

JUNE 2020

NCS UPDATE

The official newsletter of
Newstead Christian School

A friendly reminder that senior students who arrive after 9 am & junior students who arrive after 9:10 am need to be signed in at the office.

Please let the Office know if your child/ren will be off school due to illness or another reason.

You can do this by using our App - Skoolbag; emailing, texting or calling the school before 9:30am.

Thank you!

office@ncs.tas.edu.au

0466 108 298

6331 1922

"Like arrows in the hands of a warrior."

Psalm 127:4



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

I've been mulling over this newsletter article for a while now. There are so many things I could have written about. I could have mentioned how we have faced trials this term and persevered, referencing Romans 5:3-4 that says we can glory in our sufferings, '...because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.'

I considered writing of how I've been reflecting on Jesus' words that, 'perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.' (1 John 4:18). I'd have mentioned that F.E.A.R. offers us a choice to 'Face Everything And Rise' or 'Forget Everything And Run'.

Alternatively, I could have written about how this has been a time of great shaking, individually, nationally and globally. I might have mentioned how this has drawn me to ponder the words of Hebrews 12 where the writer speaks of God shaking the earth and the heavens so that the things that can be shaken might be removed, leaving and revealing that which is unshakable, namely the Kingdom of God.

But actually, I just want to say THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you, parents and carers, for working in partnership with the teachers to provide learning opportunities during the time of distance learning, I know it was a big challenge and one you embraced and made the best of. Thank you for understanding that school needed to be closed.

Thank you for communicating with teachers and understanding that they too were navigating uncharted waters. Thank you for understanding the new measures and restrictions in place as we reopened the school doors for students. Thank you for persevering. Thank you for praying.

Thank you, staff, for working hard and pushing through the challenges of establishing distance learning, a thing none of us has ever had to do before. Thank you for working through your Easter break (though I asked you not to). Thank you for laying aside your own needs, fears and insecurities to care for our students and families. Thank you for being just as quick to readjust to face-to-face learning and the restrictions required. Thank you for caring for students' emotional and spiritual well-being as they returned to school. Thank you for embracing the many new students that have joined us this term. Thank you for persevering. Thank you for praying.

Thank you, students, for doing your best at home in difficult circumstances. Thank you for keeping your sense of humour and fun. Thank you for adjusting so well to being back at school. Thank you for welcoming new students to our community. Thank you for persevering. Thank you for praying.

Together, by the grace of God, we have come through one of the most challenging school terms to date and can now take a much needed and well-deserved break. For students, this will be a three-week holiday with no schoolwork. For staff, this will be a two week break before we return to school to finalise reports, complete our required First Aid Training, have a whole staff retreat day and prepare for Term Three.

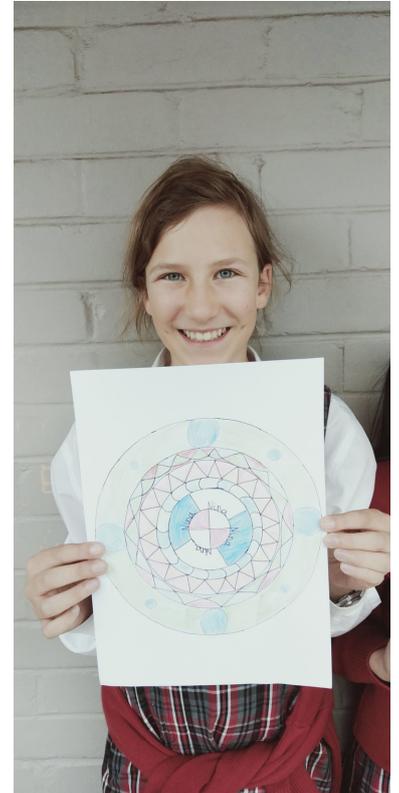
As we return to school on Monday 27th July, I am pleased to announce that we should be able to relax some of the COVID-19 measures we have had in place this term. You'll find further details in this newsletter.

In
His Service

Di Hooley
Principal



Grade 5/6 Class: Rotational symmetry and profile symmetry



Whatever is.....

Philippians 4:8 is nestled in amongst the Apostle Paul's challenge to the people of Philippi, wherein this chapter he is encouraging them to rejoice in God and to let God know of the troubles in their lives. The whole book is focused on the joy in following Jesus, even amongst serious and life-threatening trials. Students talk every week about aspects of Philippians 4 vs 8 and it is the foundation of all Bible lessons for Grade 1 to 8. Ask your child what this verse says and I think with some, none or just a little help, they will be able to tell you.

Philippians 4:8[8] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Apply this verse to the use of digital technology, in any of its forms, and you will have the best guidance of what is good and not so good to do. There are many good things and many bad things too. Lots of fun to be had and lots of danger to avoid. Are our day to day lives any different? I think not, so we all need practices that will help us. Paul knew this which is why he encouraged his readers to do what he has written (see Philippians 4:9). From time to time I am asked for my advice and I welcome these questions. Advice is sought about how to deal with digital technology in our homes. I have learnt through experience as we raise our 5 kids. Set firm boundaries for your children, while they live in your home and don't move the boundary until you know it is safe to do so. The danger of anything bright and colourful is that it seeks to grab our attention. Our eyes immediately drink in what they see, our senses are awakened and the choice is before us. Kids need to learn at this point to say, is it lovely, is it true, is honourable, is it excellent, is it worthy of praise and would it please Dad and Mum? However, in the younger years, they are not able to do this always and need our help.

Getting older does not equal better control over the digital tech our kids have access too. I would suggest the following rules:

1. Make sure the technology is under your control at all points
2. Ensure that they only operate devices in areas where they are publicly accountable such as the lounge room or living room.
3. Make sure you have children's passwords and log on details so you can see what they are doing
4. Limit the amount of time they use it for
5. Let no strangers into your house

The last one seems odd, doesn't it? No one opens the door to someone they don't know and says "Come in, go anywhere in my house and do what you like!" Yet when our kids use the internet, without our supervision this is what can happen. Something comes into your house without your invitation.

Keep the door shut friends, let no enemies in, fight the good fight and make sure what your kids do with digital technology lives to the standard of Philippians 4:8! This often becomes an issue when students are playing games online against other so called 'contestants' and can also occur when students are heavy users of social media. Remember that when using digital technology, people are not always who they say that they are.

One final word on apps like Messenger for Kids. While this seems like a great idea, I am concerned the message it says to kids. It can tell them that social media apps are fun and free and are so easy to use. This is true! However, be careful about letting kids develop early habits of using things proven to be addictive and uncaring about the lives of their users. Keep strong boundaries and make sure no habits are formed in your children's early years that will be a stumbling block to them and your family later on.

Please contact me or Jon Targett with any queries or concerns about Digital Technology.

God Bless you and your homes every day!

Russell MacKenzie
Digital Tech Teacher
Grade 1 to 8

WHATEVER THINGS ARE
TRUE
HONORABLE
RIGHT
PURE
LOVELY
ADMIRABLE
EXCELLENT
AND
WORTHY OF PRAISE
THINK OF THESE THINGS
PHILIPPIANS 4:8

FUN RUN UPDATE

Dear parents,

I am pleased to announce that, due to COVID-19 restrictions being relaxed, you are welcome to attend the fun run this Friday 3rd July. Below are the times each year group will be starting their run. Please do ensure you observe social distancing guidelines.

Students will need to be in sports uniform and have good appropriate running shoes. Just a reminder, students are to bring spare clothes as there is rain forecast prior to Friday so it will be muddy.

Kind regards,
Mel Nugteren

- **Kinder / Prep - 9:30 am**
- **9/10 - 10 am**
- **3/4 - 10:45 am**
- **5/6: 11:15 am**
- **1/2 - 11:45 am**
- **7/8 - 12:15 pm**





DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES

With the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions in Tasmania, I am very pleased to be able to update you about our School drop-off and pick-up processes.

Morning Drop Off

It has been wonderful to see how students have risen to the challenge of coming into the school grounds each morning without a parent, they have shown a resilience and independence that is commendable. In order to maintain and celebrate this, we will continue to do school drop off at the gate as we have done during Term Two. We will be able to stop taking temperatures of students as they enter school but will still provide hand sanitiser.

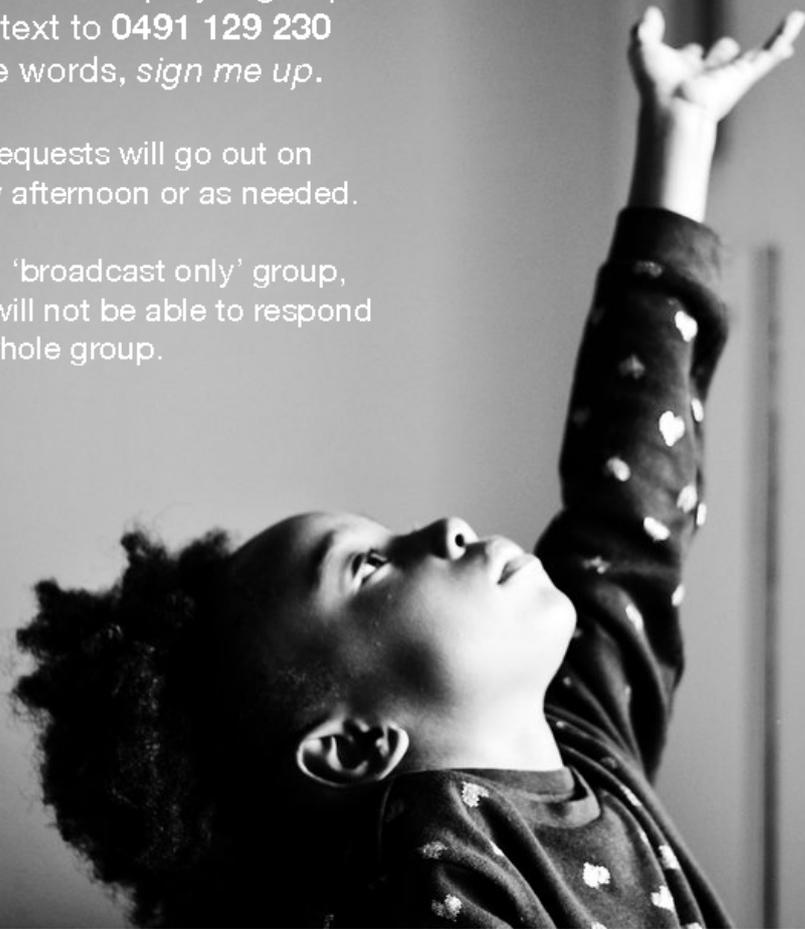
Afternoon Pick Up

From the beginning of Term Three, parents will be welcome to come into the school grounds to collect their children, catch up with one another and speak with teachers. It will be necessary to maintain the social distancing requirements that are still in place and use hand sanitiser as you enter the grounds. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this.

To join our NCS prayer group,
send a text to **0491 129 230**
with the words, *sign me up*.

Prayer requests will go out on
Tuesday afternoon or as needed.

This is a 'broadcast only' group,
so you will not be able to respond
to the whole group.



NCSPrayer
@Whatsapp



Tuesday 4th August

MSP Photography will be taking our school
photos again this year.

More information will be coming home
shortly.



mSP
photography

Scripture Union Tasmania are running two camps for High school students this July, including one online and one residential camping experience!

You can register your interest at www.sutas.org.au. Spaces are limited, so book in quick!

SUPA & BEYOND GOES VIRTUAL!

AN ONLINE CAMP BASED ON THE TEENAGE MOVIE "OVERCOMER"

SUPA & Beyond Camp is for Years 7 & 8 and will feature games, craft, exciting online activities, as well as outside challenges.

WHEN: 6-8 July 2020 **COST:** \$10

REGISTER: sutas.org.au/supa-beyond/

To find out more contact Kelsey Targett 0419 276 227 or stephanie.sebastian@sutas.org.au

SU
TASMANIA

www.sutas.org.au

element camp 2020

A CAMP FOR YEARS 7-10 **THE DAWN WALL**
INSPIRED BY THE MOVIE

WHEN: 10-12 July 2020 **COST:** \$110

WHERE: Carnaroo Campsite, Paper Beach

REGISTER: sutas.org.au/camps



**MORE
INFO:**

Ben Lundie 0409 996 951 / ben.lundie@education.tas.gov.au

SU
TASMANIA

www.sutas.org.au

DIARY DATES

Friday 3rd July

Fun Run

Monday 27th July

First day of Term 3
Reports to go home

Friday 31st July

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 4th August

School Photo Day (Students are to wear full winter uniform)

