



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 7th August, 2009. Week 2, Term 3

From the Principal

What an enjoyable first two weeks I've had at Snowy Mountains Christian School!

I want to express deep gratitude to the whole school community for extending me such a wonderfully warm welcome. As you know, my previous teaching experience has mostly involved secondary students, and whereas teenagers have their own (ahem) unique ways of showing friendliness, it has been pure joy to be welcomed by the broad smiles and unfettered enthusiasm of our infants & primary students. Last Thursday, for example, when I dropped by to see how the new Pre-Kinder Class was coping with their first day, I found them all very much at home and keen to join Kindergarten in showing off the new song they had learnt. It may come as a surprise to some of you, but senior school mathematics lessons don't often start with singing to the teacher! I am now beginning to feel very much at home here myself.



Despite this warm welcome, more than once over the past two weeks Paul's comment to the Corinthian Church has come to mind: "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Cor 4:7). I consider it a real privilege to serve in Christian education, but whenever I pause to think about it, it seems nothing short of a miracle that God chooses to work his purposes through such fragile, fallible people as ourselves. We so often fall short of his standards. Nevertheless, in the strength that he himself provides we dare to expect great things in and through the lives of those associated with this school.

It is my hope that SMCS will continue to grow as a happy, productive centre of learning where each student's God-given gifts are encouraged and developed.

As one great but badly dressed Australian used to say – "I'm excited!"

Yours for the Kingdom,

Mike

Mike Nightingale



Sport Report

This week we finally awarded our Age Champions from the Athletics Carnivals with their medals. I do apologise for the lateness of these awards – we had a slight hang-up with the medals and the engraving.

This year our age champions were:

Infants Girl – Lani wheatley	Infants Boy – Braith Fitzgerald
Junior Primary Girl – Elana Bateman	Junior Primary Boy – Angus Allen
Senior Primary Girl – Mikaylah Bateman	Senior Primary Boy – Robin Allen
Junior Secondary Girl – Renee Wortley	Junior Secondary Boy – Camilo Dominish
Senior Secondary Girl – Ellen Fletcher	Senior Secondary Boy – Tim Burgess

Congratulations to these students on their fantastic achievements.

Next week sees some of our amazing athletes head off to Wollongong to compete at the Zone Athletics Carnival.

Primary students on Monday August 10th are:

Elana Bateman, Georgie Allen, Mikaylah Bateman, Jeremy Campbell, Angus Allen, Sam Campbell, Robin Allen, Raife Smith, Kurt Wassink, Zoe Carlson, Jarrod Sopniewski, Danielle Mohr, Nick Wassink, Rhenier Berryman .

Secondary students on Friday August 14th are:

Renee Wortley, Jeremy Mohr, Kirralee England, Tim Burgess.

We take this opportunity to wish these 18 students all the best as they seek to compete to the best of their ability and represent SMCS with pride.

Liz Fairbairn – Sport Coordinator.

Interschools Skiing

Congratulations to the SMCS Interschool ski teams on a terrific performance at the Interschools competition held at Perisher last week. Our Division 4 boys team consisting of **Hugo Allen, Robin Allen** and **Angus Allen** placed 3rd in the Skier cross event (**Robin Allen 6th**), 3rd in the Alpine (**Robin Allen 4th**), and 4th in the Moguls (**Hugo Allen 3rd, Angus Allen 10th**), and the Divison 5 team consisting of **Deuchar Allen, India Taylor** and **Georgie Allen** placed 5th in the moguls.

A special mention should go to Indi and Georgie for being great sports and happily entering into the Boys division and to Deuchar for overcoming his reluctance to put on a champion show in the moguls. Well done everyone and a big thank you too to the parents who braved predictable Interschools weather and very early mornings to get the children there! One parent even went well beyond the call of duty to demonstrate the classic spreader jump, surprising us all and I suspect even himself, no names

Both teams have been invited to compete at the State Interschools competition at Perisher at the end of August.

Fiona Taylor – Interschools Skiing Coordinator.

Controlling Influenza at SMCS

So far the school has been blessed with no health issues, however, some parents in the community are unsure about current information regarding the control of H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Influenza).

In regard to procedures for responding to the illness, the Australian Government entered into the phase of response known as the PROTECT Phase back in June. This phase was introduced because the virus is currently not as virulent as was anticipated, and is generally only producing a mild disease in most people, severe in some and moderate overall.

The advice from NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant about responding to Human Swine Flu in this PROTECT phase is as follows:

"... people who have no underlying medical conditions and are experiencing only mild flu-like symptoms should stay at home and minimise contact with others, until they are well. People who develop moderate symptoms should see their GP. Those with severe symptoms should go to their nearest Emergency Department."

(www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/news/2009/20090617_00.html)

Based on this information, advice to schools is as follows:

- a) Any student or staff member who develops flu-like symptoms should stay home until well again, and see their doctor as necessary.
- b) All students and staff should maintain a very high level of personal hygiene.

This advice essentially means that the usual processes for responding to student illness are the same as they would normally be. However, what is also very important is that you **remain vigilant in checking on the ongoing health of your child**. Please watch carefully for signs or symptoms of flu-like illness such as fever, cough, headache, unusual tiredness, muscle-ache, sore throat, chills or shortness of breath. Keep your child away from school at first sign of illness.

The advice from NSW Health is that **pregnant women, as well as people with underlying chronic diseases, are potentially more vulnerable to the more serious effects of all forms of influenza, including the H1N1 strain**. With this in mind, to prevent contact with pregnant staff and parents and members of the school community with pre-existing health problems, I especially seek your assistance in ensuring that your child does not attend school with flu symptoms. I ask that you particularly mention this to the medical practitioner who assesses your child so that appropriate caution is exercised.

Further information from NSW Health can be obtained from NSW Department of Health website <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp>

We will continue to communicate with you if there are any changes to this advice. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact the school.

Kind regards,
Mike.

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

NOTICES

Library Thanks!

Thank you to those who have left donated books in the library for school use.
Gail Curzon - Librarian

Head Lice Alert – Unfortunately there is an outbreak of head lice. Please check your children's hair for head lice and commence treatment before returning to school. Product available at Woolworths or the Chemist. Thank you

Snowy Mountains Christian School *"In Christ, We Strive for Excellence"*

Applications are invited from suitable experienced persons for the position of:

CLEANER (part time casual)

Further details available from:
The Principal SMCS
Phone: 02 64 524 333

Email: office@smcs.nsw.edu.au

It is an offence under the NSW Child Protection (Prohibited Employment Act) 1998 for a person convicted of a serious sex offence to apply for a position in the school.

Closing Date is 18th August

Girls Brigade

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: 18 August; 1, 15, 29 Sept.

NOTICES

Boys Club

Will commence for Term 3 on **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**.

Bike for Bibles Ride Across Australia 2009

Nicholas Corr (from Anglican church) is looking for sponsorship for his ride from Perth on Monday 17th August finishing in Sydney on Saturday 19th September. This is a distance of 4,053km averaging 135km/day. If you'd like to sponsor Nicholas, thereby donating to the Bible Society, please phone Margaret on 6452 5708 or Nicholas on 0415 767 288.

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.

Snowy Enterprise Centre – Short Courses Semester 2, 2009 – Phone 6452 5392 to enroll.

Course Title	Cost	Dates/Time	Description
Achieve your Potential Tutor: Tony Nassar Alpine Therapy Centre	\$60.00	Dates To be advised 7.00 – 9.00pm	This seminar will benefit those who want to achieve more out of life at a personal , academic or corporate level.
Move to Improve Tutor: Jodi Bourke Feldenkrais® Method	\$85.00	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th August 6.00 – 8.00pm	It's easy to relearn ways to move freely and comfortably so you can enjoy the body you live in.
Scrapbooking Tutor: Jeanette de Witte	\$25 + Kit \$20	10 th September 09 7.00 – 9.00pm	Learn creative layout techniques for your treasured photos from an experienced tutor.
Household Budgeting Tutor: Mary Mitchell	\$10.00	October, dates TBA 6.00 – 7.00pm	You can learn to manage your household budget and make your income go further.
Confidence in Childbirth Tutor: Tony Nassar	\$60.00	2 nd & 9 th September 7.00 – 9.00pm	Private Subconscious-mind Healing (P.S.H.) assists expectant parents to develop & utilize specific skills to create a wonderful birthing experience.

How Can We Help You? – Carers Support

With the assistance of local service providers the Cooma-Monaro Young Carers project has been able to assist many young carers so far. For example:

- Payment of a Carer Allowance by Centrelink to help with expenses
- Social worker at Centrelink offering support
- Referral to Carers NSW and the FISH program for Young Carers camps later in the year
- Referral to the Young Carers officer at the Commonwealth Respite & Centrelink Centre for help with some school expenses, help around the home, and breaks from caring;
- Snowy River Shire Council is organizing a young carers group in Cooma and Jindabyne to provide leisure activities and a social outlet with like-minded young carers. If you would like to participate please call Steve Wallis on 6451 1052 or email: steve.wallis@snowyriver.nsw.gov.au

If you would like to see what other support the Cooma-Monaro community can provide to make your caring role a little easier, please call Michele Chaseling, social worker at Centrelink, on 6208 6600, or email

Michele.chaseling@centrelink.gov.au