WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

I don’t know his name and I don’t think he knows mine. I know that he was born in Cambodia and has several children, one of them called Lily. He’s a kind man and often brings my family food treats at Easter and Christmas. Who is he? My next-door neighbour!

Last week the College staff attended the Christian Schools Australia Conference. One of the speakers posed the following question: ‘How many of you know the names of your neighbours?’ He then went on to point out that our suburbs have lost a sense of community and that we are increasingly living in our own ‘bubbles’ with dwindling connection with those around us. I had to admit that I do not know the names of my neighbours and as I continued to listen, I sank into my chair, suddenly wishing that I’d organised a community BBQ or had invited the entire street around to my house for afternoon tea.

Jesus said that we are to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31), when pressed on the matter Jesus related the parable of the Good Samaritan, reminding us that people around us, wherever we happen to be living, travelling or working, are our neighbours.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second command is this: Love your neighbour as you love yourself. There are no commands more important than these.

Mark 12:29-31 (NCV)

I am looking forward to continuing the building of our College Community in partnership with families and neighbours near and far. I’m also going to work on building community where I live and will start by finding out the name of my wonderful next-door neighbour.

Mr Doug Holtam
Principal
The Uniform Shop is opened on Tuesdays & Fridays from 8.45am to 9.30am and 3.00pm to 3.45pm. Appointments can be made by calling the College on 03 9467 2499. Alternatively Order Forms can be submitted to the Account office, including payment for processing and can be picked up on the following day.

**RUGBY JUMPERS & BLACK JUMPERS**

A reminder that both the Rugby Jumpers and the Black College Jumpers are in stock.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS**

P&F Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month from 9am-10.30am. Meet in the foyer. All Welcome.

Parents and Friends would like give a big THANK YOU to the College Community for their support with fundraising. In the last twelve months we are very proud to announce P&F DONATED $19,119.13 TO THE COLLEGE. $18,101.13 went towards the college Oval Redevelopment and $1,018.00 to the purchase and installation of two new DATA PROJECTORS for the Music Room and Home Eco Room. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**2015 PARENTS & FRIENDS AGM**

The 2015/16 committee was formed at the recent AGM with the following members elected:

- **President:** Liz Karkaloutsos
- **Vice President:** Rose Mann
- **Treasurer:** Yoanna Forster-Pratt
- **Secretary:** Katherine Smith

P&F also farewells Alicia Duncan who has retired from her position as President.

We thank her for her contributions and dedication over the past three years.

**Retrospective Art Show**

Prepare for our upcoming Art Show!

Let’s celebrate art from our NCC Community: Students, Staff, Parents, and extended family!

Northside Christian College Twilight Open Evening

Art Show held in the Art and Library Foyers

**Friday 16th October**

Entry forms Available end of Term 3 2015
WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Just a friendly reminder to all families regarding NCC’s withdrawal policy.

Any families who make the decision to leave Northside Christian College are required to give a minimum of ONE Term’s written notice prior to leaving. If notice is not received in advance the family is liable for the equivalent of ONE Term fees as outlined in the fee payment agreement.

When giving notice, this needs to be addressed to ‘The Principal’ in the form of a written letter or via email to enrol@ncc.vic.edu.au. The letter should be written by the student’s parent or guardian stating the reason for this decision. Parents/Guardians are also requested to make themselves available to meet with a senior member of the College staff to discuss this decision.

Please note that as some of our classes are now at capacity, once a family has withdrawn from the College we are unable to guarantee there will be a position available should their circumstances change or there be a change of heart.

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ENROLMENT NEWS—Waiting Lists

Parents are advised that due to the number of enrolment applications received this year we are now introducing waiting lists for a number of year levels.

If you have not yet applied for 2016 and 2017 and wish to secure a place for your child we recommend that you submit your child’s enrolment application ASAP to avoid disappointment.

Please remember that existing families are encouraged to submit applications for younger siblings 2 years in advance to ensure a place is reserved for their child. Applications forms are available online or from the office.

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Car Park Reminder

When walking through the car park with your child, please keep them close to you and don’t let them run through traffic. Student safety is our primary concern, so please walk mindfully.

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IMPROVING CAR PARK SAFETY!

To help ensure that our students and their families are safer in and around the car park, from the start of Term 3 we are trialing a new traffic management system. The new system will incorporate a pick-up/drop-off zone and a car-free pedestrian zone. The diagram (below) details the direction in which traffic will flow and also indicates where the children will be dropped off and picked up (the thicker arrows indicate the flow of traffic through the drop-off/pick-up zone), as well as the positioning of the car-free pedestrian zone.

It will take a little while to establish the new system and we would ask for your patience and support through the transition phase, particularly during the first two weeks of term. Staff will be on hand in the car park to guide drivers through the changes.
It’s often the little things that make the biggest impact. Small acts of kindness can make a great big difference and change someone’s day. Each month in 2015 we will suggest a way that you can do a little thing that will make a great big difference in the life of someone at the College.

This month’s Great Big Little Thing is –

**perform a random act of kindness.**

Use your imagination to think of something that will be especially meaningful for the person you will be blessing.

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**Great Big little things is here!**

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Procrastination! It is a choice. So why DO we procrastinate?

1. We set up the wrong goals for ourselves. We educate the students to create SMART goals. This means they are not imposed by others but rather very specific to self. Answer the questions of who, what, where and why. The goal must have a relevant purpose.

2. We don’t have clear goals. When we can have strong purpose and thoughts then our actions too will be concentrated and strong.

3. No action plan. When we have no action plan with small achievable steps then it’s easy to lose focus and to have increased anxiety. We become so focused on the end that we forget about the journey that will get us there. Did you know that 97% of us don’t goal set?

4. Avoidance. We all have barriers...fears from the past, self doubt, things of which we are slow. Statistically, 90% of adult thinking is in the past. So practicing being present will help us to alleviate some of these barriers and allow persistence to flourish.

Even with young children, help them to develop positive strategies to combat procrastination, ones with internal reward. With older teens, talk through the reasons behind the procrastination so they can develop their own path of satisfaction and developing passion. There is ALWAYS A REASON BEHIND A BEHAVIOUR.

Take advice from William Johnsen who said, "If it is to be, it is up to me.”

Mrs Fiona Dumitrache

Dear Parents of Teenagers or soon-to-be Teens,

On Wednesday the 29th of July we have the privilege of holding a Teen Talk seminar here at Encompass Church in the MP Room. We have guest speaker Vicki Booth, who is a clinical psychologist. She will share on current teen issues such as self esteem, social media and self harm.

We encourage you to attend along with your teens, in this joint Fusion and Strength initiative. This is a free event and a donation will be collected on the night.

For more information please contact Mark Donato on mdonato@encompass.org.au or call the church office on 03 9467 6777

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Issue #7 • 24th July 2015
Science Fair
Thursday 25th June 2015

COMING UP – BOOKWEEK 2015

Every year the whole school celebrates Book Week by dressing up as their favourite book character. This year, Dress Up Day will be on Friday 21st August. The theme for the week is ‘Books Light Up Our World’. Students are asked to bring a copy of the book that they take their character from. More details coming at a later date.

More to come in the next newsletter!
On Wednesday 17th June the Year 9/10 Environmental Science (Options) class walked to the banks of the Darebin Creek in Norris Bank Reserve during periods 6 and 7, and met up with Julia Cirillo of the Merri Creek Catchment Management Committee. Julia instructed the students in some basic field skills in testing stream water quality. This included undertaking a brief stream-side vegetation survey, and testing water samples for various indicators of environmental health. Students were gaining experience in water quality with the aim of regularly putting the skills in to practice as we monitor the health of the water flowing through the storm water way that runs along the northern boundary of our College property.

The following day, on Thursday 18th June, the same group attended a conference hosted by Melbourne Girls College (MGC) in Richmond, titled ‘Inspiring Women in Environmental Science’. The invitation to attend was extended to both male and female students alike, and there was certainly much to be learned and enjoyed by all students on the day at the presentations and in the workshops. Our group chose to attend several workshops with hands-on activities. The first workshop had students separating small plastic particles from the dehydrated stomach contents of a large sea bird (albatross). In another, they got a first-hand microscopic view of environmentally beneficial parasitic larvae exiting their caterpillar host. Creepy as it sounds, these parasites are good guys in terms of agriculture, as their gruesome work means we use less pesticides on crops. We also got some exercise on the ‘Future Spark’ electricity generating bicycles installed in the foyer of MGC. The energy generated by students on these stationary bikes is fed into the mains system, and helps power the lights and computers in the school building. This initiative has turned students into human generators!

Mrs Teresa Connelly

Environmental Science

Collecting water samples from Darebin Creek.

Removing plastic particles from stomach contents of a sea bird.

Searching for parasites

Finding parasites!

The human generators!
Parents’ Prayer 2015
WEDNESDAYS 2:30-3:30pm
If you are unable to come & you have a prayer request text Lyn on 0488 420 542
- Children welcome -
- Check for venue at the office -

CHESS CLUB
The Lunch Chess Club needs more chess sets!
If you can help, please contact Mr Phil Waters at the College on 03 9467 2499.

Aalsmeer Florist
has generously offered to donate a floral arrangement to the College once a month. It will be in the foyer. Next time you’re in reception, take the time to stop and smell the roses (or lilies or carnations). Aalsmeer has been the College ‘florist of choice’ for many, many years. If you need to send flowers why not visit their website?
www.bundooraflorist.com.au

STUDENT ABSENCES
If your child is going to be absent for the day it is important that you notify the school with a courtesy phone call that morning and in writing the day your child returns to school. You can get a green explanation of absence form from the front office or you can send an e-mail to the class teacher.
If your child is in VCE it is essential that you get a medical certificate for every day of absence.

STUDENT LUNCHES
Just a friendly reminder that parents are NOT to bring fast food to their children for lunch. This includes take away from places such as McDonalds and KFC.
If you need to bring lunch to your child because they have forgotten it at home, please bring their lunchbox to Reception and we will pass it on to your child.

SCHOOL BANKING - FRIDAYS
School Banking is on Friday mornings. Secondary students who have a Dollarmite account with The Commonwealth Bank can also access Primary School Banking by either handing their deposit book in via primary class sibling or simply leaving it in the Accounts office by 9am every Friday. If you are interested in extending School banking to Secondaries e-mail lkarkaloutsos@ncc.vic.au. Students who arrive late to school may miss out for that week.