FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

NAPLAN testing will be conducted this week – Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th May. This is the text of a letter I sent home last term to all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 parents.

I am sure that over the past few weeks and months ahead NAPLAN related articles will be regular features of media reports. Some will criticise the process, while others will be very favourable of the process. Regardless of the media frenzy that can occur I would like to make a few points about NAPLAN.

NAPLAN is a one-day snapshot of a student. It gives the school information about how a student performed on a given day.

Every child, no matter their strengths and weaknesses, is seen by our teachers as much more than a score on a piece of paper. The Bible tells us that each child is a precious gift and is a deliberate and intentional creation of a loving God.

NAPLAN results are of some value to a school. They can help to identify areas of need, as well as areas of strength.

At Parkes Christian School we are more concerned with the growth that each child makes over the two-year period between testing. This is the part that is not reported in NAPLAN of MySchool websites. Nor do they indicate the starting point for a child. Two students can end with the same result but for one student they have been able to coast along, while the other has had to work extremely hard to get the results that they achieved.

NAPLAN only looks at a very narrow set of skills. There are a whole range of skills that NAPLAN does not and cannot assess. They do not measure creativity, leadership, compassion, respect, sense of humour, communication skills, perseverance, critical thinking, resilience, self-discipline, courage, resourcefulness and enthusiasm. I want each child to do their best without feeling pressured. There is more to life than NAPLAN.

Also, thank you to all of those parents who have returned their child’s information update forms. We are validating and updating information as quickly as we can. Some of our staff will be undertaking further training next week in Edumate, our new student and learning management system. If you have not returned the forms yet, could you please do so as soon as possible.

With cold and flu season fast approaching, if your child is unwell in the morning, please keep them at home. I ask this for two reasons. Firstly it gives the child a better chance of getting over it quickly and secondly it prevents the spread of sickness through the classroom.

God Bless

Graham

REMINDERS TO PARENTS:

Please do not enter classrooms or the playground without first signing in at the Office. We ask that this be done as a matter of safety for everyone in our school. You may think that you will only be there for a few minutes, but unfortunately, a lot can happen in a few minutes. It is imperative that we keep everyone involved in our community feeling safe and secure.

N.B Please note that the Athletics Carnival has been changed to Friday 24th June. Unfortunately this was out of our control. We appreciate your understanding.

Lunch order bags for the day will be sent home with students shortly.
Term 2 Dates

Monday 9th May - Life Education Van visiting (primary)
Tuesday 10th May - NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 & 9)
Wednesday 11th May - NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7, & 9)
Thursday 12th May - NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 & 9)
Tuesday 17th May - ICAS Digital Technologies
Wednesday 18th May - NSW Netball All Schools Cup Parkes
Tuesday 24th May - K-4 Shire library visit
Friday 27th May - CSSA Primary & Secondary State Cross Country
Monday 30th May - Year 9 & 10 Half Yearly Exams start
Tuesday 31st May - ICAS Science
Monday 6th June - Year 7 & 8 Half Yearly Exams start
Monday 13th June - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 14th June - K-4 Shire library visit
Wednesday 18th June - ICAS Spelling
Friday 24th June - Athletic Carnival

Term 2 begins Tuesday 26 April
Term 2 ends Friday 1 July

PARKES COMMUNITY CHURCH
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
Every Sunday - 10:00 am @ the School Hall
22nd May Preacher - Mr Jeffrey Evans
29th May Preacher - Mr Jason Wynstra
**Food Bank Meals**

PCS has a Food Bank for families that are going through a tough time or may just need a little help.

Our Food Bank is low at the moment and we are asking if any parents could please make meals to help restock this important ministry of the school.

We have foil trays available for you to use, and we can also help answer any queries you may have about meals.

If you are able to help out in this area, please come and see Lisa in the office.

Many hands make light work.

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**CWA Public Speaking Competition**

Topics are now available for this competition which will be held on Tuesday 31st May at the Wiradjuri Study Centre in Condobolin.

The topics are as follows:

**Year 3 and 4:**
- I just don’t understand
- I can’t wait
- ‘Whatever happened to my kitchen?’ said Mum.

**Year 5 and 6:**
- If I could be someone else
- Family matters
- Sport is a health hazard

**Year 7 and 8:**
- Overcoming Barriers
- Books vs IPads
- Pictures

**Year 9 and 10:**
- Living between cultures
- Making the best of it
- Tomorrow

More information is available from your Primary class teacher or Miss Harris for High School.
Encourage your child to prepare and practise a speech. This is a great opportunity to develop essential speaking skills. Two students will be selected from each stage to represent our school.

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**Lemons**

When life gives you lemons give them to the Christian School!

If you have any lemons growing wild on your tree from now until the Spring Fair in September we will gladly take them off your hands.

The school is making lemonade and would greatly appreciate your donations of lemons. They can either be dropped into the office at anytime or if you’re feeling up to it, they can be squeezed and the juice can be brought in in a zip lock bag. Any questions be see Hollie Oates.
K-2 Excursion to Western Plains
Zoo Dubbo

What a great day we had last Friday when Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 went to the zoo as part of our Term 2 Units in Science and Man in God’s World. The bus trip was part of the excitement and we made it all the way to Peak Hill before someone asked “are we there yet?” Rain was forecast for the day however God delivered the most perfect day for exploring the zoo. First stop was the rhinos and one of the crowd favourites, the Meercats. These cute inquisitive little critters entertained the kids with their interesting mannerisms. We were truly blessed that all the animals were up and awake and close to the edge of the enclosures. Giraffes, Hippo’s, Cheetahs and Tigers were all on show and you couldn’t help but marvel at the creativity of the Creator with such beauty and diversity in the animal kingdom. Another highlight was the Otters and we arrived just in time for the trainer talk and feed which saw lots of jumping and squealing and excitement as they swam and climbed and jumped right in front of us.

We had a beautiful picnic on the lawn before going to see the pride of lions looking magnificent and stately. Great roars of laughter and screams were again heard when we reached the Siamang monkeys and enjoyed the show they put on for us. We saw many other animals both Australian and exotic as we enjoyed a beautiful day together at the zoo.

The final stop was a play in the playground before boarding the bus on our way home.

God again blessed us with the weather as within minutes of the children getting picked up at school the rain teemed down with that wonderful and much needed rain we all enjoyed on Friday and Saturday.

Thank you to the parents who came and helped on the day, Debbie Lasserre, Judy Kelly, Christine Drew and Trudy Lamont. Thank you also to Mrs Richards, Mrs Naquau, Mrs King for their part in making the day joyful and successful.

Mr Drew.
SPORT UPDATE

PINK STUMPS DAY
Last term Parkes Christian School hosted a Pink Stumps day in order to raise money and awareness for breast cancer under the McGrath Foundation. This year we raised a total of $1,066.40 which is an amazing effort on behalf of our school! This money will help to assist those who are going through breast cancer, money towards breast cancer nurses and also research for a cure.

We had a fantastic day playing cricket, interacting with students from different year groups, enjoying face painting and a lovely lunch.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out on this day, especially those who helped out in the kitchen organising and preparing all the food, and all the teachers who helped out on the day.

We look forward to making Pink Stumps Day even bigger and better next year!

7/8 BOYS CRICKET
Towards the end of last term our 7/8 boys cricket team played a friendly competition against Dubbo Christian School. Dubbo travelled over to Parkes for the day and the match was held down at the local cricket fields.

Unfortunately Dubbo’s team was too strong for us, however our boys held their heads high and played some fantastic cricket. Well done to our 5/6 boys who helped out on the day to make up numbers for our team! Some great batting was seen on the day, and our boys had fun practising their bowling and fielding skills.

We look forward to heading over to Dubbo in Term 4 for another match against Dubbo!

CROSS COUNTRY
Cross Country was held on the last day of term 1 with some fantastic results from our students this year! Thankfully the weather held off for the morning so that events could still go ahead.

Well done to all our students who competed on the day. I am so proud of all your efforts and after collaborating each age group’s times and places, have ended up with 50 students qualifying for state cross country this year!

Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day, the teachers who were stationed around the course, the parents who helped out and the students who willingly helped out on timekeeping and recording; all of your efforts are thoroughly appreciated!

I look forward to hearing how all our state runners go!

CSSA SOCCER TRIALS – SYDNEY
Jacob Mitchell has been entered into the try outs for the CSSA State Soccer team for selections into CIS. He will have try outs on Friday 6th May and we wish him all the best and look forward to hearing how he went!

CSSA RUGBY UNION AND AICES
Well done to Aron Peters and Ethan Peters who have been selected to play rugby in the upcoming AICES competition later in May! We are so proud of your both and you’re sporting commitments and wish you all the best and look forward to hearing how you go!

FAR WEST ZONE SOCCER TRIALS
Currently we are looking at entering teams into a trial gala day for selections into the CSSA State Soccer Gala Day held in Penrith in Week 1, Term 3! The gala day if it goes ahead will be against other Christian schools in our Zone area. Keep your ear out for any team try outs and further information about the day if it goes ahead. Thank you to all the students who have already shown an interest in part of the day.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL IS NOW FRIDAY 24TH JUNE, WEEK 9
Bring your winter woollies as it will be nice and cold!

FRIDAY SPORT
I have organised for the next 2 terms for our year 7-10 students to be heading to the PCYC for our Friday morning sport. The PCYC have kindly offered to help organise the sports over the next two terms which should see our students being exposed to a wide variety of sports/activities. Just a reminder that your PCYC form needs to be returned to me if you haven’t done so already.

UPCOMING SPORT AT PCS

**Wednesday 18th May** – NSW State Netball Gala Day (years 5-8, here in Parkes)

**Sunday 22nd May** – Rotary Fun Run Parkes

**Friday 27th May** – State Cross Country

**Thursday 16th June** – Touch Football Gala Day (year 7-8 Dubbo)

**Friday 24th June** – Athletics Carnival

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING SPORT NOTES BACK

State Cross Country (Even if you’re not attending)

Netball Gala Day (years 5-8)

PCYC form

Miss Peterson
Sport Coordinator
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**doug richards is**
**dr.music**

**TUITION • GUITAR • BASS • DRUMS • VOCAL**
Home: 02 68626562 • • • • Mob: 0421 416 261
E: dr.music@live.com.au

**sparks kids club**

*.... returns Thursday 28th April*

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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**Parkes Christian School is looking to increase its pool of Christian casual teachers for both day-to-day and block relief. Teachers are needed for both Primary and Secondary Departments as well as across all Key Learning Areas.**

Please email employment@parkescs.nsw.edu.au or ring the School Office (6862 4164) for an application pack.