Dear Parents & Friends,

As we come to the end of another school year I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community (staff, students and families) for their support of St Michael’s this year. As this is our last newsletter for the year I also take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe, holy and restful Christmas and New Year and an enjoyable holiday over January.

**Christmas Eve Mass**—Fr Doug has kindly extended the invitation for the students of St Michael’s to lead the singing at the Christmas Eve Mass, which is held in the school grounds of St Michael’s beginning at 8pm. We would love to see as many children as possible coming along to help us out with the singing and to lead the congregation. Students please assemble with Mr Flanagan and Mrs Ryan on arrival, the choir will be located on the verandah. The songs have been practiced during school time and they are sounding beautiful. Don’t forget to bring a chair to sit on.

**Swimming program & Last Day of Term**—Our swimming program will wind up on Friday, with the whole school walking down to the pool in the morning, having their lessons and generally enjoying themselves together on the last day for 2016. Purchases will be allowed from the Pool Kiosk during the morning. We will walk the students back to school in time for a 1pm lunch. Orders from Barty’s will be delivered to school as per usual. A big thanks to the swimming instructors—Jess and Molly Willis, for a job very well done. Thank you to the staff and students for always being so accommodating of the changes to their usual routine. I think you would all agree the program has been a great success, and we plan to repeat it along the same lines in the last two weeks of Term 4, 2017.

Our final School Council and P & F Meetings were held last Tuesday. Thank you to the parents for their continued support of the P & F Association this year. At the meetings we thanked the departing members and welcomed our new members. There were AGM’s held for both bodies and I am happy to announce the following appointments:

**St Michael’s School Council 2017**—Chairman —Garth Wixson; Vice Chairman — Dane Fuller; Secretary — Delvene Lewis; Treasurer Appointed — Rhonda Holzapfel; P & F Representative—Corie Flanagan; Parish Representative—Rev Mons Doug George; Staff Representative—Kelly Humphrey; Council Members—Debbie Allen, Libby Cruikshank, Kerri Flanagan and Sarah McCaig.

**Our P & F Committee** for 2017 will be; President — Libby Cruikshank, Secretary — Kerri Flanagan, Treasurer — Alison Foley, Parent rep on School Council — Corie Flanagan.

Our **Graduation Mass** will be held on Thursday 15/12/16 at 6.00pm in St Michael’s Church. This will be followed by our **Presentation Night** and end of year **Disco** for our students in St Michael’s Hall. All parents are invited to attend the school for some cool drinks and nibbles (BYO please) whilst the disco for students is on in the hall. Following the Graduation Mass we will be having a farewell to our Year 6 Students, awarding of prizes and a celebration of the year in St Michael’s Hall. This will take the format of:

- Principal’s report
- Presentation of Kinder graduation certificates and prizes
- Presentation of Year 1—Year 5 book prizes
- Presentation of Year Six Medallions; where each Graduating child is recognized in their area of greatest achievement while being at St Michael’s.
- A photo reflection of the School year.
- Year 6 Dance Performance

After the farewell ceremony a Disco for all St Michael’s students will be held in the Hall, supervised by the teachers. This is a fun, free activity for the students to recognize their hard work throughout the year. While the Disco is taking place, parents are warmly invited to come over to the school to have refreshments and nibbles. This provides families with an excellent opportunity to farewell the school year as a school community in a relaxed, friendly way and it would be great to see as many people as can make it attend. Families who are unable to attend the refreshments and nibbles are welcome to leave their children at the supervised Disco but will need to come back and pick up their children before 9:30pm. Drinks and chips will be provided for the children but parents are requested to bring their own food and refreshments if they are staying. (A drink bottle might also be useful for children over at the Hall). I urge all parents and students to attend this special night. School uniforms are not required, tidy casual clothes may be worn.

Please be aware that **School Reports** have been sent home today. Please check your child’s bag.

**Parent Survey**—I would like to invite parents to complete and return the simple survey form located on the back page of this newsletter. This will complement similar surveys completed by the students and staff of the school.

*"When life knocks you down, roll over and look at the stars."* - Author Unknown
P & F NEWS

Thank you to all those who attended our final meeting for the year last Tuesday.

Our P & F Committee for 2017 will be;
President – Libby Cruikshank,
Secretary – Kerri Flanagan,
Treasurer – Alison Foley
Parent rep on School Council – Corie Flanagan

The P & F Association has continued to provide valuable support to the school in 2016. In particular the following purchases were supported:
- A full set of St Michael’s AFL Jerseys
- Two Tear-drop St Michael’s Banners
- Replacement of goal post covers and repair of the gym mat
- Support of staff attendance at a MiniLit conference
- Contribution to the cost of the new soft fall surface

Some of our fundraisers for 2017 will be:
- Garden Express Fundraiser will be run in Term 1.
- Newsagency Raffle—11/2/17
- Ganmain Pie Drive - May
- Seniors Luncheon Catering

Our first meeting for 2017 will be held on Tuesday, 14 February @ 7pm. This meeting will focus on social/ fundraising ideas as we set goals and dates for the calendar for the 2017. Parents are warmly encouraged to attend and participate in this important planning meeting.

A BIG THANKYOU goes out to Jenny, Andy & Nick Stuart for fixing our school’s flag pole and to Dane Fuller for assisting with IT tasks. We are very grateful for the continued support we receive from the school community.

START DATES FOR 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Staff return on Friday, 27 January 2017.
School begins 2017 for Years 1-6, Tuesday, 31 Jan 2017.
Best Start Interviews for Kindergarten 2017 will be held from Wed 1 Feb – Fri 3 Feb 2017 and can now be booked on SOBS by following this link: https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php

School Fees – Please ensure all outstanding fee amounts are settled prior to the end of the term.

School Fees 2017
1st child—$247 per term 2nd child—$185 per term
3rd child—$124 per term 4th or more—$70 per term
Compulsory cleaning/maintenance levy of $27.50 per family per term ($110 per year).
Compulsory Technology levy of $40 per student per term ($160 per year).

- Lost Property –
Please check for sports jackets with “Abbey” and / or “Franklin” on their label. If you have wrong jacket please return it to the office. We have a few items of lost property at the front counter if you are missing anything.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jack Rudd—Today!
Rihanna Moncrieff—19 December
River Wilms—20 December
Maddison Furner—21 December
Siobhan Flanagan—31 December
Thomas Francis—3 January
Somara Hancock—7 January
Joey Maloney—12 January
Kayla Armstrong—17 January
Angus Hilton—22 January

Class Awards
Term 4—Week 9

K/1/2
Violet Fuller, Noah Billingham, and Travis McCaig

Year 3
Prue Clancy, Dallas Hancock, Georgia McKay, Matthew Sladden

Year 4
Abbey Whiter and Isabella Stuart

Year 5/6
Georgia Munro, Liam Randall
and Riley Gallagher

Principal’s Award
Achilles Fletcher-Sherman

CONGRATULATIONS!

UPCOMING DATES

15 Dec—Graduation Mass 6pm/Presentation Night 7pm
16 Dec—Last day of Term 4
24 Dec—Christmas Eve Mass
- St Patrick’s, Marrar 6pm
- St Michael’s Coolamon 8pm
(in St Michael’s School grounds)
25 Dec—St Michael’s Christmas Mass 9am
27 Jan—Staff return—Term 1, 2017
31 Jan—Year 1—6 First Day Term 1
1—3 Feb—Best Start Interviews for Kinder 2017
6 Feb—Kindergarten commence Term 1
10 Feb—St Michael’s Swimming Carnival
17 Feb—Deanery Swimming Carnival
24 Feb—Diocesan trials Netball / Boys football (soccer)
27 Feb—Diocesan Swimming Carnival
28 Feb—Diocesan trials AFL
9 March—Diocesan trials Football (Girls)/Rugby League/Hockey
28 March—Diocesan Trial Touch Football
**Community News**

**Coolamon Shire Library**

Our final Storytime for the year will be held this Friday, 16th December theme “Xmas” @ 10.30am. A small party will conclude storytime for the year and a very special guest will be appearing as well. Everyone is most welcomed to attend.

Our “Food for Fines” campaign is on again this year at the Coolamon Library. This is a great opportunity to clear all outstanding fines by donating non-perishable food in lieu of money. All collected food will be donated to St Vincent de Paul in Coolamon. They will then distribute the food to our local families within our shire.

The library is taking names to join a book club. A book club is for anyone who loves to read a varied selection of books and meet with others to chat about them. The library provides ten copies of one title plus background notes and discussion questions. For further details please phone the library - 69272492

The Coolamon Library is on Facebook! News, pictures, events and opportunities are regularly uploaded – join us now!

Yours in Christ,

Brendan Flanagan

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**Prayer for the election of a Bishop**

Oh God, eternal shepherd,
who govern Your flock with unfailing care,
grant in Your boundless fatherly love
a Bishop for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga
who will please You by his holiness
and to us show watchful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Diocese of Wagga Wagga

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**Kids Introduction to Horses Workshop**

**Date:** 20\textsuperscript{th} of December 2016  
**Where:** Brianna Feet’s Equestrian Centre (Coolamon) 
**Time:** 9am – 12pm  
**Cost:** $40

The Introduction to horses workshop is for kids who have an interest in horses who want to learn, gain confidence around them or need a refreshment on the essentials to ensure safety when around and handling horses. This is also a great activity to introduce your child who may have an interest but never been up close and personal with a horse/pony in a safe and fun environment all with a NCAS Level 1 Accredited Coach. So no previous experience is required.

Day will include:
- How to handle a horse/pony safely
- How to catch/lead/tie up/let go of a horse/pony safely
- Learn parts of the horse
- About different colours/markings-breeds
- How to groom a horse/pony
- Christmas themed fun of decorating the horse/pony and Christmas Cookies
- Morning tea and lunch provided (Any dietary requirements please specify)

Limited numbers to 5 kids to ensure maximum safety, fun and learning!

If enough interest can run an afternoon session or a 2\textsuperscript{nd} day on the 21\textsuperscript{st}.

If you would like more information or to book in, please contact Brianna;  
**Mobile:** 0413 426 692  
**Email:** bsp@hotmail.com.au

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**Community Strategic Plan**

Coolamon Shire Council is undertaking a review and update of its Community Strategic Plan. The plan presents the community vision for the Shire and identifies goals and strategies to achieve this long-term vision.

The Council will be offering a range of opportunities for residents, workers, businesses, community groups and visitors to share ideas, thoughts and feedback on our projects, where you live and the future for your community.

**Key Dates**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MEETING/ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER 2016</td>
<td>Community Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2017</td>
<td>Community Meeting</td>
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</tbody>
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For further information, please contact Community Consultation as

GET IN TOUCH  
Linda Wrigley, Community Development Officer - lwrigley@coolecon.sh.de.au  
Nyree Anderson, Employee and Public Relations - nanderson@coolecon.sh.de.au
Prayer for the end of the school year

At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that have taken place in our school,
both in and out of the classroom,
For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced
For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed
For the respect and care that have been given.
We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown.
For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days
And for the love that has kept us going.
We give thanks for the community that we are and we ask you Lord -
Bless our families as we take our holidays,
may our time together leave us with memories to cherish.
Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed
to continue our journey together.
We make this prayer through Christ
our Lord.
Amen

Parent

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Michael's Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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