Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to the Senior AB class for 2013. For those of you I haven’t met, my name is Andrew Boesch (pronounced Bush) and I’m very pleased to be working with the Year 6 students again this year. This is my sixth year at St Michael’s, after spending time teaching in Melbourne, Mildura and Darwin. This year we are fortunate enough to be working closely once again with Mrs Burden in the Senior RB class and with Miss Dougherty in the Senior D class. We have also welcomed Mrs Kellie Harten to St Michael’s and we will also be working with her and the Senior H class.

I hope you’ve all had an enjoyable time over the Christmas break. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend an IB workshop in Adelaide, looking at the PYP Exhibition. It was a very interesting three days and there was a lot of very useful information for conducting our Exhibition later this year. It was great to meet some of you last week and I’m looking forward to catching up with more of you in the coming weeks.

Our first week will be a busy week. We will be spending some time getting to know each other, becoming familiar with class routines and finding out more about what will be going on during the year. We will also be meeting our buddies in the Year 2P class. On Thursday, some visitors will be coming from Bunnings to help the Year 6 students make some pencil pots. It should be an enjoyable and worthwhile session.

On Wednesday afternoon, students from the Year 6 and 7 classes will be undertaking road crossing training with a member of the SA Police force. A notice will be sent home on Wednesday requesting permission for students to act as road crossing monitors for this year. We encourage all students who have been trained to contribute to operating our road crossing.

Before I go any further I would like to say a big thank you to Peta Byrne and Anne Slade, who have offered to be our class carers for this year. I’m sure our students will benefit from their experience in this role. Thank you too, for your work in putting together our Seniors jackets for 2013.

Our year will begin with a look at the following topics:

**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, the factors which influence our choices and the consequences of choices we make.
**Maths** – 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.

**English** – We will begin the year by introducing our word study journal and looking at spelling strategies. We will be looking at reading and writing persuasive texts as part of our unit of inquiry on choices. There have been some changes to our spelling program this year and we will be introducing the use of a spelling journal. We are also going to be working on some narrative writing.

**Christian Studies** – We are having a look at the idea: Religious beliefs and ideas shape people’s thinking and actions. During this unit we will be exploring relationships and differences between Christianity and other religions, particularly Judaism and Islam.

Verse to Remember:
*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*
*Philippians 4:13*

**Specialist lessons:**
Lessons with specialist teachers begin this week. Sport lessons with Mr Phillips will be held on Thursdays and students will need to wear their sports uniforms. Students will take part in Chinese lessons this year, with our new Chinese teacher, Ms Georgie Day (Guo Laoshi). We will also have our first Creative Arts lesson on Thursday with Mrs Sugars. Students will need to bring an art smock for Creative Arts.

**From Mr Phillips…**

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!!

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.

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

Library borrowing will occur from Week 1 and borrowing day will be on Fridays. 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

Other Notes

There are several other items I’d like to bring to your attention for the first couple of weeks of school:
If students have a water bottle, I would strongly encourage them to bring this to school to have on hand in the classroom, particularly during this hot time of the year. I will also be encouraging students to bring along a healthy snack as “brain food” to help keep them going through some of our longer sessions.

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.

The Year 6 Parent Information night will be held on Tuesday, 5 February at 7.00pm. It will be a good opportunity for me to meet you and for you to hear about what will be going on in the Senior classes for 2013.

Once again this year, classes at St Michael's will be using the home work grid. Our first home work grid will come home at the start of Week 2. There will be other home work tasks during the first week of school.

Last year we had a great deal of assistance from parents 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.

I’m looking forward to working with you this year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at school should there be anything you wish to discuss.

Have a great year.

Andrew Boesch