Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to Year 5/6, 2011. My name is Andrew Boesch (pronounced Bush) and I am delighted to be teaching the Year 5/6 class this year. This is my fourth year here at St Michael’s and I’ve taught previously in Melbourne, Mildura and Darwin. I’ve been back at school for about a week and a half now and I’ve enjoyed catching up with other members of staff, taking part in some professional development and preparing for the year. It was great to catch up with some of you over the last week too and I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks.

For the first time in a long time our first week will be a full week, which is good because we are going to be busy. We will be spending some time getting to know each other, becoming familiar with class routines and finding out more about what will be going on during the year. We will be starting the year with a look at the following topics:

Unit of Inquiry – We are starting with a very interesting unit which is part of the transdisciplinary theme: How we express ourselves. The unit is based around the central idea: Advertising conveys a variety of messages that attempt to influence the way people think and act. This is always a very enlightening topic and one I’m sure the students will enjoy.

Christian Studies – We are having a look at the idea that Christians pray, worship and celebrate the sacraments.

Maths – One big idea I want to get across to the students this year is that maths makes sense (I didn’t believe that when I went to school). We are going to begin our maths this year with a look at patterns, and how we can identify, make and describe them. This will provide very useful background for looking at the patterns which occur in all areas of maths and will give the students some insight into how maths makes sense.

Language – As well as introducing our spelling program for the year we are going to be doing quite a bit of critical reading and viewing, particular of advertisements.

Notes

There are several items I’d like to bring to your attention for the first couple of weeks of school:

Though we have begun the week with chapel, we will also have our regular chapel service on Friday at 9.00am.

P.T.O.
Lessons with specialist teachers begin this week. Our first Sport lesson with Mr Phillips will be on Wednesday – all students will need to wear their sports uniforms. On Thursday we will have Creative Arts with Miss Sugars and Chinese with Leanne Liang (Liang Laoshi). Students will need an art smock for Creative Arts.

If students have a water bottle, I would strongly encourage them to bring this to school to have on hand in the classroom, particularly during this hot time of the year. I will also be encouraging students to bring along a healthy snack as “brain food” to help keep them going through some of our longer sessions.

Year 6 and 7 students from St Michael’s will be taking part again in the Alick Collins Cup, a lawn bowls competition held at the Hahndorf Bowling Club. In preparation for this the Year 6 students will be attending training sessions run by volunteers from the bowling club. Further details regarding training dates and times will follow shortly.

The Year 5/6 Parent Information night will be held on Thursday, 10 February from 7.45 to 8.30pm. Prior to commencement of this session there will be a mandatory reporting session at 7.00pm in the church. All school volunteers are required to attend this session.

Last year we had a great deal of assistance from parents in the classroom and on excursions. If you are available at all to help us out this year in any capacity I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at school or drop a note in your child’s diary (you will need to come to a mandatory reporting session next week).

I’m really looking forward to working with you this year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at school should there be anything you wish to discuss.

Have a great year.

Andrew Boesch