Year 6 Newsletter

Term 1, 30 January 2012

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to Year 6AB, 2012, and welcome back to those students and parents I worked with last year. For those of you I haven’t met, my name is Andrew Boesch (pronounced Bush) and I’m very pleased to be teaching the Year 6 class this year. This is my fifth year at St Michael’s, after spending time teaching in Melbourne, Mildura and Darwin. This year we are fortunate enough to be working closely with Mrs Burden in the 6RB class and Miss Dougherty in the Year 7 class. I’m looking forward to catching up with you in the coming weeks.

This year we welcome several new students to our class: Katharine Brewin, Bella Columbus and Joel Longmire – it’s great to have you with us and we wish you all the best for the year ahead. We will be joined by a fourth new student, Charlie Fielke, in Term 2.

Our first week will be a busy week. We will be spending some time getting to know each other, becoming familiar with class routines and finding out more about what will be going on during the year. We will also be meeting our buddies in the Reception N class.

Our year will begin with a look at the following topics:

Unit of Inquiry – We are starting the year with a unit based on the central idea: The choices we make have an impact on our lives, which is part of the transdisciplinary theme: Who we are. This unit will focus on areas of our lives in which we make choices, the factors which influence our choices and the consequences of choices we make.

Maths – We will begin our maths this year with a look at sorting and classifying objects and information. We will move on to exploring patterning, and ways we can identify, make and describe patterns. We will also look at the use of algebra in describing and predicting patterns.

Language – There have been some changes to our spelling program this year and we will be introducing the use of a spelling journal. We are also going to be working on some narrative writing.

Christian Studies – We are having a look at the idea: Christians believe that God creates people to be in relationship with Him and with each other.

Verse to Remember:
I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13
From our specialist staff:

Creative Arts – 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! 😊

Phys. Ed – 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 softball with the unit running till the end of Week 3. The central idea for this unit is: Hand-eye coordination, technical ability and a good game sense are essential elements in becoming an efficient softball player.

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 Weeks 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!!

Notes
There are several items I’d like to bring to your attention for the first couple of weeks of school:

Though we have begun the week with chapel, we will also have our regular chapel service on Friday at 9.00am.

Lessons with specialist teachers begin this week. Our first Sport lesson with Mr Phillips will be on Thursday – all students will need to wear their sports uniforms. We will also have our first Creative Arts lesson on Thursday with Miss Sugars. Students will need an art smock for Creative Arts. On Friday we will have Chinese with Leanne Liang (Liang Laoshi).

If students have a water bottle, I would strongly encourage them to bring this to school to have on hand in the classroom, particularly during this hot time of the year. I will also be encouraging students to bring along a healthy snack as “brain food” to help keep them going through some of our longer sessions.

Year 6 and 7 students from St Michael’s will be taking part again in the Alick Collins Cup, a lawn bowls competition held at the Hahndorf Bowling Club. In
preparation for this the Year 6 students will be attending training sessions run by volunteers from the bowling club. Further details regarding training dates and times will follow shortly.

The Year 6 Parent Information night will be held on Tuesday, 7 February from 7.30 to 8.30pm. Prior to commencement of this session there will be a mandatory reporting session at 6.45pm in the church. All school volunteers are required to attend a mandatory reporting session and undertake a police check every two years. There will only be two more mandatory reporting sessions run by the school this year – on Wednesday, 15 February at 9.00am and 2.30pm in the Upstairs Meeting Room.

Once again this year, classes at St Michael’s will be using the home work grid. Our first home work grid will come home at the start of Week 3. There will be other home work tasks during the first two weeks of school.

Last year we had a great deal of assistance from parents in the classroom and on excursions. If you are available at all to help us out this year in any capacity I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at school or drop a note in your child’s diary (if you haven’t already last year, you will need to attend a mandatory reporting session and have a police check completed).

I’m looking forward to working with you this year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at school should there be anything you wish to discuss.

Have a great year.

Andrew Boesch