Kingdom of God

I ended last week’s link with “Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything will be added”; thinking deeply about the education and the vital long term fruit of spiritual training to look at the World through God’s eyes.

I’d like to pick up on what the ‘kingdom of God’ is? Well put simply - the Kingdom of God is a spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God’s authority.

Sometimes we take authority when really we shouldn’t, e.g. where an authority already has been put in place for our benefit. Let’s take parenting for example, I’m a parent and I’m writing to parents. You all know that our kids challenge our authority. Especially as they get older and smarter and work out how to test our weaknesses. Now I say this in the most endearing sense, not in the sense that they are all evil little creatures that cannot be trusted. Thank God that through the Word, Jesus said, “The Kingdom belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:16)

So what does seeking the Kingdom entail? Firstly, it’s making the decision that I don’t have it all worked out; I’m not God of my circumstances although I may have been acting that way by trying to manipulate the circumstances the way the world does it e.g. slander, accusation, taking short cuts at another’s expense, to name a few tools. Second, acknowledging that there is a God of all circumstances and seeking after His ways, solving the problems of life which are revealed through His word. Gladly he came down and said “Follow me” and we have some very clear examples of what that looks like. Did you know that the Bible has every answer to every problem in life?

A practical analysis from a parenting perspective: We all know that the main purpose of kids movies, is to make money. We also know that serious dollars have been invested into understanding what the key ingredients are to make a good kids movie. Kids movies often have adult themes woven into the story. When Jesus was referring to the little ones recorded in Luke 18:16 he was acknowledging the innocent mind that is still being shaped, kids have a very open, tolerant, forgiving, teachable heart. It’s only as they get older and neural pathways of experience change and are formed into superhighways of belief that these beautiful traits change to judge and slower to forgive.

This is why we need to be very discerning as parents what our kids are hearing and seeing. We don’t need to wrap them up in cotton wool. Quite the contrary, we need to carefully teach them and explain to them the discernment between right and wrong by pointing out the long term fruit in our culture. We need to help them understand that what they see is not necessarily good for them and why.

We must seek the Kingdom as a community, because in our kids learn from each other as they do from adults. We must be a community that seeks to ensure the vinegar we are picking them is well understood, reinforced and submitted to the Kingdom of God. For example, teaching truthfulness produces honesty, honesty produces trust worthiness, trust worthiness has an abundance of benefits. Notably trust means confidence. The number one trait that an employer seeks in a young person is integrity, trustworthiness and confidence. Time and time again, I am reminded throughout the Geraldton community how our students excel in this area.

As I write this we are about to come together in community for our Welcome Feast, seeking fellowship under ‘Learning God’s Way’. May I encourage you to seek to understand why movies are rated the way that they are and to ask yourself, “Do I respect the safeguard ratings for parents?” If not, why not?. Finally, I urge you to turn away from trying to please your kids by allowing them to do things that our society clearly states are not appropriate.
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**PRIMARY**

*Changed date*

Thurs Mar 16
Primary Swimming Carnival
(Yrs 3-6)

**SECONDARY**

Thurs Mar 2
Year 8 Immunisations

Fri Mar 3
Secondary Swimming Carnival

**OTHER EVENTS**

Grandfriends Morning Tea
Tuesday 28 March

**SCC FACEBOOK PAGES**

SCC Community FACEBOOK PAGE

Join and become a member of the Strath Community Facebook page (closed group). Its a great place to buy second-hand uniforms or specific College event information.

**FRIDAY PRAYER TIME**

Every Friday morning at 8.45-9.15am we get together to pray for the school, students, SCC board and families. If you have a prayer on your heart, please join us or you can leave your prayer in the box at Student Services and we will pray for you Matthew 6: 5-15

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**Welcome Feast**

What a fantastic atmosphere! The Welcome Feast was like a festival of fellowship.

It was lovely to see families mixing and mingling. The music was provided by Angus and George Davidson who played a great range of classic rock tunes. The food was cooked and prepared by our wonderful staff. Mr Lachlan Anderson had great fun with the students playing games on the lawn.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Welcome Feast last night.

**Next event:** Grand-friends Morning Tea - Tuesday 28th March for Primary Families
**KAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY - Wed 8 & Thurs 9 March 2017**

School photos will be happening on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 March. Envelopes have been sent home with children this week, which contain important information required for online ordering, namely your child’s Class Information and their Student ID.

**Preferred ordering is online through Kapture’s website**

**www.kapture.com.au** - please use the College’s unique ordering code: 6YHZPE

You may also pay cash – your child/ren will need to bring their envelope on photo day with the correct change enclosed. A schedule will be emailed out to families soon.

Sibling Photos are available again this year but can only be ordered online. Orders close at 12noon on Tuesday 7 March – no late orders can be accepted.

All students will be photographed individually on photo day for school administration records AS WELL as being included in their class group photo available for purchase to all families.

Kapture advise a late change to their instructions – if you order online, your child does NOT need to bring their photo envelope in on photo day.

Fiona Davidson
Communications Officer

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**University Information Evening**

The Geraldton Universities Centre will be hosting a Combined University Public Information Evening on Wednesday 29th of March between 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

The information sessions will provide information on the different universities, their courses as well as information on accommodation and University life.

If you are interested in attending Uni, then this is for you.

*Geraldton University Centre, Building B, Geraldton Universities Centre, 33 Onslow Street*

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**Improving learning**

It can be difficult helping your child at home with work they are struggling with. Understanding a little more about how they learn and how to help them can make this easier. See the links below for some ideas about this.

*Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.* Proverbs 1:5


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

Last weekend our Head Boy, Andrew Rankine and Head Girl, Minna Hilton, Deputy Head Boy, George Davidson and Deputy Head Girl, Mikaela Bylund attended the Nagle Ball. The Ball was held at the Queen Elizabeth Centre.

Photo: Mrs Fiona Davidson

Corey Taylor - BMX Champ

Strath Student Corey Taylor featured in the paper this last week. He’s competing in Shepparton Victoria and his eye’s on the International Series. We wish Corey all the very best with the very busy competition schedule.

Sourced: Geraldton Guardian

IGA - Shop for your School

This week IGA presented Strathalbyn Christian College with a $565.65 cheque from the Community Fund. Thank you IGA and for all the parents who support the College.

If you shop at IGA, please remember to mention to the cashier that you would like your points to go towards Strath.

SPORT NOTICES - Check Online for more notices about Sport and Other Community Groups

Geraldton Rugby Club

Calling for Junior Players - Registrations now open! Training Thursday evening - 5-6pm @ Rugby Park, Chapman Road, Bluff Point (next to the Tennis Club) Fee: $70 (includes a shirt & insurance)

Gummy Sharks: Boys/Girls 4-9 years    Reef Sharks: Boys/Girls - 10-14 years

More information contact Margaret Frick, Geraldton Rugby Club 0407 087 181

Croquet - Learn and Play Now!

Ages 10-16 - Five Sessions $20 - Every Wednesday - 1-29 March, 3.30pm - 5pm

Geraldton Croquet Club, Maitland Street, Geraldton    Register - kaychynoweth@hotmail.com - 0407 196 621

National School Aged Comedy Comp Starts Next Week! No experience needed.

Geraldton Heat - Geraldton Senior College @ 6:30pm Thursday 2nd March

Geraldton Workshops - Mon 27th Feb 3:30pm – 5pm QPT, Wed 1st Mar 3:30pm – 5pm QPT, Thu 2nd Mar 3:30pm - 6pm QPT

Workshop times can be made around these sessions on request

What it is?

Class clowns is the nationwide search for Australia’s newest teen comedy sensation. Every year hundreds of young teens compete for a chance to be flown over to Melbourne to compete in the national final, with a grand prize of $1,500 for themselves and a $1,000 comedy workshop for their school.

Who can compete?

Up to 3 people can perform together so get writing on your scripts or enter solo and reap the glory, as long as you’re aged between 14-18 or are in secondary school years 9-12. Any form of comedy is accepted from sketch acts, stand up, physical comedy, musical comedy. If you think you’re funny and have got your own original material we want you! - See more ONLINE

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