29th January 2013

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2013 school year and the first edition of our Y2i for the year. News from our classes will come home a couple of times each term in this format. We hope it helps to keep you up to date with some of the things happening in our rooms.

Please take a few moments to bring yourself up to speed with the Year 2 happenings.

News in brief:

- **Mrs Stevens**
  I have had a wonderful break over the Christmas—New Year time. A chance to spend time with family and friends. My husband Brett and my son Oscar enjoyed a short trip to Melbourne and had lots of fun in our newly acquired wading pool. I look forward to meeting and walking alongside a new group of students and their families. Blessings! Evie.

- **Mr Pfeiffer**
  I had a very relaxing break which allowed me plenty of opportunities to spend time with family and friends. I enjoyed quite a few afternoons soaking up the cricket at Adelaide Oval and in between squeezed in many long lunches. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you a little better and assisting your children in their learning. Brad.

- **New beginnings** and routines can often cause us to be a little anxious as we face up to the unknown, as I’m sure we all know. However they also offer us the chance to make fresh starts and create new chapters in our lives which is exciting.

  Today both classes have spent a good deal of time establishing our classroom agreements and expectations. This is an important part of the year as you can imagine, because it sets the guidelines and boundaries for acceptable working and behavioural habits for the months to come. When they are finalised and accepted by the classes they will be displayed around the room as a reminder of what we are aiming to achieve.

- **Next Wednesday (February 6th)** is the **Year 2 parent information night**. Our aim is to make this an informal session giving us a chance to get to know each other a little better. We will provide a handout outlining all of the important things that you will need to know about the year ahead on the night. In the meantime, please take note of the following:

  - **Monday**  Canteen day (from Week 2)
    Homework Grids sent home (starting week 2, please have a look and bring your questions on Wednesday night when we will explain how the grid works)

  - **Tuesday**  Sports uniform may be worn

  - **Wednesday**  Canteen day
    LLL Banking

  - **Thursday**  PE (Mick Phillips) - Sports uniform to be worn all day

  - **Friday**  Library borrowing and returning
    Canteen
- Students are encouraged to bring their **drink bottles and lunches** inside the classroom while the weather is still warm. While it is not quite as cool as a fridge it is certainly better than the temperature outside.

- It would be greatly appreciated if each family could **donate a box of tissues** at some stage this term. We tend to go through an enormous amount and usually exceed our allocations, especially as we head into the cooler weather.

- You will see a formal **sharing roster** come home next week. We will begin this practice in week 2 with sharing about something the students enjoyed over the holiday period.

- We are looking for some donations of **dress ups** (or even old clothes that can be used for this in our classrooms) and old magazines for cutting up. Please drop them off with us.

- Although the stationery that your children will be using this year will now be managed from within the classroom, each student will required to **provide a pencil case**. Please make sure these are labelled. Pencil cases do not need to hold rulers.

- St Michael’s will be organising a whole school **multicultural day** on the Friday of week 3. More information will be forwarded to you shortly however you may wish to start thinking about possible costume/dress up ideas for the celebration.

- Finally if you still have your **German book** at home from last year we would appreciate it being sent back to be used again this year. If you can’t locate it please let us know and we will organise a replacement.

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**German (Mrs 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.

Mrs Westermann  !^_^!
Creative Arts (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.

Later in the term we will inquire into music and movement. This is a fun unit that enables the students to express themselves. By the end of the unit the students will be familiar with music terminology and will have developed new ways to express themselves and communicate emotions through music and movement.

Physical Education (Mr Philips)

Welcome 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. This year Mrs Glynn will be taking the Reception and Year 1 classes with Mr Phillips taking the year 2 classes. We welcome Mrs Glynn back to the school after a year of maternity leave.

In weeks 1 and 2 students will be given the opportunity to participate in class activities that promote athletic ability and cooperative team play. Fun and whole class participation are the focus of these activities.

Weeks 3-7 will see the students practicing for sports day in the different tabloid events they will be participating in on the day. The central idea for this unit is: The development of fundamental motor skills at a young age provides us with the skills to participate in a large range of games, sports and activities.

In weeks 8-11 students will continue to develop their fundamental motor skills (kicking, hitting, catching, throwing, ball control and locomotion) through station work and a variety of class games and activities.

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

We trust you and your children are looking forward to this year. Working together I’m sure we can achieve wonderful things.

Please feel free to drop by and say hello to us at anytime. We are looking forward to meeting you all and learning more about you.

Have a great week.

Evie & Brad