What do Christian Schools see as the purpose of education?

School is an accepted, in fact expected, part of our modern society. We assume it is a good thing. Access to education is now seen as a right not a privilege. Before choosing a school, Christian parents should take a step back and ask a more important question - “what is the purpose of education?”

For many parents the often unstated goal of a school education is to prepare their child for a career. Going to university is often seen as the doorway to this. The purpose of education can then become simply the creating of future employees and employers. Believing this some parents may adopt a consumer mentality in choosing a school. They shop around for the best value based on the school's academic reputation on providing access to university. The Bible has a radically different purpose for life than is taught in most schools.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms” 1 Peter 4:10

In light of this the purpose of education could be to help children understand their God given gifts and abilities so as to serve Him and others in society. The Westminster Confession used by many churches summarises our purpose as… “The chief aim of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever”

An education which denies God, or seeks to diminish His importance misses this “chief aim”. Instead it often focuses on the personal success of the individual. The definition of success is often vague. For some success is defined by what we have attained to or acquired. One of God's definitions of success is found in Matthew 25:23. Here Jesus says "well done good and faithful servant" when speaking of a man who wisely used the talents God had given him.

What is it we really want for our children as a result of their years of education? Is it to be happy, have friends, a job and to travel? The most common desire for Christian parents is that their children will make good choices in life. To choose satisfying work, good friends, to share, to treat others like they wish to be treated. Ultimately it is to choose to follow Jesus and serve God and others with their gifts and abilities. A child's education is more than imparting knowledge. It is to impart wisdom to make wise choices in life.

"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life" Deuteronomy 30:19

In James 3 the Bible contrasts two types of wisdom. One is earthly wisdom which is described as unspiritual and worldly. The other is wisdom from above, which is described as “…pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere” James 3:15-17

A Christian school is by no means perfect, but is seeking to impart a godly wisdom for life. The Bible says "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Proverbs 9:10 The foundation upon which an education system is based is therefore important.

As parents we need to be confident our children will receive in school a wisdom which is worth having.
Further information is available at www.whychristianschools.com.au

Senior School News

Big Science Competition - Congratulations

37,303 students, from 541 schools throughout Australia registered for the recent Big Science Competition. Once again, our Science students have excelled with the following results being achieved. Very well done to all who participated.

- 1 x High Distinction (95 - 100%)
- 6 x Distinctions (85 - 94%)
- 15 x Credits (60 - 84%)
- 14 x Participation (0-59%)

Yokohama Senior High visit from Japan

The Grace Christian School community hosted 15 students and 2 staff members from Yokohama Senior High School of International Studies during Week 2 of Term 3. The students attended classes with their buddies from Year 9-12 and enlightened us on Japanese culture through their presentations on Japanese food, special days and pop culture. We gleaned a great deal more from their respectful manner, polite greetings and warm friendship.

The Vice-principal and English teacher from the school presented gifts to Mr de Ridder, including a beautiful enamel bowl and clock, which are on display at Reception. In turn Grace Christian School presented them with prints of Mr Barnes’ paintings, our school magazine and an Australian flag.

Through this experience, I thought teaching something to people is nice and fun and I want to tell more people about Japan. Maybe I will have presentations in Japan about Australia. I want to improve my skills gradually. Thanks for my trip”.

““My biggest surprise in Australia is the supermarket. Australian supermarkets are huge. A shopping cart is so big. You can put a child in a shopping cart. And the system of buying meat, bacon and sausage is funny. First you take a number card, then the clerk calls us, so you can buy. There are many kinds of meat. All food is so big! When you cash, you put things on the belt conveyor. This is fresh for me”.

“We went to the bush and made a fire outside. The pine trees are taller than the ones I saw in Japan and the air was dry, even in the bush. We passed marshmallows lightly over the fire and made “damper” a kind of Australian traditional bread. It was the first time I have had a picnic like that, so I enjoyed it very much”.

“My favourite experience is going to the Donnybrook park and Gnomesville. …..There were millions of gnomes in the forest an different kinds of gnomes. We brought a gnome and wrote our name on it and put it in a special place”.

During my stay in Australia, I was surprised by a lot of things. For example, we can see a lot of stars at night, they have recess in school, they can see kangaroos in front of their homes, they sleep very early, etc. But I was surprised that everyone has a very big pencil case. … another thing is that they stay a lot with their families. They eat dinner together every day and they talk with their families a lot. I don’t usually eat dinner every day with my family, so when I first came I was very surprised. Another thing is that they have woodwork in their school. I have never seen a woodwork shed. It was like a factory. I would like to tell these differences to the people who are living in Japan, and I would like to stay with my family more when I go back to Japan”.

The Yokohama Shim bun - August 2012
Mock and Final Examinations Year 12

Our Year 12 students will be sitting their Mock Examinations in Week 10 of the current term. With only a few weeks left of their formal school education, we wish them every blessing as they prepare for this last leg of their scholastic journey.

Final WACE examinations commence on 1 November, with the last exam being sat by a Grace Christian School student on 21 November.

Please keep them in your prayers for the weeks ahead.

Secondary Athletics Carnival

The Secondary Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 23 August at the Athletics facility at Hay Park.

All students are expected to not only attend on the day, but participate in the carnival. Should students not be able to participate actively, a letter must be provided to explain this and the students will still be required to attend to support their teams.

We look forward to a high level of enthusiasm, team spirit and encouragement as we celebrate the gifts of those who are fleet of foot or really good at throwing things! See you there...

Mrs Diane Hackney
Head of Senior School

Library - WINTER BOOK SALE

Curl up in winter with a great read .................

Biggest ever library discard book sale now on IN THE LIBRARY!

- Children’s picture books, novels, adult books, parenting books, bibles and more.
- Refresh your home library, get some great winter reads, all only 50c each!

Junior School News

Manual Arts gifts to Pre-Primary

The Year 9 and 10 students at Mr Scott de Ridder’s Manual Arts class have been completing a service act for the Pre-Primary class this term and made several items of use for our special people. These items include stop, give way, cross walk etc. They also made planks for obstacle courses etc.

Thank you so much for your kind and generous service to our little people.

Junior School Fundraiser

Support our Junior School by purchasing a good quality tea towel that has all our Junior School students portraits on it. A great memento and gift for family!

$15 each or 3 for $40, Order and Payment due Friday 24th August. Please see your class teacher for further details.

Community News

Triple P - Positive Parenting Program

FREE Positive Parenting Seminars for Parents of Children 3 - 8 years old

Managing children’s behaviour is a challenge for most parents. Parents are invited to attend free parenting seminars being offered to learn practical, positive and effective ways to manage common behavioural problems, and ways to help your child achieve their best at school and in the future. There is opportunity for open discussion and questions; and tip sheets to take home.

- Seminar One: The Power of Positive Parenting: August 21st
- Seminar Two: Raising Confident Competent Children: August 28th
- Seminar Three: Raising Resilient Children: September 4th

Parents may choose to participate in just one, two or all three of the seminars. Bookings are essential. Please register by contacting: Bunbury Community Health 97952888

Dance Classes - Ballroom, Line and Progressive

Girls and especially Boys aged 7-15 years MEDAL Class

- Thursday 4.30-5.30pm Bring this newsletter to try a FREE Class!
- Bunbury Dance Studio 9791 8900 or info@bunburydancestudio.com

Hosting International Students

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs.

Students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Canada and the U.S.A. will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover - all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

More info at www.scce.com.au, or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, email scceaustr@sccce.com.au

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