



Mottos

- Primary** Prospero says that harder than giving presents away
Is giving attention to others all day.
- Years 7-9** Listen more and talk less.
- Years 10-12** "Anger manages everything badly." – *Stadius*

From the Headmaster

I am greatly looking forward to this **evening's Concert Night**. Much preparation is going into this and it will be thoroughly enjoyable - as much for those on stage as for the audience. I am asking the boys to be very mindful of concert etiquette: we don't talk during performances, we stay in our seats, all mobile phones off, etc. Also, I have reminded our boys that the prize-winners represent the efforts of all in sport and at their books. We honour them through our attention, our care in our own presentation, and our applause. Because the aim of applause is to show genuine appreciation, we do not draw attention to ourselves when we applaud, therefore we don't whistle or call out.

We had a lovely time last Thursday at the End of Year 6 Celebration. It was a great day to give thanks and celebrate as a family. It is days like this that help us to come together as families and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to Alan and Gena Soriano, Class Parents, Von and Leah Llagas, Class Parent Helpers, and their team of busy workers. They made the day very enjoyable for all. Thank you.

Your son's report comes home today. It should arrive sealed and ready for discussion. Use it as a chance to sit down with him and discuss areas of improvement, excellence and focus for next year.

On a sad note, today we farewell Mr Julien Perrottet. Julien has successfully run the PDHPE Department for the last 2 years. The variety of sports, the enthusiasm that he has brought to sport and his cheerful personality have made Wollemi a better place. Julien goes on to work as an Assistant Director of a TV show. Please say thank you to Julien tonight, if you get the chance, and wish him well. We have also recently appointed Mr Tevita Afeaki as a Secondary Maths and Geography teacher for next year. Tevita comes to us from Central Coast Grammar where he plays the trumpet. He also loves sport and enjoys being in the classroom. I'm sure we'll make him feel very welcome next year.

Please help your children to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. This is a great time to have a break and spend time with people. It is also a chance to spend time with each other, creating memories, sharing stories, sharing laughter and love.

Please have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAPLAINS

Once we entered into December, a Google reminder telling us it is now summer was really hardly needed. It would be more useful if Google reminded us sleepy Christians sitting in front of our computers that the time of Advent - that traditional season of preparation for Christmas - has begun. Actually I use the Google search engine quite a lot, because it is very efficient for getting you the information you need and getting it fast. Also, I find that though its news service, like most newspapers, is rather superficial and limited, it is one of the safer places to be on the net when looking for what's being reported.

Our nation is certainly a very secular place and seems to be getting more so as time goes on. The idea of "secular" can take on different meanings. One meaning that is quite positive has its roots in the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus, when he says: "Give unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God, the things that are God's" (Cf *Matthew 22: 15-22*) Secular can simply mean "not part of a given religion".

This teaching has been enshrined in the political idea of separation of Church and State. In other words, let the state look after what it is meant to look after – the laws of good social order, fair trade, defense, public safety and even aspects of public morality. Let the Church, or religious authority in general, look after the spiritual and doctrinal education and well-being of its members and be allowed to inform society, through persuasion, about the moral principals that safeguard our humanity. The ideal of separation of Church and State is offended against when either religious or political authority attempts to control nearly all aspects of public and private life. Historically this has happened at some moments of history and in some parts of the world it still happens.

There exist both secular and religious totalitarian states.

Another meaning of "secular" happens when religion is gradually forced into hiding by a kind of cultural thought control. Signs of religious belief are frowned upon, or even prevented from appearing or being heard. Such a trend seems to have been happening in our so-called "western societies" for some decades now. It became a topic of news and discussion a few years ago resulting in a welcome backlash. People were saying "Why shouldn't city banners say "Happy Christmas" and not just "Season's Greetings " or "Happy Holidays"? "Why can't nativity scenes be set up in schools and department stores? After all, it's no secret why we started taking time off of work this time of year."

It is important for people of Christian faith to not let themselves be overridden by lobby groups who are really pushing their own ideologies. Faith in God, in Christ, and in the Christian message is what shaped many of our most cherished and beneficial institutions. It has been the motor for promoting human rights based on our common humanity and equality as persons before God. Were it not for Jesus we might still be watching slaves being fed to the lions or something like the "Hunger Games".

So hopefully we won't be shy about sending Christmas cards that have some real connection with the greatest event in human history, and the original cause of Christmas joy - the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – the Son of God become man. Happy Christmas to all you students, parents and teachers!! Hope to see you again soon, in the new year.

Fr Max and Fr Anthony

2015 TERM DATES

TERM	FIRST DAY	LAST DAY
One	Wednesday 28 January	Thursday 2 April
Two	Tuesday 21 April	Friday 19 June
Three	Monday 13 July	Friday 18 September
Four	Wednesday 7 October	Tuesday 8 December

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop will be open during the holidays as follows:

23rd Jan - Friday 10-12 am

27th Jan – Tuesday 10-11 am

28th Jan – Wed 8:15-8:45 am

30th Jan – Friday 3:30-4:00 pm

Please make use of these times for blazer fittings if you need to purchase a new blazer for next year.

Please check your son's blazer early in the new year. We have several pre-loved blazers available for sale now. Pre-loved blazers cannot be reserved or held, but are sold on a first come first served basis. Blazers cannot be exchanged or returned. Please check sizes at the uniform shop.

Order of school bags are being taken. There are now 7 roller bags for sale.

We are in need of two volunteers. If you can spare a bit of time to help out in the uniform shop, please contact Rocel Quinn on 0438 251 987.

MIRRABOOKA

If you have a son going into Years 7, 8 or 9 next year and are looking for him to get out of the house and do something active and fun over the summer, you may wish to consider sending him to the Summer Camp at Wyee (Central Coast) on 15 - 19 January run by Mirrabooka Study Centre.

Wollemi boys who have attended these camps over the years have all said they had a great time and learnt a lot about working as a team. If you'd be interested to send your son(s) to the camp or to simply know more about it, please go to this link <https://sites.google.com/site/mbkcamp2015/home>

YEAR 3 AND 4 FAMILY CAMP

Year 3 is joining in on the Year 4 camping trip to Kangaroo Valley!!

The camp will take place from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th of December 2014 at Glenmack Caravan Park Kangaroo Valley (<http://www.glenmack.com.au/>). There is plenty to do including swimming in the river and bushwalks and for the more adventurous there are kayaks available for hire.

The park has cabins for hire and a tent camping ground. Prices for the camping ground will be \$12 per adult and \$8 per child(over 4) per night. We will be camping, and camping cannot be booked, however we have camped there on a number of occasions and have not had any problems pitching a tent. If you would prefer to stay in a cabin you can check the **off peak** prices on the site (<http://www.glenmack.com.au/tariffs.htm>). The cabins can also be booked if you wish.

The Park has communal bathroom facilities and BBQ's and a playground which are available for use. Hope to see you there, bring marshmallows and games.

RSVP Camille Wiggins 0408618245

Jo Tabone 0414061478

BASKETBALL CLUB NEWS

Games during the School Holidays

FRIDAY 12th December

u16div1 court 1 5:45pm vs Joeys Magic Js
 u18div1 court 1 8:00pm vs GP Globetrotters
 u18div2warriors court 5 7:15pm vs Joeys J-Hawks
 u18div2wizards court 6 8:45pm vs Lycans SC

SATURDAY 13TH December

u12div3 BYE
 u14div3 court 5 2:39pm vs Joeys Jackals
 u16div2 court 3 3:50pm vs Super 8NEP

FRIDAY 19th December

u16div1 court 1 5:00pm vs Titans NEP
 u18div1 court 1 8:00pm vs Gold Termin8rz
 u18div2warriors court 5 8:00pm vs Blaze CPSM
 u18div2wizards court 6 8:00pm vs Purple DunkersGP

SATURDAY 20th December

u12div3 NO GAMES--STADIUM BOOKING
 u14div3 NO GAMES--STADIUM BOOKING
 u16div2 NO GAMES--STADIUM BOOKING

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2015

u16div1 court 2 5pm vs Renegades RBC
 u18div1 court 1 8pm vs Jumpin jammers GP
 u18div2warriors court 5 8pm vs Amigos
 u18div2wizards court 6 7:15pm vs Purple dunkers

SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2015

u12div3 court 4 11:50 vs Grey Wolves Sc
 u14div3 NO GAMES- Stadium booking
 u16div2 No games --Stadium booking

Note to parents:

Please advise your managers if your son is unable to play, so a fill in player could be arranged. To forfeit a game because of insufficient number of players is very costly, (double the court fees paid per game.) Thank you for filling in the surveys. A happy and Safe Christmas, see you next year!

Camille Wiggins ([0408618245](tel:0408618245))**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Tuesday 9 December	Last day of school
Friday 23 January, Tuesday 27 January , Wednesday 28 January	Uniform Shop open
Wednesday 28 January 2015	First day of Term 1 2015
Friday 6 February 2015	Key Parent Function
Friday 13 February 2015	Swimming Carnival
Friday 27 February—Sunday 1 March	Years 3 & 4 Father/Son Camp to Bluegum