From The Deputy Principal Curriculum (7-12)

Have you ever wondered what the staff do when the students are not here? During the first week of the holiday break for the students, our staff were involved in a Professional Development week. In particular, we looked at Project Based Learning (PBL). This was an opportunity for our staff to explore a collaborative inquiry based approach to learning in the classroom. Mr Jay Trevaskis led our staff through a number of tasks over the two day conference, where teachers were exposed first hand to the activities their students might experience by learning under a PBL model. A highlight of the first day was when former student and Master Chef ‘celebrity’ Reynold Poernomo joined our staff for dinner – a dinner prepared by staff as one of their challenges!

On the Wednesday of the conference week, Bill Rusin and I took a number of our non-teaching staff through the Certificate in Christian Education course, where we discussed the importance of the vision and mission for Christian schooling in driving our practices into the future. On the last day of our staff week, Dr Michael Frost spoke on the issue of Being incarnate Christian Educators and Teachers in an age of Disengagement, Dislocation and Dystopia. His contribution to our learning was significant (this can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZi2rKkUkQ).

About 25 of our staff journeyed to Melbourne for the International Transforming Education Conference (ITEC15) from July 13-15. The conference is held every four years, and is a wonderful place where Christians in education from around the world join together to continue reminding one another to keep the main things of Christian education, the main things! The theme of the conference was Reading Word and World. Memes, Themes and Biblical Dreams. It is really hard to wrap up such a significant conference in a few hundred words … but here goes!

Rod Thompson reminded me of the importance of biblical literacy in our homes, churches and classrooms. For us to teach the Bible well to our students, we need to be devoted readers and do-ers of the word ourselves. In order to read the world, you need to be in the word of God. Jefferson Bethke challenged us in regard to our intimacy with God – am I spending time with Him each day in order to be grounded for the task? John Stonestreet reminded us that we are educating Image Bearers of God. The story of humanity reframes discipleship and we play an important role in bringing our students under the lordship of Christ.

David Smith challenged us to think about the structures we have around the school (administrative, classroom set up, the way we acknowledge success, etc) and what they say about who we are. In his talk entitled “Imagination, Practice and the Temptations of the Everyday”, he challenged us to question the reasons behind what we do and to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. Mark Sayers challenged us to think Christianly about our task through his talk on Discipleship and cultural narratives at the beginning of the 21st century. Mark Roques reminded us of the power of story; Beth Green on what we want our graduates to look like as they exit the gates of the school. Alice Mustin gave us a helpful tool for curriculum development that we can’t wait to get into.

So much wonderful learning. So much to work on, individually and corporately. So privileged to get to do this at work, to the glory of God. Mr Peter Muddle

From the Prayer Group

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:1a (ESV)

For Prayer and Praise

- The Lord is majestic and is sovereign over all. Praise God for He alone is worthy of our praise.
- Pray for Year 7-8 students and staff.
- Pray for the Year 10-11 Ski Trip.
- Pray for the School Board and Executive staff, that they will seek first the kingdom of God in all they do.
- Pray that God’s peace will guide the hearts and minds of those who suffer high anxiety or depression.

Please join us in prayer — 9.00-9.30am on Thursdays in T9 (denouable between Preschool & K Block).

If you would like the Prayer Group to pray for you, email us at: prayergroup@covenant.nsw.edu.au

School Photo Day

Next Wednesday, 19 August

See article on page 3 for more information..
**Andrew’s Angle**

**Textbooks in 2016 - Important Change to Secondary School Procedure**

As an alternative to parents purchasing new or second hand textbooks for students in Secondary School, Covenant will be introducing a new Secondary textbook loan scheme for all textbooks from Year 7 through to Year 12 from 2016. Under this system, textbooks will be made available to students on an annual loan basis at the commencement of the new school year. Parents will no longer be asked to pay for textbooks in addition to school fees. We hope and pray that the new scheme will be of great benefit to both parents, students and the school.

In order to assist the school with acquiring Secondary textbook resources, we will soon be asking parents for donations of any current used textbooks. Further information regarding textbook donations will be communicated via email and the school newsletter in the near future.

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**PIP Helpers needed for the Scholastic Book Fair**

Junior School will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair from Wednesday 2 to Friday 4 September. A number of volunteers are needed to assist with sales on Wednesday 2 (Grandparents Day) - before school & lunchtime; Thursday 3 - before school, lunchtime and after school; Friday 4 - before school. If you are able to help at any of these times, please contact Mrs Robyn O'Donoghue at roben@internode.on.net.

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**Last chance for Entertainment Books!**

We will be wrapping up our sales of entertainment books soon, with books no longer being sold at school after Friday 21 August 2015. Thank you to all who have supported the Covenant Yarrabah Trip fundraiser. We have raised almost $1,100 for Wontulp Bi-Buya College.

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**From the School Nurses**

We have a confirmed case of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in Kindergarten. This is a mild illness, which sometimes presents with a fever and causes blisters around the mouth, on the hands and feet. Children need to be kept at home until all the blisters have dried up. For further information, please visit the New South Wales Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au.

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**Careers News** ((Remember to check the website: www.coviecareers.com))

**UTS Open Day Interactive Workshops**


**Engineers Australia: Discover Engineering**

Thursday 3 September, 9.00am – 2.30pm, Penrith High School. An opportunity for Year 10 and 11 students to participate in a range of activities and listen to talks from university students and engineers. Cost: $20. Contact Yolanda Santo on 9410 5612 or sydschool@engineersaustralia.org.au. http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/sydney-division/discover-engineering

**The University of Sydney: Open Day Workshops and Lectures**

Those attending the University of Sydney’s Open Day on Saturday 29 August may visit the following website to help plan which lectures and workshops to attend on the day. http://sydney.edu.au/open_day/mini_lectures.shtml

**Unique Student Identifier**

From January 1 2015, all students doing nationally recognised training (eg TAFE) need to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). A USI is a number which creates a secure online record of nationally recognised training and qualifications gained anywhere in Australia from different training organisations. To learn more, visit http://www.usi.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx.

**Qantas Apprenticeship Program**


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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 2.00-3.00pm and Wednesday 8.00-9.00am (ph: 9450 2696)
Covenant Christian School Newsletter—12 August 2015

School Photo Day

Wednesday 19 August. Individual and family order envelopes can be collected from the school office, or order online at www.advancedlife.com.au (Code: 2DJ 2JW MP5).

Please note that online bookings close on Monday 17 August.

If your children are having a family photo taken, the oldest student is to collect their younger sibling/s and take them to the hall for their photo. This can be taken at any time during the day.

40 Hour Famine

World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine was announced recently at our Junior and Secondary assemblies. This is the 40th year of the 40 Hour Famine and all funds raised will go overseas towards various projects to aid in the food crisis affecting millions worldwide.

The 40 Hour Famine is officially on this weekend, however students can participate any other time throughout August. Students who wish to participate need to register online and set up their own famine page; they should also join the Covenant Christian School team. Students can see Mrs Redwood if they need help with registering. Sponsors are encouraged to donate online and receipts will be emailed to them. Alternatively, students can collect cash and cheque donations and then return these to school by 31 August for banking.

Instruction sheets and famine guide books are available from Mrs Redwood and the School Office. It is always encouraging to see students participating and the support of family and friends is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Deb Redwood, School Counsellor/40 hour famine group leader

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to those families who have already brought in a filled box for Operation Christmas Child. 150 boxes have already been taken home to fill. We received 50 more boxes today in case you missed out last week. Remember that you may choose to fill a box with a friend. If you prefer, you can help with postage costs by placing $9 in an envelope and taking it to the School Office. The boxes will be collected on 14 September (Week 9).

Operation Christmas Child sends a message of hope to children in desperate situations around the world through these boxes and Christian literature. This program provides Covenant with an opportunity to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission project that reaches out to suffering children while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ, God’s greatest gift.

Mrs Watson, Miss Rose and Mrs Bickell, Operation Christmas Child Coordinators

What’s New on the Blog Site?

Keep up to date via www.facebook.com/covenantchristianschoolsydney

See more at New Blog Posts to Visit


Fusion 2015

Thursday 20 August 2015
6.00-9.30pm
Held in the School Hall
Come and view the major works of our talented Year 12 students.
A variety of sweet and savoury canapés will be served by our Hospitality students.
**Year 7 Student Event**
Laser Skirmish at AMF Bowling, Dee Why, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Saturday 29 August. RSVP this week to Mrs Danielle Gulliford rdhgulliford@yahoo.com.

**Year 11 Students Night**
Café and Movie Night - Saturday 15 August, 7.30-10.30pm, in the K Block Performance Space. RSVP to Kari Higgins on 0418 120 966.

**Year 7 & 8 Tests and Assignments**
Following are tests & assignments due this term. This will assist students and parents in planning their work load.

**Subject and Title** | **Date Due**
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Science: Car (Mrs C) | 12/8
German: Meine Familie | Wk 5
Mathematics Test | 24/8
Geography exc. & assessment | 2/9
D&T: Snack Food & Package | Wk 9
History: Ancient Egypt Project | 16/9

**Letters to Parents**
Some may not have been distributed yet.

**Date** | **Class** | **Topic**
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27/7 | 8 | Passion Project Journal
4/8 | 6 | Canberra Trip
5/8 | 11 | PDHPE/SLR First Aid
6/8 | 3-6 | CSSA Athletics Carnival
11/8 | 11-12 | Hospitality Fusion Night
12/8 | 7 | Geography Excursion

*Please note that all notes and letters can be downloaded from the school website: [http://tinyurl.com/CCSNotes](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.)

- **Scripture Union Bike Camps 2015**
SU Bike Camps are holiday sport & recreation cycling camps for young people. Bike Camp is for boys & girls who like cycling, camping, outdoor holidays, making it from A to B on their own steam and meeting others from around NSW. This year we’re riding in state/national parks in lower Hunter Valley ending at Wollombi. Jnr Bike Camp is for Yrs 7-8 and runs over October long weekend (2-5 Oct) - Mt Yengo to Wollombi. Bike Camp is for Yrs 9-12 and runs during the first week of the holidays (19-25 Sept) - Denman to Wollombi.

**What’s Coming Up!**
Important dates can also be found on the Calendar page of the school website.

**Friday 14 to Sunday 16 August**
Year 10-11 Ski Trip
**Saturday 15 August**
Year 11 Social Event
**Wednesday 19 August**
School Photo Day
**Thursday 20 August**
Fusion Night
Primary CSSA State Athletics
**Monday 24 to Friday 28 August**
Book Week
**Monday 24 August**
Year 8 & 10 Subject Selection Evening
**Wednesday 26 August**
Secondary CSSA Athletics
**Saturday 29 August**
Year 7 Student Event
**Wednesday 2 September**
Grandparents & Special Friends Day
**Friday 4 September**
Fathers Day Family Breakfast
**Tuesday 8 September**
School Tour (9.15am)
**Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 September**
Year 6 Canberra Trip
**Wednesday 9 September**
Joshua Challenge
**Thursday 10 to Thursday 17 September**
Year 11 Exams
**Friday 11 September**
Infants Fun Day
**Saturday 12 September**
Covie Working Bee (8am-12noon)
**Monday 14 September**
Year 9/10 Drama Night
**Wednesday 16 September**
Year 5 Exams
**Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 September**
Year 5-8 Maths Camp
**Wednesday 16 September**
CIS Secondary Athletics
**Thursday 17 September**
Year 12 Graduation (7.00pm)
**Friday 18 September**
Year 12 Final Assembly and Last Day
**Tuesday 6 October**
First day of Term 4

**This Week's Quizzle**

**Lmotheraw**

*Answer to the last Quizzle*

**LIFE AFTER DEATH**

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**This Friday’s Canteen Special:**
Friday 14 August: Butter Chicken (dairy free & gluten free) ... .... Sm $3.00 Lg $4.50


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**Term Dates for 2016**

**Term 1**
- Mon 1 Feb – Fri 8 Apr
- Term 2 – Wed 27 Apr – Fri 1 Jul
- Term 3 – Mon 25 Jul – Fri 23 Sep
- Term 4 – Mon 10 Oct – Thu 8 Dec

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**Keep up to date**