From the Principal

Sister School Relationship

In the last edition of ‘in action...’ I wrote about the sister school relationship which we were in the process of establishing with the International School, Nadi (Fiji).

Since the May edition of ‘...in action’, a number of exciting events have occurred to promote this special relationship.

Staff Visit and Exchanges

At the end of term 2 six staff from ISN visited us for the week. St. Michael’s staff and students grew through their exposure to Fijian customs, song and culture with the visiting teachers learning not only about Australian schooling but also our lifestyle.

Student Home-Stay

During fourth term we welcomed six students and two teachers from ISN to the school. This is hopefully the first of a number of student home-stay visits that will occur over the coming years.

The visiting teachers certainly experienced typical Hills weather with the wettest and coldest week of the year being recorded; they enjoyed watching the hail!

At the start of third term our year 6 / 7 teacher Eddie Geering, exchanged classes with Mr. Tim form ISN. Both teachers thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to teach in an entirely different setting for three weeks.

The St. Michael’s students certainly benefited from having a teacher from an entirely different culture and speak fondly of their time with Mr. Tim.

 Whilst not a common undertaking in a primary school setting the sister school relationship between St. Michael’s and Nadi is reaping benefits for both schools. There is growing evidence that the programs’ aims of fostering international mindedness and cultural awareness, is taking shape in both school communities.

We look forward to this program continuing into the future and realising the benefits that can be achieved.

In Christ,

Shane Paterson
(Principal)
A wide range of activities enable the students to be balanced in their learning.

**Dad’s Morning**
As part of Father’s Day celebrations, School Council members cooked and served breakfast for our school dads. A fantastic roll up saw plenty of pancakes eaten before visiting classrooms.

**Grandfriend’s Day**
On a beautiful November day we welcomed over 400 visitors to our annual ‘Grandfriends Day’. After worshipping together our visitors were invited to view and experience the school facilities, they had a wonderful morning tea and were entertained prior to lunch by various students and classes which highlighted the various educational opportunities which they have. What a great day we all had!

**Christian Service**
As part of the service which we encourage students to undertake there a number of activities in which the students have been involved.

**Christmas Boxes**: Bringing joy to children in PNG students filled shoeboxes with many items to make this Christmas a bit more special.

**Cora Barclay Centre**: Students were encouraged to wear a loud shirt to raise funds for the Cora Barclay Centre. This Centre does a wonderful supporting several of our students who have a hearing impairment.

**Walk for Awareness**: On a bleak and wet Spring day the students walked over 20 laps around the school to raise funds for the Somali crisis. This represented in a small way the life of a Somalian child as they walk daily for their water. Over $1600.00 was raised.
**Concert**
Students from Reception – 3 were the stars of this year’s concert. Over four performances, nearly 1200 people witnessed the colour, dance and acting of the show as the students reminded us of our responsibility to care for God’s marvellous creation – the world.

**Pedal Prix**
St. Michael’s is one of the few schools who have entered this competition every year since its inception nearly twenty years ago. This year was a landmark year for the school with one of our teams finishing the national 24 hour event in first position. This finish along with the other school vehicle finishing in the top ten made the many hours and weeks of training worthwhile. Congratulations Pedal Prixers!

**Canberra**
The year 6 and 7 students participated in their biennial Canberra trip at the start of this term. Highlights included visits to: War Memorial, Old and New Parliament Houses, National Museum. Telstra Tower and the AIS. They even managed to catch sight of the Queen as she sailed Lake Burley Griffen.

**Yr 5 Camp**
The year 5 students participated in the challenges put before them on their biennial camp at Woodhouse.
Creative Arts 2011