This week two things have dominated my thoughts. Firstly, I’m celebrating (with mummy tears) the last week of Year 12 for my youngest son. This has caused me to reflect on the hopes, dreams and wishes I had for him as a Kindy student almost 13 years ago. The second thing that has been on my mind is a polarising debate over same-sex marriage. The variety and intensity of reactions to this topic have surprised me. I have had tradespeople, postal workers and neighbours all passionately sharing their points of view. What I’ve noticed is that many of these people are unable to articulate a reason for their stance. They are quoting facts, statistics and opinions that they have heard in the media and in the community.

What concerns me most is that many people appear to accept opinions indiscriminately without exploring issues for themselves. One of my greatest wishes for my son, and in fact for all of my students, is that he learns to become a critical thinker – a thinker who can logically apply a Christian worldview to every day decisions. Critical thinking involves evaluating information, looking at issues from different perspectives, reasoning dispassionately, being open to new ideas and insisting that all claims are backed by credible evidence.

In a world filled with fake news, advertorials, questionable internet sources and blatant persuasion, critical thinking is an essential life skill. As parents and teachers there are many things that we can do to support the development of these thinking skills.

What chance do our children have of spotting propaganda in a world that bombards them with competing views?

- We need to openly discuss biases and perspectives, and empower our children to have a credible and informed voice.
- Instead of telling our kids what to believe, we need to take the time to explain why we hold certain beliefs, modelling the process of logical reasoning.
- We need to encourage our kids to seek clarity and evidence rather than accepting at face value everything they see, read and hear.

A critical thinker is more ably equipped to discern right from wrong, champion just causes and change the world for the better.

Proverbs 14:15 tells us that ‘The gullible believe anything they’re told; but the prudent sift and weigh every word.’ It is my prayer that, as we work together, we succeed in raising up prudent young men and women.

Deb Cooper
Head of Primary
**GENERAL**

**Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers**
Thank you for all the Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers already given to the School this term. Just a reminder to keep collecting stickers over the holidays and return them to the Primary Office at the beginning of next term.

**Bus Travel – Opal Cards Required**
Students travelling by bus to and from school MUST have an active School Student OPAL Card which is to be ‘tapped’ on the bus for each and every journey made. New applications, replacement passes or inactive cards can be ordered at www.transportnsw.info/school-students. Opal cards will be posted to your home address.

**SPORT**

**Term 4 Sport Uniform - Week 1**
Kindy, Year 1 & Year 2: Wear sports uniform on Monday.
Years 3-6: Wear sports uniform on Friday.

**CLASS**

**Intermediate String Ensemble Performance**
Congratulations to our Intermediate String Ensemble for winning 1st place at the Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod. The event was held at the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, Warners Bay on Wednesday. They performed ‘Chicken Dance’ and ‘Pachelbel’s Canon’. All the students in the Intermediate String Ensemble worked really hard on learning their pieces so they were ready for this performance. Congratulations again to Kaiden A, Kalan C, Kayela H, Midori I, Rose J, Hannah L, Jason L, Ava M, Eulah P, Teo P, Acacia R, Milly R, Logi S and Natalie S.

**Year 4 Cultural Day**
Our Cultural Day was a huge success. A big thank you to all the wonderful parents who enthusiastically shared their time in teaching Year 4 students new skills on Wednesday afternoon. Some hidden talents were uncovered and new adventures undertaken as the students were guided through five different activities. The day would not have happened without the support of so many willing parents. Thank you so very much.

**Year 1 Treat**
Year 1 had fun making Fairy Bread and Jelly this week when they were learning how to write a Procedure.
Year 8 Design Challenge with Jewels Lifestyle Village

What could be better than learning how to cooking an amazing tried and tested recipe from an expert? Year 8 students involved in this year’s Design Challenge were gifted with a favourite recipe from the ladies from Jewels Lifestyle Village. These ladies came to school and cooked their favourite recipes with the students. The Year 8 class are compiling a recipe book of favourites and they were thrilled to be able to cook recipes handed down by these lovely ladies. Amazing food was prepared and new friendships formed.

CIS Athletics Carnival

A number of our students competed at the annual CIS Athletics Carnival on Wednesday at Sydney Olympic Park. It was a near perfect day for competing. Our students performed very well and have now qualified to go on to NSW All Schools Competition in October. Congratulations for an outstanding effort.

1. Chad M (18 years) 2nd 400m 5th 100m
2. Reilly D (12 years) 2nd High Jump
3. Liam B (14 years) 3rd High Jump
4. Lachlan B (18 years) 5th Triple Jump
5. Joshua M (13 years) 1st Discus (AWD) 3rd Shotput (AWD)
**Holidays!**
Yay! Time to read! How many books will you read these holidays?!

**CALENDAR**

**Primary Calendar - Term 4**
- Last Day of Term 3: September 22
- Vacation Care Available: September 25 - October 6
- Daylight Saving Starts: October 1
- Labour Day Holiday: October 2
- Uniform Shop Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm: October 4 & 5
- First Day of Term 4: October 9
- HRIS Tennis: October 13
- Term 4 School Fees Due: October 13
- Get Active Starts for Term 4: October 16

**Secondary Calendar - Term 4**
- Last Day of Term 3: September 22
- Daylight Saving Starts: October 1
- Labour Day Holiday: October 2
- Uniform Shop Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm: October 4 & 5
- First Day of Term 4 (WEEK B): October 9
- Year 9 UCchooz Program: October 10 & 11
- Term 4 School Fees Due: October 13
- Year 12 HSC Exams Commence: October 16
- Year 9 Bungonia Camp: October 16 - 20

**Term 4 - Summer Uniform**
Students will return to school in Term 4 wearing their full summer uniform. For your convenience, the Uniform Shop will be open in the second week of the holidays on October 4 and 5 from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm each day.

**Fee Accounts**
Thank you to all those families who have paid your accounts. This is very much appreciated. We request that all families that are paying by instalments, please make sure your payments are sufficient to have the fees paid in full by the end of the school year. Outstanding balances cannot roll over to 2018 so fees must be paid in full by the end of Term 4. If you have any queries concerning your account, please contact Sheree or Faye in the Business Office.

**UNIFORM SHOP HOLIDAY HOURS**
- Wednesday 4 October: 9AM-5PM
- Thursday 5 October: 9AM-5PM

**LIBRARY**
Like us on social media for regular information updates!

**SCHOOL TERMS 2017**
- Term 1: January 30/31 - Friday, April 7
- Term 2: Wednesday, April 26 - Friday, June 30
- Term 3: Monday, July 24 - Friday, September 22
- Term 4: Monday, October 9 - Friday, December 8

**COMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**3 DECEMBER 2017**