From the Principal
Welcome back!
The staff were busy preparing last week for the return of our students and are excited to be partnering with you as you seek to bring up your children. There are many new families joining us this year, with some others returning to Covenant after some time away.

Much has been going on at school during the break, with very good progress being made on the new classrooms and staff area. We have also created some extra space for the Secondary School next to the school hall with new landscaped spaces, and work on a new climbing structure for the Junior School will begin later this term. You will also notice that the old Uniform Shop has gone, and they have a much more spacious facility still located at the front of the school.

As we start the new school year, I want to remind you, as I remind myself, that Covenant is a Christian parent controlled school. It is a Christian school in that we seek to unfold the world and understand it in the context of the great Christian story and to enable our students to respond to it in its many facets in a way that reflects that understanding.

It is a “Christian parent controlled” school in that we seek to acknowledge the primacy of Christian parents in shaping the fabric of the school as a response to their God given responsibility to bring up children rather than the state or the institutional church. This remains a cornerstone of our being.

We also welcome our new staff: Mrs Heidi Stead (Junior School Curriculum Coordinator), Ms Natasha Roberts (Secondary School History), Mrs Emma Collins (Secondary School Science), Miss Geraldine Lian (Secondary Design and Technology), Ms Kate O’Connor (Secondary English), Mrs Gabi Smith (Secondary English) and Mrs Sally Antcliff (School Nurse).

Andrew’s Angle
Café Covie - Five days a week!
Café Covie will be open for business five days a week this year! It will be operating from K Block Performing Arts Foyer from about 8.30am to 11.00am (except Wednesday where is will operate from the hall kitchen). Café will continue to be open to senior students on Wednesdays.

It will be a great place for parents to gather, enjoy a great cup of coffee and even a treat! We hope it will be a valuable place to build community.

New Bus Services in 2014 - Ready to Book
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 has a per term charge of $280 return or $150 one way per student (approximate cost = less than the cost of a cappuccino each way). This service is significantly subsidised by the school to make it affordable for families who live

From the Prayer Group
Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth… For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 100: 1, 5 (NIV)

For Prayer and Praise
- Praise and thank God for His unending goodness, love and faithfulness to us.
- Pray for staff and students as they commence the school year. Pray for all, especially new students and new staff, to settle in.
- Give thanks for the building and maintenance work done and staff preparations over the holidays.
- Pray as a school community that we will honour God and bring glory to Him in 2014.

Please join with us in prayer— Thursdays 9.00-9.30am in K6, starting next week
Email the Prayer Group at: prayergroup@covenant.nsw.edu.au

Junior School Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 4 February 2014
K Block Performance Space
7.30pm Sharp
A letter will be sent home on Friday giving details of session times.
in the area. The bus is fully air conditioned and seat belted. Students are dropped off and picked up inside the school gate. The bus will also have Covenant Christian School signage for ease of identification.

In addition, we have also decided to run a **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! The service started operating on day one – Tuesday 28 January.**

To book the Cromer/Collaroy/Dee Why/Narraweena/Red Hill bus or the Balgowlah/Seaforth/Fairlight bus, simply go to [http://www.trybooking.com/DZNK](http://www.trybooking.com/DZNK). You have the choice of a one way option or return travel per term.

**Before & After School Care 2014**

**Mr Andrew Lowry, Business Manager**

**Bus and Train Transport**
For the first two weeks of school, there will be a grace period where students will be able to travel to and from school for free while travel passes are being organised (free travel is only to and from school on school days). Please note students will need to pay from Tuesday 11 February if they don't have a 2014 travel pass. Travel application forms are available from the office.

**The Premier’s Reading Challenge**
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is an initiative of the NSW State government which aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Challenge runs from 1 March until 1 September 2014, and is divided into four groups: Kindergarten to Year 2, Year 3–4, Year 5–6 and Year 7–9. The readathon will be promoted and explained in the Junior School Library.

For more details of the challenge refer to the website [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge) or pick up information from the school library.

Students who wish to participate must write their name and class on a list found in the school library by **Thursday 20 February 2014**. The school will then register the students in the Challenge if they haven’t already registered online.

Students who complete the Challenge for four years will receive a Gold Award. Students who have participated for seven years receive a Platinum Award. Students who complete the Challenge each year from Year 3 to Year 9 inclusive receive a PRC medal.

**Mrs Robyn Watson, Junior School Teacher Librarian**

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**Careers News**

**CATC Design School: Information Evening**
Wednesday 9 April, 6.00-8.00pm, 1-5 Hickson Road, The Rocks.
Find out about studying graphic design, interior design and photography at CATC Design School.
Contact: 1300 661 111 or [enquiries@catc.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@catc.edu.au)

**UNSW Science Parent and Student Information Evening**
Wednesday 26 March, 6.30-8.30pm, The John Niland Scientia Building, UNSW Kensington campus. The Faculty of Science invites Year 11 and Year 12 students and their parents to attend an information evening. This evening will include talks and a career market, giving students and parents the opportunity to talk directly to current students and academics. Register online from February through [www.science.unsw.edu.au/infonight](http://www.science.unsw.edu.au/infonight).

**University of Sydney: ATAR Advice – Follow Your Passions**
This article discusses how it’s better to study a degree at university in something that you are passionate about, rather than basing your decision on an ATAR.

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**Café Covie** - 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)
Music Notes
Welcome back to 2014. We are looking forward to a great year of music. Once again we have a very capable team of conductors and tutors who are all keen to get the year off and running. A new addition to our team is Mrs Waters, who will be looking after the Junior Band. The details for all Junior School Music are outlined elsewhere. Miss Binskin will be looking after the Vocal Ensemble and Junior Strings, while Mrs Conway will be looking after Senior Band and a new Senior (Chamber) Strings group which will be by audition only. If you are interested in any of the groups or, if you feel that your instrument does not ‘fit’ into an ensemble, please contact Mrs Conway to have a chat about your options.

Rehearsals for Junior School Ensembles (out of class time) will be starting in Week 2 and for Secondary School Ensembles in Week 3. All rehearsals will take place in the Performing Arts Space unless advised otherwise.

Rehearsal Times: Senior Band with Mrs Conway - Friday 7.45am; Junior Band with Mrs Waters – Thursday 7.50am; Vocal Ensemble with Miss Binskin – Wednesday lunch time; Senior (Chamber) Strings – Tuesday Lunchtime in G2.

If you would like to learn an instrument through the school (separate to the Year 4 and 5 Band program), you can contact the tutors directly on the following numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Day</td>
<td>Drum kit</td>
<td>0402 508 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirstin Jackson</td>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>0412 224 908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iain Brown</td>
<td>Guitar</td>
<td>0406 335 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Kennedy</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>9411 1803 or 0424 716 694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Roberts</td>
<td>Guitar and Bass Guitar</td>
<td>0410 542 246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Swadling</td>
<td>Brass</td>
<td>0423 187 496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Middleton</td>
<td>Saxophone and Clarinet</td>
<td>0433 508 519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Clarke</td>
<td>Vocals</td>
<td>0402 667 126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Khoh</td>
<td>Violin</td>
<td>0424 089 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manasseh Oshiro</td>
<td>Cello</td>
<td>0430 398 819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Gelding</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>0403 691 788</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mrs Nicole Conway, Creative Arts Coordinator

Covie Kids Drama School
Classes resume Week 2—Limited places available in each class

Little Pickles Drama Skills (Kindergarten to Year 2), Tuesday 3.00pm—4.15pm. Through creative role play, stimulating and interactive drama games and exercises students jump into the wonderful world of the imagination where the sky is the limit.

Drama and Comedy Skills 1 (Years 3 to 6) - Wednesday 3.00pm—4.15pm. Good old fashioned slap stick comedy meets important theatre disciplines. Students learn the specialized skills such a physical theatre, mime, improvisation and how to create and develop a comic character and routine.

Drama and Comedy Skills 2 (Years 4 to 9) - Wednesday 4.15pm—5.30pm. As above but for the more experienced student. Students must audition to gain entry. Additional performance opportunities available.

What’s New on the Blog Site?
New Blog Posts to Visit

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

Date of
Letter Class Topic
28/1 2-6 Introduction Letters
3-4 Term 1 Sport
3-6 School Sport
5-6 Term 1 Sport Options
7-8 Sport Information
9-11 Elective Sport
10 Student Notebook Program
10 English - ‘Prejudice’
10 Yarrabah Weekend
11 Community Service
29/1 3-6 Primary Swimming Carnival
11 Hospitality Tool Kit
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.)

- **Allambie Netball Club**
  Registration: Sat 1 & 8 Feb, 10am to 2pm at Allambie Heights School Community Hall. Further info and forms at www.allambienr.nsw.netball.com.au or email allambienr.netball@people.net.au.

- **Wakehurst Netball Club**

- **Manly Warringah Basketball Club**
  Primary basketball competition starts soon. If you wish to enter a team nominations need to be in quickly. You can also enter as an individual into Packer League (primary school comp) starting in March. Saturday training starts this week, 2:30-3:30pm age 7 and below, 3:30-4:30pm for 8 and above. Phone Eileen on 9913 3622 for info.

- **NAB - Glenrose Shopping Centre**
  For your information, this branch will close on Monday 3 Feb and reopen at Forest Way Shopping Centre on Wed 5 Feb.

Mrs Samantha Glassock

We look forward to some wonderful work from our students.

Year 10 Yarrabah Trippers
If any parents haven’t yet picked up the bedding provided for the Yarrabah trip, please come to the office to collect it.

PIP Help Needed
We are looking for any parents who would like to help on a Tuesday afternoon coaching a League Tag team from 1.30-3.00pm or would like to take some students out Mountain Biking from 1.00-3.00pm. This could count towards PIP. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

The Passion Project
In 2014, Year 8 students will have an exciting opportunity to engage in an independent research project. The project will allow them to research an area of passion and to produce a Major Work as a result of that research. The work may be in a variety of forms - from a report, to a creative piece, to a tangible product.

Students will be allocated one period a week for a semester to work on their project. During this time, they will not only be able to develop in their area of passion but will also be taught skills in research, referencing, writing and evaluation. The project is very exciting for a number of reasons. It will enable students to study in a cross-curricular environment, allow them to extend themselves and also produce a work of which they can be proud. At the end of the semester, a showcase will celebrate the students’ achievements and allow them to display their work. We look forward to some wonderful work from our students.

What’s Coming Up!

**Tuesday 4 February**
- Junior School Information Evening
- Friday 7 and Saturday 8 February
  - Year 10 Yarrabah Kids Games Training
  - Monday 10 February
  - School Tour (9.15am) and Secondary Information Evening

**Friday 14 February**
- Year 9 Picnic Day

**Tuesday 18 February**
- Primary Swimming Carnival (8.30am to 12noon)

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 February**
- Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement
- Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 February
  - Year 5 and 6 Camps
  - Monday 3 March
  - Secondary Swimming Carnival

**Tuesday 4 March**
- Primary Zone Swimming

**Wednesday 5 March**
- Year 7 (all) and Year 9 (boys only)
- Vaccinations

**Friday 7 March**
- Second Zone Swimming

**Monday 10 to Tuesday 11 March**
- Year 7-10 Drama Camp

**Monday 10 March**
- Primary State Swimming

**Tuesday 11 March**
- Year 7 Information Evening and School Tour

**Thursday 13 March**
- Secondary State Swimming

**Friday 14 and Saturday 15 March**
- Year 3/4 Sleepover

**Tuesday 18 March**
- Year 11 Drivers Education Day

**Wednesday 26 March**
- Primary CIS Swimming

**Thursday 3 April**
- School Tour (9.15am)

**Thursday 3 to Friday 11 April**
- Year 11/12 Exams

**Friday 4 to Friday 11 April**
- Year 7 to 10 Camps

**Friday 11 April**
- Last day of Term 1