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 NLT

Striving for excellence is about doing our best for the right reason – not just for the applause. The last part of our Bible verse for 2016 says:

Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

We are bombarded with so much noise and information that we can become immune to what is influencing us. When our children were younger we made a decision not to watch the news, because it was often full of sounds and images that were anything but excellent or worthy of praise. So to “give” with a spirit of excellence, we need to take in those things that are excellent.

It is not just our projects that speak of excellence, it is also our attitude. Excellence in our attitude, especially when no-one is watching, is how we show our true character. Displaying excellence in our God-given gifts is much easier than showing excellence in the areas in which we struggle. This also includes areas such as patience and self-control. The incredible speaker, the amazing sportsperson, the astounding teacher are people we can and do admire. But what is their character really like? Do they display the same level of commitment in their encouraging of others? Are they supportive of the whole team or of themselves?

Lynne and I recently returned from visiting our youngest son and his wife in the Snowy Mountains. That area has received a lot rain in recent weeks and the country-side looks absolutely beautiful and green. We can sometimes miss the things that are worthy of praise. To see paddock after paddock of green feed, fat sheep and dramatic granite boulders was really something worthwhile to see.

The safety of our students is of paramount importance. Students being picked up of an afternoon will be waiting on the paved “chess board” area. Parents will need to come to this area to collect their children, this includes High School students. I know that this will be inconvenient at times. However, I cannot apologise for being concerned about the safety and welfare of all of our students.

The School Board is well aware of the car park situation and are currently looking into long-term solutions.

God Bless
Graham
2016 Diary Dates

- **Thursday 18th February** - P&F Meeting 7pm PCS Hall
- **Wednesday 24th February** - Year 5 & 6 Sydney Excursion
- **Thursday 25th February** - Year 5 & 6 Sydney Excursion
- **Friday 26th February** - Year 5 & 6 Sydney Excursion
- **Friday 26th February** - Zone Swimming Carnival @ Orange
- **Wednesday 2nd March** - Parent & Teacher Interviews 3.30pm-7.30pm
- **Thursday 3rd March** - Parent & Teacher Interviews 3.30pm - 7.30pm
- **Sunday 6th March** - SCHOOL DEDICATION SERVICE 10am PCS Hall
- **Monday 7th March** - CSSA Primary State Swimming
- **Thursday 17th March** - Rugby League 6’s Gala Day
- **Monday 21st March** - CSSA Secondary State Swimming
- **Wednesday 23rd March** - PCS Easter Assembly (time to be advised)
- **Friday 26th February** - Good Friday
- **Monday 28th March** - Easter Monday Public Holiday
- **Friday 1st April** - Pink Stumps Day
- **Monday 4th April** - CSSA Secondary Soccer Trials @ Erskine Park
- **Tuesday 5th April** - SCHOOL PHOTOS
- **Tuesday 5th April** - CSSA Rugby Union Trials @ Wollongong
- **Tuesday 22nd March** - PCS Cross Country

**Term 1 ends Friday 8 April**  
**Term 2 begins Tuesday 26 April**

Parent Teacher Interviews 2016

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held for Kindergarten to Year 12 from:

3.30pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd March 2016.  
(Interviews will be of 10 minutes duration.)

For these interviews we are using an internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students!

Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. If you do not have a computer available for your use, please contact the school office and speak to Lisa directly to be allocated an interview slot.

Please access the system as follows:

- Go to the school’s home page: [https://www.parkescs.nsw.edu.au/](https://www.parkescs.nsw.edu.au/)
- Click the PTO icon as shown here
- Enter your surname and PIN, that will be sent home with the PTO information sheet

*Full instructions are provided to you after you log in.  
If you encounter major problems, please contact Lisa in the front office.*
BIRTH CERTIFICATES
It is a requirement of enrolment at Parkes Christian School that a copy of your child’s Birth Certificate be provided for each student enrolled. We have been reviewing our records and have identified that there are some students we need a Birth Certificate for. We will be following up on this before the end of Term 1. To apply for a Birth Certificate for a child born in NSW, go to http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Documents/apply-for-birth-certificate.pdf

NEW WEBSITE - PRIVACY
We are currently working on the development of our website for PCS. Photographs from school will be used to create a suite of photographs for our website. As time goes on, other photos taken in the course of your child’s schooling at PCS may appear on the website.

If you have any objection to your child appearing in a photograph on the website (not named) and have NOT notified us previously, please email us before the end of Term 1 at administration@parkescs.nsw.edu.au Subject: Website

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
Parents are reminded that students should not carry medications of any kind with them (with the exception of asthma puffers) without the permission of the Principal. Medications are stored in the School Office and their administration is managed by office staff in accordance with parents’ written instructions.
All medications supplied to the school must be in their original container.

PLEASE NOTE: Written requests (notes) to administer medications must include:

- medication name
- dosage
- dispensing instructions
- expiry date of the request

NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM
Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2016 the following vaccines will be offered:

Year 7 students
- dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
- varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)
- The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home soon to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:
- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child’s school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and (for female students only) link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.
Swimming Carnival Success

Our school’s swimming carnival was held last Tuesday and a wonderful day was had by students, staff and parents.

The hot, sunny conditions were perfect for a swimming carnival and there were also plenty of hot performances in the pool.

Haggai had a return to winning form, as they won both the Primary and Secondary carnivals to end with a comprehensive overall win.

There were also some wonderful individual performances from students including Matthew Prow, Leilani Lavaka, Aron Peters and new student Ally Fryer.

It was also wonderful to see so many students trying their best and supporting their fellow students on the day.

The student behaviour was highly praised by so many!

The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday, 26 February.

To see photos and results from the carnival, make sure you visit the school’s Facebook page.

Find Us on Facebook!

The school’s Facebook is up and running and firing on all cylinders in 2016.

Make sure you like our page to keep up to date on everything that is happening in our school.

From upcoming events, photo albums and flashbacks to past years, our Facebook page has everything covered.

It also allows you to share the good things we are doing here at school and you can also comment and ask questions directly through the page.

Since January, our school’s page has the highest engagement and highest increase in page likes of all schools in Parkes! So make sure you join in the fun!

ICE-BLOCK DAY IS BACK!

Every Friday we will be selling Zooper Doopers for 50c at lunch time of Term 1 – to raise money to support our two Rwandan sponsor children – Nadia and Fiston.
Across the school information

UNIFORM
One of our Terms of Enrolment is that parents agree to comply with PCS guidelines and policies and we greatly value your support in this area. We encourage students to wear their PCS uniform correctly and with pride.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT
We encourage parents to get involved in our PCS community - come to events, help in the classroom, attend info nights. Many opportunities exist to serve at PCS throughout the year.

We really appreciate the prompt return of permission notes etc, to save the time-consuming task of chasing unreturned paperwork. We have a ‘no-note, no attendance’ policy for excursions.

FAMILY BBQ NIGHT
It was so good to see so many families come along and be a part of this annual event. It was particularly nice to see so many of our new families come along and meet with our more veteran families.

K-6 LIBRARY
All students in K-6 will be given the opportunity to borrow from our school library each week in the library and research skills lesson with Mrs Moss. Please remember your school library bag/ homework bag each week to protect our books.

K-2 Wednesday
3-4 Tuesday
5-6 Thursday

SHIRE LIBRARY VISITS
K-4 students attend the Parkes Shire Library twice a term to borrow from their extensive range of books and to experience the displays. Term 1 visits will be:
Tuesday 23 February
Tuesday 22 March

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY
Our K-6 Primary Assembly is held every Monday at 2:20pm. Parents/Carers/Grandparents are most welcome to attend. Our Week 8 assembly will be run by the Year 1 ‘God’s Jewels’ and Mrs Naqau. We can’t wait!

STAGE 3 SYDNEY EXCURSION
A reminder to parents that permission notes for our Sydney excursion have been sent home. The permission note and medical forms were due back last Friday the 12th February. Please send all notes and money to the office. It’s going to be a great trip and we can’t wait to get started!

Years 7-9 “Understanding Assessment and Reporting”
Parent Information Evening
Monday 1st March 2016
7pm
PCS Hall
All parents of Years 7, 8 & 9 are encouraged to attend

PARKES COMMUNITY CHURCH
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
Every Sunday - 10:00 am @ the School Hall
21st February Preacher - Mr Jeffrey Evans
28th February Preacher - Mr Jeffrey Evans
6th March - School Dedication Service
**Helpers for Year 7 Maths**

As you have seen in previous newsletters Miss Dearden our Year 7 & 8 Mathematics Teacher has been asking for assistance during her Maths classes.

Miss Dearden is passionate for her students to gain the best from these classes. Such is Miss Dearden’s commitment in this, her Dad, retired Western Area Manager for RMS has been roped in to help.

Now we really ask that parents and grandparents come in and support Miss Dearden. If you are unsure please call Miss Dearden and she will be only too happy to explain how you can help.

Call the office and get on board with this great opportunity.

**Maths Group Volunteers Roster:**

**Week A**

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**P&F News**

It’s great to be starting another year at PCS and what a great year we are looking forward to. The P and F Committee have big plans for 2016 and we would love it if you could be involved.

We had our first Spring Fair in 2014 and because of its great success, we will be holding another Spring Fair this September.

I know that seems like a long time away, but there is so much to organise we need to start now.

One of the things that often takes a lot of time and preparation is the gardening stall. So if you are a gardener, or you know someone who is, you could start to pot up some plants.

For those who aren’t gardeners, it would be great if you could begin to collect containers for the plants to go in.

We will have a collection day at school for these containers shortly.

We will be posting regular updates about the Spring Fair and ways you can be involved in the newsletter and also on our Facebook page.

If you have ever wanted to be involved in the P and F now is a great time to come along and join us. We need ideas and we need people to put them into action.

This year the P and F meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month in the school hall at 7pm.

**OUR FIRST MEETING FOR 2016 is THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY at 7PM in the SCHOOL HALL.**

Look forward to seeing you there.

P and F Committee

**High School Homework Hub**

**Beginning this week!!!**

High School: Tuesdays 3.15pm—4.30pm

Homework Hub is a great opportunity to spend time working on assessment tasks, home-work 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?
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 send an email to lachlan@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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