Thank you for taking the time to read our NCS Newsletter.

May has been a busy month; hence the need to communicate to parents about what’s in the calendar on a regular basis, via email. As we head towards mid-year reports and parent teacher, the term will certainly fly by. A notice will go out shortly for you to book in your preferences for parent/teacher times for the last week of this term.

All new uniform items have arrived but unfortunately we are still waiting for the red woollen jumpers and ‘patch’ logos. The new rugby sport’s jumpers look fantastic and a big thank you to our ex-student, Hayden Morgan, for giving me advice with the design. An update to the manual, in regards to uniforms, will be done shortly, now that the changes are almost finalised. Just a reminder that this is a transition year in regards to uniform; both existing and new uniform items may be worn. All students (with the exception of grade 10) will be required to make the change to the new uniform in 2016. Could you ensure your child is in the correct uniform each day, as only sport’s uniform should be worn on PE or Sport days. Thanks for your cooperation in this.

This weekend our Chairman of the Board, Mr. Richard Holloway and I will be attending our first AGM for Christian Education National (CEN) in Canberra. Newstead Christian School will be officially welcomed into the network and we will also be attending the AGM for the Australian Association of Christian Schools (AACS), a member association and Government Liaison of CEN. It will be a great opportunity to network with other Christian Principals and Board Members from around Australia and gain a deeper appreciation of how NCS can benefit from being part of this wonderful organisation.

Parents and Friends – Could those parents who indicated that they would like to be involved in forming a P & F for NCS, please email me with at least three general times during week days or nights that would suit them to hold an initial discussion with other interested parents? principal@ncs.tas.edu.au

Stage 2 Building Plans – Unfortunately demolition of existing buildings in preparation for the second stage building work is scheduled to happen around mid-July, due to council approval and the tender process being delayed. Rest assured that S Group, along with the Management Team, are doing all they can to ensure that there will be no further delays and that the new classrooms will be ready for the 2016 school year.

Dates to Remember:

- ‘Jump Rope for Heart’ - Tuesday, 26th May
- Grandparents Day - Tuesday, 2nd June
- Queen’s B’day Long Weekend - Monday, 8th June
- Reports sent home - Friday, 19th June
- Readers Cup - Friday, 26th June
- Parent / Teacher Interviews - Mon 29th June & Tues 30th June
- Term 2 Holiday Break - 3rd July

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!

Principal’s Days:

Mrs Eastley now works
Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:00 pm

(Twice a week Mrs Eastley is taking the Grade 9/10 Elective to Drama at Launceston Christian School)
Lastly, I had an inquiry from a parent wondering why the staff discouraged children bringing along their trading cards to school. Here’s my response –

**Trading card games** have often presented issues and have been discouraged at CCA/NCS for as long as I can remember. In general, in my 31 years of teaching at several schools, I do not recall a school where there has not been some sort of restriction or ban. It has ranged from total bans, to allocated swap days, to only swapping with someone in your grade. Why? There are some common threads that have weaved their way into making this decision. Not everything at NCS is written down as a policy as such, but staff certainly encourage certain standards to maintain the culture of our school. We promote water in the drink bottles over sugary cordials, ban chewing gum, power drinks and toy weapons, screen our library resources and put filters on our internet; the views on each of these topics alone would bring about a variety of opinions and responses, but all decisions have reasons behind them, some more obvious than others.

So here’s why we discourage trading card games at NCS –

- They are a distraction as often children try to sneak them out in class time to swap or play.
- Fads come and go but some can be quite addictive causing a child to have an unhealthy obsession.
- Children tend to sit around in break times swapping instead of getting some play and exercise time.
- Ownership issues can surface over lost or misplaced cards.

Trading issues –
1. Some children do not understand that other children can ‘win’ their prized cards in a game.
2. They may regret a trade later on.
3. Younger children may be taken advantage of and be ‘bullied’ into trading.
4. This may lead to verbal and physical altercations. Teachers have enough to do in their day and don’t want to be called in as referees.

In summary, many children do not understand the concept of swapping cards and it is better undertaken under parental supervision. If school is the **only** place where your child/children are able to swap or play their trading card games with their peers, parents can organise a time after 3pm for this to occur under their supervision.

On a brighter note to end my epistle for Week 5, Term 2, I would like to congratulate two of our Grade 9 Drama students, Moana Chamberlin and Elizabeth Skeat, who earned a spot in the **Launceston Competitions** with their fellow LCS peers to perform their duologue and triologue. It has been such a blessing to forge an alliance with the Launceston Christian School and for Mrs Gracie to so generously open up her drama class to our students. I look forward to seeing where our memorandum of understanding with LCS will take us into the future.

Mrs. Bronwyn Eastley
**Kindergarten - Mrs Narelle Preece:**

The sun is always shining in Kindergarten.

One rainy day in April, Harmony and Selena were playing with the scarves. They laid them out on the floor to make ‘pretty water’. They placed some shells on their water ‘like the sea.’ They made pirate hats and used some boxes for boats (which later got painted and turned into cars).

They talked about what they would need if they were pirates. Harmony said they needed a camp and used the little battery operated candles to make a campfire. Aria said they needed treasure so they needed to go on a treasure hunt. Selena suggested that they go on a treasure hunt in the morning; I think she wanted to enjoy the campfire for a little while longer.

They added to their ‘pretty water’ to create a beach using sand coloured fabric, shells, sea sponges and rocks, but we were missing one important thing – the sun. The girls worked together to create a beautiful sun which they glued on to a lovely, clear, blue sky. But we all know there are always clouds in the sky so we looked through some books to find out what clouds look like and before long our sky was full of clouds.

Over the next couple of weeks we talked about things we might find at the beach and things you might find in the sea. We created turtles, penguins and crabs to go on our beach and have done seascape paintings and collages. I wonder where our journey will take us next.

**Prep / One - Mrs Jessica Whitmore:**

This term in English we are focusing on developing comprehension skills. This includes being able to retell a story focusing on the beginning, middle and end of a story, as well as being able to answer questions based on the text. We have read some Mo Williams books and will now start reading Pamela Allen books. We are also focusing on developing our vocabulary by learning meanings of new words. If you are interested in knowing what words we have learnt, ask your child at the end of each day what the new word for the day was.

In Maths we have finally finished addition and subtraction and our now moving onto time. Time can be a very difficult concept to understand and students often find it very confusing. Preps are focusing on o’clock times and Grade Ones are focusing on o’clock and half past times. Please encourage your child to read clocks at home, both digital and analogue. Ask them what time it would be if the big hand was pointing to a particular number and the little hand was pointing to a particular number. Or you can ask them what a certain time would look like on an analogue or digital clock. This will really help your child continue to develop their time understanding.

In Science this term we are looking at the weather. Grade Ones are focusing on the changes caused by weather including seasonal changes.

In History this term we are looking the present and the past. Preps will be looking at their personal history, whilst Grade Ones will be looking at differences and similarities between our present life and life in the past. As a part of this unit Grade Ones will get to visit the Tram Museum, to take a look at how people used to travel around Launceston.

Last week we also had two visits from Fireman Aaron, who talked to us about fire safety and what to do if we are ever on fire or in a fire. One of his key points to the children was if you have the recommended amount of smoke alarms (bedrooms, hallways, lounge and dining) you will have enough warning time to get out of the house without needing to worry about breaking windows.
In reading we have been learning the reading strategy inferring. We are creating character inference charts as a class.

In Maths we have done problem solving and we are now learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have created shape monsters and a shape book.

In History and Geography we have been learning about the Aboriginal People and how they are similar and different to us.

In Science we have been learning materials and mixtures, and how they can be recycled. We made some recycled paper and created a logo to teach people that they should recycle.

In Devotions we have finished learning about Moses and the courageous things he did with God’s help. Now we are learning about Samuel.

My favourite thing was doing Maths because we got to decorate our own shape monsters – Boaz Blenkiron

My favourite has been reading our Bible and learning about the courageous people in the Bible – Josh Green

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**Jump Rope for Heart - Jessica Whitmore**

Jump Off Day (26th May) is fast approaching. If you walk into the school yard at lunch or recess, the school yard is full of skipping children. Not only is Jump Rope for Heart a great way for the students to exercise it is also a great way to raise awareness of Heart Disease.

Heart Disease is not just a problem for adults with heart attacks but children as well who can be born with problems such as a hole in their heart. An important part of our Jump Off Day is raising money for the Heart Foundation to help them continue to research.

Our goal this year was for every child from Kinder to Year 10 to raise $5 each through sponsorship. For those who couldn’t get a sponsorship they were encouraged to bring some small change and place it in the fundraising jar in the classrooms.

For more information you can go to - www.heartfoundation.org.au. You can also use this site for online fundraising and find our school fundraising page.

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**Chaplain - Mr Alister Austin:**

It has been a great start to Term 2, I have loved getting around the classes and spending time connecting with each of them. A highlight for me has been getting into the 9/10 class and having conversations on the Great Commission (discipling nations). We have talked about how God is wanting to train and raise us up into positions of influence in different domains of society eg. government, education, church, economy, media etc.

I love the unique opportunity this school has, not to just train our kids in academic success only (IQ,) but to look at the whole person and train them in emotional intelligence (EQ) and spiritual intelligence (SQ).

Brilliant!
This term has been a very productive and exciting time in Art.

The Prep/Grade 1 class have been working on an Autumn inspired art project of birch trees with golden leaves. This involved experimenting with methods of applying paint - using sponges, plastic knives and brushes. We also practiced our drawing skills by drawing the unique black and white trunks of the birch tree. Well done Prep/Grade 1 for an awesome effort!

The Grade 2/3 class have started an art project with the theme "Bugs". They have begun by using their observational drawing skills. They were asked to draw from plastic models of bugs/insects. They needed to fill a drawn jar on A4 paper with various bugs. They were asked to look for details like lines, spots, texture and add these to their bugs. Later we will use watercolour to add colour. So far there has been a wonderful range of unique artistic expression from these young artists!

The Grade 7/8 have proven to be a very hard working class, and have achieved a lot this year. They have completed a unit on silhouettes that saw them experimenting with a range of drawing and painting materials and techniques.

The Grade 9/10 class have shown themselves to be a highly focussed and motivated group. It has been a pleasure to work with these students. They have been working on a portraiture unit, that has seen them plan their own portrait, sketch it up on canvas, and paint using acrylic paints. This has been a huge challenge, and all students have given their best effort, often working through disappointment or difficulty in their art with resilience, and good humour! I am very excited to see the developing portraits!

We are already half way through Term 2 and have been very busy.

In Science we are talking about the Earth’s Crust and the effects that weathering and erosion have on the surface. We have conducted some experiments to test this on different materials including; limestone, granite, pumice, sandstone, blue metal etc. We are about to begin making and testing volcanoes, which the class is keen to complete.

In History last term we looked at the Australian gold rush through the 1800’s and are rehearsing a drama which we intend to perform to the Junior classes in the next few weeks. An upcoming excursion to watch the Launceston Christian School production of “The Sound of Music” will enhance and develop our drama skills also. We have started our next unit on the First Fleet, leading into the convict era.

In English we have been busy writing persuasive texts. We are practicing giving firm and convincing reasons for our topic argument and will present and deliver debates in the coming week to reinforce the value of opinion and fact.

One of my favourite parts of the morning is when we have devotion and prayer time. We have recently studied Moses’ plight with Pharaoh and his journey to the Promised Land. We then (in many parts) watched the movie “The Prince of Egypt”. We are now talking about the importance of thinking before we speak and seeking God’s will first in our lives.
The soccer / netball rosters have started and the soccer team had a convincing win against Star of the Sea. The Netball teams had close losses against strong Riverside teams.

A reminder to the soccer team, that they must have soccer boots and shin pads if they wish to play. We have been blessed by S. Group who are going to sponsor a new set of shirts.

The students are working well across the subjects and thankyou to all those who get their homework in on time. I am impressed with the Tech classes with their aptitude and the quality of work they are producing.

The Grade 8’s have finished their clocks and the Senior class are working on step ladders after finishing coffee tables. The Grade 7-8’s will be having an Outdoor Education excursion next week [Week 6] where they will be going on a bush walk through the Gorge and Trevallyn Reserve.

They are also showing a lot of maturity in devotions and contributing maturely. They have almost completed their first ‘Successful Living’ PACE, which is based on the book of Proverbs. Hopefully you will see a difference at home!

PE - Mr Ken Green:

Students, parents and staff enjoyed a cold, windy but rain free cross country run. All the school students took part and many gave a great effort and completed their courses very quickly.

Many thanks to Lisa-Marie again for her wonderful work on recording the placings and giving out the ribbons. Also thanks to [Ue’s parents] and Sam Blenkiron for their help.

There are too many outstanding efforts to list here but first placings for each grade are:

Aria, Gabriella, Kipp, Amali, Ezra, Stella, Boaz, Anastasia, Josiah, Mikayla, Tia, Isabel, Yui, Mahalia, Ethan, Esther, Joseph, Nicole, Paul, Moana and Bianca.

An interschool team will be selected from these students and some of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} place-getters.

Grade 7 & 8 - Mr Ken Green:

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Well a lot has happened since our last Newsletter.

All Senior students spent a day at Agfest, the Grade 9/10's went on a surf / sand boarding trip and we have been busy discovering and investigating all aspects of our new school 3D printer.

For some students NAPLAN was a highlight as it gave them the opportunity to show the rest of Australia how awesome they were. For others, their progression to the next round of judging for the www.write4fun creative writing competition was a highlight (maybe we will have a winner this year?).

Thrown in the middle of all this business is the Readers Cup Competition (which we entered and won last year), sneaking up on us rapidly. Additionally there was a futsal competition that some students participated in (some have been selected to be on the State team by the way), which was excellent.

In addition to all this, we are planning work experience for all Grade 9/10 students for the week beginning Tuesday 9th June. Pray that we are successful in placing many students (this is more stressful to organise than I had initially anticipated).

To say that it has been busy is an understatement. It’s been an exciting kind of busy, but very busy nonetheless. We pray that your children are surviving this kind of excited busy-ness. It’s been a crazy term and the best is yet to come.

God bless.

Grade 9/10 - Mr Jon Targett:

Science

The first half of the term Grade 7-8 students were introduced to cells in organisms. Students studied these basic units of living things including their structures and functions. They had an excursion to AGFEST. On the excursion, students experienced some cutting edge science topics through UTAS and IMAS.

Grade 9-10 students just finished studying DNA and genes. They will join science investigation competition through the Bookend Trust. Successful Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to make a difference in a Fijian Medical Centre in Naqarawai. Successful Grade 10 applicants will join the expedition to Three Hummock Island in Western Bass Strait in the final week of the longer search for the Shy Albatross epic adventure. Both trips are completely free for those students.

Maths

Grade 7-8 students learnt solving equations. Our students’ basic algebraic skills have improved a lot. They will continue the effort to the end of year.

Grade 9-10 students practiced their measurement and geometry including working with area and total surface area of different 2D and 3D shapes. They will extend this knowledge to measuring...
My trip to Bali over Easter was awesome! For every member of our team the highlight was the eleven days we stayed in the orphanage. We hung out with the kids, did some craft activities, games and puzzles with them, played sport with them, shared some devotions with them and got a little taste of what their lives are like. There were many tears all around when we had to say our goodbyes.

They are beautiful children, and they work hard at school and at their jobs around the orphanage, never complaining, but often with a song in their mouth and a smile on their faces. They are so grateful for the opportunity to go to school, and for the food they are given.

I am very keen to take our school group to this orphanage as part of our trip to Bali next year. Please seriously consider whether your children would like to go on the trip, and start saving now! There will be more details coming soon about the trip.

In Prep/1 this term, we are learning the Indonesian names of some body parts and items of clothing. The children enjoy singing “Heads, Shoulders, Knees & Toes” in Indonesian.

The Grade 2/3’s are learning Indonesian words to describe the five senses, and also reviewing colours, numbers and telling the time.

In Grade 4-6 we have learnt some words about Autumn, as well as reviewing numbers, telling the time, and learning to talk about things we like and don’t like.

The Grade 7/8’s are learning the names of different countries, and how to talk about where they come from, what their nationality is, and to ask others these questions in Indonesian. We will also be writing e-mails to some of the kids at the orphanage in Bali, putting our Indonesian language skills to practice.
I hope that you and your children are enjoying the new facilities of the Senior Learning Centre, even if it is only seeing the brightness of colour and sun on the refurbished hall (likely for the primary school students). Plans for the next development, the building of four new Primary classrooms, are currently in the Council for approval. There has been some delays due to Development Approval laws being updated, but we are expecting completion in fourth term.

As it is approaching tax time I would like to inform parents and friends that we are able to receive tax deductible gifts for the new and following development projects. Any gift helps as the school will borrow less to fund the Junior Learning Spaces, reducing interest we have to pay.

If you would like to make a donation that is tax deductible please contact Jim in the Business office at School.

Jim Lambie

The main focus for the SRC this year is to leave a legacy and to show that we are leaders.

This term we are running a soup day; which will be held on Jump off Day! We are also planning a Christmas in July with hot lunch, and a treat, and some lunch time activities. We have many more activities and events that we are planning and hope to be organising. We thank God for an awesome team and teachers.

Michealine Andrews SRC Representative

Student Representative Council:

SRC representatives from front left Zara Daniel, Jonte Chamberlin, Ue Tonihi, Mahalia Smith. Back from the left Moana Chamberlin, Bianca Kennedy, Tracy-Lee Reed, Daniel Razay and Michealine Andrews