

CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 6 Issue 8 2016

Caroline Chisholm College

Faith Courage

Tolerance



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of Caroline Chisholm College,

The word 'tolerance' as it appears in our school motto. 'Faith, Courage and Tolerance' can be a word or a value that sets a very low standard for us. If we were cold hearted we could say that tolerance means we put up with people and things we don't like. 'Tolerance' could mean, at its worst, that we won't be hostile or cruel to those who we don't like because they are different. That is far below what Jesus expects of us and what he demonstrated through his example in the Gospels. Our vision of tolerance for Caroline Chisholm College is that we will be a community that celebrates and embraces the

diversity in our community and we will look for opportunities to build up the dignity of all people, especially those who are most in need. That is precisely the way Caroline Chisholm practised tolerance, and it is the sense in which we are called to a life of humble service.

Students at Caroline Chisholm have ample opportunities to serve and practise tolerance and compassion. I was very moved at our college assembly on Friday when **Reena Mukherjee** from Year 12 shared her speech on our country's response to refugees and asylum seekers. It was a beautiful speech but a shameful reminder of how far from Jesus' instructions to 'Love one another' we have fallen. In her speech Reena encouraged us in our work for justice saying "It is all for one common goal: the restoration of human dignity. It's for seven billion golden glimmers, glowing brighter than our fears".

At the same assembly we welcomed members of the Liberian Lofa community who came to Australia as refugees fleeing an horrific civil war. The Lofa community and Mamre House, Penrith, have been working with fourteen of our art students, **Mrs King, Ms Wood** and **Ms Eyles**, preparing an exhibition of etchings about the community's experience of finding their way in their new Australian home. They have been mentored by a practising artist, Mehwish Iqbal, and have produced work of an extraordinary depth and quality. One of the leaders of the community, Justin, spoke to us of the joy he and his family have felt in the way they have been welcomed, accepted and embraced by the local community. He told us how that experience of welcome had a profound impact on how they felt about this dramatic change in their lives and how our students have played an important part in that. I was so pleased to visit Penrith Regional Gallery on Saturday for the opening of the exhibition and I would encourage everyone to visit and see the students' work in such a professional and beautiful setting.

Last week we also hosted the Federal Education Minister, the Honourable Senator **Simon Birmingham** and our local Federal MP, **Ms Fiona Scott**. They visited with our Robotics team 'The Westernauts' who will be competing in the Australian Robo-Cup later this year. The college has developed a partnership with the engineers at Western Sydney University and our girls have already learned so much in a very short time. The students demonstrated their robotics and programming skills, and explained to the minister why girls excel at science and technology and will probably win the Robo-Cup! The Education Minister left with a clear impression of our students' skills and their confidence as learners. Thank you especially to **Mr Fuller** and **Mr Mills** who are directing the Westernauts.





On Tuesday night, Year 10 students and their parents began the process of HSC subject selection at the Information Night. This process of discernment and decision making is a very important time for our Year 10s as they take more responsibility for their learning. Having studied at the college for four years, they are in a strong position to make the next two years the most successful yet. Having worked with the students over this time, our teachers are so well prepared to support their learning and growth in this last stage of their high school journey. That is why we say a Caroline Chisholm education is a six year plan. It is such an exciting time for Year 10 students as they explore their gifts and talents and try to imagine their future as successful HSC students, and it is a



Mrs Vicki Dodson

reminder to us, as teachers, that **all students can learn, just not in the same way or at the same time**. Customising a pattern of subjects for the HSC gives us a great chance to tailor the learning to each student.

Over the last few weeks we have farewelled several staff members, some permanently, some temporarily. A few weeks ago we farewelled **Mrs Vicki Dodson** who began her maternity leave with her brand new son, Jack Robert Dodson. This week we farewelled three members of staff. **Mrs Leanne Portelli** has taken up the position of Head of English at Danebank School for Girls. **Mrs Tina Cotton**, from our support staff, has decided to leave and focus on her health and **Mrs Jessica Austin**, our school counsellor, begins her maternity leave and she, too, has a new son, Thomas Kevin Austin! She will return to us in 2017. Replacing Jessica for her maternity leave is Jackie McCoy, who joins us as an experienced counsellor and psychologist from Tasmania and the girls have already made her very welcome. I want to thank each of the staff members who are leaving for their generous service and care of our community. It is true that each of them have contributed to the richness of our college and we thank God for them.



Mrs Leanne Portelli



Mrs Jessica Austin

A Place to Call Home

Compassionate God, No one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. Watch over those who are separated from their loved ones and homeland; those who fear persecution and hope for a better life in our community. May we reach out in welcome to all those who arrive as refugees, embracing one another so that together your hope, O God, will be our future. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Mr Greg Elliott Principal





FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Student Organiser (Part 2)

In the last newsletter, I highlighted the basic structure and uses of the college organiser (student diary).

Today, I'd like to explore additional features of the organiser in the College information section. The section at the front of the organiser is provided by the college each year to the printers. It can be identified by the Roman numerals at the bottom of the page. All parents should be familiar with its contents as it summarises key aspects of college life.

Key college personnel are identified, including staff such as KLA and Year Leaders of Learning whom parents may need to contact. It explains the college merit system and it clearly states the uniform expectations. ICT expectations and key Catholic prayers (those not in the later section of the diary) are printed. You can also find information about the students' Code of Behaviour, as well as information about our Anti-bullying Policy and Plagiarism policy. There are a number of pages for recording administrative information during the year but a key one parents should check from time to time is the last of the college pages (page xxiv) which has a record of warnings for things like uniform infractions which might lead to lunch and afternoon detentions.

"Doing the Right Thing Awards"

Students who provide service to the college for a variety of reasons are eligible for a "Doing the Right Thing Award". Congratulations to **Isabella Antakley** (7 Gilmore), **Nevine Idris** (8 Wright), **Natalie Makis** (9 MacKillop) and **Chloe Godwin** (11 Gilmore) who receive vouchers for the canteen for being the students drawn from the box. All students who put in award slips will have points credited to their house.

Appreciation of Honesty

Students at Caroline Chisholm College regularly display outstanding honesty in returning items they find on the college grounds. Often these can be of quite substantial value. Students handing in found items receive a certificate of appreciation. I would like to congratulate the following students who have handing items in over the last fortnight: Felicity Lambourn (8 Macarthur) and Holly McLaughlin (8 Macarthur).

Mr Greg King - Assistant Principal







FROM THE LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This year National Reconciliation Week is celebrated in Australia. The theme for NRW 2016 is *Our History, Our Story, Our Future*. This event is celebrated from **27th May**, a date which marks the anniversary of the referendum which saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census to 3^{rd} June, a date which recognises the High Court of Australia's landmark Mabo decision in 1992, which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land - a relationship that existed prior to colonialisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for land rights or Native Title.

This week Fred Reid an aboriginal elder from the Daingattie tribe of North Western NSW, spoke to Year 11 with his son Todd in a performance titled "Bridging the Gap". They presented various aspects of Aboriginal life and spirituality through dance, song and story telling. They explained aspects of the Dreaming, dispossession, the stolen generation and Aboriginal identity including kinship, connection to land and totems. His show conveyed the message behind National Reconciliation Week. As he said, his role is to assist people to understand Aboriginal culture so that it enables greater understanding to develop between all Australian people. We thank Fred and Todd for their presentation. Much of what they spoke about assisted the students in Year 11 to understand concepts covered in both Catholic Studies and Studies of Religion courses.



Reflection Day Year 11

Last week Year 11 and their homeroom teachers journeyed to Mt Schoenstatt to participate in their reflection day for 2016. The theme of the day was "Your treasure is where your heart is". Throughout the day, the students were involved in various activities that allowed them to reflect on their uniqueness and the responsibility that they have in creating community. Two scripture passages formed the basis of the sessions for the day. These were

Luke 21: 1-4 "The Widows Offering"

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

Gospel reading Luke 12:13-24

"... So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God ... Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing ... For where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

The girls reflected on the message from these gospel passages, identifying what and who are the real treasures in their lives and being encouraged to ensure that they always value and tell the people who are their treasures that they are loved and valued by them.

Thank you to Mr MacNamara, Mrs Wakeling, Mr Clerke, Mrs Wilson, Ms Eyles, Mrs Bellomo, Mrs Simpson, Mrs McCauley, Mr King and Mrs Austin for assisting in facilitating the day.

Ms Bernadette Murray - Leader of Religious Education





















FROM THE LEADER OF INNOVATION & LEARNING

Year 11 (2017) Subject Information Evening and Presentations

It was wonderful to see such a large number of parents and students who were able to attend the Year 11 (2017) Subject Information Evening this week. The evening provided all present with information about the 2017/2018 HSC pathways available.

Stage 6 Subject Selection Website

Information for subject selection is now available on our new college website. We hope students and parents find the subject videos and support materials containing information about each of the courses helpful and useful as you have conversations about Stage 6 pathways for 2017.

The videos and all information can be accessed via:

http://www.cccglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/Stage-6-Subject-Selection

KLA Q&A Sessions

From Wednesday 1 June to Friday 10 June, students will have the opportunity to ask KLA Leaders of Learning and HSC Teachers any questions they may have about the courses on offer. We encourage all students to attend these Q&A Lunchtime Sessions in N12.

Remember, students should choose subjects they:

- 1. are **INTERESTED** in
- 2. will **ACHIEVE WELL** in
- 3. ENJOY and will be CHALLENGED in
- 4. require for **FUTURE PATHWAYS**.

Students should also take into account their performance in assessment tasks this year, school reports and recommendations from their teachers when making their final choices next term. It would also be beneficial to talk to current Year 11 and 12 students who are studying these courses to hear about their learning experiences.

Subject Interest Forms are due to Homeroom Teachers on Tuesday 14 June 2016.

We wish all of our Year 10 students the very best as they work towards making these important decisions about their Stage 6 learning.

Mr Stephen Casni - Leader of Innovation & Learning

DIARY DATES	
Year 7 Items, Year 8 Items, Year 9 Items, Year 10 Items, Year 11 Items and Year 12 Items, Whole School Items	
Wednesday I June	Year 11 (2017) Subject Information
	NSW Schools Cup Netball Penrith
Friday 3 June	Stage 5 Mass at Padre Pio - 9.00 am
Monday 6 June	House 'Chant off' - Lunchtime
	Year 10 Drama Riverside Theatre Excursion
Tuesday 7 June	Year 10 Macbeth Riverside Theatre Excursion
	Year 12 Reflection Day Mt Schoenstatt
Thursday 9 June	Sydney Uni HSC Seminars Excursion
Friday 10 June	PDSSSC Tennis Teams Penrith
Monday 13 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 14 June	Year 11 (2017) Indication of Interest Form due
Wednesday 15 June	College Athletics Day



Caroline Chisholm College Skoolbag App

This is a reminder that Caroline Chisholm College has a school app. The Caroline Chisholm app is custom built to service the needs of our school community, by improving communication between the school and our families and making it easier to stay up to date with all school information and events.



Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caroline-Chisholm-College



https://twitter.com/CCCGlenmorePark



Zwolowa: A Celebration of Lofa Culture and Community

Guests at our Assembly

On Friday 27th May, Liberian Lofa community leaders Justin Koholo and James Flumo as well as Justin's daughter, Kiabeh Kollie and Simone Taylor, Events Manager from Mamre House, came as guests to our assembly. The students in the project spoke about their work on their prints and what they have learnt through their participation in the project. On behalf of the school, Mr Elliot presented a donation for the Lofa communities work at their Mamre farm. Justin spoke to the school community about the issues for the Liberian community and he asked us to remember the community in Liberia and how they have suffered through the civil wars and the Ebola outbreak. He also thanked the girls in the art project for their involvement and for telling the stories of the Lofa community in their prints.

Opening of the Zwolowa: A Celebration of Lofa Culture and Community Exhibition



Wemor Koholo with Madison D'Angelis

On Saturday 28th May, our project team of students

attended the opening of the winter suite of exhibitions at Penrith Regional Gallery. Alongside the retrospective exhibition of Australia's foremost war artist, George Gittoes, is our collaborative exhibition, *Zwolowa: A Celebration of Lofa Culture and Community*.

Those at the opening were welcomed in an exuberant, joyful, Lofa-style welcome with a number of Lofa songs and dances including the song that the girls recorded with community members Justin and Wemor Koholo and Vivian Flumo. The exhibitions were then opened by artist George Gittoes, who gave a moving speech about the impact of war and the need for peace and freedom. Our students were also fortunate to meet the artist after the opening.

The students' works are based on objects of significance from the work at Mamre Farm by the Lofa community. Objects such as work boots, Lofa clothing and drums, along with a range of traditional foods and plants grown at the farm, tell the story of Mamre as a place for cultural continuity and well being.

The students' works looked very professional and many people commented on how there were astonished to discover that they were the work of school students. The staff who worked with the girls on this project, Mrs King, Ms Eyles and Ms Wood, are very proud of the girls' works and it has been such a privilege and honour to work with them. Special thanks



goes to Ms Eyles for her work photographing this project and for putting together the slide show for the exhibition space. Thanks also to Mr Caws and Mr Navan for recording and editing the soundtrack of Zwolowa.

It has also been a privilege for all of us to get to know more about the Lofa community and their stories of their hardships in Liberia and their positive stories of their adaption to Australian culture and lifestyle. However, the key messages we have learnt from this generous community have been about their strong sense of community and their care and responsibility for others in their community both in Liberia and here in Australia.

We are working on a blog that documents the different phases of this project https://zwolowa.wordpress.com/

Tia Madden, Mr Greg Elliott and Kiani Denoord

Mrs Karen King - Leader of Learning Creative Arts

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CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE







Nadyne Kemister



Lofa Leaders

Artist George Gittoes with Lofa community



REACH OUT – SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Reach Out Australia, one of the most reputable information and support websites for teenagers, has just launched a version of their website for parents of teenagers. The website looks to be an extremely valuable resource for parents with a variety of information and strategies for parents

on topics related to young people's wellbeing and mental health, along with a range of everyday issues such as stress, conflict, peer difficulties, and selfesteem. Parents can also sign up for the newsletter to receive the most up to date information as it is uploaded to the website.

Please take the time to have a quick look at the available information, and save the link for future use: <u>https://parents.au.reachout.com/</u>

Mrs Jessica Austin - School Counsellor



CAROLINE CHISHOLM JAZZ COMPANY

On Saturday 28th May the Caroline Chisholm College Jazz Company competed in the DanceLife Unite Eisteddfod. The competition was held at the University of NSW, Kensington and the girls looked spectacular (thanks to our fantastic dress maker **Mrs Teresa O'Keefe**) and performed beautifully.

It was unfortunate that only 18, of our original group of 33, could attend the competition. However, the girls who participated represented the College extremely well.

A special mention of thanks to **Kasey Alexander** (choreographer) and **Miss Alara Cassells-Forward** for coming to support the girls on the day, along with all the family and friends who were there to cheer for our students.

Mrs Brooke Hughes - Creative Arts Dance







FROM THE LEADER OF TECHNOLOGICAL & APPLIED STUDIES

Ag Round-up - UniSchool's Steer Competition

Caroline Chisholm's Year 9 and Year 11 Agriculture and Primary Industry students will pit their animal husbandry skills against 14 other schools in hand raising their very own Poll Hereford steer as part of the Western Sydney University's annual UniSchools Steer Challenge.

The UniSchools Steer Challenge has been running for over 16 years now, where each school receives their own Poll Hereford that the students then feed, handle and care for over the next 100 days. This is also a chance for our many of our girls who have grown up in suburbia to be hands-on with agriculture and better understand what it takes to raise a farm animal for production.

Recently our girls joined with another 110 participating students at the University's Hawkesbury campus to receive their Poll Hereford, and receive advice on everything from feeding, nutrition and animal welfare, to fitting, grooming and how to appraise their steer.

Our sponsors are vital to the success of the competition and we say "Thank You" to the Western Sydney University <u>School of Science and Health</u> and Conqueror Milling Company in Cootamundra.

Our competition culminates at the "Liveday" at the Hawkesbury Showground on the 13th August 2016 where our steer is judged and our students are judged on their skills of care, cattle leading and cattle judging.

For more information please click on the link: <u>http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/newscentre/news_centre/</u> more_news_stories/school_students_get_a_taste_of_country_life_as_part_of_the_unischools_steer_challenge

Mr Geoff Clerke - Leader of Learning TAS





MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Two teams of Year 11 students were given the opportunity by Rotary to engage in a United Nations Assembly with other schools from the area on Saturday 28 May at Penrith High School, thanks to the organisation of this event by Lower Blue Mountains Rotary Club. Shumi Chauhan, Nadia Abram and Farkhanda Russull represented Ethiopia and Courtney Brettle, Skye Tranfa and Orielle Nielsen represented France, debating a range of current world issues including terrorism, the rights of Palestinian people, the state of rural women in developing nations and the role of international law in managing information technologies. Our students demonstrated their intelligent approach to complex issues and their strong sense of global social justice in presenting clear arguments and debating with passion. We thank Frank Portelli from Nepean Rotary for facilitating the sponsorship of our teams in this event – the Rotary Club of Nepean has consistently sponsored Caroline Chisholm College UN teams over a number of years and we are very grateful for their support.

Mrs Natalie Vella - Leader of Learning HSIE





YEAR 7 ORCHESTRA EXCURSION

Year 7 students attended a performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday 18the May. Frank Woodley, acting as the inspector in the musical 'The composer is Dead' captivated the audience and contrasted well with the instrumentation. The performance was held at the Riverside Theatres in Parramatta. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra created emotive and interesting music that entertained the entire grade, with the 'Inspector' sparking laughs as he attempted to solve the mystery of the Dead



Composer. After the performance, there was a question and answer section that allowed us to learn some background



information about the production. Overall, the experience was interesting and the variations of compositions played were unforgettable. We all had a wonderful time and would like to thank our teachers for providing us with the opportunity to see and hear a live Symphony Orchestra.

Written by Christine Muscat, 7 Gilmore



BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – NEW FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS

'Building Child Safe Communities' is a new initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers and contractors complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering or contracting at schools, Catholic Out of Schools Hours Care and Catholic Early Learning Centres. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

Volunteers – please click on '<u>Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking</u> for Volunteers' or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <u>http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au</u>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on 'Volunteer Form' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

 Contractors – please click on '<u>Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for</u> <u>Contractors</u> or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <u>http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au</u>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on 'Contractor Form' (bottom of page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are contracting.

A new form is required:

- For each location that you are a volunteer or contractor
- If any of the details you have provided on the form change

We thank all volunteers and contractors for their continued support of Catholic Education.



SOCIAL JUSTICE FUNDRAISING

On Sunday, 29 May **Emalee Clague, Liana Cavallaro** and **Madison Kirk** with the support of **Mr and Mrs Clague** ran a fundraising Barbecue at Penrith Masters. They raised \$808 for Caritas Australia. They are to be commended for showing initiative and for their commitment to service. They have certainly followed in Caroline Chisholm's footsteps by demonstrating service through their actions.

Congratulations ladies.

Mrs Jeanette Cocks – Leader of Learning Year 7

LANGUAGE PERFECT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Language students from across the college competed in the Language Perfect World Championships. This is an international competition which runs 24/7 for ten days on the Education Perfect app. CCC finished 172nd in the world and with students 369,241 questions to earn a total of 123,007 points (students need to answer questions correctly multiple times before a point is awarded!).

Students can earn points in any language during the competition and I was pleased that we also finished ranked 4th in Japanese in NSW.

Over 70 students earned certificates and we saw an increase in students earning

awards at Silver and Gold levels. Special mention needs to be made of **Kaylee Moorfield** in Year 10 who reached Elite status by earning over 10,000 points!

Mrs Wendy Merriman - Leader of Learning LoTE

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORY TIME

On 25th May members of the Year 11 English Studies class and Year 12 Early Childhood Education and Care had the opportunity to visit the Kindergarten students at Bethany Catholic Primary School and the students at Glenmore Park Preschool for National Simultaneous Story time. This day is a chance for students from Preschool to Year 6 to experience and enjoy books in order to promote the value of literacy and reading. They read the picture book "I Got This Hat" by Jol and Kate Temple, which is a book for "anyone who has ever worn a hat". The students explored hats from around the world and from a range of professions. They also completed an activity, which involved decorating a pirate hat in order to be creative, have some fun and support their understanding of the book.





Initially, the Year 11 students were nervous but were able to confidently engage the Kindergarten students. They were very receptive and thoroughly enjoyed listening to the story and predicting what might come next. Their pirate hats were creative and they loved wearing them and pretending to be pirates with lots of cries of "Arrr!". It was such a privilege for the class to have been invited, as it was an amazing experience that they are all eager to participate in again. Thank you to **Mrs O'Keeffe** for organising this excellent activity and accompanying Year 11 to Bethany with **Mrs O'Brien** and to **Mrs Clifton** for accompanying Year 12 to Glenmore Park Preschool. Thank you to **Amy Borthwick, Georgia Goddard, Angela Hocking, Serena McIntosh** and **Hayley Ramsay** from Year 11 English Studies for your wonderful work with the Kindergarten students and to **Sarah**

Cordner, Emily Baxter and Breanna Noble for your superb work at Glenmore Park Preschool.

Mrs Kim O'Brien and Mrs Teresa O'Keeffe



