From the Principal

Thank you for a wonderful year! Our school has seen many changes and improvements that have enriched the education on offer at our school. Our Performance Space has been heavily used in recent days and a great highlight was the Year 10 celebration. The students who looked after the event did a wonderful job and the night was fabulous. A great highlight for me was the MCs for the evening who kept the night light and enjoyable. Our Dance evening was a wonderful success and the Year 6 Bush Dance was a highlight for all involved.

Next year, we will see further changes with the new E Block classrooms and staff work spaces in the Secondary School being completed. The buses that will service some of the harder suburbs to access will also begin operations, along with the opening of the Café for five days a week at school.

We are starting a new project for our Year 8 students with a semester long project for one period a week to allow students to indulge in an area of study for which they have a passion. This project is being overseen by Mrs Glassock, who looks after the Extension and Enrichment in the Secondary School.

We will also be introducing a number of new camping experiences for our students in Years 8 to 10, with a Fishing and Surf Camp, an Art Camp, a “City to Surf” Camp culminating at Green Patch on the state’s South Coast, and a Service Camp to Moree, as well as a “Girls Only” Camp to add to the current Mountain Bike Camp in Canberra, the Outback Camp to Bourke, the Urban Experience Camp and the Yarrabah Trip. There is much to look forward to.

To those families leaving the school, I hope it has been a profitable relationship with our school, and that we have assisted you in bringing up your children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

We are farewelling Mrs Richelle Watkins, who has completed her 12 month appointment with us. It has been a joy to have Mrs Watkins teach in our school. Her gentleness and passion for the way in which we approach the education of children has been a real highlight for us. She will still be involved in the school community as a mum. Thank you for sharing your life with us!

We also have a number of new staff to cater for the growth in our school. Ms Geraldine Lian (Design and Technology), Miss Natasha Roberts (Secondary History), Mrs Heidi Stead (Junior School Curriculum Coordinator) and Mrs Emma Collins (Secondary Science) will be joining us next year.

Mrs Gabi Smith (Secondary English) will be returning next year. Ms Kate O’Connor (Secondary English) and Mrs Cassie Climpson (Secondary PDHPE) will also be returning from maternity leave in a part time capacity. We also have Mrs Sally Antcliff joining us in a part time capacity as School Nurse.

May this holiday season be a time of wonderful refreshment for all of you as we remember the Saviour’s birth.

Bill Rusin

From the Prayer Group

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

For Prayer and Praise

• Praise God that He sent Jesus into our world for our redemption, blessing and hope. Pray that more will accept Jesus as their Lord and king.
• Give thanks and pray for Year 11 students and for the staff teaching them, for students of Year 12 2013 and for students leaving Covenant.
• Give thanks for 2013: our school community, the friendships, the lessons learned. And pray for safety and rest over the school holidays.

Please join with us in prayer— Thursdays 9.00-9.30am in the Performance Hall foyer
Email the Prayer Group at: prayergroup@covenant.nsw.edu.au

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During the Holidays
Please note that limited support staff will be at school over the holiday period leading up to Christmas and then returning on Monday 13 January. Teaching staff will return on Monday 20 January and students on Tuesday 28 January.
Kindergarten students will begin on Wednesday 29 January.

New Bus Services in 2014 - Ready to Book
To book the Cromer/Collaroy/Dee Why/Narraweena/Red Hill bus or the Balgowlah/Seaford/Fairlight bus, simply click on the Trybooking link http://www.trybooking.com/DZNK.
You have the choice of a one way option or return travel per term. Bus passes will be issued early in Term 1.
If you have paid online, you can use the service from the first day of term.

Before & After School Care 2014
Please note: Students in Year 7 can attend Before & After School Care and receive the CCB & CCR benefits.

Mr Andrew Lowry, Business Manager

Careers News

Is your son/daughter interested in an apprenticeship, but you don’t know where to start? Apprenticeships are generally traditional technical trades which normally take three/four years to complete, depending on the trade. Check the list of apprenticeships or traineeships and narrow your choices to what interests you. Next, find an employer. You must be employed before you can start training. Different methods of training will suit different types of apprenticeships.
Traineeships usually last one or two years and provide training in vocational areas not usually covered by apprenticeships. Traineeships are available across a diverse range of emerging careers in most sectors of business and industry.

Pre-Apprenticeship Test
Thinking about a career as a tradesperson, health worker or in retail? This is a link to Maths and English aptitude tests which show you the entry levels expected for different industry areas.
Go to http://www.ultimt.com.au/PreApprenticeshipPracticeTest/HomeState.do

Royal Botanic Garden’s Horticulture Apprenticeship
Applications close Thursday 5 December. Apprentice horticulturists are employed for up to four years and work a 38-hour week. Apprentices study Parks and Gardens Certificate III at TAFE one day per week and receive their practical training at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney.

Café Covie - Open every Wednesday on covered Basketball Court 8.30 - 11.30am - Takeaway only from 10.30am
School Canteen - Open Monday and Friday. Order online www.munchmonitor.com
CCS Uniform Shop - Open Monday 2.00-2.45pm and Wednesday 8.00-9.00am (ph: 9450 2696)
**What's New on the Blog Site?**

**Year 5 Billy Cart Day**
The annual Year 5 Billy Cart Race Day is a lot of fun and creativity. Students form teams and with the help of some parents build, or modify, and decorate a billy cart.
This year the race track was surrounded by construction fencing due to work on E Block. This reduced the space for spectators but not the excitement.
Team first had to demonstrate their vehicle could brake well and then took two, three or four runs to measure their fastest time.
The final (short) run by Year 6 teacher Mr Groves was very memorable!


**Year 6 End of Year Celebrations**
The end of Primary Schooling can come with mixed emotions for students. Some are excited about the thought of different subjects and making new friends, while the very thought of such brings concern to others. Whatever the thought of moving on to the big world of Secondary School brings, the end of an era needs to be marked with a celebration....and celebrate they did!


**Other New Blog Posts to Visit!**
Covenant Christian School Newsletter—4 December 2013

Last Day of Term
Junior School Last Day Activities
Sadly the last day of the year has come around once again. Junior School will be conducting multi day with the theme being BEACH or CHRISTMAS. Money raised from the gold coin donation will be sent to aid those whose lives were swept away in the Philippines Tornado.

We will also be holding a Talent Show commencing at 9.30am and will finish with our farewell assembly, both to take place in the new Performance Hall.

Secondary School
The last day of term is mufti day and the money raised will be donated to Kitgum. Covenant has been supporting Kitgum for a number of years and the money will raised will be placed with the money LEWIS house raised through the Year 8 international studies program. Irene Gleeson died this year yet has left a wonderful legacy, helping many thousands of children to receive food, education, health care, vocational training and spiritual nourishment.

Uniform Shop Open in January
The Uniform Shop will be open for current families on Thursday and Friday, 23 and 24 January, from 3.00pm to 6.00pm.

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.
Date of
Letter Class Topic
26/11  6  English Classes for 2014
27/11  6-7  Maths Acceleration for 2014
29/11  7  Visual Arts Kits
11  Jerseys

If you did not receive a letter relevant to your child, please ask your child to collect a copy from their teacher or go to http://tinyurl.com/CCSNotes.

Community Notices
(The school cannot necessarily make careful assessments of the quality or integrity of all of the services or events advertised in the newsletter. The Board welcomes feedback from members of the school community about the organisations which receive promotion. Comments should be in writing, addressed to the Board, and will be treated confidentially.)

• ‘The Gumnut Adventures’
Written & directed by Mrs Heather Pitt (Covie Drama teacher), adapted from works of May Gibbs. Performed by students of Stage Door Drama, starring Charlotte Pitt (the donkey in Arabian Nights) as the evil Mrs Snake! Avalon Public School Hall, Sat 7 Dec at 7.30pm and Sun 8 Dec at 5pm. Tickets $10 & $8 available at door. Suitable for 5 and up.

• Kids OT launches ‘Skills Central’
Experienced Occupational Therapists provide weekly group therapy classes. Provides parents with flexibility in accessing a range of classes at a very low cost. Ph Kids OT on 9451 5735 for a brochure and timetable. These school holidays they are also offering Occupational Therapy and Interactive Metronome Intensives—powerful in developing focus, attention and processing speed to prepare children for returning to a successful year of school in 2014.

• Christmas Carols 2013
To thank the volunteer service organisations within our communities. Wed 4 Dec, 6pm at Christ Church Auditorium, 1 Cowan Rd, St Ives.

• Holiday ‘Fun and Splash’
Warringah Aquatic Centre. See the full holiday activity program at www.warringahaquatic.com.au.

Term Dates for 2014
Term 1 – Tue 28 Jan – Fri 11 Apr
Term 2 – Tue 29 Apr – Fri 27 Jun
Term 3 – Mon 21 Jul – Fri 19 Sep
Term 4 – Tue 7 Oct – Thu 4 Dec

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a very happy New Year!

This Week’s Quizze
CREAprofitSED

Answer to the last Quizze
MISSING FLOORBOARD