

NCS UPDATE

The official newsletter of
Newstead Christian School

Psalm 127:4 "Like arrows in the hands of a warrior."

A friendly reminder that children can be dropped to School after 8.30am and collected before 3.30pm
Students that arrive after 9:10am 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

A NOTE FROM OUR VICE PRINCIPAL - JON TARGETT

Newstead Christian School traditionally has a culture that is unlike any other. For the most part, students are honourable, respectful and mindful. Staff work in partnership with parents and back their decisions, recognising that God has given them the most important role of primary caregiver. There is a sense of unity that pervades all that is said and done and we are here to tell you that this is no accident. In all we do, we strive for excellence, always giving God the glory.

There are many things that we do deliberately in order to create and maintain such a culture and in each newsletter, I will be articulating different aspects of what we do and how. I have written a pledge or a statement of values if you will for students, that attempts to describe and explain some of what we do and more importantly WHY.

If you have ever wondered what on earth is going on around here, then read on. Here is the first point in the statement and a brief explanation of why and how we seek to be different.

1. This school is not a normal school. It is not your previous school and it will never attempt to be so. This is a school of adventure, this is a school of opportunity. This is a school of care, love, forgiveness and restoration. This school will not give you a medal for participating. This school will celebrate genuine achievement instead.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL CONT...

Students sometimes come to us and complain that this school is not like their last school and to this we say FANTASTIC, thank you for the compliment. I am not sure if that is what they intended but nonetheless, it allows us to see that we have an opportunity to, as the Bible rightly talks about, be culture reformers and redeemers (John 15:19, John 7:14-16, Romans 12:2). The points mentioned in our first statement of values are deliberate, biblical, and full of wisdom.

Students here will never be accused of being too smart or too clever, too unintelligent or unable. That thinking does not exist here as we understand that each and every person is a unique creation of God and that we are to treat each other accordingly. We want to celebrate each other's unique talents, quirks and foibles as students wrestle through the process of forming identity and finding their place in the world.

As teachers, we are the students' hidden cheer squad and we prayerfully back you, the parent with every difficult decision that you have to make regarding your precious children, knowing full well that God has told us to 'train up a child in the way they should go' so that when they are older they will not depart from it(Proverbs 22:6). We thank you for your involvement as you back and pray for the school, that together, parents and teachers might be able to work together in order to train the leaders of the future.

In His Service
Jon Targett
Vice Principal



KAREN MACE

Should we give our children jobs/ chores to do?

When I was growing up my mum worked 12-hour shifts, two days on then one day off. On the days she worked, from when I first went to live with her some years after my parents divorced, there were things I had to do around the home. It was expected, for example, that I would make my bed as best I could, that I would put things away when I had finished with them, that I would wipe the bath out after a bath and that I would put away my clothes each day – neatly - or put those to be washed in the laundry basket. These carried over to mum's day off and became a part of my daily routine. I didn't like it at the time, and I grumbled, but I did what was expected of me. Now, if mum were alive, I would be thanking her!

Over the years I've noticed a move away from the approach that was pretty common when I was growing up. While some parents do give their children chores, many wonder if they should and others refuse to do so. After all, isn't it the parent's responsibility to manage the household? And don't kids need an opportunity to 'just be kids' for now because they have the rest of their lives to worry about chores?

Most children have really busy schedules too. They rush around from one activity to the next usually with one of the parents making sure they get to where they have to be. So really, you might say, they don't have time to help with the dishes or mow the lawns, and what's more, you might decide you don't have time to teach them the things they need to know to do the particular chores that are suitable for their age group.

Despite those concerns, however, giving your child chores may be one of the most important things you'll ever do. Even though they might complain occasionally, most children are happy and capable of helping out around the house. Studies show that establishing a chore routine and assigning chores starting at an early age is beneficial to both parents and children. Kids who do chores learn responsibility and gain important life skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Benefits Kids Gain from Doing Chores

Research from a well-known 75-year Harvard study examined the childhood psychosocial variables and biological processes that predicted health and well-being later in life. Researchers concluded that kids who had chores fared better later in life. Chores were the best predictor of which kids were more likely to become happy, healthy, independent adults. So, thanks mum!

Why is making their bed and clearing the table so important to children's well-being in life? One reason is that kids feel competent when they do their chores. Helping out around the house allows kids to learn to use their abilities to achieve a chore goal so they grow in confidence not only in carrying out the particular chore you've assigned them to, but in tackling new chores. This in turn teaches children life skills that will help them stay on task and be productive for the rest of their lives.

Doing chores also helps kids feel like they're part of the team. Pitching in and helping family members is good for them and they can learn to feel pride in their work when they are reminded that what they are doing helps everyone in the family and this, says the study, encourages them to be good citizens.

Below are some good examples if you are trying to decide what chores to assign to your children.

Age appropriate chore ideas

- 2- to 3-year-olds can put toys away, dress themselves and help put clean dishes away by sorting cutlery.
- 4- to 5-year-olds can help feed pets, make their beds (maybe not perfectly) and help clear the table after dinner.
- 6- to 7-year-olds can wipe tables and bench tops, put laundry away and vacuum floors.
- 7- to 9-year-olds can load and unload the dishwasher, help prepare meals and make their own lunch.
- 10- to 11-year-olds can change their bedding, clean kitchen or bathrooms and mow the lawn.
- Children aged 12 and above can wash the car, babysit younger siblings and help shop for groceries with a list.

Encouraging Preschoolers

Young children respond well to a sticker charts to help remind them to do their chores. Since preschoolers usually can't read, a chart with pictures of each chore can jog their memory about what they need to be doing. After your child completes a chore, put a sticker on the chart. For young children, the sticker can be a good incentive. Older children may need bigger rewards to stay motivated.

Encouraging School Age Children

Start with one or two simple chores and gradually add new chores to your child's chore list. As chores become more complex, remember to teach them in a step-by-step manner how to do each task.

Make sure you discuss your expectations. For example, if a child is expected to put away his own clothes, teach him where to put the clothes and whether they should be folded or hung. Praise his effort (not him) and encourage him to keep practising. Don't expect perfection.

Older children can start learning how to take on more responsibility. When I was 10, I was cleaning the bathroom, helping with meal preparation, doing some ironing, and vacuuming. You might think 10 is a bit young for that (I thought it was a bit excessive!), and you know your own child, but it's good to increase the complexity of the chores as children grow, and you might be surprised at just what your child can manage - and be proud of achieving! There's no need to reward older children for every task they complete. Picking up after themselves and cleaning their room, for example, are part of pitching in and helping the family.

But, paying your older child an allowance for doing extra chores can be a good way to start teaching your child financial responsibility (have a look at the book The Barefoot Investor for Families – it's an excellent resource to have). If you don't want to pay your child real money, create a token economy system. Let your child earn tokens that can be exchanged for time with electronic devices or outings with friends.

Encouraging Teenagers

I am grateful, now, that mum had me helping make meals and doing the ironing and other chores when I was a teenager. Teenagers need chores that will prepare them for the real world, and I hear so many parents bemoaning the fact that their older teens and even adult children, have no idea how to take care of themselves. Help your teens now to learn life skills that will enable them to live independently later. Have them take a turn at meal preparation, mowing the lawn, or doing the laundry. Here's a link to seven life skills that will be important after high school so your teen can live independently.

If you give your teen an allowance as motivation to do their chores it can also serve as a way to teach your teen about how to manage money. Make an allowance system similar to the way your teen will earn money at a job. Provide payment one time per week. Don't give out any loans and don't hand out money if your teen hasn't earned it. The Barefoot Investor for Families is great if you want some help in setting this up.

All the best as you work with your precious children, preparing them to live independently, and if I can help in any way, please contact me.

Karen Mace
Chaplain.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY WITH GRADES 1 TO 6

BY RUSSELL MACKENZIE

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8 that we should meditate and think upon those things which are edifying:

'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.'

This verse is the foundation of all digital technology lessons in our Junior School and a great Bible verse for anyone to live by. To start the New Year we are focusing on the things that will help us to use any form of digital technology well. In Grade 1 and 2, the students are challenged to think about how much time they spend using such devices and also to treat their parents with kindness when they are asked to stop using their family's devices.



We build on this in Grades 3 to 6 by asking students to sign a contract outlining how we will conduct ourselves in Digital Technology classes. The Bible verse is the most important part of this. We want children to learn that not everything they look at and see is a blessing to them and to have a good Godly guideline for all their choices. I want them to know that technology is a valuable tool that they can use in creative ways, not just a device for entertaining them. Building upon this are lessons in how to use a computer, understanding the theory of computers and how they work, developing touch typing skills and completing a range of tasks from our Digital Skills checklist. The aim is for them to develop skills that will allow them to use technology to bless the people God places them with and to be leaders in using Digital Technology with excellence and creativity.



Students in Grade 3 to 6 are issued a school email address. In Grades 3 to 4 this is mostly to allow them to learn how to log onto gmail, to learn about the etiquette required when sending emails and also so they can access Google Docs, which we use across the school.

In Grade 5&6 we are sending them work to do online and preparing them for high school. If you have any concerns about digital technology or what your students are doing, please come and speak to me. Lessons go for a maximum of 45 minutes, once each week. On Thursdays we hold a lunch time Coding Club where students learn to code – this is to speak computer language and eventually create items of interest to them.



Figure 1 Can you spot the 22 digital devices in this photo? Some are from the past, some are still used today.

Grade 5/6 Camp

Hudson

this years camp was really good I really liked going to the beach and I also liked the movie night a lot it was a very good chill night thanks to every body who organised the camp and helped with it! :)

Lilyelle

I really enjoyed the archery and the big big house they were so much fun and also the beach.

Hannah

I loved the rock climbing wall and jumping off the top. Swimming in the ocean was epic. the volleyball was amazing.

Ezra

I really liked the camp I loved it all so much if I had to have a favorite it would have to be the big big house and the beach

Atlanta

I loved bouncing on the trampolines and the awesome food. Also hanging out with friends was fun too. ☺

Luke

It was a great time to bond with my friends and I loved going to the beach and stuffing our faces with chocolate

Zach H

Swimming In The beach
movie night flying fox
Chocolate!

Grade 5/6 Camp



Grade 5/6 Camp



NOTICES

INVITATION TO JOIN IN PRAYER

For all parents and teachers

When: 2:30pm every Thursday

Where: Music Room

Who for: Our school community

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results" - James 5:16

STAFF DEVOTION TIME

Wednesdays 8-8.30am in the Admin Block

Parents are also warmly invited to join us.



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UPCOMING WINTER ROSTERS FROM THE SPORTS ARENA

ROSTERS COMMENCING MAY 15TH



AN EXPRESSIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

BY KAREN MACE

GRIEVING YOUR WAY

"Writing can save your life." I think it was Shakespeare who said that. And, over the years since I first heard a still, quiet voice telling me that I could help others through writing I have seen that indeed, writing can save your life!

Expressive or therapeutic writing has a way of tapping into the unconscious and helping us see things we may not have been aware of. It can open up paths to healing and knowledge that we may well miss if we choose not to write.



WORKSHOP DETAILS

DATE: Thursday March 14th 2019

VENUE: 12 Eiger Court. Grindelwald

TIME: 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

COST: \$80. Registration and payment by March 4th.

CONTACT: M: 0418378123

As numbers are limited please contact Karen to register and for payment details. Your place will be secured once payment is received. Full refund if cancellation occurs up to 7 days prior to the workshop, 50% will be refunded up to 4 days before and no refund if cancellation occurs after that.



Newstead Christian School is pleased to announce that the Entertainment Book is coming as a fundraiser soon. You can pre-order now!

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/240u357>

Pre-order to enjoy these bonus offers

Four cards are shown: 1. Early Bird Vouchers (purple) with a stack of vouchers below. 2. Woolworths \$20* VOUCHER (green) with a Woolworths logo. 3. Cellarmasters \$50^ VOUCHER (orange) with a Cellarmasters logo. 4. Early Bird Vouchers (purple) with a stack of vouchers below.

*\$20 off your total shop when you spend \$220 or more at Woolworths online. ^\$50 off your total shop when you spend \$120 or more at Cellarmasters online. *Terms & Conditions apply.

Keep your eye out as more information will be coming home over the next few weeks.

The Entertainment Book, and the Entertainment Digital Membership, are your guide to the most popular restaurants, attractions, shopping, travel and more.

- Discover over \$20,000 worth of valuable up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers
- Exclusive Member rates at over thousands of hotels and resorts around the world
- Member-only priced cinema tickets, theme park tickets, flights, gift cards, and more
- Access to valuable rental car offers you can book online with ease
- Easy online search, mapping and reviews of participating businesses

DIARY DATES

11th March

Public Holiday - Eight Hour Day

18th March

Grade 7 - Immunisations

22nd March

Swimming carnival at Devonport for all competitive swimmers.

23rd March

Resilient Kids Conference

26th March

NHSSA swimming carnival at Launceston Aquatic Centre