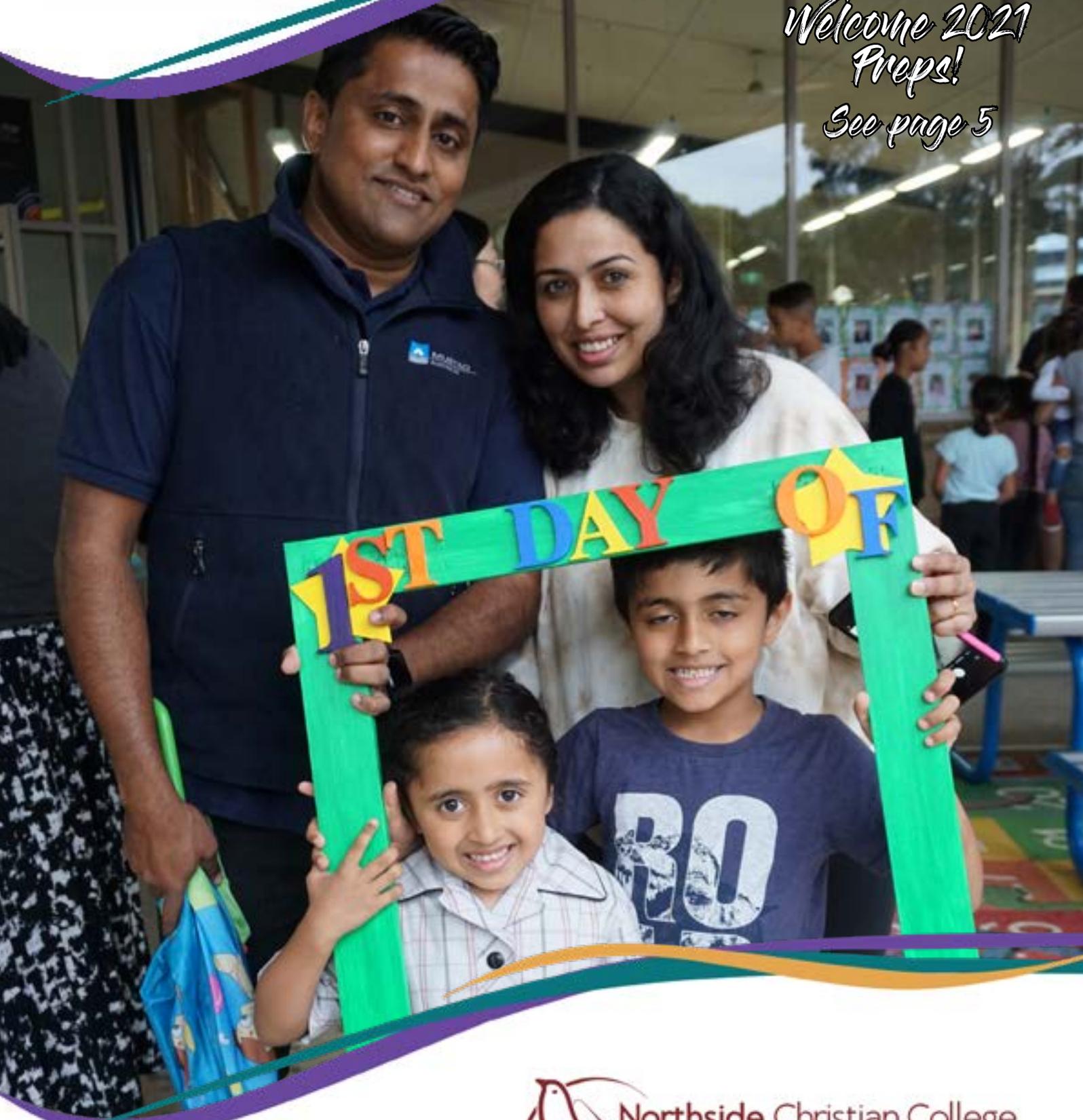


*Welcome 2021  
Preps!  
See page 5*



**Northside Christian College**

Transforming Lives Through Christ and  
the Wonder of Learning



*Putting  
on the  
Armour of  
God  
See page 6*



## Welcome!

Mr Damian Higgins, Principal

A new year begins. A warm welcome back to Northside Christian College. Or if this is your first year as a Northside family, we are so excited to have you as valued members of our Christ Centered Learning Community.

Although we do not know what lies ahead this year in terms of the impact of the Global Pandemic on our country and the state of Victoria, we do know that God is with us and that we are well prepared for any challenges that lie ahead. The staff of Northside are confident that our students can expect to make good progress in their learning and will grow socially, emotionally, academically and spiritually throughout the year.

Our theme for the year is STAND and is based on a passage in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

*"Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to STAND your ground, and after you have done everything, to STAND."*

*Ephesians 6:13*

In this verse and the larger passage within the letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul likens the life of a Christian to being a soldier and the different 'tools' available to the Christian he envisions as the pieces of equipment that the soldier would use (e.g. the sword of the Spirit). As a Christian, each of us are called to engage in a kind of battle. Not a violent or aggressive one that causes harm to others, but a spiritual battle which, if successful, brings about the defeat of "evil spiritual forces in the heavenly world" (Eph 6:12). I look forward to exploring together what this spiritual battle might look like, what the different parts of the soldier's armour represent and, furthermore, how we can all engage this year in our challenge of STANDING together.

Ultimately, the pieces of the soldier's armour can be summarised in one word: JESUS.

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him as we march into 2021.

Grace & Peace

## 2021 Term Dates

### Term 1

Friday 29th January -  
Wednesday 31st March

### Term 2

Monday 19th April -  
Friday 25th June

### Term 3

Wednesday 14th July -  
Thursday 16th September

### Term 4

Monday 4th October -  
Tuesday 7th December

## Diary Dates

Friday 12th February

Whole School Photo Day

Monday 15th February

Whole School Assembly Online

Tuesday 23rd February

Parent Student Teacher  
Interviews (PSTI) for New Students  
4.00pm - 5.00pm

Thursday 25th February +

Friday 26th February

Scholastic Book Fair

Monday 1st March

Whole School Assembly Online

Thursday 4th March

Parents and Friends (P&F) Meeting

Monday 8th March

Labour Day Public Holiday -  
No classes

Thursday 11th March

Open Evening

Monday 15th March

Whole School Assembly Online

Thursday 18th March

Prep - Year 12 PSTI 4.00pm -  
8.00pm

Monday 29th March

Prep - Year 12 PSTI 2.00pm -  
5.00pm

Wednesday 31st March

Last day of Term 1

## DON'T MISS OUT!

The College regularly sends out important notifications to families through **SEQTA Engage**. If you have not yet downloaded the App, please contact Reception on 03 9467 2499 for instructions on how to do so.

If you have already downloaded the App, thank you! Don't forget to turn on your **SEQTA Engage Notifications in Settings**, to avoid missing any essential information.



## ENROLMENT UPDATES

### Prep 2022

Applications for Prep 2022 will close on Friday 19th March 2021. All siblings of existing students must apply by the closing date in order to confirm their place for Prep 2022. The College cannot guarantee a place for a younger sibling expecting to commence Prep next year if their application is received later in the year. Please avoid disappointment by submitting your Prep 2022 before Friday 19th March 2021. Download our application form from the College website, or send a request to [enrol@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrol@ncc.vic.edu.au).



## SECONDARY HATS

Please note that the black bucket hat is now compulsory for Secondary School students as of Term 1 2021. The cap was phased out in 2020. All Secondary School students are expected to be wearing the bucket hat by Week 3 (this week)



## WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Friday 12th February 2021

Students must wear full Summer uniform, including blazers for Secondary students.

Order forms were sent home last week. If you did not receive one, please contact Reception on 03 9467 2499.



# DEDICATION SERVICE & Prayer at the Pole

## Mr Michael Bond, Deputy Principal

On Friday 5th February, the College community gathered online for the 2021 Dedication Service for Northside Christian College. This event provided a chance for staff, students, parents and the broader community to pray together to dedicate everything that we do at the College for God's glory and purposes.

The annual Prayer at the Pole event was also held on Friday and was a lovely opportunity to pray for all members of our school community. A range of students and staff were able to share during this special time of prayer.

Thank you to our College Chaplain, Jared Stocks, for your efforts in planning this event.

The Dedication Service can be viewed on the College's Facebook page.



## Second Hand Uniforms

Unfortunately, due to COVID, the College is unable to host its Annual Second Hand Uniform Day. College families have the opportunity to sell their second hand uniforms directly to other families via the Facebook group [NCC Second Hand Uniforms and Textbooks Buy, Swap Sell](#). Please ensure you read the group rules; only NCC uniforms and textbooks may be sold in this group. NCC provides the platform for the sale of second hand NCC uniforms and textbooks, but these sales and purchases are directly between families, not with NCC.



# WELCOME TO OUR 2021 PREPS!



**Ms Olivia Natoli & Ms Melissa Schepis,  
Prep Teachers**

Prep 2021 has had a great start! The Preps came for a play date at the school a week before starting and had a chance to see their classroom and classmates.

They started their first official day of Prep on Friday 29th January.

In Term I the Preps have Wednesdays off school. This is a great chance for them to rest after two long days.

On Wednesdays the Prep teachers set off to visit the Preps at their homes and enjoy playing Lego, colouring-in, board games or whatever the Preps choose to do! By the end of the term, every Prep should have been visited by their teacher.

We very much look forward to getting to know the Precious Preps and their parents during this special time.



# THE ARMOUR OF GOD

Mrs Eng, Mrs Georgiou, Ms Vaughn and Mr Gorfine,  
Year 5/6 Teachers

We had an excellent first week for 2021 in the Year 5/6 Area. To introduce our College's Biblical theme for this year we conducted a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) project. First, students explored the story of Paul the Apostle, then they learnt about Spiritual Armour and why they need it from this year's memory verse, Ephesians 6:13 "Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Our 73 students in Years 5 and 6 were split into teams, given rolls of tape, cardboard and craft supplies to dress up their Spiritual Warrior, fitted out with the Armour of God. They needed to include a Belt of Truth, a Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes that were ready because of the gospel of peace, a Shield of Faith, a Helmet of Salvation and a Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Students used their STEAM and collaboration skills to complete the challenge and have fun whilst doing it.



The Royal Women's Hospital presents

## Meet a Scientist 2021

Thursday 11th February 2021



**Dr Elizabeth Baker**  
Neonatal Trainee  
Research Fellow



**Pamela McCalman**  
Registered Midwife  
Research Officer



**Amanda Kwong**  
Paediatric Physiotherapist  
Postdoctoral Researcher



**Dr Ellen Menkhorst**  
Reproductive Biology  
Research Fellow

ARE YOU A STUDENT IN YEARS 10, 11 OR 12?  
ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SCIENCE?

'Meet a Scientist 2021' is being streamed live at Northside Christian College on Thursday 11th February. This virtual event is open to students from Year 10-12. If you would like to attend, please see Mrs Varghese for a permission form!

# MEET THE WELLBEING TEAM!

*"Stand in the Rain" by Heather Cootee*

## Mrs Heather Cootee, Head of Student Wellbeing

As I travelled to NCC for the first time to undertake my new role, my feelings were many. Some of my thoughts included, "What will my day look like?" "Who will I meet?" "I'm so excited. I'm nervous." "Will the staff like me?" "Will I do a good enough job?" "Will I feel like I fit?" "Can I do the tasks that I will need to do?"

Sound familiar?

Just as I have had many thoughts racing through my mind, many of our students will be experiencing similar thoughts, so be assured. I truly can step into their shoes and understand how they may be feeling about beginning their new school year.

Upon arrival on my first day I noticed the huge sign that displays our College focus for this year. We are encouraged to stand and not lie down. 2020 provided us all with a "season of rain" or a reason to fall down, however, there were also opportunities to work through the challenges and come out the other side. Was it easy? For some, maybe, but regardless, here we are.

My prayer for 2021 is that our students draw on their grit and determination, have a new found focus and, a passion for learning, and that what they hope for brings about a will to stand in any weather.

So, be encouraged. If your child is feeling nervous, worried, or somewhat hopeful about what the school year may bring, you are not alone. A new school year brings much change for most of us, including your Wellbeing Team. We look forward to journeying with you all and meeting you in the days and weeks to come.

Jared, Chelsea, Phil and I make up your Wellbeing Team this year and our hope is that as we work together, your young people may continue to thrive and truly learn the plans and purpose God has for their lives.

Feel free to contact us on 9467 2499

Heather Cootee [hcootee@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:hcootee@ncc.vic.edu.au)

Jared Stocks [jstocks@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:jstocks@ncc.vic.edu.au)

Chelsea Weeks [cweeks@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:cweeks@ncc.vic.edu.au)

Phil Waters [pwaters@ncc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pwaters@ncc.vic.edu.au)



## DANCING SUCCESS

We are delighted to announce that Martika-Carla Phemister (Year 12 2020) will be performing her VET contemporary solo dance in this year's Top Class Dance, part of the VCE Season of Excellence.



We commend Martika on her dedication throughout a challenging year. This commitment and perseverance assisted her in achieving some excellent outcomes with her dance studies.

The VCE Season of Excellence showcases work produced by

outstanding VCE students who completed performing or visual arts, technology, design, or research studies in 2020. Events are presented at Melbourne's major cultural venues, alongside associated education programs.

Martika has been offered places in a number of dance schools in 2021. We wish her God's blessings as she continues her endeavours in this field.



# CHILD SAFETY

The Child Safe Standards and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations aim to drive cultural change in organisations that provide services for children so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice. Below are some details about resources to assist the College in maintaining a child safe culture.

## Child Safety Policy

The Northside Christian College Committee of Management has approved the Child Safety Policy, Code of Conduct and Procedures (Policy No. 11). The Child Safety Policy is a comprehensive and overarching document that provides an overview of the key elements of Northside Christian College's approach to creating a child safe organisation. This document is available at the College Office and on the College website.



## Child Safety Code of Conduct

Staff, directors, volunteers and contractors at the College are required to abide by the College's Child Safety Code of Conduct. The purpose of this Code is to promote child safety within all College environments. This document is available at the College Office and on the College website.

## Procedures For Responding To And Reporting Allegations Of Suspected Child Abuse

Northside Christian College has a clear procedure for responding to allegations of suspected child abuse in accordance with Ministerial Order No. 870 and other legal obligations. Please use the template document of the Child Safety page on the College website to document any incident, disclosure or suspicion that a child has been, or is at risk of being abused.



## Child Safe Strategy Document

Northside Christian College has strengthened the safety of our operations as a result of the implementation of the Child Safe Standards at the College. A key objective for Northside Christian College is to embed child safety practices into our culture. The work that is involved in building a child safe organisation is never completed. It is a dynamic, multifaceted and ongoing developmental process of learning, monitoring and reviewing. Maintaining a child safe organisation is not a one-off task. It must become part of our College's ongoing processes and be embedded into our culture. Your feedback and support with developing a child safe culture is greatly valued. A copy of the College's Child Safe Strategy Document is available on the College website on the Child Safety page.



## CHILD SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Child Safety Officer

Northside Christian College has appointed Ms Heather Cootee (Head of Student Wellbeing) as the College's Child Safety Officer. The primary purpose of the position is to manage the implementation of the Child Safety Policy (Policy No. 1), especially in relation to training and educating staff and students and to manage any incidents of reporting to ensure Northside Christian College is compliant with all legislation around such reporting.

The Child Safety Officer is a contact person for children, young people, parents, employees and volunteers to seek advice and support regarding the safety and wellbeing of children and young people within our College. The role requires the officer to take action when child protection concerns are reported, including the provision of support to those within the community who have been affected, with an understanding and respect for cultural diversity.

### Child Protection Workers

The College's Child Protection Workers are Ms Heather Cootee, Head of Student Wellbeing and Mr Jared Stocks, College Chaplain. The Child Protection Workers have the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or students in relation to Child Safety. The Child Protection Workers at Northside Christian College will always work concurrently with the Principal and other College leaders.

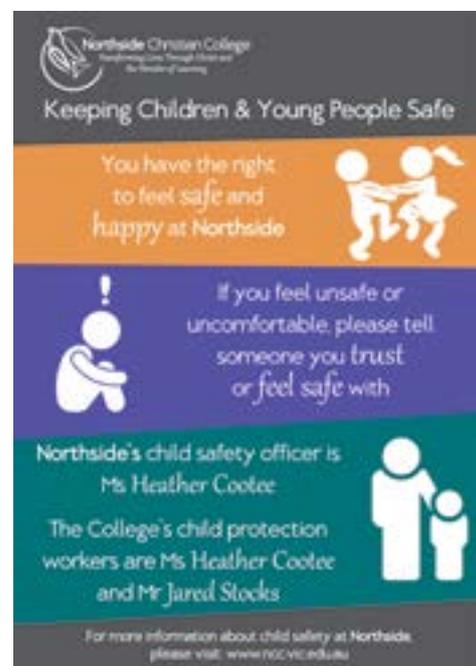
### Principal

The Principal is responsible for:

- ~ Dealing with and investigating reports of child abuse;
- ~ Ensuring that all staff, contractors, and volunteers are aware of relevant laws, College policies and procedures, and the College's Child Safety Code of Conduct;
- ~ Ensuring that all adults within the Northside Christian College community are aware of their obligation to report suspected sexual abuse of a child in accordance with these policies and procedures;



Ms Heather Cootee,  
Child Safety Officer



- ~ Ensuring that all staff, contractors and volunteers are aware of their obligation to observe the Code of Conduct (particularly as it relates to child safety);
- ~ Providing support for staff, contractors and volunteers in undertaking their child protection responsibilities.

### Directors of Learning

All Directors of Learning must ensure that they:

- ~ Promote child safety at all times;
- ~ Assess the risk of child abuse within their area of control and eradicate / minimise any risk to the extent possible;
- ~ Educate employees about the prevention and detection of child abuse; and
- ~ Facilitate the reporting of any inappropriate behaviour or suspected abusive activity.

### Staff / Volunteers / Contractors

All staff / volunteers / contractors share in the responsibility for the prevention and detection of child abuse, and must:

- ~ Familiarise themselves with the relevant laws, the Code of Conduct, Northside Christian College's policy and procedures in relation to child protection, and comply with all requirements;
- ~ Report any reasonable belief that a child's safety is at risk to the relevant authorities (such as the Police and / or the State- based child protection service) and fulfill their obligations as mandatory reporters;
- ~ Report any suspicion that a child's safety may be at risk to their supervisor (or, if their supervisor is involved in the suspicion, to a responsible person at the College); and
- ~ Provide an environment that is supportive of all children's emotional and physical safety.

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

We would like to commend our Year 12 class of 2020 for their perseverance and resiliency as they navigated online learning and the challenges associated with completing their final year of schooling during a pandemic. Thank you to our parents and dedicated teaching and support staff for their efforts supporting our students throughout their learning journey.

We are pleased to advise that our Dux for this year is Rachel Shemara Karunaratne who achieved an ATAR score of 99.45. Shemara has completed all of her Prep to Year 12 studies at Northside. We congratulate her on her outstanding results.

Please continue to pray for the class of 2020 as they prepare for a broad range of post-school pathways. We congratulate our students on their achievements across a broad range of subjects and wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.



## Anaphylaxis Management

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. Food allergies and anaphylaxis have increased over the last decade and it is not uncommon for schools to have many children who may be anaphylactic. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

Most food allergic reactions do not involve anaphylaxis, and the likelihood of a severe allergic reaction from casual exposure when food is not ingested (e.g. from touch or exposure to odours) is very low. However, severe reactions may occur unpredictably, thus any allergic reaction to foods should be taken seriously and treated as a potential medical emergency requiring immediate treatment.

The purpose of the College's Anaphylaxis Management Policy is to achieve the following:

- ~ To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling. This extends to all College learning environments (onsite and off-site).
- ~ To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the College's Anaphylaxis Management Policy in the College community.
- ~ To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.

~ To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the College's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

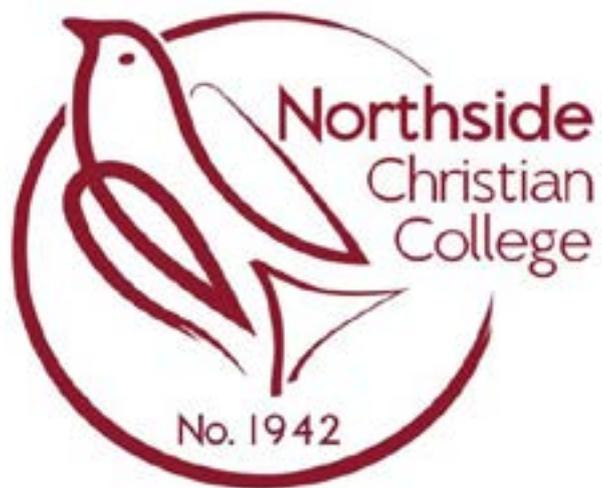
~ To remain compliant with Ministerial Order 706: Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian Schools and the guidelines on anaphylaxis management.

As we commence a new school year, it is timely that we all remind ourselves to be mindful not to inadvertently expose our students to potential triggers. Your continued support in ensuring that our children stay safe is appreciated. A couple of simple steps for families who have students with food allergies include:

- ~ Remind students to always eat food that has been packed from home.
- ~ Encourage students to not accept food from peers.
- ~ Provide food that does not contain allergens.
- ~ Make sure children know if they have an allergy as well as the adults who are caring for them. This includes completing an Action Plan. Copies are available from the College Office. More strategies and information is available from [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au) or [www.allergyfacts.org.au](http://www.allergyfacts.org.au).

A copy of the College's Anaphylaxis Management Policy is available in the policy section on the College website at [www.ncc.vic.edu.au](http://www.ncc.vic.edu.au).

*The Committee of Management and the Executive Team at Northside Christian College endorsed the College's Anaphylaxis Management Policy.*



P: 03 9467 2499  
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[www.ncc.vic.edu.au](http://www.ncc.vic.edu.au)