



# ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*"Be it known to all who enter here that CHRIST  
is the reason for this school"*

25 February 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

What is faith? The value that we would like to focus on over the next couple of weeks is faith.

*Jesus said to his disciples, 'Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. You know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said, "Lord, we don't even know where you are going! How can we know the way?"*

*"I am the way, the truth and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me no one can go to the Father. If you had known me, you would have known the Father, but from now on you do know him, and you have seen him."*

**John 14:1-7**

As we immerse ourselves in this season of Lent ever mindful of our sinfulness let us remember that we never walk alone. We are on a journey together and with our God. A journey of faith as we explore the New, New Zealand Curriculum and National Standards; a journey of faith as we are Christ's witnesses to others; a journey of faith as we face new challenges. Are you ready to take a leap of faith and be part of your child's learning journey at St Michael's Catholic School?

The 'meet the teacher' evening on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March will be an opportunity for child, parents and teacher to meet and discuss your 'child's' learning pathway. We would like to introduce triadic meetings where your child's voice is heard as they share where they are at, where they are going and how they are going to get there. This meeting will allow you to share any questions or concerns and encourages a working relationship between school and home. (More information about this meeting and the booking of times will follow).

Thank you to the family who responded to my request for feedback about the St Michael's School Graduate. I would love to hear from more of you as it needs to be 'our' vision so we all own it. I look forward to more emails or sheets of paper!!

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm the Senior Management Team will present an information evening on the New Zealand Curriculum and where we are going for the 2010 year and beyond. All parents are welcome to attend in the Parish Centre.

**NB.** My apologies for not being a 'visible presence' over the last two weeks. I have sprained my ankle and there are plenty of 'doctors' on staff keeping me in my office with my foot up – it is very frustrating and I hope to be back on my feet soon.

So as we embrace this 2010 year we pray to our 'God of Our Journeying'.

## **GOD OF OUR JOURNEYING**

*Give us courage  
to take the risk  
of answering your call  
into joyous adventure.*

*God of our past,  
reconcile our brokenness.  
God of our future,  
Renew our faith.*

*God of the present moment,  
Reach out and touch us;  
And through us,  
The lives of all we meet  
On our daily journey.*

*May we be made whole  
Through the holiness  
Of God the Father,  
The humanity  
Of Christ the Son,  
And the healing power  
Of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

### **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March we will hold the beginning of the year interviews for you to talk to your child's teacher. Your child is/children are welcome to be part of this process as it is them who drive their own learning. The teacher's look forward to sharing with you and your child/ren their learning pathways.

The interviews will take place from 1.00pm to 7.00pm and will be of 10 minutes duration. All children will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm. Please make arrangements for prompt collection of your child/ren as we will commence interviews at 1.00pm. A letter will be sent home with your child/ren on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March detailing information.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday on 17<sup>th</sup> February began the season of Lent. Lent is a 40 day Liturgical season that concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter. The number 40 is a special number in the Bible as people prepared for something special for 40 days. Jesus, himself before starting his ministry spent forty days in the desert praying and fasting.

At St Michael's the children are learning to prepare for Easter by thinking about others and praying individually and in groups. We ask you to encourage them by talking about ways we can do good for others and pray together as a family.

We will be visited by Sr. Senolita next week. Sr. Senolita is the Caritas representative from Tonga and will address the children so that they may learn about the many wonderful deeds Caritas does internationally. To follow on we will have a special collection for Caritas Tonga on St. Patrick's Day.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March you are invited to come celebrate mass at our Children's Day School Mass. Our theme will be "Working together". See you there!

### **PTA**

Yummy apple school promotion: **STICKERS FOR SPORTS GEAR**

The PTA has registered the school to take part in this year's 'Yummy Apple "Healthy Living, Healthy Eating" promotion. It's a free and very simple promotion. Families just collect the Yummy cut out label from any 2kg apple bags or collect stickers off any yummy labelled fruit themselves and the school then cashes them in for sports equipment of our choice.

Each class will have a sticker collection sheet where children can place their stickers. Alternatively you can print out your own sticker sheet from the website [www.yummyfruit.co.nz](http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz) to use at home and then just bring it in to school and drop it in to the PTA box with your room number on it when you have finished! Each term there will be a prize for the class which has collected the most stickers. So let's have some fun eating apples and collecting stickers for sports gear!

### **Upcoming Events**

New Parents Morning Tea – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 9.00am Parish Centre.

School/Parish Mass – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Cake Stall and Sausage Sizzle. Please bring some baking for the stall!

Meet the Teacher – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1.00pm.

Swimming Sports Sacred Heart College – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am – 3.00pm. There will be ice-blocks & water bottles for sale by the PTA for \$2.00 each.

School Evening Fair – NOTE CHANGE – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 4.00pm.

Parent Information Evening – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm on New Zealand Curriculum and Goals for 2010.

## Sports

Sports Exchange results from playing Dilworth on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February are as follows:

Cricket – St Michael's A Team lost 24 - 25 to Dilworth. The St Michael's B Team won 127 – 12. Well done guys! Great results!!

Softball – Y5 Team won 101 – 102 to St Michael's. The mixed Team lost to Dilworth A Team. An excellent effort guys!

Summer sports - We are still looking for a coach/manager for our Y5/6 Softball team. This team will be going on exchanges in term 1 and term 4 this year. There is also a Summer Sports Field day scheduled this term on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Softball is being held at Waikaraka Park in Onehunga. Cricket grounds are yet to be confirmed for this event. A Parent Help newsletter with more information will be available closer to the time.

Winter Sports - It is that time of year again that we start thinking of Winter Sports. At SMCS we try to offer as many organised sports as we can. It is through our parent's continued support that we can manage and coach teams of sports for interschool exchanges and field days.

We are in need of a Rugby coach/manager for 2010 who will take over from where Paul Robinson left off last year. If you think you would like to help please see Jo Gray Room 9 or email [j.gray@smcs.school.nz](mailto:j.gray@smcs.school.nz). We will not be able to offer Rugby in 2010 unless we have a coach.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Soccer

A reminder that registrations for Soccer close on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Games start the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> April. Enrol online at [www.ellersliesoccer.org.nz](http://www.ellersliesoccer.org.nz). For further information on soccer at St Michael's follow this link on the school website.

### A Note from Our Principal

As a school community it is important that we grow our future 'Silver Ferns' from the beginning of their school years and through all class levels. Netball is an amazing team sport where youngsters can experience friendship, build team skills and develop a healthy competitive spirit. The St Michael's Catholic School spirit is evident in all sporting codes and I strongly encourage you to promote and support Netball at all levels, throughout the school. St Michael's Catholic School is a community; let us continue to enhance it, by encouraging our children to play for our school.

*Carolynn Phillips*

**Exciting Newsflash!!**

Blessed Mother Mary Mackillop is to be canonised a Saint on 18<sup>th</sup> October this year. Keep that date free in your diary as celebrations will take place through the Parish & School!

## Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy programme for 4 – 8 year olds on Sundays at 10.00am. Teaching our young ones about our faith is extremely rewarding and we are looking to include a few more volunteers to assist us with the smooth running of our programme. For further information please contact Michelle Viscovich on ph: 520 0859.

## Netball

All registration forms and payment must be returned to School by tomorrow - **Friday 26 February**. Please remember that it is possible to play both School and College Rifles Netball and they both complement each other - College Rifles being a skill's based programme and School Netball being competitive games.

Any queries please contact Clare Fuller on 522-5933 or [tonyclarefuller@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tonyclarefuller@xtra.co.nz)

## Student Voice

### Should our Pool stay, or should it go?

In Room 8, we have been chosen by the Board of Trustees to be involved in making a decision. The decision is should our pool stay or should it go? Every Wednesday Miss King and Mrs Gannon come in to our class and help our class work on researching and answering. We have started to think and ask this question about the pool and it's cost. We have been put into groups of four and one group of five to research the cost, maintenance and history, interviewing people to find heaps of information. On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March a group of students will be presenting our decision and opinions to Mrs Phillips and the Board. Then it is all up to Mrs Phillips and the Board of Trustees.

*By Jesse Lovrich and Samuel MacDonald-Everett – Room 8*

### Hilton Brown Swimming Lessons

The Seniors have been enjoying going to Hilton Brown swim school on a Thursday and a Friday this term because the water is warm and we get to do lots of fun things in swimming lessons, like dives, races, games and free jumps. Normally the deep pool is cold and the end is so deep that nobody can touch the bottom with their head above the water!

We are really there to become better swimmers for when we compete in our school swimming sports on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

*By Zac Buckley – Room 9*

Kind Regards and God Bless

Carolynn Phillips  
Principal

## Notices

### **College Open Day's**

St Peter's College – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 – Assemble 11.00am or 1.30pm in the College Hall. Please ring 524 8108.

Sacred Heart College - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 – Tours at 12.30pm and 1.15pm. Please ring 09 529 3660 extension 800 for an Enrolment Pack.

St Mary's College – Opening Evening is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at 7.00pm for 2011 prospective students.

Baradene College – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March between 6.00pm – 8.30pm. Enrolments for Year 7 & 9, 2011 will close on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

### **Rental Property required**

Accommodation required for a family of two moving from Australia to New Zealand. A two bedroom place that has lots of light, furnished or partly furnished (their furniture will be on a ship for several weeks) – please contact Genevieve at the office on 520 0933.

### **Housesitting**

If you or a friend/relative are going away and would like a reliable and trustworthy couple to house sit short term or long term, please contact Jo Gray in Room 9 or email [j.gray@smcs.school.nz](mailto:j.gray@smcs.school.nz)

### **Keyboard**

Keyboard for sale. Please ring Angela Rathbone on 021 213 5985.