News From Our Principal

If the last few weeks have taught me anything it is:

- Life is full of the unexpected. (As woody Allen said: 'If you want to make God laugh – tell him your plans');
- The importance of my Faith; and
- I am not ready to retire.

I have returned to full duties having fully recovered from unexpected surgery. In my absence, Mr Richard Chapman filled the role of Principal with great competence, having no time to prepare. Even more importantly, given that Mr Hicks was away for a curriculum conference in the final week. Mr Chapman maintained his responsibilities as Deputy Principal Pastoral Care, with additional support from the Heads of House and others in the Pastoral Care Team. I know how fortunate I am to be able to have such a willing and competent staff to rely on in such circumstances. Thanks also to those who prayed for me.

My first outing during my recuperation was to travel to the College to offer moral support to our SATIS basketball team (pictured on page 4) who, for the second year in succession, have been crowned the state wide champions. Last year, due to pastoral circumstances, the College shared the title with Guilford Young College. This year we again played GYC and held our nerve for a come-from-behind win. Congratulations to the team, and to the Coach, Mr Steven Ryan, and Manager, Ms Kate Merry. Thanks also to Grant Whiley and Cameron Hingston (10 L6) for such a competent display of refereeing. (Recently, there was a good article in The Advocate on Cameron's ability as a referee, and we have seen him excel in this role.)

The previous evening, the College prefects, with the support of their mentor, Bridget Leary, conducted the College's 15th Annual Talent Quest. Congratulations to those who performed. All feedback I received was that every item was of high quality, meaning that the winners have excelled in a very talented competition.

Individual NAPLAN reports arrived today and will be made available to parents in the very near future. I would endorse Mr Chapman's comments in his newsletter article prior to the holidays. It is sad that Governments think that NAPLAN data provides accountability. Experience overseas has shown that all such action does is limit the scope of education. I express this, knowing that the College has performed well. However, I feel a responsibility to the broader educational community. In my article of 4 July, I reported on feedback on this from the Intentional Confederation of Principals' conference that I was attending at the time.

Our best wishes will travel with the SATIS athletes who travel to compete in Launceston this Saturday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bridget Leary, whose grandfather died on Monday and whose funeral was held yesterday, and to Ms Jacqueline Austin whose father died on Tuesday night.

Mr Frank Pisano
Principal

... I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, ‘Let us start rebuilding’. So they began this good work – Nehemiah 2:18

We must reach out with love—the love of Christ—to those who know the pain of failure in marriage, to those who know the loneliness of bringing up a family on their own, to those whose family life is dominated by tragedy or by illness of mind or body. – Pope John Paul II
Year 11 and 12 Students
All senior students have two more weeks of formal classes. Pre-tertiary subjects will continue during swot vac.
Senior exams begin on Monday November 11. All students have received The Student Guide to External Assessments 2013.

Study Hints
Students need to commit to a study timetable.
The best study is active study. Information will not go in just by reading notes or a textbook. Students should make their own notes, highlight important concepts and definitions, create their own concept maps and tests and practice writing answers.
I find using numbers and colours useful. If similar material is highlighted in the same colour and then the bits are chunked together it is a useful way of ordering material. Numbers can be used instead of colours.
Exams will not ask for knowledge only. They will require students to be able to analyze and evaluate materials and apply their knowledge to real-life situations. Addressing the criteria being assessed is essential.
At home students should ensure they get enough sleep. Cramming does not work!

“Poverty is more than simply a lack of money. It is multi-dimensional: it concerns access to health, education, social services, human rights, freedom, life opportunities and the ultimate goal of the development enterprise – happiness. The reality is that the most disadvantaged in the world suffer deprivation in many different ways. The hungry, those affected by disasters and conflict, those living with disabilities or HIV and AIDS, those on the move, and Indigenous populations, are some of these faces of the poorest of the poor.”

From the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Social Justice Statement 2013-2014: Lazarus at our Gate: A critical moment in the fight against world poverty.
Dear Parents

Year 10 Students need your help.

We are looking for parents or friends of the College who may be able to help us give our Year 10s a great experience during their Mock Interviews in November.

In particular, we are looking for about 15-20 adult volunteers who would be available to give of their time on Wednesday 20th November. During this time the students will be participating in mock interviews for a particular job advertisement for which they have chosen to apply. We will have an interview panel interview each student. The process will include a list of interview questions, so you do not need to be an experienced interviewer.

So if you are able to give a few hours of your time and you would like to get to know some Year 10s a bit better and help our Year 10s build on their strengths in the interview process, we would love to have your help.

If you’re able to assist, please fill out the slip below and return it to the College. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tanya Rataj
Careers and Pathways Coordinator

(Please return to Mrs Tanya Rataj)

I would be willing to volunteer to help during the following times (please tick):

- [ ] Wednesday 20th November 10:50am – 1pm
- [ ] Wednesday 20th November 1:30pm – 2:50pm OR
- [ ] Wednesday 20th November 10:50am – 2:50pm (lunch will be provided)

Name: __________________________

Connection to the school: (e.g. My son, Fred, is in Year 10):

______________________________

Contact phone number: __________________________
Science Summer School for Year 9 & 10 Students

The ConocoPhillips Science experience is a three day hands on Science activities program being conducted in 32 universities and tertiary institutions around Australia. In Tasmania, the program is being offered at UTAS Hobart (Jan 14-16) and Launceston (Jan 28-30).

These programs are designed for students in years 9 & 10 and are designed to engage and inform students about science and technology as well as heightening their interest in a wide range of Science disciplines. We are lucky enough to have sponsorship support from the Rotary Club of Devonport North for the three day sessions.

Details of the program can be found at www.scienceexperience.com.au or from Mrs Hicks in the Science Faculty office.

Mrs Kelly Hicks
Science Faculty Head

Little Athletics

Devonport Little Athletics commences Saturday 26th October, 8.30am at Girdlestone Park, East Devonport. Little Athletics covers a range of running (sprints and distance), throws and jumps events for 5 to 15 year olds. Enquiries to devonport@taslittleathletics.com.au or phone: 0459 031 750.

SATIS Basketball Champions

Back: Mr Steve Ryan (Coach), Casey Little, James Clements, Kobe Banham, Harry O’Neill
Middle: Steve Artiga, Connor Hind, Mitchell Barker, Henry Callander
Front: Matt Zerna, Ryan Cook, Tyler Kelly
Why finishing 4th beats winning

We all love to see our kids be successful. But maybe it’s their struggles rather than their wins that will set them up for future success.

Everyone wants to win. We want it for ourselves. We want it even more for our kids.

It’s great to see the smile of satisfaction on a child’s face after winning a game, a race or finishing on top of the pile in any endeavour.

Winning feels good. It means they’re doing well. It’s equated with success.

It’s a good habit to develop ... or so the theory goes.

But winning is just one part of the story.

Not finishing first carries emotion too, though it’s not necessarily positive.

It’s good for kids to experience disappointment, annoyance and frustration just as it’s good for them to experience positive emotions.

It’s good to learn when you are young that bad feelings happen, but they don’t last. This is a valuable life lesson.

Not winning also teaches kids that there is a link between success and effort. It teaches them that perseverance pays off eventually.

Helping kids to accept setbacks and unpleasant emotions, rather than blocking them out, is the key to building their resilience.

What about the child who never wins?

Some children seem to never win, or hardly ever do. A friend has a child who always seems to have 4th place sewn up in any race – just missing a ribbon – unless he is trying to get into a four person relay team, in which case he finishes 5th.

As a caring parent my friend works hard keeping her son’s chin up year after year. And that’s what she has to do. I suspect her son will learn the value of struggle. But it will pay off in his adult life when he understands that persistence is a fabulous asset.

So if you have a child who continually comes 4th (figuratively as well as literally) here are some strategies you can focus on:

1. Encourage liberally; Stanford University professor Carol Dweck (who has written a great deal on this very topic) encourages parents to use process praises: “You used smart strategies”, “You worked hard on that one”, “You thought long and hard to work that problem out”. She says this helps kids value effort and work for longer-term results.

2. Focus on struggles, not just on victories: Your focus as a parent reveals your values. If you value effort and struggle then you need to be on the lookout for these so you can applaud them. If winning is all you value, then you’ll only focus on that. There is a choice here.

3. Share stories of struggle and overcoming adversity: Whether it’s stories from your own life (kids love to hear about when their parents struggled) or stories from public news and sport, inspire and encourage your kids with the narratives of the struggles of others.

It’s easy as a parent to get caught in the winning trap. We sometimes just get carried along with the hype.

But maybe, just maybe, finishing 4th is better for kids in the long term than always being a winner.