Grace Notices

Shouldn't children be salt and light in the community?

One of the most common concerns raised by Christian parents is that removing children out of secular schools would make them less effective witnesses in the wider community. They ask how can children be salt and light in the world if they are in a Christian school? Let us look at the scriptures for answers.

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Matthew 5:13

Jesus described us as salt. We are to preserve, flavour, enhance and have an impact on our society. Yet in the same scripture Jesus explains salt can lose its saltiness. Our salty influence in society can be diminished. If this occurs we are described as "no longer good for anything".

As Christians our role is to reform the world around us. We are called to be in the world but not of it. Being salt and light is a lifelong calling.

A significant role of school is helping prepare children for all of life. The 12 or so years spent at school is relatively short when compared with an average life span.

The thoughts, attitudes, beliefs and outlook on life formed during school years can last a lifetime. The vision of Christian schools is not separation from non Christians. Rather it is about preparation to live life in such a way as to be salt and light wherever and whatever children choose to do.

As parents a more significant question we must ask ourselves is whether it is healthy to use our children as a means of creating evangelistic opportunities for us. Deliberately immersing a child into an educational culture which denies the existence of God and Jesus' central role in history should not be treated lightly.

We will all have to give God an account of what we did in our lives. For parents this will naturally include how we raised our children. Jesus had this warning regarding our treatment of children

If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.

Mark 9:42

Parents need to understand that putting their children under the daily influence of teachers who have a fundamentally different way of seeing life can influence them for life. Fortunately families who choose a Christian school are still part of the wider society. They can still make friends and influence others whether through sport, child activities, neighbours or a variety of other ways.

In the Bible children are seen as a blessing. We have one opportunity to raise our children. These years will pass quickly. Grace Christian School's purpose is to assist parents in this role.

Further information is available at www.whychristianschools.com.au
Bunbury - Setagaya Sister Cities Student Exchange

On Wednesday evening, 19th September, I had the pleasurable opportunity to meet with the Mayor, Mr David Smith, a number of Bunbury City Counsellors and a group of very excited students from across the Bunbury area, along with their surprisingly calm parents and a variety of other guests.

The event, organised by the City of Bunbury, was to “send off” a group of Year 7 students selected as Ambassadors for Bunbury and the schools they represent.

Two of our students, Meg Mathys and Zacharie King, were selected as part of this year’s delegation, a commendable achievement.

The Setagaya - sister city relationship was established in 1992 and the relationship between the two cities continues to grow each year. Projects include a Student Goodwill visit, a Primary School Student Exchange and a Photographic Exhibition exchange.

We pray the Lord’s blesses this trip that will take place during the October holidays and that Meg and Zacharie will have a wonderful time exploring Japan, enjoying the sights, family life and adventures of Tokyo Disney World and Mount Fuji to name a few.

Mr Hugo de Ridder - Principal

Senior School News

Thank you to Iluka

Throughout the course of this year, the Prefects have initiated a project to purchase blazers for the Prefect team. These blazers will be used when representing the school in the community, at events such as conferences and on days like the ANZAC Day march. The blazers will be retained by the school and provided to Prefects when they represent the school.

In order to raise the funds required for the acquisition of the blazers, fundraisers such as free dress days and sausage sizzles have been organised. In addition to this, we have approached four companies with sponsorship requests to collect the required funds. To date, Iluka has supported us by providing the school with $250.00 and we would like, by way of this Newsletter, to both thank and acknowledge their very generous support. Thank you, Iluka.

We anticipate having the required funds to purchase the blazers by early next year.

The Prefect Team - Grace Christian School

Congratulations!

Two students, Monique Hutchinson and Daniel Lee have had their artworks selected for the Iluka Exhibition. This is a display of the very best works from all high schools across the south west.

The exhibition opens on the 6th October at the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries.

The Awards Night is Saturday 27th October. This is the second year running that Daniel Lee has had work selected.

Mr Rob McCafferty - Art Teacher

Year 8 - 10 - Talented Young Writers Course

Eleven Year 7 & 8 students attended the Talented Young Writers Course at BCGS on the 12th September.

These termly workshops host a published Australian young adults’ author and are attended by many schools in the South West. The purpose of the course is to nurture a group of young writers from schools in the area over several years by exposing them not only to superb well-known authors, but also to each other.

On this occasion it.

This term the guest author was the witty Michael Gerard Bauen from Queensland, author of the ‘Don’t call me Ishmael! series and popular writer for children and young adults. His books have been shortlisted, won numerous awards and are used as class texts in many schools around Australia. He has written drama, comedy and adventure. Mr Bauer’s first novel, The Running Man has won the Children’s Book Council Book of the Year. All in all, his humorous anecdotes, practical writing tips and excellent presentation skills ensured a truly worthwhile experience for both students and teachers alike.

Our young people conducted themselves with excellence and at one stage four of the eight volunteers willing to read their work aloud in front of the everyone were from Grace.

Mr Rob McCafferty and Mrs Debbie Stone - English Teachers

Year 7 & 8 students - left to right: Thomas Riglio, Annalise Ivey, Kelly-Ann McDonald, Janelle Licerio, Kate Monaghan, Michael Gerard Bauen, Rowena Fleming, Savannah Walker, Alex Chi, Meg Howard, Kira Morrissey, Jared Loffler.

Year 9 & 10 students - from left to right: Michael Gerard Bauen, Victoria Bucknell, Brianna Lane, Courtney Wheatcroft, Meagan Mepham, Keaton Staszewski-Hose, Crystal Peterson
School Open Night and Creative Arts evening

This is early notification of our Annual Open Night / Creative Arts evening which, for the first time, will be a combined event.

All parents, friends and community members interested in Christian education, are warmly invited to attend.

The evening will include a sausage sizzle and school tours for interested parents, providing valuable insights into what makes “Grace different from other schools”. These tours will be conducted at various intervals throughout the evening by our Principal.

Primary classrooms will be open to view students’ Creative work and secondary work will be on display in the library and café.

Our music students will be performing at various venues on the school campus, and the Drama team will be providing some light entertainment.

So, diarise this special day and invite your friends and family along to enjoy a fun-filled and informative evening.

Mission Focus - Primary School

Kindergarten & Pre-Primary

The Kindergarten and Pre-Primary classes held a Red Nose day to raise awareness and funds for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Over $180 was raised for this very worthy cause.

In addition, when one of our school families was burgled and robbed, throwing their family into crisis, all Kindergarten and Pre-Primary families banded together to raise over $1000 in anonymous donations.

Year 4/5 Class fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child

The Year 4/5 class plan to hold a tuckshop fundraiser in the Primary school, on 23rd October for Operation Christmas child. If you are able to send your child to school with a small amount of cash on that day, it would be very much appreciated. Please no notes, and no large amounts.

School Community News

2013 Term dates

Term 1: Monday, 4th February—Friday, 19th April
Term 2: Tuesday, 7th May - Friday 5th July
Term 3: Wednesday, 24th July - Friday, 27th September
Term 4: Tuesday, 15th October - Friday, 13th December

Booklists for 2013

With the closing of Wooldridges, the school has secured OfficeMax as the new supplier for our stationery and school book requirements. This new arrangement will require items on our school booklist for 2013, to be ordered online.

We will be sending out the booklists early in Term 4 and further information on how to order will be supplied at the time.

Although orders will need to be made online, those families without internet connection will be able to place their orders in hard copy form through Student Services.

Please speak to Mrs Fiona de Ridder (Bursar) or Mrs Sandra Dinkelman (Student Services) if you require the hard copy ordering option.

Buy and Sell Second-hand books

The end-of-the-year nightmare of purchasing and selling used text books may be coming to an end with the promotion of a website specifically designed to provide a platform for parents and students to buy and sell their used curriculum books.

Grace Christian School has looked at this as an option for our parents, and it seems to be a simple solution to an on-going dilemma.

Disclaimer: The www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au website is not in any way associated with Grace Christian School and the school does not benefit in any way from sales or purchases.

All transactions are the responsibility of the parties concerned. All enquiries should be directed to the website owners.

Lost Property

The box is overflowing. Parents and students are asked to please come in to the office to check.

Items left at the end of term, will be disposed of.

Free Parenting Workshop with Maggie Dent

The presenter Maggie Dent is very well known for her work with adolescents and running workshops to help parents and carers understand how the adolescent brain works.

Our Chaplain, Akita Olsen has heard her speak many times and highly recommends her. Akita is happy for any parent or staff that may have questions about the workshop to contact her through the school office.

The workshop aims to increase understanding of the cognitive, psychological, emotional and social health of young people.

Flyers will be sent home shortly, containing further information.

Parenting Workshop

“Meroes—Empower and Protect” is a preventative and proactive approach to child safety. The aim of this project is to educate our children from an early age around the importance of keeping themselves safe.

Topics include My Body, My Feelings, My People, My Safety and My Rights.
All community members are welcome to attend workshops and specific workshops will be held for Special Needs Families, Noongar families, Supported Families, Carer Families and Culturally and linguistically diverse families.

**When:** Wednesday 26th September 7.00—9.00pm (no Crèche available) or Friday 28th September 9.30—11.30am (Crèche available)  
**Cost:** $30 per adult or $50 per couple

For more information or to RSVP please call Kate on 97218944 or kate@milligan.org.au

**Bunbury Tennis Club Open Day - 15th October** (includes Free trail lesson).

Also available: School Holiday clinics; Term 4 coaching sessions; Friday night Junior Tennis Years 8+ (Free for members)

For further details visit [www.tennisexcellence.com.au](http://www.tennisexcellence.com.au) or contact Andrew Woodward 0419-913-294

**Bunbury BMX Club - “Come and try day”**

**When:** Saturday, 22nd September 2012
**Where:** Cnr Washington Ave & Rotary Drive, Bunbury (SWSC)
**Time:** 11.00am - 4pm
**Contact:** Keryn Williams 0419-953-565 for more info

**South West Water Polo and Swimming Club - FREE EVENT**

**When:** Saturday the 22nd September
**Where:** South West Sports Centre
**Time:** 9.30am - 12pm
**Ages:** 8-13 years.

**Special feature:** As part of the BHP Billiton Aquatic Super Series Community Programme, the WA Water Polo Competition and Development Manager, Tibor Seress, and Olympic Gold Medallist, Danielle Woodhouse, will be there to promote Water Polo and Swimming.

Children will get to experience an array of different activities with the aim to encourage participation in Water Polo and Swimming.

Following the event there will be a BBQ and the slide will be open for the children to enjoy.

**Bull & Barrel Festival**

**When:** Saturday 13th October
**Where:** Dardanup Town site
**Time:** 10am - 5pm and 5pm - 9pm (Evening entertainment)
**Entry:** FREE ENTRY

The festival celebrates the 10th “Year of the Farmer” with animal displays, free Kids Activity tent, Quilt displays Stalls, Art, Music and Cooking demos.

For more info: [www.bullandbarrel.net.au](http://www.bullandbarrel.net.au)

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**Master Mind Australia - October WACE revision**

**Exam Strategies**

This revision program for Years 10, 11 and 12 students aims to prepare them for their final year examinations. The classes will revise how to answer exam questions and demonstrate how those important components from the syllabus are used to construct successful responses.

This is a teaching program and the small groups allow for individual problems to be addressed. For more information call Dr Robert Hallam at Master Mind Australia on 9486 1377 or 0488 102 907 or website [academicpathways@mastermindaustralia.com.au](mailto:academicpathways@mastermindaustralia.com.au)


**Parent Information Evening: Helping your Year 12 apply to and enrol at Notre Dame**

**Monday, 24 September - 6.00pm for a 6.15pm start in the Michael Keating Room, cnr High & Cliff Streets, Fremantle**

Details will include: specific course information, academic entry scores, ‘how to apply’, application due dates, timing of offers, the enrolment process and the student transition from school to university.

Refreshments provided following the presentation.

Please RSVP by 21 September to: [admissions@nd.edu.au](mailto:admissions@nd.edu.au)