



Snowy Mountains Christian School

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Biblical Focus 2009: "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:18

NEWSLETTER

Friday 31st July, 2009. Week 1, Term 3

Greetings!

As the new principal of Snowy Mountains Christian School I am very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you, the school community.

For the past eight years this school has been greatly blessed by the leadership of Catriona Wansbrough. As I have begun to see "how things are done around here" I have become more and more impressed with her legacy – so many signs of her godly, caring and effective leadership at SMCS. I am confident the Lord will use her mightily in future, whether in Africa, Australia or elsewhere, and we wish her every blessing as she enters a new phase of service for Him. She has certainly left behind some big shoes to fill!

As for my own journey, for more than twelve years I have been Secondary School Coordinator at the Illawarra Christian School (Tongarra Campus), having previously been a maths teacher at the Sutherland Shire Christian School and in student ministry at the University of Wollongong.



Mr Michael Nightingale

I am passionate about the opportunities for Christian education before us at Snowy Mountains Christian School and, as exciting as it is, I do not believe the construction of the new multi-purpose facility is the greatest of these. Such resources are greatly needed and eagerly anticipated but there is much more at the heart of a Christian school than bricks and mortar (or even demountables). Rather, at this school we have a God-given privilege to build what will last longer and ultimately prove to be of greater significance: an excellent, Christ-centred education for our students and a Christ-honouring place in the local community.

In partnership with the teachers, parents and students at SMCS it is my sincere hope that we will achieve these goals through building on our school's strong foundational values and faithfully embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Mike

Mike Nightingale

Congratulations to Liz Dee on receiving the Rotary 'Pride of Workmanship Award' in recognition of her contributions to the school and students which are above and beyond the normal school requirements. Of course, we at school know that all our teachers are exceptional, but it is wonderful to see Liz's efforts being recognized by the wider community. Well done, Liz!

Term 3 Calendar 2009

Date	Event	Time
<u>Week 2 August</u>		
Thursday 6 th	School Skiing	
Friday 7 th	P & FF Morning Tea Fundraiser Yr 9/10	
<u>Week 3</u>		
Monday 10 th	P & FF Meeting, SMCS Library	6.30pm
Tuesday 11 th	Assembly	2.15pm
<u>Week 4</u>		
Tuesday 18 th	Book Week – Open Day	
Thursday 20 th	School Skiing	
Friday 21 st	P & FF Morning Tea Fundraiser Yr 7/8	
<u>Week 5</u>		
Tuesday 25 th	Assembly	2.15pm
Thursday 27 th	School Skiing	
<u>Week 6 – September</u>		
Friday 4 th	P & FF Morning Tea Yr 5/6	
<u>Week 7</u>		
Wednesday 9 th	High School Information & Orientation Night	7.00pm???
<u>Week 8</u>		
Thursday 17 th	Immunisation Yr 7	
Friday 18 th	P & FF Morning Tea Fundraiser Yr 3/4	
<u>Week 9</u>		
Tuesday 22 nd	Combined Assembly High School & Primary	2.15
Wednesday 23 rd	Parent/Teacher Interviews	3.30-5.30pm
<u>Week 10</u>		
Monday 28 th	H.S. Assessment Week – Yr 9/10 Trial School Certificate	
Friday October 2 nd	P & FF Morning Tea Yr K/1/2	
Friday 2 nd	Last day of term – Mufti Day – Gold Coin Donation	

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email please send an email to: newsletter@smcs.nsw.edu.au

Solomon Islands Ministry Trip – July 2009.

Team: Tim Burgess, Tom Lee, Alex Wiles, Kirralee England, Clare Learoyd, Emma Gerrand, Judy Gibson, Wendy Straw, Liz Fairbairn, Myrle Melton, Dr David Learoyd, Catriona Wansbrough.

It was such a joy to take such a special group to the Solomon Islands in the holidays. The trip was a wonderful success!

Thank you for your prayers and support with so many resources and financial gifts for schools and key people in the Solomons. We were able to bless three different schools with large gifts of money and varying resources. Our team enjoyed presenting assemblies; devotions; songs and skits; talks; leading games; running activities such as face painting and balloon sculpting; playing soccer and 'hanging out' with the Solomon Islanders.

We visited two schools in Honiara and then based ourselves in a village school (Kokeqolo Community School) in Munda in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands.

Kokeqolo had never experienced a group of Aussie students coming to visit them, so our students were treated like movie stars (village style) for the entire stay.

As we stepped off the Twin Otter plane at Munda, 'Warriors' performed an amazing welcome, whilst school girls presented each member of the group with leis. Staff & students of Kokeqolo had adorned the small building at Munda airport with flowers and floral decorations which complimented the formal and official welcome by all the staff.

Our students also participated in cultural activities during their stay at Munda, learning how to husk and scrape coconuts and weave a basket out of banana leaves. Living in paradise also meant swimming in the lagoon, snorkeling and paddling dug-out canoes. As the Solomons was a key battlefield in WW2, the group visited a local war museum which displayed hundreds of war relics (dog tags/guns/grenades/bombs/cutlery/compasses) found in the jungle.

As Dr David Learoyd accompanied the group as our team doctor, it was a must to visit Munda Hospital. Dr Learoyd was able to accompany hospital staff on their rounds one morning, but thankfully all our team stayed healthy and well and there was no need to experience 'first-hand' what the hospital was really like.

Our final day in Munda was memorable with a gigantic feast given by the whole school community. In all my years of living in and visiting the Solomon Islands I had never seen such a special feast in the beautiful food, but also in the way they presented the feast. A long-time missionary commented that in his 27 years in the Solomons, he had only seen one feast of that calibre before and that was for the coronation of a chief.

The purpose of our trip was to bless the Solomon Islanders with our gifts/resources and presentation of various programs/activities, yet we were the ones that were blessed! I am sure that each team member feels they received more than they were able to give. Our Solomon friends were generous in their gifts (presents they really could not afford) and their love.

All our team came back to Australia greatly touched and changed. We were again reminded of what was important in life – relationships.

What was especially important for the community of Kokeqolo Community School in our visit, was not the money or resources we brought, but our presence. They mentioned that just our presence and sharing the week with them was a great gift of encouragement to the whole community. What a lesson that was for all of us!

Our students commented how the Solomon Islanders cherish and value people. They were an example to us in their love for God and love for people. We were the learners on this trip, not the islanders!

Catriona

Catriona Wansbrough

Team Leader

Solomon Islands Trip 2009.



Group at RAMSI BASE in Honiara



Emma Gerrand making friends at Florence Young C.S. Honiara



Clare Learoyd face painting a child at Flomis Kindergarten Honiara



Alex Wiles leading a game at Flomis Kindergarten



Tom Lee blowing up balloons



Our warrior greeting at Munda Airport



Kirralee England after being presented a lei at Kokeqolo Community School in Munda



Kokeqolo High School (Munda). A new building in which SMCS helped pay for the roof.



Tim Burgess at a birthday celebration in Munda For Myrle Melton's 75th birthday.



Our group at Kokeqolo High School



Learning to weave, Clare Learoyd & Emma Gerrard



Singing songs at Kokeqolo Primary



This is how we travelled – on the back of a truck!



Chaos & fun in balloon sculpting



Teaching us to dance!



SMCS students saying goodbye to their friends at Kokeqolo CS

NOTICES

Cooma Combined Churches Men's Breakfast Guest speaker: Mr Clint Staj

Where: Salvation Army Hall, Mittagang Rd.
When: Saturday, 1st August, 7.00am Breakfast
Cost: \$7 for hot, or \$4 for light Breakfast & concession price for high-schoolers.

Clint grew up in USA without a father and was bullied at school for the colour of his skin. He also experienced abuse at the hands of Christians which led to his being both atheist and anti-Christian.

While in high school Clint was miraculously healed, turning him to faith in the risen Christ. He is now a missionary, youth pastor, and school chaplain at Snowy Mountains Christian School.

Clint will share his amazing story: overcoming pain, finding forgiveness and freedom.

Boys Club

Will commence for Term 3 next **Friday 7th**. We meet from 5.30 - 6.50pm and the group is open to all boys aged 7 - 11.

Bring your torch, running shoes, & warm clothes for a great game of Hounds & Hares..

Lots & Lots of Fun! Cost \$2.00.

Please note: This term Boys Club will be on only **every 2nd Friday**.

Girls Brigade

Starts back on Tuesday 4th August and will be held fortnightly.

Girls Brigade is on at the church:

- Kinder to Yr 6 - 3.30 to 5.30pm (contact Liz Mills 0428 365 308 for more details)
- High School - 7.00 to 8.30pm (contact Foss Miners 6452 3299)

New girls are welcome anytime.

Dates this term: 4, 18 August; 1, 15 29 Sept.

The Salvation Army, Cooma will be presenting "**Let's Talk About Kids**", a program for parents who are looking for ideas to help them meet the challenges of parenting.

The program will be presented by Dr Pat Cleary, Clinical Psychologist.

There will be 6 sessions, the first will be on Friday 7th August 2009.

For information phone 6452 1798 or 6452 2680, or Email Cadet Jenny Reeves at

jennifer.reeves@ae.salvationarmy.org

P & FF Meeting – New trial time of 6.30pm.

Monday 10th August, 2009

All welcome.

Mike Nightingale will address the P & FF at this meeting.

Lynne Hope will speak on Pre-Kinder in Term 4.

STUDENTS (& Parents)

I am missing these books from the library – would you please check at home whether you have them and return them to me ASAP.

Asterix the Gaul Omnibus I; Ancient Machine by Justin Walker. Also, **Angel Principal** loaned to a senior to test read for me.

Many thanks,
Gail Curzon, Librarian.

