



25th August 2020

Dear Parents /Guardians / Caregivers,

Christian Values and Behaviour Focus

I thought it important to mention to you that our morning Chapel program over recent weeks has been focusing on teachings and behaviours related to respecting others, truthfulness, serving others, prayerfulness and holding and demonstrating faith and a positive attitude. These are each 'big' concepts to which young people should be exposed on a regular basis so that they may be fostered and reinforced by home, school and in church settings. Children need to be taught the meaning of these values; the related behaviours should be demonstrated to them in relevant settings and they should be discussed openly whenever possible. Children do not simply 'pick up' such behaviours.

Their capacity to understand, and to demonstrate them needs to be taught so that, over time, their faith and confidence grows. This reflects the importance of the positive partnership that must exist between home, school and the church. Our children are great blessings to each of us so we must care for them and bring them to an understanding of how, even the most simple acts of kindness, can show service to God.

The shape of our future society depends on the attitudes, values, relationships and behaviours that our children are developing right now. To be a part of this formative process is a great responsibility and a huge privilege. Let us all ensure that we consistently strive to do our best for our children. Help them, nurture them in the ways of the Lord, provide leadership and role-modelling in their lives and show love always. The world will be a better place because of all that we show our children about the word and love of God in their lives.



Consider

1 John 4:7-8

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.



Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.



Athletics Carnival News and Reviews



What an enormous pleasure it was to see students, staff and parents enjoying our recent Athletics Carnival. While the weather was cool and overcast, the energy of competition between teams and supporters was heart-warming. There were some impressive performances which brought so much joy to team mates and spectators alike.

I must thank Mrs Badenhorst, assisted by Mr Webb, for her organisation of the day's events and for the training and preparation that went into the weeks beforehand.

Thank you to all those parents who took on jobs on the day and for your exuberance in encouraging the children.

Thank you also to Toni Howard and helpers for the organisation of the BBQ lunch. It was the perfect lunch for the weather and I know that the food was very well-received.

Some results from the day include:

- **Parents vs Teachers Tug-of-War:** Parents were victorious!! Congratulations!
- **War Cry Battle:** Hudson was the winner! Well done!
- **Over-all points:** Hudson 498 and Murray 449. Congratulations Hudson.
- **Verity Christian College vs the Weather:** VCC were Victorious. The rain held off until 3pm... Thank you Lord! (Thank you also to those who prayed.)
- Thank you for all those who cleaned up, staff students and families. The place was spotless when we left!

The Athletics Carnival results will be added to other activities that have been held throughout the year in order to determine this year's Champion House, to be announced at our Presentation Ceremony.

Given the expected growth in student numbers for 2021, I would anticipate us activating our third competition house –which is Keller house –named after Helen Keller. The competition will then become even more exciting!



Student Lunches

Please ensure that your child/children have sufficient healthy food to get them through the school day. Many children are bringing large quantities of sugary foods which tend to fuel energy spikes, but then contribute to energy slumps within a short time. This is not the best way to support healthy brains for sustained learning and play. Children need to have a healthy balance of food which could include sandwiches made on wholemeal or whole grain bread, fresh fruit, salad items, some dried fruits, dip such as hummus, cheese and crackers, other protein such as boiled eggs, some cold meat etc. Please see attached sandwich guide.



Parent/Teacher Interviews

The interviews usually scheduled for Term Three have had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. If you would like an over the phone contact to be made, please contact Mrs Stone in the front office and she will advise your child's teacher that a home contact has been requested.

A reminder also, that if your child is unwell, and showing symptoms of a cold or flu, they must be kept at home until symptoms disappear.

(At this stage we **will not** be requiring a COVID free medical certificate to be presented as is the case in other schools. This will be subject to ongoing monitoring and advice from health authorities.)

New Building Program



I have been advised that our new building program for 2021 is expected to begin within the next few weeks with completion being targeted for the end of this school year. The project will include the provision of 5 new general teaching spaces/classrooms, and a new technology centre for the teaching of Science, Art, and some wood and metalwork. In addition, there will be extra storage spaces, staff offices and a new toilet block.

Staff and students will need to be flexible and adaptable for the duration of the building project.

Enrolments

We are currently taking enrolments for Prep through to Year 6 for 2021.

Please contact Mrs Stone in our front office ASAP as our places may become limited due to an influx of enrolment interest. Please pass this information on to others who might be interested.



Expressions of Interest for Years 7-10

We are currently taking expressions of interest for Years 7 to 10 for 2021.

Please contact Mrs Stone in our front office for further information. Again, our places may become limited due to an influx of enrolment interest. Please pass this information on to others who might be interested.

New Staffing for 2021

As the student numbers for next year become clearer over the next few weeks, I will begin the process of engaging additional staff. The School Board has approved hiring an Assistant Principal and this will be the first position to be advertised. I would anticipate the need for up to 5 additional teachers, all of whom will need to be committed to their Christian faith and to the provision of a Christian-focused education for our children. It is amazing to feel God at work in the College as we work to Honour His name and the directions in which He is leading the growth of the College.



Mr Fox's Stage 3 Class at Work:



Mr Fox's class have thoroughly enjoyed their art lessons this term!

To Everyone!

Thank you for the support that you provide to your child's College. Thank you for the many kind words about the success of our programs that are

being shared between community members –including on social media. Please continue to be an advocate for what we have to offer to the Christian children of Griffith. We nurture, we care, we love our work and we are committed to providing the very best opportunities for our students. We are guided in our work by God's word, by our faith and belief in the unique character trait with which each student has been endowed by our Lord.

What a privilege it is to be able to serve God and to contribute to the fulfilment of His plans each day.

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Regards and Blessings,

Mr David Fox

Principal

