Your precious little people

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Although I try not to be shocked by the things I see these days, I was caught off-balance by the message on the woman’s T-shirt as she walked past me in the shops. The bold letters declared: “Hope Is For Suckers.”

Certainly, being naïve or gullible can be foolish and dangerous. Disappointment and heartache can be the tragic offspring of unfounded optimism. But not allowing oneself to have hope is a sad and cynical way to view life.

Optimism is a feeling or belief that good things will happen in the future: a feeling or belief that what you hope for will happen. A common example used to illustrate optimism versus pessimism is a glass with water at the halfway point, where the optimist is said to see the glass as half full and the pessimist sees the glass as half empty.

Optimism is often seen to expect the best and view events and situations in a positive light. In the context of resiliency, optimism refers to a sense of a positive future, to a tendency to find positive meaning in experiences, and a belief in one’s ability to impact positively on one’s environment and situation.

An optimistic outlook in life can boost the way we approach challenges and even boost the ability to respond and rebuild when we are sick. It is even good to build the immune system to keep away the common cold.

Being optimistic isn’t always being happy. It’s taking what the world throws at you and saying, “I’m not going to let this get me down!”

Enjoy the news for this week!

Dr David J Faull
Principal

**Principal’s Message**

**General News**

**Outstanding Program**
It was great to have the applause and positive comments from the audience and parents at the school program on Saturday morning in Toronto Church. The children performed beautifully and the music selection just added to the promotion of the value of appreciation.

It was a combination of teamwork right across the campus. One comment was memorable, ‘This was the best program from the biggest group, well presented and I just loved that final combined item – well done.’

**Position Vacancy**
Avondale School, Toronto Campus, has a vacancy for the receptionist position. This part-time position would suit a person who is focused on the valued presentation at the front office as well as the day to day support of staff and the enrolled student community. Office and accounts experience with supporting qualification would be essential with knowledge of MAZE software being desirable.

Please forward your application and supporting CV to admin@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au by the closing date of 17 June 2016.

**Pumpkin Sales**
Mr Drury has been very busy working with students to harvest pumpkins. These were displayed in the Office by Mrs Allan. We also offered them to the Avondale big campus. So far we have sold $270 worth of pumpkins and the pumpkins are still maturing!!

A wonderful boost to the total for readers – thank you!!

**Readers Readers**
In response to the program on Saturday a collection was made for new readers. With so many students doing so well with reading we need more readers and a wider ability range. The folks gave $1600 plus and this combined with the ‘pumpkin sale’ will add a number of quality titles to the stock. If you missed out it’s not too late to drop a donation to the Office!!

**School Fees**
It seems you blink and another term has gone! Please make sure you check your account and keep a smile on Mrs Allan’s face by making those regular payments on school fees. Please make every effort to make a payment over the next three weeks!!

**Awards**

**Students of the Week**
Pre-Kindy - Solomon
K-2 - Eden
3-6 - Kanayah

**Values Award**
Pre-Kindy - Georgie
K-2 - Isaac
3-6 - Caitlyn
Pre-Kindy

We had a great time at our school church service last Saturday. The children did their very best. Well done Pre-Kindy!! You managed to get your balloons into church without too many tangles, and you sounded lovely. If anyone missed our items, then you will be able to see our Pre-Kindy items on our school Facebook page soon. The children were excited to see themselves on the screen when I played back a video of their items. Our sounds for this week have been q, j, and y. On Tuesday we had some nesQuik drink. It was quite a popular choice. The children have been having fun making words puzzles, as part of our literacy time, and the children are still super keen to learn their alphabet sounds! Those little Letterland charts encourage children to work on the sounds they need to learn next, and there is always someone asking me to test them so they can glue another letter on! All their letter knowledge is transferring into being able to read words, which is very exciting for both the student, and the teacher! A big thank you to Mrs Greensill for teaching Pre-Kindy on Wednesday and Thursday this week while I needed to be away.

Have a great week everyone.

K-2

Thank you to all who were able to attend our church service. Our students did very well saying their lines and singing beautifully. Well done.

Our reporters for this week were:
Daniel – Pr Brock said he is going to tell all our class a story. On Wednesday Pr Brock showed us a picture on the screen of Moses that he drew. (Daniel also decided he would have a go at drawing Moses and gave him a very colourful coat. We are keeping it until we see Pr Brock again so that we can show him.)
Mikayla – Mr Drury planted lettuce in the garden. I am not finished my picture yet, when I am I want to give it to Mr Drury.
Isaac – On Saturday we had the Church Service, K-2 said our Thankful Hearts poem and sang a song. Mrs Holt wrote my sentence down and I copied all the words down.
Isobel – On Friday and Monday we will have a day off school.
Tyler – They are making tiny helicopters in the science experiment.
The theme for show and tell was ‘What is your favourite book?’ It was great to see our students bring in a favourite book that they have enjoyed. Next week, tell us something you like and something you dislike.
Congratulations to the following students:
Speedy Math – Isaac, Georgia, Ioana and Daniel.
Star of the Week – Eden
Value of the Week Award – Isaac
Super Improver Wall – Katie, Ioana, Mikayla and Eden

Next week our ‘super sound’ will be ‘ng’.
The letters for next week will be ‘n’ ‘k’ ‘e’.
Have a safe and happy long weekend.
A BIG congratulations to everyone for their outstanding performances at our program last Saturday at Toronto Church. It was just great to be able to worship together as a school community and to be able to showcase the talents God has blessed us with.

We have had such a wonderful time lately listening to everyone’s project presentations. They have been just outstanding and we have been able to learn lots of new things about materials and electrical circuits. We want to thank our mums and dads for helping us to fulfil the requirements for our projects.

We have continued to learn all about fractions and decimals in Maths this week. Yesterday we had a very special treat during Mrs Ryan’s class as we were able to make pizzas. This really helped us to learn more about this important topic. What a great way to learn about Maths!

We wish to thank Riley and his mum for bringing in the family’s pet rabbit on Thursday so that we could see how much it has grown in the three weeks since it was born. It is very cute!

A fantastic effort this week, Years 3-6!
We have some exciting news at TCN. Last week we received our new iMac, which has been specially designed for our video editing needs. This is a fantastic addition to our TCN program as it will speed up the post production work. Our TCN final cut pro editing team will be utilising this iMac each week.

Our wardrobe and make up assistant, Sophie, had a fun time shopping last week when she visited the Priceline Pharmacy at Toronto. Sophie chose the items she needs to kept her department in tip top form. A special thank you to the ladies at Priceline who helped Sophie choose what she needed. We look forward to seeing our TCN news crew looking as smart as they can be in our next edition of the news.

If you missed seeing our last edition of the news, which was shown at our school church service last week, then you can view it on our TCN website, at torontocampusnews.com. You can also find it on the school website as well. I think you will agree that the team is certainly stepping up to the mark and doing a great job. Well done team! If you visit our website, please leave a message for our TCN team. They will love to hear from you.
Chaplain’s Message

Get Up and Walk

One of the reasons I love the book of John is that the author writes a lot about food. In fact, the book of John is written in a way that every time there is a new “food festival” in the area, Jesus moves on to check it out. Chapter 5 in the book of John is no exception to this rule. We read that it was time for the “feast of the Jews” and Jesus is on the move (Jn. 5:1).

In Jerusalem there was a place called Bethesda. Bethesda was essentially a place very near to the temple where all the blind, lame and paralysed people in the area would gather. The reason they gathered there was because of a pool. It was believed that this wasn’t just any pool. No. It was thought that this pool had healing properties, that every now and again an angel would come and stir the waters. The first person to get into the pool would be healed. You can see why those in need would gather at this place.

Among the masses of people there was one man who had been paralysed for 38 years. Imagine that - 38 years of being unable to move. This man was waiting to get into the healing waters. The problem was, he couldn’t move - so someone else would always beat him into the pool. Imagine his frustration - how painful it must have been for this man.

The book of John tells the story that Jesus went to Bethesda. Jesus saw the man that had been there for 38 years, walked over to him and asked him if he wanted to be healed. What a strange question - of course he wanted to be healed! Why else would he be at this pool? The man answered Jesus saying, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” The story continues with Jesus turning to the man saying, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” Jesus doesn’t take any more time than He needs. He challenges the man to get up, trusting that Jesus had healed him.

There is so much in this story. It’s rich and full of meaning. One of the things that stands out to me is that Jesus challenged the man to be part of his own healing. Jesus could have bent down and picked the man up, saying he was healed. He could have done anything. But instead, Jesus asked the man to stand up - the man had to trust and work with Jesus to be healed. I find this to be powerful because often in the western world it’s common to treat God as though he is a drug. Like panadol when you have a headache, you pop the pill and the problems are sorted. The reality is, though, God isn’t like this. One of the powerful things about God is that he created us with a mind, and with the ability to make decisions. He invites us to work with Him.

What is Jesus challenging you to be apart of? Where in your life is Jesus saying to you, “Pick up your mat and walk?”

Pastor Brock