From the Deputy Principal

What memories do you have of school camps? They are one aspect of school life that students often remember: the satisfaction of actually abseiling, the beauty of the bush at the camp site, swimming in a freshwater waterhole, getting to know other students and seeing the teachers as normal human beings – almost!

In a little over 10 days, Year 7-10 students and staff will be heading off to camp. But not the traditional one of years gone by.

This year the camps are even more varied and exciting than last year. They are again predominantly multi-age with a range of students from Years 7 to 10 taking part in each camp, reflecting the multi-age structure of our pastoral care groupings. There are only two exceptions to this.

The first is the Year 7 camp, which is a more traditional camp, to Lake Macquarie. As there is quite a large intake of new students in Year 7, this camp should enable the students to get to know each other better as they enjoy a range of outdoor activities and challenges.

The Yarrabah trip is the other single age activity. A group of Year 10 students have been training, fundraising and praying for this trip for almost a year. They head off to the Aboriginal community of Yarrabah, near Cairns, to spend the whole week, as well as some days of the holidays, making friends with the children and teenagers there. There will be games, drama, church times and telling the children about Jesus and His love for them. This is often a life changing experience for our students and they return with a new perspective on their affluent world here on the Northern Beaches.

All the other camps are multi-age. One group is heading to Bourke to stay on a sheep station, help on the farm, visit the local area and experience both the fun and hardships of rural life. Another far flung site is Moree, to be reached by train, where students will be enjoying hot springs but also delivering goods for the homeless people there. Three camps will be heading to the south coast - the Bike Camp will be riding trails around Tathra, the all-girls Water and Adventure Camp will be going to Gerringong and the Out of the Wild campers will travel to Bristol Point to hike and swim, then return to Sydney to explore Cockatoo Island. Heading north to Port Macquarie will be the all-boys Surfing and Fishing Camp, while the Art Camp will start with trips to the Art Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art and Manly Art Gallery then head to Wedderburn to engage in art-making. Finally, the Urban Camp will sleep in a church hall in the inner city, engage in group activities, explore the city and also assist homeless people.

Have I covered them all? Each of these camps is exciting and different. Some are fun, some are hard work and many have an element of service to others. One thing they do all have in common is that each camp will have a time of worship and devotions. The staff attending each camp have worked hard to plan, book and prepare for safe, fun and challenging activities.

Let’s pray for their ongoing preparation and for safety for each child at each camp and for every leader and team.

Mrs Chris O’Sullivan

Winter School Uniform Term 2

Reminder to purchase any items necessary before the end of term.

The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 28 April from 2.00-3.00pm.

Term 2 starts on Tuesday 29 April for students.
Important Note
Reminder: due to a change in legislative requirements, parents who wish to withdraw their child from school for half a day or more now need to complete and submit to the Principal a Parental 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 [http://www.ourcovenant.com.au/community/forms-policies.html](http://www.ourcovenant.com.au/community/forms-policies.html). You will receive a Certificate for Exception from Attendance at School from the Principal on approval.

If your child is just home sick, please send a note to the school office or to the Class teacher.

Andrew’s Angle
Try the Bus for Free! Collaroy & Seaforth Charter Bus Service
Calling all students who live in the Collaroy/Cromer & Seaforth/Balgowlah areas! Please see the Try the Bus for Free coupon on the back page of this week’s newsletter. The coupon is valid for the rest of Term 1. A student is allowed to try the bus for FREE (one day only). Simply contact the school office on 9450 2688 and inform them of your child/ren’s FREE return travel day and hand the coupon over to the driver with your child/ren’s name/s on the coupon. The charter bus service is provided to assist parents but will only continue with the support of parents. The service is significantly subsidised by the school to make it affordable. So please give it a go!


Additional Working Bee - Saturday 5 April, 8am to 12pm.
We have an additional working bee on Saturday 5 April, commencing at 8am. With the completion of the new E Block first floor, we have 26 staff moving to new locations and we need your help (if you are free). We seek as many hands as possible to move office furniture and boxes of resources into the new staffroom space. Your help is most appreciated. This working bee will replace the Term 2 working bee.

Mr Andrew Lowry, Business Manager

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. This year there is the option of buying digital memberships for use on a smartphone as well as the traditional books. Also, the Sydney and Sydney North books are combined into one super book! 20% of all books sold go towards our fundraising.

Editions are available for all over Australia and New Zealand, which can be collected from school at the beginning of Term 2 or be posted to you or someone you’re sending it to as a gift.


Careers News
Northern Beaches Careers Expo
On 15 May 2014, Year 12 will be attending the Careers Expo. This year there have been changes to accommodate a Parents Evening on Thursday 15 May, from 4.00pm till 7.00pm, with guest speakers to ensure parents have the opportunity to ask the exhibitors questions and help their children with their career path.

APM College of Business and Communication and William Blue Open Day
Saturday 3 May, 10.00am-2.00pm, Northpoint, Level 9, 171 Pacific Highway, North Sydney. Learn about what both colleges have to offer at the same open day. Contact: enquiries@apm.edu.au or 1300 851 237.


University of Sydney Scholarships Information Evening
Thursday 26 June—an opportunity for current Year 11 and 12 students to learn about the many scholarships available at the University of Sydney. See [http://sydney.edu.au/future-students/career-advisers/events/](http://sydney.edu.au/future-students/career-advisers/events/).

Covic Careers
Don’t forget to access Covic Careers for updated information about careers events. [www.coviccareers.com](http://www.coviccareers.com).

Café Covic - Open every day 8.30 -11.30am
School Canteen - Open Monday and Friday. Order online [www.munchmonitor.com](http://www.munchmonitor.com)
CCS Uniform Shop - Open Monday 2.00-2.45pm and Wednesday 8.00-9.00am (ph: 9450 2696)
Covenant Christian School Newsletter—26 March 2014

Junior School Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 8 April—3.20-8.30pm and Wednesday 9 April—3.20-6.00pm, in the K Block Performance Space. Emails were sent home to parents and letters handed to students today. This letter, containing booking information, can be found on the school’s website. See http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/parent-teacher-interview-bookings-for-year-3-6.

Year 3, 5, 7, 9 NAPLAN Testing 2014
Each year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in NAPLAN tests (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy), which are conducted around Australia. The administration of NAPLAN is now with the Board of Studies.

The testing dates for the NAPLAN testing this year are:
- Tuesday 13 May - Language Conventions & Writing Tests
- Thursday 15 May - Numeracy Test/s
- Wednesday 14 May - Reading Test
- Friday 16 May - last day to do any ‘catch-up’ tests

The My School website has been running for a couple of years. Having been confronted with volumes of advertising luring us to prepare our children for the NAPLAN tests, the Executive team at Covenant made a conscious decision in previous years not to pursue this goal excessively. This resolution was based upon the assumption that parents have chosen Covenant for a broader focus than just literacy and numeracy (the scope of NAPLAN), and a deeper focus than mere academics (the extent of NAPLAN). So, other than a little acclimatising to avoid any panic before a test, we will continue down the same track … preparing the whole student to be God’s person wherever they may be. Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/naplan and www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au.

Wayne Morton, Head of Junior School

What’s New on the Blog Site?

Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival
The Zone Swimming Carnival was held on 7 March at Warringah Aquatic Centre. There were some commendable efforts on the day with five of our athletes making it the state CSSA event held at Homebush.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all those parents that were there to support our students and particularly those that were able to assist on the day to help run the carnival.


Primary State Swimming Championships
On Monday 10 March, nine students from Years 3-6 travelled to Blacktown Aquatic Centre to compete against the best swimmers from all Christian schools in NSW. All swimmers placed in the top four for every event - a great effort. Some particularly impressive results were gained by:
- Taylor Bradac, Tara Sahu-Khan, Erin Shaw, Cooper Eakin and the Junior Boys Medley Relay (Tristan Turnbull, Hans Sangtoki, Cooper Eakin, Mitchell Usback). Erin Shaw was also named 10yr Girls State Age Champion.

Well done to all our swimmers on such pleasing effort and results. Thank you to Mrs Shaw for looking after our swimmers on the day and to all the parents who helped with transport and cheered our swimmers on.


Year 3/4 Sleepover
The Annual Year 3 and Year 4 sleepover doesn't promise a lot of sleep but it is fun. Students, and some brave parents, returned to school late on the Friday to set up tents and classrooms before an evening of food, games, camp fires and adventures. The morning included a local bushwalk. Fortunately no bunyips were spotted to disturb the experience!

New Blog Posts to Visit
http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/year-7-create-their-own-musical-instruments
Year 6 Parent & Teacher Get Together
Nibbles & drinks at the Sanjay’s home, 44 Powell St, Killara, Saturday 29 March from 7pm. Please RSVP to Nadja on 0416 185 392 or nadja@specifier.com.au. Bring a plate to share.

Year 10 Parent Dinner
Monday 31 March - Cavallino, Terrey Hills, at 7.30pm. Please RSVP by 24 March to Kari Higgins on 0418 120 966.

Year 10 Student Afternoon Tea
Friday 4 April from 3.15pm to 4.30pm in the foyer of K Block (next to the performance space).

Mother’s Day Breakfast
Date for your diary—Friday 9 May

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

Date of Letter Class Topic
17/3 K-6 JS Parent/Teacher Interviews
20/3 3-6 Band Instrument Reeds
21/3 11 D&T Excursion

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 Cultural Task Wk 9
Geography assignment 28/3
Biblical Studies Task in class Wk 10
English Speech Presentation 31/3
D&T—Snack & Package Group 3&4 / Group 5 2/4 / 4/4

YEAR 8
Geog Rainforest Assignment 26-27/3
German Language Perfect Test 27/3
D&T Folio & Bag Wk 10

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.)

- Accommodation Needed
A Church planting family has need of accommodation from June 2014. If you know of any reasonably priced housing for a family with three children on the Northern Beaches, please call Daniel on 0412 089 220.

- “Good News for those looking for a deeper relationship with God”
An additional women’s BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) class planned to opening on Lower North Shore. If interested: Kay on 9489 6423, kaywoodward@mail.com or Michelle Mucci on 0416 091 096.

- PeaceWise Hub Meeting
10 April (Thurs), from 7.30 - 9:30pm at the staffroom of Covenant Christian School. See page 3 for the blog address containing more info or call Ping Chen on 0412 664 225 or David Coy via dbcoy@optusnet.com.au.

- Tutoring Available
Ex student, now uni student Tessa Grey available to tutor English, Drama Theory and Legal Studies. Contact details: tmvgrey@gmail.com or 0410 360 949.

This Week’s Quizzle
GEAR

Answer to the last Quizzle
MIXED NUMBER

Keep up to date www.ourcovenant.com.au
T 02 9450 2688
W www.covenant.nsw.edu.au