From the Head of Junior School
You’re probably not doing much this Friday afternoon. Café Covie’s not open.
You’ve no one to keep you company and there’s a good chance of rain. So - why
not resolve all these issues by taking shelter in the new Performance Hall and
enjoy a cup of Primary Speech Giving? Why not!
Our biannual Speech Giving Assembly commences at 2.00pm and, if past events
are an accurate barometer, I feel sure you will be delightfully entertained. On this
occasion, we have three topics our orators may select from – A Grand Design –
The Worst Thing Ever – I Think. Now, if the Junior School were to collectively
write a speech on these topics, I wonder what we would come up with?
A grand design would be really easy. We have been showered with new
buildings, grandly designed. The Performance Hall, the classrooms and the Junior
Library are just lovely. We are thankful. What’s more, just around the corner we
have a surprise grand design that will be plonked in the middle of our
playground. A mystery! Or perhaps we could delve a little deeper. The new
English curriculum commencing next year, with its intent on preparing children
for the 21st Century, could perhaps be described as a grand design. Deeper still,
God’s plan to use the simple proclamation of the gospel message to reconcile the
world to Himself must be the grandest design yet. ‘Despite your waywardness -
because of your waywardness - turn back to Me. Be reconciled,’ bids our Maker. Yes, a
grand design that we can be part of.
The worst thing ever was a topic proposed by one Year 3 student who
subsequently offered a suggestion each day for the next month about what that
worst thing ever might be. His last idea was ‘vegetables’ … I haven’t heard from
him since. For many of us, the fragrance of the tip is the likely suspect for the
worst thing ever in 2013. For me, it is undoubtedly saying goodbye. Shortly we
will be farewelling a number of families who are moving on from Covenant. We
will miss them. Year 6, a wonderful bunch, progress with bright eyed eagerness to
High School. Wistfully, we send them off. We will also be farewelling our
beautiful Year 1 teacher, Mrs Richelle Watkins, who has been with us all year. I
feel sure we will see plenty of her in 2014 as both parent and casual teacher.
I think would be trickiest to speak on. I think we have had a good year. I think we
in Junior School have grown to look beyond ourselves a little more … and quite
by accident. Our year-long focus to raise money for Toilets in Nairobi has helped
to expand our thinking. As one teacher noted, ‘our kids have moved beyond a
transitory feeling of pity, here today - gone tomorrow, to a more substantial
consideration of how we can actually make a difference’. To think not only with
our mind but with our hearts and hands too is something that this project has
taught us all.
Speech Giving Assembly. I love it! Come join us this Friday. There are a variety
of topics, a breadth of speaking experience and sufficient ambiguity within each
topic to ensure that each of the sixteen presenters will have their own unique
charm. I really can’t wait for that first speaker to stand, make those nine nervous
steps to the microphone, straighten palm cards, deep breath and …
Wayne Morton
Andrew’s Angle

Working Bee - This Saturday 8am to 12pm!
We will be helping the school community in various ways including packing up after the school musical and helping with the set up of the Christmas lights on Forest Way. It will be great to see you there.

Transition to be known as Preschool from 2014
In response to parent feedback and to reduce confusion among the wider community, Transition will be rebranded and called ‘Preschool’ from 2014. This is the most common name for a school operating a program for three and four year olds. Over the coming months, the word Transition will disappear from documents and signage and replaced with Preschool.

Parent Involvement Program (PIP) Forms
The end of the year is approaching fast. To help reconcile our fee accounts for this year, please send in your Term 4 PIP form (found inside this newsletter) as soon as you complete your hours. This form can also be found on the school website at http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/community/forms-policies.html.

I would like to thank all those parents who have helped the school by participating in the PIP program throughout the year.

New Bus Services in 2014!
After 35 years of trying, the school has not been able to secure a free Government bus service to the Cromer/Collaroy/Narraweena area. After much thought, the school is pleased to announce that it has committed to run a daily chartered bus service to the Cromer/Collaroy/Narraweena area commencing Term 1 2014. The service will have a per term charge of $280 return or $150 one way per student (approximate cost = less than a cost of cappuccino each way!). This service is significantly subsidised by the school to make it affordable for families who live in the area.

The bus will be fully air conditioned and seat belted. Students will be dropped off and picked up inside the school gate. The bus will also have Covenant Christian School signage for ease of identification. More details to follow in the coming weeks including the timetable and how you can book the bus.

In addition, we have also decided to run a smaller Balgowlah/Seaforth/Fairlight bus on the terms and conditions as above. We hope and pray that these additional bus services will be a real blessing to many Covenant families. Spread the word!

Mr Andrew Lowry, Business Manager

Careers News

Bedford College Glebe Campus Open Day
Friday 22 November, Bedford College Glebe Campus. Students and parents can find out more about Bedford College’s range of courses and opportunities. There will also be chances to attend information seminars, tour the campus and to sit the scholarship exam at 10.30am. Contact 1300 174 171 or go to http://www.bedford.edu.au.

Alternate Entry into University
Many of the universities are now recognising that the ‘one size fits all’ approach to getting into university is no longer appropriate, and as a result are providing alternate entry options to suit a range of students other than the traditional ATAR pathway. See the links below for further detail.

Macquarie University
http://www.mq.edu.au/future_students/undergraduate/parent_information/connect_with_macquarie_newsletter/all_connect_articles/your_students_can_unlock_their_future/

Notre Dame University

Australian Catholic University
http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/alternate_entry

University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

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)
Secondary Musical - Arabian Nights!
It’s finally here – our Secondary School musical promises to be full of excitement, adventure, storytelling and romance – you wouldn’t want to miss out. Come and enjoy our amazing and talented students (and staff) as they seek to bring Arabian Nights to life! Jump online and book your tickets – musical on tonight, tomorrow night and Friday night. Tickets available at http://www.trybooking.com/DTSX
Adults: $20, Children/Concession: $13 and family prices.

What’s New on the Blog Site?
Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards 2013
In last week’s Secondary Assembly, the attitudes and efforts of two students were recognised by the awarding of The Australian Defence Force’s Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards. Year 12 Vice Captain Peter Prassopoulos and Year 10 Reid Stewart each received a cheque with their certificates.
These awards started in 2006 to recognise students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within the school and the local community. The awards recognise Peter and Reid’s display of strong values, conscientious attitude, respect for others and mate-ship. These awards are an initiative by the Australian Government in conjunction with the Australian Defence Force designed to encourage senior students - tomorrow’s leaders - to actively participate in the life of their schools and local communities. Congratulations, Peter and Reid.

ALIVE Sleepover
The 2013 November Alive Sleepover was held on the weekend of November 7-8. About 50 students and six teachers attended and had a great time of fun games, inspiring talks, building relationships and lots of food.
The theme was “The Call” and we were privileged to hear from three great guest speakers about our need to be growing closer to God in order to hear and know him and his call better, and that it’s a gradual process. Each talk was practical and inspiring, and having time for questions, discussion and prayer was also very valuable.
We enjoyed singing praises to God with our capable musicians which set a good atmosphere for the talks. The games were lots of fun and included a night game of one team carrying out missions while the other team tried to tag them, as well as a fitting game for a hot day - crawling on slippery creamy tarps while having water bombs thrown at you, which ended in a huge water fight.
The students who came along were keen and receptive to the talks and activities. Some good relationships were made as people of different ages all hung out together.
There were times to just chill and chat, play and listen to music or play indoor soccer – all helping to build relationships and encourage each other.
Some students who have just completed their HSC come along for parts or all of the sleepover and to support the present leaders in different ways, allowing them more time with the younger students – this was greatly appreciated!
The sleepover was a massive success – everyone had lots of fun, got to know others better and were inspired and encouraged to grow in their faith.
A huge thank you and well done to the wonderful Alive leaders who made this happen and carried out their roles so capably: Peta Bilton, Tim Duce, Lucy Green, Judith Harvey, Oskar Jaggers, Emily McDonald, Toby Osborne, Jamie-Lee Post, Ryan Poon, James Prassopoulos, Beth Thomas, Tania Van Staden, Aimee Wall, Heather Gardner and Cassie Osborne. See more at http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/alive-sleepover-2013-hears-the-call.

Other New Blog Posts to Visit!
http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/year-4-beach-sports
http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/the-courage-that-leadership-requires
This Friday’s Canteen Specials:
Pasta Bolognaise ................................................................. Lge $4.50  Sm $3.00
Bolognese on a Baked Potato (gluten free).......................... $4.50

Bus & Rail Passes for 2014
Reminder that application forms must be completed for all students going into Year 3 and Year 7 2014 and for any students who have will changed their address. Forms are available from the school office.

Secondary Second Hand Textbook Sale
Saturday 30 November 2013, 8.00-10.00am in the senior library. For information and the selling form, go to www.trybooking.com/DRME.

PPP Help Needed
Our Careers Counsellor, Mrs Wendy Gilbert, is looking for assistance from parents with cutting and pasting for wall displays. She is also looking for someone who is computer literate to help produce careers flyers for students.

If you’d like to help, please call her at school or email wgilbert@covenant.nsw.edu.au.

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

Date of Letter Class Topic
11/11 11 English Ext 1 Excursion
12/11 7-10 Visual Arts Camp
13/11 8-9 Pastoral Care Seminars
14/11 6 Graduation & Book Launch

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.)

• Holiday Drama Workshop
For 8 – 12yrs, Mon 9-Fri 13 Dec, 9.30am-3.30pm, Marian Street Theatre, Killara. Workshop includes voice & movement skills, improvisation, character development, script work and plenty of fun! A wonderful introduction to drama and great for confidence building. Cost: $375 incl GST. Taking enrolments now. Ph 9498 7671, email info@mstyp.org.au or go to www.mstyp.org.au.

What’s Coming Up!
Saturday 23 November
Covic Working Bee

Monday 25 November
Parent Thank You Morning Tea

Mon to Wed 25-27 November
Year 7-10 Art Camp

Wednesday 27 November
Year 1-6 2014 Orientation
Year 7 2014 Experience Day
Year 10 Camp at the Basin

Thursday 28 November
Year 10 Last Day
Infants Christmas Assembly
‘Dance Around the World’ Concert

Saturday 30 November
Secondary Second Hand Textbook Sale (8.00-10.00am)

Monday 2 December
Year 5 Billy Cart Picnic Day

Monday 2 - Saturday 7 December
Gold Duke of Edinburgh Hike

Wednesday 4 December
Year 6 Graduation and Book Launch (9.00am)

Thursday 5 December
Last day of Term 4

Tuesday 28 January 2014
First day of Term 1 2014

This Week’s Quizzle
Answer to the last Quizzle
YOUR SHIRT IS ON BACKWARDS!

cred(i.e.)ble cred(i.e.)ble

Keep up to date www.ourcovenant.com.au

T 02 9450 2688
W www.covenant.nsw.edu.au