From the Principal

Welcome to Term 2 at Covenant Christian School!

I hope you have had a good break over Easter. Our staff have had a well-deserved break and we are looking forward to serving your family over the coming weeks. We had some great feedback from the Year 7 to 10 camps which ran over the last week of school and, though exhausted, I think our students enjoyed their camp experiences. I had the privilege of attending the Moree camp which was exciting, but very basic in many ways. The number of times that we received compliments on the way in which our students behaved during our time there was a bit overwhelming but, I must say, it was well deserved. They didn’t complain when things didn’t work out perfectly and they worked well when they had opportunities to serve the community in different ways in Moree. There are many stories that will live long in the memories of the students who attended the different camps. On your behalf, I thanked the staff members who worked very hard last term, but particularly in the last week.

We are thrilled to see the changes made to the school over the holiday period. E Block is now officially open and staff have moved into their new area. Our new play equipment has been fully installed near the Year 5 classrooms and will keep many of our children very physically occupied during their play time!

Good progress has been made on the additional shade structures around the High School and the front office has had a refresh, as have a number of our classrooms. A new section of the high school library has been created where Year 12 students who like to work in total quiet can go and study.

This term starts with a great flourish of activity. On Monday many of our staff updated their first aid qualifications, and the Junior School began their term with their much anticipated Outer Limits Day. We have been running this for some years now and we are thankful for the hard work of the staff under the guidance of Mrs Jacobs to make this day happen.

Our school is again hosting the Northern Beaches Dance & Ballet Eisteddfod. This is an opportunity for our school to serve the local community. It reminded me of a question asked recently when looking at the place of our school in our community: “If our school wasn’t here tomorrow, would the community miss us?”

This is an excellent question, and is related to the deeper mission of the church. I hope that we are seeking to be a place that provides a service to the community in varied ways. For those parents that align themselves with the vision and mission of the school I would hope that the answer is “Yes!” but it is a more complex question about our involvement in the wider community. I hope we have graduates who are going into the wider community in different roles, seeking to make a godly impact in whichever area they find themselves, but in more imminent ways, we are serving those around us. It is a challenge for Covenant as a Christian community to be outward looking in varying ways.

As this term begins, I hope it is a time of excitement, challenge and learning for your children as we try to instil in them a sense of awe and wonder, and at the same time shape their responses to this world in both its beauty and its pain.

From the Prayer Group

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:34 (NIV)

For Prayer and Praise

• Praise God for Jesus and pray that our students will understand what Jesus has done for them
• Give thanks for the break over the holidays and pray that students and staff will settle back quickly
• Give thanks for building works over the school holidays
• Pray for School Cross Country
• Pray for Biggest Morning Tea and Mother’s Day stall fund raiser

Please join with us in prayer — Thursdays 9-9.30am in K6.

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

Mother’s Day Family Breakfast

Friday 9 May 2014 (7.15am)

Book online www.trybooking.com/CSEQ

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Finally, a reminder for parents of children in Junior School. It has recently come to our attention that there are a number of children who have created Facebook and Instagram accounts. It is not legal for them to have accounts until they are at least 13 years old and I think for most of our students it is not wise for them to have access to social media like these even at this age. If you have allowed your child to create an account, or even if you have not, I would ask you to check what your children are doing online. If they have accounts, I would urge you to get them to close those accounts down and to continue to closely monitor their web based usage. Some of the content that some students are putting on these accounts is in very poor taste and parents ought not to assume that their children are capable of handling this sort of media well.

Bill Rusin

Andrew’s Angle

Holiday Improvements
We give thanks to God for our wonderful & dedicated maintenance team for their very busy two weeks while students and staff were away on holidays. There were plenty of projects completed that add value to our school community, including:

- New climbing frame for Junior School
- Construction of a Year 12 quiet study area in the Secondary Library
- Refurbishment of the School Front Office
- Painting and new floor covering for the Junior School Art and Computer rooms
- Preparation of the new E Block staffroom
- New Garden beds planted
- Foundations dug for extending the basketball court shade structure

E Block Upper Floor is Open - Staff and students are started this week to enjoy the new facilities. Please take the time to walk around the upper floor of E Block and see the changes for yourself.

Mr Andrew Lawry, Business Manager

Careers News

Year 12 Careers Expo
Year 12 students will be attending the Northern Beaches Careers Market on Thursday 15 May at Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills. The Careers Market gives students an excellent opportunity to talk to employers and representatives from many organisations such as TAFE, universities, private colleges, new apprenticeships, Northern Beaches Business Education Network and so on. Parents are welcome to attend. Please ensure your child returns the note sent home promptly.

Macquarie University Business and Economics Information Evening
Wednesday 14 May, 6.00-8.00pm, Campus Hub (C10A), Level 3 function rooms, Macquarie University. Hear directly from academics, current students, graduates and industry experts on what Macquarie University can offer.
http://www.mq.edu.au/future_students/undergraduate/coming_events/business_and_economics_information_evening/

University of Sydney Upcoming Events
Your Path to Sydney Uni - Wednesday 21 May. Obtain information about the university’s faculties, scholarships, alternative pathway options and university life.

Year 10 Information Evening - Wednesday 4 June and Thursday 12 June. This information evening is designed to help Year 10 students and their parents choose subjects for the HSC and navigate through the process of applying to university.

Scholarship Information Evening - Thursday 26 June. Year 11 and 12 students are invited to learn more about the many scholarship schemes on offer. Attendees will also receive hints and tips on how to complete the scholarships application form in order to maximise their chances of receiving a scholarship. See link below for more details & registration at these events.
http://sydney.edu.au/future-students/high-school-students/upcoming-events/index.shtml
What's New on the Blog Site?

Year 9 and 10 Bourke Camp
Bourke is a land of extremes. The temperature can get to high 40°C’s during summer and as low as -6°C in winter. The vast landscape can change from dust to green with a couple of days rain even though the dams are empty and they are in the middle of a drought. There is no guarantee of a steady income for farmers as each crop is only as successful as the conditions allow. Ten percent of the nation’s population lives in these arid conditions and they work unbelievably hard to stock our supermarket shelves so we don’t go hungry and always have a choice of clothes to wear.

So why take a group of 35 students there, I hear you ask? As Henry Lawson wrote ‘to know Bourke, is to know Australia’ … Read the whole article and see more photos at http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/to-know-bourke-is-to-know-australia

New Climbing Frame for Junior School
Junior school students were enjoying the addition of a 5 metre high climbing frame outside the Year 5 classrooms. See photos at http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/climbing-frame-a-popular-choice-first-day-back

New Blog Posts to Visit

A Short Survey on Children’s Thoughts and Emotions (Years 3 - 10)
Please refer to email sent to Year 3-10 parents. If you are interested, please complete and return the consent form to the school office by Monday 12 May 2014. Consent forms also available from the office.

Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 14 May 2014
Please mark the date in your calendar and RSVP for dinner by 7 May 2014.
This year we have a guest speaker, Bill Salier, who is the Deputy Principal at Moore Theological College, but in the past was a Year 6 teacher at Covenant Christian School and editor of Nurture magazine.

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

Canteen volunteers are needed for Term 2
If you are free Monday or Friday, please call Mrs Gail Ecob on 0415 512 391. A great way to do your PIP!
Scientia Challenge: Years 7-10
The Scientia Challenge Program is designed for students in Years 7-10 who would like to be extended in an area of interest. The program features a range of workshops taught over three days. The courses are developed and presented by academics at the University of New South Wales. The level of difficulty in the courses is aimed at two years higher than the students’ grade level, providing a rigorous and challenging program. The program also provides the opportunity for students to meet like-minded peers of similar interests. The next Scientia Challenge Program will be held 30 June – 2 July (8.45am to 3.30pm).

For details, go to: http://tinyurl.com/covenantscientia

Mrs Samantha Glassock, Extension and Enrichment Coordinator

Biggest Morning Tea and Mother’s Day Stall
Next Wednesday, 7 May.

There will be stalls in the Colosseum plus Café Covie will be open in K Block. Junior School children will have the chance to visit the stalls with their class during the morning and Secondary School students will be able to choose a gift for their mum during recess or (for Years 11 and 12) free periods.

There will be items on sale from $5 so there will be something for every Mum, Grandma, Aunt and Godmother.

See page 3 for the blog address.

Secondary ICAS Competitions
Reminder to please book any competitions you’d like your children to participate in by Friday 2 May, at http://www.trybooking.com/CNWK.

Athletics Training
Athletics training (sprints, jumps and middle/long distance) will be held in Term 2 for all interested students from Years 2-12. Wednesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 May, 3.45-5.00pm at the Narrabeen Athletics Track. Cost: $10 per week. If interested, please collect a note from the school office or Miss Hammond.

Letters to Parents
Some may not have been distributed yet.

Date of Letter Class Topic
4/4 12 English Ext 2 Forum
29/4 10 Yarrabah Training
11 Biology Excursion
12 Careers Market
30/4 9 Geography Field Study
12 German Day

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.)

• Help Learner Drivers Become Safe Drivers
Learn all the simple steps how to teach a learner driver at a FREE 2 hr workshop.
Thu 15/5, 6.30-8.30pm, Warringah Council Chambers. Book on 9942 2447 or roadsafety@warringah.nsw.gov.au.

• Lifeline Book Fair
Balgowlah Boys High Campus. Fri 2 May 4-9pm; Sat 3 May 9am-5pm; Sun 4 May 9am-2pm. Entry by gold coin.

• Bear Aware Fun Day
Sat 10/5, Dee Why Scout Club, Arthur St, Dee Why. 9am-4pm. Fairy floss, face painting, BBQ, hair braiding, etc. Proudly supporting Bear Cottage.

• Saturday Basketball trainings

• Early Eagles NBISC Training Programs
Resume Wed 7/5 to 25/6 (9 wks 6am-7.30am) intensive squad training and basketball fitness with coach Sanford. www.manlybasketball.com.au/portal/

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

This Week’s Quizzle
Answer to the last Quizzle
ONCE BITTEN TWICE SHY

friends just friends

Keep up to date www.ourcovenant.com.au

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