Do Christian schools remove children from the real world?

Some parents feel Christian schools place children in an artificial hothouse. They claim children are not well prepared to live in a society where most people are non-Christian. The Bible says of Jesus... "For by Him all things were created, things in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together “Colossians 1:16-17 We believe life is not an accident or coincidence. As Christians, we understand we are created in God's image. Any education system which ignores God and Jesus, also denies the Bible's claims of reality. In its place another view of reality is presented.

Christian parents partnering with Christian teachers can help children discover and understand the truth about the world around them. Rather than removing children from the real world, Christian schools help them see it clearly. The very first sentence of the Bible is “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” Genesis 1:1.

That God is the Creator, is a basic belief for Christians. What we believe about God, Jesus Christ and the origins of life, do influence how we act on a daily basis. These beliefs will also have a dramatic impact on how a school conducts itself. That is to say, the beliefs of a school’s leaders will determine what priorities are set, what is important and therefore what should be measured and reported on.

Secular education believes history and the world around us can be understood without reference to God or the Bible. By leaving these out, curriculums don’t become neutral, but essentially anti-God.

Families are the first place children learn about the world around them. Schools then help children understand more about their world. In the early years, families and schools can be likened to providing a ‘hothouse’ environment for children. Consider the purpose of a hothouse or glass house; it is to nurture plants while they are young. A hothouse provides an environment where the conditions, watering and nutrition can be better managed and is designed to grow healthier plants, faster. When removed from the hothouse these plants are better able to thrive in all environments.

In the home, parents can help control what is taught, how much, and by whom. The home and family life, gives a child a framework of reality. Parents naturally want to protect, nurture, feed and strengthen their children. Over time, parents expose their children to more age appropriate ideas and experiences. In the same way Christian schools seek to work with parents as an extension of the family home. Rather than providing a different, or even inconsistent environment, Christian schools aim to reinforce what is taught at home.

It is ultimately up to parents to decide which hothouse environment they desire for their children outside of the home. Do we believe this is God’s world? If so, a supportive hothouse environment where God and Jesus Christ are seen as relevant to daily life, can help prepare a child for the realities of life beyond the hothouse boundaries.

“We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church” Ephesians 4:15

Hugo de Ridder - Principal

Uniform Shop Opening Times

- **Monday**: 8.15am - 9.00am
- **Wednesday**: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- **Thursday**: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- **Friday**: 8.15am - 9.00am

Grace Notices

**Coming up!**

### Week 7

- **Monday, 26th November**
  - 9am Parents Prayer Group
  - Yr 8 - 10 Examinations start

- **Tuesday, 27th November**
  - PP GIRLS Uniform fittings

- **Thursday, 29th November**
  - Yr 8 - 11 Exams end

- **Friday, 30th November**
  - Junior Assembly
  - Bethany Fields visit - selected students from Mrs Faed’s music classes.

### Week 8

- **Monday, 3rd December**
  - 9am Parents Prayer Group

- **Tuesday, 4th December**
  - 10am School tour

- **Wednesday, 5th December**
  - Last day Year 11 students
  - Yr 7 Graduation Dinner

- **Thursday, 6th December**
  - Prefect Camp - Busselton

- **Friday, 7th December**
  - Prefect Camp
  - Middle School Assembly

### Week 9

- **Monday, 10th December**
  - 9am Parents Prayer Group

- **Tuesday, 11th December**
  - P - 3 wear sports uniform
  - K-PP Celebration
  - Yr 1 - 3 Presentation Evening

- **Wednesday, 12th December**
  - 1pm Mrs Faed’s music students concert - Library

- **Thursday, 13th December**
  - Yr 4 - 7 wear sport uniform
  - Yr 4 - 7 Presentation Evening

**2012 Term Dates**

**Term 4**: ends Tues, 18th Dec

**2013 Term Dates**

**Term 1**: Monday, 4th February - Friday, 19th April

### Presentation Evenings

- **Junior**: 11/12/12
- **Middle**: 13/12/12
- **Senior**: 17/12/12
**ILUKA - Visions Exhibition 2012**

Each year the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries hosts an exhibition called Iluka Visions. This exhibition showcases upper school artwork from throughout the South West region.

Iluka are the major sponsors for the exhibition to encourage up-and-coming art talent from the region. Students are encouraged to submit works for application and these works are then judged by an independent selection panel for the exhibition.

Grace Christian School was fortunate enough to be represented by two of our upper school students this year. Monique Hutchinson from Year 10 had her piece “Just in Time” selected, as did Daniel Lee from Year 9 for his piece titled “The Good Shepherd”. (Pictured above with Mr Noel Barnes). Daniel’s picture is constructed from minute pieces of newsprint torn and stuck to form the image.

The exhibition opened on the 27th of October and was displayed for six weeks. Congratulations to Monique and Daniel for a job very well done.

**Booklists**

The booklists have still not been received by the school office. As soon as they arrive, we will notify and send them to parents. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. This is totally out of our hands.

**IMPORTANT - End of Year processes for ALL Secondary school students**

- Students will clear their lockers on Monday, 17 December and we will be rehearsing for our Presentation Evening.
- Students are encouraged to wear sports uniform to school on Monday to enable their school uniforms to be washed and neatly ironed for Monday night.
- Our Senior Presentation Evening (Year 8-12) will be held on Monday, 17 December at 6:30pm. ALL students are expected to attend this evening.
- Adventure World Excursion (Year 8-10) wind-up, will take place on Tuesday, 18 December. Permission forms will be sent home shortly and students will need to contribute $25 towards the cost of admission/transport.
- All library books also have to be returned by the end of Week 9 (Friday, 14 December) or payment made for lost books. Students will only be able to go on excursion to Adventure world if all library loans have been resolved.

**Canteen News**

**Our Online Canteen**

We need your help by using the On Line ordering system

Why are we using on line ordering?

Adopting the Our Online Canteen Service has been more of a case of necessity rather than choice.

It does have lots of benefits and has proven to be a convenient system for most parents, but some parents want to use cash for lunch orders which actually makes life very difficult for canteen workers.

Grace Christian School has 485 students and 295 families BUT only 10 regular canteen volunteers.

- From Kindy to Year 12 this represents less than one volunteer for each year group. Some volunteers are working every week, some twice a week!!
- The online ordering system is the only way we can manage the workload with so few volunteers.
- By using this system we don’t have to find people to process and bag over the counter orders each morning, and time spent tallying orders and handling money during the day is significantly reduced. We also then have a permanent record of orders so we can track problems if necessary.

Please support your kids, the canteen and the very hard working volunteers by learning to use the system now.

One small LOG ON by you is a huge leap for our canteen! [www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au](http://www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au)

We are volunteers and love to serve the school community. But we need your help by using the online ordering system for all lunch orders.

Also, if you are interested in helping out in the Canteen, please give our Canteen Manager, Mrs Leanne Farleigh a call on 97264200.

**Updating details for 2013 - Our Online Canteen**

During the school holidays, parents are reminded they will need to update their child’s details on Our Online Canteen before the commencement of the new school year.

This will prevent your child’s lunch order being sent to the incorrect classroom / teacher. Some students have been known to miss out on their lunch, because it has been sent out incorrectly.

**School Community Notices**

**Chalk Educational Toys and Parent Direct 2012 catalogues**

Chalk Educational Toys and Parent Direct 2012 Toy Fundraiser order forms are due back no later than Thursday, 29 November.

Please speak to Mrs Sandra Dinkelman with any queries.
AFS – one of the world’s largest not-for-profit intercultural students exchange organisations – is on the lookout for young Australian students willing to embark on the experience of a lifetime and to become a cultural Ambassador.

Are you ready to step out of your comfort zone to...

- Become a part of a whole new family, making friends from all over the world
- Learn about a new culture and be immersed in the language
- Represent Australia with pride

In 2013, AFS has over 50 destinations for the high school exchange programme ranging in duration from 2 - 11 months. All you need to do is to choose where you’d like to go!

It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity you’ll never forget!

Holiday Care / Programme
YMCA Glen Iris is taking bookings for the coming Vacation care from Monday, 26th November for existing families and new families Thursday, 29th November.

Please call into the service or ring Kylie on 97257228 for a brochure, or email Kylie and she will email a brochure to you gleniris.oshc@ymca.org.au

Holiday Study Programme for Year 11 & Year 12 students
Do you want to make a flying start into the new school year?
Consider the Academic Task Force Head Start Programme.

(15th-25th January 2013)

Reasons to enrol in the Academic Task Force Head Start Programme:

- The 6 hour courses of study (3hours per day for 2 days) will give students:-
  i. an overview of the syllabus for their courses of study;
  ii. allow them to preview the tricky components of their course;
  iii. provide them with notes and preparation for the first topic;
  iv. review work covered in Term 4 of 2012;
  v. maximise their preparation for the year with 6 hours of Study Skills which will set them up to manage their time and study effectively; and
  vi. a 6 hour Essay Writing programme which will provide them with a template to write a great essay that they can adapt to any subject.

ENROL NOW with full payment before the December 18th to receive the 10% Early Bird discount.

For more information or to enrol please contact ACADEMIC TASK FORCE on 9314 9500, via email at learn@academictaskforce.com.au or visit www.academictaskforce.com.au

The Lunar Circus - Holiday programme
The Lunar Circus Summer School is on again this January, providing a chance for all youngsters to stay fit and try something different.

To ensure that everyone knows about this opportunity, we would be appreciative if you would insert the attached “Lunar Circus Summer School” image into your school newsletter.

The Lunar Circus Summer School offers general circus classes to children from the age of five years, as well as specialised classes for those that want to advance further in specific circus skills such as tumbling (acrobatics), aerials (trapeze, silk, rope, flying trapeze and more), manipulation (juggling, diabolo, etc.), and many other skills.

Further details, as well as lots of photos, are at www.lunarcircus.com.

Community Notices
WA Squash for Junior level players - no experience necessary.

Squash is a game you can play, no matter what age you are, what skill level you have, throughout the world - in any weather. As long as you can connect racquet to ball, you can play a game of squash ... and you don’t even have to worry about having anyone else to practise with, as the court provides enough challenge without an opponent!

Squash develops incredible fitness levels, improves concentration and hand-eye coordination and provides a healthy social environment for your children.

**Equipment - Shoes**: The main thing you need are non-marking sports shoes. So if you are buying new sports shoes for 2013, consider getting those with non-marking soles so you can give squash a go! Most in-door sports shoes are suitable, but it’s best to speak to your sports shoe provider.

**Racquet**: Don’t worry if you don’t own a racquet. A loan racquet can be easily be arranged to allow you sufficient time to “give it a go” before committing.

Alexandra Squash Club in Bunbury, based at SWSC, runs regular junior training sessions throughout the term. **Expressions of Interest for 2013** should be directed to Mrs Lea McDonald in the school office or call 0488-414320.

**WA Holiday Squash Camp**

A fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in improving their squash.

The 2013 WA Junior Squash camp is on again on 17 – 18th January 2013, at Belmont SquashWorks Squash Centre, 144 Robinson Ave, Belmont, Perth. **Ages 10 – 15. Cost $85.00**

This camp is **not just for the talented**. Many juniors who have only ever been on the inflatable court, who show good spatial awareness and hand/eye co-ordination have taken part to boost their squash skills and improve their game.

During the camp, the basics of the **serve, return, drop and lob**, will be covered. There will be fitness components and team games off the squash court as well as on court games. Coaches will work with and assess players throughout the camp.

There is also a tournament that closes out the camp on January 19 – 20 which interested players can also register for.

If you are interested in finding out more - please speak to Mrs McDonald in the School office, who has Registration forms.