

The Vine



2020 Term 3, Issue 1



Northside Christian College

Transforming Lives Through Christ and
the Wonder of Learning



Welcome! Mr Damian Higgins, Principal

As we embark on another term with uncertainty still very much at the forefront of our minds, I think it is important to be thinking about how we approach our daily lives. Being in a transitional space, where we can't really seem to move forward and at the same time are unable to go back, we need to have a plan for how we live in the present.

A story from the Bible, of which I am sure you are very familiar, can be helpful in teaching us what to do during a time of waiting. Acts chapter 1 verse 4 tells us, '...while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about." Later, in verse 7, the passage goes on to say, 'He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

These verses remind us that, sometimes, we need to be still and wait for God even though we do not know or understand His timing. They also remind us of the exciting promises that lie beyond when the waiting does eventually come to an end. Right now we are in the waiting phase, but we are certainly not required to do nothing. Waiting does not need to be a passive thing. On the contrary, the story in the book of Acts reveals that the community in waiting were busy going about Kingdom business, including praying together continually, teaching one another and managing the structure of their lives together within the limits that they found themselves. Here, within our Northside Community, we will endeavour to do the same. We will do our very best to achieve our mission of Transforming Lives through Christ and the Wonder of learning within the limits imposed on us at this time and we will look forward together in anticipation of the College Vision of being an Inspirational Learning Community.

It is not easy to wait, but Great faith can be forged around uncertainty, regardless of how uncomfortable it can be. I pray that when we do eventually come out of the other side of this season, we find that we are not the same as we were before and, in fact, have grown in our faith so that we are more equipped than ever before to play our part in His Kingdom work.

Grace & Peace

SEQTA ENGAGE

2020 Term Dates

Term 3

Wednesday 15th July - Friday 18th September

Term 4

Tuesday 6th October - Tuesday 8th December



Diary Dates

Term 3

Monday 20th - Wednesday 19th August

Prep-Year 10 Remote Learning

Monday 20th - Friday 24th July

VCE Unit 1 & 3 Midyear Examinations

Thursday 23rd July

Year 10 - 12 Parent Student Teacher Interview Night

Monday 27th July

2021 Year 7 Information Evening (Details to be confirmed)

Wednesday 9th September

VCE Unit 3/4 GAT Examination

NEED HELP?

College families who need a device for Remote Learning who are having trouble with their technology or need assistance with any other aspect of Remote Learning should contact their class teacher or the friendly office staff on 03 9467 2499.

The College regularly sends out important notifications to families through SEQTA Engage.

If you have not yet downloaded the App, please contact Reception for instructions on how to do so.

If you have already downloaded the App, thank you! Don't forget to turn on your SEQTA Engage Notifications in Settings, to avoid missing any essential information.



Parents & Friends - 2020 Committee

Congratulations to the newly-elected Parents and Friends members!

We are delighted to welcome the following members onto the Committee.

President:	Fleur Wedding
Vice President:	Kat Smith
Treasurer:	Liliana Caldwell
Secretary:	Dani Durik
School Representative:	Liz Tsiros

We are confident that you will do an amazing job!



2021 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the 2021 Academic Scholarships are now open, and will close on **Friday 18th September**. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Applications and further information are available from the College website or by sending an email to enrol@ncc.vic.edu.au.

2020 Year 6 and Year 9 students are eligible to apply for scholarships of three-year tenure. 2020 Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 students are eligible to apply for scholarships of one-year tenure.



PREP 2022

Applications for Prep 2022 are open. All current families that have children who will turn 5 by 30th April 2022 are eligible to apply. Please do not leave submitting your enrolment applications too late as the College may not be able to accommodate late enrolments for siblings. This year, the College received over 80 applications for Prep 2021.

LEAVING NORTHSIDE?

Families are reminded that one term's notice must be given if their child/ren are leaving Northside Christian College. If your child/ren are not returning to Northside in 2021, families must complete and submit the Withdrawal Notice form by **Friday 18th September 2020**. The Withdrawal Notice is available at the College Reception, or by sending an email to enrol@ncc.vic.edu.au. Families that do not give the required notice will be required to pay one term's fees.



PRIMARY SRC UPDATE!

Primary School Captain, Lyvia, shares about the Student Representative Council's (SRC) latest project.

"As a Primary SRC, we have looked at different ways that we can serve our Community. We decided that our final project for Term 2 would be a fundraiser for the doctors and nurses as thanks for their hard work and persistence working to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Thursday 25th June, we raised funds by holding a casual clothes day at school and encouraged students to bring a gold coin donation. Over 250 students took part in raising money for the cause. With the money raised, we managed to purchase 126 coffee gift cards for the health care workers at the Northern Hospital in Epping.

I think the casual clothes day was a fantastic way to raise money to treat the health care workers to a free coffee, and it was also a fun and enjoyable way to do it. I am very proud of our Community."



WRITING INSTRUMENT RECYCLING PROGRAM

Our Primary Art (Prep - Year 4) classes are collecting used pens, highlighters, markers and correction fluid pots for the BIC/TerraCycle Writing Instruments Recycling Program. Bins are located in the Staff Room, Art Room 2 and Prep - Year 4 classes. Keep hold of your items during Remote Learning and bring them in to the College once face-to-face learning resumes!



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2020

The Primary School will once again be participating in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge. Reading for the Challenge has now started and will end on 28th August. Students in Years Prep - 2 should read a total of 30 books, 20 of these being from the Challenge booklist and 10 of their own choice. Year 3 - 6 students should read a total of 15 books, 10 of these being from the booklist and 5 of their own choice.

Information forms with usernames and passwords are in the process of being sent home.

Any queries can be directed to Miss Rachel Skerry (rskerry@ncc.vic.edu.au) or Mrs Marsh (cmarsh@ncc.vic.edu.au).



UPCOMING INSPIRE OPPORTUNITIES

Amy Horneman, INSPIRE (Talent Development) Coordinator

Email: ahorneman@ncc.vic.edu.au

Maths Talent Quest

All students participating in MTQ in 2020 need to email Mrs Horneman with progress for feedback in preparation for completing and submitting projects. All projects are due to Mrs Horneman over email by Friday 7th August, ready for internal judging. Please be reminded that only 2 projects per category (group/individual) per year level will progress to the State competition.



ICAS

If you are interested in your child/ren participating in ICAS in 2020, please contact Mrs Horneman. We will advise once we know whether ICAS will be delivered face to face or remotely in 2020. Either way, students will be completing ICAS tests online, so students who are not at school can still participate. Parents need to go to the website and register and pay for their children to sit the relevant tests. Registration deadline is 26th July. Subjects include:

- ~ Digital Technologies (Year 3 to Year 10)
- ~ Science (Year 2 to Year 10)
- ~ Spelling (Year 2 to Year 7)
- ~ English (Year 2 to Year 10)
- ~ Mathematics (Year 2 to Year 10)

The web link is: <https://shop.unswglobal.com.au/pages/pps>

Our school's unique access code is: TSF29I

<https://www.unswglobal.unsw.edu.au/educational-assessments/products/icas-assessments/>



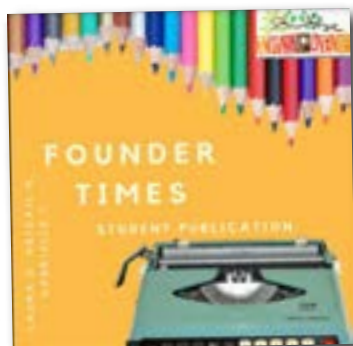
Write a Book in a Day

Write a Book in a Day is back in 2020 (we hope)! Students need to register in teams of 5 for our book writing, illustrating and publishing day on Wednesday 9th September. A maximum of 25 can participate in this year's event, due to COVID-safe hygiene practices, so interested students in Years 5-10 should return their forms to Reception or to Mrs Horneman by email as soon as possible. Please note that this event raises funds for the Kids' Cancer Project, so each team is responsible for raising \$250 towards this worthy cause. If the book writing day is cancelled because of COVID-19, we will communicate an alternate arrangement.

The Founder Times Student Publication

Founder Times needs a regular student committee to write, illustrate, design, edit and publish the next edition. Those interested can request an application form from foundertimes@student.ncc.vic.edu.au.

Founder Times is also seeking student submissions: this could be in the form of a short story, poem, work of art, photo, article, reflection, film/book review ... anything, really! This year's publication has the theme **KNOWN**. If you'd like to submit, please request a submission form from foundertimes@student.ncc.vic.edu.au.



INSPIRE Handbook - COMING SOON!

An INSPIRE Handbook, with an overview of the INSPIRE program and its purpose and offerings to students, is due to be released to parents soon!

Keep an eye on your SEQTA Engage App - the Handbook will be sent out to all College families in the next week!

Prep parents farewell Anthea

One of our beloved Prep teachers, Mrs Anthea Georgiou, recently went on maternity leave. Due to the present COVID-19 restrictions, we were sadly unable to hold a farewell party for Anthea, but our wonderful Prep parents came through with a drive-by farewell party for her!



Update YEAR 3/4 MINI-BUKJEH PROJECT

Mrs Antonietta Veljanovski, Visual Arts Primary Teacher

The Year 3/4 Mini-Bukjeh visual arts project was originally scheduled to be displayed at the City of Whittlesea Festival. However, with COVID-19 restrictions being introduced and the cancelling of the Festival, the students' artwork is now being displayed on the Bukjeh website: <https://bukjeh.com.au/projects/visual-art>

A 'bukjeh' is a bag or sack that a refugee carries throughout their journey, containing all of their belongings that can be carried. The Term 1 Mini-Bukjeh workshop focused on guiding students to consider and reflect on what they would take with them if they were ever forced to leave home. Students were guided to record their reflections and present their responses through making their own mini-bukjehs. These mini-bukjehs carry their ideas and thoughts instead of physical objects.



Year 7-10 Genius Hour

Ms Jo Westland, Director of Middle School

In celebration of our return to the Northside Campus during the last few weeks of Term 2, the Years 7 - 10 students continued their learning with an alternate structure of the timetable that allowed them to work at their own pace and decide in which order they undertook the lessons of the day. Supervising staff were able to run small tutorial groups and support sessions with small clusters of students or give individual attention and help where needed. It was for our students the best of both worlds as they got to spend time with their friends and classmates as well as to continue to build on some of the skills and routines they had established through the first lockdown and subsequent Remote Learning.

One of the highlights for both students and staff was the Genius Hour and Inquiry time built into the timetable that allowed students to pursue their own passions and interests. The presentation day saw our students in small peer groups support one another as they took turns to show the fruition of their weeks of inquiry. There was such a vast diversity of projects on offer, from speciality cakes, computer games and animal-friendly cages, to ideas for solving community issues that had touched the hearts of students. While there were peer-voted winners, the Middle School and Year 10 students were all winners as they learnt new skills and got to appreciate more about one another.

A big thank you to Ms Eichwald who designed and coordinated the Genius Hour with hours of preparation to enable such a rich learning experience for our student community.



LIBRARY NEWS

Book Week - Change of Date

We have been advised by the Children's Book Council of Australia that Book Week this year has been postponed until 17th-23rd October.

Because of this, the College has decided to move our Dress Up Day to Friday 23rd October.

How Book Week will be celebrated is yet to be determined, but we will definitely be dressing up as our favourite book characters on this day.

Please disregard the August dates on the College calendar.



OUR NEW PORTABLES

Michael Bond, Deputy Principal

It was with great excitement that the College commenced classes in the two new portable buildings during Term 2. A combination of five Primary and Secondary School classes and a new staff office area are being facilitated in these new buildings. These buildings were originally sourced from Donvale Christian College and have been fully renovated and fitted out with new furniture and access to appropriate supporting technology, including data projectors and wireless access points. Both buildings also have environmental rain gardens that take advantage of the rainwater run-off from both roofs. We look forward to seeing the plants in these gardens grow and mature over time.

This building project was constructed by the Ascot Group. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our independent consultant,

Mr Michael Cordia (MP Cordia & Associates Pty Ltd) who assisted with planning and preparations for this project and facilitated the site meetings throughout the construction period. Thank you also to the staff who played a significant role in planning and project managing this construction project, including Mr Damian Higgins (Principal), Mr Leigh Adcock (Business Manager) and Mr Stephen Nelson (Property Manager).

The addition of these new classrooms has been of great benefit to the College as we continue to strategically expand in the Primary and Secondary School. We are grateful to God for this provision of physical resources and the opportunity to further implement our Mission, to transform lives through Christ and the wonder of learning.



Year 5/6: 'Dear Australia'

Joshua W, Year 5/6

For one of the Year 5/6 Writing tasks this week, we wrote a letter to 'Dear Australia'. We recounted our experiences over the last three months, explaining what life has been like for us and reflecting on the many things that have been very different than usual. Ms Vaughn reminded us to leave our audience feeling encouraged, so many of us included encouraging Bible verses or words that pointed others to Jesus. As an extension to this task, Ms Vaughn suggested that we could go for a walk with an adult and post our letters so that they could be kept for future generations.

Dear Australia

Let's mark this moment in history

We know that the last few months have had an extraordinary impact on families, communities and our way of life. There have been highs and lows, moments of joy and learnings for all of us.

At Australia Post, we think it's important that we mark this moment in our nation's history.

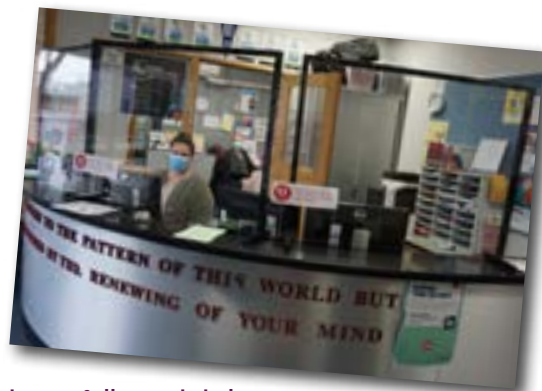
So we've created a national letterbox where, from now until 18 August, you can write a letter to share your experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. We're working with the National Archives of Australia, where eligible Dear Australia letters will be kept for future generations. This will enable all Australians to record their impressions of this remarkable time.



SAFETY AND HYGIENE

Mr Stephen Nelson, Property Manager

Northside Christian College is making every effort to ensure that the College is safe for parents, students and staff to work and learn. We will continue to follow advice provided by the Victorian Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) regarding the operation of the College during the pandemic.



The following has been implemented and is being followed daily at the College:

- ~ Good hygiene practices for students and staff
- ~ Regular reminders via different means
- ~ Provision of alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- ~ Students must provide their own water bottles, which can be refilled at the nominated filling stations
- ~ No sharing of food or drinks
- ~ Minimising use of shared equipment
- ~ Increased ventilation through open doors and windows
- ~ Physical distancing whenever possible
- ~ Minimising mix of students and staff wherever possible
- ~ Use of Zoom instead of face-to-face meetings for staff
- ~ Minimising duration and number of face-to-face meetings between staff
- ~ Minimising onsite contractors and visitors
- ~ Students and Staff who are unwell must remain at home
- ~ Daily temperature checks for everyone who enters the College
- ~ Anyone who shows signs of sickness is isolated and sent home
- ~ All staff (unless teaching), and Secondary students are required to wear masks when at the College. Primary students are encouraged but not required to wear masks
- ~ Regular cleaning of high-touch areas such as
 - ~ Workstations and desks in the College
 - ~ Toilets and bathrooms
 - ~ Touch points, light switches, handrails and door handles
 - ~ Play equipment





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