From the Head of Junior School
To start the year, given a blank cheque, what would you pray for?

Being a teacher, I am privy to many of the blank cheque prayers of our students. I have heard lots of praying, especially for people. There have been prayers for mums, dads, grandmas, grandpas, omas, opahs, uncles, aunties, cousins … and petitions for all manner of pets.

When children pray for an event, it is a common request that the event be smooth. “I pray that my birthday party/sleepover/water fight would go smoothly.” We love smooth … but it is an immature prayer, I think - milk not meat - not wrong, just a tad self-focused. Still, we do it as adults … at least, I do. “I pray the Swimming Carnival would run smoothly.” (That one’s for you, Miss Hammond.)

In the Bible, we read of a servant of the Lord, Paul. He was good at praying and shows me what a mature prayer might sound like. He was in chains in prison. He was dictating a letter to his scribe, to be sent to a group who had gathered in a house early one Sunday morning. In the letter, he had this request… “And pray for us … that a door may open for our message …”

Of all the things to pray for there in prison, bound, guarded, confined! I know I would be praying that another sort of door be opened and that my escape attempt might go smoothly, self-focused or not. But Paul prays for the success of his message.

This year, 2014, we will, if we haven’t already, have ups and downs, rough times and smooth.

There will be wins and woes, celebrations and conflicts. There will be issues. There are already!

Pray for us. Pray for us, too, that in those rough times, especially in the rough times - the ones we so eagerly avoid - that a door may open in hearts and minds for our message. And this is our message: that the reconciliation that Christ won on the cross between God and humanity might be experienced by all people in all places. Reconciliation with God is the starting point. Get this right and our prayers from prison will take on a different purpose.

Oh, that we might have the wisdom to spot, and the gumption to take, our opportunities even in the tricky times. Oh, that a door may be open for our message.

Time to sign that cheque!

Wayne Morton

Andrew’s Angle
Working Bee - This Saturday
This Saturday - 15 February - 8.00am to 12.00noon. A great opportunity to help the school and meet other members of the school community. We will be helping prepare for the new Secondary student play and terrace seating area, amongst other things.
Andrew’s Angle (cont’d)

New Charter Bus Service - Collaroy & Seaforth
We now have more than 20 students utilising the charter bus services to the Collaroy and Seaforth areas. You are required to book by the term one way or return via trybooking service. However, if you are interested in commencing part way through the term, please contact me via email: alowry@covenant.nsw.edu.au.

Please Pay Fees
Thank you to all the families who have paid their school fees on time. This is greatly appreciated. A reminder that if you have not yet to paid, Term 1 fees are now overdue. It greatly helps the school financially if fees are paid on time. In the near future a $75 reminder fee letter will be sent to those families who have not made payment or alternatively contacted me regarding their fee payment schedule.

Important Bus Information—Chatswood to School
Please note that, due to a change in Forest Coach Line’s service scheduling, as from Monday 24 February, School Bus Route 127—Chatswood to Covenant will depart Chatswood at 7.50am instead of 7.57am.

Travel Passes for 2014
Free travel to and from school with Forest Coach Lines, STA and CityRail will cease on Friday 14 February. Students need to collect their passes from the school office if they haven’t already done so.

Transdev (Shorelink) will be issuing new passes over the next couple of weeks - Transdev travellers will have free travel until their passes are issued to the school.

Students in Years 3 and 7 should have re-applied for their travel passes for this year. If you haven’t already done so, please ensure that application forms are completed and handed in to the office as soon as possible.

Community Freezer
Sometimes life can be a bit challenging and receiving a meal can make all the difference. The Community Freezer seeks to bless those who are faced with difficult or unexpected circumstances. If you find yourself in this situation or know of others in our community who would benefit from a meal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

At the beginning of each term, we need to stock up the freezer and we would really appreciate any meals, made or bought (grocery vouchers or lunch box items also appreciated).

If you are able to help, please drop-off at the school office. Many thanks for your help in blessing our community.

Mrs Caroline Kilby, 0427 105 060, caroline@santagept.com.au, on behalf of the Community Freezer Team

Careers News

Launch of Covie Careers

This week we launched a new website called Covie Careers. It is a great resource for both parents and students.

Our aim is to provide all the latest information that will help your child make informed decisions about their future career and life beyond school.

You can use this site to locate universities, TAFE and any other type of course across Australia, obtain information about the HSC, search for job vacancies and much more.

There is also a calendar of careers events that will be updated regularly. If you sign up, you will be able to receive email alerts of particular events from the careers calendar. Some more features will be available in soon.

Please see link http://www.coviecareers.com.

Covie Careers can also be accessed via the Covenant website - http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/links.

Café Covie - Open every day 8.30 -11.30am
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)

Next Covie Working Bee
Saturday 15 February 2014
8.00am to 12.00noon

Junior School Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 18 February 2014
8.30am to 12.00noon

Year 5-6 iPad Information Evening
Tuesday 18 February 2014
7.30pm in the K Block Performance Space
Year 10 and 11 Notebook Delivery Evening
On Thursday evening at 7.30pm, we will be delivering student notebooks to Year 10 students and new students in Year 11. We will spend some time considering the safe and appropriate use of technology before students will be issued with a school owned notebook computer.

Students must have completed the Digital Discipleship course, have a suitable protective case and have a parent present to be issued with a computer. Anyone who is unable to attend this evening should contact Mr Youl for an alternative time in Week 4 to make the handover.

The notebook program information booklets will be available on the night.

Year 7 (all) and Year 9 (boys only) Immunisations
Each year, the NSW Ministry of Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based vaccination program. In 2014 the following vaccines will be offered:

- Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine - one dose - for all Year 7 students who have not previously received Varicella vaccine or had chickenpox disease.
- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine - one booster dose. This dose was previously recommended at 15 years of age. Your child will only be offered this vaccine in Year 7.
- HPV vaccine (Human Papillomavirus) - a three dose course. The vaccine will be offered to Year 7 boys and girls and Year 9 boys as a three-dose course over the school year. Students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 at school but do not complete the course will be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents are advised to read all the information provided, complete the Consent Form and return it to school.

Senior Blazers (Years 10-12)
The ordering of the senior blazers will take place in the next two weeks (17-26 February). Each student needs to be fitted with ‘try-on’ sizes. Please note that we have separate styles for boys and girls.

The uniform shop is open on Mondays, 2.00-2.45pm (open at lunchtime on Monday 17 and Monday 24 February for your convenience), and Wednesdays, 8.00-9.00am.

All orders need to be placed by Wednesday 26 February. You are reminded that blazers are compulsory for senior students to wear in Terms 2 and 3.

What’s New on the Blog Site?

Year 9 Put the World Back Together
Year 9 Geography students have been learning about maps. As well as studying maps and making their own, students have been working in teams around jigsaw puzzles. The world map and Australian map puzzles help with spacial awareness and associating well known icons such as Uluru and the Opera House with their geographic location.


New Blog Posts to Visit
Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

Date of
Letter Class Topic
3/2 7-9 Wide Reading
9 Duke of Edinburgh Program
4/2 4 HSIE Excursion
8-9 Biblical Studies Texts
9 Pastoral Care Picnic Day
5/2 12 Physics Excursion
12/2 9-12 German Visits

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.

Middle Section Tests & Assignments
Here are tests and assignments given to the students which are due a week or more from the issue date. This will assist students and parents in planning their work load.

Subject and Title Date Due

YEAR 7
German (all) Ch 7 test Wk 6

YEAR 8
Science (all classes)
\[ \begin{array}{ll}
\text{Task 2 of SRP due} & 14/2 \\
\text{SRP Assessment Booklet due} & 28/2 \\
\text{SRP Presentations} & 3/3-8/3 \\
\text{Passion Project (all classes)} & 24/2 \\
\text{Proposal} & \\
\text{NB: Mathematics unit tests are held regularly at the end of units. Students are notified in class at least two days prior.} & \\
\end{array} \]

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 School Board, and will be treated confidentially.)

- **Parent Forums**

- **Children/Teen with ADHD Workshops**
  Group course designed to cultivate attention, impulse control and reduce anxiety in kids through using mindfulness based cognitive therapy for children and active skill building. Currently running for Yr 5-6 & Yr 7-8. Run by registered psychologists. 12 wk program cost $480. Medicare rebates available if referred by GP or paediatrician. Info and start dates at www.mindinaction.com.au/kidssworkshops or to register your child please email Tania Pickering at info@mindinaction.com.au

- **New Mandarin Club at Covie**
  Classes on Tuesday mornings, 7.50am – 8.40am for K-Y6 Students in K6. Book a free trial lesson! Ph: 1800 18 11 18 or go to www.mandarinstars.com.au. Email enrol@mandarinstars.com.au

- **Early Eagles Basketball Program**
  Offers a host of development skills that address the needs of players wanting to reach the next level. Wed 12 Feb to 9 Apr, 6-7.30am @ NBISC/ Cost: $100 per program. For further info, email bdaltbasketball@optusnet.com.au

- **WEP Student Exchange – Memories & Skills For Life**
  Have the time of your life when you spend a summer, semester or year overseas as a WEP exchange student. Choose from over 20 countries … applications closing soon! Contact WEP for details. Early Bird Special – save $500! Request an information pack, including WEP’s free application form. Visit www.wep.org.au, call 1300 884 733 or email info@wep.org.au.

- **Southern Cross Cultural Exchange**
  Students from Yrs 9-12 invited to attend public information session on Tuesday 18 February at 7pm, Lane Cove Library, Lane Cove. Details at www.scce.com.au, 1800 500 501 or email scceast@scce.com.au.

What’s Coming Up!

**Thursday 13 February**
Year 10 Notebook Delivery Evening

**Friday 14 February**
Year 9 Picnic Day

**Saturday 15 February**
Covie Working Bee (8am-12noon)

**Tuesday 18 February**
Primary Swimming Carnival (8.30am to 12noon)

**Year 5/6 iPad Information Evening
**
**Monday 24 to Friday 28 February**
Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement

**Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 February**
Year 5 and 6 Camps

**Monday 3 March**
Secondary Swimming Carnival

**Tuesday 4 March**
Primary Zone Swimming

**Wednesday 5 March**
Year 7 (all) and Year 9 (boys only) Vaccinations

**Tuesday 11 March**
General Assembly (10.45am)

**Year 7 Information Evening and School Tour**

**Friday 14 and Saturday 15 March**
Year 3/4 Sleepover

**Tuesday 18 March**
Year 11 Drivers Education Day

**Thursday 20 to Friday 21 March**
Year 7-11 Drama & Dance Camp

**Thursday 3 April**
School Tour (9.15am)

**Thursday 3 to Friday 14 April**
Year 11/12 Exams

**Friday 4 to Friday 11 April**
Year 7 to 10 Camps

**Friday 11 April**
Last day of Term 1

This Week’s Quizzle

[Image of a quizzle]

Answer to the last Quizzle

NEWS BREAK