



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

GOD ON THE BATTLEFIELD

When WWI broke out, 44 year old William McKenzie was quick to volunteer as a military Chaplain to the A.I.F.

En route to Gallipoli with 2,500 men, he held prayer meetings, Bible studies, sing-a-longs and sporting events. At Gallipoli, he

spent most of his time in the trenches. He accompanied the Aussie troops to battlefields in Egypt, France and Belgium, including Pozieres, Passchendale and the Somme.

“Mac” did much more than what was expected of a military chaplain. He held services in the midst of battle, with bullets and shells whistling all around him. He carried heavy packs for exhausted diggers. He carried water and stretchers, and tended the wounded with both comfort and first aid. He often went without food or rest himself, putting the needs of other brave men before his own, but being Jesus to these frightened soldiers. On many occasions, he would say the sinner’s prayer with a soldier one night, and bury him the next day. In all, he led around 3,000 men to faith in Christ on the battlefield, and buried hundreds of them.

At the Battle of Lone Pine, Mac took part in the charge. Forbidden by regulations to carry a weapon, he charged the Turkish trenches armed with a shovel. His men had begged him to stay behind, out of their incredible respect for him, but he insisted, out of his incredible respect for them, saying, “Boys, I’ve lived with you, I’ve preached to you and I’ve prayed with you. Do you think I’m afraid to die with you?”

This is just one of hundreds of stories of brave chaplains who were, and still are, God on the battlefields to brave Aussie Diggers, loving and serving the Lord and the soldiers, willing to lay down their lives as Christ did.

The College held its ANZAC Day services on Tuesday and remembered those who fought to keep Australia and Australians free. It was touching to see the maturity of our students and the degree of respect they showed at these services.

Just as God was with William McKenzie and the soldiers at Gallipoli, bringing comfort, strength and hope as they faced their battles, He will also be with every one of us as we face our battles, whatever they may be. I encourage each of us to look for God’s comfort, strength and hope in our own personal battlefield.

(taken from “You Can Be Another Great Australian” by Margot Ogilvie.)

Ian Maynard

DEVOTION

Many of us are familiar with the poem “Footprints”. The image throughout is of a person walking along the beach. The beach is a symbol of life. Footprints are observed and God is asked the question why there were only one set of prints at times. These times coincided with the most difficult experiences in the beach walkers’ life. Do you remember the reply? It is one many have drawn comfort from: My child I did not leave you. I carried you.

Some years ago I came across a different view of the footprints. Psalm

77 verse 19 says “Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.”

In no way do I wish to detract from the power of a much loved poem which is also ground in Scripture. Verse upon verse assures us that the Christian God will not leave. In fact, His tenacious willingness to do life with us is incredible and unmatched.

Rather, I seek to add another dimension – that God has not left even if circumstances conspire to suggest otherwise and not even a single footprint can be detected.

So, if life is serving you a curve-ball, be strong in the knowledge that your Father in Heaven is deeply committed to you and is able to work all things together for good, for those who love Him.

Nicola Glew (Director of Education Support)

“Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen”

Psalm 77: 19



VIETNAM VETERANS' VISIT

At the end of Term 1 the College was privileged to host a team of Vietnam veterans who came to talk to our Year 10 History students as part of their School Certificate study of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.



All four veterans had been National Servicemen who were conscripted during the 1960s and sent to fight in Vietnam. They shared so many of their personal experiences with our students as well as allowing them the 'hands-on' opportunity of dressing in combat

clothes and examining a range of artefacts and primary sources from the war. One serviceman was accompanied by his wife who was able to speak from the perspective of the home front and the impact of the war on soldiers as they returned to civilian life.



Our students were an excellent audience and expressed an appreciation of the very interesting presentation which added another dimension to their understanding of the issues involved in the conflict in Vietnam.

Mrs Lyn Stormont (Director of Learning – Stage 5)

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE - UPDATE

The Premier's Reading Challenge has been an exciting addition to Norwest's curriculum this year. The Challenge is open to each of our students in Years K-9 and it aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature.

All students will have by now received their personal PRC username and password in their communication books or student diaries. This allows students to manage their reading records online. Students who have participated in the PRC in previous years will be reissued with their previous usernames and passwords to use this again year.

Further information about the PRC, including booklists, rules and general news can be found at <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. Please contact your classroom teachers or me directly at gpaynter@nwcc.nsw.edu.au should you require any further assistance. Happy reading!

Geraldine Paynter (Director of Curriculum)



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all families who supported the recent Scholastic Book Fair in the LRC. Special thanks to the students and families who purchased books from the 'Wish Lists' resulting in a total of 28 books being added to the College Library.

Sales from this event enabled the College to purchase books to the value of approximately \$800.



BLACKTOWN FESTIVAL (23-30 MAY)

Information booklets available from the office.

As part of the Blacktown Festival, STAR TREK I I will be shown for FREE at the following times:

- Tuesday 26 May
Mt Druitt Hoyts Cinema
6.45pm
- Thursday 28 May
Blacktown Hoyts Cinema
6.45pm

Tickets are available from Thursday 14 May and bookings are essential.

Enquiries: 9839 6000

TERM 2 2009

TERM 2 WEEK 2A

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

TERM 2 WEEK 3B

11 May	Winter Uniform compulsory
12-14 May	NAPLAN

TERM 2 WEEK 4A

19 May	P&F Meeting
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TERM 2 WEEK 5B

27 May	Computer Competition
28 May	Secondary CIS Cross Country
29 May	Athletics Carnival (Y3 – 12)

Uniform Reminder
The Winter Uniform is compulsory for all students from Monday 11 May including the Formal Blazer.