Some Things Must Be Shared

A Mercedes-Benz TV commercial shows one of their cars colliding with a concrete wall during a safety test. Someone then asks a Mercedes engineer why their company does not enforce their patent on their car's energy-absorbing car body. The Mercedes’ design has been copied by almost every other car maker in the world in spite of the fact that they have an exclusive patent.

The engineer replies in a clipped German accent, "Because in life, some things are just too important not to share."

Wow! What a great statement! Some things are just too important not to share. As Christians we believe that the good news of Jesus Christ is one of those things that is too important not to share. Last weekend’s Gospel reading in John 4:5-42 tells of an encounter between Jesus and a non-Jewish woman at a well. This encounter and the conversation between them changed the woman’s life. So much so that it was too much to keep to herself - she shared her delight with her whole village even though it is likely she had a rather poor reputation amongst them. Her story must have had an impact because the whole village went to see and meet this Jesus, many also believing in Jesus. Read the story – it cannot but move you!

Some things are too big, too important, and too life-changing to NOT be shouted from the rooftops!

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

Dear Parents,

One of the many strengths of our school is the community spirit that is evident. This community spirit was once again obvious at our Sports Day held on Monday; a large number of parents and grandparents attended and watched, volunteered and cheered. The day is one of celebration, fun and camaraderie. In speaking with many of you on the day and after, I know that you enjoyed the day as much as the staff and students. I thank you for your ongoing support of the school and its activities and look forward to further support as the year progresses.

May you have a blessed week,

Shane

Prayer suggestions:

- We praise God for our school community - for the ongoing support that is received.
- We ask that God will continue to provide us with our daily needs - food, clothing and shelter.

Please pray for the following families:

Egglestone, Ewart, Falzon, Faulkner, Finelli, Fitzgerald, & Floyd
Sports Day

What a fantastic day we had on Monday with the running of our annual Sports Day. Despite the change of day due to the weather last week (and thank you for your understanding with this) we had a great roll up of parents and grandparents. Congratulations to Prince George for their dominant win (over 70 points - I can’t remember such a large winning margin!). The competition was fairly even after the tabloids with only seven points difference between the three teams. Prince George however dominated the sprints and relays and certainly ‘ran away’ with the carnival. Once again the student’s behaviour was exemplary and the House Captains did a fantastic job with organising their Houses and leading the war cries. 

Final scores were Prince George – 380, Zebra 303 and Bengalee 295.

Thanks are extended to all our helpers on the day and especially to Mr. Phillips for coordinating the whole day.

Keep those photos coming in so far they look fantastic.  Mr. Paterson

Bible Presentation / Barn Dance

As a school community we have two major events this year: one for the parents (Quiz Night) and one for the whole family (Barn Dance). Preceding the Barn Dance is the P. & F. AGM (ten minutes) and the Bible presentation to the Receptions by their older buddies (6:00pm). It is hoped that many families will be able to attend both parts of the evening as it promises to be a fantastic evening. The Barn Dance will feature live music and a caller and a BBQ and limited alcohol / drinks will be available. Tickets can be purchased at the front office. Last year’s Barn Dance proved to be a memorable evening and it is expected that this year’s will be no different.

Parent Teacher Interview

In the final week of this term (Tuesday 13th April 4:00-6:00pm and Wednesday 14th April, 5:00pm – 7:00pm) voluntary parent / teacher interviews will be held. These interviews are only of fifteen minute duration. If you regularly communicate with the class teacher or have no issues to discuss please do not feel obliged to make an appointment. A booking sheet has been sent home in this newsletter. Please check this sheet as the class teacher may also request an interview with you. It is important that you nominate the focus for the interview to enable the teacher to be prepared so as to make the most efficient use of the time. These sheets need to be returned asap so that interview times can be booked. If you nominate for an interview, confirmed times will be sent home at the end of next week.

School Desks

We have some old two seater desks and chairs to sell (these have come out of the Reception room). If you would like to buy any (desks $10, chairs $5) please contact the office. Great for cubbies or in lounge / play room for your kids. Alternatively if you know of any organisation that would require furniture such as this, could you please contact us.

Middle school Information Session

Last week quite a number of our parents heard of the benefits of middle schooling for adolescents and the early plans made by Cornerstone in introducing this at the College in 2014. It was a very informative meeting and most questions that had been raised were answered. John Proeve, Principal of Cornerstone College stated that as plans progress information will be shared with the primary school communities. If you have further questions or concerns about this change in 2014 (middle schooling from yr. 7 at Cornerstone and no year 7 class at St. Michael’s) I would ask that you make an appointment to see me.  Mr. Paterson

Canteen Helpers 2011

Term 1 Week 10

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Alick Collins Lawn Bowls
On Tuesday 29th of March (yesterday), 16 students from yr 6 and yr 7 competed in the annual Allick Collins Cup. St Michael’s put in a great effort and won 2 out of their 8 games. Lenswood Primary were overall winners on the day and St Michael’s came fourth overall.

Kristy-Ann Pearce & Alisha Main

Fees
There are still a small number of Term 1 fees outstanding. Please finalise these by Friday 1st April. Monthly statements will be sent via email. Please check your statement when it arrives. If there are any queries please feel free to contact Mrs Anne Jones, Business Manager.

In brief.....
.........there will be no chapel this Friday.....
.........our staff member under the Spotlight this week is our administration assistant, Tracey Downing....
.........our next round of knockout cricket is being played this Friday against Victor Harbor school....
.....congratulations to Katelin Johnston and Alex Mackay who were both selected for the Hills SAPSASA Softball team. They are competing this week in Adelaide....

Car Park
Please be aware that car parking will be at a premium this Friday. The biennial doll exhibition is being in the church and there is funeral Friday afternoon (3:00pm). If possible avoid using this area, Friday afternoon.

Uniform
a. Boy's pants: With the cooler days upon us it is quite acceptable for boys to wear the long grey school pants. This is listed as an optional item under the official summer uniform section.

b. Winter uniform: The changeover from summer to winter uniform occurs in the first week of next term. There is always a grace period, depending on what the weather is like at the time. It is suggested that you perhaps look at your winter needs over the next few days so as not to be caught out early next term.

Curriculum Matters

Last week, Jenn Tranter, Association of Independent Schools’ (AISSA) Health and Personal Development Adviser, visited St Michael’s and spoke to the staff about what we call ‘behaviour management’. I was interested to see that she gave her presentation the title ‘Behaviour Education’. There is a subtle distinction embedded in the words ‘behaviour education’ and it refers to the following idea: if a child is having trouble with reading, we teach them. If they’re having trouble with maths, more teaching. But if they’re having trouble with their behaviour, what do we do? The traditional adversarial approach focuses on what happened, who is to blame and what punishment or sanction is appropriate. Alternatively, the term behaviour education promotes the development of individual and community responsibility for learning and behaviour. There is more to be gained by spending time developing a child’s sense of personal responsibility for behaviour, than in imposing punishments that require no personal accountability.

This dovetails neatly into the restorative justice approach that focuses not only on the past misdeeds, but on the present (how others have been affected) and the future (the behaviour we can expect from now on). Using the restorative justice approach, deterrence is linked to relationships and personal accountability, rather than punishment alone.

Some schools refer to their behaviour management policy as a Student Welfare policy which conjures up a different mental model again. Student welfare takes a broad view and compasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of students.

Jenn Tranter left us with an important reminder: the driving concern for any behaviour management approach should be that the students are settled and happy and therefore able to participate fully in the teaching and learning.

John Dow
PYP Coordinator
From the Year 2P Class
(Mr Pfeiffer)

The 2s are currently engaged in a unit of inquiry that is based around the central idea: people use music and movement to express themselves.

To find out what that means we have joined in Hip Hop and Javanese dance lessons and had a lot of visits from teachers and parents who shared musical instruments with us.

We have been lucky enough so far to hear and see violins, a cello, an upright piano, and a flageolet with many more exciting instruments and performances like the drums, keyboards and guitar still to come.

We are also making our own music using computers and instruments. Some students will even try making their very own instruments from recycled materials as one of their Home Work Grid choices.

We have discovered a lot about different types of music and instruments and how people can use them to express themselves and having a lot of fun along the way.

From the Community Carer
Tegan Howard

Lessons I Learned From my Parents
#7: If you don’t have anything nice to say... Don’t say anything at all!!

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. (Proverbs 15:1)

I totally disagree with the old saying “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me”... Maybe you’re tougher than I am, but words really can hurt me! And as a child, words can be devastating! One of the most important lessons I learned as a child was how to keep my mouth shut. Naturally, I’m not a very tactful person, I tend to say it how it is. However, I quickly learned that it’s often not the best approach. When I get frustrated or angry with someone, I can still hear my dad’s voice in my head telling me, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all”. I think this applies just as much to adults as it does to children. Even the best of us can get frustrated at times and say things without thinking, and then we have to spend the next half hour apologising and making amends.

Sometimes it is better to just say nothing at all, until you have had a chance to calm down and think of the best way to proceed. Careless, thoughtless words spoken in anger very rarely achieve anything other than making the other person upset and hurt. This lesson applies not only when you or your children are angry or frustrated, but also in the schoolyard, classroom or in any situation where you see someone you don’t particularly like. If you don’t have anything nice to say to them, best just to keep your mouth shut. Teach your children that mean, spiteful words spoken to other people cause damage to that person. Instead, keep silent.

A huge thanks to all the parents who donated food to the Coffee and Cake stall for Sports Day on Monday. We had a great day and raised $877 for CareNet. Thanks to the Class Carers and other parents who came and helped out in the stall, your willingness to jump in and give us a hand when we were busy was much appreciated.

If you donated food to the stall and haven’t picked up your container yet, please collect it from Bukatila. Thanks again for all your help and support!