THE VIEW

Lying in a dried pile of potential in my back garden, with buzzards circling overhead, are the carcasses of indoor trees that have not survived my attempts at botanical glory. Bonsai and Dragon... neither their exotic names nor cost saved them from my lack of horticultural knowledge. Hence, I face the reality that I am not skilled at planning a fruitful result for trees. But I want to share with you about how God’s planting of three specific trees made a life-altering mark in our human story.

In the opening pages of the Bible, we read about a tree, a snake and some Australians. At the beginning of Earth’s history, God planted the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden where He spent time with his creation. The tree gave humans the choice of spending eternity in a trusting union with him or of following a path of self. God gave Adam and Eve guidelines of freedom and instructions regarding the consequences of eating from the tree. Despite this, they chose to speak with and listen to the snake (aka Satan) over God. Now, my personal theory is that Adam and Eve must have been Australians, for only an Australian would willingly move closer to a talking snake in a tree, rather than run in the opposite direction. They probably even tried picking it up by the tail! Interestingly, the conversation between Satan and humanity in Genesis 3, was around three areas: Pride (the promise they would be like God); presumption (the intimation they would not surely die despite God saying they would) and appetite (the fruit on the tree was pleasing to the eye). The hiss of these temptations remains a challenge today; the language has been updated as well as what is being offered, but the heart of the sin problem is still the same. We focus on our ambitions and put ourselves above others at any cost; God’s word is regarded as irrelevant to us; and we chase after things for short-term pleasure. It is the ‘sin problem’ and none of us are immune to its grasp... But there was One who overcame the problem. God’s second tree was on a hill called Calvary. In the cross’ branches was Jesus. He had been caring for the outcast, healing the sick and giving a message of hope, yet He was hung on a cross in order to take the place of sinners. The Earth shook and the sun refused to shine. In what seemed to be Earth’s darkest hour, He called out “It is finished!” and provided the perfect sacrifice. What a tree! What a life-altering moment! Thankfully, whether I destroy Bonsai trees or not, I am forgiven. Whether a lot more serious matters entangle the stages of my life, I am forgiven. The good news of Easter is: I AM FORGIVEN.

The third and final tree appears in Revelation 22, at the end of the Bible and Earth’s linear history. It is the tree of the New Earth in the midst of God’s great city. This tree symbolizes the healing, restoration and everlasting life God has planned for us. When God planted a tree at the beginning of time, we rebelled. So, He planted the second tree and his Son offered Himself on it to rescue us. Finally, He will plant the third tree to be a beacon of our lives being eternally with Him. May this Easter be a time of enjoyment and celebration of what God has done for us all. We as a staff pray that your holidays will be safe, enjoyable and refreshing, and we look forward to seeing your families as you return in Term 2.

Stuart Clark
Stage 2 Coordinator
SPORT

Chess Competition
The Primary Chess Competition was held in the MPC last week with 60 competitors ranging from Years 2-6. Students played seven rounds with many different strategies being used. Some students were very pleased when they were able to execute the four move checkmate. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top three places:

Junior Division
1st Jett P (6.5 points), 2nd Xander Harris (6 points), 3rd Liam N (5.5 points)

Senior Division
1st Hayden I (6.5 points), 2nd Daphne J (5.5 points), 3rd Jeremiah S (5.5 points)

The presentation of trophies and the school teams will be announced next term.

Run 4 Bibles
The Run 4 Bibles program was once again very successful this year with over $3,000 being raised to help spread the Gospel to the world. This program is only in its second year and already 1,000 Bibles have been put into families who didn’t have a Bible. Thank you to every student and parent who supported this fantastic program.

HRIS Cross Country
Friday, May 3
Students in the HRIS Cross Country team have this week been given a program and a map of the actual course at Avondale College that they will be running. Parents are encouraged to take their child to the course to train over the holidays if possible. If for any reason your child is not able to attend the HRIS Cross Country event on Friday, May 3, please contact Mr Head by email so a replacement can be organised.

GENERAL

Term 2 - Winter Uniform
Students will return to school in Term 2 wearing their full winter uniform. For your convenience, the Uniform Shop will be open in the holidays on Monday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 1 from 8.30am until 4.30pm.
GENERAL
Year 10 Anna Bay Camp
Just one week ago, Year 10 students were treated to a wonderful four days away at Anna Bay for camp. Students not only had a relaxing time away from classes and homework, but they got to have some pretty exciting adventures as well. With surfing, kayaking, bike riding and sand dune adventures on offer students were kept busy, happy and just a little bit tired! Lots of opportunities for wildlife spotting arose – many students saw dolphins, a variety of sea birds, an echidna or two, and of course, handfuls of pippies on Birubi Beach! With plenty of opportunities to make new friends and enjoy some outdoor fun it was certainly a camp to be remembered.

CLASS
STEM SWOP Students Outstanding Performance
Last week Year 8 Mathematics SWOP students competed in the Da Vinci Decathlon at Bishop Tyrell Anglican College. The Da Vinci Decathlon is an academic competition designed to challenge and stimulate the minds of students, who compete in teams of eight across 10 disciplines. The Da Vinci Decathlon began in 2005 as an exciting offshoot of the very successful Da Vinci Program for gifted and talented students at Knox Grammar School. The Decathlon is designed to celebrate the academic gifts of Australian youth by providing a stimulating and challenging competition run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon. Each team of eight students competed in the following disciplines:
- Mathematics – problem solving, number patterns and logic puzzles
- English – spelling, word origins, definitions, textual analysis and writing tasks
- Science – engaging with higher level scientific concepts and testing your ability to apply them
- Code Breaking – deciphering complex, mysterious codes
- Engineering Challenge – a design task that tests problem solving skills, creativity and ingenuity
- Ideation – creating NEW ideas
- Creative Producers – creating and performing a 60 second drama or 30 second commercial to promote a product
- Art and Poetry – developing an original poem and a connected art work on a given theme
- Cartography – interpreting spatial information, deciphering and creating imaginative maps
- General Knowledge – current affairs, entertainment, the Renaissance, sport and trivia

The team comprising of Willow D, Lauren D, Chloe H, Bethany H, Poppy M, Amy M, Emily M and Charlotte M, competed against twelve other teams from the Hunter and Central Coast regions. Our girls are to be congratulated on the following placements:
- 2nd in the Engineering Challenge;
- 2nd in the Science Event;
- equal 2nd for the Code Breaking Activity;
- 3rd in the Mathematics Problem Solving Challenge.

When asked how she found the experience, Lauren D exclaimed, “I really enjoyed the engineering and codebreaking. It was a really fun day and I would recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity to be involved.” Similarly, Chloe H was keen to share, “I really enjoyed the random challenges that were interspersed throughout the program. In particular, I loved working with binary numbers. The most embarrassing part of the day was when our team performed on stage, lip sinking to the song ‘Baby Shark’.” Charlotte M added, “The General Knowledge quiz was so much fun!”. A big thank you to Mrs Higgins for prepping our team and to Dr D Faull, who not only took our team to the event, but also served as one of the Da Vinci Decathlon judges.
ALL SCHOOL

ANZAC Day March
Thursday, March 25
All students are most welcome to join the local ANZAC Day March on Thursday, April 25, in the second week of the school holidays. Please meet in the top commuter carpark of the Morisset Railway Station at 8.30am. The March will commence at 9.00am and proceed along Dora Street towards the Morisset Country Club for a morning service at 9.40am. Students are to wear their full winter uniform. We look forward to seeing you there in memory of our ANZAC troops.

Uniform Shop Holiday Hours - Winter Uniform
Students will return to school in Term 2 wearing their full winter uniform. For your convenience, the Uniform Shop will be open in the holidays on Monday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 1 from 8.30am until 4.30pm.

Reminder about Earrings
Our uniform policy allows students to wear one small, round, plain gold or silver earring in each earlobe. Earrings that are different shapes, colours or that contain stones are not allowed. We ask parents to support us in ensuring students comply with this policy. Thank you.

Pupil Free Date Change
Our 2019 Calendar had Friday, June 7 as a Pupil Free Day, however we need to change this to the final Friday of Term 3, September 27. We apologise if that affects any plans you might have had, but it is due to circumstances beyond our control.

LIBRARY

K-6 Borrower prizes
Prizes, prizes and more prizes have been chosen by the 335 excellent borrowers from Kindy to Year 6 during library classes this week. Congratulations to all these students who have borrowed books EVERY week this term. Happy holiday reading!

Private Music Tutors
Are you interested in having music lessons? We have many great tutors and instruments available to learn on. Please contact tutors directly to arrange lesson times.

Piano
Kylie Stacey (Simply Music, AMEB, traditional) / 0409 939 302
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977
Jan Hughes / 4977 2037
Henry Higgins / 0490 040 308
Sophie-Lee Johnson / 0490 451 781

Voice
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977

Strings
Henry Higgins (cello) / 0490 040 308
Esther Albert (cello / violin / double bass) / 0439 420 661

Woodwinds
Meldi Arkinstall (flute) / 0413 548 985
Fred Cracknell (saxophone / clarinet) / 0404 082 151

Brass
Fred Cracknell / 0404 082 151

Guitar
Jake Bisognin / 0400 389 612
Toby Zeuschner / 0405 405 131
Henry Higgins / 0490 040 308
Garry Lowler (group lessons / ukulele) / 0438 608 180

Drums
James Dennett / 0401 549 084

We value ...
RESILIENCE