Dear families,

I trust that you had a fantastic Christmas and New Years to conclude 2012. My New Years was sailing in the Pacific Ocean aboard a P & O cruise with my husband and another couple. We explore some of the Vanuatu Islands and enjoyed the French influence in Noumea. It was a refreshing and rejuvenating time and I feel very energised and motivated for the year ahead.

For the last 4 years I’ve been teaching at Unity College in Murray Bridge on the Middle/Senior campus as a Year 6 and 7 Pastoral Care and classroom teacher and have had some experience teaching Years 8-10 students. My husband, Josh, and I live in Lobethal and I am already enjoying the lesser kilometres I am travelling to and from work.

It’s been great to meet some of you over the past week and I look forward to meeting all of you soon. I hope that your child has felt that they can begin to settle back into school life again after a wonderfully relaxing and fun holiday.

Questions, questions, questions! I’m sure you have many of them about this year which I will attempt to answer over the coming weeks. Although I am learning new routines and procedures here at St. Michaels, I am more than happy to help out where I can. Please contact me via a note in the diary, sending an email or over the phone, see my contact details below. If there are any concerns or information you would like to discuss with me regarding your child’s learning, social or other needs, please arrange a meeting with me as soon as you can.

Planning Team
This year we will be working closely with Miss Emily Dougherty’s class. We will be exploring some interesting units of inquiry together which you will hear more about at the parent information night next week.

First Week of School
During the first week of school we will be really concentrating on setting up routines, getting
to know each other, developing classroom agreements, covering books and becoming familiar with the new learning environment.

**Book Covering**
All book covering and labeling will be completed at school this year. If students would like to individualise their books they will need to bring photos, pictures from magazines, stickers, patterned paper, etc, this week so that we can complete this task.

**Lawn Bowls**
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 and 7 students will be attending training sessions run by volunteers from the bowling club. Further details regarding training dates and times will follow shortly.

**Parent Information Evening**
The parent information evening will be held on Tuesday 6th February at 7pm. This evening will give you the opportunity to hear about routines in the classroom and special events throughout the year. It would be fantastic to see as many people there as possible.

**Homework Grid**
The first homework grid will be sent home in week 2.

**Buddies**
Our buddies this year will be 3E. Throughout the year we will be completing activities, having devotion and eating lunch with the Year 3’s.

**Specialist times**
Wednesday – 9:50-10:50 **Chinese** – Ms Georgie Day (Guo laoshi)
Friday – 9:50-10:50 **Sport** – Mr Mick Phillips (Sports uniform to be worn on Fridays)
Friday – 11:10-12:100 **Creative Arts** – Mrs Theresa Sugars

Once again I am looking forward to teaching your children this year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to come and see me.

God Bless,
Kellie Harten
kharten@stmichaels.sa.edu.au
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Ni hao! Welcome back to 2013! My name is Georgie Day (Guo laoshi) and I am your child’s Chinese teacher for this year. This will be my first year of working at St Michaels, and I look forward to meeting each of you! It’s going to be a great year as the students learn about Chinese language and culture, and I am excited about the journey ahead! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on gday@cornerstone.sa.edu.au

Thank you for your support - all the best for the upcoming year.

Zhu hao! Georgie

Library

Year Library borrowing will occur from Week 1 and borrowing day will be on Thursdays. Could all students please have a library bag available with their name marked clearly on the front. The borrowing period is for two weeks. Students are also welcome to visit the library during lunchtimes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during which time they can also change their books over. Please feel free to contact me (jzado@stmichaels.sa.edu.au) if you have any questions or concerns related to the library.

Thanks. Jayne

Creative Arts

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.

Later in the term we will inquire into line and pattern. During this unit the students will investigate patterns in artefacts and artworks from different times and cultures. They will use ideas from these as a starting point for developing their own designs.

P.E

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

First Christmas with Matilda!!