Superheroes Anonymous

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light (Matthew 17:1-2)

Most children grow up hearing stories of superheroes. There used to be a limited number of them – superman, batman, spider-man, wonder woman and some others. But nowadays there appears to be a growing band of superheroes to call on in your time of need.

The thing about superheroes is that they can appear as a normal human being, but they have some hidden powers that are revealed as they fight the forces of evil. I always like it when a superhero is underestimated because they don’t appear that special on the surface. But then their power is revealed, the bad guys are defeated and the day is saved.

When Jesus was revealed in glory to three of his disciples on the top of a mountain they were staggered at what they saw. They had seen hints of his power – but this experience uncovered the hidden glory that was contained in Jesus. I imagine that Peter, James and John came down the mountain more convinced than ever that Jesus would be able to handle anything that came his way.

But this superhero turned out to be somewhat different than what we usually expect. A week after this transfiguration event Jesus was arrested, put on trial, sentenced and crucified. Through all of this he kept his power and glory concealed. Even at the last minute he did not exercise it, but breathed his last and gave up his spirit. The disciples were confused and devastated.

Our superhero Jesus was not standing against any normal opposition. He had to defeat sin and death. So he died in order to pay the price for our sin and in order to submit to our death. In this way he removed the grasp of sin and death on us. In this way he brought us life. It took more than power to save the day. It took sacrifice and Jesus, despite all his glory and power, offered to humble himself, suffer and die. That makes him a true hero – one who lives on to bring us new life each day.

Dear Parents,

It is often said that the one constant in life is change. We are continually surrounded by change and need to use all our skills of adaption, resilience etc. to deal with this. As a school we are continually bombarded by change. Hopefully change comes about due to the need to make something better or stronger. All families with children from year 4 down have today received a letter inviting you to an information session on the next huge change we as a school will face in 2014 – the proposed introduction of a middle school at Cornerstone. I would encourage you to attend this meeting so that you are fully briefed on the changes that will occur and that will directly affect your children and family. It is definitely a change in schooling structures that I, the staff and the Council view as positive and exciting. I trust that you can attend as per the invitation. In Christ,

Shane

Prayer suggestions:
- We ask that God will continue to provide comfort to those affected by the earthquake in Christchurch.
- We thank God for the opportunities presented to St. Michael’s in order for us to become a stronger school. May we use these opportunities wisely.
- We thank God for the protection given to our students, teachers and parents who have been travelling this last week for excursions, camps and meetings.

Also pray for the following families:

Burrett, Byrne, Campbell, Campbell-Stone, Carver, Clark R & P, Clark C & N
Invoices / Receipts

One of the major foci in the school this year is to 'unpack' one of our school values, 'we are...environmentally conscious'. All classes have discussed this and as the year unfolds I expect that many changes will be seen throughout the school. From the office we also need to improve sustainability and will work towards using less paper. One of the first ways we are going to do this is by changing the way invoices, statements and receipts are handled (these use quite a lot of paper).

- receipts will now only be issued for cash transactions (credit card / online transactions, bank transfers etc. are all recorded through your own records). If you require a receipt you will need to inform the office.
- invoices and statements, from the end of March, will be emailed. You are asked to supply us with your preferred email address for any school business (please complete the appropriate form). All transactions are recorded on this statement so you can track all payments.

If you wish to discuss any of these changes please contact me. Mr. Paterson (Since printing this last week we have received a number of comments, in particular relating to the newsletter. It is our aim to phase out hard copies of this in the future however we will begin with receipts, invoices mentioned above).

If we do not receive a response from you as a default we will use the email address supplied on your Family Details form.

Pedal Prix

A reminder that tonight at 7:30pm, a Pedal Prix meeting will be held in the meeting room (above the library) to discuss this year’s Pedal Prix participation. This meeting is for parents and students in year 6 and 7.

School Photos

If making appointments over the next few weeks please note that school photos are being taken on Thursday March 17th. Unfortunately class photos cannot be retaken or held off due to student absences. Envelopes will be coming home with your child(ren) today.

Reception Home Visits

Today concludes the last visits for students in Reception. As of next week (9th March) Reception students are expected to attend school on Wednesdays.

School Worship

Next Wednesday (9th) on the Christian calendar is the first day of the season of Lent and is known as Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of a time of preparation for Easter (which will be 40 days away from that point). Next week’s chapel will be held on Wednesday and not Friday. You are more than welcome to join us for this service.

Can you...........

Can you dance, sing or play an instrument? If yes, then the Year 2s would love to hear from you. Our next unit of inquiry is all about music and movement and we want to have as many demonstrations as possible. Please let Emily or Brad know if you would be willing to share your talent with the 2s.

Spotlight Board

This week’s staff member being highlighted is our Business Manager, Mrs. Anne Jones.

Preferred Email Address

Eldest Child’s Name: ................................................

Email Address: .....................................................

Please return to the front office asap

Canteen Helpers 2011

Term 1 Week 6

Monday: 7th March
Alison Badger & Jackie Stone

Wednesday: 9th March
Holly Toogood
In brief...

........the year 4 classes have been away at camp (Aldinga) from Monday this week....
........the year 3 classes will visit Monarto Zoo as part of their Unit of Inquiry tomorrow.....
........thankyou to the students of 3KM for their message in last Sunday's family service at St. Michael's..........

Playgroup

Come and join playgroup this week. We are continuing to focus on the body and also decorate our life sized cut out of Mr Patterson. This week we are focussing on the tummy. There will be lots of fun activities, loads of toys for free play and great conversations. Please come and join us in Bukatilla on Friday from 9 - 10.30am. Hope to see you there.

Mandatory Reporting

Thankyou to all those who have attended these sessions since the beginning of the year. All sessions have now concluded. You are encouraged to present your police check to the front office asap.

Mr. Paterson

Computer Contract

A computer contract will be distributed for each child from Year 2 to Year 7. We ask that a contract is signed by each child and parent in these year levels. Before signing, we would appreciate parents carefully reading the contract with their children and discussing why these guidelines are put in place. This discussion helps to unpack the expectations of children's responsibilities in this area. We thank you for your assistance. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Mrs. Zadow

Curriculum Matters

As part of the review of the behaviour management policy at St Michael’s, Tegan Howard (Community Carer) and I attended a workshop on Monday about the principles and theories behind Restorative Justice, also known as Restorative Practises. Restorative Justice is a range of processes that “advocate that the people most effective at finding a solution to a problem are the people who are most directly impacted by the problem.” It enables people to work together “to understand, clarify and resolve the incident and repair the harm.” (Laycock, D, Workshop handout) Restorative Justice processes can be used by an individual to deal with something that has offended them, or can be part of a formal conference involving many parties, depending upon the issue to be addressed and the impact it has had.

In addition to outlining the Restorative Justice process, other key points included:

- Having a sense of connectedness is essential to human beings. Misbehaviour can stem from not feeling part of the group.
- Shame is an innate human response to our own misdeeds, and it is important that we deal correctly with the shame misbehaving students feel.
- Being held accountable for wrongdoing is more demanding on the offender than being punished (however restorative practices do not always replace alternative consequences).
- Harm is individual. Just because one person is not offended by something, does not mean that another person won’t be offended by it.

Many of St Michael’s staff have been trained in restorative practises, and we will be revisiting it this year with staff who are new to the school. Having a range of effective behaviour management tools at hand is as essential for teachers as having a well planned and prepared curriculum, ensuring that a supportive and stimulating school environment, in which students are encouraged to be principled and take responsibility for their own behaviour, exists for all students.

John Dow
PYP Coordinator
Creative Dance with The Year 4s

This term, both Year 4 classes are experiencing creative dance sessions with Miss Dougherty during their sport lessons.

During these sessions students are learning about the elements of dance which are used when creating effective dance sequences.

Students are working so well and being such risk takers during this new learning opportunity.

From the Community Carer

Tegan Howard

Lessons I Learned From my Parents

#3: “I will love you no matter what”

Rosaleen Dickson once wrote: “Whatever they grow up to be, they are still our children, and the one most important of all the things we can give to them is unconditional love. Not a love that depends on anything at all except that they are our children.”

When I was 2, I didn’t want to eat, or sleep, and I cried all night, but still my parents loved me. When I was 7, I fought with my brother, but still my parents loved me. When I was 13 and knew everything, my parents still loved me. When I was 16 and did the opposite of everything my parents told me to do, they still loved me. And now that I’m 22 and perfect, they still love me! I can’t remember what my mum used to say to me when I would fight with my brother, but I remember her telling me she loved me. I can’t remember what my dad would say to me when I would break a plate or glass because I was too busy dancing instead of drying the dishes, but I remember him picking me up from school at lunchtime to take me on a “date” because he loved me.

The unconditional love of a parent will give your children wings - they will learn to fly, knowing that even if they fall, you will love them. It will enable them to take risks, because they will know that if they fail you will still love them. It will let your children really be themselves, because they know that you love them for who they are, not what they do. Tell your children this week, and every week, that you love them... No matter what!

Family Challenge for the Week

Think of 5 different ways that you can show your children you love them, without using words!