

# Newsletter

‘Supporting parents as they lead their children in spiritual growth and educational excellence by teaching and living Biblical truths.’



322 Sawyers Arms Road  
CHRISTCHURCH  
Phone (03) 359 3595  
Principal: Mrs Jill Garrett

**Tuesday, 25 November 2008**

I have chosen the way of truth;  
I have set my heart on your laws.

Psalm 119:30

“Walk as children of light”

## From the Principal's Heart

The emperor was growing old and he knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his own children, he decided to do something different.

He called all the young people of the kingdom together and said, "I have decided to choose one of you as the next emperor." The children were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed. One seed. It's a very special seed. I want you to go home, plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will judge the plants.

The one I choose will belong to the next emperor of the kingdom!"

A boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story. She helped him get a pot and some planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other young people began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept going home and checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Weeks went by. Still nothing grew. Ling felt like a failure. Six months went by but there was still nothing in Ling's pot. He knew he must have killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends.

He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

The year passed and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she encouraged him to go and to be honest about what had happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right.

He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by all the others. They were beautiful. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the others laughed.

Then emperor arrived. He looked around. Ling tried to hide at the back of the crowd. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you've grown," said the emperor.

"Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified.

"The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!"

When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked him his name. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quieten down. He looked at Ling, and then announced, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!" Ling couldn't believe it. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, which wouldn't grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you used a different seed. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

## School News

**Athletics day next Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Senior School in the morning and Junior School 1:30pm. Please remember to apply sun block before school.

**Fantastic Friday:** Last week we had a wonderful day celebrating our 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday. Many children dressed up and brought a gold coin donations for child sponsorship. We raised \$120 to go to World Vision. Thank you all.

**21<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebrations and the opening of our car park and senior rooms:** We had a wonderful evening with current pupils, their families past pupils and guests. Mr Fred Braam, Chairperson of the Board of Proprietors addressed the assembled guests and prayed for God's hand to continue to be upon our school. Mrs Judy McLeay, former principal of ECS, opened the 'factory buildings' and car park. Mrs Marrienne Reinders, Board of Trustees Chairperson, was the Master of Ceremonies. Thanks be to God for His grace and blessings. A wonderful barbeque was served, followed by items from the choir and a celebration cake. Thank you, to all those who joined in the evening and made it such a special occasion

**Camp:** Most of the year 7 and 8's and some year 6 students are at camp for three days this week.

**March Market:** This will take a different format in 2009 and we will advise you of details closer to the time. In the meantime we are accepting any donations of articles for the garage sale. Please put contributions in the first covered parking bay.

**End of Year Production:** On Monday, December 8 the children will be taken by bus during the day to practise at St Christopher's Church in Avonhead Road. The performance will be at St Christopher's Church at 7:00pm. Entry is a gold coin donation to defray costs. Thank you.

**The Fundraising Committee: Catering:** You have made it possible to staff some of our fund raising catering events THANK YOU. There is one more opportunity to assist:

✚ **Saturday, December 13:** TWO more people required for this dynamic five person team - 5:00pm onwards..

Please phone Desiree 354 9650 or Georgette 354 2900, if you are able to lend a hand.



**ECS calendar 2009 on sale from December 5<sup>th</sup>.** Wonderful Christmas present idea.

### Term 4 Calendar

Date	School Event
Mon, Nov. 24 – Wed 26	School Camp for Years 6, 7 & 8
Thursday, November 27	Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30pm in the staffroom
December 2-4	Athletics Sports depending on weather
December 5	Rm 1&2 to St Christophers Christmas extravaganza
<b>Monday, December 8</b>	<b>School Production at St Christophers @ 7:00 pm</b>
Thursday, December 11	Last day of school – finishing at 1:00pm

<b>Tuesday, February 3</b>	<b>Beginning of Term 1, 2009</b>
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## Community News

**Kingdom** A Christmas adventure on stage at Majestic House cnr Manchester and Lichfield Streets. Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm and 7pm, Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Tickets – Child \$5, Adult - \$10, Family - \$30 (two adults and up to four children). Tickets available Majestic House ph 379 2781. [www.majestic.org.nz](http://www.majestic.org.nz)