



WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

I am constantly amazed by the power of observation amongst children and teenagers today. It seems that they don't miss a beat! It's simply staggering that many children are tuned in to the way we (adults) are feeling and what attitude we are presenting, all-be-it subconsciously.

In reflecting on this it makes me also ponder that many students would observe their parents or teachers when the parent or teacher was completely unaware! Children look closely at the way we act. They examine and study the way we respond to various situations, whether the situation is joyful, difficult, sombre, or stressful. The natural course of action for a child (in most situations) is to then mirror that behaviour and develop similar traits or characteristics in themselves.

You can probably guess the point I am coming to! Parents and teachers have a profound effect on the learned behaviours of children. Yes, that's right, most human behaviour is learned.

This is my 5th year of teaching at Norwest Christian College and I truly cherish the experience. The constant challenge for me (apart from striving to be an excellent teacher) is to ensure I set an example in my behaviour that the students will want to follow and as they reflect on their own behaviour, decide to change for the better. It's a big call – but a most worthy cause.

We all make mistakes; both big and small. Fortunately for us Christ is forgiving – the definition of grace. The College seeks to establish an understanding of this fundamental truth in the lives of his students. Christians are constantly challenged to be Christ-like in their behaviour for we are ambassadors for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20a says "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us".

May all Norwest students be blessed by the example we set as parents and College staff. The inspiration for this devotion was a poem that can be found on Page Three. I hope you too find it inspiring.

Mr Stuart McCormack (Director of Learning - Stage 4)

ACCOLADES FOR SARAH DUNCAN



Sarah Duncan graduated from Norwest Christian College in 2008 with a UAI which saw her accepted into her chosen course of Bachelor of Education in Primary Teaching at the Kuringgai campus of UTS.

Sarah has chosen to focus

on Special Needs Education so that when she completes her studies she can assist others in the way that she was assisted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC).

Sarah has Oculocutaneous Albinism, a condition which affects vision and whilst in Year 2 at Norwest (then called Coverdale), Sarah's teacher Xanthe Barden recommended Sarah tap into the resources available through the RIDBC. The school made contact with them and received the funding to enable Sarah to receive a variety of services. Anne Murphy supported Sarah through her primary years, ensuring that her handwriting was developing and also introduced her to typing, which would benefit her in high school.

A valuable service provided for Sarah by the RIDBC was the provision of texts on CD ROM and enlargement of work sheets. Secondary school support was provided by Julie Kirkness who worked in partnership with the Norwest staff to ensure that Sarah always had the resources available to her that would enable her to succeed. And succeed she did!

Sarah was a wonderful contributor within the Norwest community with extensive musical talents that were often on show at performance nights. Her outgoing personality and determination to achieve her best were admired widely.

Sarah was chosen as a Student Leader in her final year at the College and was Dux of General Mathematics. In the HSC, she achieved a Band 6 result for General Mathematics which means she was placed in the top 10% of candidates in the state and had her name printed in the Sydney Morning Herald.

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children last week, Sarah was awarded the Frederick Gregory Roberts Prize for the Highest UAI in 2008 for a vision impaired student supported by RIDBC.

Congratulations Sarah upon receiving this prestigious honour!

David Butler (Director of Learning - Stage 6)

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."
2 Corinthians 5:20a

CYBERBULLYING PART I

This article is the first in a series which seeks to address the ever growing issue of cyber bullying. The purpose of these brief articles is to provide parents with up to date information on this potentially critical issue, reassure parents of the College's position and policies and make helpful and constructive suggestions to lower the risk of occurrence.

An old enemy in a new guise

The internet, mobile phones and multiple other devices are constantly reshaping the way we communicate with one another and have ultimately made the world's global community smaller. With the continual development of these technologies the nature of education is also constantly evolving; both in the manner by which curriculum is delivered and also the very nature of learning itself, with students surging forward into an age of digital learning. Today's students are growing up in a world of broadband, iPods, text messaging and My Space – all at the click of a button. While most of these technologies have seemingly infinite benefits they also carry some perilous risks for those who use them, particularly our students.

From this digital landscape the unfortunate phenomenon of cyber bullying has emerged.

"Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others."

On 1 June 2009 the Federal Government released two reports that surveyed 7,000 students from 124 schools around the nation and revealed some concerning results. In brief;

- 1 in 4 students in Yrs 4-9 experience bullying every few weeks
- many students don't report incidents because they fear losing access to mobile phones and computers
- 1 in 6 students reported experiencing "covert" bullying, which is hidden and not seen by adults
- up to 10% reported bullying by means of technology

- up to 20% of Year 9 students have experienced cyber bullying

The cyber life of our students is potentially a world we know little about. It is, however, one about which we must become increasingly informed.

"...It is a place of intense and unrestricted learning. Adolescents inhabit a social context that their parents for the most part did not experience as teenagers. It is a world that many parents still do not really understand...and its ramifications are complex."

Norwest Christian College believes that prevention through education is the best way of reducing the risk and incidence of bullying and harassment and this measure is being specifically addressed in the Secondary Years' CIA (Christianity in Action) program.

Furthermore the College has a zero tolerance approach to all forms of bullying and harassment. We are strongly committed to dealing with any incident of bullying and harassment and will implement a comprehensive management plan for both the perpetrator and the victim of such incidents.

The next article in this series will attempt to provide some helpful information for parents on reducing the risk of cyber bullying and being cyber safe.

Mr Stuart McCormack (Director of Learning - Stage 4)

References

Bradley, K. (2005). Internet lives: Social context and moral domain in adolescent development. *New Directions for Youth Development* (2005) p57-7

Carr-Gregg, M. (2006). *Real Wired Child: What parents need to know about kids online*, Australia, Penguin Group

Federal Government Reports: 'The Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study' & 'Behind the Scenes'.

Drape, J. (2009) 'Bullying rife in schools, says report'. *Australia, the Sydney Morning Herald*.

www.cyberbullying.org

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES



Mrs Porter is starting a family! She will be sadly missed by all her students, their parents and the whole staff community. Mrs Porter is an outstanding Prep Teacher and we know that she will be an outstanding mother.

Pray for Mrs Porter and her husband as they prepare for the birth of their child and establish the routines associated with a young family.

Mrs Porter plans to return to the Prep classroom in 2010.

PHOTO DAY

Photo Day will be held on Wednesday 17 June 2009. Envelopes have been distributed to all students. Family photo envelopes are available from the office and are due back to the College by Friday 12 June in order to allocate times

FROM PAGE 1....

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my drawing on the refrigerator, and I wanted to draw another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favourite cake for me, and it wasn't even my birthday, and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I believed there is a God I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight, and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you become very angry, and stay calm and "use your words", and I learned to do that too.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give my clothes that didn't fit any more to those less fortunate, and I learned to reach out to others to help.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you read, just for fun, and I learned to love books, and learning.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you look at the night sky, and I learned to see beauty in the world around me.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you sing as you worked, and I learned that work can bring great satisfaction.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you fail, and make mistakes, and I saw you keep doing your best, and I learned perseverance.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked . . .

and wanted to say thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.

MASTERCHEFS



Congratulations to Norwest's latest group of Masterchefs who showed off their culinary talents recently by preparing desserts for an assessment task on food presentation.

Special mention needs to be made of a Fruit and Berry Flan accompanied by strawberries dipped in white chocolate made by Joel McIntyre, a Soft Meringue with Vanilla Mascarpone and Passionfruit Curd made by Stephanie Olford

and a delicious Chocolate Self Saucing Pudding made by Emma Handley.

To enable accurate judging of these submissions, considerable tasting was required. Sometimes being a Hospitality teacher can be such a chore...

Carolyn Adams (Hospitality Teacher)

VANUATU MISSION TRIP 2010



The College's annual Mission Trip to Vanuatu is a wonderful opportunity for students to express their faith as the College once again links up

with Scripture Union Vanuatu to assist them with ongoing local projects. The students will also have opportunity to experience this wonderfully hospitable Pacific Island culture as they visit local churches, villages and schools and meet the many smiling locals. This week long excursion across the Pacific also gives students the opportunity to see the beautiful island of Efate and experience the awe of a live volcano on the island of Tanna.

The College will soon begin promoting the 2010 trip to its senior students and it is expected that fundraising over the coming terms will keep costs down. I want to give advance notice to those families considering supporting the mission trip that later this term, after confirming numbers, flights will be booked and deposits will be required to proceed. Much more information will be distributed in the very near future. If you have any questions regarding the Vanuatu Mission Trip in 2010, please contact me via email at dbutler@nwcc.nsw.edu.au

David Butler (Director of Learning - Stage 6)

FAIRTRADE EXCURSION



On Tuesday 19 May, Stage 6 students went on a trip to Rouse Hill Town Centre. Although the trip was to a shopping centre, our mission served a greater purpose.

We were there to observe the Oxfam Shop, a store which endeavours to alleviate

injustice throughout the world by stocking and selling products that are manufactured using fair-trading practices. 'Fair-trade' is a social movement who uses a market-based approach to meet its aim of helping producers in developing countries and promoting sustainability.

After the Oxfam shop it was on to Coles and the confectionary aisle to see how many chocolates we could discover that had the fair-trade sticker on them. We were bitterly disappointed to find just how few there were!

The excursion proved extremely valuable in further emphasising this term's CIA theme of "justice" and more specifically to raise our awareness of the fair-trade concept.

Tate Dimech & Nathan Cockerell (Stage 6 students)

Parents & Friends Press

Up coming events:

Girls' Night Out

Friday 19 June 2009

Further details to follow

P&F Meeting

Tuesday 16 June 7pm in the library

Have you got
a moment?

Have you had
your morning
pick up?

NOTICE BOARD

SECONDARY PERFORMANCE NIGHTS!

Stage 5 – Tuesday 30 June, 7pm

A wonderful opportunity to come together and see, listen and taste. Items will include Music and Drama performances, Public speaking from English, and Science demonstrations. Supper will be provided by Food Tech and displays of Wood Tech and IST work samples will be available.

Stage 4 – Tuesday 7 July, 7pm

A night of drama and music from all Year 7 & 8 students, culminating in a choral performance from all students in Stage 4

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Please note the 19 June 2009 is the new date for the College Athletics Carnival.

It will be held at a NEW VENUE

Charlie Bali Reserve
in Doonside.

8.30am - 3pm

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The College is beginning to implement a new SMS system to notify parents when their child is absent from the College. Further information will be posted home shortly.

TERM 2 2009

TERM 2 WEEK 7B

8 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
9 June	Year 7 & 10 Immunisations
9-10 June	Year 9 & 10 Assessment Week
10 June	Science Competition
11-12 June	Year 9 and 10 Core Exams
12 June	Infants Athletics Carnival (P-2)

TERM 2 WEEK 8A

15 June	Secondary CSSA Zone Soccer Gala Day
17 June	Photo Day
19 June	Athletics Carnival (Years 3 – 12)

TERM 2 WEEK 9B

22 June	Primary CSSA Soccer Gala Day
23 June	Instrument Spectacular
23 June	Spelling Competition
25 June	Primary Metro Cup

TERM 2 WEEK 10A

29 June	Secondary Girls CSSA State Soccer Gala Day
30 June	Stage 5 Performance Night

TERM 2 WEEK 11B

7 July	Stage 4 Performance Night
8 July	Year 12 Student Progress Meetings
10 July	Last day of Term 2