Strength & Direction for Life

Northside Christian College

NEWSLETTER

Issue #13 • 20th November 2015

God Is in the House

My wife and I agreed, early in our married life, that we would plan to have a large family. We’ve been blessed to have four children, and have enjoyed many years of wonderful, if not noisy and hectic, family life together.

When operating as God intended, the family represents the primary means for preparing young people to live in harmony with God, others and themselves as they grow into adulthood. One major obstacle to the development of healthy and confident uniqueness in the individual identity of a young person is the school’s confinement of children into an unnatural sociology of large single-age groups. In response to this, next year we will ramp up our College House Program with the express purpose of building a much stronger cross-school culture. The multi-aged house teams provide a rich context for children to ‘belong’, and in many ways reflect the family unit, albeit a very large family.

The features of a strong house culture are manifold and include: friendly and supportive relationships between older and younger students; high levels of positive participation in various school activities with consequent general sense of fun and enthusiasm in the atmosphere of the school; a sense of a relaxed acceptance of individuality and consequent release of creativity in students; and a culture of positive and engaged leadership among students.

At the start of next year we will be launching a streamlined three-team house system of evenly matched teams providing each house with the opportunity to experience success in the various house competitions we have planned. The leaders of the new houses have been appointed and recently spent a day planning the new names, Bible mottos and logo designs for their teams. The names of the three new houses, chosen by the student house leaders are as follows:

The Courageous Conquerors

House verse:

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)

The Noble Knights

House verse:

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. (Luke 8:15)

The Worthy Warriors

House verse:

‘…The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.’ (Taken from Judges 6:12)

We are organising a 2016 ‘House Launch Day’ when the house teams will get together to celebrate their unique identities and engage in team building activities. During this time each of our students will be presented with a house T-shirt.

I’m very much looking forward to seeing the development of our community culture as we have a lot of fun together through our College House Program, and hope to see you at some of the events we have planned.

Doug Holtam

Principal
**UNIFORM NEWS**

The Uniform Shop will be open every Tuesday and Friday until the end of the term. 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 items picked up on the following day.

**2016 ANNUAL SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE WILL BE ON MONDAY 18th January 2016 from 9.30am to 11.30am.** Families can sell their second hand uniform for HALF PRICE of New. This is the ONLY opportunity to sell/buy in a large group session.

Reserve a spot to SELL your second hand uniform by emailing lkarkaloutsos@ncc.vic.edu.au asap. All Families are welcome to sell or buy.

**JANUARY 2016 UNIFORM SHOP DATES:**

The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday 19th January, Friday 23rd January & Monday 25th January 2016, by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the College on 03 9467 2499.

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**LOST PROPERTY**

After an alarming amount of Lost Property was handed in last term, from Term 4 onward we will be implementing a new procedure for all 'Found' items.

The Lost Property basket will be emptied 1-2 times per month and sorted into 'Named' and 'Unnamed' items. All 'Named' items will be returned to students directly.

All 'Unnamed' items will be stored for a period of 1 month at the Office to be claimed and collected. After the month has passed, any non-uniform items (scarves, jumpers, lunchboxes, etc) will be donated to the Opportunity Shop.

If a uniform item cannot be found in the child's bag, bedroom, classroom or the lost property basket - please check with their classroom teacher and even their friends to ensure it hasn't gone home with somebody else!

Remember that the easiest way for us to return things to their rightful home is for you to LABEL EVERYTHING with your child's name. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Miss Annie Phelan
Administration Office

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**PARENTS & FRIENDS**

The final 2015 P&F meeting will be held on **Thursday 3rd December 2015**, 9am-10.00am. Meet in the foyer, venue to be confirmed on the day. All Welcome.

**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISERS:**

Funde is a compact ENTERTAINMENT BOOKLET with useful BUY 1 GET 1 FREE VOUCHERS. (Latitude Voucher Entry BUY 1 GET 1 FREE SAVINGS pays for the entire purchase of the book.) Order Forms are included in this newsletter. Orders can be submitted to the Accounts Office with payment by **Tuesday 1st December 2015**. Funde Books will be delivered on Monday 7th December 2015. See more at www.funde.com.au. Extra forms can be found at the Office.

**BAKERS DELIGHT CHRISTMAS PACKAGES**

Bakers Delight are again partnering with Northside in fundraising just in time for Christmas. Order Forms are included with this newsletter. Orders must be submitted to the Accounts Office with payment by **Friday 4th December 2015**. No late orders accepted. Delivery on Monday 7th December 2015. Extra forms can be found at the Office.

**WELCOME MORNING TEA**

P&F invite all new families to a welcome morning tea on **Thursday 4th February 2016** from 9am in the staff room. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a cuppa and meet other College families.

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**Applying for a Tax File Number through the School**

Up until 2015, a Tax File Number would be applied for during the Year Ten Work Experience Program and the school would send in the documents. As of the end of 2014, the Australian Tax Office stopped providing the service where a student could apply for a TFN through the school. It is now the responsibility of the individual family to make this happen for their students.

The procedure involves logging in to the ATO website, completing the application online, taking documents to a registered post office and waiting for the Tax File Number to come in the mail. This procedure can possibly take up to 4 weeks, so it is important to seek this application in advance of a student applying for work.

Minimum age to start working in Victoria varies with the job. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Lenna Waters for further information.

Mrs Waters
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.

TUTORING PROGRAM

This term, we have started a tutoring program where some of the VCE students tutor primary students for an hour each week. The VCE tutors assist the students with their homework first, followed by an extension to either Mathematics, English or Science. The program has been running smoothly and there is great interaction between the VCE students and the younger primary students as the lessons have been open and engaging, creating a friendly academic atmosphere. It has been a great opportunity for both the VCE students and the primary students to develop new skills; as the primary kids learn and build on their knowledge while the VCE students learn to communicate and develop leadership. It has been a pleasure tutoring the younger students and seeing them improve in their learning through the positive way they approach their work. I hope to see this program continue in the future.

FREE CASUAL CLOTHES DAY AND LUNCHEON

DATE: Wednesday 2nd December 2015
TIME: During Lunchtime
WHO: All NCC students

Students come dressed in free casual clothes. No donations required. The SRC will be financing the event with the funds raised this year.

LUNCH: SRCs will be serving a light lunch to the students! Students will receive a sausage with bread, tomato sauce and mustard (optional) and an icy pole. (Gluten free, dairy free, nut free options will be available for students with allergies and intolerances.) Students are encouraged to bring their own snacks and extra lunch.

ENTERTAINMENT: SRCs will provide some light entertainment (background music) and simple games during lunchtime.

LIBRARY NEWS

Due to renovations in the Library, all books will need to be returned next week for their annual stocktake. There will be no more opportunities to borrow from Northside’s Library this year; however, we strongly encourage you to make use of your local library.

Mrs Chris Marsh

Doug Holtam
Principal
By Michael Grose

It’s been said that children are the unwitting victims of a breakdown between partners, but it doesn’t take a separation for kids to be caught up in their parents’ disputes.

In particular, kids of all ages can be impacted by games of one-upmanship that can be played out even when parents are together.

It happens when one parent criticises the other parent’s child-rearing either verbally or non-verbally: a raised eyebrow can send a strong message. This type of criticism creates doubt and uncertainty in children.

It happens when one parent intentionally overindulges children by buying them toys, gadgets and clothes or granting them excessive freedom out of spite. Competiveness and disloyalty cause confusion and unhappiness in children.

It happens when a parent withholds affection and attention to children to punish their partner for some transgressions they may have committed. Callousness leads to feelings of unhappiness and guilt in children.

Consistency is the greatest gift parents can give

Kids crave consistency from their parents. They love to be able to predict how their parents will raise them as this puts them in control, which is vital for their healthy development. When they grow up in a predictable, caring environment they are more likely to take the learning risks necessary to grow and develop. In unstable, unpredictable environments kids either go into their shells to keep safe or they rebel. Consistency requires parents to use predictable routines, to stick to a known set of rules and to act always in their children’s best interests when raising them.

Avoid negative partnership spill over

Families have many relationships within them. Parents have relationships with children as individuals and as a group. Children also have relationships with each other and with each parent, if there are two. Parents also have a relationship with each other, which can be compromised when there is family breakdown. The challenge for parents is to prevent a breakdown in their relationship impacting on their other relationships including each person’s relationship with children. Positive parent relationships also have a positive effect on children’s learning and wellbeing. Conversely, anecdotal evidence suggests that the spill over to children from their parents’ negative relationships is significant indeed in terms of negatively impacting children’s learning and their wellbeing.

Kids are mood detectives

If two parents are in dispute there is an absolute imperative for the parents to keep the breakdown or conflict between themselves and to minimise the negative spill over to children. Inevitably, children will experience a tension if it exists between couples no matter how well their parents try to keep a dispute private. Kids are mood detectives. They’re generally better than we think at picking up the nuances of relationship tensions.

Stick to the business of parenting

It helps if parents in dispute can stick to the business of parenting and don’t confuse it with the business of partnering. If a parent isn’t getting along with a partner, then this is a problem to be worked out between them. Acting in the best interests of children means that we separate the partnering from the parenting when it comes to childrearing. This means that parents may have to compromise about many issues ranging from the straightforward, such as bedtimes, to more complex issues such as how best to manage children’s behaviour. Giving some ground to the other parent maybe problematic when relationships are troubled, but it’s not impossible. Plenty of separated couples do so successfully by consciously putting their children’s best interest before their own.

Putting aside differences in children’s best interests

Relationship breakdown can bring out the worst and the best in people. It brings out the worst when parents put their individual interest before their children’s, particularly when they interact with each other. Parents show their best side when they don’t let emotions rule their heads when they are in dispute with their partner. That means refraining from using kids as bargaining chips when interacting with their partner or ex-partner. Instead they stick to the business of parenting and make decisions in the very best interests of their children rather than their own interests. That’s the adult thing to do.
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

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{ REASONS TO HUG YOUR KIDS … NO MATTER WHAT AGE }

By providing a loving environment you help your child with their development and actually help their brains to grow bigger. You won’t necessarily improve their IQ but you’ll help them to get the most out of life.

Physical connection releases happy hormones to promote less stress, greater calm and happiness. A hug has the power to change a mood. If things are tense at home you can reboot the environment by stopping and hugging.

Physical touch doesn’t have to be your love language for you to give a hug. Hugs have far greater affect than just words. A known fact is that if kids AND especially teens don’t receive affection that they will seek it elsewhere.

Offer a hug, even if they resist, particularly when they may have slipped up or overtly made a poor decision. It is comforting for them to know you still love them, even if you don’t like their behaviour. It’s like the exclamation mark of love.

Hugs provide a sense of safety. They say, ‘I’m here to care for you and I have your back.’

As your child grows don’t stop hugging. All of the above still stands! You may need to have a conversation about where those hugs take place because as they gain independence and a sense of self, some can naturally feel embarrassed in front of their peers. Protect the hugs so your teen associates them with your love and reassurance as well as your respect of their stage of development.

Fiona Dumitrache
Student Welfare Officer

Great Big little things

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 they can do it!
November is a busy time of year and we all get discouraged. Belief in each other is a little thing to communicate but a great big thing to the person who you tell. As a family work on building self belief into your children, giving them the skills to be able to tackle hard things and a positive communication style that says ‘You Can Do It’.
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/

Preps at Assembly

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Parents and Friends who provided morning tea for 25 Prep teachers attending the Prep Literacy Project at Northside.

Everyone was so impressed and loved the selection of food you prepared.

Thank you for your support and assistance!

Mrs Olivia Tucci

Thank You P&F!
On the 7th of November I attended the Northside Year 10 Formal. This was an event I really enjoyed. It was nice to dress up in a suit and to see all of my class mates also dressed nicely. The whole night was a fun experience. Mr Holtam got up on stage and said something nice about every student in the class and gave them a necklace with their name on it and words of encouragement. We also were given a frame and it was signed on by the students of the class. It was nice to see what people wrote on it — some things were nice, some were funny. I would like to say a big thank you to Fiona and Jared for being the hosts of the Formal, and also thank you to all the teachers that attended and made it a fun night.

Jordan Shafik-eid
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.

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NCC Extra-Curricula Activities

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<td>Mondays-Fridays 3:30-6pm</td>
<td>Camp Australia Staff</td>
<td>Mandarin Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here are the unofficial stats from the Years 8, 9 and 10 Soccer Tournament:

- 22 teams competed
- 10 x 12 minute games were played
- NCC were probably the smallest school there
- NCC drew with the eventual champion, Waverley 3
- NCC won 4, lost 5 and drew 1
- NCC won their final game to come 15th overall
- Goal kickers were Kaleb 9, Gabriel 7, Nathan 2, Carey 1, Youssef 1

Well done to Nathan Lisle (captain), Kaleb, Youssef, Jeremiah, Josh Langman, Alex, Gabriel, Carey and James.

Good team effort. They worked really well together and gave it 100%.

Thanks to Mr Doug Holtam for helping and encouraging our team.

Mr Sam Vaiano

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Parents of current Year 9 students, please note the Work Experience dates for 2016:

**Tuesday through Friday, 15th - 18th March and**

**Monday through Thursday, 21st - 24th March 2016**

Paperwork must be completed by Monday 23rd November 2015.

As you may be aware from your Year 9 student, Work Experience will be much earlier in 2016 than in previous years. This was discussed early in Term Three with the Year 9 Work Related Skills class and some students have already completed paperwork. We have also already commenced the Safety Training for their work experience as there will only be six weeks between the start of school and when students will commence their work experience.

With this in mind, it is very important that all Work Experience arrangement forms are completed this year by 23rd November. This timing will allow the completion of all other required paperwork before the end of the summer holidays. I will be away from 27th November - 9th December with the Vietnam Missions Team and will be unable to assist you during this time before the end of the school year.

It is important to note that there is a public holiday on either end of the designated Work Experience block (Labour Day and Good Friday). For this reason you may elect to do work experience:

1 venue x 8 - 10 days (if the venue is agreeable to a two week block)

or

2 venues x 4 or 5 day blocks

Either of these arrangements is at the discretion of the student’s family and the venue.

A booklet about the procedures for arranging Work Experience at NCC was given to the students in class two weeks ago. It is also available on Schoology on the WRS9 course site. Please become familiar with the procedures and guidelines discussed in the booklet, as this will make the process easier for both the school and the student.

Lenna Waters
Support Our Drought-Affected Farmers

The College Community will be expressing our love, concern and support for the farmers in the north of Victoria who have been affected by the drought. Drought is an on-going problem for these families who are working to make a living from the land. When rain does not come, crops cannot grow, or be harvested, feed for animals is expensive and scarce and a cycle of debt begins. These men and women face despair and hopelessness, which often ends in suicide.

We can assist these families by donating non-perishable food goods, toiletries and paper goods. Cans and packets of in-date food, glad wrap, serviettes, detergents and toiletries are all welcome. Each homeroom and classroom will have a box to receive donations between the 9th and 29th November. Thank you.

Funde Entertainment Booklet — 38 Vouchers Included — Just in time for Christmas!

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE VALUE ON EVERY PAGE

Cost: $20 per booklet

Vouchers valid to 30th June 2016

Example Partners:

Funde is dedicated to helping charities, clubs and schools across Australia raise much needed funds for their great causes. We have brought together some of Australia's biggest brands across many of your favourite activities, including Entertainment, Food & Beverage, Attractions and Sport to help you achieve your fund raising goals. Funde is full of 2 for 1 offers, saving you 50% when you visit one of our participating partners.

Fundraising Booklet Order Form:

Name:_________________________________________________ Contact Number:___________________________

Please include your payment with this form and return to the Accounts Office by 30th November 2015

Number of booklets ordered:_________ Cost: $__________________________ (@$20/booklet)
CHRISTMAS CAKE AND TART ORDER FORM 2015

Northside Christian College

Name: _____________________________________________ Class: _________________
Contact number: ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Fruit Mince Tarts (per 6-pack)</th>
<th>Lemon Tarts (per 6-pack)</th>
<th>Christmas Cake (per cake)</th>
<th>Christmas Tree Cake (per cake)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RRP</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orders must be submitted to the Accounts office with payment by FRIDAY 4th December 2015
No late orders accepted
All orders will be delivered to Northside on Monday 7th December 2015
Parents, please note that the car parking area close to Encompass Church, marked in yellow is for Church staff and visitors ONLY. College parents are asked NOT TO PARK OR DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THESE SPACES. Even if you attend Encompass Church, you may not use these car parks. If you are dropping off your child and leaving again please use the designated school drop off zone. This has been a problem recently when the church is holding an event or hosting visitors and these car parks are not available because school parents have parked there. We share the car park with the church and it is important that we respect the car parking arrangements that have been made. If the staff member on car park duty sees you park in the church spaces they will approach you and ask you to move your car. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Please ensure you sign into the College at reception every time you come onto the College grounds outside of drop off and pick up times. During a recent routine emergency procedures drill, it became apparent that many visitors to the College do not do this. In the interests of student and your safety, please assist us in this way.

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 -

WANTED FOR THE ART ROOM:

PLASTIC BREAD TIES!

We are still collecting plastic bread ties for an art mural in 2016.

Thank you for your generous donations of old jewellery pieces. We have now collected enough for our tree mosaic project and no longer require beads & buttons.

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.