

Newsletter

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



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CHRISTCHURCH
Phone (03) 359 3595
Principal: Mrs Jill Garrett

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

The prayer of a righteous man is
powerful and effective.

James 5:16

“Walk as children of light”

From the Principal's Heart

Some time ago, a long time ago, I had the huge privilege and joy of running what I was told was the biggest Salvation Army Sunday School in the Southern Hemisphere at that time. It was one of my passions. I had a wonderful team of people working with me and we put our hearts and souls into the work. There were activities during the week too, so it was a huge commitment for everyone. But it was very rewarding.

Not surprisingly, though, we had our ups and downs. One Sunday morning our family was heading in to town to begin the day and I could feel a tremendous cloud of oppression hanging over me. Mr G was driving the car and I never said anything but I really wanted to turn back and go home. As we rounded the second last corner, right by the Otepunu Stream there - in Invercargill, the burden lifted and my spirits with them. Straight away I knew someone had prayed. "That'll be Mum," I thought.

A similar experience came about on Friday. As I went about the day, I just knew I was being uplifted before the throne of God's grace and I thank you for your faithfulness. "It was a beautiful thing that you came alongside me." Philippians 4:10

There's a song that I hear sometimes on Southern Star. The composer isn't known to me but the song is recorded by Ricki Skaggs.

Somebody's praying; I can feel it
Somebody's praying for me

Mighty hands are guiding me
To protect me from what I can't see
Lord I believe, Lord I believe,
Somebody's praying for me

James 5:16b reminds us that "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective," and we have all proved that but think on Romans 8:26-28 from the The Message translation

The moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God, is worked into something good.

What a mighty God we serve!!

School News

Junior School Trip to Eco Depot: On Wednesday, March 11, the children in Rooms 1, 2 and 3 will be visiting the Eco Depot as part of their Science study about recycling. They are travelling by bus, leaving school at 12 noon and will be back at 2:45 pm.

News from Room 7 (Years 7 & 8): You should have received Information about an Adventure Based Learning trip to Leithfield on Thursday, February 26. Please get those response forms back as soon as possible. The students will be travelling by bus leaving school at 9:15 am and will be back to school about lunch time.

Swimming for Pre-Schoolers: Following a request from one of our Mums, we have negotiated an opportunity for all children who will be starting school later in the year to attend

classes at Jellie Park coinciding with the school swimming lessons. The classes will be available every day the school is attending with the exception of March 16 & 18. They will be held at 2:30pm for a duration of 20mins and will cost \$5 per session. Parents do not need to go into the pool with the children. Please send the enclosed response form to school before the end of this week so that we can confirm or decline the offer as soon as possible.

Fantastic Friday: Our mufti day gold coin collection for Fantastic Friday on March 6 will go Christian Schools affected by the fires in Victoria, Australia.

March Market: Instead of a fair this year we will be having a Garage Sale/Sausage Sizzle in. We are now accepting any donations of articles. Please put contributions in the first covered parking bay. Thank you to those who have already contributed. This year the Market Day will be held on Saturday, March 28.

Market Day Meeting: The next meeting date is March 5 at 9:30am. Plan to be there or look for information in next week's newsletter with the names of people you can approach to offer help on the day.

Before School Care: Thank you to those people who have offered their time to help with this. We are aware that some of you will be using the facility only very occasionally and yet you have offered your time regularly. Your graciousness is appreciated. Vicky has put together a fortnightly roster. There are still a couple of slots to be filled. If you can help, ring Vicky on 323 6671.

Time of Arrival at School: Students are to keep away from their classrooms before 8:20am. The teachers are not always available to supervise before that. Students who arrive at school before 8:20am must join the Before School Care group in Room 7. Parents of children who regularly arrive before 8:20am may be asked to assist by taking a turn at Before School Care.

Parent Response forms: Last week we included with the newsletter, forms which we would like you to fill out and return to each child's class teacher. These are to keep us up-to-date with any information that you are able to give us which will help us understand and support your child better. Thank you to those who have already returned them.

Meet the Teacher: Again! Thank you to those who attended the meetings on Friday evening. What a pity about the picnic. Not doubt the weather would have pleased the farmers and our grounds are certainly looking greener. If you have anything you would like to discuss personally with the classroom teacher please ask for a meeting.

Car pool: Avondale, Burwood, New Brighton areas. Please telephone the school office if you are interested.

The polar fleece was found. Thank you.

Coffee morning: This Friday 27th February 9am (or come after assembly) at 'Sub Zero' café Bishopdale. Come and get to know some of the other parents in our school community. All welcome.

Library Books: Can you believe that we still have some books outstanding from last year. Please have a scout around and see what you can come up with.

Celebration Assemblies

Room 3: Samuel I for showing respect and good manners. Rachel M for great progress in writing.

Room 4: James for great maths strategies. Abby for being a great example in showing respect.

Lighthouse Awards: James, Ho'soo

Principal's Awards for Special Achievement: Braedon

Term 1 Calendar

Date	School Event
February 26	Room 7's trip to Leithfield BOT meeting 7 pm
February 27	All parent response forms back please Coffee morning at Bishopdale Sub Zero
March 5	Market meeting 9:30
March 11	Rm's 1, 2, 3 trip to the Eco Depot
March 12	Special guests in Assembly
March 16 - 27	Swimming every afternoon 12:30 – 2:30pm
March 31	Sample Books go home
April 7 & 8	Parent Interviews
April 9	Term Ends

Term Dates for 2009 are:

Term 1: Tuesday, February 3 to Thursday, April 9

Term 2: Monday, April 27 to Friday, July 3

Term 3: Monday, July 20 to Friday, September 25

Term 4: Monday, October 12 until a day in December that assures that we are open for the required number of half days.

Community News

Fires in Victoria, update 13 February 2009

IMPACT OF FIRES ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

At least 23 AISV Member Schools have suffered directly or indirectly as a result of the bushfires that have taken a heavy toll throughout Victoria. In many cases there has been loss of life among students and alumni and the families or relatives of school staff.

The worst affected independent schools include Billanook College, Little Yarra Steiner School, **Plenty Valley Christian School**, Plenty Valley Montessori School, Yarra Valley Grammar and Ivanhoe Grammar School.

Many students and staff lost homes, including sixteen families attending the Plenty Valley Christian School and four families whose children attend St Paul's Anglican Grammar School.

In some cases families have lost their livelihoods; and children their social networks. Valuable school resources – buildings, teaching materials, computers, and art and sports equipment have been destroyed.

Like many other Victorians, independent school students, staff and school communities have been quick to offer support. Schools are offering counselling, accommodation, computers, furniture, uniforms, sporting equipment and text books. Students are raising funds and donating food and blankets.

AISV is coordinating calls for help and offers of assistance through its website www.ais.vic.edu.au and has set up an email hotline helpingout@ais.vic.edu.au that schools can use to directly channel their requests and offers. Partnerships are being set up between schools.

Students at many schools are taking the initiative to hold fundraising events and to reach out to support pupils in need. Schools in New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia have offered help. Members of other associations across Australia representing independent schools have asked how they can assist.

Olympia Gymnastics: There are still some spaces in our Term 1 classes. We have classes in Artistic Gymnastics, Trampoline and Rhythmic Gymnastics for children aged 3 years and over. Check out our Website www.olympia.org.nz or give us a call on 344 6060 to see what we can do for you.