Going the Extra Mile.

“Going the extra mile” is an old saying. Did you know that Jesus is the one speaking these words when he says: “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him for two miles”? (Matthew 5:41)

It is one of those sayings that has lost its full impact and significance over time to mean little more than making a little extra effort for others. Jesus however is saying it in the context that we are to love our enemies, that we are to turn the other cheek to one who attacks us or who says appalling things about us or who puts totally unreasonable demands on us.

Jesus’ understanding of ‘going the extra mile’ is not a well accepted way of thinking today, any more than it would have been by Jesus’ hearers when he first spoke these words! That’s because it is hard – some say totally unrealistic - to do! We ask: “How can you forgive someone who has hurt you very badly – and they are not even sorry?!?”

Jesus doesn’t say forgiving others is easy. It is vital. It is vital because Jesus also says we are to forgive because God has forgiven us so much. Every time we say the Lord’s Prayer, we pray exactly that – ‘Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us’.

It is vital because forgiving others, including our ‘enemies’, frees us from the emotional, physical and spiritual baggage of anger, bitterness, hurt and feelings of revenge in which having been wronged so easily entraps us.

Corrie ten Boom a Christian Dutch woman imprisoned in one of the horrific Nazi concentration camps during WW11, while speaking at a Christian meeting after the war, came face to face with one of the most violent prison guards in that prison. He did not recognize her, but she recognized him. It was a moment frozen in time for her. What was she to do? While all her human thoughts screamed out against him, she knew in her heart that Jesus was calling her to forgive him. She reached out and held his hand.

Going the extra mile is more than just doing a little extra than we want to for others. It means going the whole way in forgiving those who have hurt us. Even if our ‘enemy’ is not sorry...forgive!!! It is what our wonderful God has done for us – forgiven us when we were turned against him.

Forgiving others brings great inner peace and blessing from God. Is there any ‘enemy’ who has hurt you that you might forgive? Trust God that He will give you His power to do so!

Prayer suggestions:

- For our class carers. May they make a difference in the school as they go about caring and supporting those in their class.
- We thank God for the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff as they plan and prepare for the growth of your children.
- We thank God for all those who volunteer their time in this community. It is wonderful to have such support.

Mr. Glenn Schultz, Spiritual Life Director, St Michael's Lutheran Church

Dear Parents,

This Friday at our weekly chapel service, Pastor Stephen will be blessing the class carers. At St. Michael’s we have had class carers for many years. The role of this group of people (generally mums) has changed over the years but the essential element of care for those in the class and the school has been the constant responsibility. The class carers play an important role in the school supporting other families, Tegan and the class teachers; their role is one of fostering relationships and friendships. I thank our 2011 class carers for taking on this role this year and pray that God will bless them as they support the school and all that occurs here.

In Christ,

Shane
In Sympathy
We pray for the Mansell family (Jakson yr. 6, Lilly Rec) as they mourn the death of Jamie’s dad in Qld. May God hold this family in the palm of his hand comforting them as they come to terms with their loss.

Mandatory Training
Thankyou to the parents who participated in the reporting of abuse and neglect sessions prior to last week’s parent information nights. This along with a police check is essential for any volunteers in the school. Due to the fact that some could not attend due to work commitments etc. I have decided to hold two more sessions at the end of the month. This will be the last sessions for this year. These will be held Monday 28th February @ 2:30pm and Tuesday 1st March @ 9:00am. Both these sessions will be held in the meeting room in the library. A reminder that if you have completed a course elsewhere to supply evidence of that to the office. Mr. Paterson

Parent Information Nights
Once again these information sessions which were held last week were highly successful. If you were unable to attend I would encourage you to contact your class teacher to obtain any information which was shared. Generally the teachers use this time to discuss class and work expectations. Information was also shared on the homework and behaviour management review which is currently being undertaken by staff.

Middle Schooling
A parent information session about the proposed changes with Cornerstone (middle schooling) will be held in the worship centre on Thursday March 24th at 7:00pm. This is being held for parents of students in yr. 4 or below. More information will be distributed in the coming weeks. Mr. Paterson

Forms
A final call for all those forms that have not yet been returned. Could you please return these by Friday at the very latest.

LLL
School banking is on Wednesdays with bank books placed in the class tray in the morning. Parents are encouraged to use this great facility which also supports St. Michael's and the loans which we have. If you require further information on this please speak to Robyn. Students in Reception have received account opening forms etc. in their bag, which was distributed last night.

Cornerstone College Survey
Cornerstone College in Mount Barker is interested in your opinion and we hope that you will be able to help! The College is testing some brand ideas and would love the opportunity to seek your thoughts and opinions in a small group setting. There are no right or wrong responses that you can give, it is your view that we want to understand. We invite you to join us for morning tea and a chat, immediately after dropping your children. We will be holding two sessions – Wednesday 23 February and Friday 25 February – so please choose the one that suits you best. Both sessions will be held in the meeting room (library) at 9.00am and it will be finished by 9.45am. If you can spare 45 minutes of your time, to have a coffee and give us your opinions, we would be most grateful. Please RSVP to Robyn to book your place.

Canteen Helpers 2011
Term 1 Week 4

Monday: 21st February
Alison Edwards & Sue Read

Wednesday: 23rd February
Ros Morgan & Kerri Jordan
Parents of Reception and Yr 1 students will find this information session invaluable in setting up their children for success. The school has booked an educational psychologist and literacy specialist – Angela Weeks, to speak to all interested parents on Tuesday March 1 at 7:00pm. There is no cost for this presentation so please take advantage of this presentation.

Please complete the tear-off strip below so that we have an idea for seating arrangements.

Mrs Julie Clark

Yes, I/we __________________________ will be attending the literacy workshop on March 1.

Playgroup
Playgroup is on again this Friday in Bukatilla. We meet from 9 - 10.30am. This week we are focussing on the arms and will continue to decorate our life size cut out of Mr Paterson. Please come along. Just bring a piece of fruit to share and $2 to cover costs. Hope to see you there.

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### Curriculum Matters

**IB programme standards and practices**

As an IB World School, St Michael’s follows a document called the *Programme standards and practices*. This document has been recently updated and re-released to the IB community. It is an essential document to all IB schools and details the planning, implementation, development and evaluation of the Primary Years Programme. For those of you here in 2009, when the programme evaluation took place, you may have come into contact with parts of this document.

The new revised version is divided into three sections, Section A: Philosophy, Section B: Organisation and Section C: Curriculum covering the following:

- **Standard A**: Philosophy – the schools educational beliefs and values reflect the IB philosophy
- **Standard B1**: Leadership and structure – the school’s leadership and administrative structures ensure the implementation of the IB programme
- **Standard B2**: Resources and support – the school’s resources and support structures ensure the implementation of the IB programme
- **Standard C1**: Collaborative planning – collaborative planning and reflection supports the implementation of the IB programmes
- **Standard C2**: Written curriculum – the school’s written curriculum reflects the IB policy
- **Standard C3**: Teaching and learning – teaching and learning reflects the IB philosophy
- **Standard C4**: Assessment – assessment at the school reflects IB assessment philosophy.

The standards are general requisites established for schools to implement any IB programme and the practices are further definitions of the standards. While the implementation of the IB programme is a journey for the school and we meet these standards and practices to varying degrees along the way, we are committed to meeting them all and in doing so, providing the best possible education for our students.

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**John Dow**  
PYP Coordinator
From the Community Carer  
Tegan Howard

Lessons I Learned From my Parents  
#1: Family Time is Sacred Time

I remember as a child having “family time” every week - a non-negotiable night or afternoon that was set aside for us to spend time together as a family. I loved Family Time, as each week a different member of the family got to choose what it was that we would do that week (I especially loved the weeks that it was my turn to choose!). Family Time was sacred to us - we never missed it (sometimes it got put on a different night due to other things, but it always happened) and it was always a priority in our week, not something that we would do if we had some spare time.

Family Time taught me to respect and appreciate my family. It taught me that no matter how busy my parents were, they were never too busy for me. It said to me that I was important, valued and loved. Family Time taught me that no matter what was going on in my week, my family would always be there for me as a safe haven. I thank my parents for keeping our Family Time sacred, and I encourage you to do the same.

We all lead busy lives, so be realistic with your Family Time. A couple of hours every week or fortnight, if it is kept sacred, can be better than a whole day once a month.

Family Challenge for the week: Turn off the TV and your mobile phone and have some good quality Family Time. Try and schedule in regular Family Time each week or fortnight.

Ideas for Family Time:  
* Take a trip to the Central Markets  
* Have a picnic in the park  
* Play a board game  
* Set up a tent in the backyard and “camp” for the night  
* Do a project together - make a go-kart, paint portraits of each other... Be creative!

Struggling to fit in Family Time? See this website for ideas:  
familieswithpurpose.com/howtofitfamilytime.html

From the Reception S Class  
(Mrs Schultz)

Reception Clever Cats  
The children in the Clever Cat Reception class are being wonderful risk-takers as they are settling into the routines of school life. They certainly have an exciting learning journey ahead for many years to come.

See our sorting in maths time and our enthusiasm in getting to know our Year 7 buddies!