The Journey of Learning and Maturity

From the moment of birth, a child is on a journey of learning, growing, developing and maturing. Within a few years a child is enrolled at a Pre-school and then in a school, and the school experience will take them on a major part of the learning journey until they are young adults. It all happens so quickly and yet the steps and the challenges are many. As well as bringing up my own children, I have observed A LOT of parents in the 40 years I have been an educator. I offer here two basic principles that support the development of a young person from childhood to responsible, healthy adulthood. They are BOUNDARIES and ENCOURAGEMENT.

In the early days of Australian settlement, Australia’s wealth came from sheep and cattle. Moving vast herds from one place to another was the work of stockmen or drovers. To make this possible, many of Australia’s first roads were 3 chains wide – that is, there was about 20 metres of vegetation on either side of the 20 metre road. This was often called ‘the long paddock’. Drovers would move their livestock along the roads. The fences to the properties on either side provided clear boundaries while the stockmen would allow the animals to graze as they travelled slowly to their destination. The idea was that they would not lose condition on the journey, but would arrive fit and healthy. This is a great illustration of the importance of both boundaries and encouragement.

BOUNDARIES: Every young person needs clear, consistent boundaries in their upbringing. Boundaries are well-defined values, explicit expectations for behaviour, for everything from good manners to high-level decision-making. Young people constantly test boundaries, not because they don’t like them, but because they need to know if you really believe in them. What is your true bottom line? Boundaries need to be established early in life, because they determine learned behaviour and unconscious core beliefs and values. Some research shows that children are already established in these behaviours and values by the time they come to primary school.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Encouragement is the greatest gift a parent or a teacher can give a child. Encouragement (literally, ‘to put heart into’) builds self-confidence, gives hope and self-belief, flowing out of the belief that is expressed by the adult in the young person’s potential and capacity. Encouragement keeps a young person moving on, thriving and optimistic, motivated for the journey. Boundaries ensure that this development is in the right direction.

It seems to me that many parents struggle with balancing the concepts of freedom and choice with boundaries. Children should not be making decisions where they have no knowledge or experience. I hear parents asking, “Would you like to go to this school?” That is not a fair question! In the end, parents must make such decisions and children should respect their authority and wisdom to make the choice on their behalf.

This is a big topic, but I encourage parents and teachers to think deeply about these two vital principles and how you can ensure they are in place in your parenting or teaching. Sometimes it takes hard work and self-discipline to stick to your own values and to be consistent, but the benefits are many and in the end, your children will bless you for your love and care expressed in setting boundaries and giving encouragement.

Boundaries are not purely restrictive; they provide safety and direction. Encouragement is critical to success; no one ever improved or changed significantly for the better in an environment of criticism and contempt. These two principles are embedded in biblical teaching and Christian living. They work.

Stephen Leslie
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

I am really excited this year to be a part of the planning and presentation of SEL learning for students from prep - year 12. The primary section continues to use the You Can Do It! Program only in shorter and more regular sessions. They cover the 5 essential keys to success: organisation (Term 1), persistence, getting along, confidence and resilience.

Mr Barker and I are sharing the role for secondary students and we are covering topics such as self image, risky behaviours and alternatives, healthy mind, healthy body, organisation, goal setting as well as current issues to name a few. We know this will provide some additional tools and practice for teens and young youth as they manoeuvre through the "tricky years".

We believe that education of the whole child/teen is vital. With progressive SEL students improve their potential and statistically do 11% better academically! Why? Because when a student is in a place where their mind is READY to learn then they will have greater success. For example, if a student comes unprepared they become flustered, conflict may occur, time is wasted and their mind is busy on this rather than on their learning before them.

Fiona Dumitrache
Student Welfare Officer

Upcoming Diary Dates

APRIL
3rd Prep to Grade 2 Swimming Carnival
Parent/Teacher Interview Forms Due Back
4th End of Term 1, 3:30pm finish
18th-21st Easter Holiday
22nd Staff Pedagogy Day, Student Free Day
23rd Staff Planning Day, Student Free Day
24th Parent Teacher Interviews, Student Free Day Except Yr 12 Classes (These will still run)
25th ANZAC Day Public Holiday, Student Free Day
28th Students Return, Term 2

MAY
5th Immunisation All Year 10s
8th-9th Year 5 Bike Education
23rd Whole School Athletics Carnival

JUNE
9th Queens Birthday Public Holiday, Student Free Day
10th-12th Year 9-11 Exams
11th GAT Exam
13th Report Writing Day, Student Free Day
25th-27th Community Challenge Camp—Yr 9
26th Science Day for Primary and Secondary
27th Last Day Term 2, 1pm finish
Farewell Miss Tweedie
After more than 2 years at Northside we have said a sad farewell this month to Miss Amana Tweedie. Miss Tweedie has blessed the school with her creativity and helped inspire many through her teaching in the music and performing arts department.

ATTENTION PARENTS: Term 1 & Easter Holidays
Please take note of the below times and dates for the upcoming holidays. Earlier in the year the dismissal time for all Term breaks were listed as 1:00pm. This was revised and adjusted in the last newsletter and on the school website. Terms 1 & 3 will now have dismissal time of 3:30pm, while Terms 2 & 4 will remain 1:00pm. We apologise for any inconvenience or confusion this has caused.

Last Day of Term 1
Friday April 4th
FULL UNIFORM
3.30pm Finish

Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday April 24th
Student-free Day
(Except Yr 12)

First Day of Term 2
Monday 28th April
8.40am Start

UNIFORM

Winter Uniform - Date
Northside Christian College’s students change to winter uniform at the start of Term 2 each year. There is a two week change over period where students may wear either complete summer or complete winter uniform depending on the weather. All students should be in full winter uniform by Monday 12th May 2014.

Uniform Shop
Winter Uniform stock has started arriving. To order your uniforms you can either:
- fill in an Uniform Order Form and leave at the Accounts Office or
- book a Uniform Appointment via Reception. Appointments will also be available during school holidays.
For inquiries, or to book a uniform appointment, please contact Reception on 9467 2499.

Second Hand Uniform
Lists of parents who have second hand winter uniform items for sale are on the noticeboard outside reception. Please check to see if there are any items you may be interested in. If you would like to add your name and list to the board please speak with the ladies at Reception.

Last Day of Term 1
For the final day of Term 1 all students are required to wear full summer uniform. The only exceptions to this are those rewarded with a Casual Dress Day for assisting with the Open Day last Saturday. Parents of these students have been contacted via email regarding this earlier this week.

Yr 3 - 12 Swimming Carnival
The Year 3 - 12 Swimming Carnival took place on the 21st February at Diamond Creek Swimming Pool. It was an awesome day of fun, races and relays.
There were plenty of smiles all round. A special congratulations to Livingstone who were the winners of this year’s carnival.
**Year 5 & 7 Camp**

On the 12th-14th of February our Year 5s and 7s went on camp to The Oasis Campsite at Mt Evelyn. Students took part in activities including rock climbing, flying fox, crate climbing, reptile exhibition and candle making. Mrs Zuccolo, Miss Tweedie and Mr Waters provided the students with amazing activities during the evening sessions. The staff at Oasis were fantastic and we were very grateful for the food they provided. All the students were great at working together and finished off the camp with a 3km long hike to the Silvan Reservoir.

**MUSIC - Drum Workshop**

On Friday 14th March the 5/6 students, several Yr 7 and VCE students had the opportunity to participate in an African drumming workshop lead by Mohammed from Guinea. The students learnt how to respond to drumming echoes and how to play some traditional African drumming patterns. Apart from some sore palms, this workshop was a great experience all around!

Grade 5/6s will be studying African drumming on the school’s own set of djembe’s for the rest of the term and some of Term 2.

**CSSN Swimming**

On the 11th of March a team of our secondary students competed in the CSSN competition at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic centre. Congratulations to all who participated.

- **Hamish Brown:**
  - 3rd place 50m Freestyle
  - 1st place 100m Freestyle
  - 1st place 100m Breaststroke

- **Liam Eldridge:**
  - 1st place for 50m Freestyle
  - 1st place for 100m Freestyle
  - 1st place for 100m Breaststroke

- **BJ Taylor:**
  - 3rd place 100m Freestyle
  - 2nd place 50m Backstroke

- **Damien Furlong:**
  - 3rd place 50m Backstroke
  - 3rd place 50m Butterfly

- **Cameron McLean:**
  - 3rd place 50m Backstroke

- **Ruth Vaiano:**
  - 3rd place 50m Breaststroke
  - 2nd place 100m Freestyle
On Monday 24th February, Mrs Lowe and I accompanied four year 6 students (Primary Captains: Shemara Karunaratne and Ben Lorca, as well as Damien Furlong and Belinda Zheng) to the Convention Centre to attend National Young Leaders Day.

The atmosphere was one of excitement as we gathered together with almost 40 other schools attending Young Leaders Day. The Primary Captains felt so privileged to be part of the conference, wearing their Halogen pins with pride!

Speakers at the event included the Halogen Foundation CEO Mike Martin, author John Marsden, founder of Thankyou Water Daniel Flynn, Olympian Jessica Fox and AFL coach Kevin Sheedy. In particular, students really connected with and felt inspired by the messages delivered by Daniel Flynn and Jessica Fox. Messages included dreaming big, persisting and leading by your attitude and values. In addition, a message that was emphasised throughout this event was the statement: “I am somebody.”

We believe this excursion not only inspired our students but also empowered them to believe they can make a difference to the world. With perseverance, determination and passion, anything is possible.

A most enriching experience for all of us!

Antonietta Veljanovski

**CSSN Primary Swimming Competition**

The Primary CSSN Swimming Competition took place on Tuesday 5th March at Nunawading Swimming Pool Congratulations to everyone who participated.

- **Isabelle Kluchkovsky**
  1st 50m Freestyle

- **Nicholas Stavridis**
  3rd 50m Freestyle

- **Laura Galati**
  1st 50m Freestyle

- **Laz Stavridis**
  1st 50m Freestyle

- **Jezreel De Los Santos**
  2nd 50m Backstroke

- **Richie Chen**
  2nd 50m Backstroke

- **Martika Phemister**
  2nd 50m Backstroke

- **Laz Stavridis**
  1st 50m Breaststroke

- **Isabelle Kluchkovsky**
  1st 100m Freestyle

- **Joshua Leventis**
  1st 100m Freestyle

- **Martika Phemister**
  2nd 100m Freestyle

- **Noah Mascia**
  3rd 100m Freestyle

- **Eyrn McKenna**
  2nd 50m Breaststroke

- **Nicholas Stavridis**
  2nd 50m Breaststroke

- **Shemara Karunaratne**
  2nd 50m Breaststroke

- **Laz Stavridis**
  3rd 50m Breaststroke

**Team Results**

- **U/10 Freestyle relay F and M** - 1st place
- **U/12 Freestyle relay F** - 1st place
- **U/12 Freestyle relay M** - 3rd place

**U/10's M and F won their age group in Division C.**

A fantastic achievement with Northside Christian College coming 2nd overall in Division C.
Primary News

Grade 1 Dress Up Day

On Wednesday the 5th of March the Grade Ones dressed up in clothes from the 'Olden Days'. The students were asked to compare the olden day clothes to clothes we wear now.

Marcerina - I like the olden day dress because it is long.
Justin - I liked wearing the old hat and tie.
Sawat - I didn’t like putting the braces on. That was hard.
Agam - Clothes have changed. Boys wear comfier shirts now.
Jazlene - I didn't like wearing a long skirt because when I run I can step on it.

Thank you to all the parents and students for putting in lots of effort. It was a special day.

Miss Shevchuk

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 lillies 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

NORTHSIDE SECONDARY NEWS

Year 10’s Grand Prix Education Centre Excursion

On Friday March 14th the Year 10s visited Albert Park. We listened to four guest speakers; an electrical engineer, the chief of Ambulance Victoria, Project Manager and General Manager of the Grand Prix Organising Committee. We then visited the Education Centre where we met an engineer and were given material related to careers. The focus of the day was to inspire the Year 10s to think about their career paths.

We had time to look at the V8 supercars and F1 cars doing laps around the circuit. We even got to see motorcyclists jumping over 30 meters in the air, Tony Hawk (skateboarder) and the flying roulettes (spitfire aircraft).

Student reflections:
“Talking with friends while watching the race was fun”
Jesse Mann
“It was a really good experience and I loved the atmosphere”
Chanel Fernandez
“The Grand Prix was a great excursion. It helped me think about what career choices there are in one event.”
Matthew Phemister

Thank you to Tony Likousis and Laura Bovey for assisting with this excursion on the day.

Sam Vaiano
**YEAR 10 IMMUNISATIONS**

Forms Due: WED 2nd APRIL - Week 1 Term 2

All Year 10s will have received their immunisation forms with this newsletter. These need to be returned to the office as soon as possible as Immunisations will take place in week 2.

Many thanks,
Reception Staff

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**NORTHSIDE SECONDARY NEWS**

**SCIENCE - Fibre Optics**

Year 9s are learning about fibre optics, reflection, refraction and total internal reflection this term. As part of understanding its applications guest speaker Mr. Gordon Mann, who is a trainer in telecommunications, shared his knowledge and valuable expertise with the class.

Mr. Mann talked about fibre optics, its applications in telecommunications, showed us different types of cables and gave students the opportunity for hands on experience. Mr. Mann also discussed the advantages of optical fibres over conventional copper wire as it is able to carry much more information.

Most telephone company long-distance lines are now made of optical fibre. Transmission over an optical fibre cable requires repeaters at distance intervals. The glass fibre requires more protection than copper with an outer cable. For these reasons and because the installation of any new cabling is labour-intensive, few communities have installed optical fibre cables.

Nathan Lisle, Sam Arter and Michael Hadj asked some thought provoking questions during the question time which really enriched the session.

*Brett Davidson* "Mr Mann's visit was exemplary! His presentation on the use of Optical Fibres in communications was really quite interesting. It made me think of how important technology such as this really is, and has definitely opened a window for me as to which field of study I wish to push myself towards when I choose my career path later on."

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**Yr 9 Bike and Hike**

Our year 9s headed off on their “Bike and Hike Camp” on the 19th-21st March, as part of their ‘Year of Challenge’ program. This included a full day of mountain bike riding and two-day/overnight hike.

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Congratulations to our Art Show participants: students, staff, parents and extended families! Thank you for entering your masterpieces in this year’s Art Show. As far as I am concerned, you are ALL winners!

A very special mention to the parents, staff and their extended families who registered artworks for our ‘Section 8: Adults’ : Beryl Henderson (Mrs. Baring’s mother) Lara Sim (Mrs. Lowe’s niece) Katherine Seaton, Faye Butler, Roshel Ravida, Laura Bovey, Vitaly Kluchkovsky, David Anderson, and Cordillia Lowe. Your art works were all unique and inspirational!

We thank you for your interest, participation and support in our school’s Art Show CELEBRATION!

From Antonietta Veljanovski (Primary Art) and Jo Westland (Secondary Art)

Here are the winners for:
Peoples Choice Awards
and
Highly Commended

Prep:
P & A Lyvia Song
HC Annabel Ryan

1/2
PCA Madison Kluchkovsky
HC Emma Ruiz

3/4
PCA Eryn McKenna
HC Sterling Lisle

5/6
PCA Martika Carla Phemister
HC Amelia Ryan

7/8
PCA Olivia Ryan
HC Sophie Ryan

9/10
PCA Jessica Mann
HC Brett Davidson

VCE
PCA Teresa Shafik Eid
HC Jesse Marmara

Adults
PCA Beryl Henderson
HC Rochelle Ravida