Dear Parents & Friends,

After what I hope has been a restful and enjoyable break for all of our school community, we welcomed back all staff and students between Year 1 and 6 this week. Our Kindergarten students have been coming in and completing their Best Start Interviews in preparation for their official start to school next week. I congratulate all of our students on the positive, enthusiastic start they have made to the school year thus far. It has been great to catch up with the many stories and recounts of the exciting things they have gotten up to with their families over the holidays.

Next Thursday (9/2/17) we will hold our Opening School Mass at 10.15am. This Mass will also incorporate welcoming and blessing our 2017 school leaders into their positions and presenting them with their badges. We would love to see as many families in attendance as possible and warmly invite all to attend.

Staff from St Michael’s will also attend the Wagga Deanery Mass on that same day at 5.30pm at Sacred Heart Kooringal Parish in Wagga.

With great excitement we have introduced our Chromebooks across the school with the commencement of the 2017 school year. Teachers and students alike have been busy getting their heads around the many uses for these devices and their scope for improving student learning is very impressive. The potential for them to facilitate greater links between home and school is also an area that we greatly anticipate exploring. Today you will receive a “Students Responsible Use of electronic communications and digital technologies, including GoogleApps for Education Agreement” document. This is a comprehensive document which must be completed by parents, students and teachers. Please read and sign where indicated and return it to school.

Next Tuesday (7/2/17) we will have some members of the Sydney Swans AFL team visit the school to talk to our students and also provide an opportunity for students to get autographs and get their photo taken with them. We thank AFL House in Wagga for making this opportunity available to our children. Band lessons will be moved around that time to accommodate the visit.

On Friday 10/2/17 (next Friday) we will hold our school swimming carnival at the Coolamon Pool. This day focuses on fun and participation for all of our students and also serves as the 8 yrs and above selection process for us to send a school swimming team to the Deanery Swimming Carnival on 17/2/17 in Junee. Additional, more detailed, information regarding our swimming carnival has been sent home on separate notes, however if you have any queries about this carnival please contact the school.

Our Band instrument lessons and instruction commenced yesterday as our students received their new instruments earlier in the week. This also represents a very exciting opportunity for those students who have elected to take up this opportunity for which we thank the Catholic Schools Office for heavily subsidising. There was a great deal of excited tooting of trumpets and thumping of drum-pads coming from the library today indicating that our students have commenced their lessons with gusto!

We have sent a copy of this newsletter home with every family this week. There are a number of permission notes and other documents included in the envelope sent home with the eldest child of each family today. The School Fee statement is also included.

As from next week the School’s Newsletter will be published on Tuesdays and will only be distributed by email. The newsletter can also be viewed on the school’s website. If you require a paper copy there will be a limited number available from the front office.

We congratulate one of our Year 5 students, Abbey Whiter, who has been granted a scholarship to attend the Australian Institute of Sport in Melbourne for elite training in the sport of Gymnastics. We wish her every success with this very exciting opportunity.

"To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan and not quite enough time." - Leonard Bernstein
Our first meeting for 2017 will be held on Tuesday, 14 February @ 7pm. We will be meeting in the school library this year, which is located in the old Year 3 classroom. This meeting will focus on social/fundraising ideas as we set goals and dates for the calendar for 2017. All parents are warmly encouraged to attend and participate in this important planning meeting.

To begin the year we have a couple of fundraisers scheduled:

- **Street Raffle** in front of the Newsagent on 11 March, 7am—12 midday. Helpers will be required in one hour blocks. We will include a roster in a upcoming newsletter.
- **Garden Express spring bulb order.** Order forms will be sent home in the next few weeks for delivery prior to the next school holidays.

### School Banking is on Fridays
There are information packs included in the envelope each family will receive today. Please encourage your child to participate in a saving account. Even a small amount each week will mount up and they will earn fantastic rewards from the Commonwealth Bank.

### UPCOMING DATES
**PLEASE LOOK AT THE LINK TO OUR SCHOOL’S CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION**

- 6 Feb—Kindergarten commence Term 1
- 7 Feb—Sydney Swans visit
- 9 Feb—Opening School Mass
- 10 Feb—St Michael's Swimming Carnival
- 14 Feb—P & F Meeting 7pm in the School Library
- 17 Feb—Deanery Swimming Carnival
- 24 Feb—Diocesan trials Netball / Boys football (soccer)
- 27 Feb—Diocesan Swimming Carnival
- 28 Feb—Diocesan trials AFL
- 1 Mar—Ash Wednesday Mass
- 9 March—Diocesan trials Football (Girls)/Rugby League/Hockey

**Term 1—Week 2**

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<tr>
<td>Ulysses Fletcher-Sherman</td>
<td>Will Bradley</td>
<td>Sana Nawal and Hugh Foley</td>
<td>Victoria Steele</td>
<td>Velvet Wilms and Frances Steele</td>
<td>Tom Holden and Brooke Ryan</td>
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### UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
The uniform shop will be open on Monday and Thursday morning 8:30am—9:00am. Our fantastic volunteers Kerri, Louise and Kate are happy to assist you at these times. At other times please see Rhonda in the office if you have any emergency requirements. Unfortunately we have had an unprecedented demand for S/M Hats and sold out on the first day of school! New stock will arrive soon. Your child can wear another appropriate hat while we wait for stock to arrive. Thank you for your patience.

### WANTED!
2 willing parents who have the skills to attach 6 pinboards to the outside of our classrooms. If you are interested in helping out our fantastic school, could you please contact Rhonda in the office.

Thank you!
COMMUNITY NEWS
Coolamon Shire Library—
Storytime will commence again for 2017 this Friday, 10th February @ 10.30am. The theme is “Farms” - The morning is filled with lots of stories, songs and finishing up with a craft the children are able to take home– we welcome any new families to join us. The next storytime for the month of February will be held on Friday 24th February @ 10.30am theme “Numbers 1,2,3,4,5”.
Youth Book Club—Book Club has extended its service to include younger library members who would love to share their reading with others.
Library members between the ages of 15-18 can create a book club. It is an easy process – gather 5-10 friends, nominate a leader and a venue, fill out the registration form and hand it into the Coolamon library along with the $200 membership fee. For further details phone the library – 69272492.

Library Promotion—The Library will be running a membership drive commencing in February – look out for promotional material arriving soon – it’s FREE to join. The library offers wifi and computer access, events for all ages, books, magazines, dvd’s digital library and friendly staff. Our collection is continually growing with new stock arriving weekly – call in for a browse.

Yours in Christ,

Brendan Flanagan

GIVE AWAY
2 female tortoise shell kittens—very friendly, even used to having a bath. Ph: 0482 273 086.

Guitar Lessons at School
Klaus Bussman is a guitar teacher from the Riverina Conservatorium of Music who visits our school each Wednesday to teach guitar. He currently has vacancies for lessons, so if you would like more information please contact the RCM (02) 6925 3522.

Riverina Conservatorium of Music
Parent & Student Information Night

Date & Time: Tuesday February 14, 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Place: Bannister Room, Riverina Conservatorium of Music
College Ave, Wagga Wagga

*Discuss RCM lessons/programs on offer
*RCM curriculum *Music Craft & musicianship classes
*HSC music students *AMEB options for students

As well as information on our ensembles, bands & choirs

An invitation to all parents & students (new & current), everyone welcome.

Please RSVP Admin to admin@rivconmusic.org.au or phone 69253522

IMPORTANT INFORMATION—BUS TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL

What’s new
From 12 May 2016, applications for free school travel in rural and regional NSW will need to be completed online instead of using paper forms.
This change makes it easier to apply, as you only need to complete one form that covers all situations, including journeys that involve multiple transport operators.
It’s also easier for schools and bus operators, as transport for NSW will now handle the applications.
This change only affects the application process, not changes to any public transport services are planned.

Who can apply
To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants)
  There’s no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary)
  1.5km straight line distance or 2.3km walking.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary)
  2.5km straight line distance or 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply
A new application is only required if the student has never been approved for free school travel before.
However, you will need to update student details online:
If the student has previously been approved and their name, address, school or name changes, the student’s entry or entry date will need to be updated at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts/sts/updatedetails.

How to update your details
If the student has already been approved for school travel and their address, school or name changes, or if the student is entering Years 7 or 8, you will need to update your details at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts/sts/updatedetails.

How to apply for free travel for the first time
Applications for 2017 open from the start of Term 4, 2016.

Step 1
Once you have confirmed your 2017 school enrolment, complete the online application form at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts/sts/updatedetails.

Step 2
Print, sign and date the completed application, then return it to the student’s school for endorsement.

Step 3
The school then sends the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. It will receive an email confirming the outcome of your application. If the application is approved, Transport for NSW will inform your local bus or transport operator who may need to contact you directly about travel arrangements.

Frequently asked questions
Can I still apply using a paper form?
Carbon copy forms are no longer being accepted after form 2, 2016. To download a paper form visit apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts.

How can I apply if I don’t have internet access?
Call 131 500 for assistance with your application.

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?
Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. For travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to purchase a ticket.

Where is the nearest public transport in my area?
In areas where there is no public transport available, NSW Childcare may be eligible to transport the student to school by private vehicle. For details visit apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts/sts/updatedetails.

How do I apply if the student is in a shared parenting situation and needs to travel from two addresses?
Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to make a separate application for each address. The same eligibility criteria apply.
A special welcome is extended to all of our new students and families to St Michael’s this year.

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<th>Kindergarten</th>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Bradley</td>
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<td>Harrison Delaney</td>
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<td>Max Jennings</td>
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<td>Sonny Meyers</td>
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<td>Nicholas Ryan</td>
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<td>Sienna Stuart</td>
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A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the unique gifts of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your enduring love, give them confidence and grace, and equip them with the ability to persevere through trials. Bless their teachers with wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve, as they embark on the journey together! Amen!