrs Lancaster and all of the dedicated staff who went away on camp and also our Year 12 Student Leaders (Georgia, Harry, Hannah and Mark) for coming down with me to meet the Year 7s.

• St Brigid’s Year 5 Visit: We had the second of our three primary school visits last week. I would like to thank Mr May, our Year 9 student leaders, and all of the staff and student helpers for putting on a great day for these students.
We continue to look into ways of improving our afternoon pick up. I have had a few concerns raised from the Surfside bus company about the difficulty in turning buses at the end of Jondique Avenue when there are vehicles double parked or parked nose or tail in. Unfortunately, one bus driver has been taking photos of vehicles which he believes are parked incorrectly and I have spoken with Surfside on a couple of occasions about this driver’s actions.

We will move the seniors’ cars onto the gravelled section of the College oval (on non-rainy days) to help ease congestion on the cul-de-sac. I would again ask parents and carers to be mindful of the buses which need to turn at the cul-de-sac. Surfside buses have advised us that these school buses are not meant to reverse during their runs and sometimes that some are having to do three point turns just to move around the cul-de-sac. We are continuing to talk with the Gold Coast Council about new road markings and parking arrangements to ease these issues. Please remember to follow the road rules and observe the parking restrictions as both council parking officers and police have been asked to monitor driver behaviour in Jondique Avenue. I thank the vast majority of our parents and carers who do the right thing every afternoon.

Congratulations

- Amy Coulston (Yr 12) who won the 18 Years & under High Jump Championships at the National Age Track & Field Championships and to Julian Celano (Yr 10) who finished 7th in the 16 years & under boys’ Hammer and Jamison Stovin (Yr 10) who competed in the 3000m Race Walk.
- Renee Jackson (Yr 12) won the Lions Youth of the Year zone competition. Renee now moves to the regionals. Thanks to Marie Roberts for training Renee.
- Ryall Barrett (Yr 7). His project ‘R.C. Taps’ has been selected as a Primary Winner in the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards. Ryall’s project is one of eight Primary Winners selected from hundreds of entries across the country.

Year 7 Camp Success

It was most pleasing to hear reports from our teaching staff who attended the Camp of the very positive way in which our Year 7 students engaged with the Camp experience. The program has a deliberate focus on team building and bonding the cohort together with the enjoyable range of activities.

It has been noted in particular by 4 of our new teachers who attended the Camp how beneficial it was to engage with the students away from the classroom and strengthening positive relationships. Our focus on the formation of right and healthy relationships between teachers and students was a highlight of the recent Camp and the success of the program is testament to the wonderful commitment and energy of our Year 7 Leader, Mrs Paula Lancaster.

Bullying and Harassment Policy

It is from time to time important to remind parents of our zero tolerance to any form of bullying as detailed on pgs. 20 and 21 of our College Planner. St Michael’s maintains a wonderful reputation as being a safe and inclusive community. This fact is often stated by prospective parents at enrolment interviews and one of the important reasons for choosing our College. It is especially important in this our ‘Year of Integrity’ for students to report any form of disrespectful or intimidating behaviour. We at all times encourage our students to have the confidence to report bullying or intimidation directly to a teacher.

It is most important to note that although rare at St Michael’s, we can only act on the information we receive, but once received our Pastoral Leaders will investigate the claims immediately in accordance with our Behaviour Support Framework.

Best wishes to all families for the coming week.

Please select the below link to access this message from Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Lenten Pastoral Message for 2016
Assistant Principal Staff & Student Development...

Thank you to the parents and students who attended the Year 11 Information Evening last week. The first round of exams commence on Monday March 14, so it is important that students find the correct balance between their out of school commitments and their preparation for these tests. I shall be monitoring at the beginning of Term 2 all the subject results of students who are not achieving a minimum C standard. It is vitally important that students are in the correct subjects for their ability, application and tertiary prerequisites. Ideally all Year 11s should have an appointment for parent teacher interviews on Tuesday April 19.

At the Year 11 Information Evening I made mention of an “app” for students to assist them with avoiding the distractions of social media while they are studying. The application details are below. Please encourage your senior students to consider this. Thank you to Timothy Gibbons in Year 12 for alerting me to this app.

Assistant Principal Religious Education...

The year 12 Retreat will be held from March 16 to 18 at the Alexandra Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands. The theme of this year’s Retreat is Be gold when it’s grey, which is the motto the Senior Leaders developed from the pillar of Integrity, which is our focus pillar for this year. We are blessed to have a wonderfully generous staff at St Michael’s College who are pleased to give up time with their families to be a part of activities such as the Year 12 Retreat. This year the Retreat team consists of Mrs Margaret Petherbridge, Mrs Lisa Smith, Mr Allan Wyper, Mr Mark Baker, Mrs Julie Miles, Mrs Kathleen Thompson, Miss Emma Steward, Ms Jane McGeough, Mr Alex Fowler, Mr Michael Esdale, Mr Corbin Levick, Mr Andre Michael, Mr Andrew Colbey, Dr Jeff Kemp and Mr Ben Oram.

During the Retreat we will receive visits from Fr Nicholas Okafor, Mr Michael Nayler and Mr Stephen Eisenhuth. Fr Nicholas is coming to the Retreat on Thursday evening to say mass for us.

Weekly prayer with the Pastoral classes has begun with Wednesday March 9 being an opportunity for Oxenham 3 to gather under the supervision of Mr Andrew Colbey as Pastoral Care Teacher. The theme of the prayer reflected this year is The Year of Mercy. Students led prayers, read scripture, lit a candle and spent some time in reflection.

On Thursday March 24, the last day of term, students will gather in the Multipurpose Centre for the annual Easter Prayer. This year the focus of the Prayer will be on Jesus Washing the Feet of the disciples and the call to servant leadership that this action signifies. It is hoped that all students will be at school for this important day.

Launch of the Learning & Teaching Framework

Thanks to all who are attending the launch of our Learning & Teaching Framework. The College endeavours to provide excellence in learning and teaching through the framework, which gives us a metalanguage for discussing learning and teaching at the College. The essence of the framework is the eight pedagogical principles. Pedagogy is the art of learning and teaching; it incorporates the thinking, choice and actions of teachers in creating learning environments that foster:

- creative engagement.
- high expectations.
- life-enhancing relationships amongst all learners.

The principles will be outlined in the newsletter over the coming year. It is important that you, as parents and carers of our learners, are aware of these so that you have a language to speak with your child about their learning progress.

Assistant Principal Curriculum...
Year 12 QCS Preparation...

On Wednesday March 2 the Year 12s who are preparing for the QCS test spent the day with presenter Helen Masselos. Over the course of three sessions the students were introduced to the Short Response Paper and the skills necessary to complete the test. Helen focussed on numeracy, literacy and visual literacy skills. The students responded very positively to her presentation and came away with many tips that they will be able to apply as they continue their practices during Tuesday LEAP lessons. At the beginning of next term, when the students have finished a set of rotations on various skills they will be given the opportunity to complete a practice test which will be marked by Helen and they will be given feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. I would like to thank the students for showing such a positive and co-operative attitude and hope that this continues in the lead-up to August.

Vanessa Mensah
LEDA Leader

Hakata Students Arrive...

A group of 17 students and 2 teachers arrived from our sister school in Japan on Monday, to face the intense Gold Coast heat. The Hakata group will be staying with our generous host families and enjoying a traditional Aussie lunch box each day. The teachers have been treated to an evening at ‘Outback Spectacular’ and the students have enjoyed shopping and fun at the beach on the weekend. They are working hard on their English communication skills with help from Glenn Whitford, their ESL teacher. Thank you to Mike Nayler for introducing the group to Aboriginal culture, including a short rendition on the Didgeridoo. We wish the group a wonderful stay full of interesting Aussie adventures.

Colleen O’Dea
Japanese Exchange Coordinator

HPE Department...

What’s going on?

Good luck to all Year 10 and 11 HPE students. They sit their theoretical assessment on Monday March 14 and the Year 11 HPE students perform their practical assessment on Tuesday March 15. Year 12 HPE students perform their practical assessment on Tuesday March 22. Year 7, 8 and 9 students have completed their theory assessments. They will participate in practical lessons until the end of this term.

Gym

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

Healthy Hints

Ride a stationary bike while you do things you would normally do during your day (watching television; reading the newspaper). This can add 30 – 40 minutes of exercise to your day that would normally be spent sitting on the couch.

Clinton Daddy
HPE Faculty Leader
Music matters

It was great to see our junior students taking full advantage of the inaugural ‘Junior Jam Club’. We are working on the timetable to try and have another opportunity for them in week B.

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Marshall Fenwick
Music Teacher

College Councillors Report...

This year, unlike previous years, the Friendly Committee and the Learning Committee have decided to merge, becoming one large committee of student leaders aiming to link and enhance the friendly and learning aspects across the college. This year the team of 8 has produced a series of action plans that will be undertaken throughout Terms 2 and 3.

The first initiative is the Chill Out Zone and Homework Club that will be held by student leaders and supervising staff. The Chill Out Zone is an initiative that invites students from Year 7-9 to spend their lunch breaks catching up on homework or any extra work that they would like to get done. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at second break, the Chill Out Zone is an activity centre that seeks to enhance the academic performance of junior students whilst receiving friendly support from the Year 12 Student Leaders.

Similar to the Chill Out Zone, the Homework Club, held on Tuesday afternoons in the Library, is an initiative aiming to provide friendly learning support to students seeking help with their school studies. However, differentiating from the Chill Out Zone, the Homework Club is provided to students throughout all year levels and will comprise of Year 12 student tutors mentoring anyone seeking academic advice.

The second initiative conducted by the Friendly Learning Committee is Lunch Time Activities. This year, as well as including sporting competitions, the Friendly Learning Committee has decided to approach the cultural aspects of the College by introducing lunch performances. This is an initiative that will be held every fortnight on a Tuesday in the MPC at second break. Students are asked to contact any of the Committee Leaders if they are interested in expressing their musical talents in order to enhance the friendly environment of the College.

As well as the performances, each Friday, sporting competitions will be held on the oval. Beginning in Week 2 of Term 2, a series of Oz Tag Challenges will begin. The teams will be allocated by house groups and will consist of 16 Year 7-9 students. Each week 2 different house groups will be selected to verse each other over a 4-week period; the winning house will score points towards the Champion House Trophy! Once this competition concludes, the Friendly Learning committee will introduce Teacher vs. Student competitions in games of Netball and Touch Football.

The aim of introducing each of these activities is to assist in the overall academic pursuits of the College whilst establishing a friendly and positive attitude in each individual across all cohorts. The Friendly Learning Committee, consisting of the following Year 12 Councillors; Hannah Wood, Renee Jackson, Grace Gibson, Jack Molloy, Will Leese, Lucky Joe Accurso, Isabella Smith and Sophia Seminara, aspire to create positive change in the College environment throughout 2016.
Year 5 Visits...

Recently we welcomed the year 5 students from St Vincent’s and St Brigid’s Primary Schools at St Michael’s College, to experience what it is like to be a high school student. The students were involved in a variety of entertaining activities including sport, preforming arts, woodwork, cooking and science. Both days was a huge success, with both students and teachers being involved and putting 100% into all of the activities they participated in.

I would like to again thank the St Michael’s staff members for their continued support and the year 9 Leaders for all their hard work in making the days such an exciting experience for the year 5 students. I would also like to congratulate both St Vincent’s and St Brigid’s students for their behaviour and engagement throughout the day. It was a rewarding day with their energy and spirit in our College for the wonderful experience.

We look forward to our next visit from St Kevin’s Primary School.

Jacob May
Junior Secondary Curriculum Leader
Welcome to this week’s Library News!

Writing Workshop
If you are interested in attending a writing workshop over the Easter holiday break, please look at what the State Library of Queensland has on offer.

Three day creative writing workshop for aspiring young writers
5 – 7 Apr | $100 | Bookings by application required
Budding writers aged between 15 and 17 are invited to expand their craft in a supportive and informal learning environment for three jam-packed days of fun, collaborative creative writing.
Led by a team of professional writers, this transformative workshop is designed to develop skills, confidence and ability in creative writing while exploring themes of cultural identity, belonging, community and digital citizenship.
To be part of this workshop, participants need to:
- be aged 15 – 17 as at 5 April 2016.
- be available from 9am to 4pm on 5-7 April 2016 for the full duration of the workshop.
- be able to travel to and from State Library of Queensland each day.
- complete the application form and submit it via email to lyps@slq.qld.gov.au.
- cover the $100 booking fee.
Applications close Monday 14 March 2016.

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 ‘A Vision of Fire’ by Gillian Anderson.
‘Renowned child psychologist Caitlin O’Hara is a single mom trying to juggle her job, her son, and a lacklustre dating life. Her world is suddenly upturned when Maanik, the daughter of India’s ambassador to the United Nations, starts speaking in tongues and having violent visions. Caitlin is sure that her fits have something to do with the recent assassination attempt on her father—a shooting that has escalated nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan to dangerous levels—but when teenagers around the world start having similar outbursts, Caitlin begins to think that there’s a more sinister force at work. In Haiti, a student claws at her throat, drowning on dry land. In Iran, a boy suddenly and inexplicably sets himself on fire. Animals, too, are acting irrationally, from rats in New York City to birds in South America to ordinary house pets. With Asia on the cusp of nuclear war, Caitlin must race across the globe to uncover the mystical links among these seemingly unrelated incidents in order to save her patient—and perhaps the world.’

Narelle Flanagan
Teacher Librarian

Student Services...

Any questions or information 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.
FULLY FUNDED TAFE COURSES QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST

TAFE Queensland Gold Coast presents the Semester 2 programs, which have been launched with courses for students in Year 10 and 11. For a limited time the following courses will be at NO COST; Tourism, Kitchen Operations, Engineering, Electrotechnology, Plumbing, Sport and Recreation, Health Support, Business Admin, Digital Media, Hairdressing, Retail Make-up and Skincare. Any interested students will need to attend an information session in Student Services during the second break on Wednesday 16 March, and will need to visit www.studentregco.com and enter the code TAFES5 if you wish to be considered. Applications close March 17 2016.

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 Heath & 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.

**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.

**WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY WITH ROS BATES MP**
Any Students in year 10,11 or 12 who are seeking work experience in Politics or Government areas and would like volunteer after school with Ros Bates MP, are to email their resumes to Alex Leamy via email at mudgeeraba@parliament.qld.gov.au.

**JOHN FRANKLIN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP TRUST**
The John Franklin Memorial Fellowship Trust is offered annually to enable young people to; undertake study, obtain relevant experience, or progress a project in an academic, cultural, vocational or sporting field. Grants and funding applications are open to all students. Visit www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/community/grants-funding-for-youth-3291.html to fill out the application form and return by email, fax or post by Tuesday 29 March 2016.

**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
Gold Coast Shaw, Bundall

**Cert III Business Retail**
Lucky Dragon Newsagency, Australia Fair, Southport
Pizza Capers, Nerang
Angus & Coote, Robina
Doodlebugs Children’s Play Centre, Miami

**Cert III ICT**
Business Greenhouse, Carrara
Hirum Software Solutions, Arundel
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

**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
Gloria Jean’s Coffee, Surfers Paradise

**Cert II Warehousing Operations**
Reece Plumbing, Nerang

**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
Michels Patisserie, Robina

**AURORA SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS**

**Cert III Commercial Cookery**
Finders Keepers Bar, Burleigh Heads

**Cert III Hospitality**
Fiery Deli, Burleigh Heads
Wood Box Café, West Burleigh
Noodle Box, Robina Town Centre
Base Espresso, Broadbeach
Divia Tea & Coffee House, Marina Mirage
Michel’s Patisserie, Runaway Bay Shopping Centre
Subway, Burleigh Heads, Robina, Runaway Bay, Australia Fair,
Coomer, Biggera Waters, Palm Beach, Hope Island
Sunset Bar & Grill, Marina Mirage
Zarraffa’s, Runaway Bay, Worongary
Cherry Red, Burleigh Heads
Julius Meinl Coffee, Main Beach

**Cert III Business**
Bakers Delight, Arundel

**Cert III Business Administration**
Allied Health Performance Medical, Parkwood
Illuminations Magic Show: Matt Hollywood, Sanctuary Cove
Clear Accounting Solutions, Ashmore

**AUSTRALIAN RETAIL COLLEGE TRAINEESHIPS**

**Cert III Business:**
Zarraffa’s, Burleigh
Noodle Box, Robina
Pizza Hut, Helensvale
Baskin Robins, Mermaid Beach
Subway, Robina

**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.

**THE STAR ENTERTAINMENT GROUP – HOSPITALITY WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

Jupiters Hotel and Casino are offering students in Year 11 and 12 who are interested in a career in Culinary or Food and Beverage to apply for the Star Casino Work Experience Program, which will run over Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4, commencing April 11. The program will be five-day rotations through departments for a holistic view on what Hotels are all about. Students who attended last year are welcome to attend again in 2016. If interested please see Mrs David/Mrs Neely in Student Services.