Who is Jesus?

In the week prior to school, as part of our preparation, all staff were involved in a spiritual retreat which was run by Pastor Stephen. During this time we discussed the work and life of Jesus. In beginning his session, Stephen asked us in small groups to write who we considered Jesus to be. The variety of answers was amazing and I was intrigued to see that many of the groups had completely different answers from each other.

Saviour, Immanuel, friend, helper, teacher, hope, security, ‘the way, the truth, the life’, healer, redeemer, rejected, I am…, shepherd, mentor, grace………. The list is one that goes on and on. Of course the variety of answers was the basis of a lot of discussion.

Last year randomly selected parents and students identified (through a survey) that the staff model Jesus and the Christian life exceptionally well. The community can see that this school is a place where Jesus is important and spoken of openly.

When we talk of and think about Jesus though, what is our perception of this person? If you ask the staff it is a whole range of things and I daresay your responses would be as varied as theirs. Through the work of the teachers, the students, with the help of the Holy Spirit, through devotion, worship and Christian Studies lessons will come to know Jesus in many different ways.

However the one foundational belief that we aim to teach and model to the students is that Jesus is Lord, who died and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins. This is the central message of the Gospel and one on which the school is based.

May God grant us the wisdom and guidance to share this Good News with the students and the wider school community.

Dear Parents,

What a great start to the year we have had! Having cooler weather certainly assisted with this. I always love the start of school, welcoming new and existing students and families, hearing of holiday stories and observing all the excitement and freshness a new year brings. It is very important to me that school remains a positive and welcoming environment for staff, students and parents and I am a great believer in discussing issues early in the piece so that they don’t become major concerns. Also it is important that if you have concerns you follow the correct grievance procedure so that these concerns be addressed quickly. If we follow these simple procedures our environment will remain positive and welcoming.

The staff and I look forward to working with and supporting you over the coming year. May God continue to bless and guide us during this time.

(A rather long newsletter –please take the time to absorb the information contained)

In Christ,

Shane

Prayer suggestions:

- We thank God for the safe return of members of our community
- We pray for wisdom and guidance as we step into the 2012 year.
- We pray that God be with all members of our community and especially those staff and students who are new to our school.
Mobile Phones
Mobile phones are a feature of our society. There are a number of students who have mobile phones which are brought to school. I understand that these phones maybe used at the end of the day to communicate with parents re transportation issues. Under no circumstances are these phones to be used during the day and any communication between parents and students is to be done through the front office. Students are encouraged to leave their phones with their class teacher (or reception) during the day. The school will take no responsibility for phones damaged or stolen if left in school bags. If you have any questions about this please contact me.

Mr. Paterson

Term 2 Dates
For those families who need to pre-plan child care / holidays etc. please note that term 2 will begin on Thursday 26th April. An additional pupil free day (staff will be participating in an IB workshop) has been granted by School Council due to the timing of Anzac Day.

Mr. Paterson

Family Night
An innovation this year this year is an inaugural Family Fun night. More information will be released over the next few weeks, however it will be held on Friday 9th March (5:30 – 8:00pm). There will be lots of food, fun and games for students and parents. Reception children will also receive a gift of a Bible from the P. & F. Keep the night free and come along and join in the fun.

School Fees
School fees have been emailed today. If you have any questions about these please contact Anne Jones the school Business Manager.

We take the education of your child very seriously and to support us in providing Christ Centred Quality Education, we ask that you give the same consideration to the payment of your school fees.

School Card
The School Card Scheme provides financial assistance towards the educational expenses incurred by families who meet the eligibility criteria. This includes having a child or children attending school full time and the gross family income for the 2010/2011 Financial year being within the School Card income limits, currently:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>No of Children</th>
<th>$ per annum Gross</th>
<th>$ per week Gross</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$34,335</td>
<td>$661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>$733</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each additional child $936 $18

Applicants wishing to be considered for School Card assistance must apply each year. The School offers a concession on school fees where School Card has been approved of $500 per child. Please contact Anne Jones (or e-mail ajones@stmichaels.sa.edu.au) in the office for application forms or for more information about the 2012 scheme. www.decd.sa.gov.au/goldbook/ or the school card section on free call 1800 672 758

Canteen Helpers 2012
Term 1 Week 2

Monday: 6th February
Peta Byrne

Wednesday: 8th February
Lynda Rooney & Justine Clinton

Friday: 10th February
Michelle Williams & Amanda Robson
From the Community Carer
Tegan Howard

Hello all and welcome to the 2012 school year!! It has been great to see everyone’s smiling faces over the last couple of days! I hope you all had a relaxing, refreshing and fun break over Christmas and the New Year, and I hope you are all looking forward to a great year ☺

This year, there are a couple of great ways that you can be involved in the St Michaels community. One way is through Care Net. Please see the insert for more information on this. The second way is to be a class carer (see below). If either of these things interest you, and you are able to help out, I would love to hear from you...

Are you looking for a way to be involved in the school community?
Do you like meeting new people?
Do you enjoy catching up with friends over coffee?
I am looking for people just like you to be a Class Carer!

Being a Class Carer is a great way to meet new people, have fun and be a part of a great community! Some of the things that the class carers do are: organising coffee mornings or other class get togethers to allow the parents in the class to hang out together, helping out at the coffee and cake stall on Sports Day, supporting the class teacher with class parties, and welcoming new families into the community. It is a simple role, but one that is very much appreciated by myself and the class teachers. I am still looking for class carers for this year, and I would love to have you join the amazing team of people that have already volunteered. If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in, or you would like to know more about the role, please contact me asap.

If you or your child/ren ever want to talk to me about anything, I would love for you to drop in and have a chat. I am here on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. I look forward to seeing you around the place!!

Newsletter
During this term we are going to phase out hard copies of the newsletter. At times we may send hard copies of documents which we want returned (eg. Family data form) and you will be informed of these documents via the newsletter. It is hoped that this changeover will occur in the next few weeks. We will email as identified on the family database sheet.

School Leadership
This Friday at chapel our school leaders will be installed into their offices. We ask God’s blessings and guidance on those in the school who will take up leadership positions this year:
- School Captains: Campbell Byrne & Alicia Barron
- House Captains: Zebra – Adam Trenorden & Taylor Grivell Bengalee – Chloe Schaefer & Jakson Mansell Prince George – Alex Mackay & Kane Martin
All Classes from year 3 – 7 have also elected two SRC (Student Representative Council) members. These students will also be installed into their office on Friday.

Calendar
Please find enclosed in this newsletter the calendar for the month of February. This is a quick reference for you on school activities.
Mandatory Reporting
The procedure for assisting in classrooms and/or the school has been outlined several times in the last few weeks. Dates and times for the mandatory reporting session are printed on the enclosed calendar.

Forms
There are a number of forms which have been sent home today. You will notice that one of these forms is prefilled with some of the information which we have on database for you. Could you please check and complete these forms and return them asap. Please note that the booklet will contain a Medical Information section for each individual child in the family. This information is collected each year to ensure the safety of your child. Also included in the booklet is NAPLAN data collection. Although your child may not be in Yrs 3, 5 and 7 we are required to update our records and will do this each year, hence your child’s inclusion in this data collection. We require this to be completed for each child attending this school.

P. & F. Meeting
The first P. & F. meeting was scheduled for the 21st February. Unfortunately this date has now been changed to Monday 20th February. If you would like to be a part of this group please feel free to attend this meeting as we plan for the year ahead.

LLL Banking
LLL Banking will resume next Wednesday (Week 2). Please place your bank books in the box provided in the classroom and Mrs Collins will collect them from there. Account forms are available from the Front Office.

Canteen
Canteen will be operating from next week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday as of Monday the 6th of February. Lunch order bags can be collected from your classroom and need to be placed in the lunch order box in the classroom NO LATER than 9am. Please check the school website for the menu and prices. If you would like to help in the canteen at any time please contact Sue on 0432 100 379. Thanks.

Bushfire
Please note that on days that are advertised as ‘Catastrophic’ fire days, St. Michael’s school will be closed. As per our policy: parents will be informed 48 hours ahead by note about the possibility of a catastrophic day. Catastrophic fire days are confirmed after 4:00pm on the day prior. Therefore the school will inform parents about a school closure by:
- SMS
- Message on the school sign board
- Message on the answering machine

Parent Information Nights
These nights are a great way to receive information from your class teacher about their expectations, classroom environment, classroom procedures. The calendar provided in this newsletter highlights the times and dates for these. It will be great to see you there.

OSHC News
As some OSHC sessions are nearly full, casual bookings may not be accepted. In order to secure your child’s placement, please fill in and return a 2012 booking form asap. This you can download from www.hahndorfps.sa.edu.au or collect one from OSHC.