From the Principal
We are nearly half way through Term 1 and life at school seems to be going at a frenetic pace. I hope your children have settled in well. One of the things often said to me by parents who visit the school, as they are thinking of which school would suit them and their child, is that they feel that “the vibe” (my paraphrase) of the school is peaceful. Despite the noisiness of the playground, it is mostly happy noise!

There have been many things happening this term with swimming carnivals, BBQs, excursions and camp planning going on. We are pleased that all of the proposed camps in Years 8 to 10 are able to go ahead, and the intensive work and planning will result in a memorable time for your children.

Late last week you would have heard of the tragic death of a young child at school in Pitt Town. It is a stark reminder of the fact that we live in a broken, hurting yet still beautiful world. The little girl was part of my church community, and the outpouring of grief and pain was, and will continue to be, deep. It is in these times that the church shines most brightly into the darkness.

Later this term, the Joshua Challenge has Dr Bill Salier coming to share with our men. Bill is the Deputy Principal of Moore Theological College and an ex-teacher at Covenant. The Joshua Challenge is designed to encourage men to be good dads and husbands and I would urge all dads to come and be involved.

I am pleased to announce that four of our staff members are graduating this year with Masters degrees. As staff who work fulltime, finding in study around a busy schedule is a mark of dedication and passion. Our graduates are David Gray (Year 10 Coordinator and HSIE), Lynne Butler (Education Support), Wayne Morton (Head of Junior School) and Wendy de Jong (Senior Library). There are quite a number of teachers continuing to study this year as they also move towards achieving further post graduate qualifications. I cannot overestimate the value of having staff continuing to stretch themselves in this way.

I am also pleased to announce that Ms Del Hayman has agreed to take on the job of Office Manager from Term 2 as Janine Humphery has chosen to step down from that position. She will continue to work in the office and we are very grateful for her many years of service as Office Manager, and look forward to her contributions in this different role. Mrs Samantha Burrell has accepted a fulltime permanent position in the Junior School after Mrs Janelle Traill resigned at the end of her maternity leave. We are very thankful for the years of service she has given to the school, but we fully appreciate her wish to be a fulltime mum to her son.

Important note:
Due to a change in legislative requirements, parents who wish to withdraw their child from school for more than two days now need to complete and submit to the Principal an Application for Exemption from Attendance form. This replaces the previous need for a written request for leave. The form can be found on the school’s community section of the website under forms and notes. You will receive a Certificate for Exception from Attendance at School from the Principal on approval.
Andrew’s Angle
New Charter Bus Service - Collaroy & Seaforth
We now have two Covenant branded buses, one travelling around the Collaroy/Cromer area and another heading to Seaforth/Balgowlah area. We have 24 students utilising these charter bus services. You are required to book by the term, one way or return, via trybooking. If, however, you are interested in commencing part way through the term, please contact me via alowry@covenant.nsw.edu.au to consider a pro rata term adjustment.

Andrew Lowry, Business Manager

Who to Contact?
- Questions about general bus behaviour and incidents—contact Mrs O’Sullivan or Mr Morton.
- Questions concerning the Higher School Certificate—Miss Sopher.
- Issues involving particular areas of the school – Mrs Dykstra for Infants, Mr Morton for Years 3 and 4, Mr Eatough for Years 5 and 6, Miss Rose for Year 7, Mr Smithies for Years 8 and 9, Mr Gray for Year 10 and Mr Monin for Years 11 and 12.
- Counselling —Mrs Redwood or Mr Grey.
- General discipline matters—Mr Morton (Junior School) or Mrs O’Sullivan (Secondary School).

We strongly encourage parents to seek help sooner rather than later and to make contact with the school. If you are unsure if you should or not, please do make contact. We would rather know about less significant issues than miss out on those that need dealing with quickly.

Go to http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/staff-directory.html for a list of the staff at Covenant and their responsibilities.

To contact staff members, call the office on 9450 2688 to be put through or to leave a message.

Caring for our Kids
From time to time, we need to be reminded that we have a number of students who suffer from allergies which can quickly turn into anaphylactic episodes. Perhaps the best way that we can assist these kids is by not bringing nut products into school. This includes muesli bars, hazelnut spreads, Picnic bars, nuts other than peanuts, etc. We need to maintain our vigilance, especially in activities including excursions, where the normal routine is abandoned. In short, PLEASE - NO NUTS!

Careers News
Raffles College of Design and Commerce: July School Holiday Workshops
Monday 7 to Thursday 10 July - 99 Mount Street, North Sydney. These workshops are for students in Years 10-12 who are interested in a creative design career. Workshops cover the topics of commerce, digital media, fashion, graphics, interiors and photography. Contact: contact@raffles.edu.au or 9922 4278. See http://www.raffles.edu.au/workshops

William Blue College of Hospitality Management Information Evening
Tuesday 29 April - 6pm to 9pm at their North Sydney Campus. Contact: enquiries@williamblue.edu.au or 1300 851 237.

UN Youth Australia: State Conferences 2014
The UN Youth Australia State Conferences are residential events for students in Years 9-12 which give students a chance to express their interest in international affairs, meet likeminded students from around their state and learn more about how the UN operates. NSW (Friday 14–Sunday 16 March, Collaroy Conference Centre): http://www.unyouth.org.au/nsw/conference/

Projects Abroad Information Evening
Tuesday 25 March - 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Sydney Central YHA, 11 Rawson Place, Sydney. At this information session, you can find out more about the opportunities that Projects Abroad offers, ask any questions and chat to staff and past volunteers. Registrations are required. http://www.projects-abroad.com.au/about-us/meet-us/information-evenings/

AIT (Academy of Information Technology) Info Night
Tuesday 4 March 2014 - 6.00-8.00pm - Level 2, 7 Kelly Street, Ultimo. AIT Info Night is perfect for students and parents who want to explore the endless opportunities available in the growing creative industry. This interactive seminar is a great way to get further information on curriculum, course requirements & study pathways http://www.ait.nsw.edu.au/events/.

Please remember to check Covie Careers for further information www.coviecareers.com.

Secondary School Swimming Carnival
Monday 3 March 2014
We have organised for a bus to transport students to and from the carnival if they have no other transport, at a cost of $10 per student. To book a seat on the bus, go to www.trybooking.com/EJKT.
Drama and Dance Camp
Students from Years 7-10 are invited to come along to an exciting two days of drama and dance at Camp Kedron. Dance eisteddfod groups are encouraged to attend as we will be working on our eisteddfod repertoire. Drama enthusiasts will be taking Improvisation classes and devising an original piece of theatre based on an Easter theme. There will be three skilled and enthusiastic teachers providing this amazing opportunity for creative Covie students!
Don’t miss all the fun. Pick up a form today! Dates: 9am Thursday 20 March until 2.30pm Friday 21 March. Cost: $165. Enquiries to hpitt@covenant.nsw.edu.au. Bookings via http://www.trybooking.com/EGOX.

A Short Survey on Children’s Thoughts and Emotions
Researchers from Macquarie University Psychology Department would like parents’ permission for their children to participate in research to help understand more about what makes young people anxious, depressed or aggressive. A short survey has been developed on children’s everyday thoughts that will be very valuable in increasing understanding in these difficulties and will aid in treatment. In order to ensure that the survey is accurate and effective, young people with or without such difficulties are needed. They would be very grateful if you were happy to have your child complete the survey. This can be found at http://www.ourcovenant.com.au/community/forms-policies.html.

Do you need a Working With Children Check (WWCC)?
Under Part 4, Clause 20 of the Child Protection (Working With Children) Regulation 2013, schools are provided instructions concerning volunteers in schools who may require a WWCC. Please note that there are specified exemptions from the WWCC where certain people are not required to have a WWCC.
Exemptions include:
• volunteering by a parent or close relative (except where the work is part of a formal mentoring program or involves intimate, personal care of children with a disability)
• volunteering with the child’s school, early education centre or other educational institution
• volunteering with a team/program or other activity in which the child usually participates or is a team member
You would need a WWCC for the following examples:
• Reading groups/group activities - if your child is not directly in the group, you do need a volunteer WWCC.
• Camps - if your child is not in the activities you are supervising and not in the same dorm/sleeping arrangements
The emphasis is on whether your child is participating in the event/activity that you are supervising. If they are, you do not require a check, if they are not, you are required to complete the volunteer WWCC.
If you do require a WWCC, you need to apply online for a Working with Children Check at www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au:
• You will receive an application number.
• Go to a NSW Motor Registry Office with your application number and proof of your identity.
• You will receive your outcome and WWCC number by email.
• Forward this email to admin@covenant.nsw.edu.au as the school is required to ‘verify’ you before you have been cleared.
• The WWCC is free for volunteers and lasts for five years.
For any queries please contact Mrs Karen Aucke (Executive Assistant) at school.

What’s New on the Blog Site?
Visible Thinking Routines and Their Impact on Teaching
The start of the year is often a good time to consider teaching practice and this year was no exception. Recently, a trio of our teachers led a particularly valuable session on Visible Thinking Routines. Check out the full interview at:
http://covenantextensionandenrichment.wordpress.com/2014/02/22/visible-thinking-routines-and-their-impact-on-teaching/

New Blog Posts to Visit
http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/cupcake-reminders-for-year-12-students
This Friday’s Canteen Special:
Pasta Bolognese topped with Tasty Cheese .......................... Lge $4.50 Sml $3.00
( Please note that this is not a gluten free item.)

PIP Opportunity
The PDHPE/Sport department are looking for a person with neat handwriting who would be willing to write out some ribbons prior to the Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival. If you are willing and able, please contact Mr Trevaskis or Mr Hill in the PE office.

Save the Date!
Showcase for The Passion Project will be held on the evening of Thursday 19 June. This event will be compulsory for Year 8 students in Aylward and Lewis houses only. It will be a wonderful evening for parents to come and see the range of fabulous projects which have been undertaken by our students. Students in Ten Boom and White will have their showcase in Term 4.

Year 7 Social Event
Water Works, Manly - Saturday 8 March from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Please RSVP to Robyn O’Donoghue on 0406 851 602 by Friday 28 February.

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

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<tr>
<th>Date of</th>
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<tr>
<td>16/2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Music Excursion</td>
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<td>19/2</td>
<td>2-6</td>
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<td>Calculators</td>
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<td>PASS Referee Course</td>
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<td>3-6</td>
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<td>ICAS (Competitions)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>English Film Viewing</td>
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<td>21/2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Textiles &amp; Design Exc.</td>
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<td>24/2</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Camp</td>
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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**
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YEAR 7
German (all) Chapter 7 test                     Wk 6
Geography assignment                              28/3

YEAR 8
Science (all classes)                        28/2
SRP Assessment Booklet due                    3/3–8/3
SRP Presentations                              24/2
Passion Project (all classes)                  6/3
Proposal                                      14/3
History (all classes)                         28/3
Vikings Source Analysis                       28/3
German, presentation task                     28/3
Geography assignment                           28/3

NB: Mathematics unit tests are held regularly at the end of units. Students are notified in class at least two days prior.

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.)

• **Chemistry and Mathematics Tutor**
  Ex-student Andrew Wye - $40 an hour.
  Ph 0488 385 222 or email awye3652@uni.sydney.edu.au.

• **Girls Belong in Girls Brigade!**
  Narrabeen Baptist, 39 Greenwood Ave. Crafts, cooking, games and more.
  Cadets (K-2) Wed 5-6pm, Jnr/Snr (Yr 3+) 6.30-8pm. Fees $30 per term. Come & visit or call Judith Freeman on 9976 6817.

• **Backyard League Centre - Belrose Eagles JRLFC**
  Boys & girls, Mon 4, 11, 18 25 Mar, 3.45-4.45pm at Lionel Watts Reserve. Cost $10. For more info, contact Tim Gee on 0423 027 970 or tgee@nrl.com.au or www.developmentsydneymetro.league.net.com.au.

This Week’s Quiz
**Bound - Energy**

Answer to the last Quizzle
BACKGAMMON

Keep up to date www.ourcovenant.com.au

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