



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

6 October 2011

Dear Parents

This has been a very exciting term beginning with the long awaited opening of St Mary MacKillop Hall. The opening ceremony was a very special event commencing with Mass and then proceeding to the official opening by Bishop Patrick Dunn and Monsignor. The children presented fantastic items for our entertainment and it was wonderful to see so many parent and grandparents come and celebrate what has been an outstanding achievement for our community. The hall is already proving to be an incredible asset to the school with sport, enrichment teaching and social functions already making use of this space.

Special Catholic Character

The Special Character Sub-Committee of the BOT are continuing their work with Appreciative Inquiry, begun last year with our school community.

Groups have been meeting to develop new initiatives:

- * building a connection with St Pius X school in Glen Innes that will encourage shared curriculum and cultural experiences for both staff and students of both schools;
- * the forming of a fathers group, to offer opportunities for dads to get together;
- * liaison between school and parish that will see our students further involved in the liturgical life of the parish;
- * forward planning for a youth ministry initiative that will help our current senior students stay connected with the St Michael's community, through their transition years.

As we move towards term 4, the Special Character Sub-Committee will be looking for your continued support of the Appreciative Inquiry model as we make plans for 2012!!

Finance and Property

With the completion of the hall the final process of fitting it out has begun. Along with help from some extremely generous donors, the hall now has a fully functioning and equipped kitchen along with seating and a host of sports equipment. We have been fortunate this term to receive a grant from the Trillion Trust which has gone towards providing a sound system. Term 3 has also seen the resurfacing of the asphalt in front of the senior block and final works done on the library upgrade. The working bee held this month gave the gardens a spring clean and also replenished the bark on both playgrounds, thank you to the families who turned up to support this. With the term finishing, the school holiday maintenance programme has been finalised. Key items include a chemical wash of all buildings on the school grounds.

The school continues to operate with a good financial position thanks to the attentive expense management by the Principal and her senior management team.

We do however remind St Michael's families that we rely on the timely payment of all financial contributions in order for the School to provide the best possible educational experience for your children. If you still have outstanding accounts to pay for the 2011 year we ask that you attend to these as soon as possible.

Finance and Property subcommittee

BOT Positions

I would like to take this opportunity to advise the school community that I will be standing down as board chair at our next BOT meeting and Neil Swanney and I will be retiring from the Board at the end of the school year. Neil and I had agreed to stay on until Dec 2011 to ensure there was continuity for the new board that was elected in May 2010. Neil's replacement (as Bishop's representative) will be selected by Monsignor on behalf of the Bishop; my position (as an elected parent representative) will be done by selection after public notification. I would like to express how much I have enjoyed my 5 years on the BOT and my close involvement with St Michael's through out my children's years here. This is a very special school and I encourage all parents to be actively involved in school life.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards and God bless

Angela Little
Board Chair