Term 2 is always a hectic one. Testing, reports, parent/teacher nights … this year a new Australian curriculum to implement, and registration and inspection rolling around again! Yes, a busy time for families at school, a very busy time for staff. So how do we keep the main thing the main thing? How do we stay focused on remembering our core reason for existing as a school amidst the madness?

Last week I had the privilege of being taught by my Year 6 teacher again (I stand before you as a product of CCS), and I was reminded of the importance of Christian education. Bill Salier, now the Deputy Principal at Moore Theological College, spoke at our school Association’s Annual General Meeting. He reminded us of where we were (he taught here in the 1980s), where we are now, and how to stay focused on God in our planning for what the school will look like in the years to come. Here is a snippet of what he shared with us on the night:

“I want to finish with two clichés: It goes without saying … this still gets used … nothing new here I think … many might even say that these things I have said tonight go without saying … my point is that they will go without being said … we need to keep saying them so they do not go … we need to continually remind ourselves to Bless the Lord o my soul and forget not all His benefits …

“My second cliché is ‘the more things change, the more they remain the same’ or, to change it slightly, the more they should stay the same. We live in a world of change. My reflections on this location, the progress of Covenant as a school shows that … my how things have changed … and yet …

“They ought also stay the same … the same vision, the same goals, albeit with new technologies and in new circumstances but the same goal … a generation of students who will gladly echo the ancient words of Psalm 103 in the light of the new covenant realities brought about by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and all that means for this world and the next:

“Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits.”

At such a busy time of year, with so many things competing for our energy and attention, it was great to be reminded of why we exist and to whom we seek to give glory in our task here at Covenant. My prayer is that we keep working together to that end, prayerfully seeking our God in the process.

Mr Pete Muddle


**From the Prayer Group**

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

1 Chronicles 16:23-24  (NIV)

**For Prayer and Praise**

- Praise the Lord our God for who He is. Pray for us who follow Him to glorify Him, and for the unsaved in our community to turn to Christ.
- Pray for Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh hike
- Pray for Board Meeting next week
- Pray for Covie families facing health, financial or marital issues and those grieving the death of loved ones

Please join with us in prayer—


Email the Prayer Group at: prayergroup@covenant.nsw.edu.au

**Year 11 & 12 Semester 1 Reports**

Year 11 & 12 reports will be sent home this week via the students.

We trust that you find this information helpful.

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Andrew’s Angle

Dropping Students at Dell Street Turning Circle
Parents, please only use the Dell Street turning circle for students who are independent enough to get out of the car on their own. If you need to assist them with bags, please park in a car spot and bring them down to the school gate. This ensures that the turning circle process works smoothly and efficiently for all.

CCS Community Directory
The 2014/15 edition will be coming out soon. If you would like to advertise in this publication, please contact the school office this week.

BIG Trivia Night 2014
Please be advised that this event (planned for Saturday 14 June) has been cancelled. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Entertainment Books for Yarrabah
Entertainment Books are available for pre-order to raise funds for Wontulp Bi-Buya College as part of the Covenant Yarrabah trips.

More information at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/2061y93 or via email to chelseasmithies@yahoo.com.


K-12 School Photo Day
Monday 2 June—please remember to ensure your children attend school that day and wear their full school uniform. See next week’s newsletter for details.

Careers News
Covenant is making available a program for parents called PACTS (Parents as Career Transition Support), which is a series of information and education workshops specifically developed for parents of secondary school students. The workshops provide an interactive, informal and enjoyable way to learn about career transition in a setting that has been developed for parents, with parents. It would suit parents of high school students from Years 9 to 12.

Workshops are run in a set of two and include the following topics:
* How to assist your teen with career exploration
* Simple career assessments
* What is HSC & VET pathways?* How to use the Job Guide and other resources
* Understanding TAFE, Apprenticeships and University
* Preparing for employment – Understanding the Options

Q. How up to date is your knowledge about current career options?
Q. Would you like to be better informed to help your son or daughter plan for their future?
Q. Do you want to know about education, training and employment options available to them?

If any of these questions are relevant to you, then you may benefit from attending the PACTS workshop. Workshops are being run by Mrs Gilbert, Covie Careers Advisor.

DATE: 5 June and 12 June
TIME: 9.00am – 11.00am (following school drop off)
VENUE: Upstairs Senior Library
COST: Free

Please arrive at 8.45am for 9.00am start.

To secure your place please book online http://www.trybooking.com/EZZS.

Position Vacant
School Association Coordinator
New role
Part-time - 1 day per week
The Covenant School Association plays an important role in the life of the school and the fulfilment of its Vision & Mission. This new role has been established to help develop and enhance the purpose, profile and contributions of the School Association, and will be responsible for coordinating day to day running of the School Association and driving initiatives designed to positively engage its members.

For further details, go to http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/positions-vacant.html or contact the Executive Assistant at admin@covenant.nsw.edu.au or phone 02 9450 2688.

For a confidential discussion and a copy of the position description, call or email Simon Higgins, Covenant Board Director, on 0408 545 566 or hellobiggies@bigpond.com

Application closing date: Friday 6 June

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)
What's New on the Blog Site?

Speech and Drama Eisteddfods
Covenant students have been performing in the local Speech and Drama eisteddfods and doing very well.

Daniel Baikie (Year 3) came second in his poetry recital heat with "Oh the places you will go" by Dr Suess. Charlotte Bristow (Year 3) came first with her outstanding recital of "The ABC" by Spike Milligan. Students also performed in the school's general assembly in front of 800 students and staff. Enjoy the videos at the link below.


Secondary Girls’ Summer Uniform
A group of staff have been looking at the Secondary girls’ summer uniform for Years 7-12. The intention is to update it and present a uniform that is smart, cool and modest.

Go to the website below and have a look at the two similar but distinct styles being considered.


Then complete the survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GirlsSummerUniform

Year 1 Enjoy the Colours of Autumn
It’s Autumn! As we revel in the chilly mornings and warm days of Autumn, Year 1 are studying Seasons and Weather in their Science unit.

We decided to paint some Autumn leaf pictures using four main colours of red, orange, yellow and brown and lots of colour mixing.

We decided that, no matter what combination of these colours you used, it would still be autumn toned.

We love painting and we enjoyed this lesson. Take a look at the photos at the link below:


Infants Watch Lazytown
On Tuesday afternoon, Infants children had a lesson in healthy eating and living. We watched the LAZYTOWN show in the rumpus room.

Stephanie and Sporticus jumped, leaped and danced their way through the dangers of eating too much candy (energy taker) and not enough Sports Candy (like apples, bananas …) that are energy givers.

We booed and hissed at Robbie Rotten who is lazy and eats too much junk food.


New Blog Posts to Visit

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.

**Date of**

**Subject and Title**

**Letter**

**Wk 1**

German Task 1 due 23/5

**Wk 2**

English Song Lyric Task (in class) 23/5

**Wk 3**

English (Mrs Gardner’s Class) Wide Reading 20/6

**Wk 4**

VA Yr 8 Michelangelo Assignment (VAPD and PPT) Grp 2 / 3 26/5 / 27/5

**Wk 5**

Ten Boom Bib Studies Quiz 29/5

**Wk 6**

DT assignment – herbs Wk 9

**Wk 7**

**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

**Term Dates for 2015**

Term 1 – Tue 27 Jan – Thu 2 Apr

Term 2 – Tue 21 Apr – Fri 26 Jun

Term 3 – Mon 20 Jul – Fri 18 Sep

Term 4 – Tue 6 Oct – Thu 3 Dec

Community Notices

(The school cannot necessarily make careful assessments of the quality or integrity of all 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.)

- **Mandarin Club**
  - Learn to speak Mandarin! Students in K-6. Tuesday mornings at Covenant Christian School, 7.50-8.40am. Pick up a brochure from the school office or go to www.mandarinstars.com.au.

- **Army Cadets**
  - 201 Army Cadet Unit is currently accepting registrations of interest from youth on the Northern Beaches from ages 13 (or turning 13 in the year that you join) to 17. Ph 0427 097 035 or go to www.cadetnet.gov.au/aac/201acu.

- **Special Olympics Sports Program**

**What’s Coming Up!**

**Thursday 22—Friday 23 May**

Bronze Duke of Ed Hike

**Friday 30 May**

State Cross Country

**Monday 2 June**

School Photo Day

**Wednesday 4 June**

Secondary Athletics Carnival

Primary ICAS Science Competition

**Thursday 5 June**

Secondary ICAS Science Competition School Tour (9.15am)

Evening of Music

**Monday 9 June**

Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

**Wednesday 11 June**

Primary Athletics Carnival

**Thursday 12 June**

CIS Cross Country

**Friday 13—Saturday 14 June**

Year 10 Yarrabah Training

**Monday—Friday 16-20 June**

ICAS Writing Competition this week

**Tuesday 17 June**

Secondary Zone Athletics

ICAS Spelling Competition

**Thursday 19 June**

Year 8 Showcase Evening

**Friday 20 June**

Primary Speech Giving Assembly

**Monday—Wednesday 23-24 June**

Year 11 Art Camp

**Monday 23 June**

School Tour (9.15am)

**Friday 27 June**

Last day of Term 2

Letters to Parents

Some may not have been distributed yet.

**Date of**

**Letter**

12/5 7-9 ALIVE Sleepover

13/5 4-12 Evening of Music

14/5 3-6 Athletics Carnival

8 White Biblical Studies

8 Passion Project Showcase

12 Geography Assessment

12 HSC Stress Management Seminar

15/5 9-11 Sport – Term 2 RFS Program

16/5 3-6 Interschool Chess Challenge

10 History Assessment Change

17/5 10-11 Ski Trip 2014

20/5 7-12 State Cross Country

7-12 Athletics Carnival

9-12 PACTS Pilot Program

9 PASS Assistance

**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.**