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St Andrews Christian College Newsletter 2023

Issue 12 · 07 Dec 2018

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Principal

The need to protect our RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

On Monday 19th November, I was a witness at the Senate Committee Hearing (Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee). I was speaking as a principal of a Christian school belonging to CSA (Christian Schools Australia) and the need for us to have religious freedom to be able to employ committed Christian staff. We want the right to be able to freely live out our faith in the context of Christian Education and therefore we need to employ committed Christian staff who model Christ and live out their values privately and publicly. We also need the right to be able to teach God's Word and His design for living to our students. These are biblical values that have held society together for hundreds of years!

Unfortunately the hearing focused on gender/sexual identity issues. As Christians we don't define ourselves in relation to any 'label' except the precious identity of being a child of God.

The whole process of releasing and publishing my Opening Statement (originally given 'in camera' – confidential) has been really drawn out and extremely disappointing, but it is now on HANSARD (public transcript of parliamentary debates/hearings). My answers in the QUESTION TIME are not being released (my request on legal advice).

I believe this is all a spiritual battle and a time where we as Christians need **to stand firm in God's Word and be unshakable in our convictions; be courageous in God's strength; stand strong in a winsome and gentle way that is not judgemental; avoid 'labels'; know our that**

our identity is in Jesus (not our gender/sex); make sure we take care of the wellbeing of all our students; continually praise God and be thankful in all the 'mess', so we are a positive witness for Jesus.

I love what Peter says in 1 Peter 3:15-16:

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

We have a message of hope not based on judgement. We are beyond condemnation because of what Jesus did on the cross.

So how do we move forward?

2 Corinthians 2:6:

..continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

For your interest, for your information and for your prayer, this is my Opening Statement at the Senate hearing, Monday 19th November, 2018:

Thank you for your time today. I appreciate it's been a long day for you all.

My name is Catriona Wansbrough and I am principal of St Andrews Christian College. I'm

also on the State Council for CSA (Christian Schools Australia).

I have been a principal of 2 different Christian schools for a total of 16 years.

I am here because I am concerned about the misconceptions of Christian schools in the media.

I am concerned about the statement of why we are here today: Exemptions that allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers and staff.

First of all, we don't discriminate against students or want to discriminate against any student in any way – especially on the basis of their sexuality.

We have a non-threatening environment and our school is a safe place for everyone.

An active effort is made not to approve or disapprove of any student, because approval is conditional. It says, if you do this, I will like you; I will approve of you.

All students are accepted for who they are- that is, made in the image of God – but also unique in their different personalities, their religions, their cultures, their backgrounds, their gender and their sex. We care for and nurture every student.

Successful education is relational, and that's how we deal with issues. Research by Relational Schools exhibit that Christian schools actually excel in this area.

When parents are interviewed for enrolment into the school (this is a get-to-know-you interview), I say to parents:

'We are happy with you, but are you really happy and content with who we are as a school? We are a genuine Christian school where Christ is the foundation of everything that happens in the school. Faith is not compartmentalised. Religion is not a separate subject. Our faith affects every part of our life, our thoughts and our actions, and so it is in a Christian school, where Christ is foundational in every aspect of the College.'

I tell the parents: *'We love Jesus so much that we will be praying that your child accepts Jesus as Lord in their life and becomes a Christian.'*

I then ask: *'How do you feel about that? Are you still happy to enrol your child at St Andrews?'*

I often feel embarrassed for the family I'm interviewing, because I'm so full-on in their face about the Christian focus in the school, but it is better to be clear up front and let parents make an informed choice.

We love all the children whether they are Christian or not. Most young children adopt the faith of their parents, but as children grow, it is up to them to make that choice. Personal faith is a heart decision.

In interviewing prospective parents we also insist that people read and understand our

STATEMENT OF FAITH.

This explains what we believe and what we teach at the school. I explain that they don't have to agree with or believe what we believe. Even

though we have a majority of Christians at the school, they don't have to embrace what we embrace, but they have to understand we don't change what we believe or teach to suit individuals. If their values and faith are so different to how we worship or how we live, it will be really difficult for the student to cope and it could cause difficulties at home, because there's a conflict of values between home and school, when school is teaching this and home is teaching that. It becomes really difficult for students.

There is a choice in education! People don't have to come to our school, but they're actually coming in droves. We have long waiting lists. For next year, in 2019, we have nearly 200 students on the waiting list for Prep.

There are parents in our society who are desperate for a genuine Christian education for their child, where biblical truth is taught and Christian morals and values are upheld.

Teachers are in loco parentis – The Children Act 1989 states that the teacher is seen as a parent. This is driven by our parents. Parents want teachers to uphold the same values as what they have at home.

I am not sure whether you are aware of this, but there are many Christian families that are moving to authentic Christian schools because they are being discriminated against in public schools. These are families who were committed to public education, but because of programs like Safe Schools and because they're not able to express their faith freely, they can no longer support public education.

As an educationalist, I find this is wrong! It is polarising our society!
We're looking at the differences rather than the commonality, in the care for all our children, whoever they are.

To be a genuine Christian school you need committed Christian staff who model and demonstrate the reality of the gospel by the way they live; who are people that love Jesus; who are passionate about education and their area of expertise and speciality.

The employment process is a self-select one. We are up-front in all our information, policies and forms, that it is an inherent requirement to be a committed Christian to teach at our school and to be a staff member of the school, even for our gardener and office staff - because staff model that faith.

Education is not just about head knowledge; it's whole education and it's who you are. We have staff who walk-the-talk, not just in their words but in their actions.

For Christian staff working at St Andrews Christian College it's seen not just as a job but as a vocation. I have many testimonies to support this. You're all welcome to come to our school and talk with people yourself.

Each year in July, I put out a form to all staff to see their desires and requests for the following year, but I also ask the question: 'Do you still feel called to be at St Andrews Christian College?'

Also on this form is a clear Statement of Faith that people sign. We just have passionate staff and we have passionate families who desire a Christian education, and we need the freedom to do that!

Threatening the viability of faith-based schools, we believe, is an attack on the basic human rights of people of faith in Australia. If we take away the right of teachers and staff to teach according to their Christian faith, how can we be really free in this country?

Catriona Wansbrough

Principal

St Andrews Christian College

Christmas Blessings to you all!

Thanks friends for a wonderful year at St Andrews; for your support and your involvement in your child's education.

Have a wonderful break over the holidays and a special Christmas with your friends/families.

Celebrating Jesus with you all as you prepare for and celebrate Christmas.

The words to the carol 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' written by Charles Wesley, beautifully presents the message we all need to hear:

Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,

Born that man no more may die.

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Abundant blessings to you all,
Catriona

May you all know the joy and certainty of 'the second birth' this Christmas season.



News

Netball Club Presentation

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Dear Friends and Families,

As we bid farewell to 2018, we also sadly farewell some of our staff members.

We sadly say farewell to:

- Jenny Provis
- Tiana Harris

- Etiene Johnson
- Allyson Kop
- Daniel Broadbridge

We wish all these staff well in their new roles. As we look forward to 2019, we would like to welcome:

- Chelsea Christelow – Middle School Teacher
- Shellene Pillifient – Prep 2019

- Roland Hall – Digital Technologies and Media
- Rebecca Lim – Junior School Chinese Teacher
- Shirley Gillie – Head of Learning Assistance

We look forward to welcoming these new staff to the St Andrews Community in 2019.

We wish all staff, new and old, God's richest blessings as they look forward to 2019.

SAYING THANK YOU AND ADIEU

"A few weeks ago as our youngest at St Andrews was preparing for VCE exams, I was reflecting on our family's past 16 years in this school. Four years ago, I was sad at the thought it was the last time I would have all three kids in the car going to school; this year I'm ecstatic, "Yay!! No more school runs!"

To all our fellow parents who are nervous about what's in store in this new chapter for The Class of 2018, please be assured God is just as faithful and even more protective than we were when our toddlers first started walking. It is remarkable how similar these two phases in life are. Just as when toddlers, these teenagers will relish finding their own feet and taking off!! It's our response as parents that changes; instead of running after them, we learn to stand still and pray an awful lot!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for the blessings He has lavished on our family through St Andrews. When our eldest started

Prep our youngest of our four children was born. Our family life was turned upside down as the hospital became our second home and managing the basics was difficult. That "just 10 minutes a day" reading with our Preppies was an impossible task; and that's where God demonstrated His love by the school community putting their arms around us. A teacher's aide volunteered her time after school to come to our home to read that reader, our children were always assured a place with parents reading during classroom time, the Principal at the time told us, "You look after your baby and we will look after your other children".

Just as you will never find the perfect church, there is also no such thing as the perfect school; instead you can have a village to help you raise your children. The administrative staff who sacrificially 'just make stuff happen', the teachers who diligently nurture as well as educate, the groundsman who brilliantly combine chores with chaplaincy, faithful PFA volunteers who encourage community, the lovely Sally who graciously manages with life's emergencies before and after school..... From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our family, I thank you all!

For the few years as Icy Pole coordinator, I got to know so many parents personally and over the phone, "Hi there! I'm just reminding you that you're rostered on this Friday..." I loved seeing the shy waves, excited smiles and whispers, "Look! There's the Icy Pole lady" as I walked across the yard each week with my bag of goodies to fill the freezer. It is a very true statement that 'you only get out what you're willing to put in' and when it's done for God, His generosity is over-abundant in return.

To the parents coming through St Andrews, I would like to pass on the best advice I was given 16 years ago: wherever possible, get to know your child's teachers. Make an effort to build relationships with them as people, not just as your child's educator. Also, pray for them - they pray for our children! These teachers invest a significant proportion of their lifetime to benefit our children and they truly are the 'warriors' of our village.

May you all know God's blessings in your family as richly as He is blessing ours, and may God continue His work in St Andrews Christian College."

*For His glory,
May Anderson*

PRESENTATION NIGHT – MONDAY 10th DECEMBER

Presentation night is coming up on Monday 10th December at 7:30 at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre, Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights.

This will be a wonderful night of thanksgiving and celebration for the College.

All students from Year 3 to Year 12 are expected to attend Presentation Night. Presentation Night is not compulsory for Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students however they are very welcome to come and sit with their parents.

All students receiving an award are required to be at Presentation Night. Parents will receive a call to notify them that their child is receiving an award in the week leading up to Presentation Night.

All students need to be in full school summer uniform. Blazers need to be worn by all students from Year 7 to Year 12.

As outlined in our Uniform Policy, all students with hair longer than shoulder length are to have their hair neatly tied back. If ribbons are worn, they should be in College colours – white, blue or burgundy.

Since we want our students to look smart on the night (clean uniform/shoes polished/tidy hair), students are allowed to wear their sports uniform on Monday 10th December to school so their uniform is clean and presentable for this important event.

All students will need to arrive at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre no later than 7:00pm. The staff will meet them at the auditorium doors and seat them in their year level groups.

PRESENTATION NIGHT REHEARSALS



It was great to be at the first mass rehearsal for presentation night. Actors, singers, musicians and arts staff practising together and all eager to polish their skills and do their best to impress and present the best ever performance!

Presentation Night will be held on Monday 10th December, commencing 7.30pm at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre, Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights.

It will be a wonderful night of thanks giving and celebration for the College.

PLEASE BOOK BY DECEMBER 10th FOR THE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

OSHC is also offering a special **HOLIDAY PROGRAM** from **Wednesday 12th December - Friday 21st December**. You can find all the details on the attached ([click here](#)) program.

If you would like to utilise the OSHC Holiday Program on any/all of the days available, please print and complete the registration forms below and return them to Reception:

- [Holiday Program Registration Form](#)
- [Holiday Program Excursion Permission](#)

If this is the first time you are using the OSHC services please also complete the following forms:

- [OSHC Registration Form](#)
- [Direct Debit Form](#)

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call (03) 8847 8399.

Sally Wade
OSHC Coordinator

NETBALL PRESENTATION NIGHT



Calendar

IMPORTANT COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 4 2018:

LOOKING AHEAD – Term 4

- **Monday 10th December – Presentation Night**
- **Tuesday 11th December – Last Day of Term 4**

TERM DATES

TERM DATES FOR 2019

Term 1

Friday 1st February – Friday 5th April

**Preps start on Monday 4th February*

Term 2

Wednesday 24th April – Friday 28th June

**Note: Term 3 holidays are 2.5 weeks and not 3 weeks as in previous years*

Thursday 18th July – Friday 20th September

Term 3

Term 4

Monday 7th October – Tuesday 10th December



Parents and Friends

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

On behalf of the PFA Executive I would like to wish each family a Holy and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

The PFA looks forward to welcoming families back to St Andrew's in 2019 and encourages all

families to become involved in the PFA activities during the course of 2019.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The digital membership of the 2018/19 Entertainment Books are still available for purchase and crammed with great value. A portion of each sale goes to the PFA. You can purchase a [digital membership here](#).

Please note that our stocks of the hardcopy/paper book are now exhausted and only the online version should be purchased as no hardcopy/paper stock is available from the school office.

SCHOOL BANKING

Thanks to Juli Tu for coordinating the School Banking and to those parents who assisted with the School Banking during 2018.

ICY POLE FRIDAY

Thanks to Andrew Musgrove for coordinating the Icy Pole Friday activities and to those parents who assisted with the Icy Pole Friday during 2018.

2ND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Thanks to Liz Romney for managing the Uniform Shop during 2018 and the parents who volunteered to assist Liz.

TERM 1 2019 PFA EVENTS

- Friday 1st February 2019 – Welcome Morning Tea Years 1 -12
- Monday 4th February 2019 – Prep Welcome Morning Tea
- Saturday 23rd February 2019 – Welcome Picnic

2019 PFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Andrew O'Brien
Vice President:	Sally Wade
Secretary:	Lesley Goh
Treasurer:	Eric Chen
Email:	pfa@standrews.vic.edu.au

Andrew O'Brien
PFA President



Senior School

Valedictory Dinner

...THE YEAR IN SUMMARY - SENIOR SCHOOL

As 2018 comes to close it is a great opportunity to reflect on the year. This year has been a time of change and growth in the Senior School. The recent Valedictory Dinner was a fun, enjoyable celebration of the students who graduated this year. It was a pleasure to share with the students my final reflections and instructions to them as they are sent from St Andrews Christian College to the many different places and roles in society. This year has seen us grow as a Senior School not only in numbers, but in the subject offerings we provide to students. It is exciting to see the passions of the students nurtured and to watch

them grow socially, emotionally and spiritually in addition to their academics.

One of the things I enjoy about schools is that there is always beginning and end to the year, and an opportunity to start afresh at the start of the new school year. It is good to stop and reflect; to take stock of how the year went. I teach students a simple reflection exercise: What do we need keep doing? What do we need to stop doing? What do we need to start doing?

Have a conversation with your child(ren). Ask them those three questions about their school year. What could they change? What will help them to be better prepared to approach 2019? I look forward to the summer holidays and a

chance to reflect and refresh, but also to the beginning of a new school year: filled with excitement and open possibilities about how God will use us here at St Andrews Christian College!

**John Presant –
Head of Senior School**

YEAR 10 “BABBLE” ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE



The Year 10 Theatre Studies class have worked hard throughout Semester two to prepare for their Showcase evening, which was held on November 15th, in the Drama room. The students' families and friends attended the evening and saw the class perform the Ensemble piece, entitled “Babble”, which explored a number of different philosophies developed by some of the great thinkers of history, and how they compare to each other, and to the Bible. In addition to the Ensemble work each student also performed a Monologue piece. The evening was a great success and paves the way for bigger and better performances in the future.

YEAR 10 TABLOID SPORTS DAY

On the 14th of November the Year 10s ran a Tabloid Sports day for the Year 4s as part of our Event Management Program. This was a great way to connect with the lower year levels and to gain a better understanding of how to manage an event.

Johnathan Koura 10B



In the lead up to the Tabloid Sports Day, it was interesting to learn how to coach younger ones and also how to plan and organise an engaging event.

Karin Siahay 10B

ICE SKATING/ ICE HOCKEY

Learning how to play ice hockey was super fun!! It helped develop our teamwork skills and overall bond as a year.

Rachel Song



When skating we were required to persevere and not give up, even after falling multiple times.

Theophanis Katsigiannis

YEAR 9 SAILING



As part of our Year 9 Program, the whole of year 9 went on a sailing day! After a quick induction on the fundamental tasks required to a sail boat we split into two groups, one sailing in keelboats and the others sailing in dinghies. Both groups had heaps of fun, not only learning how to perform the different tasks, but getting out of their comfort zones and working under pressure. Two groups capsized, however got straight back in their boats

and enjoyed the rest of the day! What a fun time of teamwork and bonding.

Cailyn Holland

Year 9 Homeroom Teacher

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



Year 9 Programming Challenge for Girls

The Programming Challenge

for Girls (PC4G) is an annual international event to introduce Year 9 school girls to computer programming. PC4G is amazing opportunity to try out coding in a fun and engaging environment.

After a great success of our Year 9 girls in Programming Challenge for Girls at The University of Melbourne for the last two years, our school was invited to form a team and participate in 2018.

In February our students attended an introductory workshop and learned about the coding program 'Alice'. The program is designed to increase logical and computational thinking skills and the fundamental principles of coding and programming.

On the 27th of November two St Andrews Year 9 students, Mandy Feng and Min Hyun, completed

in the final challenge of Programming Challenge for Girls at The University of Melbourne. The emphasis of this year's programming contest was based on collaboration and creativity.

We are so proud of our entrants, Mandy and Min, for their hard work and the exciting animations and narratives they have produced. Mandy and Min proved to be resourceful, creative and worked as a team.

Min Hyun reflects, "Last week Mandy Feng and I received an opportunity to compete in a coding competition held at Melbourne University. The prospect was rather overwhelming at first. Turns out we needn't have worried, as we both proved to be resourceful and creative at making code. Surprisingly we performed really well and genuinely enjoyed ourselves."



Year 9 Hands on Engineering and IT

Our Year 9 students were thrilled to be invited to participate in 'Hands on Engineering and IT' workshops at the University of Melbourne, on Thursday, 6 December.

The School Of Engineering had prepared a mix of activities and workshops for our students: Amazing Race Parkville Campus competition, Bridge Building, Aqualibrium and Virtual Reality workshops.

Irena Yevlahova

Careers Coordinator

'Hands on Engineering and IT' was a wonderful opportunity for our Year 9 students to visit Melbourne University Parkville campus and learn about inspiring and thought-provoking engineering and technology concepts and issues.

Technological and digital skills are increasingly in demand. Many of tomorrow's jobs are going to be totally new, and most of them will need digital know-how. Engineers contribute to all areas of society; whether they are working with infrastructure, buildings, machines, materials, chemical processes, software or electronics. Since 2015, engineering jobs have grown by almost 50%.

We are delighted to offer our students such amazing opportunities. These two excursions to The University of Melbourne inspired and challenged our Year 9 students and were a great addition to our Senior School Head Start Program.

VALEDICTORY DINNER





Middle School

Year 5 The Summit

THE YEAR IN SUMMARY - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear community,

Many exciting things have happened in Middle School this year! Although I could mention many things, I would like to reflect on two significant initiatives.

Firstly, our team has focused on creating a positive culture in the Middle School. Our culture is summed up in the following three ideas:

Faithfully Honouring Commitments (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Devoted to Growth (1 Timothy 14-15)

Servant Heart (1 Peter 4:8-11)

As we model, teach and encourage these values in our community, I believe it will greatly assist our students in reaching their God-given potential.

In regards to Learning and Teaching in 2018, our team focused on measuring the use of specific high-leverage teaching strategies (derived from evidence-based research). This year's focus areas were:

1. Feedback – My teacher regularly gives me feedback on my work.
2. Credibility – My teacher is well-prepared for lessons and has a positive impact on my

learning.

3. Relationships – My teacher knows me and makes me feel welcomed in class.

Students have had the opportunity to provide feedback to their homeroom teachers at the end of each term via online surveys against these three areas. This has given the staff team regular opportunities to gain valuable insights for evaluating and improving their own teaching practice.

As we have implemented this program, it has been wonderful to hear some of the encouraging stories from our Middle Schoolers about their teachers. Here are some of them:

“My teacher knew my name from the beginning and makes such an effort to make us feel welcomed. Good job!”

“My teacher always greets me with a smile and learnt my name almost immediately. Maths has always been fun to attend, even if it is not always my favourite subject.”

“It’s hard to have to check over twenty students to give personal feedback but my teacher does this really well. Not only does he understand where we are, he’s also able to explain it perfectly. It’s awesome.”

“My teacher encourages me to improve my work by telling me how I could change things or do things better next time.”

I would like to thank the Middle School management team and teaching staff for their

hard work, dedication and care for the students. I would like to also thank our wonderful students for all their efforts this year.

Have a blessed Christmas break!

Daniel Lee

Head of Middle School

THE NEXT CROP OF TALENTED WHISTLE BLOWERS



12 students and staff completed their Level 4 referees course recently conducted by Football Federation Victoria. The students from Years 7-10 learnt the laws of the game and then went out to practice their whistle blowing and showing of red and yellow cards at Knox City FC.

ST ANDREWS CHESS DUO DEFY THE ODDS



The Victorian Junior Primary Chess Finals at St Bridget's featured two of our St Andrews boys - Paul Bernau and Zachary Lim.

Both boys performed wonderfully and did St Andrews proud.

The event started with 2 new rules. 1 – that the first illegal move would get you a warning and the second would forfeit you the game. 2 – that the players do not give the warning of 'check'. This took the boys by surprise and did take some getting used to. Out of 7 nerve-wrecking, gruelling games, Paul had 3 wins and Zachary 5 (aggregate score of 8 for the school). Results published on Chess Victoria website: <http://www.chessvictoria.org.au/2018-junior-primary-final>

St Andrews was placed 7th amongst 37 schools. The rankings and trophies were based on the

aggregate of the top 5 players of each school represented at the finals (irrespective of the number of kids who actually qualified and are sent to the finals). The top 6 schools had between 5 and 11 kids represented at the finals. That means that if a school who had 5 kids in attendance winning half the games Paul and Zachary won, they would still have beaten us in rankings. St Andrews was placed 7th with 2 kids and that is a remarkable result in itself. Despite the odds stacked against them, Paul and Zachary were committed and persevered to the end.

What was most admirable and heartwarming was their love and support for one another. After each of their games had finished, they would stand behind their schoolmate in quiet unwavering support. When Zachary lost his first game and was noticeably disappointed; Paul stuck out his hand mid-game to shake his in support. When Paul was on the ground in disappointment after losing a game, Zachary got down next to him to speak and encourage him. It is not the number of wins that define us but moments like this. These boys showcased a level of sportsmanship and maturity as they stood together in solidarity and Christian brotherhood. Their indomitable spirit is to be commended.

Both boys were given special Principal's Awards for displaying outstanding sportsmanship, perseverance; and, encouragement to each other.

It is yet another affirmation of the Christian values and teachings at St Andrews. Congratulations to all involved!

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT MUD COULD BE SO MUCH FUN!



Year 5 went to 'The Summit' where they had an amazing experience with MUD. Firstly the instructor told us to crawl through the mud under the barbed wire. It felt slimy and squelchy and in the final mud pool it seemed like quick sand sucking us down. Every time we took a step, it felt like we were wading through wet cement. Even though it was nowhere near attractive, we still had lots of fun!

Julian Hui

FUTURE FOCUS END OF YEAR PROGRAM

Monday 26 November saw the launch of our inaugural Future Focus end of year program for Year 7 and 8. Future Focus has been running parallel to the Head Start program in Senior School, and it was born out of a desire to present our senior students in Middle School with a program that will enrich and equip them in the areas of resilience, STEM, career choices, subject choices and physical prowess, to name a few, while at the same time encouraging them to faithfully honour commitments, be devoted to growth, and have a servant heart.

During the twelve days of Future Focus, every morning has been started off as normal with homeroom, after which students had a double period of Maths. This was followed by two 100 minute sessions made up of incursions, excursions, speakers, or a session presented by one of our own staff. Sedentary sessions have been alternated with more active, hands-on sessions whenever possible. Some sessions have been presented as electives, while others involved the group as a whole.

Students have been able to enjoy sessions at Jump Deck and Tunzafun, as well as robotics, cartooning, bridge building, dance, acapella singing, science, fitness circuits, soccer, ultimate Frisbee and MasterChef classes. We also catered for the spiritual side with sessions called "The epic story of the Bible", "Do you remember that song" and "Made in God's image". Many parents will be warned not to use the same password for all their internet usage, after the cyber safety presentation.

In summary, our Year 7 and 8 students have learnt much and have enjoyed the opportunities to be stimulated and to grow. All students have to be congratulated on the excellent spirit in which they have taken on new challenges. What an amazing cohort!

Christa Cloete

Year 7/8 Coordinator

FUTURE FOCUS - THE EPIC STORY OF THE BIBLE



FUTURE FOCUS - MASTERCHEF: GRAZING TABLE



FUTURE FOCUS - HOUSE DODGE BALL



FUTURE FOCUS - CAPTURING THE FLAG



FUTURE FOCUS - TUNZAFUN



FUTURE FOCUS - DANCE



On December 7th the Future Focus Dance Elective saw 17 budding dancers pirouette and glissé and chasse, as they learnt the moves to a

jazz ballet number, choreographed to the throbbing, fast beat of a popular song.

The students were amazing as they gradually moved from basic steps to complex twists and turns and floor rolls, that eventually wove into a beautifully choreographed full dance item. They demonstrated balance, grace and great coordination as they practised tirelessly to master the item.

The final outcome was a highly entertaining and outstanding dance performance, considering the short amount time in which the girls, prepped, practised and perfected their moves- Well Done Dancers!

Rajes Krishnan

Year 8 Homeroom Teacher



Junior School

Junior School Christmas Concert

...THE YEAR IN SUMMARY - JUNIOR SCHOOL

It has been an amazing year in the Junior School. This is the first year I have had the opportunity to teach every year level through my STEM subject and I have been continually amazed by the calibre of our students. Our students are kind, creative and enthusiastic, I may be biased but I really think they are the best Junior School students.

Last week I was faced with a problem in arranging the Christmas Concert and I happened to be teaching a Year 2 class. I posed the problem to the students, they thought about it and came

up with two responses. The first was to try the “Engineering Design Process” of planning, designing, testing and changing, a skill we had practised in STEM. The second response was to pray for God to give the wisdom to make the right choice. This was the perfect picture to me of what we are always trying to achieve at the College, excellent and creative thinking coupled seen through a Biblical mindset.

Thank you to all the parents and students make the Junior School the most amazing place to work I am truly blessed to interact with you all every day.

May God bless you all in this Christmas and holiday season.

Yvonne Hughes
Head of Junior School

PREPS RECEIVING THEIR BIBLES



It's always wonderful to meet our new 2019 Prep's as they arrive for their orientation day. Some anxious, some over awed but most are excited to start their new journey. The day was wet but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm from students and parents. Shellene our new Prep teacher did a great job and settled the children in well. Thanks to all the staff that gave up their report writing day to welcome these little ones to our college.

NATHAN MIAO WINS NATIONAL ICAS MEDAL FOR SCIENCE

PREP ORIENTATION

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Nathan Miao for winning the national ICAS medal for Science. Over 980,000 entries were received nationally with only 514 students from Australia being awarded medals for their outstanding achievement. Nathan was amongst the select few and received the award for achieving the best score in Science for all Year 4 students nationally! An amazing achievement! Well done Nathan, you've made everyone so very proud.



St Andrews Christian College Junior School presented a fabulous Christmas Concert comprising a play was called "The Incredible Adam Angel", beautiful Nativity scenes and the whole Junior School singing the Christmas carols.

Justin Lin (Year 4C) performed the "Adam Angel" captivated the audience using a host of impressive scientific props and dry ice to create an amazing affect. In addition the Year 4 students hung up their hand made decorations onto the Christmas tree. The evening ended with the Junior School families laying their donated presents around the base of the Christmas tree. A Salvation Army representative shared a few words about how the presents would be greatly received by many families in need. The evening drew to a close with Principal Catriona Wansbrough congratulating all involved and wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Lynn Hyun

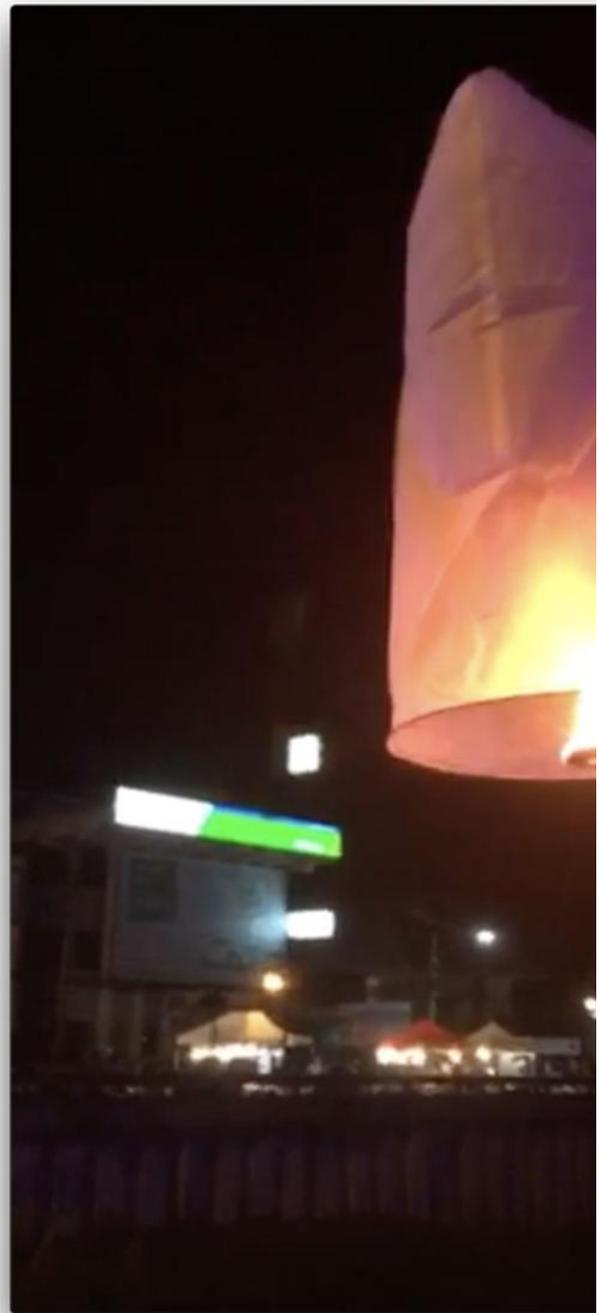
Year 4C

Last Friday was the Junior School Christmas concert. I was the main character, Adam Angel. There was an arrangement of props including a pilot suit, a steering wheel, a pirate hat, a lab table, a test tube holder, test tubes, coloured dye, and some dry ice. I was a little nervous as an actor and I tried my best to remember the lines. I pushed through and managed to remember them. During the play, Mrs Hooi poured a beaker of dry ice into another beaker filled with water and it created a steam screen for a dramatic effect for Zoe to come out. I really enjoyed acting in the play and I hope you enjoyed watching it.

Justin Lin

Year 4C

‘LOY KRATHONG’ THAILAND’S BEAUTIFUL LATERN FESTIVAL



Hi all,

Last night we enjoyed a beautiful Thai celebration called ‘Loy Krathong’ - the lantern festival. The photos don’t truly capture the electric festive atmosphere or the amazing beauty of these delicate lanterns as they gently float towards the heavens.

Sonia Sires

Prep Homeroom Teacher**SING AND PLAY FOR A DAY
EVENT**

On Thursday 15 November, over fifty St Andrews' Christian College students from Concert Band and MaxiVox joined with about twenty Belgrave Heights Christian School (BHCS) students at the Belgrave Heights Convention for the first 'Sing & Play for a Day' event.



Most were from Years 2 to 8, and we spent the morning rehearsing choir songs and orchestral pieces under the direction of our own Mrs Metcalfe and Mr Thompson from BHCS, ably assisted by Mrs Heading, Mr Todd, Mr Batty and even Mr Metcalfe. The intensive nature of the rehearsals really helped cement our skills, but took a bit of a toll on some of the players' mouth muscles! After lunch, we showed off our hard work to a select audience, including parents and the Principals of both schools - the programme was an entertaining mix of movie themes and songs from shows - and then it was back to school on the bus. It was a wonderful opportunity for our musicians and singers to meet others doing similar things and I'm sure that everyone who participated had a great day.

Thanks to Darryl Thompson and Kath Donker from BHCS for helping to organise such a wonderful day. We all look forward to similar events in the future.



Art

MIDDLE YEAR ARTISTS!

Year 6 continue to work hard sewing, sewing, sewing to bless the Preps in their journey to become more like Christ. They have interpreted a Prep's drawing and then created a 3D toy from that drawing. Lots more to come!

Year 7 have finished formal classes in art and are thoroughly enjoying their Future Focus Program. In their final week they worked in groups to resolve their Indigenous Group Mural – the results are fantastic!! By researching contemporary Indigenous Christian artists, they gained appreciation of style and story.

Year 8 have also finished formal art classes and amazed me by completing a full artwork in a double period workshop! Their merged perspective artworks are stunning and may form a mural in the school grounds in the future.

Many artworks from the Middle School will be on display at the Presentation Evening along with artwork from all year levels! I encourage you to celebrate the artistic journey of your child – ask them about their artwork, discuss the elements of each and the meaning behind it. Cherish it when it comes home! There have been many hours of research, reflection and persistence from them all.

Yours in Christ,

Marina Heading

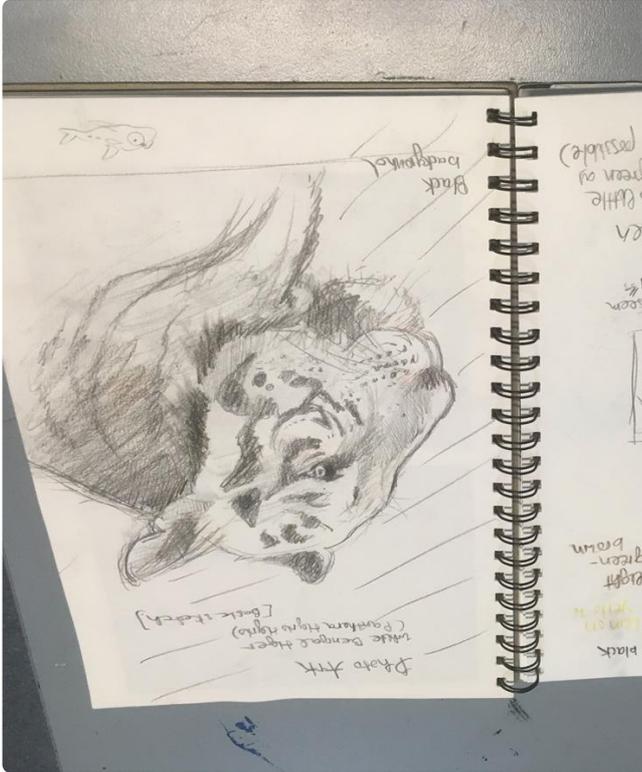
Art Teacher

YEAR 7 BIBLICAL THEMED MURALS



PERSPECTIVE, TEXTURES AND SHADING

Year 7 & 8 BOYS



YEAR 6 SOFT TOYS



PHOTOS, CALLIGRAPHY AND CHESS





Library

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Staff: Lynne Marks, Joanne Edwards,
Wai-Peng Heath

Junior Library

Lunchtime Monday

Middle/ Senior Library:

During School:

Monday to Friday: Recess and Lunch

After School:

Most days until 4pm.

Email: library@standrews.vic.edu.au

WHAT TO DO IN THE LONG BREAK

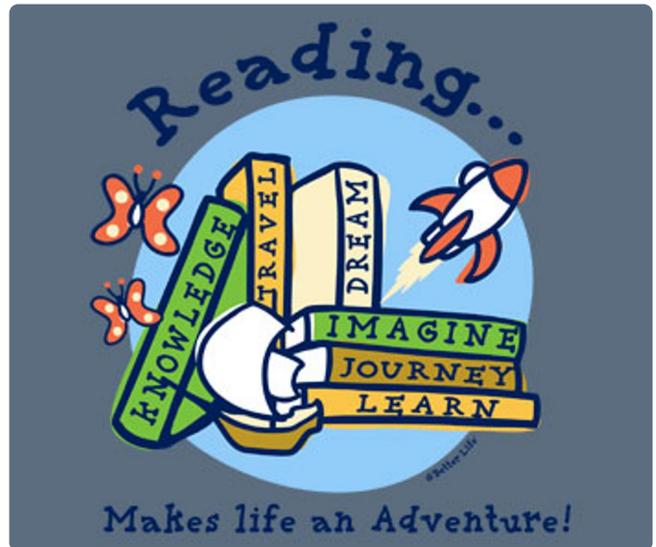
It is just great and educationally beneficial to keep your children reading over the holidays.

Here are some simple ideas to keep-up-the-reading during the holidays.

- **Let children choose what to read** - Book choice is part of the reading process.
- **Visit bookshops regularly** - See what your child 'goes for'. Maybe buy them a new book each week in the holidays . . . or you could visit the local library and reserve new books if you prefer.
- **Give books as gifts** - Whether it's the next book in a series your child is reading or you take your child to a bookshop to pick out some new books for Christmas.

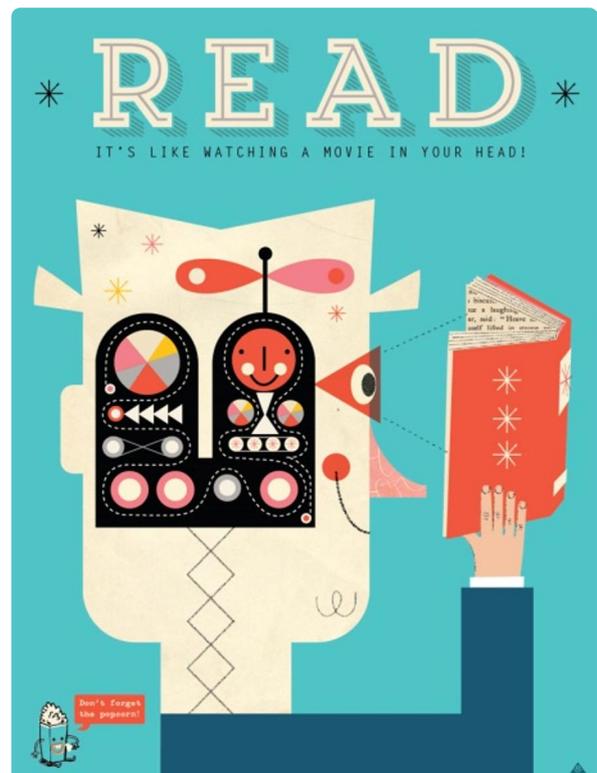
- **Encourage children to swap books with friends**
- **Make reading time regular**
- **Make reading time fun time** - This may sound obvious, but sometimes we can end up getting so serious about the task of reading and getting it right – especially if we are tired or stressed. Use funny voices, read under the covers with a torch, think about making it a bit 'different'.
- **Make sure your child sees YOU reading for pleasure – this does not mean swiping on your phone/ipad to skim read – this means an actual book! Children copy our actions.**
- **Have a 'screen free night' each week** - Just like you limit screen time on the holidays for your children, have a screen free night for everyone. Having your children see you reading and talking about what you read adds value to this reading time.
- **Look up information online TOGETHER when you want to find out something.**
- **Read a chapter book/novel together out loud** - Take turns reading out loud by page or chapter & comment on what you're reading.

You may think the above suggestions are for families with young children only but this is not the case. It may feel strange at first to ask your teen to choose a chapter book to read TOGETHER, but give it a go anyway . . . You may be surprised!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HELPERS!!

We would like to extend our thanks to all parents who have helped to shelve, cover or shelf sort books for the library this year. We are grateful for the time you spend with us and it really helps to make the library run smoothly.



KEEP ON READING

Over the next few weeks why not take some trips to **your local library?**

Check with them to see if there is a summer reading program or competition. Many libraries now offer an e-book option also. Often this can be accessed from home. All you need is a library card.

Ask about children's holiday activities too. Some of these are free and some have a nominal charge but usually the key is to **BOOK EARLY** as they fill up fast.

If you have never visited your local library then the school holidays are a great time to start!

The Library Staff



Community Notices

Newsletter 12

This section of our newsletter is to give our families information about programs being run by organisations outside of the school which may interest our school families.

These organisations are not endorsed by St Andrews Christian College.

Scripture Union Request for Volunteers

This summer Scripture Union are running an ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) camp from the 2 – 5 Jan 2019 and in need of volunteers to assist.

If you or someone you know have a passion for these kids and families and might like to help lead a team please send me an email

(ntunstill@standrews.vic.edu.au) and I'll put you in touch with SU for you to obtain further details.

and spend quality time with your family enjoying the beautiful Gippsland lakes.

CAMP VISION:

This camp is an opportunity for families who have a child or children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to carve out some special, quality time together in a fun, loving, supportive and non-judgemental community. The vision for this camp is for parents to meet other families, for siblings to be encouraged, and for kids to build new friendships, try new things, grow in self-confidence and experience success and joy in participating in a stay-away camp. Great care will be taken in seeking out the expertise of parents to understand and provide for the unique needs of each child with ASD and their family.

The next series of camps also includes an opportunity for families who have a child or children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to carve out some special, quality time together in a fun, loving, supportive and non-judgemental community. The vision for this camp is for parents to meet other families, for siblings to be encouraged, and for kids to build new friendships, try new things, grow in self-confidence and experience success and joy in participating in a stay-away camp. Great care will be taken in seeking out the expertise of parents to understand and provide for the unique needs of each child with ASD and their family.

For more info visit the [SU website](#)

If you are interested in any of the camps please follow this link below for further information:

Scripture Union Camp

Scripture Union family camps are a safe, fun and welcoming community. An opportunity to have fun, try new activities, build friendships, explore your faith through fun bible engagement activities

<https://www.suvic.org.au/camps/holiday-camps/family-camps/>