



**Northside Christian College**

Transforming Lives Through Christ and  
the Wonder of Learning

# The Vine

NEWSLETTER

# UNITED IN DIVERSITY

As I glanced at February's page on this year's College Calendar, initially to make sure that my wife had marked my birthday with a big star, I glanced at the photograph that accompanies our shortest month. It depicts a wonderfully engaging image of a group of our students on a City excursion; as I looked at the photograph I was, once again, struck by the rich ethnic diversity we are privileged to enjoy within our community.

Our cross-cultural connections provide a rich source of learning as we share life together and for this we are very grateful to God, who created a world full of variety and diversity.

As I looked again at the photograph, I noted how happy and relaxed the students were in each other's company; for me, the image summed up one of our focus values for the year - COMMUNITY - the following verse immediately came to mind:

'After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."  
(Revelation 7:9-10)

Although we come from diverse backgrounds either culturally, ethnically, denominationally, politically or any other category word ending in the letters 'lly', we are united in Christ, and are able, therefore, to live in common-unity with him and each other.

This year we will continue to celebrate the richness of our diversity and the wonder of our unity, as the College Community continues to grow stronger together.

*Doug Holtam*

NCC Principal



# STRONGER

Those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles,  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)



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[www.ncc.vic.edu.au](http://www.ncc.vic.edu.au)

FAITH

HOPE

LOVE

## NOTICES

### DIARY DATES

Tuesday 28 February  
Primary Parent Forum- 6pm

Tuesday 28 February- Thursday  
2 March  
Scholastic Book Fair

Friday 3 March  
Yr 3-12 Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 8 March  
Secondary Parent Forum- 6pm

Monday 13 March  
Labour Day Holiday- No classes

Thursday 16 March  
Twilight Open Evening  
3.45pm-7.30pm

Thursday 30 March  
Prep-Year 2 Swimming Carnival

Friday 31 March  
End of Term One - 2.30pm finish

### TERM DATES 2017

Term One:  
Monday 30th January -  
Friday 31st March

Term Two:  
Wednesday 19th April -  
Friday 30th June

Term Three:  
Wednesday 19th July -  
Friday 22nd September

Term Four:  
Tuesday 10th October -  
Friday 8th December

### CAR PARK DROP OFF ZONE

Parents, when dropping your child/ren off in the main car park in the mornings and picking them up in the evenings, please use the drop off/pick up zone rather than parking your car and waiting for your child/ren to walk through the busy car park to you.

In the interests of safety, we are trying to reduce the amount of pedestrian traffic in the car park.

Using the drop off/pick up zone will assist us with this and ensure a safer

### UNIFORMS

Academy Uniforms are our uniform suppliers. They are OPEN until 5pm on week days, and are located at 238 Wolseley Pl, Thomastown. They are also open Saturday mornings.

Online ordering is available at [www.academyuniforms.com.au](http://www.academyuniforms.com.au).

School Login: Northside Christian College  
Password: BUNDOORA

If your child does not have a House Polo Shirt, please let the Academy staff know which House your child is in and they will assist you. Students will need their House Polo Shirt for the Swimming Carnivals on Friday the 3rd of March for Years 3 to 12 and Thursday 30th of March for Prep - Year 2.

### PARENT FORUMS

Mr Holtam will be hosting two parent forums; one for Primary and one for Secondary school. Our Primary event will be on Tuesday 28th of February and the Secondary evening will be on Wednesday 8th of March.

These events will be held in the Middle School building from 6pm to 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Reception by the day of the event.



# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## MICHAEL BOND

The Year 10 - 12 students have made a strong start to their 2017 academic school year. It has been pleasing to observe students approach their studies with a determined approach to achieve their personal best.

### VCE STUDY ROOM AFTER SCHOOL

Senior School students are welcome to study in the VCE study room after school between 3:30pm and 4:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please see Mr Bond if you would like to make any other arrangements.

### SPECIAL EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS: YEAR 12 2017

For students that require special arrangements for examinations in 2017, application forms are now available to collect and complete. This applies to students that have severe health impairments, significant physical disability, specific learning disorders, severe language disorders, hearing impairment and vision impairments. To be eligible for special arrangements some documentation and medical evidence is required. This was discussed with students and families at the recent VCE/VCAL Information Evening during Week 1. If you would like to apply for consideration and/or find out more about the categories and arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Amy Homeman. Completed forms and evidence are due Friday 3rd March, 2017.

### GAT

Senior students need to become accustomed to having their dictionaries with them and not relying on Google. All students should have a dictionary and it should be with them in English classes at the very least. Students undertaking Unit 3 & 4 studies will be sitting the GAT and will more than likely need to utilise a dictionary during that time, making it important to become accustomed to it now. The GAT is scheduled for Wednesday 14th June 2017, between 10.00am - 1.15pm

### VCE STUDENT POLICY HANDBOOK

All families with students undertaking VCE study in 2017 would have received a copy of the Northside Christian College VCE Student Policy Handbook 2017 as part of the Senior School Information Pack. This handbook explains and details the policy surrounding the provision of VCE/VCAL studies at the College and it is vital that students and parents are familiar with the contents of this policy handbook.

Students are reminded that the signed 'Parents and Student Declaration' forms were due by Friday 10th February. This form was included in the information package at the VCE/VCAL Information Evening. A number of forms are still due to come in. Please sign and return this form to the VCE Administration Office ASAP.

### SAC CALENDAR

Please be aware that a SAC (School Assessed Coursework) calendar for both Unit 1 and Unit 3 has been released. This document provides an overview of when students are due to complete assessment tasks throughout the semester. Please contact the Ms Laura Bovey in the VCE Administration Office on [ncc@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:ncc@ncc.vic.edu.au) if you would like to receive a copy.



RELEASING POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

## AMY HORNEMAN

Welcome to the INSPIRE program, Mr Bond! Mr Bond, our Deputy Principal, will be working alongside Mrs Horneman in preparing students for competitions as well as running special classes and a range of other specialised activities offered through the INSPIRE program this year. Mr Bond comes with a wealth of experience in Gifted & Talented education and is a valuable asset to our program.



INSPIRE 2017 has started with the Maths and Sciences, with INSPIRE Maths classes run by Dr Galati starting up in Week 2. We welcome our enthusiastic Year 3 students into the program, and look forward to seeing their mathematical skills develop under the expert leadership and guidance of Dr Galati.

The 2017 Science Talent Search has begun! Students from Year 3 to 10 have expressed interest in completing a project for this rigorous inquiry-based competition along the theme of Future Earth. We look forward to seeing the completed projects on the INSPIRE wall early in Term 2.



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# TWILIGHT OPEN EVENING

3:45-7:30pm Thursday 16th March

Northside is a co-educational  
Prep - Year 12 College  
specialising in Christian education

PRINCIPAL'S TOURS  
2nd March, 31st March



# WELFARE TEAM

## FIONA DUMITRACHE

We have a wonderful Welfare Team this year.

Fiona Dumitrache- (Head of Welfare)

Jared Stocks- (Chaplain)

Phil Waters- (Student Welfare: middle school and VCAL focus)

Lidia Lae- (Principal Psychologist - referral only)

Danielle Bruce- (School Psychologist - referral only)



We all also have the capacity to work closely with Learning Support and INSPIRE staff.

As a team we plan to provide for your child's/adolescent's needs as well as to support you as parents/guardians.

Primary students will continue to reinforce the "You Can Do It!" keys: Organisation, Getting Along, Persistence, Confidence and Resilience. They are also participating in Healthy Living Skills (HLS) which develops their practical capacity to live a healthy and safe life.

Secondary students in Years 7-9 have two periods a week, and Year 10s one period a week, allocated for Personal Development, covering critical areas of organisation, relationships, purpose, personal safety, respect, mental health and understanding self. Senior students (Years 10-12) have a mini seminar every Wednesday morning covering similar topics but with age appropriate material.

As a response to parent request and in support of parents this year, we are providing early-evening sessions spread over the year on the following topics: Parenting, Child Exploitation Material and Cybersafety, Personal Safety, and Relationships. WE VALUE PARENTS' RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COLLEGE so we really encourage you to plan for and attend these sessions so that you can equip yourselves further in helping your child/adolescent. Those who participated last year gained much from the support offered and have helped us to develop and respond further to our community needs.

If your child would benefit from a more specific form of intervention, referral can be made to Fiona (who offers short term counselling and is a registered counsellor) or to the College Psychologists. Students may access Jared and Fiona at any time for mentoring support. Phil also has a few periods allocated for general student welfare support.

Should you like more information about how we can help you this year, don't hesitate to contact anyone on the team via the main office or email [studentwelfare@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:studentwelfare@ncc.vic.edu.au). We are here to serve.



## VCE LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Our VCE students have 'hit the ground running' in 2017, beginning with the VCE student leadership retreat at the Geelong Conference Centre in Week 1. On the retreat we worked hard, setting the tone for a year of rigour and achieving personal bests in our education. We also started our student leadership course, 'The Genius of Jesus', which sets a foundation for developing our skills in student leadership based on Jesus' example of servanthood.

We were privileged to have Dan Lian, a pastor from CityLife church in Melbourne, speak to us about the difference between a 'servant spirit' and a 'selfie spirit'. We look forward to seeing our student leaders flourish in their service to the school as well as in their personal success through their VCE journey in 2017.

Amy Horneman

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Email: [attendance@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:attendance@ncc.vic.edu.au)

It is a government requirement that students attend school all day, for all scheduled classes, every school day, from 8.40am until 3.30pm. To meet this requirement we must receive written notice of your child's absence, late arrival or early departure - which includes the reason (Illness, Medical/Dental Appointment, Holiday, Other) and the date/s absent.

This can be communicated to the College by:

- Return email
- Written note or Green Absence Slip
- Medical Certificate (Please note: Any student missing a VCE subject MUST provide a medical certificate)

If you call or speak to the Office in regards to absence, we thank you for your diligence, however notification must also be provided in writing. We place great importance upon the health and safety of your child/ren and thank you for your help in this matter which enables us to meet government requirements.

NCC Administration

## ENROLMENTS

Applications for Prep and Year 7/2018 will be interviewed in 5 weeks- during Term 1 holidays. Please ensure that you lodge your child's 2018 applications this term as current application numbers indicate that Northside will have a waiting list after first-round offers.

NCC Administration



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