Welcome back to all students and families.

We also welcome for the first time the following families and hope you feel part of us very quickly.

**Phillip and Katrina Edwards** : Jack – Year 4, Rebekah – Year 2

**Barny and Florence Dzowa** : Rufaro Dzowa – Year 1, Tadiwa Dzowa – Year 5

**Riaan and Isabelle du Plessis** : Elowyn du Plessis - Kindy

This year Grace Christian School celebrates 22 years of operation, beginning in 1990 with 27 students and blossoming to almost 500 students in 2012.

Enrolments for 2013 – 2017 are now being accepted and we encourage any school families with children who would be attending Kindergarten during these years to contact the school a.s.a.p. - as positions are filling.

I am encouraged and excited about the term that lies before us. With a busy calendar of events complementing the education programme, I look forward to what the Lord has in store and the work our students will be completing.

Our teachers are eager to bring high quality Christian perspective to all aspects of their teaching and within the next two weeks I hope to see all parents taking advantage of the offer to meet with their children’s teachers during the Teacher/Parent evenings.

NAPLAN tests are scheduled to take place from May 14th to May 18th. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will sit tests in Literacy and Numeracy. The results of this national testing programme are beneficial to our school and the individual. It is essential all students attend on the testing days and strive to achieve their very best.

In addition to NAPLAN we use a number of other standardized tests which assist us further refine our school programmes; general and individual.

These tests include; “MSE 9”, “Even Years”, “Easy Mark” and a variety of spelling, vocabulary and grammar tests.

On Tuesday the 24th of April, I had the privilege of attending Grace Christian School’s ANZAC ceremony. It was every pleasing to see the conduct of our students and the respect they afforded the occasion. Thank you to Mr Neville Paulette the key organiser, and Mr Terry Barker (member of the local RSL) who spoke to our students on the meaning of ANZAC. Special thanks to Mr Lane and our Prefects for their individual contributions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, parents and students who represented the School at the recent ANZAC march. It was wonderful to see Grace Christian School leading the procession in their school uniform. Thank you to Mr Mike Shaw and his wife Merrilynne for coordinating our involvement. The wreath was laid by our Head Boy : Hayden McDonald and Head Girl : Leanne Broisma. Grateful thanks too, to Mrs Kath McQuade for making the beautiful wreath which was used both at the ANZAC Assembly and ANZAC Day Parade.

Hugo de Ridder : Principal
Senior School News

Secondary Examinations

All secondary students write examinations at Grace Christian School. These examinations form an integral part of the assessment process and take place in Term 2 and Term 4 each year.

The philosophy behind having students sit examinations from Year 8 in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Society & Environment, is to equip students with a sound understanding of exam protocol, assist them in overcoming exam stress through the familiar routines of sitting exams under formal conditions, and prepare them for the rigours of studying large chunks of information. This term examinations will take place during Week 7 (5 - 8 June) for students in Years 8 - 10.

Year 11 and 12 students will also sit exams on Friday 1 June and Monday 11 June. All students will be provided with a personal timetable to paste in their diaries and letters will be sent home next week for parents, with further details pertaining to the examinations. Students must sit examinations during the prescribed exam period and absences will need to be covered by a medical certificate.

Any queries can be addressed to Mrs Hackney.

Mrs Diane Hackney : Head of Senior School

School Community News

Uniform - Reminder

Students are reminded to ensure they are wearing the correct school uniform (WINTER). Shoes should be polished and hair must meet the school’s dress code. Regular ‘Uniform Inspections’ will be performed and students breaching the code will be noted.

All secondary students should by now have the school tie reflecting the new school logo.

Students, please note: The Winter and Sports uniform are not to be worn concurrently, with one exception: On very cold days, Secondary students are permitted to wear their Secondary Tracksuit jacket over their school jumper. Alternatively, our Navy Grace wet weather jackets may be worn.

Parent’s Library Shelf - Grace Resource Centre

Parents are encouraged to visit our library and borrow books. A dedicated section “only for parents”, has shelves filled with books and resources covering a wide range of topics including parenting tips, and how to cope with family issues such as bereavements. There are also valuable parenting resources from toddlers, to teenagers and their changing habits etc.

All parents are eligible to borrow books free of charge. For more information, please speak to our Librarian, Mrs Megan Reynolds.

Parent - Teacher Interviews : 3rd May and 8th May (Weeks 2 & 3 of Term 2)

The next round of Parent/Teacher interviews can be booked through our PTO online system as usual.

All parents are urged to attend these sessions. Details have been mailed home, including each family’s log-in details.

Appointments are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, and as only limited time slots are available, please book your interview a.s.a.p. to avoid disappointment.

Should you require further information, please contact the school office.

Enrolments : Kindergarten, 2013

Places in our Kindergarten 2013 classes are filling quickly.

We invite existing parents to submit an ‘Application to Enrol’ ASAP for their children who will commence Kindergarten next year.

Applications may be downloaded from the school’s website or collected from the office.

For further information, contact Mrs Marie Waite on 9726 4200 or email admin@grace.wa.edu.au

School fees - now due

School fees are due by Friday, 4th May. Payment can be made by Credit Card (in person or over the phone); Direct debit; cheque or cash.

For any queries relating to your school fees, please speak to Mrs Fiona de Ridder (Bursar)

Family Portrait Fundraiser - last curtain call

Our Family Portrait Photo fundraiser has gone really well with 58 families booking for Portraits over the two days Friday, 4th and Saturday, 5th May. This means we have raised $1160 so far.

We need two more bookings to qualify for a Digital camera for the school, so if you can spare $20.00 for a fantastic family portrait, please contact Mrs Lea McDonald a.s.a.p.

Limited sittings are available on Friday, 4th May and Saturday, 5th May.

“Give a can” - Salvation Army / Rotary Appeal

All families are invited to share in this annual food raising appeal. All non-perishable foods may be dropped of at the school office in the bins provided. Last day for collection is 25th May.

Rio Tinto - Big Science Competition

In 2012, the Science Department will provide opportunities for a few selected students to challenge themselves in the big science competition.

This one-hour competition is open to students of all abilities at three different levels: Junior (Years 7 and 8), Intermediate (Years 9 and 10) and Senior (Years 11 and 12). Questions (developed by Australia’s leading test developer: the Australian Council for Education Research) are aligned to the Australian Curriculum - Science and test students’ critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well their science knowledge.

Each student will receive a Certificate as well as detailed feedback on their performance in the competition. Each participating student also goes into the draw to win prizes including iPod Touch’s, iTunes vouchers and Movie vouchers.

Our school will receive a comprehensive report for each paper level showing how each student performed on each question, the percentage of students in the cohort who answered correctly.
and a comparison with the national results. Each participating school also goes into the draw to win interactive science tools for the classroom.

The Big Science Competition will be held on 23rd May.

The Big Science Competition is run by Australian Science Innovations Inc., a not-for-profit organisation promoting learning science by engaging students and encouraging their natural enthusiasm. To access sample questions or to find out more about the competitions, please visit their website: www.asi.edu.au

Grace Christian School Busy Bee.
The next School Busy Bee is scheduled for Saturday, 19th May.
Our school Busy Bee is a great way to meet other families and to serve your school community. All families are eligible for a $75 credit to their school fees just for attending.

Registration forms are available through the front office and have been emailed home.

The day starts at 8.30am (Registration from 8.15am). We enjoy a shared morning tea at 10am and the morning concludes at 12.30pm. There are numerous ways to assist from administration type jobs, painting, sewing, gardening, cleaning, water blasting, carpentry, art work, classroom assistance, library duties. “You name it, and we probably need it”

Busy Bee’s are held only twice per school year, and bring all our school families together to work and fellowship alongside one another.

Please diarise our next two Busy Bee dates to avoid missing this very special time of building our school’s community.

- Term 2 : Saturday, 19th May
- Term 4 : Saturday, 3rd November

Camp Grace - Working Bee

Next weekend – Friday 4th, Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th May, we need a team of about 6 capable people to help Rocky reclad the bunkhouses at Camp Grace. This will involve removing the old corrugated iron sheeting from the walls and roof. Then replacing with new colour bond sheets.

This work is required to upgrade the buildings to meet current Council requirements and as part of our plan to upgrade the facilities at Camp Grace. The bunkhouses are an essential part of our group & school accommodation and it will be good to give them a makeover.

If you have suitable skills (i.e. can use a drill and a few hand tools) Rocky would love to hear from you. There is free accommodation for all workers and families so you might want to make a weekend of it. Your help will be really appreciated and the improvement to our campsite will be very worthwhile.

Please call Rocky if you are available, on 9755 4014 or 0412271280; email: campgrace@westnet.com.au

Community News

POSITIONS VACANT

Primary Teacher 0.4 FTE
Start : A.S.A.P.

Grace Christian School is an independent Christian school affiliated with Christian Schools Australia, catering for approximately 480 students from K - 12.

The successful applicant will be a committed Christian in regular church fellowship, who is an experienced Primary School teacher, keen to support the school and its parents in providing expert tuition for an education of excellence, taught from a Christian worldview.

Enquiries and requests for an Application Form and Position Description, should be made to:

Principal’s Assistant, Mrs Lea McDonald
Email: lmcdonald@grace.wa.edu.au

Applications close : 4pm, Wednesday, 2nd May, 2012

Car boot sale - Bunbury Church of Christ, Timperly Road

When : Saturday, 5th May : 9am - 1pm
Sellers : $1.0 per bay
Bouncy Castle, Café, Sausage sizzle, Cake & Jam stall

Winter Tennis Coaching clinics - All welcome

Bunbury Tennis Club are building up their programme and invite all children from 4 years old upwards, to join one of their many coaching groups. FREE Junior tennis racquet when you sign up for a Junior programme.

Further details are available at : www.tennisexcellence.com.au or call 1300 424 544.

Every Parents Dream – Eating Safely to invite you to the Fed Up Roadshow presented by Sue Dengate.

Sue Dengate, leading additive campaigner and researcher, will be giving 19 talks from Rockhampton to Perth in May and June this year. More than 4,000 people are expected to attend.

The focus for the talks will be on the way in which major supermarkets seem to be cleaning up their foods and removing preservatives and MSG while adding them in other ways, often as innocuous-sounding ingredients (i.e. Yeast Extract). The talks will help give you an insight into what is happening in the food industry and how food ingredients can affect children’s learning behaviour.

- Perth (Willeton) WA Monday 18 June
- Perth (Claremont) WA Tuesday 19 June
- Bunbury WA Wednesday 20 June


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