It has been a very busy but exciting start to the new school year. Since the census date last year we have welcomed 25 new students to Newstead Christian School. A big welcome to Kenneth Egan-Hasson (Grade 4) and Kye Clayton (Grade 9) who have recently joined us. What an answer to prayer!

I’m sure you are eager for an update on the new Junior classrooms. Plans are almost finalised and after council approval and the tendering process is complete, we are hoping to see some buildings demolished and construction begin in May. Due to the purchase of the adjoining property, our architect had to go back to the drawing board, but a slight delay means that we now have plans for four new classrooms instead of three. The facade of the building will display our new logo and school colours. Thanks to S Group we will have a great new ‘face’ to the Hart Street entrance of the school and a state of the art building to house our Kindergarten and primary school students.

Did you know that the primary school students can order hot lunches from Relax Café every Wednesday? The senior students will soon be able to do the same but delivered on a different day. Stay tuned.

NCS would really love to start up a Parents and Friends Association in order to be an extra support to the school with fundraising etc. If you feel that this would be a great opportunity to be involved in a practical way with NCS, please let me know at your earliest convenience so we can get a committee together before the end of Term 1. One of the first jobs to do is to sell off a lot of old resources and equipment that is currently being stored in our garage on the newly acquired property. Maybe the P&F could have a stall at the local Board Mills Market (old senior building/former Community Church).

UNIFORMS: Last Friday I did a road trip to Hobart to finalise our winter uniforms – long sleeve polo top, sport’s rugby top, girl’s tartan skirt and tunic, black tights (stockings) and black blazers for the high school students. A general order will be placed this week for new uniforms but due to the extra cost of the blazers, these will need be ordered individually for the sizes required and a minimum of 10 per order. They will be plain black with the school logo on the pocket and cost is yet to be finalised (approx. $135). The blazers will be an additional part of the uniform, exclusive to the senior students. They are not compulsory but may be worn with or without the red jumper. An order form will be sent out shortly. A new batch of caps will be ordered for fourth term, as it will be compulsory for all students (including seniors) to wear them in the first and fourth term each year.

Dates to Remember:

- Grade 4/5/6 Camp - 10th & 11th March
- Parent Evening - Monday, March 23 @ 7:00pm
- Monday - March 30th - Off This Planet Mobile Planetarium School Visit
- 9:00 - 10:00 - K / P / 1 / 2
- 10:00 - 11:00 - Grades - 3 / 4 / 5 / 6
- Recess will be 11:00 - 11:30
- 12:00 - 1pm - 7 / 8
- Lunch will be from 1pm - 1:45pm
- 1:45pm - 2:45pm - 9 / 10
- Grade 7 - 10 Camp - 31st March - 2nd April
- Term 1 Holiday Break - 3rd April

Note to Parents:

If you drive your child / children to school & are parking (for any amount of time) and not just dropping off - please park on the boundary of the school and not in front of the neighbours’ houses, particularly in Tudor Avenue.

Thank you!
Kindergarten - Mrs Narelle Preece:

In Kindergarten this term we have been marvelling at God’s amazing creation and exploring ways to connect with nature. We have collected many natural treasures and are using them in our creative play experiences. We have looked at patterns in nature, created our own patterns using yummy natural resources, planted some little mini gardens and are enjoying watching things grow.

God also created colour and we have been experimenting with colour. We have discovered we can make lots of colours using the three primary colours and we can use white and black to make things lighter or darker. One of our favourite ways of connecting with nature so far has been playing “messy kitchens” outside.

Prep / One - Mrs Jessica Whitmore:

Welcome back to a new school year. We have had a great start to the year. This year in English we are looking at different authors with the aim of discussing which author we like the most. At the moment we are looking at Dr Seuss and have read The Lorax & Horton Hears a Who. We have found his books quite funny but also full of nonsense and rhyming words.

In science we looked at materials. Preps looked at what materials objects were made of and how these materials could be described and grade ones focused on how materials can be changed. This was a fun unit, which allowed us to explore the concept of materials through many exciting activities such as cooking popcorn and spaghetti, melting chocolate and icy poles and building spaghetti towers. To finish our unit off we visit Gourlay’s Lolly factory where we got to see how they make hard boiled lollies. We have lots of pictures on display in the classroom.

As of this week we have been focusing on our skipping skills as apart of our gross motor development but also as apart of the Jump Rope for Heart Program. We hope that by the jump off date we will have improved our skipping and have lots of new skipping skills to show off.

Chaplain - Mr Alister Austin:

Greetings, I say hello to you not as a teacher this time but as a Chaplain! Although I’ve taught at this school previously in years gone by it feels like I’ve stepped into a new school. There is fresh direction and purpose that is guiding the vision of NCS, it’s exciting to be part of what God is doing here.

It has been great connecting/reconnecting with staff, students and parents again. I have spent the last four weeks moving in and out of classrooms, getting to know the students and beginning to take them on the journey of, ‘who am I and why am I here?’

As chaplain I have the opportunity to assist in executing the unique mandate of this school: Equipping our young people and empowering them to serve. My heart as a chaplain is to see young people discover and step into their God given destiny wholeheartedly.

I look forward to helping build the Christ-like culture of NCS this year.
Grade 2/3 - Mrs Alex Nielsen:

We have had a fantastic start in Grade 2/3 Nielsen. We have been enjoying learning about courageous people of the Bible such as Joseph and learning about Moses.

In reading we have been doing an author focus on Dr Seuss and the students have created amazing art pieces of Cat in the Hat and the fish. In science we are discovering what are the Earth’s resources, how we use them and how clever our God is in providing these resources for us to use. In history we have been working on developing our historical skills with an excursion to Brickendon Estate. It was a fun day out with students getting to hand feed the animals (an experience that some have never had before), sketching the jetty, and learning about the local history. All in all it has been a busy start to the term with plenty more discovering and learning to come, so watch this space.

Hey Mum and Dad

This term our school is participating in Jump Rope for Heart. This program not only teaches students new skipping skills and provides the school with brand new skipping ropes but it is also a great way to raise awareness and raise money for the Heart Foundation. The aim is that over the next 8 weeks students will learn and develop new skipping skills to show all their family, friends and school community at our Jump Off Day whilst raising money through sponsorship.

Past Student Achievements - Mrs Kirsten Pannowitz:

I had the privilege to go to the Launceston College Awards Ceremony on January 29th.

This ceremony is for the presentation of awards to the students who gain the best results in their subject, outstanding year 11 results, Year 12 students who gain an ATAR of 80-89 (Academic Merit), and those who gain an ATAR of 90-100 (Academic Excellence).

The ATAR score is a national ranking for University entrance. I thought that it might be worth a mention in a newsletter that we had CCA/NCS graduates who had gained awards on this night. Ben Jacobson received the subject award for a Student Directed Inquiry, and Daniel Rose received subject awards for Computer Graphics and Design, and English Writing. We also had four students gain Academic Excellence Awards - Deborah Greenwood, Ben Jacobson, Heather Pannowitz and Daniel Rose - this puts these students in the top 10% of the country, no small achievement.

Blessings to all as you settle in to 2015
Art - Mrs Kathy Uko:

It has been a fantastic start to the school year in the Art room. The students are all very keen and eager to improve their skills through experimenting and giving every task their best effort.

This is my first term teaching at NCS. I am a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate and a trained teacher (Bachelor of Teaching). Art had always been my passion and it is a joy to share that in the classroom.

I would like to thank the staff and students for such a warm welcome. I look forward to an exciting and creative year ahead!

Grade 4/5/6 - Mrs Susan McCormack:

We have had a great start to the school year in 4, 5, 6. The students have been very positive and adjusted well to new routines and different ways of learning. This year we welcome our new students, Ue & Tia Tonihi, Kenneth Hasson, Charlotte Smith, Isabel Flood, Gloria Choi & Grace Park.

Our Maths rotation groups are going well and we have already completed work in Place Value, estimation and rounding. Most mornings we recite our times tables and complete a 6 minute speed test in basic numbers. Spelling and reading groups are working well and in English we have written some retells and are currently working on our escape stories. In History, we have been looking at the gold rush through the 1800’s and will represent what we have learnt through a drama.

Applications have been submitted for S.R.C (Student Representative Council) and I am very pleased to announce that the successful candidates are; Mahalia Smith, Jonte Chamberlin, Ue Tonihi and our reserve S.R.C member is Zara Daniel.

Recently we had a wonderful excursion to The Beaconsfield Gold Mine & Seahorse World. This fitted in nicely with our work in Science on “Living Things” and our unit on the “Gold Rush” in History. In our next newsletter we will also be able to give you a report on our upcoming Camp at Port Sorell. We are very excited for next week’s trip.

As usual, I cannot include all that we have been doing since our year started, however I can say that all our class time is valuable and we make the most of our learning in the classroom. The students and I are working on creating a positive team environment in 4, 5, 6 and look forward to what the continuing year brings.
The Grade 7-8’s have settled in well this year and are enjoying life at NCS. We welcome new students Naish, Sebastian, Rebecca and Abby. It’s nice to see the other students make them welcome. The students have been really engaging in devotions and it’s been encouraging to see their Faith in prayer. One major theme this year is Wisdom and students have been following the book of Proverbs.

Students have been completing a swimming program focusing on stroke development and life-saving skills and many were able to put into practice these skills on the outdoor education excursion to West Head a few weeks ago. This was a great day out and many were able to hone their surfing skills.

Senior camp is coming up on the last week of term. [March 31st - 2nd April] please return permission slips ASAP. Please ensure your child is prepared for soccer and netball next term. The soccer team will need good boots, shin guards, long socks etc. [soccer players cannot play without shin guards or boots] The netballers will need good sand shoes. Mouth guards are optional.

Please come and talk to myself or any of the senior teachers if you have any concerns or issues and please check your child’s diaries as there are often notes and information you need to read.

Blessings
We had an exciting start to the year, as our school welcomed many new faces and is adapting to the new uniforms. Devotions have been a central topic for this term, as our teacher is letting us take part in them and encouraging us to share with the class what we learn.

A new thing for us this year is ‘Leader of the Week’. One person from the class nominates themselves to lead devotions once in the week, check the diaries, clean the whiteboards and stack the chairs at the end of the day. The Grade 9/10s are really stepping out of their comfort zones and stepping into growing in leadership and boldness as they speak in front of fellow students. It is also drawing us nearer to God and to each other.

Art this term has started off fantastically! We have a new art teacher, Mrs. Uko, who is a blessing to us. We have enjoyed taking part in her lessons and learning new things. Tangle art has been the main topic so far, and is very enjoyable.

In music, we have been learning basic music skills like: how to warm up our voice, how to sing falsetto and how to ‘beat box’. Our class has started the song ‘The Lion Sleeps Tonight’, and we are progressing slowly but it is and has been a fun, exciting and enjoyable experience.

We had a surf excursion to West Head last week, which was a great opportunity for students to learn how to surf. There weren’t many waves, but it was still an enjoyable experience. It was a bit crowded, so it was decided that the Grade 7/8’s and the Grade 9/10’s will have separate outdoor education excursions from now on.

God is opening many doors for our school and we are excited at the opportunities of guest speakers to come and pass on their knowledge and wisdom to us. One of the potential visitors is Australian journalist, David Brill. Students are really looking forward to that. There is so much that we are planning on achieving this year such as: making an app, creating a school music CD, more extreme outdoor adventures, and many more. We thank God for our amazing teacher; Mr. Targett who has been relentless in showing and teaching us vital life skills and passing on wisdom and knowledge to us.

We are really looking forward to this year.

The Grade 9/10’s will be undertaking Work Experience this year and are eager to get started. However, we don’t have many connections. If you know somebody who can help us please email jonny@ncs.tas.edu.au

Some areas are the following – Teaching - Early Childhood; Age Care; Barista - Coffee Shop; Occupational Therapy; Computer Programmer; Building/Carpentry; Sports Announcer; The Examiner.

Compiled by Grade 9/10 Students
NEED A MIRACLE?

John Mellor, one of Australia’s most respected healing ministers, is coming to our church. He travels the world praying for healing and miracles in people’s lives. John has seen every conceivable ailment healed including physical, emotional and mental conditions. He regularly sees blind eyes open, the deaf hear, cripples walk and incurable diseases disappear instantly. Everyone is welcome to attend and receive prayer.

March 8th - LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA
Host: Zions Hill Church
7-21 Warring St, Ravenswood

Healing Meetings: 10am & 6pm

Find out more about John, his itinerary and the miracles at www.johnmellor.org