Lessons from Major Dick Winters

Some of you may have seen the World War II documentary, Band of Brothers. Major Dick Winters grew up as a loner in school with a focus on sport and his studies rather than engaging in the social activities of his peers. Even when he joined the paratroopers, he preferred a quiet evening in the barracks with his military manuals rather than the robust nightlife on offer nearby.

He found that personal reflection time and some time for solitude fed his soul and provided inner resilience that stood him in good stead as an officer with the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. He focused on being incredibly physically fit, with such attention to training that he won the paratroopers challenge that had eliminated over 60% of the initial group who’d applied.

He chose to abstain from alcohol for his entire life, to treat women with absolute respect and to refrain from swearing. In fact he refused to endorse the Band of Brothers movie script until Tom Hanks had removed the swearing which had been in the script for his character, played by Damian Lewis. While Hanks initially claimed it was too late in the production, Winters stood his ground and refused to budge. You won’t hear a single profanity from Lewis in the series.

He had some inspiring quotes that resonate in any circumstance that we might face today: “War exposes the best and worst of those who are called to fight. I know of no man who lacked character in peace and then discovered his character in combat.” He felt that leadership was about integrity, leading from the front and having the trust of the people who depend on you. It was his personal quest to excel that made others willing to follow him. Not just through the battles of Normandy but his example and commitment in life.

For Winters, even in the rigors of war, going to church was the bedrock of his character. He described that while it was harder to get to church in the war zone, church held in a barn with some cows crunching hay added a delightful aroma to the setting.

We may not be tasked like Winters, a young army officer in his early 20s, to lead a group of soldiers into active combat. But we are all people of influence. We all impact others for good or for ill. As the leader of the family unit: What do your children see in you? Is it your personal integrity, your commitment and dedication to your family? Do you provide a sense of value and lead by example? Do I?

Sobering questions that get to the heart of our society, our local community, our school and our families. As our Year 12 class finish their final formal week of school – not much younger than Major Winters when he joined up – their contribution as aspiring leaders in our society is one we look to with interest. We want to wish them well and trust that their contribution will be one of integrity and of service as they too lead by example.

David McClintock
Principal
Term 4 Sport Uniform
Kindy, Years 1 & 2 – wear their Sport Uniform on Mondays.
Years 3-6 – wear their Sport Uniform on their swimming day. (Please note swimming commences Week 2 of Term 4.)
Years 3 & 4 will swim on Wednesdays.
Years 5 & 6 will swim on Fridays.

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 during the holidays from 9.00am – 5.00pm on Sunday, October 7; Monday, October 8; Tuesday, October 9. Just a reminder our school hair policy states students should have neat and tidy hair. Hair art and colours are not permitted.

2018 Class Lists
Teachers will be working on class lists for next year at the beginning of Term 4. While we are unable to take requests for class lists based on preferences, we are happy to give consideration to special needs or circumstances relating to your child. Please email Deb Cooper, Head of Primary, at dcooper@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au with special considerations now.

CLASS

Year 5 Colonial Day
On Tuesday, Avondale School wound back the clock and took Year 5 students on a journey of discovery of old Australian Colonial living. They dressed as they did in the 1800’s and experienced life like they would have, including some students learning to sew, cook and play games as they did in this era. The highlight for many was digging and panning for gold in our man-made creek where many a cry of “Eureka” was heard across the school playground. “It was very fun and everyone enjoyed it,” commented Caitlyn. Students demonstrated their colonial bush dancing skills and competed for the ultimate Gold Rush games champion. After an amazing hard fought tug-a-war battle as a finale, the “Diggers” team managed to take out the day’s competition. We would like to thank all those parents and grandparents who came along to help out during the day as this event would not have been possible without your support.

Year 4 Cultural Day
Last Thursday, Year 4 students enjoyed their Cultural Day. The students have been studying about Australia’s neighbours, and in conjunction with their Geography studies, they learnt even more: learning movements to the E Papa Wairi song, making fruit kababs, playing All Blacks rugby, learning the Haka, how to use Poi and playing a traditional feather game. A huge thank you to all those wonderful parents who shared their time with Year 4.
CLASS

Year 10 Dining at Sydney Tower Restaurant

This week Year 10 Food Tech students toured the Sydney Tower Restaurant behind the scenes and enjoyed a fabulous array of foods while taking in the views of Sydney in the revolving buffet restaurant.

Avondale School’s Innovators

Year 12 Design & Technology students have recently presented their Major Design Projects for marking by the NESA examiners. The Major Design Project represents the main focus of the HSC assessment in D&T. Compared to other senior practical subjects the essence of D&T is in the research, experimentation and management of an innovative response to an identified need. As such there is an emphasis on design documentation that is displayed in a folio. The practical works displayed are prototypes that represent the decisions made by students in the design and development stages of their folio. This year the standard of work completed for the Major Design Project was high. Students in the class worked tirelessly to produce their folio and prototype. The diverse nature of this subject allowed work to be done in timber and metal technologies, solar heating, digital fabrication (laser cutting and 3D printing), instrument making, computer aided design and textiles. Mr Hosken and his class are to be congratulated for their commitment to completing this rigorous course at such a level. Each student is wished the best in their HSC exams and for their promising futures. A list of works completed is as follows:

James C Easy Lock Motorbike Stand
Hannah C Space Saving Doll House
Michael F Tongan Plastic Waste Training
Joseph H Folding Portable Rifle Bench
Kameli N Simple Solar Hot Water
Nyah W Micro Plastic Water Filter
Toby Z Recycled Brail Guitar

2018 Creation Science Competition

Olivia M, Shakaya S, Ben L, Lizzy B and Cerise H of Year 9 entered the 2018 Creation Science Competition conducted by the Creation Science Education Association of Australia earlier this year. Congratulations to these students who came 1st in the Year 9 section of the Drama category. Their entry, entitled Not So Different, is about how Christians can reconcile science with Biblical creation, in an age when many people see science as ‘real’ and ‘religion’ as myth. The play indicates that scientific discovery is evidence for a higher power, God. Based on John 1:3, the performance had a duration of 8 minutes and 37 seconds.
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
Angela Miller (Simply Music) / 0421 464 797
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977
Jan Hughes / 4977 2037
Henry Higgins / 0490 0404 308

Voice
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977

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

Woodwinds
Emma Jones (flute) / 0432 925 199
Fred Cracknell (saxophone / clarinet) / 0404 082 151

Brass
Fred Cracknell / 0404 082 151
Anna Howard (trumpet) / 0430 106 953

Guitar
Jake Bisognin / 0400 389 612
Toby Zeuschner / 0405 405 131
Henry Higgins / 0490 0404 308
Garry Lawler (group lessons / ukulele) / 0438 608 180

Drums
James Dennett / 0401 549 084

Who’s Been Seen in the Library!
Before school and lunchtimes are great times to come to the library and read, browse, play, build or colour.

Library
Read! Read! Read! In the Holidays!
Holidays! Time to read! How many books will you read these holidays?! The library staff will be eagerly waiting to hear about the awesome books you’ve enjoyed reading during your holidays.

Campus Store Supervisor Position Available
As you know, Avondale School is changing operations in our Uniform Shop commencing January 2019 and we are happy to announce that The School Locker is the new provider of quality garments for our school community. The School Locker is recruiting a Campus Store Supervisor to care for the day to day operation of the Uniform Shop. If you, or someone you know with an interest in the School, would like to apply, we invite you to contact Wendy at the following email address: wendysawan@theschoollocker.com.au. Please note the closing date for accepting applications is OCTOBER 10, 2018.

Tolerance