Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

One of my priorities for Mt St Michael’s has been the growth and development of an inspiring and productive culture with learning and holistic growth for all at the heart of our endeavours. We have and continue to achieve amazing outcomes in every sphere of our work even beyond our dreams. It is inspiring and gives us more energy to keep striving to be the best we can be in every way we can imagine. Whilst our students are the focus of our work it is equally important to appreciate that what we desire for our students we also desire for our staff; personal and professional growth that enables all to be life-long learners.

The organisational concept or framework to guide our work is that of a Professional Learning Community which is clearly articulated in our Strategic Plan. The seminal work in the development of this vision of contemporary organizations is that of Peter Senge in his book “The Fifth Discipline - The Art and Practice of The Learning Organisation” (1992). On the opening page of this book he writes: “We can build learning organizations where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning how to learn together”. How inspirational is this!

Of course, over the years the concepts and definitions of the Learning Organisation has evolved. Practical and determined application is required to build such a culture and it takes a long time.

In the last five years at Mt St Michael’s we have particularly focused and resourced the domain of teacher professional learning. This has been a stated goal with strategies in place to strengthen a collaborative learning culture for our teaching staff, sharing our expertise and learning from one another. Additional staff have been employed to work collaboratively in classrooms, beyond the concept of team teaching, to observe and provide feedback for continual improvement. Of course the essential ingredient for this to work well is trust, promoting an openness to hear feedback and embrace learning to do things differently. It is a strengths based approach acknowledging the importance of difference and diversity in a teacher’s repertoire.
Sunday, 15
OPEN DAY 10.30 am - 1 pm

Monday, 16
Ronald McDonald House 3 pm - 4.30 pm
OzCare 5 pm - 7 pm

Tuesday, 17
Assembly
QC Cup Netball @ Coorparoo
MusicFest 1: 6pm - 8 pm Sophia Centre

Wednesday, 18
Foundation Committee Meeting
Post School Transition Interviews commence
CaSSSA Trimester 2 Round 1

Thursday, 19
The Spirit
St Joseph’s School 3 pm - 4.30 pm

Friday, 20
Athletics Carnival Nominations 12.20 pm - 12.50 pm

Saturday, 21
Writers Club Camp until 22nd
Chemical Analysis Competition

Sunday, 22
Humanities Week
Library & Information Week

Monday, 23
Ronald McDonald 3 pm - 4.30 pm

Wednesday, 25
Year 10 Australian History Competition HR & p1
Year 12 (30 students) PARTY Program RBWH 9 am - 3 pm
Maths Team Challenge
CaSSSA Trimester 2 Round 2

Thursday, 26
CaSSSA Cross Country @ Limestone Park

In educational literature this new approach is frequently described as the “deprivatisation of teaching” as follows: “Creating a culture of inquiry rather than continuing to work in a culture of isolation represents a significant change within schools. Systems successful in improving student learning are characterized by: articulated norms and values, a focus on student learning, reflective dialogue, collaborative practice and the deprivatisation of teaching” (Garmston, R.J 2007). Journal of Staff Development Council, 28 (2), p55.

In contrast, as I reflect on my years as a teacher, I was only observed and given feedback on one lesson which was in my first year as a teacher as part of the “inspectorial approach”; a rather threatening and limiting experience. What a waste for my growth to be a better teacher, of lost opportunities to learn from others and others to perhaps learn from me!

This year we have created a new position of Teacher Learning and Professional Practice to which Ms Janelle O’Neill has been appointed. Part of this role is supporting staff in collaborative practice and is aligned with the work over the past years led by Mr Stephen Campion. Middle Leaders and teaching staff work in small teams, setting goals, observing one another’s classroom practice and seek constructive feedback as evidence of our commitment to continual improvement.

Our learning culture for teachers is rich; we have wonderful teachers with such expertise spread across the spectrum of beginning teachers to those who have gleaned wisdom with years of experience.

The endorsement of a new approach to Senior Secondary Assessment commencing for our current Year 9 students in 2018 heralds a most significant change in the delivery of learning, assessment and certification. Planning and preparation is well and truly underway and we currently have 12 of our teachers and Curriculum Leaders selected by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) to lead work in the writing of new syllabuses, writing and trialing external assessment or being team leaders across the State for new marking procedures. I am so grateful to these teachers and so many across the state who are so generous in committing their professional knowledge and time to ensure the very best outcomes for our students. We will keep you informed of this significant work and the impact on our younger students.

Next Wednesday evening Mr Adam Walker and the Year 8 Mathematics team will be presenting an information and interactive workshop to parents of Year 8 students. This session is focused on demonstrating how the software program One Note continues to be used as an innovative approach to enhance learning in Mathematics classrooms. The information evening is also designed to help parents navigate around the 2016 Interactive Maths Textbook and support videos. This is another example of teacher led innovative practice and it is directly linked to the dedicated work of Mr John
Hamilton and Ms Ros Collier in moving students and staff forward in the use of technology for teaching and learning.

Senge, in his conceptualisation of the Learning Organisation, articulated the importance of seeing the whole, of understanding inter-relationships, “seeing patterns of change rather than a static snapshot” (1992 p58). This is the Fifth Discipline. I am proud to acknowledge that this vision is so clearly evident in the creativity and commitment of our teaching staff at Mt St Michael’s with their capacity to see the whole, to work collaboratively, learning and growing together.

Sincerely,
Alison Terrey
**Congratulations**

**Sidney Hunwick** (Year 11) competed on Warrego Jennifer and was awarded Reserve Champion in the Senior Novice Class in the recent South East Queensland Interschool Dressage Championships, which were held at Beaudesert.

**First Trimester of CaSSSA Sport:** The Open B Volleyball and Junior Cricket teams finished the season on high notes both winning their games to finish 2nd and 3rd respectively.

The Queensland State Water Polo Championships took place over the course of last weekend. The Girls division was won by the Polo Bears team. The team included 4 Mt St Michael’s students. Congratulations to Emma Stockton, Josephine Dryer, Hannah Smith and Sophie Milliken.

‘Star Student’ award for this fortnight is Chloe Scriggins (10A). Chloe was nominated by her teachers for her outstanding commitment to all aspects of her learning, her strong commitment to sport and her general demeanour. Chloe actively seeks new ways to improve her learning in all her subjects.

Ellie Brockwell (7) who took out the Junior Queen of the Mountain and Hannah Rogan (11) the Senior Queen of the Mountain at the annual Cross Country Camp on April 29 to 30th at the Gold Coast Recreation Centre.

A special mention to Ms Lennon who posted the fastest time for the grueling mountain course.
**Upcoming Events**

- **Open Day**  
  - Sunday, 15 May
- **Mother’s Luncheon**  
  - Friday, 26 August
- **Trivia Night**  
  - tba

**Next P&F Meeting**

Monday, 30 May at 6 pm  
Arts Precinct Building  
Ground Floor

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**CALLING ALL MARTHA STEWARTS**

We need your help in donations of baked goodies for our cake stall and cafe, on MSM OPEN DAY on **Sunday, 15 May 2016**.

Suggestions are:
- Whole cakes, brownies, shortbread
- biscuits, fudge, toffees
- mini-muffins/ large muffins
- cupcakes, mini quiches etc.,

Donations can be dropped off on  
Saturday, 14 May midday to 3.00 pm  
Grantully Board Room

(If note packaging will be available from the reception area of Grantully, if you wish to pre-package)

If you are willing to donate baked items and/or assistance on the day, please contact  
Christine Lenthall on Christine.lenthall@bigpond.com  
Maria Wong on mariaerrol2@bigpond.com

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**LIKE the MSM P&F Facebook page to see everything happening in your school. Search for Mt St Michael’s College P&F Association**

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The P & F are looking at running courses specifically for parents and carers on raising teenagers.

Keep an eye out for the first course.

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Contact: pandfsmm@gmail.com or view the latest minutes at  
Dear Resident/Business owner

Mirrabooka Road bridge replacement project
Piling rig removal – Tuesday 3 May 2016

Brisbane City Council is pleased to advise construction of the Mirrabooka Road bridge replacement project is progressing well with piling works anticipated to be complete at the end of this week, weather permitting.

To allow for the program of works to continue, the piling rig will be removed from the project site on Tuesday 3 May. As the rig is oversized, removal is scheduled to occur between 4am and 7am to ensure transportation of the equipment complies with Queensland road rules. The piling rig will be removed from the Mirrabooka Road side of the bridge.

Properties in close proximity to the site will experience increased noise and truck movements during this time however Council will make every effort to minimise the disruption to the community. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding while these works are carried out.

If you have any questions please call the project’s information line on 1800 884 681 or email cityprojects@brisbane.qld.gov.au. For information outside of business hours please call Council’s 24-hour contact centre on (07) 3403 8888.

Yours sincerely

Michael Hughes
Project Manager