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Volume 3, Issue 2 – Thursday 21 July 2011



CITY OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF CALOUNDRA CITY PRIVATE SCHOOL

Deadline – Tuesday – 3.00pm

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- Junior School News
- Sport News
- Year 5NB News
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- Senior School Leaders News

2011 Term Dates

- Term 1:
- Monday 24th January to Friday 1st April
- Term 2:
- Tuesday 19th April to Thursday 16th June
- Term 3:
- Tuesday 12th July to Friday 16th September
- Term 4:
- Tuesday 4th October to Friday 25th November

Dates To Remember

- Wizard of OZ Musical**
22nd & 23rd July
Sunshine Coast Function Centre
Caloundra
Doors open 7.15pm
Show starts 7.30pm
- Year 11
Semi-Formal
3rd August
- Prep Camp
Currimundi Recreation Centre
3rd August
- Parent Information Evening
Years 10 and 11
9th August

More NZ Ski Trip pics



From the Principal



Where would we be without friends?

For most people, life is made all the more bearable because of friends. Sharing time with someone is a sure fire way to build up a friendship, particularly when we are good listeners. Sharing stories, sharing little snippets of our life, revealing our 'real' self to another person requires a 'leap of faith'. How will someone react when we tell them about a problem worrying us, or sharing a secret that we have kept to ourselves? Fair weather friends may desert us in times like this, but good friends stick by

us until the end. How do we know if it's the end? If it's not okay, it's not the end.

Good friends don't give advice unless we ask for it. Good friends listen more than they talk. Good friends know when to stay silent and when to speak up. Good friends don't make value judgements about our life choices. Good friends, as someone famously said, walk in when others walk out. Elbert Hubbard, author, artist and philosopher, humourously put it this way:

*"The friend is the person
Who knows all about you,
And still likes you."*

Good friends are there when we need them most; they are there on our doorstep when tragedy strikes; they stand by us through thick and thin, particularly when our world is turned upside down. The amazing thing about good friends is that they really don't need to say or do very much at all. Just being there to listen to what has happened can be the greatest comfort of all. Famous philosopher and author, Henry David Thoreau wrote:

*"The language of
Friendship is not words, but Meanings.
It is an intelligence
Above language."*

Good friends show kindness, above and beyond the call of duty and often it's not in grand gestures but in simple acts of kindness that we appreciate the most. Helping out by making a few frozen meals when a friend has a new baby to care for, or offering to pick up our friend's children from school when they are caught late at work. Friends help smooth out the 'bumps' in our lives and ease our burdens and bring greater happiness because they are there for us when we need them most.

One of our parents recently had a very distressing situation, her husband was away and she was confronted by a very agitated and menacing man at her front door. It was a frightening situation and one that was so unexpected in the local area where she lives. Within days, she had received many phone calls, emails and kind words from many of the parents at CCPS. She told me later that she was quite overwhelmed by the kindness and thoughtfulness of her friends and families of CCPS. It made a huge difference to her psychologically to have that kind of support from the school community and she wants to say thank you to all of those friends.

Some friendships happen spontaneously, as if there is an instant recognition of a like mind or personality; there is a connection that transcends time and place. Hard to explain the feeling and explain why this happens but I'm sure there are many experts out there who swear that we connect to people because of their face shapes, or pheromones or personality type or some other chemical or physical attribute. Surprisingly, these friendships are often the most enduring.

Mark Nepo writes in "The Book of Awakening" (no this is not a book about coming out of a coma, rather it is a collection of thought provoking quotes and stories which are motivating and inspiring) about a verse written in the 700s in the Tang Dynasty in China by the great poet Li Po. In the famous poem: "Letter in Exile", Li Po talks about his deep, lifelong friendship with So-Kin of Rakuyo and he explains that even though they have only been together a handful of times, Li Po feels his friend's presence even from afar. He eloquently writes:

*"What is the use of talking, and there is no end of talking.
There is no end of things in the heart."*

Nepo questions how it's possible for two friends who have spent more time apart than together can be such close friends? Yes, life is a mystery in matters of the heart. In spite of so much time apart, another person, who we rarely see, can still shape one's entire life. We are very fortunate if we are blessed by such friends, I know my life has been all the richer because of distant friends.

There is something about travelling to a new country that awakens within us a new perspective on life; it broadens our horizons literally and metaphorically. People we meet overseas are probably no different



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from the people we meet in our daily lives at home but it seems to me, that when you travel with someone away from home or meet new people overseas, we tend to bond more strongly with them. In some ways I think it happens because we realise that we may never have this opportunity again. Our new found friends become all the more precious because we know that what we share in those brief moments of contact or passage of time, we may never experience again.

Our two Scottish exchange students, Isobelle Harrison and Sam Collins return home to Lathallan this weekend and I know that the friendship between the Irvine and Ratcliffe families and other families who have experienced a student exchange this year and in past years will testify to the strong friendships forged. Living with another family, let alone another family in a different country, is a life altering experience and the students at CCPS are very fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of the exchange program to Canada, Scotland and Japan. Izzy and Sam have been outstanding ambassadors for Lathallan School and have involved themselves in every aspect of school life here at CCPS. The Irvine and Ratcliffe families have been wonderful hosts taking the students all over the state and country. The memories of this time will remain with all families for the rest of their lives and I know the friendships will remain forever.

Later this year in August, Jennifer Norton and Deanna Bayliss will travel to Lathallan and Woody Hill and Courtney Morley- Drabble will travel to Rundle College in Canada. All students are very excited by this prospect and are busy making plans and emailing their host families already. The Exchange Program at CCPS is very special because it brings a cultural understanding, divergence in thinking, vastly different experiences from those at home and it widens young peoples' horizons.

With such amazing adventures of new worlds, new cultures, new friends in store for our young people, it is no surprise that lives are altered forever by the experience. At a higher level I agree with Woodrow Wilson who opined:

"Friendship is the only cement that will Ever hold the world together."

Friends support one another and I seek the support of all the families of the School in attending our great musical, "The Wizard of Oz" being performed at the Caloundra RSL this Friday and Saturday evening. Tickets are still available and I know that everyone involved in this wonderful musical will appreciate having a great audience to perform for, to entertain and to enthral. Come along and enjoy one of the most loved musicals of all time.

The challenge for each of us in life is to care for and tend to our friends like we would a garden. We have to pull out the weeds, forget the hurtful words spoken in haste; nourish the friendship frequently with kindness and thoughtfulness. If we can do all of this, then the friendship will blossom and grow over time and with such strong roots this precious friendship will help us and sustain us all of our lives.

"True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation."
(George Washington)

Karon Graham
Principal

Principal's Acknowledgements:

Congratulations to **Jessica Hoskin** for her outstanding effort to run 6th place in the State Cross Country Titles in Ipswich last weekend. Jess will now compete in the National Cross Country titles in Canberra in the near future. Outstanding achievement Jess.

Congratulations to our new Junior School Class Captains:
2/3 LT - **Sara Loughnan** and **Jordan Crockett**
4KR - **Alycia Wilson** and **Riley Pederson**
3,4,5 - **Kayla Murphy** and **Cooper Pointon**
5NB - **Dante Dreyer** and **Gina Clarke**

Good luck to all students, parents and staff in the 'The Wizard of Oz'. 'Break a leg' everyone.



[Visit the Principal's blog, Edutake](#)

Board Shorts

News from the CCPS Board.

Parents and Friends

CCPS is in quite a unique position with the streamlined structure of the

School catering for every age group, from long day care in Pelican's Nest for babies as young as six months to Year 12 which includes the opportunity for university study and school based traineeships within Years 11 and 12.

Next year the school will open a two stream (24 place) kindergarten in the School grounds in the infant precinct. Not only will this provide a high quality enhancement to the school's profile, but it will more importantly see a growth of enrolments in the Junior School to a two stream school.

Many parents will be aware of the massive advertising program on television and radio at the moment to alert parents that Year 7 will move to the secondary school in years to come. At CCPS the move of Year 7 to the secondary school will happen in 2012 in a seamless change. As a result of this change, Year 7 to Year 9 will now be a school within the Senior School and will be known as the Intermediate Years. Teaching and learning will very much reflect the very latest and best, evidenced-based strategies for young people from eleven years of age to 14 years of age.

The Board is committed to providing the very best teaching and learning facilities possible with the very latest technological advantages available and each year, the School continues to expand the facilities. I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents to the upcoming Open Days in early August, where plans of the new Kindergarten will be on display and potential changes to the expansion of facilities on the Revised Master Plan of the School.

Roy Henzell
Board Chair



Senior School News

by Amanda Stuart, Head of Senior School.

School holidays provide the students with the chance to recharge the batteries and reflect on the achievements of the previous term. I trust that over the recent break students and parents have taken time to discuss the Semester One report card and set some achievable but challenging goals for Term Three.

It was heartening to see so many parents taking the opportunity to meet with the senior teachers at the Term Two parent teacher interview night and I hope parents will once again aim to attend the next parent teacher interview night on the 26th July. A booking sheet is available on line. I know that our students benefit from a united approach from both parents and teachers.

Over the last two weeks I have met with the Year 12 students individually to discuss their grade point averages and academic projection. In this meeting I encouraged each student to ask their teachers the question "How can I improve my C+ to a B- or B- to a B+?" In order to achieve a single digit OP score students must be aware that they need be completing at least three hours homework per night. With only 16 school weeks left until Graduation I encourage all our senior students to distance themselves from any distractions and remain focused for the remainder of the semester.

Queensland Core Skills Test

A practice Q.C.S. test has been scheduled for Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th July. Each test paper will be externally marked by Mighty Minds and compared to previous practice tests where all students should see an improvement. The practice test will be quickly followed by the real QCS test on 31st August and 1st September.

Additionally, on Tuesday 9th August the Year 12 students will participate in a whole day Test Wise workshop. This will be facilitated by Steve McCabe, founder of Mighty Minds. Mighty Minds is a highly respected education consultancy company which endeavours to service the needs of students ensuring they obtain their best results possible under test conditions.

Career Education

The five day work experience block is scheduled for all Year 10 students from 5th September to 9th September (week 9). The students have started to write letters to prospective businesses and employers. Special thanks to our Heads of House who are facilitating this process.

Future events this term to assist students decide their future pathways include a series of information nights; where important processes will be explained by Mrs Graham such as the OP and QCE system and teachers will be available for discussion regarding subject selection information. Our first information night will be held on the 9th August and will be for our current Year Ten students moving into Year 11 in 2012.



Junior School News

by Catherine Green, Head of Junior School.

Musical

The students and staff have been working very hard to prepare for the musical. The time for celebration and performance has finally arrived. On Friday and Saturday evening the children will perform *The Wizard of Oz* at the Caloundra Events Centre. If you have not already bought tickets, please do so at the Office. It will be a night to be remembered. Due to copyright regulations, **cameras will not be permitted** during the performance. We have appointed a professional photographer who is taking photos during the dress rehearsals and these will be burned to CD's which will be available for sale through Administration for \$10. Please contact the office to order your CD's.

Teachers as Learners

Over recent weeks our teachers have undertaken significant professional development in a number of areas. This is part of our continual process of professional renewal. All Junior School teachers have been involved in a project that involves improving children's comprehension across the curriculum. This will be an on-going project over the next 18 months and is being led by Mrs Thomas and Miss Hirst. They are trialing many of the new strategies in their own classrooms, with significant gains in student achievement already being made. This week I attended further professional development in this area with Miss Hirst and Mrs Thomas who will lead the staff in upcoming sessions.

Miss Scurfield and Mrs Butler organised a session on the Australian Curriculum at our recent Student Free Day. Next year we move to greater implementation of the new English, Mathematics and Science curriculums.

In coming weeks Mrs Frisby will present to the staff after attending the Gagne conference in Cairns. This is part of another Independent School Queensland project based around enriching and extending gifted students.

It is most inspirational and rewarding to work with a staff of such highly committed professionals. Our teachers are feeling very confident with these new initiatives and are at the forefront of change in education. They are to be commended for their continued commitment to improve and to learn.

Japanese Visitors

Our friends from Seigakuin arrive on Sunday and will be visiting our school next week. Thank you so much to the ten families who have agreed to host a visiting student. We look forward to their visit and I know that they will be warmly welcomed.

Band – Instruments for Hire

Is your child interested in playing a musical instrument? It is with much excitement that I announce that the P and F have purchased four near new instruments that will be available for student hire in Semester Two. These instruments are a clarinet, two trumpets and an alto saxophone. Students from Year 4-12 can see Mrs Butler or myself if they are interested in playing one of these fantastic instruments. To be eligible to hire one of these instruments, students will need to 'sign up' for weekly private instrumental music lessons (see administration for fees and details), they must play in the Band each week and be committed to a semester of hire. The hire fee will be \$45 per semester to cover the cost of servicing. This will be a great way to trial an instrument before deciding whether or not to purchase your child's own.

Concert Band

From Year 4, students at CCPS have the opportunity to take part in the Band program. This program includes all woodwind (eg. flutes, clarinets, and saxophones), brass (eg. trumpets, trombones, and tubas) and percussion (eg. drum kit, xylophones, snare drum, bass drum, keyboard, auxiliary percussion) instruments and is instructed by Mrs Butler and myself. Rehearsals are held each week (excluding the last week of term) from 7.30am-8.15am in the Music room. To be part of the program, students must have their own instrument, through hire or purchase and be taking private lessons (see Administration for bookings). A \$25/semester Band fee covers music, photocopying and resources. The Band has many opportunities to perform throughout the year!

Chess

Due to other work commitments, Mr Butler is no longer able to continue with our School Chess Club and classroom chess. It is envisaged that a new instructor for after school chess will commence within the next week. Parents of children enrolled in the program will be advised of new arrangements as soon as possible.

Prep Playground

Due to a number of safety concerns, the Prep playground will be closed from 3.15pm each afternoon. We have received reports of a number of children playing inappropriately in this area after extra-curricular activities have finished. As it is not supervised by staff at the end of the day, the area will be closed in the interests of the safety of the children.

Do you have a spare child's car seat?

If anyone has a spare car seat that would suit a 6 year old that is not being used anymore and would be available for a short-term loan, please see either Miss Scurfield or myself. We require it to enable families to assist another parent with drop off arrangements due to an ill family member.



Library and I.T. News

Scholastic Bookclub orders are due back by Friday 29th July. Thank you to everyone who supports our Bookclub as our library receives new resources through commission from sales.

Quote of the week: *"This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness."* - Dalai Lama.

Sport News

Congratulations to **Jessica Hoskin** for coming 6th place in the State Cross Country Trials at Ipswich last weekend. An excellent achievement Jess!


Soccer Results

All soccer matches were cancelled due to wet weather last weekend.

Parents & Friends Association Meetings

Next meeting Monday 8th August 6.30pm in the library.
All welcome

Email: pandf@ccs.qld.edu.au



Caloundra City School
Pelican Waters Boulevard
Pelican Waters, 4551 QLD
PO Box 517, Caloundra 4551 QLD
Ph: 5437 5850 | Fax: 5437 5855 | Email: pelicansnest@ccs.qld.edu.au

Year 5NB News

Children in 5NB are exploring a unit of work entitled "What happens when things go wrong?" They will be studying a range of historical and current events where things have 'gone wrong'. In Japanese the students are drawing pictures to send to people living in evacuation centres.

Last term they studied people who changed the world and they have written some very persuasive and well-structured expositions in response to the question: "Can one person really change the world?" These are on display in the 5NB classroom if anyone would like to visit to read these fantastic pieces.

Each student chose an influential person to study and portray for our Term 2 culminating event. People like Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, Edward Jenner, Mother Teresa and Steve Irwin were represented. Some children even dressed up. Students shared their colour printed exposition as well as an interactive biography (on their laptops) of their chosen person. Pictured is Chloe Southern with her project presentation about Mother Teresa.



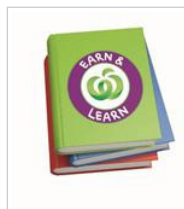
P & F News

Our school is taking part in Woolworths Earn & Learn community program. This year, they are giving away more than \$5 million worth of educational resources for Primary and Secondary schools all over Australia, including ours!

From July 18th to September 18th 2011, Woolworths will give you one Earn & Learn point for every \$10 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards). Points will automatically appear on your shopping docketts. **All you need to do is save those docketts and bring them to school (Woolies have given us a special collection box).** You will be able to track our progress on our points barometer poster at school or online at woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

At the end of the 9-week program, we can redeem our collection of points against a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources. The list is extensive and includes library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more...

There's no limit to the number of points we can collect, so your participation will really make a difference. **The more points we earn, the more resources we can order!**



Senior School Leaders News

It would be hard writing this article without wishing all of the Musical cast and crew all the best of luck for this coming weekend's performances. It is going to be fantastic and a testament to the character of you all. As the saying goes 'Break your leg!'

For many this weekend with the Musical there will be lots of joy but there is a tint of sadness as our Scottish exchange students Sam and Izzy return to Scotland. We thank them very much for their enthusiasm and participation in our school community. Both have contributed to the musical and got 'stuck in' to a variety of activities. We look forward to keeping in touch and we wish you a safe trip home!

Congratulations to our Semester 2 Class Captains who were announced on this week's whole school assembly. We wish you the best of luck in your leadership roles in Semester 2.

As we are already in the second half of the year it is important we reflect on 2011 so far, and what 2011 is going to bring for us at Caloundra City Private School. We are entering the busiest stage of the year for assessment and other activities and encourage students to make the most of Semester 2 and 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road!' (Couldn't help it!)

We wish everyone a fantastic week
Until Next Time,
Rhiannon, Alex, Olivia, Jake
Caloundra City Private School Captains

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