15 February 2018

Dear St Michael’s School Community,

The Season of Lent has begun, a time for reflection, penitence, and preparation for Easter. May this be a time for us all to grow in our relationship with Christ. Help us to look at ourselves honestly, especially those parts of our life that we can change for the better.

Welcome to Adam White and his family, Amaya Barnet, Violet Cheng, and Alexa Delaney.

Change of Time for Astronaut Mike Hopkins – 11.15am to 12.15pm Saturday 7th April and Sunday 8th April at North Harbour Netball Centre, Takapuna. – He will be speaking at two sessions. All Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese have been invited. Please mark these dates in your calendar. This event is going ahead so you do not need to email if you are going.

Building Community Picnic and Shared Learning Evening on Thursday 15 February 2018
This was a great evening, thank you to the PTA for providing food and entertainment.

Reporting To Parents – The Board of Trustees have decided that we will still be reporting against National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics twice a year. A report will go home at the end of Term 1 and another at the end of Term 3.

“God of Reconciliation, we know that Jesus came to bring us closer to You and one another. May the many peoples within our own country and in all nations be given courage to live in cooperation and ranimārie-peace. May who we are, and what we give to others this Lent, truly help to make the world a better place. Amen.”

(TCI of Aotearoa NZ, A prayer Companion)

God bless you,
Ann McKeown
Principal

Information Evening for Children’s Liturgy Ministers

If you are contemplating serving the Parish in this Ministry please come along to the presbytery at 7.30pm Monday 19th March. Please RSVP by the 11th March for catering to deahnamaree@gmail.com

Children’s Liturgy takes place most Sundays during 10 am Mass in school term time. About 25 minutes. Our aim is for children to receive the Word of God at a level of understanding for their age and to discover its meaning in their lives, whilst giving parents/carers the opportunity to remain in the church and hear the Word of God themselves. Pre-schoolers are welcome with a carer and primary school children can attend independently. (Of course, adults always welcome.)

Our numbers are very low so we are in need of leaders and helpers for this Ministry. Please email Deahna Barrington deahnamaree@gmail.com if you want to help the St Michael’s Community, we are looking for people to help out once or at most twice a term, or would like to find out more information. The children who attend really enjoy it and you would be helping them on their spiritual journey.
TERM 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Welcome back to 2018! I hope you enjoyed your summer holiday and are refreshed and ready for an exciting learning year ahead. It was lovely to start the year with our community evening last week where we could meet the teachers and have an easy dinner provided by the PTA. And of course I have to mention the great clown entertainment which was a highlight for my 5-year old!

We had our first Board of Trustees meeting this week, and at the first Board meeting of each year the Board Chair is appointed. I’m delighted to announce that I’m joined by Mat Croad as Co-Chair this year and Deputy Chair is Jon Williams.

As we start the year, a key topic on everyone’s minds is ‘what next’ now National Standards has been discontinued, and what it means for our school reporting. It was a key topic we discussed this week and I’m aware that this was a question asked of staff last week at the parent evening a number of times. To date there has been no guidance from the Ministry of Education about what replacement plan they have for National Standards so it is up to us as a school Board of Trustees to decide on the most appropriate way to report on the learning progress of our students. For 2018, as a Board we have decided that in the absence of any replacement reporting system we will maintain our current reporting processes and systems, though Ann and her team will explore ways to build on-going improvements where they create additional value to parents and students. We believe that this provides the best level of consistency for us as a Board to monitor student progress, and also benefits staff, parents and students with understanding progress over time more easily.

On another topic, it is fantastic to hear stories from our 2017 graduates and learn about their experiences moving into their new schools so far this year. As a Board we send out a survey annually asking for feedback from graduates and families leaving during 2017 to gather information about what has helped set them up for success and explore what else we can be doing to prepare graduates for their intermediate school transition, and gain insights from other families who have left the school. This survey is sent out toward the end of Term 1 which allows time for students to settle into their new schools before asking them to reflect back on their experience at SMCS. So if you are a family with a graduate please expect this to come to you later in the term.

I wish you all the best as you settle back into school routines and get underway for the school year.

Kind Regards

Sarah
PTA NEWS
Survey
Thank you to those families who completed the PTA survey. The most voted new events to be held in 2018 for parents was a Cocktail party, Mothers’ Day event and a Christmas in July event. As such, plans are underway to organise the cocktail party for March and a Mother’s Day event in April. Thank you for your feedback and contributions to the survey. The winner of the survey competition is Matt Tooman, a parent from Mr Rose’s class. Congratulations Matt! Your family will be sure to enjoy the 4 tickets to Event Cinemas.

Family Picnic
The first PTA event of 2018 was a huge success and prayers were answered to keep the rain away. Many thanks to those that helped with this event. It was wonderful to see so many families there. A big shout out to Jessica and Stuart MacDonald for pre-cooking and barbecuing the sausages. Meg Crisostomo for cooking up the ham and the delicious coleslaw and caramelised onions. Lane Molloy for organising the clown. Carolina Centeno for her fab Zumba class. Well done to all those children that joined in.

Also, thank you to Bakers Delight in Remuera who gave us a discount on the bread rolls and Victoria Ave Butcher who gave us the delicious sausages at an awesome price!

Cocktail Party Save the Date
Parents and Friends of St Michael’s are invited to raise their glass to Paddy this St Patrick’s day by attending a Cocktail Party at Five Knots, Tamaki Yacht Club on Saturday 17 March at 7.30pm to midnight. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and to have a fabulous night with friends. Tickets will be $50 each and will include, food, venue and entertainment. A fully licensed bar will be available to purchase drinks.

Book the babysitter and let the PTA take care of the rest! To secure your spot, payment may be made into the PTA bank account with reference of “full name / cocktail party”. Tickets close 12 March.

Other PTA news
Yummy stickers, Last year the school got $658 of sports gear, start collecting for 2018! http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/pdf/Sticker_Collection_Sheet.pdf

YEAR 6 CAMP 2018
Our Year 6’s left for Camp Adair on Tuesday 13 Feb and return tomorrow, Friday 16 Feb. Please keep them in your prayers! They are having a wonderful time and the weather has looked favourably upon them during their time down South.
NOTICES

Marist College Open Day - Catholic School for Girls Years 7 - 13

ENROLMENTS 2019
Marist College are having their 2018 Open day for 2019 enrolments Y7 or Y9 on 7th March, 3pm – 6pm. (31 Alberton Ave, Mt Albert) Ph: 846 8311

ST MARY’S COLLEGE OPEN DAY – OPEN DAY Wednesday 8 March 2018, 2.30pm & 6.30pm.
http://www.stmaryak.school.nz/

BARADENE COLLEGE - OPEN EVENING will be held on Thursday 8 March, 2018 – 6.30 p.m. We welcome all prospective parents and students to visit the College. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium.

Enrolments for Year 7, 2019 are presently being accepted and will close on Thursday 23 March, 2018. A limited number of place in Year 9 will be available and applications will close on Thursday 23 March, 2018.

---

Fun Languages

The FUN way to learn another language!

Free Trial Lesson

At St Michael’s Catholic School
Fridays 2-3 pm French

Professionally developed program for young learners

Lots of fun activities, drama, music and games

Experienced and trained native language teachers

Supported by fantastic fun activities online at Babelzone

PH: 021 251 7435
maroussia@lcfclubs.co.nz

www.lcfclubs.co.nz