

Aidanfield Christian School

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School Newsletter - Week 9, Term 3, 2016

Growing in Wisdom and Stature

Stand and be confident

Kia ora kotou

Where does God dwell?

I did not think that this moment would come but, it has! It would be odd to be nervous about saying it but here goes...we are opening the hall!

I think I have mentioned every year since 2012, with a decreasing sense of confidence, that we would have a hall opened within the year. It has been a torturous journey. Now, we actually have a hall and we are actually opening it and I am grateful!

The hall space we have is an excellent space for a range of different activities. It is used often through each day for a myriad of things. It is used on Fridays and Sundays by a Church group. It is a place where we gather for assemblies (out of the cold finally) and where groups from our community gather after school is finished for all sorts of reasons. Its uses continue to multiply. And that has led to me doing a bit of thinking about how you 'open' such a place. It is tempting to have a big and flashy event and to invite God to dwell in the building and to focus on the building. As I have played with this idea in my mind I am becoming increasingly convinced that we are not going that way. God dwells with people, in the praises of His people, in the lives of people. God does not dwell in a hall. A hall is just a space that things happen in. A hall (or a home for that matter) is simply a place that people dwell in for various reasons. What happens inside that space is vastly more important than the space itself. And yet, it seems we often focus on the structure and take delight in it for what it is. We often seek homes that are a statement, that are our pride, our place, but forget that the process and place of living inside those homes is of infinitely more value than the place itself. So, how will we honour the 'opening' of our new space? We will dedicate the hall space, we will thank God for His provision over time and we will ask that He continues to work in the lives of all those that do things in it! We will also pray that He will be glorified in and by the fruit of the activities that occur in and around our hall space. We will pray that people who pass through the doors will in many and varied ways move more and more into an understanding of what it means to be forgiven, to live as people of God and to live, learn and grow into His likeness - a little bit more each day. What we will hope is that, in being a part of this process of growing, the impact in the lives of families throughout our community will be evident. Husbands and wives will love as Christ loved the church, parents will parent with a passion and sacrificial commitment to their children, bringing them up in the ways of God through teaching and example and that each family will be a change agent for good in their part of the community. May our hall space be a blessing in the lives of families in this part of town!

Enrolments details

Letters have been sent to the 139 applicants who have asked to be a part of our school in 2017. We have been able to offer 35 new entrant spaces and a handful at other levels. Our school roll will be full by the end of next year. In making the decisions about entry the school works through the enrolment scheme priorities which starts with a division of preference – church attending and living a life of faith. There is no discretion in the choice of who gets in and who does not. Where numbers are larger than spaces available the names are put into a tin and a ballot is drawn.

Finally, please enjoy the photo spread from our school production. It was a superb event that gave opportunity for many of our very talented pupils the chance to practice, use and refine the gifts that have been placed in them.

Grace and peace

Mark Richardson, Principal



Term Dates for 2017

Term 1 - Wednesday 1st February - Thursday 13th April

Term 2 - Monday 1st May - Friday 7th July

Term 3 - Monday 24th July - Friday 29th September

Term 4 - Monday 16th October - Wednesday 13th December

Serving and working together with families, equipping children in a Biblical community to:

* pursue excellence in academic learning

* become discerning thinkers

* understand their identity

* be faithful in service to God

Production - Annie Jr

As I reflect on my initial excitement of managing to get the rights to perform a "broadway classic" I came to a sudden realization about whether or not I had bitten off more than I could chew. The previous two productions had been a lot less known than Annie and I knew that we had to pull it off because there would be many audience members who would have seen the movie many times and who knew the songs inside and out.

Through the audition process, there were many new faces that literally blew me away. In fact, one audition was so spectacular that it gave me and the audition panel chills.

Through the grind of rehearsals and excitement of the cast, the show slowly began to take shape. We knew that working with actors as little as 5 years old would take a considerable amount of effort but, in the long run, would add the cute x-factor to the final performance.

The production team put in countless hours in. From sets, to costumes, to advertising, to choreography and singing to bring it all together for the students to then pick it up and make the show happen.

I must say, the students definitely did their part. The show was a huge success and everyone who was involved deserves credit because it really was a team effort. The amount of praise from the community reflects the hard work of so many.

From a directors point of view, I couldn't be more proud of every student who performed on stage and the crew backstage doing their role so well. It was a pleasure to watch each night and see the talent that God has so graciously given us at ACS. Until next time, I'm always happy to hear your requests for future productions. Someone has already suggested 'cats!' Must have been inspired by how cute Sandy was! - **Andy Bibby**



Production - Annie Jr



Middle School

Looking Ahead:

Year 4-8 Athletics Day in on Thursday 13th of October with a postponement scheduled for Tuesday 18th of October.

Year 9 & 10 Summer Sport will resume on the first week of term 4 Wednesday the Wednesday 12th October finishing on Wednesday 16th of November (6 weeks only).

Middle School Exam Week - 19th - 26th of October.

Room G (Year 7 & 8) William Pike caving & abseiling challenge Wednesday 26th of October.

Southwest Athletics Zones for Year 4-8 at Hillmorton High School on Thursday 3rd of November (Postponement scheduled for Tuesday 8th of November).

Aidanfield Christian School Fair - Saturday 19th of November.

Aidanfield Triathlon on late November / early December (date to be confirmed).

Year 10 Leavers Dinner on Tuesday 13th of December.

End of year prizegiving on Thursday 15th of December.



10FE Community Action Project - Tree planting in the Halswell Quarry Wetlands

Middle School Opportunities, Achievement and Celebrations

We would like to wish Kyla Mullis all the best for service & missions trip to Lambassa in Fiji over the term 3

break with a team of youth from Living Waters Christian Centre. While they are in Lambassa, they will be

sharing the gospel, serving and teaching at the local school. Furthermore, Kenny Babajide & Sioeli Ofa have been fortunate enough to receive a \$500 Leadership Scholarship Award from the Sunrise Rotary Club to attend the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre this holiday along with a small selection of other Year 10 students across Canterbury. They are currently working hard to fund the final \$280 each for this opportunity. It is great to see these students making the most of the opportunities within our community.

Secondary Interschool Summer Sport opportunities Term 4

In term 4, the Year 9 & 10 students will be competing in both Indoor Netball and Indoor Soccer on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 - 5:30pm approximaetly. We will also be offering a skills, fitness & leadership option to help students prepare for the end of year leadership journey which consists of biking, tramping, kayaking and coasteering. These opportunities help to develop camaraderie and pride in our school. Our goal is to see every Year 9 & 10 student actively involved in at least one extra curricula sporting activity. Our expectation is for students to attend every practice and game as well as accessing the online draw and communicating this with you as parents each week. If they can't make a game or practice for whatever reason, it is the students responsibility to clearly and respectfully communicate this to their coach as early as possible. In some cases, their coach may still ask them to come along and support the team to build on team culture. The students are encouraged to take their cell phone so they can clearly communicate their estimated time of arrival (ETA) back to Aidanfield. Sometimes, students may be required to find their own transport home from various sporting events as a way of developing increased independence.

Middleton Grange Technology options

Recently, all 2017 Year 9 & 10 students attending Aidanfield have selected their Technology course selection options for the Christian Schools Network Technology at Middleton Grange. It is exciting to see Electronics and Robotics Technology added to the wide range of opportunities already provided. Students can select a Minor (13 weeks) and a Major (26 weeks). Students will receive a letter with the allocated subject later in term 4. The 2017 Options are:

Digital Technology

Electronics and Robotics Technology

Food and Nutrition Technology

Hard Materials Technology

Structural Technology

Textile Technology

Graphic Design & Visual Communication Technology

EXCEL Performing Arts

On Thursday the 8th of September, we were fortunate to have EXCEL School of Performing Arts come and present to the Year 4-10 students in our stunning new hall space. EXCEL combined music, dance and drama to challenge us that we are all surrounded by excuses and barriers that can hold us back. Consider what we could achieve if there were no more excuses? What's stopping you? Fear of failure? Expectations of friends or family? To be truly great is to take a risk and be brave enough to pursue the things that you are passionate about, regardless of what other people think.

No Excuses! Now that's a challenge to ponder.



Stand and Be Confident

Congratulations to the Halswell U14 Netball Team

Brianna H, Madalyn C, Brianna L were part of the winning team showing real tenacity to win a nail-biter by 22:20.

Brianna was also awarded most improved player of the year.

Miss Amy Smit, team member of Halswell D that was runner up in their grade.

Jayne C, Team member of Halswell yr 3/4 Future Ferns awarded Most Improved Player.



Samuel McNeill competed in the Speed Skating Nationals in Auckland. He received a bronze medal and also his relay team came second. What an amazing achievement considering he has only been speed skating since April last year!

Congratulations Aidanfield Students and Teacher- you are doing us proud in our community!