TRANSFORMATION - A NEW NAME!

The cooler mornings herald the forthcoming winter season. However, the College is enjoying a springtime experience with the shoots of new growth sprouting everywhere. It is evident in the improvements we have made in communicating with parents; the addition of extension courses to challenge high-performing students; the Primary After-School Homework Club; improvements to our parent/teacher interviews; the introduction of After School Care and the addition of new hardware in a number of classrooms.

Our theme for 2015 is ‘TRANSFORMATION’, our key verse for the year is taken from Romans 12:2 ‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.’

It is clear that God has called the College Leadership Team to look to Him for fresh vision and direction. In responding to this call, we have been praying, thinking and working through what this means for our future. As well as developing a very thorough College Improvement Plan we have also formulated a Mission Statement that clearly and succinctly articulates our core purpose. It reads thus...

‘Transforming lives through Christ and the wonder of learning’

I think you’ll agree that the statement ‘speaks’ for itself, which of course, is what an effective mission statement should do; it will frame and shape all that we do and act as a guide to our ongoing development.

God calls people according to His purposes, often He gives them new names relative to their destinies: Saul became Paul, a globetrotting missionary; Jacob became Israel and formed a nation. In this season of renewal, it is my firm belief that God is calling us to a new name. A name that is representative of our mission and destiny in Him. A name that will further assist us in partnering with parents to provide outstanding Christ-centred education. To enhance and reflect the new name, we will also redesign the College logo.

Changing the name and logo of a school is no small undertaking, and it is very important that the community is involved in the process. To that end, I have set up a very short ‘Survey Monkey’ to gather your ideas and thoughts regarding our name-change. I would be very grateful if you could click on the link at end of this article and take part in the survey.

To help put your mind at rest, we have no plans to change the College uniform and would phase out any uniform carrying the current name and logo over a number of years.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/38CMM9Y

Doug Holtam
Principal

Appointment of New Business Manager

I have great pleasure in announcing that Jessica Hamilton will be Northside Christian College’s new Business Manager. Jessica brings over 20 years of experience, serving independent schools in business/finance roles; currently Jessica is the Business Manager at Christchurch Primary Grammar. Jessica will commence her duties on the 1st June.

Once again, I’d like to publically thank our outgoing Business Manager, Mr Matthew Duke, for his outstanding service to the Northside Christian College Community; he has worked tirelessly adding considerable value to the business side of the College’s operation. Matt will finish at NCC on Friday 12th June and will be the new Business Manager at Plenty Valley Christian College.

We wish Matt God’s rich blessing in his new role.
Great Big Little Things is here!

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.

This month’s Great Big Little Thing is – if you know someone is sick, offer to take their child home after school, offer to make lunch for their children, give them a box of lunchbox snacks for the week, cook and deliver a meal, ask if you can help in any way.

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.

Parents and Friends

We have a busy month ahead and invite you to the following:

AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA - THURSDAY 21st MAY

We will be hosting Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea at the College on Thursday 21st May starting straight after morning drop off at 8:45am until the end of recess at 11:30am in the Old Science Room. Entry cost: $5 donation. Come along for Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and a variety of Sweet and Savoury treats. ALL WELCOME.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE AT BUNNINGS THOMASTOWN - SUNDAY 31st MAY

We will be hosting a Sausage sizzle at Bunnings Thomastown on Sunday 31st May from 9am to 4pm. Please note this date in your calendar and come along and support us. If you would like to volunteer, it would be appreciated by reply email to lkarkaloutsos@ncc.vic.edu.au.

DIARY ALERT: FOOD ALLERGY WEEK 2015 Be Aware. Show You Care.

Sunday 17 to Saturday 23 May 2015

To discover ways that you can Show You Care during Food Allergy Week 2015, please visit www.foodallergyaware.com.au
Strength & Direction for Life

Enrolment Applications 2016/17

**URGENT:** Northside has a growing number of enrolment applications for 2016, 2017 and beyond! If you have not yet submitted an application for your child’s enrolment, please collect an application form from the office and return it as soon as possible to secure a place for your child.

If you already have children at the College and want their siblings to join them at Northside in the future, we recommend getting your application in at least 12 months before their intended start.

UNIFORM UPDATES

Uniform appointments can be booked via the office on 9467 2499. Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Fridays. Alternatively completed uniform order forms can be left at the Accounts office and be picked up the following day.

**RUGBY JUMPERS**

Rugby Jumpers are scheduled to arrive by the 20th May. Our apologies for the extended delay which is beyond our control. If your child is without a Rugby Jumper, they can wear a long sleeve top under their Polo Top provided they are school colours (ie. White, Red, Grey and Black) only.

**GREY MELANGE TROUSERS**

Backorders have arrived and all sizes are in stock.

**SECONDARY BLACK ALL WEATHER JACKETS Size Small**

Black Jackets (size Small only) are scheduled to arrive by 15 May 2015. All other sizes are in stock.

NCC ANZAC Day Commemorative Service

During first period on Friday 24th April, NCC staff and students attended and participated in an ANZAC Day Service in the Encompass multi-purpose room. This year marks 100 years since Australia and New Zealand first became involved in WW1, consequently the service focussed on the sacrifices made by all those touched by this devastating and costly conflict. Students heard of the role played by the Bundoora Homestead, in our local area (then known as the Bundoora Repatriation Hospital), in the care and restoration of many WW1 returned servicemen whose hearts and minds had been shattered by the events they had experienced during their service. Tribute was explicitly paid to those ancestors of the NCC community (staff and students), who had taken part in, and had been impacted by, WW1. The indoor service included a reading by the Year 12 students of the poem, *Anthem for Doomed Youth*, by Wilfred Owen.

The outdoor part of the service began with the school captains laying a floral wreath at the NCC flagpole in memory of all those who served in WW1. Mrs Eynaud read ‘The Ode’ to the fallen, staff and students listened to the playing of the *Last Post*, then stood for a minute’s silence. The silence was broken by the playing of the traditional lament, *The Flowers of the Forest*, on the bagpipes by our guest piper, Mr Les Kenfield. The service concluded in prayer, led by our school Chaplain, Jared Stocks. **Lest we forget.**

- Teresa Connelly

ALPHA PARENTING COURSES

Equipping parents with practical skills for raising children and teenagers

**Alpha Parenting Children**

(0-10 years old)

**Alpha Parenting Teenagers**

(11-18 years old)

Location: West Wing at Encompass

7pm to 9:30pm

$40 per course

Both courses running over 5 weeks

7/5 14/5 21/5 28/5 & 4/6

May 2015
Student Welfare

We are really pleased to inform everyone that you can now access additional support services on campus. We have engaged Psychologists for Learning to partner with us. Appointments for families or individuals can be made via Fiona, the Student Welfare Officer. Days and times will be set according to the need within our community. Please read some background information on the services being offered:

‘Psychologists for Learning (P4L) are excited about working alongside the Northside Christian College community. We are dedicated and qualified Christian psychologists providing a professional bulk-billed counselling service and fee-based assessments onsite in schools. The P4L Psychologist who will be based at Northside is Deborah Sweeney. Deborah is a registered psychologist who has had extensive experience working with children and adolescents and their families and has a particular interest in disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. Deborah is passionate about working with children with developmental, emotional, behavioural, social & learning-related difficulties, and draws from a range of approaches and resources to develop effective strategies that make a difference to the health and well-being of children and their families.’

- Fiona Dumitrache

Fiona’s work days remain the same in 2015: Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

If you’d like to contact her the email address has changed to studentwelfare@ncc.vic.edu.au

Jared’s work days will be Thursday and Friday and he can be contacted at chaplain@ncc.vic.edu.au

Tech Talk: Internet in the Bedroom

In many ways, allowing your child to keep an Internet enabled device in their room overnight is like letting them spend the night in the city without supervision.

Late last year I sent a survey to parents of children who are involved in the iPad program at Northside (Years 5-10). The responses were helpful in letting me know how we can better support parents in managing the iPads and allowed me to gain some insight into parents’ approaches to technology in their home.

One thing I found striking was that over one-third of respondents said their child keeps their iPad with them in their bedroom overnight and more than three-quarters reported that their child uses their iPad unsupervised (eg home alone or in their bedroom).

Although the Internet is a wonderful thing, (the UN considers Internet access to be critical for maintaining human rights) we also recognise that there are potential dangers. It allows a degree of anonymity that can promote bullying and the sharing of unhelpful ideas. Graphic violence and pornography can easily be found, or even stumbled upon accidentally (according to a US survey, over 50% of boys have viewed pornography by the age of 12; 28% of 16-17 year olds have been exposed to porn unintentionally).

I think the metaphor of a city is a useful way to think through this issue. A city offers many good things (theatres, restaurants, art galleries) but also has dangers (drug dealers, muggers, prostitution). You wouldn’t let a child visit the city unsupervised. You may allow older teenagers to spend time in the city without an adult, but you would want to know what they are doing and when they will return. You might call them periodically to check that they’re okay. In many ways, allowing your child to keep an Internet enabled device in their room overnight is like letting them spend the night in the city without supervision.

Recently, a Northside parent shared with me a solution to this issue that I thought was straight-forward and wise. On their kitchen bench, they set up a ‘recharge station’. Each night, all of the family’s devices (mobile phones, tablets, laptops) are put in this central location to charge before morning. It prevents the child from taking their phone to their bedroom overnight, and also helps them keep organised as their technology will be charged and ready for the next day. I also appreciate that the parents are leading by example; their technology is left in the kitchen too!

- Chris Gatt

If you would like further information, or to suggest a topic for a future article, then please email cgatt@ncc.vic.edu.au
Help your children make sense of natural disasters

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

Recent natural disasters wreak incredible havoc on so many people’s lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1 Reassure children that they are safe
   The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2 Be available
   Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

3 Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television
   Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

4 Support children’s concerns for others
   They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

5 Let them explore feelings beyond fear
   Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

6 Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish
   Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

7 Avoid keeping the television on all the time
   The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8 Be aware of your own actions
   Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

9 Take action yourself
   Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hopeful. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something, it will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children. In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.
Secondary News

Hospitality Students serve at the Epping RSL Anzac Day Service
Very early on Anzac Morning (4:30 am to be exact) seven Year 10 and 11 students were on the way to the RSL Epping to help with the Dawn Service. For an hour before the service, students and five accompanying parents along with Mrs Waters, passed out programs and poppies to the 5,000 attendees of the service. This is the second year that we have participated in support of this program. Thank you to all who went along and helped to honour those who have served us in the past.

- Lenna Waters

Year 9 Four-Day Hike Challenge Camp
Last week the year 9 class embarked upon the Hike Camp which was set in Taggarty and the Cathedral Ranges. The camp began on the ‘Breakaway Camps’ property in Taggarty where we learnt basic survival skills such as cooking using trangias, setting up tents, lighting camp fires and packing hiking packs. The first hike we completed was a 4 hour hike surrounding Steavensons Falls. We used day packs only, carrying the essentials that included our 2 litre water bladders. This hike was quite tiresome but the surrounding view made it all worthwhile. It was through this hike that we started to bond as a class as we had plenty of time and opportunity to talk and relate with each other. The next day, was the most challenging of all as we headed up to the ridgeline in the Cathedral Ranges. Carrying hiking packs with our tents, bedding and food made the hiking was more difficult than the previous day. In the first hour we were hiking uphill which proved difficult for everyone. As we all experienced this hike at different paces, we were able to connect with others in our class. When we got to Cathedral’s Peak, the view distracted us from the initial challenge and was quite breathtaking. We then continued along the ridgeline, which was a new experience in itself and proved to be mentally challenging. When we finished the hike, it was a great sense of accomplishment as a class, as we had all conquered something so big together. This experience brought us closer together as we had all been involved in new experiences that were way out of our comfort zone. Overall, despite how challenging the experience was, it is something that we are proud of accomplishing and it will remain an unforgettable experience for us all.

- Sonja Veljanovski, Yr 9

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 -

Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

AMBULANCE COVER
Please be aware that as part of providing the best possible care for your child at Northside, there may come the occasion that we are required to call an ambulance. We encourage all families to ensure they have adequate cover through Private Health Insurance or becoming Ambulance Victoria Members. Costs to parents for Paramedic Care can quickly run into $1000’s for merely transporting a student to a local hospital. These costs increase dramatically if the location is more remote in the case of excursions/camps.
Primary News

Prep Excursion to Bundoora Farm

Every year the Prep class visits Bundoora Farm to compliment our Science unit: Living and Non-Living things.

We had a busy day making scones, getting up close to the emus and kangaroos on a tractor ride, feeding the animals and milking a goat. We were blessed with a perfectly overcast day and no rain!

It was amazing to see some of the Preps being brave and having a turn to feed and hold the animals even though they were scared.

I was so proud of these children and the way they didn't allow their fear to stop them from enjoying the day.

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you.'

Isaiah 41:13

- Olivia Tucci

Science Day - A Success!

On Thursday 23rd of May, our Primary students took part in Science Day. They were encouraged to dress up as silly scientists and awards were given out. The students took part in many science based activities throughout the day. They loved getting involved in all the amazing experiments. Some of the highlights from the day were:

- Making a volcano with Mr Dunstan
- Making quicksand with Mrs Venegas and Mrs Tan
- Making magic milk with Miss Shevchuk and Mrs Lisle
- Listening to the guest speaker who told us many facts about dangerous Australian animals.

The Primaries had a ball and look forward to learning more about science in their classes this term. Thank you to Mr Dunstan and Mr Vaiano who organised the day.

- Taya Shevchuk

Year 4/5 Art and 7 Mandarin Excursion - Golden Age of China Exhibition

Northside students entered the “Forbidden City” and discovered an array of hidden treasures. They examined the life of one of China’s most fascinating rulers through a display of over 120 precious works including paintings on silk, imperial seals made from jade, gold, ivory and sandalwood, silk court robes, ceremonial hats, court beads and jewellery.

Students enjoyed being scholars for a day. The Qianlong Emperor studied Chinese painting, loved to paint and particularly loved to practice calligraphy. He was also passionate about poetry and added inscriptions to the paintings in the Imperial Collection. Students created their own Chinese painting using calligraphy and brush painting techniques.

A most inspiring and rewarding day for all!

Mrs Veljanovski and Miss Low
Camp Australia After School Care and Parents Running Late to Collect Students

The College considers your child’s safety to be of utmost importance. After school yard duty stops at 3.45pm. We cannot supervise your child after this time.

Now that we have engaged the services of Camp Australia to run an After School Program, we have a new procedure that we have introduced as of Monday, May 11th.

We understand that from time to time parents are unable to get to school at 3.30pm to collect their children. If you are running late, please contact the College office on 9467 2499 to let staff know how long you will be, or if your child will be picked up by someone else.

Whether you know in advance that you will be late, or if you are unavoidably late, please understand that the following process will be followed:

- At 3.45 Office staff make an announcement over the loud speaker to call all unattended children to the foyer.
- These children will be taken to After School Care and signed in either by office staff or a teacher.
- Office staff will text or call relevant parents to let them know their child is in After School Care.
- Office staff will provide medical, emergency contact and custodial order information to After School Care staff.
- Camp Australia will bill your family directly. If you have any queries about billing, please contact the Camp Australia Parent Helpline on 1300 105 343, not the College.

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.

MUFFIN and MILK DAY – WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

LUNCH TIME in the HOME ECO ROOM

PEAR SPICE MUFFINS - 1.50
GLUTEN, EGG AND DAIRY FREE

RHUBARB AND WHITE CHOCOLATE - 1.50

CHOCOLATE MUD CAKE – 2.00

PIZZA MUFFINS – 1.50

CHOC/STRAW MILK $1

All purchases support the 2015 Mission Team PROJECT
Orphanage Repair in Northern Vietnam

ORDERS MAY BE PLACED AHEAD FOR A DOZEN MUFFINS AND COLLECTED AFTER SCHOOL FROM THE HOME ECO ROOM

CONTACT RECEPTION TO PLACE ORDER
BY MON 18th - 3 PM

BLOGS!

The Northside Christian College library has started a blog. It will feature new book reviews, research tips, links to useful websites and announcements of up-coming library events. Student or parent submissions of articles and book reviews are also welcome: please email them to chogan@ncc.vic.edu.au

The library blog can be found at: https://northsidelibrary.wordpress.com/

Year One also has a blog run by our own Miss Taya Schevchuk! Check it out to see what Year One is up to. http://grade1ncc2015.weebly.com/