

The Vine

2020 Term 3, Issue 2



Northside Christian College
Transforming Lives Through Christ and
the Wonder of Learning

Ella from Prep N with her Information Report about her favourite animal, the giraffe!



Welcome!

Mr Damian Higgins, Principal



At the time of writing, we are entering a period of increased restrictions which will undoubtedly affect the livelihood of many people in our community. During these times, I am sure many will be asking, "Where is God in all this?" No doubt many of us pray regularly, asking for a way out of this crisis, but we continue to find ourselves in the middle of it all.

One thing for sure is that God is not absent. God is not a distant deity in the sky who sits back from creation and only intervenes when he sees fit. I firmly believe that God is never not present and acting throughout creation. But how do we reconcile this fact with the current situation where so many lives are being turned upside down by this global pandemic?

Prayer is one of the great mysteries of our lives as followers of Jesus. We know how important it is, but often we don't understand how it works. We ask for a loved one to be healed and sometimes they are and other times it doesn't happen. We ask God for a job but we find ourselves unemployed while someone else in the neighborhood who didn't pray receives the blessing that we needed.

I like to think of prayer as a way of connecting with God - a God who is always with us and is as close to us as the air we breathe. Prayer can often be a way that God changes us. As we

pray, we may hear that still small voice prompting us to partner with God in doing something that will help build his Kingdom. In so many miraculous works of God over the millennia, it is His power working through His people that has brought about change. If we sit back and ask God to do something for us, we often miss that fact that God is saying "Yes" and prompting us to act in some way to enable Him to bring about a miracle through us. We can miss the opportunity to be Jesus' hands and feet in our fallen world.

In this current pandemic, I believe God is here in our midst and His desire is for us to play our part in the healing process. This may be as simple as us wearing our masks over our nose and mouth, or staying indoors, or getting tested if we have the slightest symptoms and isolating ourselves. It may also be as big as looking around and reaching out with resources to our neighbour who may be in dire need.

Either way, we often don't fully understand our world and how God is working in it but, if we look to Jesus and His call to love and serve others, there is no doubt that this world will become a better place.

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

Wednesday 5th August - Friday 11th September

Prep-Year 12 Remote Learning

Thursday 6th August

100 Days of Prep

Thursday 13th August (4pm-8pm)

Year 10 - 12 Parent Student Teacher Interviews (PSTI) by Zoom (CHANGED DATE)

Wednesday 7th October

VCE Unit 3/4 GAT Examination (CHANGED DATE)

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.



CALLING ALL NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS ...

Be part of the 2020 Yearbook!

*What has been your experience of 2020?
What have you been learning at home?
Have you been involved in an interesting activity?
Have you produced a piece of work you are proud of?*

Share your reflections on 2020, including Remote Learning. Send photos of you with your work or in your home learning space to yearbook@ncc.vic.edu.au



For more information on how you can contribute or to be part of the 2020 Yearbook, send your questions and content to yearbook@ncc.vic.edu.au

2020 NCC Yearbook

For the last two years, we have published yearbooks bursting with photos and stories that tell the story of our life at the College ... *But, we haven't been at the College!*

The story of 2020 is a much different one than any year to date. Much of the daily action has taken place in our homes. The COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting restrictions and Remote Learning are a big part of this year's story.

We want you, our College Community, to share your story of 2020. We're looking for students' reflections on 2020, in whatever form they choose, to tell our story in the 2020 yearbook.

Send your contributions and questions to yearbook@ncc.vic.edu.au

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.



Welcome to Remote Learning 2.0!

Lyvia, Primary School Captain

Welcome back to Remote Learning for Term 3! Unfortunately, we are all stuck inside once more but, this time, Remote Learning should be much easier for most students as we have all been through it once.

Hopefully we can go back to school soon for face-to-face learning in a regular classroom. Meanwhile, I hope you are all enjoying your time at home and making the most of this interesting experience.

I would like to remind everyone to stay organised during this second round of Remote Learning. This could mean organising your workspace and making sure you submit all your work on time, or organising your relationships with friends and family as well as God. It's important to strengthen your relationship with God, and you can do this simply by talking to Him out loud, or praying every night before bed, and even through worship art. You might want to try worship art at home, which is putting on some Christian music, closing your eyes and praying to Jesus, or drawing a picture you think God might have put in your head. Worship art is a wonderful way to start off your day, or for anytime, and is a great way to pray and listen to God. Praying is a good way to connect with God, and there are numerous things you might want to pray for, such as protection for your family and friends, or pray for a vaccine to be developed to end the pandemic.

Keep on reading, and have a fantastic day!



NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IS
PROUD TO INTRODUCE...

SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS

A PODCAST PRESENTED BY
PRINCIPAL DAMIAN HIGGINS
damianjhiggins.podbean.com

EPISODE 1- REMOTE LEARNING
In this, the first episode, Damian unpacks some of the important features of Remote Learning during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, with Special guests Angela Eynaud and Chris Gatt.

NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS PRESENT ...

FOUNDER TIMES

*a place for students to express themselves
through the wonder of writing & visual arts*

WE'RE NOW ACCEPTING
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
2ND EDITION!

for more information or to submit: foundertimes@student.ncc.vic.edu

SUBMISSIONS
DUE
FRIDAY 14TH
AUGUST

INSPIRE DURING REMOTE LEARNING 2.0

Amy Horneman, INSPIRE (Talent Development) Coordinator

Although most of our College Community is learning from home again, we still have many enthusiastic students participating in a range of INSPIRE activities, just mostly from home rather than at school!

This term while in remote learning, we are running:

~ **INSPIRE classes:** All Prep-Year 9 STEAM and Global Citizenship classes are running, using a combination of synchronous/asynchronous platforms (MyEdOnline, Schoology, Zoom)



~ **Senior School mentoring:** All students in VCE/VCAL work with a mentor weekly to support them through these stressful and important years of their school lives. In a recent survey, our students articulated the value the mentoring program is adding to their experience of their Senior School years, particularly through the chaos of our COVID-uncertain world.

~ **Primary Philosophy club:** Brand new this term, interested students in Years 3-6 should let Mrs Horneman know via email, and you will be signed up for the course content and Zoom sessions.

~ **Philosophy Corner (Secondary):** this student-led and run club will continue over Zoom for those students interested in philosophical discussion on a range of topics. We always connect these big ideas to our faith and to our lives as followers of Christ.

~ **Extra English:** our Secondary literature buffs meet on Zoom each Friday afternoon to discuss literary texts analytically, evaluatively and creatively. We are currently looking at the prequel to the Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins.

~ **Bookworms Junior Bookclub:** Prep-Year 2 students who love reading and discussing books are welcome to join us for fortnightly Zoom sessions and independent reading and activities.

~ **Debating:** We have a Middle School team valiantly participating in the unusual world of online debating. Our current topic is around the ban on Russian athletes participating in international sporting events.

~ **Future Problem Solving program:** Our keen FPS students from Year 5-9 have been preparing for the qualifying round of the state competition in mid-August. The topic is 'gamification', which is rather pertinent in our current online climate.

~ **Founder Times:** This student-run and led committee are faithfully gathering and editing material for our 2020 edition of the student publication 'Founder Times'. This involves weekly Zoom sessions and our committee would love submissions of art, poetry, stories, reflections, photography and reports on the theme KNOWN. Submissions can be emailed to foundertimes@student.ncc.vic.edu.au.

~ **Australian Maths Competition and ICAS tests:** These will be online at the beginning of September, either face to face or via Zoom, depending on COVID. A great chance for students to try out their skills in a variety of subjects.

Any questions can be directed to Mrs Horneman ahorneman@ncc.vic.edu.au



VCAL @ WORK

Mr Stephen Nelson, Property Manager

On 23rd June a group of VCAL students spent the morning working with me to help plant the gardens around the new portables near the College entrance. They were taught how best to plant the mostly indigenous plants to help ensure the survival of the plants. They also assisted to mulch the garden and learnt about the benefits of mulch. The group also learnt about the rain gardens, which are a feature of the new buildings, capturing all the rainwater from the buildings' roofs and acting as a natural filtration system for the rainwater before it leaves our site and heads down Darebin Creek.

A big thanks to the VCAL students for assisting with this project!



Baking a Rainbow!

Ms Christie Vaughn, Primary School Teacher

Madeline from Year 5/6V has been a busy baker during Remote Learning, inspiring her teacher with her many creations. This week Maddie made some Rainbow Cookies. Maddie's Rainbow Cookies were made with vanilla cookie dough, using butter, sugar, milk, flour and vanilla essence. Maddie then divided the dough into 4 bowls, and coloured each bowl of dough a different colour, pink, blue, green and yellow. She flattened the biscuits and put them on a tray. Finally, Maddie put the cookies into the oven for 15 minutes. After sampling her tasty treats, Maddie rates her cookies a 9/10 because they taste really good!

Madeline has created a recipe book of her many delectable delights.



Year 8: Is Remote Learning Beneficial?

Amos - Yes!

Home learning is good for families. Families spend more time together with home learning which is good for everyone. It helps parents understand their kids' schooling and kids can discuss any problem with their parents at any time. Home learning means I spend more time with my mum so she can be involved in my education. For example, she helped me choose a couple of great Christian books to read for English. I really enjoyed reading and discussing these books with my mum. I also like how she encourages me and we have more time to discuss everything including my school work, my feelings, and my friendships. I get to have a nice lunch with Mum, Dad and my sister and we exercise together as well.



Ethan - No!

Online learning is disturbing. Staring at a screen all day leads to blurred vision, eye strain, and laziness. As well as it destroying your posture. The American Optometric Association says vision-related issues are the most prevalent type of health complaint among computer workers. Studies indicate 50-90% of computer users experience symptoms indicative of Computer Vision Syndrome. Staring at a screen all day is disturbingly bad for our health! Disturbing online learning MUST not continue after the end of Covid-19.



LIBRARY NEWS

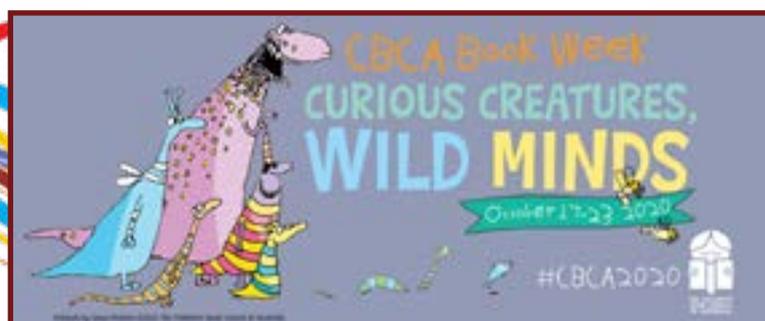
Book Week - Change of Date

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.



Year 12 Care Packs



Michael Bond, Deputy Principal

Staff at Northside Christian College presented the Year 12 students with 'Care Packs' on Monday 3rd August to encourage them at this time. The year has been very disruptive for our Year 12 class of 2020, with students completing a combination of on-site and remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Year 12 students will soon be completing the General Achievement Test (GAT), followed by practice exams in September and then VCE Written Examinations in Term 4. The Care Packs contained a wide range of items including Milky Ways (to remind students to continue to aim for the stars!), pens, water bottles, scripture cards and more. We continue to pray for our Year 12 students during their final year of Secondary School. May they find comfort in God's love for them.

The College is continuing to provide wellbeing support to our Year 12 students and the Prep to Year 11 students who are completing on-site and remote learning during this time. Every Secondary School student is also supported by a staff mentor during the stage 3 and 4 restrictions. Staff are grateful for the opportunity to work collaboratively with parents and carers to ensure appropriate wellbeing support is being provided for all of our students.

We commend our Year 12 students on their resiliency during this time. It is encouraging to see them continue to support each other and persevere irrespective of the difficulties and challenges they have experienced this year.



"...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31



WELL BEING

Ways to help yourself with tiredness during Remote Learning and level 3 Restrictions

Mrs Fiona Dumithrache,
Head of Student Wellbeing

When under pressure and in extreme circumstances, Jesus is our best example for taking care of ourself when tired.

What did he do?

Jesus noticed, retreated, rested, pulled close to friends, meditated with his Father, prayed, slept, kept perspective of the end goal, worked to his strengths and delegated.

1. Limit your access to news or COVID-19 updates.

2. Create to do lists so that your nervous system can settle and you are not sitting on the edge of apprehension by depending on memory.

3. Be aware of tiredness and respond by extending your hours of sleep BEFORE midnight.

4. Avoid sugar hits, caffeine or energy drinks as boosts because they do not last long and can create fluctuations in your blood sugar. Energy levels are higher for a short period of time but plunge lower. These swings can affect mood.

5. Notice the warning signs - poor memory, restlessness, irritability, depression, body aches, ineffectiveness. Don't ignore them as symptoms will only increase if you don't change things up, and can result in poor mental or physical health.

6. Respond to your "to do list" based on planning rather than feelings because avoidance when feeling tired can contribute to greater stress and fatigue.

7. Maintain (or create) healthy boundaries because learning and doing can be never-ending if we allow it.

8. Speak to friends, family or work mates. We are missing the incidental conversations and check-ins, resulting in the thinking load becoming heavier than usual. Having fun times, creative times, restful times peaceful times, and debriefing times can have a significant impact on improving the effects of tiredness.

9. Support others when you know you have an equal amount in your own emotional tank to honour yourself too. Be honest when sharing about how you are feeling.

10. Seek professional support if symptoms persist. Young people burn out too!



Image courtesy of Michael Leunig

"We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us."

Colossians 1:11-12 (Message)

Premier's Reading Challenge 2020

Mrs Chris Marsh, Librarian

We are well into the Premier's Reading Challenge now, and several of our students have already completed the Challenge! Primary classes have been reading Challenge listed books via video during Remote Learning. Class teachers will be sending a list of books that we have already read out to students so that they can be added to their records. Prep students will have books read at school entered by staff, but Years 1 - 6 must enter any titles on to their own records.

Prep - Year 2 students need to read 20 Challenge and 10 Choice books, and Years 3 - 6 students should read 10 Challenge and 5 Choice books to meet the Challenge. A list of recommended books for all age groups can be found on the first page of the Premier's Reading Challenge website. Information sent home earlier in the year will help you to navigate the site, and also includes student usernames and passwords.



*Due to Remote Learning, the Challenge has been extended, so the last day for entering books is now
Friday 4th September 2020.*

Any questions can be directed to Chris Marsh at cmarsh@ncc.vic.edu.au



Ms Bianca Basile, Camp Australia General Manager

This week, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced that only the children of permitted workers and vulnerable children will be able to access childcare during the current Victorian restriction period. This also includes families that are working from home in permitted industries.

From 11:59pm on Wednesday, 5th August, families will need to obtain one of two permits, signed by their employer, in order to attend Outside School Hours Care:

If required to attend work onsite, they will need a Permitted Worker Permit (including childcare).

If working from home, and needing access to childcare, they will need an Access to Onsite Childcare/Kindergarten Permit. As announced by the Prime Minister on Wednesday, 5th August 2020, families in Stage Four lockdown in Melbourne will receive an additional 30 days of allowable absences from childcare. This is to allow families the opportunity to keep their children at home without withdrawing from the system. In addition to this, Camp Australia will be waiving the gap fee for all absences during this time.

Wishing you safety and happiness at this challenging time.



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