As I have been preparing for the new school year I have been continually drawn to the words ‘new beginnings’. Whilst this may be an obvious thought and words to reflect a new year, they are words that have been even more profound for me due to the recent flooding and devastation in Qld.

Being an ex-Qlder and growing up in Brisbane I remember seeing (and smelling) the damage caused by the floods in ’74. Coupled with the flooding in Brisbane was the horrific news of the ‘tsunami’ in the Lockyer valley – the place where I began my teaching career (Gatton) and lived for over ten years. Grantham was a little town five minutes from where we lived. Thankfully none of our friends and relatives were impacted physically by this natural disaster.

New beginnings… the students have come to school with new books, possibly wearing new uniform, eager to start a new year with new people in their class and more than likely a new teacher. For a good number of our students it is a beginning at a new school. There is much excitement and expectation in the promise that a new year brings.

As with the people of Qld (and this is where I believe my parallels are), there is hope in the future. A new beginning always holds that element of a better future being created.

As Christians then it is through our baptism that we have a new beginning everyday. We have the assurance that through this gift our sins are forgiven and that our relationship with God is restored. We are washed clean and we can forget the past (but hopefully learn from it). This is an important teaching in the Lutheran church and one which is taught and shared with the students continually.

Now as we begin this new year I pray that your hopes and expectations are fulfilled. In preparing for a new year the staff and I are aiming to create a better future for you and your children – may God bless us in this task. It is a new beginning with new hope, excitement and freshness. Praise God!

Mr. Paterson

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! After an extended holiday break I trust that you and your family are refreshed and ready to get into those routines again. A warm welcome is extended to all families and staff, but especially to those of you who are new to us this year. As seems to be the case at the start of each year this first newsletter is quite full, so make sure you take the time to absorb the information contained to help get back into ‘school mode’. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible over these next few weeks.

God bless,

Shane

Prayer suggestions:

- We thank God for the rest and relaxation that we have enjoyed these past few weeks and ask Him to bless us as we begin this new year.
- We ask God to be with those who have suffered through the floods in eastern Australia. May their pain and grief pass quickly.
- May God be with those who are anxious at the start of this new school year and we pray that they will soon overcome these fears and be at ease.
- We pray for God’s mercy on the people of far north Queensland who are facing cyclone ‘Yasi’.

Also pray for the following families:

Ackland, Adcock, Angus, Atkinson, Badger & Baker
Forms
We always seem to have so many forms to complete at the start of the year. I would ask that you return these forms asap.

- **Medical**: This needs to be updated every year even though information may not change. It is also important that we have a form for each child in the family.
- **Directory / Data base**: Please read the information that is contained on these forms. Make any changes necessary, sign and return. If you do not wish your phone number to be published can you please ensure that you have advised us in the correct manner on the form.
- **General consent**: This form enables teachers to take classes off the school grounds (by foot) in the local vicinity. If this is to occur you will be informed by diary or note.
- **Photos**: In signing this you are giving the school permission to use photos for publicity purposes – they may be placed on the school website, used in newspapers. For any major works (eg. prospectus) further permission will be sought.

School Card
The School Card Scheme provides financial assistance towards the educational expenses incurred by families who meet the eligibility criteria. This includes having a child or children attending school full time and the gross family income for the 2009/2010 Financial year being within the School Card income limits, currently:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of Children</th>
<th>$ per annum Gross</th>
<th>$ per week Gross</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$33,046</td>
<td>$636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$33,947</td>
<td>$653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$34,848</td>
<td>$670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$35,749</td>
<td>$687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$36,650</td>
<td>$704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional child</td>
<td>$901</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants wishing to be considered for School Card assistance must apply each year. The School offers a concession on school fees where School Card has been approved of $500 per child. Please contact Anne Jones (or e-mail aijones@stmichaels.sa.edu.au) in the Office for application forms or for more information about the 2011 scheme.

Canteen
Canteen will begin next week. Please note that the menu and prices are accessible on the website (Parent page – Canteen). If you cannot access this please contact the office and we will send one home.

Staff
There are a number of new staff whom we welcome this year. Along with new families, please make them feel welcome:
- Mr. Cameron McNicol – yr. 7
- Miss Laura Kreymborg – yr. 1
- Mrs Mary Whittaker - ICT Support Officer (Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Mrs. Corina Bryars – Receptionist (Thursday and Friday)
- Mrs. Tegan Howard – Community Carer
- Mrs Georgia Kelly - Special Ed. (replacing Mr. Marks for 6 months whilst he is in Fiji)

Catastrophic Fire Day
(A complete copy of our Bushfire policy can be found on the website) When a catastrophic fire day is called for the Mt. Lofty Ranges the school will be closed – no students or staff will be on site. Interestingly Hahndorf is rated higher than Mt. Barker for risk and therefore Cornerstone College will remain open on catastrophic fire days. However both Hahndorf PS and Zebra Kids will also close on such days.
- The school will receive notice 48 hours beforehand if there is a possibility of this occurring and parents will be informed of this possibility via a note.
- Parents will then be informed via SMS the night before, advising them if the school is closed (catastrophic fire days are ‘official’ from 4:00pm the day prior).
- A message will also be left on the school’s answering machine. The sign board will also contain a school closed message.
- If you have any queries about this please contact the office.

Reception Home Visits
Could Reception parents please note that the four day week (that is Wednesdays off for home visits) will continue for five weeks with the last Wednesday off being March 3rd. All Reception students will have their first five day week in the week beginning 8th March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canteen Helpers 2011 Term 1 Week 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday:</strong> 7th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Edwards &amp; Liz Klose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday:</strong> 9th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ros Morgan &amp; Lynda Rooney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WALNA Forms

Amongst today’s forms to be returned is a letter regarding the collection of background information on all students. Although your child may not be in Yrs 3, 5 and 7 we are required to update our records and will do this once only, hence your child’s inclusion in this data collection. We require a form to be completed for each child attending this school.

Calendar

Please find enclosed in this newsletter the calendar for the month of February. This is a quick reference for you on school activities.

Porter’s Block

• The students are certainly having a great time in this new area. We are still to gather materials so that ‘bases’ (cubbies) can be built. We may wait until the first flush of excitement has passed before looking into this further. One thing of which you need to be aware is that a number of trees in this area have been designated as trees in which the students can climb. Footholds have been cut into some of these and a yellow line (about 1.5 – 2m) high has been painted to signify the ‘stop’ point. If you have concerns about this activity I would ask that you contact me to discuss them. Thanks. Mr. Paterson

• Fruit: There are a number of cherry plum trees in Porters that are fruiting quite heavily. Students have been discouraged from eating these (in fear of upset tummies at school!) however feel free to pick these out of hours if you would like to preserve / keep them. Help yourself!

Yr 6 / 7 Canberra Trip

With accounts coming home today parents of students in yr. 6 and 7 will note that the Canberra trip has been invoiced to your account. As was shared several times last year this trip is now compulsory and there will be no further camp for these students. Any questions concerning this can be addressed to me. Thankyou.

Mr. Paterson

Curriculum Matters

The focus for professional learning at St Michael’s this year is on mathematics. Teachers are participating in Mathematics Learning and Teaching for Success (MLATS) workshops throughout the year. Workshops will be held on the student-free days at the beginning of Term 2, 3 and 4, together with days at the end of each term break that the teachers are giving up for this purpose. The MLATS Core Course gives a broad overview to the learning and teaching of mathematics in Reception to upper primary classrooms. This course is accredited through Professional Development Pathways and participants can use it to gain credit towards a Graduate Certificate or Masters. A number of our teachers are considering this option. The course consists of 10 workshops, totalling 60 hours of professional development.

We began with three days at the end of the January holidays with an overview of sorting, classifying and patterning. We sort and classify objects, experiences and events in our every day lives without realising it. While this happens very naturally, sorting and classifying underpins mathematical and scientific thinking. Being a critical part of mathematical thinking, time needs to be allocated to sorting and classifying in all primary classrooms. You may be asked by your child’s teacher to provide materials for sorting and classifying. These can be objects as simple as tea-bag labels, bread bag tags, buttons, newspaper advertisements or postage stamps.

When children sort and classify, they identify properties or attributes used to describe and group objects. Part of the skill of this is to recognise the properties that are most appropriate to apply. Most objects have many properties that can be used to sort and classify. A combination of properties can be used, encouraging students to search for and describe relationships between properties. In upper primary, students begin to use algebra, which is the mathematical language for expressing patterns in numbers and general relationships between numbers.

The MLATS training will bring changes to the way mathematics is taught at St Michael’s and support the students mathematical understanding, fluency and reasoning.

John Dow
PYP Coordinator
Parent / Teacher Evenings

These evenings have been advertised and written about in the letter which you received prior to school beginning. I emphasise the importance of parents who wish to help in the school in any way, to attend one of the 7:00pm sessions in the church.

Mr. Paterson

Absences

Under government legislation there are certain processes that need to be followed when families are planning extended leave (more than one week).

- The school is to be informed in writing (letter or email) of any planned holidays (or absences) of more than five days and less than four weeks.
- Any planned holidays (or absences) longer than four weeks require the completion of a prescribed form from DECS. These are available on request to Mr. Paterson.

Should you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact the office.

School Leadership

Our school leaders will be installed into their office at our weekly Chapel service (9:00am) this Friday, 4th February. Members on the SRC will be elected during this week (yr. 3–7). Our elected school leaders for this year are:

- School Captains: Emmy Clark & Brad Pool
- Bengalee House Captains: Katelin Johnson & Maddie Seidel
- Prince George House Captains: Jordan Schoell & Kristy Pearce
- Zebra House Captains: Sam Naughton & Renee Hein

Wakakirri

This year St Michael’s will not be involved in the Wakakirri dance competition however years 3-7 will experience an exciting new dance programme at the school. During sport lessons for one term of the year, these classes will be involved in creative dance sessions. This programme will allow students to create their own dance sequences, develop problem solving abilities, grow in confidence and develop many other skills in the process. Stay tuned for more information.

Miss Emily Dougherty

Car Parking

A few simple rules to follow. If these are followed car and student movement should work quite well. It only takes one or two people to not follow the accepted practice to make it difficult for everyone. Parents are encouraged to use the ‘kiss and drop’ zone as this alleviates many problems and congestion in the carpark. If other adults collect your children from school could you please go through these processes with them

- Church St. is designated as a ‘kiss and drop’ zone both in the morning and afternoon (where marked). The students are encouraged to use this like a taxi rank - where cars move forward and drop / pick up in order. The teacher on duty will assist in this process. Pick up and drop off can only occur on the school side of the road. Children not collected by 3:45 will be brought into the school to await collection. PLEASE DO NOT PARK OR STOP IN THIS AREA - you will be asked to move on by a teacher should you do so.
- If entering the school you will need to park in the church carpark (parking is also allowable in Church St. in the designated area - past the buildings). Please do not use the carpark as a kiss and drop zone.
- Thiele Grove - Please be mindful of driveways when parking in Thiele Grove. We have had a number of complaints re parking over driveways and unfortunately residents unable to leave their houses.

Late arrivals / absences

- Any students who are not in class at the second bell will be marked as late (this is recorded on the report card).
- If your child is going to be absent for the day could you please ring the office and leave a message on voicemail. Parents will be contacted via SMS if children are absent and the school has not been notified.