Welcome back. I trust that the holidays were an opportunity for relaxation and time with family.

Heads of Year

I am delighted to announce the appointment of the Heads of Year for the Secondary School. You will recall that I proposed this system in my Initial Report published in March.

The Heads of Year are responsible for leading and creating the school culture in their year level, and the overall management of student progress and behaviour. Classroom teachers are still responsible for managing progress in their subjects and communicating with parents.

The following staff have commenced in these roles as of last Monday:

Year 7 – Mr Amos
Year 8 – Mrs Bester
Year 9 – Mr Riley
Year 10 – Mr Boonstra
Year 11 & 12 – Mrs Laning

This person will remain with the students in their care until they graduate.

The system has many advantages:

1) Parents will have a constant point of contact for the duration of their child’s schooling. The Head of Year will establish a close working relationship with parents. This gives a definite structure to the home-school partnerships that we value so much;

2) Students will be known and continuously supported through the stages of adolescence. Our care will have a consistency and detailed history;

3) Students will not “get lost” in transition from one year level to another; and

4) A proactive approach will be used and attention will be given to all students.

The Head of Year will take a Home Group and is supported by two other Home Group Teachers.

We will appoint a Head of Year for the Year 7 of 2014 during the course of this year.

Parents may contact their child’s Head of Year through the main reception office.

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Changes to Home Room

Home Rooms have been moved to the beginning of the day. Home Room commences promptly at 8:45am. It is expected that students arrive punctually for this lesson and prepared to attend the first two lessons.

Home Rooms have been re-configured so that students from only one year level are in that room. There are three Home Rooms at each year level comprising approximately 20 students in each.

Reports

I was very impressed with the school reports that I read prior to the holiday break. On Monday in our assembly I congratulated the vast majority of students for the quality of their results. I affirmed that working diligently in response to your Interim Report is the right decision to make. Completing Term 2 well provides the foundation to build to even better results in the second semester. It is true that success breeds success.

Swimming

I was delighted to see so many people involved in the swimming carnival held last term and to watch the team spirit and fun that was so much in evidence on the day. I offer my congratulations to the teachers, House Captains and others who planned and delivered the day.

Staff changes

Mrs MacNeil is away this term on Long Service Leave. Her classes are being taught by Mrs Whiteley, Mrs Straatsma, Mrs Mundy and Mr Belot.

Iain Belot
Principal
Whole School News

2013 Calendar

Please be advised that we hope to very shortly send to you a whole school 2013 calendar for your information and entering into your personal diaries. We are finalising a new format for the calendar so watch out for this email.

Whole School Prayer Meeting - 13 May

Every second Monday of the month we hold a whole school parent and staff prayer meeting at 7:00pm in the Library Resource Centre on the Secondary Campus. The next one is Monday 13 May and we would love to see you there. May we encourage you to come along and pray together for our students, staff and school community.

Calvin Sports Polo - quality issue

The Uniform Shop have been receiving some complaints about the quality of the fabric used in the new sublimated sports polo supplied by Midford. The possibility of a problem occurring with the garment was brought to our attention by Midford shortly after our order arrived as they had experienced problems with another customer's order in the same fabric. While the fabric has passed a number of quality tests for pilling the cause has been attributed to faulty yarns and flaws in the knitting construction of the fabric.

Since the problem started to occur in our sports polo we have been working with Midford to identify the best alternate fabric to use for our sports polo going forward. We have viewed some alternatives and a decision will be made soon. Midford will supply the replacement order free of charge and as soon as the sports polo is available we will look at replacing any faulty garments. We will advise you in future newsletters of a likely date the replacement sports polo will be available.

Enrolment vacancies - Year 8 - 2013

We currently have a few spaces available in Year 8 which we would like to offer for enrolment.

Maybe you have a friend who has a child not happy at their current school and they would possibly like to attend Calvin. May we encourage you to prayerfully consider approaching them with a view to attending our school.

Our Registrar, Fiona would love to speak to you to discuss and can provide an enrolment package and further information.

OLIEBOLLEN - SATURDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER

Oliebollen has historically be held in October but due to the change to 4 terms we have had to reschedule to the second Saturday in September. Oliebollen this year will be held on Saturday, 14 September. Please mark this date in your diaries and start to consider how you might help at this years festival. Further information will be sent in the next few weeks.

Food Allergy Awareness Week 13-19 May

Food allergy continues to increase at alarming rates. Whilst researchers across the world try to understand more about food allergy and the increase, those in the Australian community live with the challenge of managing risk whilst maintaining a good quality of life.

1 in 10 infants now have food allergy. The most common food allergies in childhood are cow's milk, egg, peanut and tree nut. The foods that trigger 90% of food allergic reactions in Australians include cow’s milk, egg, peanut, tree nut, sesame, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish. Peanut, tree nut, fish, shellfish and sesame allergy are usually lifelong.

Risk cannot be removed but it can be managed. The 1 in 10 babies with food allergy need to be cared for in a community that has greater understanding and awareness of food allergy. Individuals at risk of anaphylaxis and those caring for them must know how to reduce the possibility of a reaction, be able to recognise a reaction when it happens and know how to respond.

Below are some facts:

- Life threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) in children aged under 4 have increased fivefold over the last 10 years
- Currently food allergies cannot be cured; avoidance of the food is key to management.
- Most food allergic reactions occur when people are eating away from the home
- Approximately 10 Australians die as a result of anaphylaxis each year.
- Most deaths are preventable. Teens and young adults are most at risk and represent 70% of food allergy deaths

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2013

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. The program is scheduled to continue in 2013 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 to be assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in Tasmania have been participating in literacy and numeracy tests for a number of years, so there is familiarity with the test formats and the types of questions.

The scheduled dates for the tests in 2013 are Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May.

These national tests will provide information on how students are progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level, as well as performance across the whole range of student abilities. The results will support improvements in teaching and learning for students.

Parents will receive an individual report that shows their child’s results and a comparison of their child’s performance against all other Australian students in their year level. The report will also indicate how your child performed in comparison to the national average and the levels of achievement expected at that year level.

For students in Years 5, 7 and 9, the results from the 2013 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since they last participated in NAPLAN testing in 2011.

The best way you can assist your child is by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, including test samples, frequently asked questions, the test schedule and a parent information brochure, please visit the national NAPLAN website at: http://www.nap.edu.au

Entertainment Books

There are still a number of Entertainment Books that have not been returned or paid for. Can you please return the book or payment to Karen as soon as possible.

Kids Together 2013

Kids Together is the children’s program of Church Together, which will be held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre on Sunday, 19 May.

Last year with a combined churches kid’s leadership team, Kids Together launched with a program for kids age 1 year through to Grade 6 and we saw 276 children attended resulting in many children committing or re-committing their lives to Christ.

This year the theme is Limitless; we serve a limitless God and His children can live a limitless life as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Come and find out how to say goodbye to any limitation and live a limitless life that is bigger, stronger and greater than you can ever comprehend. There will be activities, music, good and lots of cool stuff to do. There will even be something for your parents to do while you are having all the fun.

Where: Derwent Entertainment Centre
When: Sunday, 19 May
Time: 4:00 – 6:30pm
Ages: 1 year – Grade 6
Cost: FREE

Register online: www.churctogethertasmania.com by Wednesday, 15 May
Lost Jumper
Matthew Allie (Year 7) has lost his brand new secondary school jumper. It is size 14 and has his name in it. It would be appreciated if you could check your child’s jumper to ensure they have not taken it home by mistake.

Sport News

Cross Country

The school cross country will be held next Friday (17th) at the school. The first race will begin at 11:10 with all races starting and finishing on the large school oval (on Sophia Street). A copy of the race timetable is below.

11:10  YR 7 GIRLS RACE  (3 KM)
11:30  YR 7 BOYS RACE  (3 KM)
11:50  YR 8 GIRLS RACE  (3 KM)
12:10  YR 8 BOYS RACE  (4 KM)
12:50  Yr 11/12 BOYS   (6 KM)
1:20   Yr 10/11/12 GIRLS (3 KM yr 10) & (4 KM yr 11/12)
1:40   YR 10 BOYS   (5 KM)
2:10   Yr 9 GIRLS   (3 KM)
2:30   YR 9 BOYS   (4 KM)

All students from Years 7-9 are expected to be involved. If there is a medical reason for non participation then this needs to communicated to PE staff by the end of this week before teams are allocated. For students in Year 10 – 12 the event is optional, however, students are strongly encouraged to participate and actively support their house.

Any parents who would like to be involved please contact the school office.

Term 2 Sports at Kingborough Sports Centre

With Term 1 rosters concluding soon there is the opportunity for new teams to register for the second roster at KSC for Basketball & Futsal which will begin on the week beginning 3rd June. Students who wish to play in this terms roster should see the PE staff for more details. Please note that any school teams must have an appointed coach or manager who will take responsibility for the team on game nights. Lunchtime training sessions can also be arranged.

Term 2 Physical Education classes

From next week the Physical Education program for all Year 7-10 classes is at the Kingborough Sports Centre. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate footwear for Indoor Court activities. Year 9 students who wish to remain at the Centre at the end of the lesson must bring a note from home to confirm that your son/daughter has your permission.
Let kids practise losing

Recently I listened to short video by Parentingideas Magazine contributor Maggie Dent that made so much sense.

In the video Maggie implores parents to let kids practise losing so they can become more resilient and also more social.

I couldn't agree more.

Currently, there's a flaw in modern Western culture that won't allow kids to lose, to struggle or to experience disappointment. Interestingly, this is at a time when childhood anxiety is going through the roof.

In an effort to improve outcomes for kids we've created a childhood culture that is highly structured, highly organised and highly adult-initiated. This high level of organisation minimises failure, avoids disappointment and reduces struggle. And it does kids no favours!

The solution is to reduce adult-initiated activity and introduce more unrestricted, child-initiated, social play.

It's through free play that kids have always learned about winning and losing; how to handle it when things don't go your way; how to get on with all types of kids including the children your parents don't approve of; how to wait your turn and; how to hang in there long enough until things eventually go your way.

Unstructured play is usually very hierarchical in nature. Older kids tend to boss around younger kids, who often return the favour in spades when it's their turn to be the eldest.

Kids often rely on natural consequences to influence their friends and siblings. “I'm not going to play with you because you’re mean/you don’t share/you always go first!” Sometimes they bring adults into the mix to adjudicate, but they generally just resolve things their way regardless of what adults say!

Get kids away from screens

The key to resilience-inducing, socialising free play is that the play needs to involve other children or young people. Coping and social learning can't be done in isolation. There needs to be a social element to it. Even playing computer games involving others from a distance doesn’t make the grade.

Face-to-face interactions that occur through free play develops the BIG 3 social behaviours in kids – that is, 1) co-operative, 2) assertive and 3) coping behaviours.

So make sure your children’s free time is balanced between structured adult-initiated activity such as after school sport; includes child-initiated calming down-time such as listening to music, and group-oriented free play (involving at least one other person) that is done either inside or outside (the latter should be included) where your child can practise losing, struggling, following the lead of others and heaps more great life skills and attitudes.

Article written by Michael Grose