



TOGETHER WE GROW

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Term 4 Week 10 Issue 38 12th December 2019



Upcoming Dates

DEC	Friday 13th	Last day of school Assembly at 2.15pm
	Saturday 14th	Nhill Christmas Carols
JAN	Wednesday 22nd	Staff—First Day back
	Wednesday 29th	Students—First Day back
FEB	Sunday 2nd	Staff blessing at Nhill Lutheran Church
	Friday 7th	Welcome BBQ

Birthdays

We wish the following students a very Happy Birthday:

Trinity Rethus: Saturday 14th December

Olive Curtis: Sunday 22nd December

Ler Law La Shee: Monday 23rd December



Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Student of the Week awards at assembly last Friday:

Foundation: Mia

Year 1: Georgia

Year 2/3: Annabella

Year 4/5/6: Year 6 class



Last day Christmas attire

Students are welcome to dress in Christmas attire for the last day of school. This could be their school uniform adorned with Christmas items, or could be casual 'Christmas' attire. There is no cost.

From the Principal

Together We Grow

In the first newsletter of the year I wrote *"I look forward with anticipation at the many opportunities for meaningful learning experiences for the students, and can be assured of God's guiding hand on our community as Together We Grow."* Now, at the conclusion of the school year we can look back at 2019 and thank God for the many learning opportunities that our students have experienced this year, and for the many wonderful way God has blessed our community.

End of Year Graduation Service

Thank you for your attendance at our End of Year Graduation service. It was lovely to gather as a community, thank God for the 2019 school year, and to send forth the graduating Year 6 students. We wish Nikolaos, Ler Law, Troye, Amaya and Chloe every blessing as they transition from primary school into Year 7.

We congratulate the recipients of the following awards that were presented at the service:

Maureen Reichelt Memorial Shield: Chloe Zanker and Ler Law La Shee Johny Htoo.

In The Spirit of Lions Award: Rachel Reichelt

Academic Scholarships: Lanie Clark and Eden Woodward.

Student Leadership

At the Graduation Service the 2019 school captains and vice-captains symbolically handed leadership badges to the incoming 2020 captains and vice-captains. We thank our 2019 captains, Chloe and Nik, and the 2019 vice-captains, Troye, Ler Law and Amaya, for the many ways they have contributed to the school through their leadership roles. We welcome the 2020 student leaders into their new roles and wish them all the best:

2020 School Captains: Giana Pohlner and Deegan Clark

2020 School Vice Captains: Maci Oliver, Nate Prenzler, Archie Zanker, Asher Zanker.

Reports

Semester 2 student progress reports are being distributed today. In last week's newsletter was the article titled Reading Your Child's Report, which may be worth revisiting. When looking at your child's report I encourage you to notice areas of strength, in both academic results and in other learning qualities. Celebrate progress and remember all students learn at different rates.

Thank you

Thank you for your support during the 2019 school year. I wish all members of our school community a safe and enjoyable Christmas time, a time where we can remember the wonderful gift of Jesus.

Every blessing,

Damon Prenzler

Integration Aide Appointment

Next year we welcome Linda Rutherford to our staff as Integration Aide. Linda will commence her role at the beginning of Term 1 and we look forward to her contribution to the school, in particular in the benefit to student learning.

Maintenance Roster

The purpose of this roster is to have a group of people available to fix any small maintenance issues that arise. If they occur in your month, you may be called upon to help.

November/December

Nathan Wheeler, Moody Tu, Don Oliver, Aaron Cramer, Alexander Jupp, Hamish Merrett, Glenn Fraser, Tom Curtis



Devotional Thought

Getting ready

'I baptise you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out.' (verses 11,12)

Read [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

What an eccentric character John appears in our eyes: clothes of camel's hair, living on locusts and wild honey, preaching a message of punishment for those who did not repent. John was the one who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, and the people flocked to hear him.

John's call for repentance is a reminder that Advent is a time to prepare for the festival of Christmas. Part of our preparation involves looking at our lives and recognising that we need a saviour. Without this preparation it is too easy for us to hear the story of the birth of Jesus simply as a story, whereas it is in fact an account of the time that God stepped into history, lived as one of us and died for us.

In the countdown before Christmas let's take some time out from the hustle and bustle, the presents and parties, to prepare ourselves. God entered this world for you, and he wants you to be ready to celebrate.

Slow me down, Lord. Help me to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, so that I may be ready to receive its message with joy. Amen.



Worship News

Please see below for this week's church service times;

Nhill: 9 am

Woorak: 11 am

Jeparit: 11 am

Church Office: 5391 1223



Prayer of the Week

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

- ♦ The safety of all staff, students and their families over the holidays
- ♦ Our new Foundation students
- ♦ Our graduating Year 6 students

Chapel

There will be no Chapel tomorrow. Parents and friends are always invited to join us and stay for morning tea and coffee.



Chapel Offering

At last week's Chapel \$ 50.00 was collected and will go to the Maw Per Koh orphanage school in Myanmar. So far this year, \$1,394.95 has been generously received from Chapel offerings. Thank you for blessing our sister school in Myanmar.



2020 School Captains

The 2020 School Captains were announced on Friday at assembly. Congratulations to:

Giana Pohlner and Deegan Clark



Congratulations also to the Vice Captains:

Asher, Archie, Nate and Maci



Our 2020 Year 6 class

Walk to School prize

Congratulations to Ler Law for winning the Walk to School prize of a scooter. Thank you to Hindmarsh Shire Council for donating all of the prizes.



Graduation service

A huge thank you to the donors of all the awards. Your generosity is much appreciated.



insights

Technology holiday guide for parents

by Martine Oglethorpe



As holidays approach, the role that screens and devices will play becomes an increasing concern for parents. Days when kids are usually tied up with school and activities make way for many an idle hour and, as such, parents fear those hours will be spent largely engaged with a screen or gaming console. While there is certainly no harm in some well-balanced screen time and developmentally appropriate online activities, we must remember that, as parents, we have an important role in helping our kids manage and balance that screen time. Here are a few things we can do:

Understand the battle

It is important parents know the beast they are dealing with. It is easy to shout from another room to get off a screen or whinge to our friends that 'kids of today' are all addicted to their phones, but we need to recognise the pull that many of these devices have. The social networks are designed to keep us liking, commenting and sharing. The games cajole us into having 'just one more' turn at being the last man standing. These technologies tempt us to reach just one more level, or to scroll for just a few minutes more. Our brains experience a dopamine release and a sense of insufficiency when we use a device. There is always something else to do or something else to scroll through, or one more YouTube video to watch. So our kids are up against it when trying to control their time on a device. We need to help them with that.

Get outside

We can complain that kids never go outside and play anymore, but sometimes we have to physically get out there with them or offer opportunities in which being outside and active play are appealing. We have to work a little harder at this today because we are competing with a device that answers many of our kids' perceived needs. We need them to know that their needs are greater and more varied than what their screens can offer.

Have some rules

Despite their apparent dislike of rules around technology, kids will (one day) appreciate having boundaries to help them manage their screen time. Rules can be established regarding time limits, devices in bedrooms, device-free meal times, etc. Whatever you decide is important, be sure that you have those discussions with your kids. And any discussion around rules or consequences should happen away from the screens so they are clear on the expectations. (Talking about their screen-time habits while they are just about to be the last man standing on Fortnite is probably not going to make for engaging conversation.)

One console on one television...outside the bedroom

Having only one television that is connected to a gaming console or to Netflix is a good way of ensuring that the device gets shared and one child doesn't monopolise the screen. And leave consoles out of bedrooms where the

appeal of just one more quick game can very quickly rob them of important sleep time.

Role model

Make sure you are showing your kids how you want them to be. Have times when the devices are put away and you give full attention to the people around you. Don't answer calls or emails at the dinner table. Don't fall asleep with a device landing on your forehead. Take time to get outside and do things active and in nature. Don't ever use a phone while driving. Use the Screen Time feature on iOS products to monitor just how you are using your technology and whether you could be making some changes. Kids learn more from what we do than what we say.

We know the technology isn't going anywhere, and we know there are many wonderful benefits that screens provide. But ensure that holidays and downtime hours can be filled with many different experiences and in ways that leave your kids in control, even if you have to work a little harder to give them that.



Martine Oglethorpe

Martine Oglethorpe is an accredited speaker with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and has presented to numerous parent groups, schools and teachers. She is a speaker, counsellor and educator with a passion for building resilient kids in a digital world. Contact details: info@martineoglethorpe.com.au, themodernparent.net, facebook.com/themodernparent

We're a Parenting Ideas school

parentingideas.com.au/schools

2020 Term dates

Staff return to school on January 22 for professional development and planning days. Office administration staff will be at school, off and on, the week prior. School for students commences on Wednesday January 29 at 9am. The 2020 Term Dates for Nhill Lutheran School are:

Term 1	29 January—27 March Staff PD days Jan 22-24, 28
Term 2	14 April—19 June Staff PD week June 22-26
Term 3	13 July—18 September
Term 4	5 October—11 December

Nhill Christmas Carols

Our students have been invited to sing at the Nhill Christmas carols on Saturday 14th December at 7pm at Jaypex Park.

Students do not need to wear school uniform, but could wear clothing with a Christmas theme.

Please meet Mrs Alexander at 6.45pm between the sound shell and the toilets.



Summer Reading Challenge



10th Dec
to
23rd Jan

Register
at the
Nhill Library

Participants are invited to watch
a mystery movie at the Nhill
Library on Jan 23rd at 1:30pm

Contact Nhill Library for more
information on 53911684 or
nhill.library@wrlc.org.au

WIMMERA
REGIONAL LIBRARY
CORPORATION
your local library

Nhill Christmas Carols

Saturday
14th
December
2019

Jaypex Park

Kids' Activities from 6.30pm
Performances from 7.00pm
BYO Chair/Picnic Rug

Featuring

- Santa
- Jeff Woodward
- Nhill-Dimboola Band
- Nhill College
- Nhill Lutheran School
- Sing Australia - Nhill
- Wimmera Filipino - Australian Club
- And more!!!

NTC
Nhill Town Committee

H
Hindmarsh
Shire Council

NHILL LIBRARY PRESENTS:

Kids Christmas Movie Marathon Week

December - Tuesday 17th to Saturday 21st

Come watch a Christmas movie during normal library opening hours.

Contact staff for more details on 53911684

or nhill.library@wrlc.org.au

PG/G films for 5yrs+

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