And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (Philippians 4:8)

Welcome to our new school year! Welcome to a Year of Excellence!

A HUGE welcome to our new students and families and an equally HUGE welcome back to our returning school family members. The 2016 school year promises to be a year of implementing exciting ideas and designs.

Firstly, to our new staff member, Miss Amy Dearden. Miss Dearden has taught Mathematics and PD-H-PE at our school in the past, but we welcome her back as Mathematics and Science Teacher for Year 7 & 8. Miss Dearden has some great plans to instil a love of mathematics in our Junior High School students.

We have started the year with 216 students, including 18 new Kindergarten students. We also have eight new students in High School along with two new students in Primary. We are continuing our trend of good growth.

Over this year you will hear a lot about this term “excellence”. So that we all have the same understanding of excellence, I need to write what it means to our school.

Firstly, excellence is NOT perfection. Perfection always uses someone else’s “score sheet”. In 1984, the British ice-dancing duo of Jane Torville and Christopher Dean scored a “perfect” six out of six. The judges were sitting there with their score cards marking them against a checklist of items. A few years earlier in 1976 a Russian gymnast, Nadia Comaneci scored a “perfect” ten out of ten for her routine.

The problem with perfection is that it does not allow for individuality or creativity. It has to be done this way, or that way only (remember the movie Strictly Ballroom!). Excellence allows for individuality, creativity and the idea of a personal best. Not what someone else considers to be the best.

So one of our aims this year is to find ways to encourage our students to perform their best. For the student that struggles, it will be helping them gain the confidence so often needed to improve. For the student that is at the top of their class, it will be helping them to go deeper into their subject content.

For our staff, it will be growing a culture of excellence across the whole school. And not just academically. As teachers, and particularly as teachers in a Christian School we have a responsibility to help our students to grow emotionally and spiritually as well as academically.

One change we made last year that will continue is the overseeing of the High School. Mrs Hope will be responsible for Year 7, 8 & 9, while Mr Ballantyne will be responsible for Year 10, 11 & 12. After the class teacher, these two experienced teachers will be the next port of call. Mr Westcott will still retain oversight of the Primary, but he will also have some K to 12 responsibilities.

A Year of Excellence does not mean that we will do everything perfectly. We will do everything to our absolute best ability.

I am looking forward to the challenges and blessings for our Year of Excellence.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 HSC STUDENTS
The exams are over, the dust has settled, the results are in and the first round of University offers has been made. We had nine students sit their full HSC last year. Of those, six applied to various universities around NSW. I am pleased to say that all six of them received offers to a variety of courses. These included Psychology, Sports Science and Communications (Public Relations). Three students were offered places in University Pathways courses.

I have been asked why our results were not in the local paper. Our school, along with all other schools does not get information about students Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). The only way for schools to obtain that information is for students to supply it to the school. Our students were invited to supply that information to the newspaper, however, none of them took up the invitation.

I can say that we got a nice number of Band 4 and Band 5 results. Teachers will be spending a lot of time analysing the results and looking at ways to fine-tune our processes.

FAMILY BBQ - THIS THURSDAY
Our annual Family BBQ and Information Night will be held this coming Thursday night. Starting at 5:00 pm with a sausage sizzle, this is a great time for our parents, students and teachers to mix in an informal, fun atmosphere. At 6:00 pm we will head into the Hall for a short talk. From 6:15 pm Primary Teachers will be holding a short information session in their classroom. Each teacher will repeat their talk, just in case parents need to get to more than one classroom. The High School information sessions will be held in the Hall.

PARENT – TEACHER INTERVIEWS
These will be held during Week 6 – Wednesday 2 March and Thursday 3 March from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm each afternoon. Bookings will again be done online. Information, including user names and passwords will be sent home soon.

God Bless,
Graham

Year 2 are excited to be back

Some quick pictures from our eager Kindies enjoying their first day
**2016 Term Dates**

Term 1: Wednesday 27th Jan 2016 - Friday 8th April 2016  
Term 2: Tuesday 26th April 2016 - Friday 1st July 2016  
Term 3: Monday 25th July 2016 - Friday 23rd September 2016  
Term 4: Monday 10th October 2016 - Wednesday 14th December 2016

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**TERM 4 CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th February</td>
<td>2016 Welcome BBQ &amp; Info Night from 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th February</td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Sydney Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Sydney Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival @ Orange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>Parent &amp; Teacher Interviews 3.30pm-7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>Parent &amp; Teacher Interviews 3.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>CSSA Primary State Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th March</td>
<td>Rugby League 6’s Gala Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
<td>CSSA Secondary State Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March</td>
<td>PCS Easter Assembly (time to be advised)</td>
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<td>Friday 25th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28th March</td>
<td>Easter Monday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st April</td>
<td>Pink Stumps Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4th April</td>
<td>CSSA Secondary Soccer Trials @ Erskine Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th April</td>
<td>SCHOOL PHOTOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th April</td>
<td>CSSA Rugby Union Trials @ Wollongong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th April</td>
<td>PCS Cross Country</td>
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**Homework Hub 2016 begins Week 4**

High School: Tuesdays 3.15pm—4.30pm

Homework Hub is a great opportunity to spend time working on assessment tasks, homework and general study. Teachers are on hand for students to ask questions, read drafts and assist in your understanding and there is free internet access available.

What more could you want?

Students need to have a note signed by parents/carers to attend Homework Hub. Senior students are encouraged to take advantage of this extra time.

More news on Primary Homework Hub next week.
COMPASSION ICE BLOCKS RETURN

Compassion child sponsorship

Ice-block day is back!
Starting THIS FRIDAY we will be selling Zooper Doopers for 50c at lunch time each Friday of Term 1 – to raise money to support our two Rwandan sponsor children – Nadia and Fiston.

Miss Harris

SWIMMING CARNIVAL UPDATE

Our annual school swimming carnival will be held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 (Week 3), from 9am until 2:30pm. Our regular school buses will pick up students from Parkes High School and drop them at the Aquatic Centre in the morning. K-2 students will return to school at 12pm via the bus. Parents are welcome to drop off their students in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon. Students being picked up or staying at the pool at the conclusion of the carnival will need to provide a note from home to be given to their roll call teacher at the beginning of the carnival, all other students will be taken by buses back to school. Students should dress in their appropriate house colours on the day. (Habakkuk=red, Hosea=blue, Haggai=purple).

Students must also bring the following:
Swimmers, Hat, Towel, Sunscreen, Water, Food and/or money for the canteen
Girls must wear a one-piece swimming costume
Board shorts and rash shirts can be worn, however cannot be worn at the Zone carnival.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there on the day!

PARKES COMMUNITY CHURCH
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
Every Sunday - 10:00 am @ the School Hall
7th February Preacher - Mr Paul Heavers
Get involved in the School Banking program

Parkes Christian School is again offering the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all Primary School students in 2016.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour, the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child an electronic silver Dollarmites token and once they've collected 10 electronic tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

The rewards available during 2016 are:

- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child's birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day for 2016 will be on Thursday. Each week you need to bring your yellow Dollarmites deposit wallet and place it in the grey banking satchel located in your classroom. Would like to know more about School Banking, please contact the school office to speak to Mr Pepper (our School Banking Co-ordinator – Thursday/Friday) or alternatively, ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack located in the foyer of our school office.
Join School Banking on an outback adventure!

Every year the School Banking program launches a new savings theme and 8 new exclusive School Banking reward items.

This year’s program is themed the **Outback Savers** and School Banking is taking students on a wild adventure through the Canyon of Savings, where they’ll learn to master smart saving habits.

There are **8 new reward items for 2016** from the Outback Savers range:

- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

**Win a wildlife family adventure holiday to Australia Zoo!**

This year School Banking is giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their saving goals.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please contact the school office to speak to Mr Pepper (our School Banking Co-ordinator – Thursday/Friday) or alternatively, ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack located in the foyer of our school office.
1st April 2016
Pink Stumps Day

Parkes Christian School
Pink Stumps will be on again this year! We are excited to be part of an amazing fundraising day to support families and raise money for those who are facing a breast cancer experience. Jump online to donate today:

Jane McGrath’s personal experience has seen a team of passionate and dedicated people come together and step up to the challenge of making life for families experiencing breast cancer just a little bit easier.

Until there is a cure for breast cancer, the McGrath Foundation is committed to providing as much support as it can for families facing a breast cancer experience through the funding of McGrath Breast Care Nurses nationally, no matter where they live or their financial situation as well as increasing breast awareness in young Australians.

Miss Peterson

2016
Organisers
Miss Peterson
Mr Pepper
Year 12 PDHPE
**Community Announcements**

**Mitchell Conservatorium**

We wish to advise all parents that we now have Music Studios in Forbes & Parkes for music lessons for all age groups.

Our teaching programs cater for a wide range of instruments, singers and composition students.

Should there be sufficient interest School group tuition can also be offered.

Lessons can be organised for after school or perhaps during school time, for further information please contact Jan or Jane in the Forbes office from midday Monday to Friday 6852-3766 or

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**St George's Anglican Church**

**FRIDAY KIDS CLUB**

$2 (incl afternoon tea)

FRIDAY

6PM - 7PM | STUDY
7PM - 8.30PM | YOUTH GROUP

$2 (includes supper)

Sunday's during Term.

Parent's are welcome to stay for the 9:30am service while kid's are at Sunday School.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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**Lachlan CWCI’s**

“**The BIG Question**”

**Ladies Only Trivia Night 2016**

**Forbes**: 7pm 19th February, Forbes Baptist Church

**Parkes**: 7pm 20th Saturday, Uniting Church Hall

For more information please call: Jacquelyn on 0407 37 37 83

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**Desperately seeking Horse Agistment**

for one waler Mare.

Close to town.

Please call Judy Mugridge on 0418 62 33 96

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**Sparks Kids Club**

**.... starts Thursday 11th February**

Who? Primary Age Kids in Years 3 to 6

When? Thursdays from 4.30pm to 6.30pm during School Terms

What? Games, Bible teaching, Singing, Craft Activity Sheets, Small group chats, more Games AND Dinner is included!!!

Where? Parkes Baptist Church Hall

Corner Currajong & Church Streets

Cost? $3 per child or $5 for a family

Term fees also available

Contact? Julie Layton 0427 606 818 or Jenna Field 0447 250 738

SPARKS is a Kids Club run by Parkes Baptist Church

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**Little Acorns Playing Group**

Tuesdays, 10am—12pm

at St George's Upper Church Hall

From little things, big things grow!

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**Car Hill & Church Streets, PAKES | 6862 1868 (office, 9am—12pm)**

www.stgeorgesparke.wordpress.com | or Anglican Parish of Parkes on Facebook

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**NORMAL SERVICE TIMES:**

PARKES: Saturday 6pm | Sunday 7:30pm & 9:30pm (Family Service) | Wednesday 10am

PEAK HILL: Sunday 9am

BINDOGRANDA: 11:30am 3rd Sunday/month | REEDY CREEK: 11:30am 3rd Sunday/month