The term is in full swing and we have so many exciting events to look forward to – our first NCS Twilight Fair on Friday 18th November, student dinners, our School Picnic at Lagoon Bay on Friday 9th December, Presentation Night at Worldview College on Monday 12th and last day for students on Thursday 15th.

I would like to welcome two new families to our school – the Smiths, Malachi and Isaiah and Annalise and Kynan Snooks and their sister, Zara Jenkins. It is lovely to have you join our NCS community.

On that note, our Open Day was a great success with 9 students attending of whom most are enrolled for next year or have commenced their schooling here already. In order to plan timetables, class groupings and our teaching staff for 2017, please let us know as soon as possible if you are intending to withdraw your child/ren from NCS at the end of this term due to relocation or other reasons. We understand that circumstances change and it would be great if you could assist us with this.

To finish my little blurb, I have some exciting new to share – the third stage of our building redevelopment plan is about to go into full swing with the confirmation last week that we have received a Federal Government Capital Grant of $300,000 to go towards building a new Administration Building and front car park. Launceston City Council has already approved the plans and demolition of the old office building is scheduled to commence in December after the students leave for summer holiday break.

Also, if you haven’t already heard, we have purchased the property at 29 Tudor Avenue which we intend to have as a rental property until God gives us the blueprint for further building plans. I feel very blessed to be the Principal of Newstead Christian School at this exciting stage of growth and expansion and to witness first hand God’s favour and blessings over the school in the last three years.
Sailing on your own boat on open water sound perfect doesn’t it? The gentle breeze, the clear blue sky, the clean pure water and the feeling of everlasting serenity. Well imagine making your own boat and setting out on this journey. Will the boat hold up? Will it survive the open sea? What should I take with me? What will I find along the way? Will I find undiscovered lands? How will I treat those different from me and what can I tell others about Jesus? These questions are pretty important right now in Gr 3/4 MacKenzie.

Students have considered the First Fleet and journeys of past explorers, along with the reasons for and behaviour of the First Fleet. Now they are putting themselves into the shoes of European settlers. They made and tested their own boats and now they are creating a documentary to show the new lands they are discovering and we look forward to seeing what they discover. All of this is built on the foundation of how God treats us and how God wants us to treat others. As we consider and document this journey we are looking at different styles of personal communication and the life of the apostle Paul who went on many journeys, writing letters, encountering new people and telling everyone about Jesus. We work hard in 3/4 MacKenzie, but the end result is a class working together to find all we can about God’s purpose for us and for how we live.

Its Interschool Carnival time again. This year we have a small but strong team to compete in the two Carnivals. The team is made up of 6-10’s [two Grade 6’s filling in for vacant Grade 7 spots] Firstly the State Christian school’s carnival and secondly the NHSSA carnival. Please see Facebook page for results.

The Grade 9-10’s recently finished a short golf course, starting with practice at the Country Club Casino Driving Range and culminating at the International standard Grindelwald Golf Course. With more practice we could have some Karrie Webb’s and Tiger Woods in our midst.

The Grade 7-8’s had the wonderful opportunity to go to the Regional Tennis Centre and participate in a Tennis fitness training session. They also have the opportunity to become ball girls and boys in an International tennis tournament held in Launceston early next year.
I love working at NCS. I love the freedom we have to share our faith; I love the way everyone encourages each other, and I love the fact that while our primary focus is on the children, we are also very much aware of the parents of those beautiful young people. We are a connected community.

Einstein wrote, "Without the sense of fellowship with men of like mind, life would have seemed empty to me." God has created us to be connected to each other, to work together and to "bear one another's burdens." Science is now supporting this and we are seeing more and more evidence coming out to support what God’s Word tells us. We are wired to connect.

This connection is relevant to all of us: children and teachers, teachers and parents, parents and children, and parent and parent. The need to stay connected is something we are born with; infants embody this, but it is present throughout all of our lives. In fact, our well-being is linked to our social connectedness.

Our brains amazingly provide us with an unparalleled ability to understand the actions and thoughts of everyone around us so we are able to stay connected and interact strategically (rather than inappropriately) with each other. We can see this kind of thinking in toddlers, and they tend to do it even better than adults do! As preteens and teens our brain undergoes the neural changes that allow group beliefs and values to influence our own. What this kind of thinking does, is to allow us to create groups that can implement nearly any idea, and anticipate the needs of those around us, keeping our groups moving smoothly.

We were never meant to live individual, alone lives. We were meant to live and work in harmonious connection with others. Our brain grows and develops to allow for this. While it is good to have a strong sense of who we are, this is not meant to lead to selfishness, rather it allows us to operate as a powerful force for social cohesiveness or unity.

This is what we are about at NCS. We work with the children helping them to see themselves as part of a whole; a beautifully connected community, interacting together to see God’s plans and purposes come to life in every one of them – and in us too!

If you want to chat about any of this, I’d love to talk with you.

---

**Geography - Mrs Melanie Pearce:**

The Grade 7/8 students are exploring the concepts of urbanisation and the sustainability of cities looking at global patterns and trends.

The Grade 9 class recently went on an excursion to the local Salmon Farm and a small sheep farm to explore sustainable practices and land productivity.
Senior Food Studies - Mrs Melanie Pearce:

The Senior students have been learning about the processes of food preservation. As part of this work they entered several of the products they made into the cottage industries section of the Launceston show and won several prizes! So congratulations to all the students who entered. They won prizes with pickled onions, fruit mince, apricot jam and lemon butter. They are also exploring some traditional Christmas cooking having made Christmas puddings and fruit mince pies so far.

Outdoor Ed - Mr Ken Green:

The Grade 9/10 Outdoor Ed group embarked on a big adventure to the Cradle Mountain National Park last week. We set off from The Dove Lake car park and walked up a very steep slope to the top of Hansons’s Peak. From there we scrambled our way down a long valley to the Scott Kilvert Hut on the edge of Lake Rodway. The last half an hour [of a 4 hour walk] or so was a bit of an endurance test for many as the track had turned into a stream and was very rocky. But we all made it in one piece and set up camp around the hut.

Some of us decided to bunk down in the emergency hut as the ground around was very wet. After a very rough night for some who slept on the hard wooden floor on a thin mat [not forgetting someone who snored like a steam train all night], we arose early to tackle the long and arduous climb back to Hanson’s Peak and then the difficult climb back to Dove Lake and back to the school bus.

Mr. Targett and I were very impressed and proud of the students who didn’t give up, though at times it was a struggle for some, with wet feet and sore knees. The students had tackled a Grade 4 walk which is meant for experienced walkers, so they can be proud of their achievements. [please see photos attached and on the Facebook page].