International Mindedness

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

One of the attributes of a learner at an IB school is to be internationally minded. Here in the Adelaide Hills it can seem a bit sheltered at times. We are not exposed to the same diversity of cultures as you are down in the city, and Adelaide is less culturally diverse than Sydney or Melbourne.

As a school we endeavour to make the students more aware of the big, wide world in which we live. There are all sorts of different societies, cultures and traditions that add a lot to the colour and excitement of our world. As we learn about others, we learn more about ourselves.

We see from the above, well-known, Bible verse that God is certainly internationally minded. Jesus might have been born as a Jew in first century Palestine, but his mission was to the whole world, because God so loves the WORLD and all the peoples in it.

Different cultures express their Christian beliefs in different ways but we are all drawn to the same Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father gave his Son to suffer and die for the world he loves. As we believe in him we are drawn into the diverse family of God that includes all ages, skin colours, countries and cultures.

Through belonging to Jesus we come to share his international mindedness. We see the world and its different peoples through his eyes and his love.

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you gave yourself for me. Help me to show that same love to all the different people I meet each day. Amen.

Dear Parents,

The events that led up to last Friday celebrations of International Day were fantastic. It was like St. Michael’s had its own mini Fringe festival.

This Thursday is Harmony Day which is a day of cultural respect. The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. Let’s take the time to reflect, embrace, appreciate and celebrate our rich diversity as we live in community with one another.

St. Michaels... we value community.

Cheers and God Bless,
Steven Seidel - Principal

Prayer suggestions:

- Harmony day – ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’. Matthew 5v9
- Presentation of Bible stories to Foundation Class – ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it’ Luke 11v28

Also pray for the following families:

Bellamy, Beltrame, Berger, Bethell, Bishop, Boesch & Zadow
School Uniform
It is very pleasing to see students in correct uniform; wearing it with pride with polished shoes, tidy hair, neatly dressed and groomed, no tatty or torn items and so on. Care in personal appearance also translates into care in other aspects of students' lives from presentation and pride in bookwork, speech and manners, confidence and self esteem. The teachers and I have appreciated parent notes for exemptions on particular days, as communication is very important. I thank and commend all students and parents for their attention to detail.

Uniform Shop
New uniform shop opening hours are from 8.45am til 10am on Fridays. The Uniform Shop is looking for helpers to assist on a regular basis. Please inquire at the Uniform shop or give Amy a call on 0414 369 685.

Church Street & Car Park
Arriving soon will be family name cards to place on the dash of your car for pick up in the afternoon along Church Street. This gives the teacher on duty quick identification of the family enabling your child to be released immediately and improving the traffic flow. If you have not ordered you family name card please let the office know so one can be made.

School Photos
Your child should have brought home their school photos’ form this week. It is important to return these forms asap, even your child(ren) will be absent on that day. As it describes on the order form, there are several methods of payment. Payment can be made via internet access (details are on your forms), correct cash in order envelope or cheque sealed in envelope order. Please have these returned to the front office by next Wednesday, the 27th of February so we can have a smooth run on the day. Family photo order forms are also available at the front office. These also need to be paid for and envelope & money to the front office.

Foundation Bible Presentations
At Chapel this Friday, 22nd February, all Foundation (Reception) students will be presented with their Bible story book. This is an annual tradition and have been kindly been donated by the P&F. The service will begin at 9.00am and all parents are welcome to attend.

P & F AGM
The P&F will hold their annual AGM on Monday 4th March at 7pm. All welcome. We need a quorum of 20 people to attend in order to conduct business. Please come as P&F do a wonderful job for the school and it is also a great way of meeting new people. For more information feel free to contact Donna Rayner, Chairperson on 8339 5903.

Volunteer Requirements
As per our Volunteer Policy it is a requirement for ALL parents to have lodged a National Police Check and completed a Mandatory Notification course. A lot of families would have completed these back in 2011 and would now be due for renewal. You will need to have completed both the requirements before helping out in the classroom, going on excursions and attending camps.

National Police Check
The procedure for this is as follows:
1. Go to the website below. Note: This document cannot be saved, just print out once all details have been completed. http://www.police.sa.gov.au/sapol/services/information_requests/police_checks.jsp
2. Take your print out and all necessary certificates to either your local police station or to be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace.
3. The final step is to bring in to the front office and we will complete and send off to SAPOL.

Mandatory Notification
Some people will have completed this either through their employment or if they contact with children. All we ask is for you to bring in your certificate of completing the course. However, if you need to update this certification, this can be now done online. Please follow the procedure as follows:
1. Type the following web address into your browser - http://www.ais.sa.edu.au/about-aissa/policy-advice#41309. Then click on the link to Online Training. This is a PowerPoint presentation. A spot will come up for you to type in your name and then click submit. This enables you to print off a certificate at the completion, required by the school.

School Crossing Monitors
2013 - Term 1 Week 5
AM: Jess Klatt, Amy Badger & Shana McCleary
PM: Zac Grivell, Yazmin Kane & Annabel Finelli
Trinity College Gymkhana
St Michael’s currently has a team of six riders entering into the Trinity College Interschool Gymkhana. This event takes place on Saturday the 9th of March at the Trinity College Equestrian Club, Gawler. This event is registered with the ESA and is considered to be a fun, entry level event. Competition caters for the Topsy, Novelties Hacking and Show Jumping event. If you are interested in competing at this event and have not yet spoken to Mr Phillips or Fiona Falzon please do so by Friday 22nd of February.

Mr Phillips

Sports Day T-Shirts
There will be final try on day for the Sports Day T-Shirts tomorrow (Thursday 21st February) at 8.45am in the playground. Just a reminder that ALL orders must be placed and paid for by Monday the 25th of February.

Database & Directory Forms
Thanks to all families who have returned their completed forms so promptly. Please complete ALL the details (especially the Directory form) to enable accurate phone numbers, addresses etc to be printed. These are due back to the front office by Friday 22nd of February. Thankyou.

OSH Update
Please take note that the email address for OSHC changed at the end of last year. It is now oshc.hps832@schools.sa.edu.au

Attachments this Issue
- EFM Offer
- Penny Lane Market @ Cornerstone College
- Parenting Newsletter – Insight
- CareNet Letter
- Sports Day Catering Order Form.

Curriculum Matters

Christian Studies

Yesterday I sat with Christian Studies teachers from Lutheran Schools across three states. The discussion began with defining Christian Education and Christian Studies. People inside and outside of our school community recognise that St Michael’s provides Christian education. If you think about how this is visible within the school, things such as devotion and worship are obvious ‘God times’. Many people within the community also recognise the less tangible aspects that contribute to a Christian education; such things as a caring environment, an understanding of sin and grace that informs our behaviour management policy; staff who live and their model their faith within our community.

Through the history of our school, the teaching of Christian Studies has been a priority. The obvious part of Christian Studies is an allocated time each week for each class to learn about God. What may seem less obvious is the expression of Christian Studies that underpins all teaching and learning activities because of our relationship with God and with each other, in the God-given place that we have in the world. It’s about talking the talk and walking the walk, and developing and nurturing faith. It allows students to engage in critical inquiry by expressing their own view and exploring the beliefs of others within an atmosphere of openness.

A definitive statement from a member of our group (a past student of St Michael’s) was the ‘Christian Studies is what makes a Lutheran School unique’. I hope you see evidence of your child’s work in Christian Studies through reports, portfolios, homework grids and conversations about their day at school. I pray that you see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your child’s heart as they explore their relationship with God and what they believe and value.

Mrs Jayne Zadow
Christian Studies Key Teacher
From the Community Carer
Tegan Howard

Sports Day is fast approaching! This year, as well as running the coffee & cake stall, the Class Carers will be running a BBQ. The BBQ will be running all day, starting from 12noon.

To help with catering, there is a note attached to the newsletter where you can indicate how many sausages you would like to purchase for your family. The cost will be $2 for a sausage with bread (onions and sauce optional at no extra cost). To enable us to run the BBQ as well as a coffee and cake stall, we will need a team of volunteers to help us out on the day. I will have a roster for both stalls on the door of my office. If you are able to help out for a half hour time slot, I would really appreciate it!

All you have to do is write your name in the time slot you are available for, or let me know and I can write it on there for you. Please fill out the attached form and return to the front office no later than Friday 8th March.

St Michael’s CareNet is a way of providing practical support for families in times of need and/or crisis. We have a supply of meals kept in the freezer that we give out to families when needed. If you would be willing to help out by making a meal once or twice a year, could you please fill out the attached note and return it to the front office. You can pick up foil trays for the meals here at school. Thanks in advance.

Michael Grose Parenting Resources
In today’s newsletter you will find attached an article by parenting expert Michael Grose. Michael has great advice for parents and I hope that you enjoy this article.

Tegan

International Day

What a great day Friday was! It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm for learning about other cultures from African drumming to whole school Bollywood dancing. The open-mindedness, respect and tolerance from all students was visible. What a great way to begin the year as a whole school and hopefully the experience will continue throughout the year. Congratulations to all of you. Thanks also to the mums who helped out in the canteen and all the families who donated food towards our multi-cultural meals.
St Michael’s Sports Day 2013

I would like to order __________ sausages with bread for my family.

(Foundation, Yr 2, 4, 5, 6, 7)

I am able to donate a plate of cakes/cookies etc. for the cake stall

Yes / No

(Yr 1 & 3)

I am able to donate some soft drinks/fruit boxes/bottles of water

Yes / No

I am able to help for ½ hour on the cake stall

Yes / No

I am able to help for ½ hour on the BBQ

Yes / No

If you can help us out please fill in the above and return to the front office by Friday 8th March. Thanks for your support.

FAMILY NAME: __________________________________________

ELDEST CHILD’S NAME: _________________________________

CLASS: _______________________________________________
Dear Parents,

19/02/13

‘CareNet’ is a volunteer service made up of school families of St Michaels to assist each other in times of need and/or crisis. We have a supply of meals kept in the freezer at school that we are able to give out to families when in need.

If you are able to make a meal for us to keep in the freezer, could you please fill out and return this note to the front office.

Thanking you,

Tegan Howard
Community Carer

☐  Yes, I am happy to make a meal for CareNet.

Name:__________________________________________

Mobile Number: ________________________________

Email Address:

Child/ren’s Name (& Class): ______________________
If not now, when?

2013’s Best Fitness Deal!

Fitness Coaching Special!

5 weeks for $25*

Only 50 deals available

Hurry!

Make the call to EFM today!

EFM Mount Barker
0419 810 410
Cornerstone College, 68 Adelaide Road,
Mount Barker SA 5251
efm.net.au/mtbarker

EFM Mount Barker
0419 810 410
Cornerstone College, 68 Adelaide Road,
Mount Barker SA 5251
efm.net.au/mtbarker
It’s not okay to be away … nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday, being absent because they stayed up too late watching television, going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10:00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because aunty is coming to visit”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.
Proudly featuring...

Fluffy Duck

just noah

Knitter Knatter

Little Chook

Penny Lane Market

Join us as we celebrate turning one

Saturday
9 March 2013

10am~3pm

Cornerstone College
68 Adelaide Road
Mount Barker

1st Birthday

Over 90 stalls showcasing boutique quality handmade goods and unique hard-to-find products and services

Goodie bag giveaways • fabulous food live performances • raffles children’s entertainment and more...

12:30pm Peppa Pig
2pm Bob the Builder

Market Day Charity - Silent Ripples

Free entry and onsite parking

www.pennylanemarket.com

www.facebook.com/pennylanemarket

Cheeky Monkez Design | Printed by Inaflash Printing