Lent

Did you know.........?

- The original period of lent was 40 hours? It was spent in fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ. Then it became 30 days, then 36 and, finally, in the reign of Charlemagne, about 800 AD., 40 days, not including Sundays.
- The 40 days of Lent correspond to Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness?
- The date of Lent is determined by the date of Easter? The Council of Nicaea determined in 325 A.D. that Easter would be observed on the first Sunday following the 14th day of the Paschal Moon.
- The earliest that Lent can begin is February 5? That happened last in 1818.
- The latest that Lent can start is March 10? It won’t be that late again until the year 2038.
- Lent comes from the old English word for Spring, Lenten? The wearing of sackcloth and ashes is a custom going back to Old Testament times? Many Christians observe the custom on Ash Wednesday, using the ashes of the previous year’s burned Palm Sunday palms.

The one fact you must know!

These facts about Lent are interesting, but they're not really very important. The one important fact in your life is this – that Christ died that your sins can be forgiven.

A fact so simple.....so familiar.....so huge...so wonderful that it is hard to grasp. That's why Christians observe Lent – to set forty days aside to think about Christ’s death and what it means in their lives.

Lent gives you another chance to think about your sins and what it means that Christ died for them. It gives you another chance to review your life, another chance to grow in faith and love.

May this season of Lent be a time of growth and reflection for you. Shane Paterson

Dear Parents,

Held annually, the IB Regional conference attracts over 900 participants from the SE Asia region. The conference attracts quite prominent speakers and there are a number of workshops held during this time. Being held in Melbourne this weekend, Mr. Dow and Mrs. Norman will represent St. Michael’s. The wonderful and innovative work of Mrs. Norman and the junior primary teachers in the area of play has been recognised by the organisers of this conference, with Megan being accepted as a workshop leader. Megan will present our philosophy, structure and use of play within the school in a workshop session. We wish Megan all the best as St. Michael’s is showcased throughout the SE Asia region.

May you have a blessed week,

Shane

Prayer suggestions:

- During these times of natural disasters we pray that God’s presence will be felt in these areas. We may ask why God lets these disasters happen. The suffering and loss of life seems so wrong. We live in a world that is broken and has been since the time of Adam. We pray that these disasters will lead people closer to our God who gives hope even in times of trial.

Also pray for the following families:

Cresp, Croser, Crowder, D’Alessandro, D’Arcy, Davies & Day
Enrolments 2012 (and 2013)
We are in the process of ensuring all enrolments are up to date for the next two years. Any children beginning in Reception in 2012 should be recorded on file with a 'Confirmation of Enrolment' form (you would have paid a $150 deposit at the time). If you have not lodged (or received) this form for 2012, could you please contact the office as a matter of urgency – this would be especially applicable to families new to the school this year. Secondly we are about to begin sibling enrolment for 2013. Could you please ensure that you have lodged an 'Application for Enrolment' form if you have a child to begin in this year. Each child needs to have a separate form. Thankyou.

Sports Day
Our annual Sports day is being held next Friday (25th March). A few notes for you.
- Students are to arrive at school between 12:45 and 1:00 and go to classrooms as rolls still need to be taken (there are no care facilities provided by the school prior to this).
- Students are to wear blue PE shorts, PE shirt (or T-shirt of their House colour), normal shoes and socks.
- HATS ARE TO BE WORN (school hat)
- No coloured zinc – but remember the sunscreen and water bottle.
- A BBQ will be conducted by the P. & F. at the conclusion of the carnival. Sausages - $2, drinks - $1.50. This will be served from the kitchen in Bukatila.
- The day will conclude between 5:30 and 6:00 and all students are expected to be present for the whole afternoon
- Students are expected to remain in their bays (on the oval) during the second part of the day. This is to help with organisational purposes.
- Hair can be coloured.

School Directory
It is hoped to have the School Directory out by the end of next week. We apologise about the delay in this.
Middle School Meeting
A reminder that this meeting will be held in the worship centre next Thursday (24th) evening beginning at 7:30pm (as highlighted in the previous letter there has been a time change due to presenter availability). Questions that have been raised through the returns have been passed onto the appropriate presenters.

Mr. Paterson

Family Night
A huge family night will be held on Saturday 9th April for all St. Michael's families. Beginning at 6.00pm the P. & F. will hold a brief AGM, incorporating a Bible presentation to every Reception child (this will be given to them by their buddies). This activity will then be followed by a family bush dance. Held for the first time last year, it was a huge success and more fun is expected this year. Funds raised on the evening will go towards this year's Pedal Prix team. A BBQ and limited bar facilities will be available on the evening. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks but all families are encouraged to come and join us for the entire evening.

'Mainly Music' Pie Drive Fundraiser
'Mainly Music' is a fun, interactive music session for parents/caregivers and their young children currently running on Tuesday mornings @ St Michaels Church. In order to buy some more musical instruments and props for our music sessions we are holding a Pie Drive fundraiser just in time for Easter. What a great opportunity to stock up on yummy pies, biscuits & hot cross buns for the school holidays! An order form will accompany today’s newsletter. Spare forms are available from the school office. Orders are due in by Friday 1st April. Delivery date will be Wednesday 13th April between 2 & 4pm (last week of school term). Orders & payment can be handed into the School Office or St Michaels Church office. Contact Kylie Johns (8390 0590) if you have any further questions. We look forward to your support.

John Dow
PYP Coordinator
Lessons I Learned From my Parents

#5: You are not your behaviour

Mahatma Ghandi once said, “Hate the sin, love the sinner”. The same goes with your children and their behaviour. There are certain behaviours your children will display that are not acceptable in your home. In times like this, it is important that we separate the child from their behaviour. This is not to say that the child does not need to take responsibility for their actions, but it is important that they understand that even though they do something wrong, they are not a bad person, and you do not love them any less. My parents used to say to me “I love you, but I don’t love the way you are acting”. It was always clear to me that my parents love for me was not based on how I acted, but I also learnt quickly that life was a lot more fun for me and everyone else when I didn’t misbehave. Children will respond to love much more quickly than condemnation. We must always accept the child, but we don’t always have to accept their behaviour.

My parents also made it clear to me that although I was not my behaviour, I was certainly the one responsible for it. I had a choice between good and bad behaviour, and it was my responsibility to make the choice.

Family challenge for the week

Get in touch with your creative side! Make, draw, cook, prepare or create something special with your family.

Check out these great websites for parenting advice and tips, health issues, fun games, and resources.

http://raisingchildren.net.au/