A very warm welcome back to the College Community and the 2016 Academic Year. I hope that you had a wonderful summer holiday with your family and friends. If, like me, you managed to get to the point of forgetting which day it was, I reckon you had a good break.

I am excited about the year ahead, expectant of the progress we will make together and the positive impact this will have in the lives of our students, staff and families.

I am delighted to announce that our College theme for 2016 is ‘THE YEAR OF INCREASE.’ Our key verse for the year is taken from John 15:5.

‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.’

‘Bearing much fruit’ speaks to us of God’s increase in our lives. We are also reminded that we cannot do very much of great worth without God’s guidance, wisdom and strength as we continue to take the College forward.

The vine with its branches reminds us of the importance of our common unity (community) in Christ.

If you were able to make it, I hope that you enjoyed the College Dedication Service last Friday. It was great to have the opportunity to meet together and formally launch this year of ‘INCREASE.’ The lower Primary students’ performance of our key verse with actions was delightful.

The College staff have worked very hard in preparing learning areas and programs for the year ahead and, having geared up for success, we now look forward to building on the excellent academic results we enjoyed through 2015. We are very excited to be implementing so many new initiatives and look forward to the personal growth and development that our students will experience as a result.

God gives the increase!

- Mr Doug Holtam
Principal
Visitors to our College may have noticed a large and colorful addition to the wall in our Reception space. This wall has been dubbed ‘The INSPiRE Wall’ as the big sign reads: ‘INSPiRE: Releasing potential to transform our world’.

This sign hails the launch of our brand new and very exciting talent development program. Developing God-given giftings in our students is an essential task for us as Christian educators and we are committed to doing our very best to bring out the very best in our students.

Watch the wall for information about upcoming events and competitions, and for student contributions in a number of exciting areas.

To kickstart our program, Dr John Galati, a gifted mathematician in our school community, will be running specialised Maths enrichment classes for a select number of primary and secondary students in Years 3-10.

Watch the wall to see how these students manage to tackle some tricky mathematical problems!

Details regarding our first academic competition, the Science Talent Search, will be forthcoming in the next newsletter (as well as on the wall), but in the meantime, let’s look forward to an ‘INSPiRE-ing’ year!

- Mrs Horneman

INSPiRE

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Camp Australia have confirmed that Misha will continue with us in 2016 as both our Before and After School Care coordinator (Outside School Hours Care - OSHC).

We are now able to offer Before School Care for our Primary school families. Students can be dropped off at Before School Care from 7:00am. They will be given breakfast and then be taken to their class at 8:40am.

After School Care will run from 3:30pm-6:00pm and includes afternoon tea.

Misha will collect students from their classroom or from the Office after school. Please be advised that any student not collected from the Pick Up area at 3:45pm will be taken to After School Care.

If you would like to register your child/ren for Outside School Hours Care, please go to:

For more information please see the website above or contact the College Office on 9467 2499.
STUDENT WELFARE

The Value of Regulation

Regulation is important for all of us but particularly so for our kids as they return to school. Regulation simply means that we provide some structure and a predictability in our children’s environment, no matter what the age, so they can manage the changes in their external environment and still maintain stability inside. Regardless of the stage of schooling your child is at, these tips are effective in helping children to feel regulated again.

1. **Set a regular bedtime and wake up time** and stick to it as closely as possible. Allow older teens to negotiate this with you as every child has different needs.

2. **Plan and eat healthy meals.** If blood sugar can be regulated well without extreme highs and lows, mood is more stable and the body is able to cope with temporary stress more effectively.

3. **Plan family time.** One of the most important things for us is to feel connected, heard and supported. During times of change this safe place to hang out with family is vital. Keeping the fun factor is a good stress release for all ages.

4. **Spend time in interested conversation.** Ask direct rather than open ended questions about their day so that they need to respond with more than just a “yes”, “no” or “I don’t know”. For example, “I saw you have math on your timetable today. What are you learning about?” Or, “Tell me about your teacher?” Ask what he or she is finding most difficult and what they are loving.

I am really looking forward to working with kids and families again this year as the Welfare Coordinator. If you feel your child could use some extra assistance or just someone else to chat with, please don’t hesitate to contact myself or Jared Stocks, our College Chaplain, via email.

Fiona - studentwelfare@ncc.vic.edu.au
Jared - chaplain@ncc.vic.edu.au.

- Mrs Dumitrache
Student Welfare Officer

MEMORY VERSE

“I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit, apart from Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5 (NIV)

LOST PROPERTY

The Lost Property basket is located in the Office Foyer. It 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. Unclaimed uniform items may be added to the College emergency supply.

If a uniform item cannot be found in the child’s bag, bedroom, classroom or the lost property basket, please check with the Classroom Teacher.

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

- Ms Phelan
Administration Office

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Parents & Friends meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month from 2:00 - 3.30pm (new time). Venues to be confirmed, so meet in the Reception Foyer. All welcome. If you have any queries, please email nccparentsandfriends@gmail.com.au.

Our Welcome New Parents Morning Tea on Thursday 4th was a success. Many thanks to the volunteers who brought a plate to share as we welcomed new families into the College.

- Mrs Karkaloutsos
P+F President

• Ms Dumitrache
Student Welfare Officer
MINI MOVERS
There will be no Mini Movers Program in Term One to accommodate Primary Swimming.

SWIMMING PROGRAM
The School Swimming Program started last week. Primary lessons are held every Monday and Year 7-10 lessons are held every Wednesday. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared for these lessons each week.

Any parent wanting to help at swimming is required to have a Working With Children Check. Application forms are available at your local post office or online at: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au
Application fees are free of charge for volunteers.

SWIMMING SQUAD
A reminder that the College swimming squad starts this coming week (Tuesday 16 February). Swimming squad is held on Tuesday mornings from 7am to 8am.

LIBRARY LESSONS
Due to the renovations that have occurred during the school holidays, Library lessons will not take place in Term One. Library will start again in Term Two.

If your child does not have a library bag at school, please send one in before the end of term. Your child can bring a library bag of their choice. Please ensure it is clearly labelled with their name.

Aalsmeer Florist
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

DEDICATION SERVICE
On Friday morning we held our College Dedication Service. It was great to see so many Parents attend as we prayed for a year of Increase.

LUNCHTIME BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP
All Secondary students are invited to join the Bible Discussion Group on Tuesdays at lunchtime in the Middle School Building. Bring your lunch. Starting Tuesday 16th February.
EXCITING NEW CHANGES

The Hive
Over the holidays there were a lot of exciting new changes taking place throughout the College. The space formerly known as the Primary Multi-Purpose Room has now been named “The Hive”. This space will house books from the library, computers and other resources to help our “busy bee” students increase in knowledge.

The Middle School Building

The Oval
The Oval is still a work in progress and as a result the area around it has been fenced off to ensure that the students and staff remain safe. This means that we will continue to do the after school pick-up in the way we did last year, with a main pick up point for the older children and another pick-up area, specifically for the younger children, which will be supervised by a team of Primary teachers.

We would like to thank everyone for your support throughout this transition period as we prepare for new changes.

CHURCH CAR PARK
If you are dropping off your child and leaving again please use the designated school drop off zone. Parents, please note that the car parking area close to Encompass Church, marked in YELLOW, is out of bounds for Northside Church, visitors and staff.

College parents are asked NOT TO PARK OR DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THESE SPACES. Even if you attend Encompass Church, you are not permitted to park in the yellow lines.

This has been a problem when the church is holding an event or hosting visitors during the week and their reserved car parks are not available because school parents have parked there. If the staff member on car park duty sees you park or drop off students in the church spaces they will approach you and ask you to move your car.

PARENT CLASSROOM HELPERS
All parents who would like to assist in the classroom, help with swimming or accompany your child on an excursion you will need a valid Working With Children’s Check. You can apply for a Working With Children Check online, and when you have been accepted you must add Northside Christian College to the list of workplaces where you are volunteering.

It is free to apply for as a volunteer. Please present your card to the Front Office or the receipt for your application.

You are prohibited from volunteering at the College without a current Working With Children Check.

HATS - BE SUN SMART
Please ensure your child has their Northside summer hat for Term One. We have a “No Hat, No Play” policy, which means that students without a hat need to stay under the shade cloth area outside the staff room during recess and lunchtime.
**COLLEGE VISITORS**

Please note that all visitors to the College are required to report to Reception upon arrival.

**COLLEGE BANKING**

Weekly Primary School Banking resumed on Friday 5th February. Please remember to send your child's bank books with deposit each FRIDAY MORNING. Students who arrive late to school may miss that week.

**CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)**

Forms for the CSEF are available at the Office or online for Eligible families. Eligibility criteria can be found on the website.

http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?&Redirect=1

This form is due by Monday 29th February.

**PARENT PARTICIPATION CARDS**

Parents who are completing activities that count towards their Parent Participation can now record this in the booklets outside the Accounts Office.

Please remember that if your work is not recorded we cannot credit this fee back to you.

Parents are required to participate for 5 hours each Term to qualify for this reimbursement.

There are many and a great variety of tasks available. If you are unsure of how you can help or have not completed 5 hours, please contact Reception before the end of each Term to find out about available opportunities.

**HOUSE TEAM ALLOCATIONS**

It was an exciting Assembly this week as students were allocated to their new 2016 House Team; the Courageous Conquerors, the Noble Knights or the Worthy Warriors.

**SENIOR TUTORING PROGRAM**

Last year, NCC began a tutoring program, an initiative by our School Captain, Janice Timotious, in consultation with Mrs Eleanor Tan, Director of Primary School Learning.

Tutors have been carefully selected and matched with students who need tutoring in that subject. Tutors are mentored and guided in how they are to tutor the student. They are encouraged to build a relationship of trust with the student, who can then approach them and ask for help with their school homework.

This is a paid service by parents to the senior tutors who take time after school to tutor the students. The cost is $120 per term, with an hour of tutoring a week, for a total of 8 weeks. The money is to be paid at the Accounts Office and the tutors will be paid at the end of the term.

Students in the Junior and Middle years are tutored twice a week, on a Monday and Thursday, for half an hour each session. Students in the Upper years have the option of having a once a week hour long session or the twice a week half an hour option.

If you are interested in having your child tutored by a senior student in 2016, please fill out a form at the office.
YEAR 7-9 NOVEL NIGHT

The Middle School English classes put in an extra long day on Monday to conquer the task of reading the class novels. Reading was punctuated by breaks for afternoon tea, pizza dinner and supper. Many thanks to Mrs Waters for her involvement in food breaks, and to Fiona and Jared for organising the pizzas.

As well as reading and eating, the students participated enthusiastically in competitions based on the novels.

The new Middle School facilities proved to be a great environment for the evening.

- Mrs Fishwick
Secondary Teacher

YEAR 7 DINNER

The Year 7 students were inspired at the Year 7 dinner by Sharon Witt, a Secondary Educator, Author and Motivational Speaker, who encouraged both students and parents.

The evening was also a great opportunity for new parents to meet other families and to mix with the teachers and support staff.

- Ms Westland
Director of Middle School Learning (Years 7-9)
Thursday 11th February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Parent Student Teacher Interviews

On Friday 19th February 9:00am-6:30pm we have Parent/Teacher interviews at the College in our beautifully renovated Middle School Building.

In the interests of helping our students to take greater responsibility for their learning and personal development, we are asking that all students attend the teacher interview with their parents, except for the Prep classes who have home visits in place of Interviews.

The purpose of the interviews is to set some specific learning targets for the academic year.

We understand that in many cases, more than one child in a family will require an appointment with the same teacher. If you find yourself in this situation we kindly request that families book no more than two appointments in a row with the same teacher. This will allow interviews to run more smoothly for everyone involved.

We are using the online booking system that proved successful last year. Instructions explaining how to book your appointments online can be found over the page.

You are invited to join us for a Community Dinner at 5pm outside the new Year 10 area. You may like to make your interview times around dinner time. Gluten free and vegetarian food options will be provided. If you would like to join us, please indicate that by choosing dinner as an interview time.

Looking forward to a day when staff, students and parents can partner to improve your child’s learning experience at Northside Christian College.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Doug Holtam
Principal
Dear Parents/Guardians

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held between:
9:00am – 6:30pm on Friday 19th February.

Parent teacher interviews booking times:
BOOKINGS OPEN 10:30am Monday 15th February.
BOOKINGS CLOSE 2:00pm Thursday 18th February.

HOW TO BOOK

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code and follow these simple instructions

Enter THIS school event code: 🔄
Then follow the 3 simple steps: 👇

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Secondary Parents - if you are unsure of which teachers your child has, please ask your child directly for a list of subjects they study and the teachers who take these subjects.

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, you may send a note to school with the approximate times you require, or phone the school on 9467 2499. Interviews are strictly 10 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact teachers directly to make alternative arrangements.

You can change your interview bookings, at any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address that you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on 9467 2499.