Welcome back from the long break to yet another school year. It’s been exceptionally busy yet a smooth beginning for staff and students. I trust that everyone has had a refreshing and positive time together with family and friends, and like my family; you are focusing in on getting the routines going again.

A tad different for me this year as the buck stops with me this time. A very humbling position to be in I must say. That came starkly into focus when I belatedly assumed the buses were all sorted. It was too late when we realized that many in our community were naturally assuming that the buses would be running and there may well be kids stranded.

Well, we all know the rest of the story as Fiona desperately tried to ensure that everyone that needed to know was informed and plans were made for the students that were stranded. Our staff were willing to help those who couldn’t make any other arrangements.

**Trust**

I have been focusing in on ‘Trust’ as a cultural shift with our staff which is the key ingredient to success in any relationship; with many new relationships needing to form, new students, new teachers, new roles and new leadership. Some are known but many of the tasks are new. A focus on trust behaviours is very much needed in such a climate. It’s in the newness that many mistakes can easily be made when people default to assumptions as the norm.

Have you ever found yourself apologising to the tune of “I’m so sorry I just assumed.....”? 

In order to build a culture of trust we first have to address assumptions and ensure that we know clearly what the expectation is if we are to find a sense of peace and direction. For us as a College staff we have gone back to basics in the lead up to this year, moving towards Learning God’s Way.

Over the coming weeks I will be transitioning into video blogs, or vlogging as a more native method of communication with our community. Fraught with danger as I won’t be able to go back and proof read and change my mind like I can in written form. However, I speak better than I type. My first topic will be on cyberbullying and social media, which seemed to be highly prevalent over the holidays. As they say - watch this space....
Year 12 ATAR results 2016 – Learning God’s Way

I am excited to share our excellent Year 12 results from 2016. SCC 2016 ATAR results rank us as one of the top performing schools in WA. Our Year 12 median ATAR score was 78.10%. We are very proud of our students who graduated, with Shelby Rathjen as one of the top achievers in Geraldton named. We had five students with an ATAR score above 80% and two students in the higher 70% range. Overall our WACE pass rate was 95.5%

We have worked hard over the last five years to improve Literacy and Numeracy in the College. At times it has been challenging; however, as we read in James 1 and Romans 5, challenges create perseverance and perseverance hope. We have persevered, analysed data, and changed teaching practices according to what the data told us. We have also worked hard to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of our students. As a College we continue to work towards excellence in education in all areas. This year we are implementing two new Literacy assessments to capture valuable data to improve student learning.

I quote Mr Buckley who said the following: “Academic success is not about intelligence; it is about good work ethics and hard work.” Both students and teachers have worked tirelessly and we encourage our students to continue working with zeal to achieve success in partnership with their parents

We want to extend a big THANK YOU to our Primary School parents who supported the Crazy Camel fundraising project in 2016. The funds raised were used to purchase licenses for two more Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT): PAT e-Write and PAT spelling. This brings the online diagnostic assessments to five different tests, in line with NAPLAN. This is also in preparation for NAPLAN which will be online in the very near future.

This year we will maintain our focus on getting quality data, which presents realistic goals for us; we will clarify and refocus our expectations; we will take responsibility for the areas we need to grow in, and we will maintain our rigorous accountability. We haven’t yet arrived at our destiny but we will continue our journey to improve.

In partnership with parents we are looking forward to making 2017 a great year under the leadership of Mr Gavin Hirschhausen.

Mrs Sophia De Lange
Deputy Principal Curriculum

Learning God’s Way
NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM AT STRATH

Back: Greg Hornsby, Steve Fletcher, Keith Roffman and Stuart Hunter
Front: Sophia de Lange, Gavin Hirschhausen and Darron Gedge.

After many weeks of holiday and rest, we are excited to welcome you back to Strathalbyn Christian College.

Over the break, Gavin Hirschhausen began his new role as CEO/Principal of Strath, which ushered in a new leadership team (as pictured above)

Alongside Gavin is Sophia de Lange, whose position has changed since last year. Sophia is now Deputy Principal Curriculum and her main duty will be focussed on the Curriculum from Kindy to Year 12. As this is a huge task, Sophia will have support from Steve Fletcher and Keith Roffman.

Steve Fletcher is the Senior Secondary Coordinator and he will oversee students in Years 11 and 12. Keith Roffman is the VET and Electives Coordinator and he will assist with the VET Pathways.

Darron Gedge is new to the College. He has recently returned to Australia after teaching in an International School in China. Darron has many years experience teaching in Christian schools in New Zealand. He is Deputy Principal Student Welfare for this year.

Greg Hornsby has expanded his role in the College to include being the Educational Resource Manager. This role encompasses many different aspects of the College from timetabling to the Library Resources. Stuart Hunter, is a Chartered Accountant who joined us last year as our new Business Manager.

In regards to teaching staff, joining us this year in Secondary English is Kay Williams and Kate Wheat. Kate will also be teaching Secondary Maths.

In Secondary Science and HASS we have Garth Grimsley.

We also welcome back Bronwyn White to the College this year as the Year 1 Teacher.

Australia Day Award Winner

Congratulations are in order for our Head Girl Minna Hilton who was nominated and won the 2017 Australia Day WA Community Citizen of the Year for Youth Award.

Minna was nominated for the work that she’s been doing with The Comedy Emporium. Minna has been working to create opportunities for young people to perform and she encourages them to reach for the stars.

Photo: Minna Hilton with Mr Ian Blayney, MLC

URGENTLY NEEDED

CASUAL RELIEF CLEANERS

This position is to assist the current cleaning staff at the College when someone is away or unwell. Paid casual positions available.

Hours are 3-6pm.

If you are interested, application forms are available from Admin or email jdeklerk@scc.wa.edu.au
IMPORTANT NOTICES

**Uniform Shop**
You may have noticed that the Uniform Shop has moved this year. You will find the new and improved shop near the Hangar area in room H1.

**Secondary – iPads/MacBooks**
Parents are reminded that all students must have an iPad at school each day in Years 7 & 8, and an iPad or MacBook for Years 9 to 12. In the event that your child’s device has a broken screen or similar, students are able to borrow an iPad from the Library on a short term basis (up to 2 weeks). We only have a limited number of devices available for loan, so long term loans are generally not possible.

*Mrs Denise du Boulay*
Library Manager

**Secondary Timetables (Years 7 to 10)**
You might have noticed on Secondary timetables an EX period, and wondered what this was for? It will be used:

- To support students with study skills;
- To prepare students for assessments and exams;
- For Diagnostic Assessments - when students do annual Progressive Assessment Tests (known as PAT) for Maths, Science, Reading & Comprehension and Grammar & Punctuation.

During the next two weeks students in Years 7-10 will complete a PAT e-Write and PAT Spelling test, as well as a STAR Reader assessment to identify their current reading level.

The EX period will work on a two week cycle; one week for study skills and the next will be an Accelerated Reader lesson, to improve reading skills in the College. These periods will also be used to extend students in the area of literacy or to provide extra support, depending on individual student needs.

*Mrs Sophia de Lange*
Deputy Principal Curriculum

**PRIMARY SWIMMING BEGINS ON MONDAY**
Please ensure that your child/ren are prepared for swimming.
Buses will leave promptly so please be on time on swimming days.

**Week One Student Support Tips!**
Student Support Services at Strath include a Counsellor, Chaplain and Primary Student Support

Please contact the front office if you would like to speak to someone.

I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.
**Philippians 4:13**

**Resilience**
*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9*

Developing resilience in children is something that many parents are aware that they need to do, but many are confused as to how to go about it. If you are interested in finding out some more information about what resilience is, click on the links below:

*Primary Students*

*Secondary Students:*

*I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.
**Philippians 4:13**

*Learning God’s Way*
SEUSSICAL - THE MUSICAL - Strath Theatre Production

Auditions for Seussical commence on Tuesday February 13. Audition materials are available from Student Services and students sign up on the Drama Room door. Rehearsals will be Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15pm – 4:30pm starting in Week 3 (13 Feb). Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals – schedule will be out by the start of Week 3.

Mrs Tracey Thorpe
Music Teacher

Welcome Feast Thursday 23 Feb

We would like to welcome all families, especially new families to join us in a meal together on Thursday 23 February. Invitations will be out next week and we ask that if you are coming along to please RSVP for catering purposes.

Grand-friends Morning Tea Tuesday 28 March

Mark this date down in the Calendar!

ELY Tupperware FUN-Raiser

This term we are doing a Lunchbox Fun-Raiser from Tupperware. 10% of all orders will come back to the College and will be used for the ELY Class Resources. Please look out for the letters and order forms. (Kindy to Year 2)

Anna Hollander
Marketing & Community Relations

SPORT NOTICES


All Expenses Paid Trip to Perth

Would you like an all expenses paid trip to Perth on March 12-13?

• Sleeping on the luxurious floor of the Swan Christian College Gym
• In the magnificent company of 40 of the College’s fastest swimmers AND the PE Department
• Dining at the best of Midland’s fast food restaurants
• Witnessing some of the highest quality swimming competition in (SCC) history at the H Division ACC Swimming Carnival

If you are interested, please contact either Caleb Castlehow or Steve Fletcher

STRATHALBYN PRIMARY NETBALL TEAMS 2017

Calling all Strath netballers in Years 3-6! There will be a training and information session for all students who would like to play for a Strath netball team this season.
When: WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH, 3:15-4:30pm
Where: Meet at the hangar
See you there!
If you are interested, but can’t make the date, please contact Steve Fletcher sfletcher@scc.wa.edu.au

FOR MORE COMMUNITY NOTICES - PLEASE VISIT THE COLLEGE WEBSITE UNDER NEWSLETTER
Learning God’s Way

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Wednesday 8th February 2017

KINDY - 6.00pm in the Kindy Room
Parents will have an opportunity to meet Kindy staff in their class room.

PRIMARY - 7.00pm-8.00pm
Pre-Primary - Year 6
In the College Hall - Combined Information Session
Teachers will be available in their classrooms to meet with parents after the Combined Information Session.

Thursday 9th February 2017

YEARS 7-12
3.30pm - 5.00pm & 6.00pm - 8.00pm
In the College Hall
By appointment only:
Please email Mrs Julie Fong - jfong@scc.wa.edu.au