The View

THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS!

If you’re anything like me, seeing the decorations arrive in stores around September fills me with dread and excitement: dread because it means the year is about to get incredibly fast in the downward run to Christmas; excitement because Christmas is simply one of those eagerly anticipated moments when the world kind of stops, thinks about family and celebrates ... and well, it’s about then that things get interesting!

I saw a trailer for ‘The Man Who Invented Christmas’ – the story of Charles Dickens and his writing of A Christmas Carol and I wondered, why is he getting credit for Christmas? Where did the baby in a manger, the Saviour of the world suddenly disappear? Isn’t that the reason we pause on Christmas day?

I found myself a little miffed that Jesus seems to be getting subtly erased. Perhaps you might think that this is an overreaction. But it certainly challenged me to consider what I’m prepared to acknowledge with my own family and what we make Christmas about. Is it about remembering those less fortunate? Is it about ensuring family and togetherness is front and centre? Is it about realising and holding true to the sentiments of Christmas Carols – that Jesus was born, walked this earth and eventually died for each one of us? Now THAT’s a gift. And I don’t want to lose that message. I don’t want to give up on the idea that because of Jesus, we can give freely of ourselves to each other. We can ensure no one goes unloved or unnoticed in this season (well really at anytime, but you know what I mean).

We can delight in all that He has given us and then be prepared to share of our time, our hearts and our money. After all, He really is the reason for the season, and His birth changed everything – our eternity, for one thing!

“So don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David’s town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master” (Luke 2:10-11).

Let’s enjoy this time of year because of all that we have been given.
### Primary Speech Night

**Thursday, December 7, 5.00 pm**

Speech Night will be held in the MPC from 5.00 pm until 6.15 pm on Thursday, December 7. All students in Years 1-6 are asked to wear their full summer uniform, with polished school shoes.

### 2018 Daily Times

To ensure that our students have a concentrated learning block at the beginning of their day, we are making some changes to our daily schedule. Start and finish times remain the same, but break times will change. Our long break (lunch) will be first, followed by a shorter recess break later in the day. Students will have the option of eating during both break times.

- **9.00 am – 11.00 am** Learning Block 1 (120 mins)
- **11.00 am – 11.45 am** Lunch (45 mins)
- **11.45 am – 1.15 pm** Learning Block 2 (90 mins)
- **1.15 pm – 1.40 pm** Recess (25 mins)
- **1.40 pm – 3.10 pm** Learning Block 3 (90 mins)

### Move up Morning

On Monday, students will begin their day at assembly and then will spend the morning visiting all three teachers for their 2018 year level. They will learn about what will stay the same for next year and what will be different. This is part of our transition process.

### Last Week Of Term Activities

The last week of term is a very busy time for our students with lots of fun activities planned. Parents need to speak with their child, check their emails and class Landscape pages for detailed information about class activities for the week.

- **Monday, December 4**
  - K-6 Move Up Morning
- **Tuesday, December 5**
  - Year 1 Morisset Pool Excursion
  - Year 2 Blackbutts Reserve Excursion
  - Year 6 Lambton Pool Excursion
- **Wednesday, December 6**
  - Kindy, Year 1 & 2 Sport in School and Waterslide Activities
  - Years 3 & 4 Mingara Pool Excursion
- **Thursday, December 7**
  - Speech Night at 5.00pm in the MPC
- **Friday, December 8 (Last day of School)**
  - K-6 Christmas Mufti Day
  - Year 5 Sport – Swimming at Morisset Pool
  - Reports emailed to parents

### Christmas Mufti Day – Friday, December 8

Next Friday, the last day of the term, students are asked to wear Christmas mufti clothes. Please note students need to wear closed-in shoes. No short shorts, makeup or jewellery should be worn by students. Thank you for noting this. Students are asked to bring a cold coin donation for the ADRA Christmas appeal.

### The Munchery - Next Thursday & Friday’s Menu

Please note that next Thursday, December 7 we will be offering Friday’s menu AS WELL AS on Friday, December 8. Nuo would like to wish every student and family a happy and safe holiday. Look forward to seeing you all next year.

### School Travel 2018 – Opal Cards

Students will need to keep their current Opal Cards for travel in 2018. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1 so do not throw them away. Please note, you will need to reapply at www.transportnsw.info/school-students only if your child is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3..

### Kindy Concert

Our precious Kindy students revelled in being able to present their musical ‘You are His Treasure’ to their adoring audience on Wednesday night. It was God blessed. This year marks 13 years of our Kindy concert. This means that every child in our school up to Year 12 (of those who started in Kindy) has been a part of this special tradition.

### Year 2 Healthy Food Choices

Year 2 have been learning about healthy food choices and on Friday afternoon, Year 11 Hospitality students cooked yummy pizzas and prepared fruit kebabs with Year 2 students.

### NSW Chess Finals

Last Sunday, our Kings Chess team went to North Sydney Boys High School for the NSW Primary One Day Chess Finals. There were 56 teams who qualified for this competition by winning their local region, so it was always going to be the toughest tournament of the year. After 7 rounds our team came a tie for 21st which is an amazing achievement considering the quality of this competition. Special congratulations to Kylan M (board 1) who scored 5/7 and had to use a clock for most of his games. Other valued members of the team were Matthew G, Rose J and Ryan M.

### Handball Competition

Last week the annual Handball Competition was held in the school assembly area. Handball is a very popular recess and lunchtime activity among students. Students played individual matches with fellow students in a knock out competition. Congratulations to the following students who will receive their trophies at Monday’s assembly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Girls</th>
<th>Junior Boys</th>
<th>Senior Girls</th>
<th>Senior Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grace E</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahalia P</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia H</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah M</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Twelve staff, including Dr McClintock and Mrs Cooper, participated in the staff handball competition. An IT staff member thought they could win because of their previous success years ago when they were a student here, however it was obvious that the years had caught up with them. Congratulations to Mr Venegas who defeated Mr Hosken in front of many excited students who were pleasantly surprised at the athletic ability of the staff.

### Weetbix Kids Tryathlon

Mr Head will be handing out special promotion items for the Weetbix Tryathlon which will be held at Woy Woy on February 18, 2018. This a non-competitive event which attracts thousands of eager kids who want to have fun. Information is on display in the sports cabinet or you can go to www.tryathlon.com.au. This is a great opportunity to start the new year with a challenge. Why not sign up your kids today?!
Secondary Speech Night
Thursday, December 7, 7.30 pm
Speech Night will be held in the MPC from 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm on Thursday, December 7. We plan to begin proceedings promptly at 7.30 pm, with students expected to be in full summer school uniform and seated by 7.15 pm. This is our final formal celebration of the year and we look forward to your presence at this event, right before the Christmas holidays begin.

End of Year Sign-off
If for some reason your child(ren) will be finishing earlier than the scheduled Friday, December 8, you will need to have a request in writing to Mr Craig ASAP for an early sign off. This will allow us to provision time for all the school processes to be completed by your child(ren) before leaving. If your child is not returning in 2018, the deregistration process will need to take place. We are required to record official attendance to December 8. If your child(ren) leave early, a note of explanation will be required for BOSTES purposes.

The Munchery - Next Thursday & Friday’s Menu
Please note that next Thursday, December 7 we will be offering Friday’s menu AS WELL AS on Friday, December 8. Noo would like to wish every student and family a happy and safe holiday. Look forward to seeing you all next year.

Uniform Shop Online
We’re excited to announce that our Uniform Shop Online Store is now open and running. Because this is something new, we would appreciate your patience as we work through the teething issues and some of the logistics. Currently, only the summer uniform items are available online, but winter will be added early next year. Visit www.avondaleschool.store to view items. Note that the Online Store will only show new stock. Second hand items will be available in shop. Also, for the moment, all items will be available to pickup at the Uniform Shop in the afternoons on Mondays and Wednesdays, just to give time for the stock to be allocated. We hope that by next year, students will be able to pick their orders up from each of the offices. We will let you know the process in due course.

Baptisms
In the words of one of our parents, “I am sure the angels lost their voices on Sabbath celebrating for so many reasons! Truly a blessed day”. We are very proud of our six young women and men who gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised last Sabbath. Such a great decision! Congratulations Byron, Liam, Nikiysha, Chloe, Jeremy and Tyson - not only did you make God very, very happy, you were also an awesome witness to others. Thanks to God for bringing us all to this point where each of these amazing young people have given their hearts to Him.

School Travel 2018 – Opal Cards
Students will need to keep their current Opal Cards for travel in 2018. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1 so do not throw them away.

Year 7 Geography Field Trip
This week Year 7 enjoyed a day in the field studying the Tourism component of their unit on Interconnections. We were blessed with fabulous weather, plenty of dolphins and a venue that offered both fun and learning. A great day was had by all.

St John's St John's Anglican Cathedral St John's Anglican Cathedral St John's Anglican Cathedral
SCHOOL TERMS 2018

Term 1  Monday, January 29 - Friday, April 13
Term 2  Monday, April 30 - Friday, July 6
Term 3  Monday, July 30 - Friday, September 28
Term 4  Monday, October 15 - Friday, December 7