**I Love My Electric Blanket**

During these cold winter months I cherish my electric blanket, it’s so comforting to get into a warm bed; it’s not quite so easy getting out of bed in the morning and I look forward to starting the day with that first heart-warming cup of coffee.

Can I live without my electric blanket and coffee? Of course! So what are the things in life that I cannot live without? My car, mobile phone, the Internet? Life would certainly be different without these, but I managed to live without them all until about the age of 25.

So what are the essentials that we need to live? Without air we would suffocate in minutes, without water we would perish in days; most of us can go without food for a few weeks and, of course, we need shelter from the elements. Beyond these most basic of physical needs, and going deeper, can we live without hope? Without a sense of purpose and belonging? Without love? Certainly we could exist but it wouldn’t be much of a life.

What should we value and cherish most highly? Jesus said, ‘The most important commandment is to love God and the second to love others as yourself’ (Luke 10:27). Why does God command us to love him first? The answer is very simple, God is love (1 John 4:16), and as we live in relationship with Him, we are able to continually receive the power of His love, which, in turn, helps us to love others and ourselves.

The final verse of 1 Corinthians 13, Paul’s magnificent writing about love, states:

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

The power of love working in conjunction with faith and hope is summed up perfectly in the following verse:

‘We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Faith, hope and love are central to our Christian experience. They are core values that underpin, inform and direct every aspect of our lives, including our calling to Christian education. Our College will continue to be built on the strong foundations of faith, hope and love, we have now formally adopted these as our central core values, in addition to six other values which I will reveal in my next newsletter article.

Mr Doug Holtam
Principal
UNIFORM NEWS

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) and picked up on the following day.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS NOW LISTED IN FOYER

There is a notice board in the foyer marked ‘Second Hand Uniforms’ that lists items for sale. Sales are organised by contacting the families directly, not through the College.

If you have any second hand uniform to sell, you can place a notice in the foyer, ensuring you remove items from the list as they sell.

PARENTS & FRIENDS

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

P&F HOT FOOD DAY

The next P&F Hot Food Day will be on Friday 21st August to celebrate Book Character Dress Up Day. Pies, Veggie Pasties & Sausage Rolls will be available. Order forms will be sent home the week before.

CAKE STALLS

Parents & Friends will be running 3 CAKE STALLS on 22nd August, 12th September and 31st October 2015 at Bunnings Thomastown. We are seeking volunteers to either bake cakes, slices or biscuits (notices with plates will be sent home on the Monday of the week of each stall). If you are available to help on any of these days, please leave your name (and preferred date) at the office or email Liz directly lkarkaloutsos@ncc.vic.edu.au. This is a great opportunity to complete your parent participation for the term.

THANK YOU

A big Thank You to Prego Bundoora for their continued support of our 2015 Vietnam Mission Trip. Once again, they donated $86.20 coins from their ‘TIPS’ jar. To date they have contributed $299.05 towards the 2015 Vietnam Mission Trip! Support their business as they so kindly support our College.

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.

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 ensure a place is reserved for their child.

Applications forms are available online or from the office.

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.

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.
By Michael Grose

‘I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.’

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: ‘What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?’

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms); provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks); rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

If the idea of promoting real independence in kids enthuses you then join me at Parentingideas Club where week in and week out I’ll show you how to raise kids that will amaze you. Find out more.

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**WORLD VISION 2015 40 HOUR FAMINE**

**Monday 17th August @ lunch time:**

**PARTY-WITH-A-PURPOSE! (PMPR)**

This is both a fundraiser and a celebration — to give students, staff and parents in the school community who could not participate in the 40 Hour Famine an opportunity to donate towards World Vision.

**$5 Entry Fee.** Students who participated in the 40 Hour Famine are also invited (FREE ENTRY) to celebrate and share their testimonies with others.

**Tickets will be on sale between Monday 10th and Friday 14th August.** SRCs will visit classrooms during home room to collect money.

For those still wanting to participate in the 40 Hour Famine, there are forms available in the Office.

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**Issue #8 • 7th August 2015**
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.

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. 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 –

tell someone you appreciate them.

Say it with words, flowers, chocolates or a card. Everyone needs to feel appreciated!

Fiona's work days in 2015: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
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

Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God’s favor) to those who hear it.

Ephesians 4:29 AMP

I once heard a pastor tell this story: he and his wife had just had an argument and he decided to go for a walk to reflect on what had happened. He started telling God off. ‘Lord this woman that you put me with, she always has to be right, she nags me all the time and nothing I ever do is good enough. I thought I was marrying a princess, but what happened?’ By this stage he was standing in the backyard in the dark, peering through the kitchen window, where he saw his wife washing the dishes with tears running down her face. A very sudden thought popped into his head, ‘You happened.’

At this the pastor began to have flashbacks of times when he had spoken to his wife in anger or frustration, moments where he spoke words that were non-affirming, put her down and spoke negatively towards her. The still small voice returned, ‘This is the fruit of your lips!’ The pastor began to weep bitterly, repenting to God and confessing to his wife what God had showed him.

Our words carry power, they can bring life and they can bring death. They can show God’s grace to others or they can curse others. So today, let’s ask ourselves: Are my words creating life or producing death? Are my words full of grace or full of cursing? Am I speaking truth over my loved ones, my children, my friends, or am I saying words that are producing hurt pain and lies?

I encourage and challenge you: Speak truth and watch how God changes the lives of people around you.

Mr Jared Stocks
Chaplain

You are appreciated!
I couldn't believe it at first when I heard that I had made it to the last round of the Spelling Bee. I didn't expect to get in, even though I really wanted to. When I did, I was ecstatic.

Practicing the words was a daunting task because there were a LOT of words in the list (more than 1200!!) including many difficult words. My parents and my sister helped me practice.

The day of the Spelling Bee came and I was really scared and nervous. The start was nerve racking because I've never watched a Spelling Bee, let alone participated in one. I was thrilled to have won! I know I couldn't have done it without God's favour, though, because I was only in Year Seven and I was competing against people much older than me. I learnt that if one sets their heart on something and works hard for it, they can achieve it, no matter how impossible it may seem.

Shemara Karunaratne

BOOKWEEK 2015

Every year the whole school celebrates Book Week by dressing up as their favourite book character. We always see a lot of creative costumes and the talent and effort that go into these never fails to impress. The theme of Book Week in 2015 is ‘Books Light Up Our World’ and it would be great if students can find a character or costume that reflects this theme (please bring the book along, too!) This year, Dress Up Day will be held on Friday 21st August. Our parade will take place in the Church Multipurpose Room starting at 8.55am. Parents are more than welcome.

PLEASE NOTE This year our dress up day will not be run as a competition, but as a relaxed day of celebrating books and dressing up. All students who participate will receive a small gift to recognize the effort put into their costumes.

Students not in costume MUST wear school uniform.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The college will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in the Primary Multipurpose Room, from Wednesday 19th August until Friday 21st August 2015.

The Fair will be open for the purchasing of books from 3.30pm on these days.

Stationary prices start at $1 and books at $4.

A brochure will be sent home for your perusal a week before the event occurs.
Students did really well at the CSSN Cross Country, which was held on Tuesday 21st July 2015. They all put in one hundred per cent in spite of the very windy conditions.

Stand outs were:

- First place: Ire Odetayo
- First place: Martika Phemister
- Second place: Daniela Gonzalez, Paul Wilson and Isabelle Klutchkovski
- Third place: Alin Thorpe
- Third place: u/14 boys group award

Well done to these champs.

Mrs Anna Venegas

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**WANTED: BEADS, BUTTONS & BREAD TIES!**

This semester, students will be involved in producing a decorative art installation, incorporating assorted reusable and recyclable materials.

We would greatly appreciate your help by collecting assorted beads (from old/broken jewellery,) buttons and plastic bread ties, and sending them to the Art Room this term.

Thank you!

Mrs Veljanovski (Primary Art)
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.

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 email to the class teacher.
If your child is in VCE it is essential that you get a medical certificate for every day of absence.

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.

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.

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

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 -

CHECKOUT
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 -