



## Upcoming Dates

|     |                |  |
|-----|----------------|--|
| FEB | Friday 19th    | Swimming Carnival                        |
|     | Tuesday 23rd   | Get 'Em Going Playgroup - 9.30am         |
|     | Tuesday 23rd   | Parents & Friends AGM - 7pm              |
|     | Wednesday 24th | NO PREPS                                 |
|     | Thursday 25th  | Reading Buddies Program session - 2.15pm |
| MAR | Wednesday 2nd  | National Young Leaders Melbourne         |
|     | Wednesday 2nd  | NO PREPS                                 |
|     | Wednesday 9th  | NO PREPS                                 |
|     | Monday 14th    | Labour Day - NO SCHOOL                   |
|     | Friday 18th    | Grandparents Day                         |
|     | Thursday 24th  | Last day Term 1                          |

## Birthdays

We wish the following a very happy birthday:

Mr Pritchard - 17th February

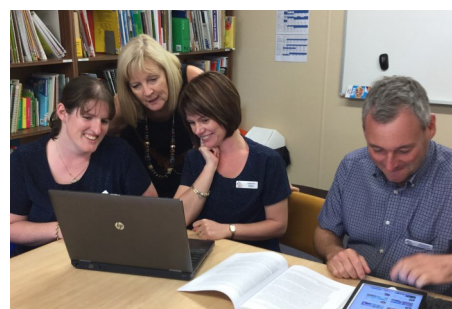
Alison Miller - 25th February

Jordan Pipkorn - 25th February



## From the Principal

Teachers are learners too! Our staff have been selected by Independent Schools Victoria



to participate in a professional learning program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. We are one of 12 schools in the state who have been selected to participate in this fantastic opportunity. Staff will be discussing research papers, completing online activities and engaging in dialogue with lecturers from Harvard University. We are very excited to be part of this opportunity to enhance our teaching practice through engagement and practical application of using these ideas in the classroom.

The students are excited about our Swimming Carnival which will be held tomorrow from 11.00-2.00pm. The swimming carnival is an opportunity for students to showcase their water skills that they have developed over the past two weeks from swimming lessons. Parents are most welcome to come along and support their child/ren. Thank you in advance to all parents who have offered to assist in varying roles to ensure the swimming carnival runs smoothly. Thank you also to Alaine McFarlane for organising such a fantastic swimming program for our students over the past two weeks.

Every student has progressed in their water skills and we are grateful to Alaine for her expertise and professional manner with the students.

Next Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of February is the Parents and Friends Association Annual General Meeting beginning at 7.00pm. I encourage all parents and friends of the school to support the P&F as members work hard to contribute to the learning needs of our students and support families in our community. We value your input and you are invited to come along and offer suggestions or even consider taking on an executive role.

Tara Pritchard

### Devotional Thought



We've heard a bit about Lent in the past week. It's that time in the church year just after we eat pancakes and wear ashes. Sometimes some of us go a bit further. We might try giving things up, like chocolate or coffee, as a kind of payment for our sins, thinking that somehow God might now be pleased with us for doing so. But is that what Lent really is about?

The season of Lent is to remind us—in today's materialistic society obsessed with instant entertainment and experience—of what is most important for our life. The 40 days of Lent draw us into Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness where he fasted and overcame the devil's temptation to depart from the word of God. Not having eaten for this time, Jesus was hungry. Remember Jesus is not only true God but fully human—so to say hungry would be an understatement! The devil comes to Jesus and says "If (since) you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread" to which Jesus replies with Scripture from Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man shall not live on bread alone".

The environment that Jesus' was in when he was tempted is in stark contrast to our 'throw-away' society we live in. Jesus' environment was a wasteland; a dry desert of nothingness. In contrast our society is filled with gadgets, advertising, fashion, technology, and branding with retailers screaming at you to "buy, buy, buy"—because if you do, you will supposedly have an identity, confidence, opportunity, "the look" and a 'feel-good' experience. But just like he did with Jesus, the devil tempts us too. Through these things the Devil tempts us to fill our hunger for significance,

peace, worth, identity, belonging, and the intense human craving to be loved—instead of Jesus and his word. The temptation is that if we buy them we apparently will find meaning, dignity, peace and worth for our lives. But that's a fake promise. They don't satisfy in a lasting way. Marketers know this too! So there is the never-ending sales pitch to accumulate that which is 'better' 'latest' and 'new'.

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit to do his Father's will in the wilderness. He could have turned those stones into bread but instead he denied himself and remained faithful to God's word to overcome the devil for you and the whole world. Jesus' journey of self-denial continued all the way to the Cross, where he suffered and died for you and me.

The season of Lent leads us to reflect on our life, and the life of Christ. If we look to the things in our life to fill our deepest needs rather than looking to Jesus, then these things are indeed idols. But when we deny ourselves of that which would take us away from God and his word, we are more blessed than ever. This is what Jesus meant when he said in Matthew 16:25: "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

Lent then is all about drawing closer to Jesus and being forgiven, enlightened and renewed by him through God's holy and precious word. It's a time to re-assess what you really want and what you really need. Often the two are confused. Where does Jesus fit in those categories for you?

Pastor Tim

### Chapel Offerings

Chapel offering this year will again be donated to support our sponsor child Wakiangong Pawang in Laos.



### Prayer of the Week

Each week we pray for someone in our School and Community. This week we pray for.....

- ◆ Ayesha Ahmed and family
- ◆ Thomas Albrecht and family

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## School Event News

### CSEF

The CSEF provides \$125 - per student to any family, who holds a current Health Care Card or Pension Card on the first day of Term 1. Please return forms **as soon as possible** to the office if applicable to your circumstances.

### Drought Assistance

As part of the Victorian Government's drought assistance package, all students are eligible for a drought assistance payment through CSEF. **This includes parents that do not hold a concession card**, but are experiencing financial hardship as a result of drought conditions. Families who receive the CSEF payment are also eligible. A 'one off' amount of \$375 per student will be paid towards the school to be used towards educational expenses for your child. Forms will be sent out with students in the next few days. For further information, or if you have any questions please contact the front office.

### Office Trays

We have an office tray system as a means of communication between classrooms, parents and the office. Any notes from parents can be placed in the office tray in each classroom in the mornings, which will then be forwarded to the office. The trays are then returned to classrooms each afternoon so that students collect and take home any notes from teachers or the office.

### Swimming Carnival

A reminder that the Swimming Carnival is tomorrow. Students will need to bring their bathers to get changed into at school. Students will be walking down to the pool, with the swimming sports to begin at 11am. **Students will need to bring a packed lunch.**

### Tiqbiz

Tiqbiz is an App which allows parents and the school to communicate more effectively and efficiently. Parents can download the app from the 'Apple App Store' or the 'Google Play Store' by searching for Nhill Lutheran School. This is a free app. Absences can be notified by this app and often the school sends out alerts. You can also communicate one on one with Miss Keller at the front office regarding any questions you may have.

### Sign In Policy

If you are visiting the school it is compulsory that you sign in at the front office. You must name why you are visiting the school, and where you will be located. This information is vital in case of an emergency occurring. Visitors will also be asked to wear a visitors lanyard so students can identify that you are a visitor to the school. These lanyards will also provide details on what to do in case of an emergency.

If your child is late or is leaving school early you must also sign them in or out depending on the circumstance. If the student is returning they **must** be signed back in on arrival.

### School Cleaning

We have a beautiful school and we are pleased that we can provide safe and clean learning areas. We have a wonderful cleaner, Mrs Karen Cramer who cleans the school every day so that our students work in a safe and hygienic environment.

Last week, the yearly cleaning roster was sent home to each family. Each family is only rostered on for **one** cleaning duty at **either** the middle of the year **or** at the beginning of a new school year. Most cleans go for approximately 2 -3 hours. Please note that families can choose to pay a cleaning levy of \$100 rather than attending their school cleaning duty. If a family elects to pay the cleaning levy, this can be paid directly to the school.

### Assembly

Next Friday at 2.15pm the student leaders will be presented with their leadership badges. The Year 6 students will also be presented with their Year 6 polo shirts. Parents and friends are invited to attend.

## Forms

Just a reminder to please return forms that have been sent out. If you haven't returned the form and have misplaced the original copy, please contact Miss Keller at the front office. A number of students haven't returned the Cyber Policy Form, which was sent out prior to school beginning with the welcome letter, and the Excursions and Incursions forms sent out last week.

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## Scholastic Bookclub

Bookclub brochures went home with students last week. These are distributed twice a term, and they offer books, software, games, activity packs, etc. at reasonable prices. Parents should feel under no obligation to purchase from the brochures, but may like to take the opportunity to develop or extend their child's interest in reading. Our school receives Reading Reward points from each purchase. These points enable us to choose new books at no cost to the school. All orders for this edition of Bookclub must be returned to school by, via the office trays, by **Friday 19th February**. Cheques should be made payable to 'Scholastic Australia'. Credit cards may also be used.

## Uniform Update

Our new rugby jumpers are due to arrive at the end of February due to the manufacturer being extremely busy. There has been some confusion with the company producing the plain blue polo's. We hope they arrive in the next week.



This will include hats with the new logo on them as well. All sizes in the Sports Polo are now available for purchase. There will be a 12 month changeover period with all the uniform changes.

### Hats

Please remember that hats are compulsory for Term 1. No hat means no play.

## Sports News

Hockey Victoria will be conducting Hockey clinics at our school next Monday 22nd February. All students are reminded to wear sports uniform on this day. Parents are most welcome to come and watch. Year 1 students will participate from 9.00am-10.00am, Year 2/3 from 10.00am-11.00am, and the senior students will be from 11.15am-12.15pm.



## Get 'Em Going News

Get 'Em Going Playgroup will begin on Tuesday 23rd February. Sessions will run the same as 2015; 9.30 - 11am. Each week children will be given the opportunity to participate in physical, social and mental stimulating activities to assist in preparing them for their learning journey ahead. Please bring along the following:

- A water bottle
- Fruit snack
- Gold coin donation

If you have any questions or would like more information on the program please see Miss Keller at the front office.

## Students of the week

**Joel Mock** - For confidently swimming in the deep end of the pool all by himself. Amazing effort Joel!

**Rachel Reichelt** - For working exceptionally hard in class on our science experiment and for assisting those that need help in a kind and happy way. Well done!

**Deegan Clark** - For being a wonderful helper in class and trying his best in his school work.

**Giana Pohlner** - For excellent work during swimming lessons and for trying her best with writing the life cycle of a chicken independently.

**Porsha Hollis** - For great work with finding the factors of numbers. Keep up the terrific work Porsha!

**Grant Pedie** - For doing a great job of staying in the water and improving his swimming. Well done Grant!

**Sam Mahfoud** - For excellent listening and following the beat in music.

**Chloe Crisp** - For using lovely manners and respecting the musical instruments.

