



KING'S COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal

26 March 2009

Dear Parents and Friends,

“Every person is a unique individual, with rights of their own” – so goes the current catch-cry of our generation. “Give me my rights.” “Assert your rights.” “How dare you deny me my rights!” This kind of speaking has become the language of social and political life for thousands of Australians.

Individual rights are at risk of being made into an unquestionable absolute, as though we live solely unto and for ourselves. The result has been an increasingly selfish tone to society, with all the discontent and menace that portends. Our problem is the difficulty of trying to balance ‘my rights against yours’. We can well wonder whether our society would have the self-discipline now to handle well a really serious economic depression. In the 1930’s, there were major riots.

Christianity does not deny the value or uniqueness of the individual – surely it is Judeo-Christian teaching which brought human dignity and rights into focus in the world. But Christianity avoids the horrible consequences of making the individual into an absolute entity all of themselves.

We each derive our uniqueness from God, and in turn we have to recognise the uniqueness of our neighbour. He or she is also made in the image of God. It is only Christian social ideas such as this, down through the centuries, which have had any hope of keeping the rights of the individual and those of society in a workable equilibrium.

As we draw near Easter, in the Lenten Season for some, the actions of Jesus Christ speak to us again. Jesus’ resurrection appearances were first of all to individuals; Mary, Peter and John, Thomas and the eleven disciples. He showed himself to them in person, face to face. He did not appear after the resurrection in the form of some cosmic impersonal other-worldly being, remote from human uniqueness and individuality. He was the same Jesus in the same body, as the one the disciples knew before the cross. He retained his individuality, and his manhood was not lost, only transformed. Personhood is eternal, but not absolute. The Biblical pattern of respecting individuality is never allowed to become an absolute. As Christians, our allegiance and submission to the law of Christ obliges us to respect others rights as well as our own.

In our education and parenting, we bear in mind the value and uniqueness of each child. We also keep in mind that the children can meet Christ personally, that they need to meet him, and that he calls them to meet him. "Allow the little children to come to me". The expectation that children must come to 'years of discretion' or 'maturity' before being able to have a meaningful spiritual life flies against the spirit of the New Testament. Conscious trust in the Lord through the years of a child's life opens the windows of their heart to the eternal meaning of life in ways denied to many who, in this world's eyes, may be 'older and wiser'. "Forbid them not", Jesus said, "for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven". Childhood also is to be redeemed, for children's individuality is important too, and childhood is not merely a time of waiting to grow up. We seek the transformation of childhood by the presence of Christ and the power of God. A child's tender and developing individuality and personality may be safely entrusted to the shaping hand of the Spirit of Christ. Happy parenting!

Yours sincerely
Neil Benfell

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Give thanks for God's care and spirit of love in the school community.
- Pray for the safety and success of the Year 8's visit to Heathdale on their annual exchange visit.
- Pray for staff who have been unexpectedly pressured during this first term.
- Pray for new students settling in to school.

MRS MCLEOD IS RETIRING

Mrs Gena McLeod is retiring at the end of this term from her position as Administrative Assistant. Gena is our longest serving member of staff, commencing at the school in its very earliest days when there were just three demountable rooms. Gena has seen the College grow to what it is today and her steady and faithful work over the years, and her friendly smile over the office counter, have meant a lot to many in our school community past and present. There would be few student knees Gena has not bandaged or tears she has not dried over many years! Gena is a giving person, and her selfless work for the College in its earlier years was a tremendous help when the school was so small, as little by little buildings grew, and the community in the school became established.

The Staff and Council will be saying farewell on next Thursday, and we all want to join to say "thank you" and to wish her a long, happy and productive retirement with her family and friends. God Bless you, Gena.

INTRODUCING MR BRAD ARMSTRONG

Council has asked Mr Brad Armstrong, Proprietor of Armstrong Building Services, to assist in steering the unprecedented number of building projects which the school is applying for or embarking on this year, and we are very grateful to have his services. Perhaps you have already seen Mr Armstrong around the school. Don't hesitate to say 'hello' – he is as friendly as he looks!

A HAPPY CONCLUSION TO THE VISIT OF OUR JAPANESE FRIENDS

The visit of students from Shibuya Junior High School in Japan has become an annual event now, and one that we look forward to each year. King's host families go to a lot of trouble to welcome these children into their homes, and it is wonderful to see the response of their guests. The overseas students bring to our students an experience of another culture and another language. Yet they are teenagers too and it is great for international understanding for the young of two nations to come to appreciate each other like this. It is a valuable contribution, and we trust, a long-lasting one, that our families and our own students make in welcoming Shibuya. Our thanks to all the hosts families, to Mrs Dickinson for organising a program that flowed so well and to Mrs Pietsch for her ESL expertise.

MR BENFELL ON LEAVE

The Council has granted Mr Benfell two weeks Long Service Leave over the week before and the after the Term One holidays. Mr Tucker will be leading the school over this time, with Mr Diack as Deputy.

UPDATED SCHOOL POLICIES AVAILABLE

Updated school policies are now available to parents who wish to peruse or to take home a copy for their files. Please enquire with the front office staff.

WANTED

Flannelette sheets and old towels to use as soft rags in the Art Room. If you are having a clean out of the linen press and have any of these items, we would love to take them off your hands.

SINGING LESSONS



Do you want to learn to sing or would you like to improve your voice or your performance style?

Marcia Howard

Qualified to teach VCE

All Ages welcome

Phone 0408 508 593

RACV ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

On Tuesday 24th March Grades Prep-2 went to the ARC to participate in a road safety program. Grade 1 enjoyed the following activities – badge-making, a DVD by the SES, climbing into an ambulance, learning how to travel on a bus and how to cross the road at a crossing. The children also pressed horns and sirens, put on seat belts and lifejackets.

Amy and Bohan had fun pretending to drive the ambulance. At the end of the day all the children were given a show bag to take home.

Miss Willett

HARVEY WORLD TRAVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Harvey World Travel is a locally owned and operated travel business. They are introducing the School Support Program, which puts the resources and time back into the community. For every land booking that is made over \$2,000, they will donate 2% per booking back to the school to put towards computers, school equipment etc. Simply mention your school when booking and the value accumulated will be given to your school annually. Friends and family can also book and mention this offer and Harvey World Travel will still donate the 2%.

MERIT AWARDS FROM LAST FRIDAY

Prep	Jarrold Hughan	Great effort with his reading
	Maya Lowen	For her colourful and creative work
Gr 1	Ellie Johnson	Doing her best work this week
	Rose Maling	Her neat and accurate work
Gr 2	Caity Symons	Great test results!
	Jobe Steel	Great test results!
Gr 3	Grace Davey	Learning how to use paragraphs in her writing
	Christopher Horsfall	Representing King's College in rowing at Geelong
Gr 3/4	Hannah Vestey	Excellent knowledge of tables
	Sarah Sartori	Excellent maths works
Gr 4/5	Aimee Greig	Carrying out her work capacity
	Belle Williams	Having a positive attitude about everything
Gr 5/6	Kimberley Brown	Working hard to improve her spelling results
	Lucy Fletcher	Excellent maths test results
Gr 6	Tom Kelly	Excellent results in Math test 3
	Zane Dickinson	Frequent, mature, informative contribution to class discussion.

CANTEEN ROSTER

TOMORROW

9.00am A Horsfall, B Ralph

11.15am Help needed

12.15pm B Wallace, M Burleigh

MONDAY 30TH MARCH

9.00am N McIvor, L Sparrow, C Knight

11.15am T Brown

12.15pm G Couch, M. Killeen

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL

9.00am R Samrai, A Hannah

11.15am P Armstrong

12.15pm K Barnes

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

9.00am D Shipp, S Speak

11.15am C O'Donnell

12.15pm C O'Donnell, M Burleigh

CSSN SWIMMING COMPETITION

Yesterday 13 students departed for Melbourne to compete at the Christian Secondary Schools Association swimming competition. They were accompanied by Miss Keath and Mr Jellie. We pray for safety in travelling and that each student will achieve their very best during this competition. We will post all results in next week's newsletter.

YEAR 8 HEATHDALE EXCHANGE

Our Year 8's, along with Mr Tucker and Miss Brightwell, left very early this morning by train to Heathdale College in Werribee. They will spend today and tomorrow in fellowship and fun with Heathdale Year 8 students. We will host the Heathdale students later in the year, which further strengthens the fellowship between the two schools.

*Secondary
News*