Grace Notices

In December of 2011, the Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable, Minister for Education, announced two decisions that will significantly impact schooling in Western Australia.

While it could be argued this may not be groundbreaking news it is important that we are reminded of these changes as they hold a number of implications for us as a school, and for you as parents.

The first decision relates to Year 7 students in public schools who, as of 2015, will become part of the secondary schooling system.

The second decision relates to Pre-Primary students. In 2013, Year 1 will no longer be the first year of compulsory schooling with this mantle now falling on Pre-Primary student’s shoulders.

- Year 7 becoming part of the secondary school:

Over the past few years Grace has initiated the transition of Year 7 students into the secondary school. The Year 7 programme, whilst essentially remaining with a core teacher, does include specialist teachers in the areas of Languages other than English (LOTE), Physical Education, Science, and Technology & Enterprise. A greater emphasis on the Australian Curriculum has taken place with full implementation of phase one occurring in 2013.

Planning is underway for the full implementation of Year 7 students into secondary by 2015.

There is a sound argument for Year 7 students becoming part of the secondary programme; the least not being that they are at least six months older than their predecessors since the school age entry changed some years ago. In fact close to half of the students now celebrate their 13th birthday during Year 7. Students in most states of Australia of Year 7 equivalent age, are already participating in a secondary programme and these changes will align us with the rest of Australia as we begin to share a common curriculum.

- Compulsory Pre-Primary:

Western Australian government statistics quoted by Dr Constable and the Premier, Mr Barnett at the time, indicated that in excess of 97% Pre-Primary aged students are already enrolled in schools.

The decision to make Pre-Primary the first year of compulsory schooling in 2013, has obviously been heavily influenced by the introduction of an Australian Curriculum.

This decision has necessitated changes for us as a school with a percentage of the Year 1 programme being drawn into the Pre-Primary syllabus and the increase in hours from three to five full days, to list a few. The implications for parents will be that all children of this age will now need to be in attendance at a school and the acceptable reasons for absences must meet the same criteria as that of Year 1 -12 students.

NEW - Uniform Shop Opening Times (TERM 3)
- Monday: 8.15am - 9.00am
- Tuesday: 3.00pm - 3.45pm
- Thursday: 3.00pm - 3.45pm
- Friday: 8.15am - 9.00am
Another consequence is that parents who preferred to keep their children at home ‘till they reached the age appropriate for Year 1, are now required to send their children a year earlier to school.

My prayer is that our programmes and the partnership between home and school will make the transition to compulsory schooling as smooth as possible however, it will never and should never be the goal of a school or body to remove from parents the responsibility of raising their children, no matter what age they are.

End of Semester - As this is the final week of Term 2, I take a moment to thank all members of our community for the support demonstrated throughout this semester. I would like to commend the staff for their dedication and service and hope (should you get a moment), you might personally acknowledge the service they provide to your family and our community.

Farewell - Mr Nev: It is with a great deal of sadness we farewell our beloved Mr Nev, his wife Riami and their two sons Dillon and Ethan. Mr Nev has been an integral part of our community for the past four years. If words alone could represent our thanks, I would put copious words on paper but no words would accurately represent how we will feel and how thankful we are for everything Mr Nev has contributed over the past 4 years. He will be sorely missed.

On behalf of our school, we pray the Lord’s riches blessing on Mr Nev and his family as they embark on the next stage of their life’s journey.

Filling the large shoes left by Mr Nev’s departure is not easy, however we are praying the process will be concluded early in Term 3 at which point the community will be introduced to our new chaplain.

Farewell - Belinda Mostert: I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Belinda Mostert, who has tirelessly worked in the canteen while Mrs Farleigh has enjoyed a time of long-service leave.

Belinda’s dedication has been remarkable, sometimes in very trying conditions. On behalf of all the little tummy’s and the not so little ones, Thank you, Belinda.

Mrs Farleigh returns next semester.

Long service - Mr Barnes Finally we say “Bon voyage” to Mr Noel Barnes who is off for a term enjoying his well-earned long-service leave. Mr Barnes is replaced by Mrs Astin Cole-Piper, a teacher who is well known amongst the Grace community.

Welcome - Congratulations to Mrs Gretchen Lamont and her husband Lefras, who welcomed a new healthy son (Peter) earlier this week. We pray he will bring you years of joy and grow into a man greatly used by God.

Term 3 - start date

A reminder that School returns on Wednesday 25th July. Staff will be attending a Christian Schools Australia Conference on the two days prior, and as such will not be available.

Office hours during the holidays: Please note: the school office will be closed over the holidays, but will reopen on Wednesday 25th at 8.30am.

School mail and telephone will be monitored daily throughout the holidays, and emergency contact numbers are available on the answer phone system should you require them.

Hugo de Ridder - Principal
A special thank you to those parents and staff who assisted with the preparation and behind scenes activity. Mrs Judy de Ridder, Mr Neville Paulette, Mr Ric Turner, Mrs Rhonda Lindberg, Mrs Sharon Howard, Mrs Seona Bromham, Mrs Clare Boyle, Mrs Sharron Doust, Mrs Judy Westra, Mrs Gaye Belton and Mrs Lee De Grussa, Mr Anthony Napoli and Mr Kez Forsyth who assisted with set up or serving on the night.

We are also most grateful for the servant heart shown by the 19 students who assisted with serving and washing up. Well done guys, you did yourselves, your parents and your school proud.

**SW Youth Orchestra Incursion** - some of the South West Youth Orchestra members visited the school on Friday, 29th June to showcase their work.

**It is said that “music expresses that which cannot be said and what is impossible to keep silent”**.

On Friday 29 June, an appreciative audience of Grace Music elective students and some available classes were treated to the musical prowess of Strings ensembles. Special mention must be made of Grace students, Alice Ho (Year 3) and Sarah Field (Year 9), who proudly represented our school in the ensembles. Alice has been playing the violin for approximately a year, and she performed beautifully with the Junior Maestros ensemble, and Sarah, a violin student for 8 years, delivered a flawless exhibition of her talent with the Senior Camerata ensemble.

An engaging repertoire of musical favourites was enjoyed by all, including music from the James Bond soundtrack, ‘Baby Elephant Walk’ and many more.

Great delight ensued when some students from the audience were given the opportunity to stand up on stage and individually conduct the orchestra – is Jack Foreman a new Toscanini in the making?

Our grateful thanks go out to the South West Youth Strings ensembles. Special mention must be made of Grace students, Alice Ho (Year 3) and Sarah Field (Year 9), who proudly represented our school in the ensembles. Alice has been playing the violin for approximately a year, and she performed beautifully with the Junior Maestros ensemble, and Sarah, a violin student for 8 years, delivered a flawless exhibition of her talent with the Senior Camerata ensemble.

**The Orchestra Visit - by Joshua Napoli**

On the 29th June, the Youth Orchestra came to Grace Christian School to entertain us.

They played some interesting instruments like the violin, viola, cello and double bass. I liked the violin and the double bass. The double bass is so big and it sounds cool. I also like the violin because it’s light to carry and without it there would be no orchestra.
SOCCER - Country Week Player Trials

CCJSA are pleased to announce the dates for ‘Football West Country Week’ player trials as per below.

Where: FORREST PARK (Dynamos Club)
When: Thursday 26th July AND Monday 30th July

5pm
- male/female players born 1999-2002 (U11 & U13)
- female players born 1998-2000 (U14 GIRLS)

6.30pm
- male/female players born 1995-1998 (U17 & U15)
- female players born 1995-1997 (U17 GIRLS)

Only players who are CCJSA registered and have played 75% of the season’s games are eligible to trial.

All players please arrive 15 minutes prior to trial time & bring a water bottle.

Man to Man

It’s common for men to feel isolated and unsupported, especially when our culture has trained guys that they should be able to keep it all together.

Men today need help with hassles and hurts and an opportunity to find encouragement and real support from other men.

‘Man to Man’ explores past and present relationships and examines the effects of family background on the way a man thinks, feels and behaves. The themes covered include family dynamics, handling emotions, dealing with conflict, finding real intimacy and examining addictive behavior. Participants will gain personal insight together with strategies and skills for living life more successfully.

COMING IN TERM 3...
Full details available soon!!

Door of Hope

A supportive, encouraging ten session program for survivors of sexual abuse.

In a supporting and loving environment, women will have an opportunity to share their journey and grow through increased levels of connection and trust.

Participants will find tools for living beyond coping and begin to discover more about their true value and uniqueness.

Dates: Tuesday Evenings
24th July - 25th September

Time: 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Location: Grace Christian Church

Cost: $60 per person before 9th July
$75 per person after 9th July

Registrations close Sunday, 17th July
Call: 97264201