From the Principal

Welcome back! We are pleased to have a number of new families join our school community. On behalf of our school, I welcome you and hope that you and your children settle in quickly.

We have been reminded recently about the horror and pain some people experience daily with the dreadful news out of Ukraine and in the Middle East, and we grieve with those who are grieving. There are many other places where suffering and horror are commonplace which don’t even reach the news anymore.

As a school community, we have the privilege to speak into these situations and bring comfort where we can. In my first Secondary School assembly on Tuesday, we looked at a series of well-known passages from Psalm 118, where the Psalmist wrote: “The very rock the builders rejected has become the cornerstone! This has come from the Lord and in our eyes it is amazing. This is the day the Lord has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad.” (CJB Version)

This seems to have been written in a time of turmoil and struggle for David. He not only survived attempts on his life, but was under constant threat from neighbouring nations. And it is in this context that he declares to the readers and those who hear that, as God’s people, they ought to be glad and rejoice!

However, he also ties it back to the prophetic nature of the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone of the building. As we understand this reference to Christ and his finished work on the cross, how much more are we to be a people who can rejoice and be glad?

It is why, as a Christian community, we ought to be a community of optimistic theists. And yet there is great sadness that still besets the world. For the children in our care, this is a difficult thing to understand, until we remind them as well as ourselves that we still wait for a better time where there will be no more pain, no more suffering and no more death.

As you would know, there are lots of exciting things happening in Term 3 at Covenant. Our Year 12 students have entered the last phase of their schooling, our Junior School is moving towards the musical performances, this week we have a basketball gala day and a Year 11 Art Camp, and our school is hosting a Bible Society Masterclass. I am thrilled that we can host this event and pleased that Mr Max Monin is one of the presenters on the day. We will have about 500 students from other schools come to this event. If you know one of our Year 12 students, could I encourage you not only to pray, but to also encourage them perhaps in other ways and to let them know that you care for them during this time?

In staffing news, I am saddened to tell you that Mrs Rachel Pym (Education Support) is leaving us to take up another role. She has been a lovely help to those students who have needed extra support in Secondary School and her patience and gentle firmness has been a feature of her work at Covenant. We wish her well in her new role and will miss her.

I look forward to all that this term has to bring, and pray that this will be an exciting and fulfilling time for each of you.

Bill Rusin
Andrew’s Angle

Job Opportunity
Each year the school produces a colourful yearbook to represent the year that was. We have a casual job opportunity for someone who has excellent administration and communication skills (both written and verbal) and who is able to work as part of a team. The role involves editing, collating and creating content, and working with staff members of the school. The position requires someone for approximately one day a week for the next 12-15 weeks, commencing immediately. If you are interested, please contact me via email: alowry@covenant.nsw.edu.au.

School Fees - Please pay on time
The 3rd installment of school fees is now overdue. If you have not received your school fee statement in the mail (sent at the end of last term) please contact the finance office. It is important that parents pay fees on time as this helps the schools cash flow position greatly. A reminder fee charge of $75 will be applied to family accounts that are not paid on time.

Working Bee - Term 3 date
The next working bee will be held on Saturday 6 September from 8.00am to 12.00noon. The main purpose of this working bee will be packing up the hall after the Junior School Musical. Your help will be appreciated on the day.

Junior School Connect to Reading Readathon
Students, parents and teachers in Junior School will be encouraged to be involved in a school readathon over this term. The aim of the readathon is to encourage the students to get into the habit of reading daily and to promote a love for reading. The readathon will run from Monday 28 July (Week 2) until Monday 15 September (Week 9). Notes to explain the readathon will be going home this week in the Library lessons. If your child hasn’t received this note by Thursday, please come to the Junior Library to collect one. Happy reading!

Year 12 Parent Note
You are invited to join with the year parents in prayer on Monday 28 July. This is the first day of the Year 12 Trial Exams and is a timely opportunity to cover them in prayer. The prayer meeting will be held in Cafe Covie, in the K Block Foyer at 9am. If you have any prayer requests but are unable to attend, please email them to helen@bilton.com.au.

Absent Students
Please ring the office on 9450 2688 by 9.00am if your child is not coming to school. A signed note from parents is also be sent to the school upon the students return.

Careers News
Over the next couple of months, most universities and colleges hold open days. These are great opportunities for students to visit and see the campus, meet lecturers and find out about courses. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for dates or visit www.richmond.h.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/6445785/6451688/UAC%20Dates%20and%20Open%20days%204.pdf

Macquarie University — 13 September 2014 — go to http://openday.mq.edu.au/
ArchCareers Day
Friday 12 September, 10.00am – 4.00pm, 3 Manning Street Potts Point.
The Australian Institute of Architects’ NSW Chapter will be holding a careers’ day for Year 11 and 12 students interested in becoming an architect. The day will include an overview of studying architecture, how to prepare your portfolio, flexible pathways to studying architecture, post graduate study, research and career opportunities. See http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/archicareers-day-at-tusculum-tickets-12285252521?aff=es2&rank=1

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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)
Year 3-6 Writer’s Workshop
This will be held on Wednesday and Thursday 6-7 August for budding writers from Years 3 to 6. Dr Cameron Stelzer, an international award winning author and illustrator, will be conducting the workshops over the two days at Camp Kedron in Ingleside. Travel will be each day as this is not an overnight camp.

There will be only 30 places available. To book a place, please use the Trybooking link http://www.trybooking.com/DBJW. Bookings close on Wednesday 30 July unless the 30 places have been filled prior to this date. Bookings will not be accepted without a completed permission/medical form. This form can be downloaded from http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/community/forms-policies.html. BOTH items need to be completed to satisfy a successful booking.

What’s New on the Blog Site?

Student Congratulations
Congratulations to Sarah Wynn-Taylor (Year 11), who was recently selected while playing as a fullback into the CIS Hockey team into the NSW All Schools Hockey Team!

Secondary Athletics Carnival
Bright blue skies awaited competitors for this year’s Secondary Athletics Carnival. As houses assembled in the stands at the start of the day, it was clear from the buzz that students were looking forward to a day of competition to earn their house the right to be Champions.

There were some terrific individual results with Harry Armstrong, Lauren McDonald, Charlie Osborne, Olivia Winestock, Saffron Smith, Jessica Wye, Alyssa Britton and Judith Harvey all breaking records on the day.

Congratulations to the new Athletics House Champions, Lewis, who narrowly edged out Aylward, followed by Ten Boom and White.

The Age Champions were:
12 years  Alex Kilby & Lauren McDonald  13 years  Luke Van Rätigen & Livvy Winestock
14 years  Baden Shepherd & Briedelia Wiggins  15 years  Zac Cossart & Alicia Tucker
16 years  Lachlan Higgins & Dani Shepherd  17 years  Hayden Tucker & Sarah Andrew
18 years  Charlie Osborne & Judith Harvey

The Zone athletics carnival was held on Tuesday 17 June. The beautiful weather had a positive effect on the competitors who were all eager to get in and compete in the events they qualified for.

Relays, being the only team event, are always the highlight of the day and this year was no different. Highlights were watching the 12 years girls and the 14 years boys receive victory, however the closeness of the racing in the 14 years and 15 years girls were also well appreciated.

Congratulations to Baden Shepherd (14 years girls) and Lachlan Higgins (16 years boys), who were named age champions. Covenant had some terrific individual results with Braden King, Harry Armstrong and Judith Harvey all breaking records on the day. 34 students have qualified for the CSSA State Carnival on 27 August, the biggest team we’ve had in many years. Well done to all the students who competed in such a gracious and enthusiastic manner. Lots of photos at http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/secondary-athletics-carnival-2014

New Blog Posts to Visit
Ballroom Dancing
Six week course for parents, friends and students. Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm, starting 29 July. K Block Performance Space, $80 per couple. Please RSVP to Karen Grey on 0413 487 178, or call for more info.

2014/15 School Directory
The new edition has been issued and is available from the school office.

Entertainment Books
The 2014/15 Sydney and Sydney North Entertainment Book (combined edition) are available from the school office for $70 (cash or credit card accepted) for a short time longer.

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

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.

- Mandarin Stars Language Club at Covenant Christian School!
  Tuesdays 22/7 – 16/9 inclusive - before school, 7.50am – 8.40am (K-Yr 6).
  Re-enrol for Term 3 or book a FREE trial lesson for your child: 1800 18 11 18 or enrol@mandarinstars.com.au.
  For more details about Mandarin Stars, their programs and teachers, please visit www.mandarinstars.com.au

- Next PeaceWise Meeting
  How to lovingly correct someone using Biblical Peacemaking tools. Thu 14/7, 7.30-9.30pm, Covie Staffroom. For more information, call Ping Chen on 0412 664 225 or email vinpingchuchen@gmail.com or dbcoy@optusnet.com.au.

- NetSetGo Jnr Netball
  Ages 6-8 years. Lionel Watts Oval each Friday afternoon from 4pm to 5.15pm, 9/8 to 13/9. Cost $80 per child. Contact: Karen Hayes on 0403 966 017.

- Go4Fun
  Free 10 wk program for kids 7-13 yrs and their families to become fitter, eat healthier and improve their self esteem. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4-6pm, starts 15/7. Pittwater Sports Centre, Narrabeen.
  To register: freecall 1800 780 900 or email vinpingchuchen@gmail.com or dbcoy@optusnet.com.au.

- Northern Beaches Support Group
  A problem shared is a problem halved.

This Friday’s Canteen Special:
Butter Chicken with Steamed Rice ..................................................Sml $3.00, Lge $4.50
Soup is also available on Mondays for Secondary students — over the counter sales only.