“No hat? Play in the shade”

Don’t Forget: In Term 1 you must have a hat to play in the sunny areas of the yard.

(Refer to uniform policy)

Parent Helpers

Last year we had a number of parents assist 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.

Don’t forget that if you are interested in helping you MUST HAVE:

A) a current police check, AND
B) have done the mandatory notification training session

Details will be made available for this at parent information night.

A big thank you to Katie Roberts and Anais Faben for coming in over the holidays to help sort stationary for both the Senior RB and Senior AB classrooms. Your help was truly appreciated.

Homework Grid

Homework will begin in Week 2 of this term and be due in on the Friday of each odd week due to the 11 week term.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Students will be participating in a number of creative projects in the first weeks of school. Some of these activities are practical, some for a purpose, and some simply to help students settle into a new class and bond with their new classmates.

BOOK COVERING: Time will be allocated to allow students to cover their workbooks. Subject labels will be preprinted and plastic covers will be supplied, however students may wish to personalise their books with photos, magazine pictures or wrapping paper. I would prefer they did not use contact to cover workbooks this year.

PENCIL POTS: Bunnings will be conducting a workshop on Thursday this week to assist students to make their own pencil pot. Dimensions of the pencil pot will be 7cm x 7cm x 10cm (h).

PATCHWORK: Students will be contributing a patch to a whole class patchwork blanket. This activity will contribute not only to students’ fine motor skill development, but also to class cohesiveness.

In order to complete these tasks, students are encouraged to make a collection of items to bring in.

The book covering and pencil pots will be personalised items and students may bring photos or other pictures they may like to use in the decoration of their masterpieces. We will also ask for donations of old magazines or calendars to cut up for this and other craft activities.

We will need fabric, buttons and ribbon to complete our patchwork blanket. If you have scraps of the sewing variety we would really appreciate the donations.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Hello, and welcome to Seniors RB 2013. For those of you I haven’t met yet, my name is Rachel Burden and I am very excited to be heading into my second year with the upper primary team.

I hope you’ve all had a relaxing and enjoyable break over Christmas. I certainly had a wonderful time holidaying in Queensland and New South Wales with my family, but the time has now come (as it always does) to get back to reality and the beginning of a new year.

Many people choose to make new years resolutions, which are usually aimed at having a more balanced and healthy life. In the first couple of weeks of school I will be encouraging the students to start thinking about what they hope to achieve this year at St Michael’s School. These goals will be typed up and kept to remind them of the direction they have chosen to go. They might be as simple as making a concerted effort in a particular subject area or as difficult as making working towards behaviours that will be more conducive to a healthy social and learning environment. Whatever the goals, we will be working as a team to help your child to achieve to the best of their ability.

I would encourage you to talk with your child about the goals they will set and ‘check in’ with them occasionally to see how they feel they’re doing. Be open about some of your goals and let them see that not only are we all not perfect but that we all need help to make our way in the world.

Anyway, as always, this term promises to be a busy and exciting one. Keep reading to discover just some of the areas we’ll be focusing on throughout the term and I look forward to meeting you all at our Parent Information session on Tuesday evening next week.

May God bless you all in this coming term.

Yours in Christ,

Rachel Burden
rburden@stmichaels.sa.edu.au

Don’t forget: In Term 1 you must have a hat to play in the sunny areas of the yard.

We are very fortunate this week to have some of the Bunnings team come to our school to conduct a workshop with Seniors RB & AB. Students will be making a pencil pot from MDF and decorating it in a decoupage style finish.

Because students will have their computer tablets on their desk most of the time, we will be encouraging students to use their MDF creation for their everyday stationary items. This will save space on their desk and hopefully assist students to be organised and ready for work.


**Marshmallow Team Building Game**

outside world.

see God in the right. Then you can mind and heart inside world.

**P A G E 2**

**NEW FROM 2**

Students have the required

about just how far our Programme.

This was a wonderful three day PYP workshop.

Michael's teachers, attended a

PYP Workshop

During the holiday break, myself and seven other St Michael's teachers, attended a three day PYP workshop. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect and build upon our understandings of the essential elements, learner profile and other aspects of the Primary Years Programme.

It also served as a reminder about just how far our students have come in developing their own understandings of the PYP. Students who have been at St Michael's for a number of years have a very good grasp on the language of the PYP and work within the framework on a daily basis.

This year, I hope to further enhance these understandings and, hopefully, see evidence of the culmination of this learning in their work on the exhibition unit.

You will find regular articles in this newsletter, from the PYP Coordinator, which I would strongly recommend you read in order that you can help to support your child through this challenging and rewarding experience.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions regarding the Primary Years Programme.

Well, the answer was obvious...we could do patchwork! That was easy. But then I started to think about the metaphoric symbolism of the patches, both on Dolly's coat and to share. So I started thinking about how I could bring that message to my class.

Over the holidays I was listening to Dolly Parton, one of my favourite country singers, and I heard the song ‘Coat of Many Colours’. While I was listening to the song, I wondered at how someone who had so little could feel so rich, and the beauty of the love that her ‘momma sewed in every stitch’. I was getting a warm, fuzzy feeling that I needed to capture. And I started thinking about how I could bring that message to my class.

Every thing that we do to help our children develop into wonderful, caring, knowledgeable, inquiring learners comes together—just like the patches—to become a patchwork blanket that is just one whole blanket. Each student is just like one of those patches—made with love, individual and unique, comes with their own strengths and weaknesses which, in turn, are complimented and assisted to be their best by the rest of the unique ‘patches’ on the blanket.

And they all come together, just like the students do in the classroom, to work in harmony to create a beautiful and cohesive work of art.

This was definitely starting to sound like my class! I was beginning to like this metaphor. But then I found that the metaphor grew even further. Not only could the students be represented by the patches, and the class be the blanket, but each student could be a whole blanket in their own right.

The origins of ‘The Patch’

As you would know by now, students will be supplied with all stationery by the classroom teacher. This will assist us in ensuring that all students have the required equipment and eventually lead to less wastage for both you, and the environment. We have set aside time at school to label equipment and cover books so students will need to bring their own stationery (if known, as a parent, I am grateful for not having to cover three sets of school books!)

Diaries: Students have been supplied with school diaries which we will be encouraging them to use as a tool to manage and organise themselves. I would ask that you sign diaries at least once a week. Students will be asked to hand them up on Fridays. Please remind your child to hand their diary in if you have left a note in it for me. Thanks.

The unit will be looking at comprehension strategies and some persuasive work.

We will use persuasive techniques to explore the Transdisciplinary Skills of the PYP.

UNIT OF INQUIRY

We are starting the year with a unit based on the central idea. We are responsible for our choices and their consequences, which is part of the transdisciplinary theme: Who we are. This unit will focus on areas of our lives in which we make choices, strategies for making choices and the consequences of choices we make.

LITERACY

We will be looking at comprehension strategies and some persuasive work.

We will use persuasive techniques to explore the Transdisciplinary Skills of the PYP.

MATHEMATICS

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.

CHRISTIAN STUIDES

This term we will be inquiring into Christian Beliefs. Our central idea is: The person and work of Jesus the Christ is central to Christianity.

MENTAL MATHS

I love ‘maths mental’s’ and I like to make this a part of our daily routine. I usually program a series of similar tasks across the term and have students graph their results. It was interesting last year to see a similar pattern of achievement and improvement across the class as a whole and I look forward to analysing development as the term progresses.

You will see regular activities in the homework grid to help consolidate learning in both our maths unit as well as times tables and other mental computation skills.

**P A G E 3**

**Term 1, Week 1**

**Curriculum Overview**

“Although we had no money, I was rich as I could be in my coat of many colours my momma made for me”

Dolly Parton

I would ask that you take a moment to think about some aspect, person or experience in that child’s life.

I pray that you too, would

into, and I pray that you too, would

of many

Dolly Parton

a whole blanket. Each student could

their own unique, individual

patchwork blanket where each patch is representative of one aspect, person or experience in that child’s life.

Now, either I have a very vivid imagination, or this was starting to sound like a very good idea. I chose to believe the latter!

So, with all that thinking behind me, I set about looking for scraps of fabric to become our very own patchwork blanket. And that’s where we’re at. This week we will be carefully drawing and planning our patches and hopefully by next week we will be ready to start sewing them with love.

I anticipate that it will take us a few weeks to complete the blanket and I will be sure to put a photo on the blog when it’s done.

In the meantime, we would really appreciate any scraps of fabric that you might have floating around, just looking for a patchwork blanket to become a part of. They can be any size, shape and colour and we welcome as much as little as you can spare. Buttons and ribbon might also come in handy.

In the song, Dolly describes how rich she felt, wearing the coat that her mother poured her heart and love into, and I pray that you too, would take a moment to think about some of the people in your life that make you so very rich. God Bless.

In the song, Dolly describes how rich she felt, wearing the coat that her mother poured her heart and love into, and I pray that you too, would take a moment to think about some of the people in your life that make you so very rich. God Bless.