

The Vine



2020 Term I, Issue 2



Northside Christian College

Transforming Lives Through Christ and
the Wonder of Learning



Life Ed Program



Welcome!

Mr Damian Higgins, Principal

One of the most amazing pieces of poetry that you will ever read is Psalm 139. I encourage you to stop reading this newsletter immediately and read that Psalm in its entirety before returning to this message.

It won't take very long.

For your convenience, see page 4 of this issue of the Vine for the NIV version of Psalm 139!

It is hard to not be affected deeply by a reading of such an inspiring (and inspired) passage of scripture. It hardly needs any explanation and speaks powerfully of how we are *known* so intimately by our Creator.

One aspect that I would like to dwell on here is that this Psalm speaks of the desire of its author (King David) to have God search his heart and reveal to him what is found, so that the author can then respond. This is shown clearly in the final verse:

"See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

An important part of our journey is being open to God's intimate revelation of what He knows about us. We may think we know ourselves fully, but our loving Father knows us perfectly. Allowing Him to teach us about the state of our hearts is essential for our ongoing spiritual health. Of course, spiritually healthy people make a spiritually healthy community.

What does this look like in our College Community? One of the ways that God speaks to us is through one another. As a staff, every morning, we gather to pray and share devotional time together. In our classrooms, at the start of the day, our teachers lead a similar session with our students. Keeping our hearts open to God so He can reveal things to us is ultimately how we grow closer to Him and get to know Him more fully. Of course, our knowledge of Him is still incomplete but one day things will be perfectly clear. Until that day comes, may we all continue to allow God to reveal the state of our hearts to us so that we may be healthy enough to share the Good News with all those who are desperately in need of it.

Grace & Peace

Parents & Friends News

2020 Term Dates

Term 1

Friday 31st January - Friday 27th March

Term 2

Wednesday 15th April - Friday 26th June

Term 3

Wednesday 15th July - Friday 18th September

Term 4

Tuesday 6th October - Tuesday 8th December



Please join us for our monthly P&F Meetings on the first Thursday of the Month.
More details soon!



SEQTA ENGAGE

Have you signed up?

Diary Dates

Term 1

Thursday 12th March

Twilight Open Night

Tuesday 17th March

Years 3-6 Swimming Lessons

Thursday 19th March

VCE CSEN Rally Day

Friday 20th March

Harmony Day

Monday 23rd March

Year 9 Resiliency Day

Tuesday 24th March

Principal's Tour

Wednesday 25th March

CSEN Secondary Swimming Competition

Friday 27th March

Last Day of Term 1 - 2:00pm* Finish

*Note: this is different to time published in 2020

College calendar

Friday 10th April

Good Friday

Monday 13th April

Easter Monday

Tuesday 14th April

Staff Preparation Day - No Students

Term 2

Wednesday 15th April

Students Return

Ms Liz Tsiros, Office Manager

In 2019 the College launched SEQTA Engage, a branch of our collaborative teaching, learning and communication ecosystem.

SEQTA Engage gives parents access to their child's timetables, homework tasks, due dates and upcoming assessment dates as well as important notification from the College.

SEQTA Engage replaces the traditional method of emails from the College and we thank all families that have set up their usernames and passwords already. The final step requires setting up the App on your phone or device.

You will need to install the SEQTA Engage App on your mobile device from the App Store or Google Play Store. This app will work on iOS and Android devices.

Instructions for setting up the App on your phone/device:

Select SEQTA Engage App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your device.

1. Hi there - select: >

2. Never miss a thing - select: >

3. Keep is secure - select: >

4. Got a code - select: >

5. Already logged in:

Add Account - select: **MANUAL SETUP**

URL: engage.ncc.vic.edu.au

6. Username: (the username you set up)

Password: (the password you set up).

Remember to turn on your Notifications in Settings.

Parents/guardians that have **forgotten or NOT set up their username and password**, please call the friendly staff at Reception on 9467 2499 and they will be able to direct your call.



SEQTA Engage ⓘ
SEQTA Software
#40 in Education
★★★★★ 3.2 (101 Ratings)
Free

Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down, you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me
were written in your book before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you.
If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.
Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.
Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Chappy Chat

Mr Jared Stocks, Chaplain

TOILET ROLLS

What do the following verses have in common: Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 56:3, Philippians 4:6-7, John 14:27, 1 Timothy 1:7, 1 John 4:18, Proverbs 23:4 & Joshua 1:9? I would encourage you to read all these verses when you get the chance; however, to save you from looking them up - and the 35 other passages I found around this topic - I will just tell you: All these verses deal with the area of fear and anxiety.

Philippians 4:6-7 says,

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

There is a lot of fear and anxiety in our world today and it has infected society like a virus. People, by and large, are afraid. We fear the unknown, we fear lack, loneliness, pain (just ask the Year 7s who recently got immunised), famine, sickness, death and what comes next. This fear leads to a large amount of anxiety and can result in very strange behaviour.

I like shopping at my local American bulk goods super store ... usually, I can get a park close to the door, get my bulk monthly supplies and purchase some toilet paper. But when I went to visit last Thursday, I parked a couple of blocks away, waded through about 1,000 people with trolleys full of toilet paper, to the very back of the store to see empty shelves where toilet paper used to spill into the aisle. I parked the trolley and walked the two blocks back to my car



and I couldn't help but laugh at how crazy it all is (I'm sure some of you shared this experience). Like I said, fear and anxiety can cause some strange behaviour.

However, I have made a choice. I will not be anxious about this situation, but I will pray and trust God to look after me and my family. I will be thankful in all circumstances. Even though I am still careful and heeding the advice of the medical professionals, I have experienced great peace by simply trusting in Jesus.

I pray that you too will be filled with peace.



2020 Wellbeing

We have a small but busy Wellbeing Team at NCC:

- ~ Fiona Dumitrache - Head of Student Wellbeing
- ~ Jared Stocks - Chaplain
- ~ Phil Waters - Pastoral Care

We also work closely with the Learning Support Leaders, Serene Eng (Primary) and Michael Bond (Secondary), as well as Learning Assistants and Homeroom teachers in the classrooms. Additionally, we provide a private clinic at the College with Educational and Developmental Psychologist, Alexandra Tait. She will be in on Wednesdays this term and Tuesdays from Term 2 onwards. If you would like your child to be able to access this user paid service, please contact Fiona Dumitrache on fdumitrache@ncc.vic.edu.au for more information and costs (which are minimal with a Mental Health Care Plan).

We look forward to supporting your young people again in 2020.



YEAR 7 RESILIENCY DAY

Ms Jo Westland, Director of Middle School Learning

In Week 5 our Year 7 students participated in their first Resiliency Day. It was a fun day with positive messages and helpful advice given in a supportive environment. This amazing program, which was tailored to the age appropriate needs of the Year 7s, was organised and lead by our Head of Wellbeing, Fiona Dumitrache, the Year 7 Homeroom teacher, Mr Waters, and wonderfully supported by a number of our Year 10 students who gave up their time to ensure the success of the day. The opportunity for our Senior students to demonstrate leadership saw them step up to the responsibility and shine!

Thank you to the staff and students for providing such a memorable day.



Highlights for some of the Year 7 students included:

Annie Z "Resiliency Day was great. I enjoyed the loud interactive games and made friends with the Year 10 girls who helped out."

Keira "Resiliency Day was fun and the food was really good. I enjoyed the Skittles game and learning about how to avoid toxic friendships."

Hamish "Resiliency Day was very informative. I discovered new things about my growing brain and girls. Having the Year 10 boys give up their time to help was a highlight for me."

Alex and Nick "Mr Waters spoke on maturing through the teenage years and how our brains evolve. We liked the food and had fun with the Year 10 boys who gave good advice."

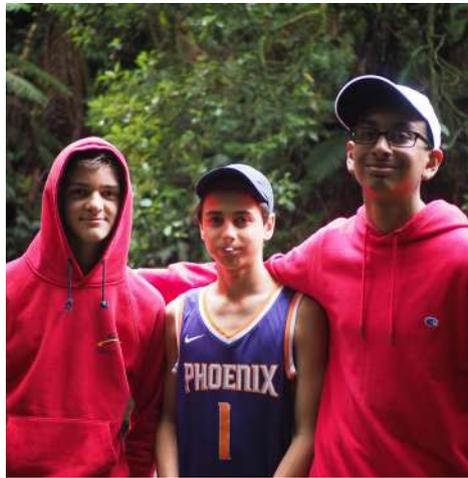


Year 9 Coastal Challenge

Ms Ellison Cook, Middle School Teacher

The Year 9 Coastal Challenge held in Week 3 this Term was a success. The students were given the opportunity to try new activities, bond with their classmates and spend a bit of time away from a traditional classroom setting in order to begin preparing them for their Year of Challenge ahead. Many of the students had never surfed before, so to be thrown into an unfamiliar situation away from home was exciting, and a little scary. As teachers, we were so heartened to see all of the students approach each activity with a positive mindset, wanting to have a go rather than decide it "wasn't

for them". In Year 9, many students are beginning to figure out who they are and how to deal with difficult situations, so an important component of camp is reflection. Throughout the year, students will be offered the chance to reflect on their experiences, encourage their peers and build resilience in the face of challenges. The Year 9 program is an important component of the students Middle School experience at Northside, a chance to get out into the world and try new things before settling in to their Senior School studies. We can't wait to see how the Year 9s tackle the next few challenges this year will bring!



Alex P, Year 9 Student

Before the camp, I was pretty scared because I didn't know how to surf and I worried that I would keep falling off and not be able to balance on the surfboard or the standup paddleboard. I am proud of myself for giving surfing a go, even though I didn't want to. I am also proud of my classmates, because they were able to stand up for a surprising amount of time on their boards.

I'm excited about approaching the other challenges that will happen later on in the year, such as the City Challenge and the trip to WA for 10 days for the Cultural Challenge..

Ivah, Year 9 Student

The biggest challenge that I faced on the Coastal Camp was standup paddleboarding. I was nervous that I was going to fall in and wouldn't be able to get back up. For the first 5-10 minutes, I was kneeling down - but, now that I look back on the day, I shouldn't have been so nervous. It was actually pretty easy once you got the hang of it. I was still nervous but I changed my anxiety into determination to reach the end.

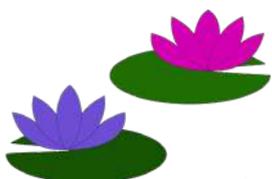
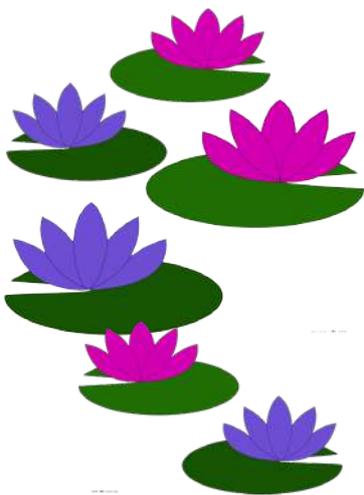
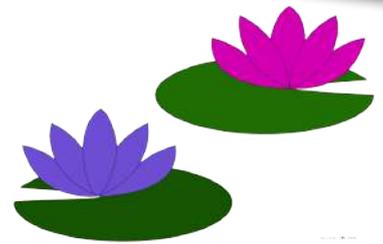


VISUAL ARTS: COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Term 1 Community Art Project: Recycled Water Lilies!

Mrs Antonietta Veljanovski, Visual Arts Primary Teacher

The Year 3/4 students have been preparing water lilies for the upcoming Whittlesea Community Festival. The water lilies were constructed from old CDs, plastic soft drink bottles and yogurt squeeze top lids. The lilies will be used as an art installation at the Festival (see festival details below).



CITY OF WHITTLESEA
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2020
11AM – 5PM
Whittlesea Public Gardens,
Barry Road, Lalor

OUR BACKYARD

- Food • Live music • Performances • Art
- Free kids activities • Backyard games • Rides
- Free bus from Thomastown station

City of Whittlesea

INSPIRE - Science Talent Search Success

Amy Horneman, INSPIRE (Talent Development) Coordinator

Congratulations to Christian (Year 9) and Harry (Year 4) for their outstanding achievements in the National Science Talent Search competition (BHP Billiton Foundation Science and Engineering Awards)! Both students had their original inventions entered into the National competition because of the high calibre of their State entries and have both received recognition for their work at National level. Christian's 'NetBox' invention, an internet data app, was a semifinalist in the 2020 competition, and Harry's 'MiniFridge' invention received an encouragement award. Both students will be entering the Science Talent Search again in 2020, along with 30 other Northside students, and we look forward with anticipation to the wonderful creativity and innovation that will be on display when our students submit their projects in Term 2.



Dear Christian,

Thank you so much for your excellent submission to the 2020 BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards and congratulations as you have been selected as a semi-finalist! Your NetBox project was an outstanding contribution for which you should feel extremely proud. The judges were so impressed with the time you took to work on this.

...We hope this award will encourage you to submit another piece of work in the future.

If you would like to view the complete list of winning entries, please follow this link:

<http://www.scienceawards.org.au/Student-Awards>

Thank you once again for your hard work, and for your continued interest and commitment to science and engineering!

All the best,

The BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards team.

Prep Home Visits



Ms Olivia Natoli, Prep Teacher

Ms Georgiou and Ms Natoli have been busy visiting a record number of Preps each Wednesday.

Home visits are designed to enhance the relationship between our Prep families and their teachers. The Preps love being able to reflect on time spent with their teacher in their home environment, and parents benefit from some one-on-one time with their child's teacher.

Home visits often involve Lego, card games, board games, outdoor activities, stories, coloring and drawing ... and have even seen teachers end up on a trampoline!

Ms Georgiou and Ms Natoli would love to thank all the Prep families for welcoming them into their homes.





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