



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Closing the Generation Gap

Recently the College hosted the grandparents of our Primary Years students. It was wonderful to meet many of them and to see the love and pride they have for their grandchildren. In many cases the family resemblance was quite strong even two generations later, but of course so much more than physical characteristics are passed from parents to their children and grandchildren. They also pass on so much of their character, wisdom and values. The apostle Paul in his second letter to Timothy alludes to the fact that faith passes from generation to generation (2 Timothy 1:5).

Research clearly shows that grandparents have a very positive influence on their grandchildren – affecting academic success and psychological well-being even when they do not live under the same roof. These effects derive from the grandchildren's sense of emotional closeness to their grandparents. Grandparents also effectively reduce the risk of poverty, parental mental illness and family stress which all have very negative effects on parenting in a busy world. When I addressed the grandparents I encouraged them to continue to be involved in the lives of their grandchildren, at home and even at the College. Students and teachers alike greatly enjoy the involvement of grandparents in the life of their classes and the College.

The staff of the College consider it a privilege to partner with parents and grandparents in the task of passing on our values, character and especially faith to the children in our care. The College has modified a range of programmes this year in an effort to enhance its Christian culture. The Primary students now participate in regular Chapel services. The grandparents were able to join us for one of our Chapel services after their picnic lunch with their grandchildren. The Secondary students have a wonderful new program entitled Christianity in Action (CIA), which this term has focused on Love. The theme of Love has carried through daily devotions, Chapel services and CIA lessons, encouraging students to love themselves, their friends, their families and the wider community.

Please pray for Mrs Ditton and Mr Day as they continue to develop this very important aspect of College life. Please also pray for the Secondary Chaplain, Mr Barnett, as he

coordinates Secondary Chapel services throughout the year.

BER Update

The College is in the process of preparing its Building the Education Revolution grant applications. It is a wonderful privilege for me to consider how to best use what will hopefully be a very generous Federal Government gift. Simple modifications to current classrooms and play spaces will make big differences to the lives and learning of your children.

The words of Jesus in Matthew 6:32–33 become very relevant in times like these - “Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But, seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you” Earlier in that chapter Jesus reflected on the beauty of the lilies that do not work for their ‘clothing’ because their Father in Heaven provided for them. He then states that “if God so clothes the grass of the field . . . will he not much more clothe you.” God loves His people and He loves Norwest Christian College. He will see to it that she continues to grow, bringing much glory to His name. Please continue to pray for the Building the Education Revolution grant application process and specifically that God would bless our application.

*“Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But, seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you”
Matthew 6:32–33*

P&F Matters

Late last year the P&F purchased more than 50m of aluminium seating to be installed around the College. Some sections of seating have already been installed. Unfortunately, the current planning of alterations to the College has placed the installation of the remainder of the seats on hold. Once the plans are finalised the seats will be installed.

Student Safety

The safety of your children is the single most important responsibility of all members of the College community. It is the reason that Mrs Ditton has instituted a more rigorous Primary student collection procedure in the afternoons and the reason I now remind all parents and students that all cars on the College campus be parked with their rear to the curb. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Ian Maynard

INTER-SCHOOL CRU EVENT

Last Friday a group of keen students travelled into the city to Shore School for the Inter-Schools Cru Event, run by a Christian organisation called Crusaders. A Cru Event is a gathering of students from all over Sydney who share the same passion to see their school changed and students turn to the Lord. We were all inspired and challenged to come back to the College and make a difference. We look forward to seeing more Norwest students attend the next Cru Event in Term 2.

Emily Wood (Stage 6 student)



ENCORE '09

On 16 March, Year 9 and 10 Music students and some Year 12 students had the pleasure of travelling to the Sydney Opera House to see the best of last year's HSC Music performances. When we arrived at Circular Quay we had a light dinner at McDonald's and it seems that every other school had joined us! All the musicians were exceptional. Some of the most outstanding performers were Tim (one of Mr Day's ex-students) performing with his band, an outstanding harpist (which almost made Jaz cry) and two incredible opera singers. All the students agreed that it was an amazing night and an enjoyable experience to see such performances in Australia's premier concert hall.

Lucy Adkins and Aaron Wilkinson (Stage 5 students)



AIM TOP 50 ROCK CONCERT

The Stage 5 and 6 Elective Music trip to AIM (the Australian Institute of Music) in Week 5 was an awesome experience where we were able to see professional musicians performing at a high standard. We first arrived at Riverstone station and caught a train to Central, then walked to the AIM.

There were a number of outstanding performances throughout the day some of these performances were influenced by Powder Finger - My Happiness & Crowded House - Better Be Home Soon. The highlight of the show was Doug Parkinson who is a professional rock singer who blew us away with his amazing voice. He was clearly the most experienced out of all the performers.

Grace Kassis and Bradley Hopkins (Stage 5 students)



NOTICE BOARD

Uniform Reminder

Please be advised that the Winter Uniform is compulsory for all students from Mothers' Day until Fathers' Day. Please make sure your child/ren are dressed appropriately including the formal blazer from Monday 13 May. The uniform shop will be open during the school holidays with dates to be confirmed.

Daylight saving will end in New South Wales on **Sunday 5 April 2009** at **3:00 am**, when clocks will be put back one hour.

TERM 1 2009

TERM 1 WEEK 11A

8 Apr Easter in the City Outreach
9 Apr Last day of Term 1

TERM 2 2009

TERM 2 WEEK 1B

28 Apr First day of Term 2
1 May Secondary State Basketball

TERM 2 WEEK 2A

5 May Year 12 Student Progress Meetings
6 May State Cross Country
7 May P&F Mothers Day Stall
8 May Mothers Day Morning Tea

TERM 2 WEEK 3B

12-14 May NAPLAN