

From the Principal

The A, B, C of Successful Parents

4 November 2009

Week 3 of 8 - Term 4

Blue Mountains Christian School

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The Flyer

Last week when myself, Mrs Hodge and the Kindy class visited the Mothers' Group at Wentworth Falls Anglican Church, I briefly shared with them my passion for effective education and the vital role that Christian schools play in the development of resilient and well rounded graduates who will be able to impact Australia's future. I particularly stressed to the group the vital role parents play in a child's development and shared with them what I call the "ABC of Effective parents."

A is for Absolute and Unconditional Love

Much of what is called love by our society is actually conditional upon reciprocity. That is love, affection, care, passion etc are given on the strict terms that it has to be returned to the giver; otherwise it will eventually be stopped. This can often be a factor in marriage or friendship breakdown when one party feels like they are doing all the giving and are not receiving anything in return. Yet Jesus taught the radical idea of unconditional love when he talked about concepts like "turning the other cheek", "doing unto others" and "going the extra mile". He then dramatically underpinned this radical theory with a most practical demonstration – he died so as to help people who didn't ask for it, who spat on and ridiculed him for doing it and who didn't deserve it. Philippians 2: 1-11 explains it this way:

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favour: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honoured him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honour of God the Father. (The Message)

Don't get me wrong – I believe love should be reciprocal and in a healthy relationship it will be. But unconditional love is a love that wants what is best for another person, without regard to whether they deserve it. It is the kind of love we must have as parents to enable our kids to go into the world and not have to prove their right to exist. It is the love of the father in the story of the Prodigal Son, who cares so much about the beloved, that insults, rejection, lack of appreciation and so on do not deter him from his goal of doing what is best for the one loved. Parents who can do this for their children, free them to step out confidently, cope with setbacks and failure because at their core they know they have intrinsic value – a gift bestowed upon them by their parents. Conversely, I have known other people who never felt their parent's approval and spent the rest of their lives trying to prove their worth and value and yet never quite reaching that elusive goal.

Next week... **B is for Boundaries**

Paul Arundell

Late to School?

If your child arrives late to school, ie. **after 9.15am**, they must come to the school office for a late note.

Will your child be absent today?

For the safety and well-being of your child, would you please call the school (4787 8645) on the morning of your child's absence so that we are confident of their whereabouts.





Diary Dates

7 November

Rhododendron
Festival

9 November

Yr 3/4 to Sydney
Maritime Museum

10 November

Yr 7/8 LOTE excursion
Yr 3/4 to Wycliffe to
visit Penpals

9-11 November

School Cert Exams

12 November

Year 10 Graduation

17 November

Year 7 (2010)
Orientation Day

20-22 November

Family Camp

4 December

Year 6 Farewell

**Thursday 10th
December 2009**

Last day for
Students
Final Assembly

~**~**~**~

**Wednesday 27th
January 2010**

First Day back at
School for all
students



Rhododendron Festival

Celebrating Space...



THIS Saturday 7th November.

Thank you to those students who have returned their participation forms and for student and family members who have indicated their willingness to help out on the day.

Please return forms ASAP as we would like as many people to participate as possible. Remember to dress up in Space themed clothing ready to march behind our rocket! (bus).

***meet on Blackheath Oval near the school bus at 11.30am
in preparation for the 12.30pm march.***

Kindergarten Orientation for 2010

Whether your child is already enrolled for Kindy at BMCS or you have friends with a Kindy aged child who may be interested, please come along to our Kindy Open Afternoon tomorrow (Thursday 5th November) at 2pm.

Meet the Kindy Teacher and look around the classroom, enjoy afternoon tea, meet fellow parents of new Kindy students, and have the opportunity to ask questions and receive further information.

Additional Kindy orientation days will be 10/11, 17/11, 24/11 & 1/12.

Exams

Year 10 School Certificate Exams commence next week from Monday 9th November to Wednesday 11th November. A detailed letter will be going home by the end of the week.

Years 7-9 exams will commence next week from Wednesday 11th November to Friday 14th November. Timetable will be coming home today.



Library Books

It is important that ALL library books are returned by the end of next week. Please check at home for books, especially between your bed and bedroom wall!

Thank you, Mrs Walsh

School Photos

Group photo orders must be made by THIS Friday 6th November.

\$14.00 each - Envelopes available at front office.



What's on at Lunchtime??



Monday

- Bible Study with Mrs Heslop in the Playdays Room
- Gym for Years 3/4

Tuesday

- Photo Club with Mr Randall in the Computer Lab
- Gym for Years 5/6
- Secondary School Choir in the Music Room

Wednesday

- Art Club with Mr Randall in the Art Room
- Gym for Years 7/8

Thursday

- Gym for Year 9

Friday

- Gym for Yrs 10-12
- Bible Study with Amanda Barnes

FRIDAY FUNDAY

Food, Music & the Bali Bebek Stall

When: Friday 6th November 2009

Time: 1pm

Where: Food in the Canteen
Bali Bebek Stall in the Library

- Pizza \$2.00 a quarter or \$7.00 whole
- Drinks \$1.00
- Chips \$1.00
- Lollies 50c

About the Bali Bebek Stall

A selection of items from Bali will be on sale during our "Friday Funday". 50% of the proceeds will support an orphanage and school in Indonesia.

Parents/Carers/Teachers are welcome to shop between the hours of 9am—2pm.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Community Prayer Times Term 4

Mondays 3 - 3.30pm
Fridays 9 - 9.30am
(No prayer meetings in Week 6)

All prayer times will be held in the Playdays Room.

He heeded their prayer, because they put their trust in Him.

1 Chronicles 5:20b



Uniform Reminder

Parents purchasing new shoes for their children over the holidays are reminded that they must be an enclosed shoe in black leather, suitable for polishing. This will allow students to participate in specialised lessons in the Science Lab, Food Tech Room, Design & Technology Room and Art Room, where protective footwear is required. Please refer to the school's Uniform Policy for full details.



School Family Camp



It's almost camp time! 20th - 22nd November at East Beach Holiday Park, Kiama. We're looking forward to a great time of fun and fellowship together!

2010 K-12 Enrolments

Enrolments are still being taken for places in Kindergarten through to Year 12 at Blue Mountains Christian School for 2010.

If you have a child requiring a position for 2010, or you know of friends or family members whose children may require a position, please contact the school office as soon as possible - 4787 8645.



Advent Pageant



Friday 27th November 2009

9:30am Arrive at Cnr Waratah St and Katoomba St

10am Parade: Carol singing and Joseph looking for "Room in the Inn" for Mary

10:30 Christmas Concert - Local school students perform at Carriagfan Square, Katoomba St

11:15-12pm Free festival with face painting, craft, mini circus, games, balloons and nativity photos. All Welcome.

Enquiries: Fusion Blue Mountains 4751 5911



Advent Pageant

Fusion Advent Pageant

What is it? Advent Pageant is a great Christmas event, which reaches out to the whole local community showing them the real meaning of Christmas. It consists of three parts:

The Parade: where local school children parade through local shopping centers, singing traditional Christmas carols and re-enacting the story of the first Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

The Concert: A celebration, after the parade where the students perform a sing, drama or dance.

The Festival: A time for all to enjoy a wide variety of festival activities creating community. It's lots of fun to enjoy with the children or just a good opportunity to talk to people and enjoy the real meaning of Christmas. This is a free event for all.

When: Friday 27th November 2009 (from around 9.30am - 12.30pm)
(Some festivals run a little later than this - please see Co-ordinator for details)

Where: Springwood and Katoomba town centres

How you can be a part of this community outreach:

We need:

- People to sing and walk with young children
- People to play cards on guitar
- Marshals to ensure the safety of the children
- People to help with food
- People to help with hospitality
- People to help with festival activities (face painting, game games, clowns, balloon sculpting, juggling etc.)
- People to help set up and pack up
- People to help with equipment (PA etc.)

To express your interest or ask any questions, please contact:

Dolly Sarvell, Advent Co-ordinator
Tel: (02) 4751 5911 or 0401 555 585



Volunteer Briefing night for Springwood is Wed 26th Nov. Katoomba is Tuesday 17th Nov.

Jellybean Guessing Competition!

Year 6 Fundraiser for end-of-year Formal

For your chance to win a yummy scrummy big jar of jellybeans come to the office and have a guess at how many there are!

*Just 10cents per guess or
6 guesses for 50cents*

STILL OVER 100 NUMBERS LEFT!



2010 Calendars - Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Please return 2010 Calendar order forms to the school office, together with payment and photo/s ASAP. The cost is just \$12 per calendar, and you can order as many copies as you like. Additional order forms can be collected from the front office.