A message from Mr Lainson

What is the essence of what it means to live the Christian life? It would be interesting to see what our students would say. If you asked this question more broadly you might get a range of answers that could include a list of character traits, being good, obeying the Ten Commandments, attending church, praying, reading your bible etc. All of these things are good things, but what is at the very basis of the Christian life?

The basic principle for living a Christian life is that God sent his son to save us by grace and adopt us into his family so now we are called to take on the family resemblance, to look like our saviour and to please our father in heaven by living for him.

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to God.” (Romans 14:7 – 8)

The Heidelberg catechism says: ‘What is our only hope in life and death? That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our saviour Jesus Christ.’

The basic principle then is we are not to live so as to please ourselves as if we belong to ourselves and that means several things. Firstly, we are not to determine for ourselves what is right or wrong. For this we are dependent on God’s word. God’s word is meant to be the authority over our lives. It is God’s revelation to us and his instructions on what it means to live for him. Scripture should be the thing that determines our understanding of what is right and wrong. It is to be our moral compass.

Secondly, we are to put what pleases God and our neighbour’s interests before what pleases ourselves. And no part of our lives is to be immune from this self-giving. So often we hold back parts of our lives. Is Jesus really Lord of all aspects of our life?

Thirdly, we need to trust God through thick and thin, through good times and bad times, in life and in death.

Because we are saved by grace we make no contribution to our salvation and if we are saved by grace there is nothing God cannot ask of us. We are bought with a price – Jesus Christ crucified. God, in Jesus, gave himself completely for us so now we are to give ourselves completely for him.
Chalkboard Staff Profile

Mr Nate Bell

Teaching / Areas of Responsibility
Year 2 teacher

Favourite Subject / teaching area
English and art, but being a Primary teacher I love teaching all subjects. They all have value!

Favourite Leisure time activity
Watching the Sydney Swans, travelling, playing squash, cooking and watching movie marathons with Em, my wife.

Best Book you have ever read
The Bible.

Favourite Food
Mexican or pizza, anything Italian.

Prior to joining Illawarra Christian School what were you doing?
Kids’ Pastor at Dapto Anglican for two years. Prior to that I taught at Wollondilly Anglican College for six and a half years.

Funny Story
When I was in Kindy I remember doing a craft activity that involved plenty of glueing. By the end of the lesson my hands were covered in glue. At some stage I must have rubbed my eyes because the next morning I woke up crying because I thought I was blind...I’d glued my eyelashes together!
The two year transition time for the new school uniform is now over, making the new school uniforms compulsory for all years.

**A REMINDER FROM MR LAINSON REGARDING SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Parents, please ensure that your child has the correct uniform by checking your copy of the Parent Handbook.

You are also reminded that sports and regular uniform are not to be interchanged under any circumstance.

EG: tracksuit jacket NOT to be worn with the regular uniform and the woollen jumper may NOT be worn with the sports uniform.

**AFTER SCHOOL SPORT**

A reminder that the Government has now discontinued the sponsorship of the After School Sport program for all schools, hence we will no longer be running this service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKING BEE DATES 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th February (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st March (Yrs 1 &amp; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th May (Years 3 &amp; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th June (Years 7 &amp; 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th August (Make up date 2pm – 5pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th September (Year 9 &amp; 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th October (Prep/Kinder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th November (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th December (Make up date 2pm – 5pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Saturday 14 February is our first working bee for the year. Stage 6 parents are rostered, however if you would like to join them you may. Please sign the register when you arrive to let us know you have come to help. Please come armed with brooms, blowers, pruning shears, gloves, shovels, gardening tools, cleaning equipment for windows and desks and other cleaning jobs around the school.

**CLEANING CHEMICALS WILL BE SUPPLIED.**

We do rely on you to bring the tools to complete the jobs.
**A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER ILLAWARRA**

Informing parents and students that during the 2015 school year, they will maintain On Time Running (OTR) in accordance with our Key Performance Indicators (KPI). Our services will be departing schools at precisely the times agreed. If for some reason students are not loaded onto the buses by the designated time it will be required to depart without them. Premier Illawarra has met with schools in relation to School departure times – to ensure that students are afforded sufficient time to relocate to the bus stop in the afternoon.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORMS**

Donations of second hand uniforms can be dropped off to the office at any time. The Second Hand Uniform Pool will **no longer be collecting** discontinued uniform items. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking will now be held on **TUESDAYS**.

Please remember to send your children’s bank books in each Tuesday.

**CONCESSION CARDS**

Students who have turned 16 years of age may now come to the office for a concession travel card.

**REMINDER YEAR 11 & 12 IMMUNISATION FORMS ARE NOW DUE!**

**Gawa Intercultural Exchange Fundraising BBQ**

Friday 20th February 2015 Friday 13th March 2015.

Sausage sandwich: $2.50 (1 piece of bread, sausage and sauce)
Cans: $2 (high school students only)
Poppers $1

Parents/carers - are you available to assist with the running of either BBQ?
Help is needed cooking from 12-1pm and serving from 12:50-2pm.

Please contact Penny Spreitzer
0466 433 446 or spreitzer.penny@ics.nsw.edu.au.

Thankyou.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE**

Pray for the many new families who have joined us this year.

Give thanks for and pray for our school board.

Pray for the preparation for our Twilight Fete and Open Day.

Please have all items for Noticeboard to the School Office or via email to oliver.sally@ics.nsw.edu.au by Monday @ 3.30pm. Thank you for your assistance.