Dear Parents, Staff and Students

This morning on a short morning walk in the spirit of gratitude, prayer, mindfulness, autumn and Easter, I recalled the lines of a poem by e.e. cummings which I taught ‘some’ years ago to my Year 9 English classes. The opening verse became my mantra for the morning.

I thank you God for this most amazing day;  
For the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
And a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
Which is natural which is infinite which is yes

I love this poem for its simplicity and for the writer’s and subsequently the readers’, abundant joy and gratitude. How well do these themes fit today with our culture at Mt St Michael’s; a positive attitude and a heart of gratitude, the joy and hope of this Easter season and all our work in Positive Education and student wellbeing.

As we approach the middle of our term, activities and events both within and outside the classroom demonstrates our rich and diverse learning program. These are just some of the important events which our students and staff have been engaged with: Year 9 NAPLAN testing, Year 12 writing task practice, Year 11 Life Coaching Program celebration, Year 8-12 Dance Showcase, Year 10 retreat, the conclusion of our very successful OzCare clothing appeal, Year 12 Physics excursion to Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital, Year 12 Study of Religion and Year 10 Religion and Philosophy seminar at Marist College, Ashgrove, QDU Year 12 Debating, Aerobics Aero Challenge 1, Cross Country meet at UQ, Languages week, Environment week, and perhaps for some, the pinnacle, the Year 12 Formal last Saturday.

Many of these events have been posted either on our Facebook page or on our website under News and Events. We are enjoying this capacity to keep the Mt St Michael’s and wider community informed and engaged with our latest news. Thank you to all those who ‘Like’ us!

Our holistic and balanced education will be showcased on Open Day this Sunday. As previously communicated this year we have a new model and format designed to capture what we consider to be the very heart of our Open Day; our nurturing, vibrant and relational learning community. The theme for our day is ‘MSM
Parents - come along and catch up with friends or meet some new friends Thursday morning from 8.40am 05 June 2014 at the Garden Wall Courtyard

For information please call Jenny Kemp on 3858 4946 or email: jkemp@msm.qld.edu.au

Condolences to:

Holly Widermut on the passing away of her grandfather.

Natika Le Mura on the passing of her grandmother.

Meghan Mulligan on the passing of her grandmother.

You and your families are in our thoughts and prayers.

Authentically in Action’ with a program connected to rehearsals and some displays which are part of our current learning program. We have moved away from the static curriculum displays with the requirement of all staff and students being present. As we can see, so much of this information can now be communicated through our website and Facebook page.

We are looking forward to Sunday and I thank the students and staff who will be present on the day and the significant role that the Parents and Friends will provide not only with hospitality, but also highlighting the importance of our community relationships.

Sincerely
Alison Terrey

OPEN DAY 2014

Staff and students are excited about our upcoming Open Day this Sunday 18 May from 10.30am-1.00pm.

The theme of the day is MSM Authentically in Action. The format of the day will be different to previous Open Days to accommodate increasing numbers at the College.

Highlights of the day include the Principal’s address, tours of the College and its facilities, and seeing students authentically in action rehearsing for real events.

Let’s catch up over coffee...

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Nigerian students who have been abducted. We hope that they will be safely united with their families and have the opportunity to continue with their education.

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Congratulations

To the MSM Aerobics Team, congratulations on their outstanding performance at their first competition for the 2014, Aero Challenge 1. A full list of those on the team is on the College website.

Megghann Thomas and her sister Imogen on their selection to the Queensland Skating Team. They will now compete at the National Championships in July.

Sidney Hunwick who represented Mt St Michael’s at the 2014 SE Qld Interschool Equestrian Championships in the Combined Training Event. She was awarded Reserve Champion in her class – Intermediate (Year 9-12) Secondary Preliminary 80cm.

Octavia Bellekens on her selection for the Australian 96 Team Final Junior World Water Polo Championships as goal keeper. In the recent State & Club Championships, Octavia was awarded “most valuable goal keeper”. Her selection in this Australian team is a “dream come true or a goal achieved”

Mackenzie Grice and Octavia Bellekens on their selection to the Queensland Secondary Schools Water Polo team to compete at the School Sport Australia Water Polo championships in Noosa from 1-6 June.

Lily Collier on her captaincy of the Queensland Hockey team at the National Championships in Tasmania. Lily was named players’ player for the tournament. Lily also competed in the heptathlon at the Australian Junior Athletics Combined Event Championships in Melbourne in April, achieving a personal best in both the 200m and 800m events.

Sophie Milliken was named most valuable player of the tournament at the recent U14’s Water Polo club Nationals.

Spirit Newsletter

As you are now undoubtedly aware, MSM has launched its own dedicated Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/MtStMichaelsCollege and updated our College website http://www.msm.qld.edu.au

As a result of these exciting developments the format of the Spirit has changed. It will continue to include the Principal’s reflection, congratulations and community news.
As many of you are eagerly anticipating, Mt St Michael’s is planning to develop a new Art Precinct.

A Development Application (DA) has been lodged with Brisbane City Council to expand and refurbish a pre-1946 dwelling, which is owned by the College, as an Art Precinct. The house, at 28 Amarina Avenue, is adjacent to existing College buildings. It will be refurbished based on the recommendations of a Heritage Architect, with minimal views of the extension from the street.

An existing house at 26 Amarina Avenue, which is also owned by Mt St Michael’s, provides a buffer between the Art Precinct and the nearby residential area. The proposed extension is consistent with the height of the existing dwelling and of adjacent residences.

This project will help us to meet the requirements of the new Australian Curriculum - The Arts syllabus along with Senior QSA Visual & Creative Art programmes for existing and enrolled students. It will provide much-needed learning and storage areas. Student and staff access will be from within the College. There will be no change to student numbers, traffic or parking as a result of this DA.

The DA is now at the stage when Council invites written comments from interested members of the public. You can have your say and support Mt St Michael’s College to continue to deliver the highest level of education for the school community.

The Public Notification period is from Thursday 1 May until Friday 23 May 2014. During that time you can provide your opinion to Council by writing to the Assessment Manager, Brisbane City Council, GPO Box 1434, Brisbane Qld 4001. Your letter, dated within the Public Notification period, needs to include your name, address and signature and the Application Reference: A003802887.

Council recognises all submissions (including support) for the project in making their decision on whether to approve the DA.

For further information on the plans or for assistance with a submission, please call 1800 100 204 (FreeCall from a landline) Email: dalodgement@brisbane.qld.gov.au or contact melmer@msm.qld.edu.au
Other News

From the P&F

NOTICE – Amendment of the MSM Parents & Friends Association Constitution

As the P&F Association Constitution had become dated, the replacement of the current constitution is proposed at the next P&F Association Meeting on Monday 2nd June at 7pm in the Sophia Centre Seminar Room.

Communify Qld is a Bardon-based community organisation with an aim to develop and deliver local services and activities in response to the issues and opportunities that life can present. Communify Qld is organising a Scottish Ceilidh (dance) to aid refugee and asylum seeker families in Brisbane. We encourage you to support this event.

Local Brisbane Band ‘Scotch on the Rocks’
Saturday, 14th June from 7 pm
Newmarket Bowls Club
Fore more information go to www.communify.org.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 13th – 15th June 2014

Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane’s bayside)

For bookings/details contact: Tamara and Scott Menteith, Telephone (07) 4634 3559, stjmen@aapt.net.au Information website: www.wwme.org.au

Balaangala Community Group

Each year in May, Australians come together to remember and reflect on the policy of forcibly removing Indigenous children from their families and communities - the children of the Stolen Generation.

Balaangala Community Group invites everyone to attend this year’s Sorry Day Ceremony, which will be held on the eve of Sorry Day, Sunday, 25th May, at the Garden Space, 98 Yoorala Street, The Gap from 4 pm to 5.30 pm. Email: mcpeile@gmail.com