Dear families,

Hello and welcome to Senior D! After a fantastic holiday I am really looking forward to starting the year off again. I spent 3 weeks overseas in the freezing cold but had some amazing experiences in London, Edinburgh, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Budapest. What an amazing world we live in!

I am excited now about getting into the school year and meeting the year 7’s. How fantastic to be reconnecting with some students who I have worked with before. I hope you had a blessed Christmas and some time of relaxation.

I’ll start with a brief background about myself.

I was born and grew up in Broken Hill, NSW. I came to Adelaide for my studies and worked as a relief teacher throughout the surrounding areas of Adelaide. I then made my way to the ‘Top End’ and taught at St Andrew Lutheran School. This is my 6th year at St Michael’s. How the time has flown!

Below is some initial information as an introduction to Senior D.

**Planning Team**
This year we will be working closely with Mrs Kellie Harten’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. Students will also need to bring in a pencil case to store all their stationery.

SRC
Two student representatives will be elected on Thursday. Interested students will need to prepare a short (1-2 minute) speech to deliver to the class on Thursday.

New Family
A very warm welcome to Jarrad Smythe and his family! It’s great to have you with us and we wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Lawn Bowls
The Allick Collins Cup is a lawn bowling competition for students, which takes place during Term 1. We are anticipating that students in the Senior classes at St Michael’s will be involved in this again this year. This involvement will take the form of students attending training sessions run by volunteers from the bowling club, and a squad being chosen to compete on the day of the tournament. Further details regarding this competition 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 3KM. Throughout the year we will be completing activities, having devotion and eating lunch with the Year 3’s.
Specialist times
Wednesday – 8:50-9:50 Chinese – Georgie Day (Guo laoshi)
Friday – 9:50-10:50 Creative Arts – Mrs Theresa Sugars
Friday – 11:10-12:100 Sport – Mr Mick Phillips (Sports uniform to be worn on Fridays)

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.

Yours in Christ,
Emily
edougherty@stmichaels.sa.edu.au

Specialists

Chinese
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

Sport

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

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**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.

Mrs Sugars