Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2013 school year! I hope you and your family are well rested and are enthusiastic to start the first term. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the new school year and particularly to our classroom ‘4M’. Starting the school year in a new year with a new teacher can sometimes be a daunting time for children (and their parents). Children have to get used to a new group of classmates, as well as cope with adjustments and expectations that go with being part of the class. Friendships can change rapidly at this age also.

Like most things, these issues need discussion, time and patience so that we, as parents and teachers, can help students to work them through. If you ever have any concerns or questions regarding your child, or our class program, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please feel free to come and see me personally after school, email me at LMcGaffin@stmichaels.sa.edu.au, or leave a phone message at school and I will return your call as soon as possible.

The beginning of the year is very busy with lots of information to tell you. This will be discussed at the Information Night on Thursday the 7th of February from 7pm, however just a few things to begin with.

**We are a nut free class.**

We have a set ‘brain snack’ time mid-morning. Please ensure your child has fruit or vegetables to eat.

Sports uniform are to be worn on Thursdays. Library day is on Friday. Please ensure the books are returned to the box on or before this day. Your child will be able to borrow them.

We will meet our buddies this week (Reception N- Mrs Megan Norman. During the year we will doing a range of activities together.

**SRC Member Voting**

Voting for our class SRC members will occur on Friday. This is voluntary, and if your child is interested in this position, the can nominate and then on Friday, present a short speech to the class as to why they would make a great class representative. Please support your child if they choose to nominate.
Diaries

Diaries are expected to be taken from school to home each day and returned the next day. This will ensure that we can mutually use them for communication. In addition, your child will use the diary to record special dates and deadlines.

Once again, a very warm welcome to you and your family. I look forward to working in partnership with you and your child this year. Again please do not hesitate to discuss any issues, concerns or questions that you may have.

Yours in Christ,

Miss Lisa McGaffin

A Message from Mrs Sugars

During Creative Arts this term we will start the year off with drama activities to encourage the students to share their holiday experiences and to build classroom relationships. 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.

PE Report

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 weeks 1 and 2 students will be given the opportunity to participate in attack and defend games that promote team play, strategic understanding and athletic ability.

Weeks 3-7 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 8 we will start softball, with the unit running till the end of week 11. 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.

So buckle up and enjoy the ride because term 1 is going to be a ripper!!

Mr Phillips

Welcome from Frau Westermann

Guten Tag! I’m Mrs Westermann, and I’m the new German Teacher at St Michael’s. For the last 12 years I’ve been teaching German and Japanese at Unity College. Before that I taught at various schools in Japan, at Mt Barker High, Cornerstone College and Scotch College, where I was Head of German and taught for 15 years.

I’m really looking forward to helping your children learn more German and explore the culture of the many countries where German is spoken. The three classes I met last year all seemed very capable and enthusiastic, so I’m hoping to build on the students’ current skills as much as possible.

The main focus in the first few weeks will be on helping the students talk about themselves and their interests in German and it would be really helpful if all students from Foundation up to and including the Year 5s could bring in a standard sized colour photo of themselves – either just a head and shoulders shot, or if they prefer it could also be a picture of them with their favourite toy or pet.

Towards Easter we will be looking at making „Fensterbilder” (decorative paper cut-outs for windows) and Easter egg decorations. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the school, either by phone (8388 7228) or email (hwestermann@stmichaels.sa.edu.au). I would also love to hear from any German speaking visitors or people in the St Michael’s community who might be interested in coming into classes sometimes to speak with our students and share their experiences.