Dear Parents,

Hello, and a very warm welcome to Year 5, 2012! My name is Kirstin Hildebrandt and I am thrilled to be teaching your child this year. I am a graduate teacher, having completed my studies at Flinders University and the Australian Lutheran College at the end of 2011. I am very blessed to have been appointed a position here at St. Michael’s and I look forward to working together with you and your child to provide them with a caring, enjoyable and fruitful learning experience.

The last few weeks have provided me with the opportunity to prepare for this year, settle into the school, get to know other staff members and be spiritually encouraged on our staff retreat. In Term 4 of 2011, I was able to visit St. Michael’s and spend some time with your child in their Year 4 classes, and I begin this year encouraged by their enthusiasm and excitement at spending this year in 5H. Last year I was also fortunate enough to meet some of you, and I thank you for the support and encouragement that you have already extended to me. I look forward to getting to know all of you better over the next few weeks!

Week one in 5H will see your child getting to know me and their classmates better, establishing classroom routines and expectations, and becoming familiar with the program and events planned for this year. To start the year, we will be looking at the following topics:

**Unit of Inquiry** – We will be starting with an enjoyable topic which looks at advertising as part of the transdisciplinary theme: How we express ourselves. It is based on the central idea: Advertising conveys a variety of messages that attempt to influence the way people think and act. This unit provides students with opportunities to reflect on how advertising influences them personally, as well as become aware of the intricacies of the advertising industry.

**Christian Studies** – I am very passionate about Christian studies, and am excited that we will begin by looking at the Trinity, focusing on the central idea: Christians believe God is one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We will look at the evidence of this in different Bible passages, which will help students to further understand the wonderful nature of God.
**Maths** – This year I aim to help students further understand the significance of maths in everyday life by making real connections between what they are learning and their daily lives. Our maths unit for this term will focus on patterns, with a particular inquiry into how we can identify, classify and sort patterns. We will also look at how patterns are evident across all areas of maths, and indeed extend into everyday life.

**Language** – The school is adopting a new spelling program this year, and students will become acquainted with the program in the first few weeks. Look out for more information regarding this in the school newsletter. We will also be focusing on persuasive writing by breaking down, analysing and composing advertisements, letters and other persuasive texts.

**Zoom-In (Weekly Focus Areas)** - Along with the above units, our class will have a weekly or fortnightly focus in the following areas, called “Zoom-In.” These are displayed in the classroom for students to continually be reminded of the particular focus areas for the week and the permeation of these across their learning.

- **Mental Computation:** Our maths program for the year includes daily mental computation exercises, beginning this week with rainbow numbers (equivalence to 10 and 100).
- **Grammar:** This week we will begin by looking at verbs (processes) in sentences.

**Memory Verse** - The Bible is God’s Word revealed to us, and it is very valuable to store up His Word in our hearts and minds. Our class will have a Bible verse to memorise each fortnight, which will often be connected to our learning and experiences in class. The verse for this fortnight is:

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.” Ephesians 5:1

**Circle Time** - This year our fortnightly class meetings will take place in a circle-time format. This approach allows all students equal opportunity to speak, share ideas and work together to resolve any class issues or make changes. It also fosters unity amongst the class members.

**P.E. with Mr Phillips**

Welcome back kids to another school year at St Michael’s. I hope you are all well rested because the sporting calendar is looking to be extremely busy in Term 1.

In week 1 we will get straight into hockey with the unit running till the end of week 3. The central idea for this unit is: **Performance in a game is determined by the effective combination of game sense with technical ability sufficient to achieve a desired outcome.**

Weeks 4-8 will see the students practising for sports day in the different events they will be participating in on the day. The central idea for this unit is: **The ability to manipulate the body through balance and locomotion provide us with the motor skills required to participate in athletic activities.**

In week 9 and 10 students will be given the opportunity to participate in attack and defend games that promote team play, strategic understanding and athletic ability. So buckle up and enjoy the ride because term 1 is going to be a ripper!!

Mr Phillips
**Creative Arts with Miss Sugars**

During Creative Arts this term we will begin the year with drama activities designed to encourage the students to share their holiday experiences and to build classroom friendships. This is a great way to break the ice and create a supportive and fun classroom environment where students become confident risk takers.

Through a series of role plays and improvisation activities the students will re-familiarise themselves with IB Learner Profile and attitudes.

At the end of term 2 the Upper Primary’s will be staging our school concert. A very exciting and rewarding time that requires a high level of commitment from all students involved. During term 1 we will begin our rehearsals and refine the necessary dramatic skills needed to stage a concert.

A very exciting term ahead! 😊

Miss Sugars

**Notes**

There are a few items of importance that I would like to inform you of regarding the first weeks of school:

- We have begun this week with chapel, however we will still be having chapel on Friday at 9am.

- Lessons with specialist teachers begin this week. Our first Sport lesson with Mr Phillips will be first thing on Wednesday morning and all students will need to wear their sports uniforms. On Thursday we will have Creative Arts with Miss Sugars and German with Frau Schrefl.

- I strongly encourage students to bring their water bottle into class, especially during this hot time of year. Students are also encouraged to bring a healthy snack as “brain food” to provide extra energy during learning between the start of the day and recess.

- The Year 5 Parent Information night will be held on Thursday, 9th February at 7:30pm. I look forward to meeting you all and sharing more about myself and the program for this year.

- Are you interested in helping 5H this year in the classroom or on excursions? I would love for your assistance, and the students would too! If you would like to volunteer to help out at any stage this year, please let me know via a note in your child’s diary or in an e-mail. You will be required to attend Mandatory Reporting Training held on Tuesday 7th February or Wednesday 15th February.

I am very excited about this year and look forward to the wonderful times ahead! If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything with me, please feel free to contact me at school. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

I wish you all the best for the year ahead!

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