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At the Dedication Assembly, I shared a message with our students that focused on the great privilege it was to be alive at this point in history. I thought I would share the key parts of this message in the first edition of Snapshots for 2016.

Over the long holiday break, we have had time to pause and notice what is happening in the wider world. It is true there is much turmoil, grief and suffering in our world. There are so many in need of love, kindness, care and the Gospel. But, rather than feeling helpless in the face of these problems, we should feel inspired to do something about it. Coming to school enables you to equip yourself with knowledge, beliefs, skills and attitudes that will make a significant difference to our world.

Our students live in an unprecedented era; an amazing time in history.

How do we know these are unprecedented times full of opportunity for so many people? What do we now take for granted as being normal for everyone that was not so ten, twenty, fifty or one hundred years ago? If we remember that Jesus lived 2000 years ago, then these amounts of time are tiny in the scheme of things.

Consider but a few measures of how extraordinary these times are:

- Primary education in Australia only became compulsory in the late 19th Century (approx. 140/150 years ago).
- In 1896, Queensland children were required to attend school for only 60 days (less than 3 months of school) in each semester, and then every day from 1912. The leaving age was also raised from 12yr to 14 yrs.
- 125 years ago, most teachers were recruited and trained locally, through the pupil-teacher system. Under this scheme the headmaster selected trainees aged 14-18 years from the upper grades of primary schools and oversaw their training.
- As global education improved so did global literacy. In 1870, more than 75% of the world’s people never had the chance to go to school. This meant only a small number of people – 19% – of the world were actually able to read and most of these people were in developed Western countries. In Africa and South-East Asia, more than 90% of the population never went to school. Today, the global average has risen to 82% and the inequality between world regions – while still existing – is much lower.
- Two centuries ago, only a small elite section of the world had the ability to read – the best estimate is that 12% of the world’s people were literate. Over the course of the 19th century, this number more than doubled. And over the course of the 20th century, the world achieved rapid progress in education. Today, more than 80% (that is four out of five) people in the entire world are now able to read – and it is mostly older people that are illiterate. The young generation are much better educated than ever before.

As our students return to class, we encourage them to think on these things. Being literate, and being educated, gives you the chance to participate in the world, with the greatest range of options and possibilities. You can discover new information and develop new skills by yourself. You can open your own Bible and read the
Our School Captains for 2016

Captain - Sandy Lowcock  
Vice Captain - Eden Williams

A Message from Dr Bertram continued

Word for yourself. You can read what others have written about their Christian life and you can share your own testimony. You can choose to serve other communities in less privileged circumstances, be they in another country or just around the corner. All of these things are possible because God has given them to you:

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

2 Corinthians 9:6

and

*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:25

We live in a country that is blessed by considerable wealth, stability, freedoms and opportunity. We can still openly worship our God and proclaim the name of Jesus. Do not neglect sharing these riches with those less fortunate. Share your faith, share your possessions and share what others need.

As our students come to school each day, we want them to remember they are living in an unprecedented period of time. Schooling is not considered a burden by our society, by our parents, by our nation. We make provisions so that our children and young people can participate in many years of education. Parents established Illawarra Christian School, so that each student can achieve this level of education within a Christian context. Our students have the chance to learn in the light of the truth of the Creator and Saviour of this world. Our constant prayer for all our students is that by His power, God may bring to fruition every desire for goodness and every deed prompted by your faith.

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and every deed prompted by faith.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11
Prep – Year 4 Foundation and Growth

On Tuesday, 2 February, parents were invited to the Studio for the afternoon launch of the Prep - Year 4 student community. The students provided the entertainment before Mrs Barnes introduced the teachers and support staff to the parents. Mrs Barnes explained the vision of Foundation & Growth that undergirds this section of the school. Parents then visited classrooms to view the renovations that had been done over the holiday period. These renovations allowed the Prep – Year 4 classes to be situated around the Studio, which will be the central location for some lessons. An art zone has been created, with new washing troughs located undercover.

The move has brought about some new routines, including a change to the line up arrangements at the start of the day. Students now line up near their classrooms, ready to enter the Studio for a combined Devotion and Reading time. Parents are more than welcome to join us for this time, sharing in our Devotion and assisting with the Reading.

P - 4 Teachers

Stage 3 Collaboration and Experimentation

On Thursday, February 4, Stage 3 (Yrs 5 - 6) ran an orientation and information session for parents. Its purpose was to explain and launch the young end of our newly developed initiative for Years 5 – 8, the Collaboration and Experimentation student community. Mr Maina (Yr 6) and Mrs Bell (Yr 5), explained this exciting new direction followed by afternoon refreshments. Mr Hol was in attendance giving excellent directions and information to parents (or was Mr Hol just playing giant Jenga, chess and mini cricket with the students?)

The afternoon produced an excellent number of parents eager to know more about the Years 5 - 8 program. The students really enjoyed seeing their mums and dads at the school, visiting classrooms and mixing with the 5 - 8 community. It was good to see the three strands of Tongarra - parents, students and teachers - being interested and excited about the new 5 - 8 community. We look forward to seeing more development coming out of this Collaboration and Experimentation approach.

A slightly exhausted (but, ever keen), Mr Hol
The year started with excitement all round in high school. We have seen our new Year 7 students moving around the school like nothing new is taking place. Years 5 and 6 have eased into their new homes at the upper end of the school. The seniors have enjoyed using their “senior area” for lunch breaks, and have made the area their own with their regular games of volleyball under the gum trees.

Some highlights for the students have been…

‘The freedom and responsibility given to us in Year 12.’ Adam

‘Getting to choose electives and more freedom.’ Yr 11 boys

‘Getting to choose electives.’ Yr 9 boys

‘Soccer in the hall at lunch time.’ Yr 9 students

‘Seeing our friends again.’ Yr 8 boys

‘Having Mr Maina as our teacher.’ Yr 6 girls

‘Mr Walker’s “From Paddock to Plate” classes.’ Yr 6 boys

The senior students returned to school with a pleasant surprise of deck chairs and an assortment of outside games such as, Giant Chess, Giant Jenga, Bocce and Connect Four. This has been supplied in order to provide the seniors with a sense of responsibility and make their break times a time of relaxation and enjoyment.

We have seen the introduction of music at our Friday assemblies which has really brought a different tone and level of enjoyment to the regular meeting.

All in all, the year has started well and we are really looking forward to what is in store for us, as we continue to learn and grow in Christ.

*The fabulous Yr 12 girls.*
2015 Year 12 Success

‘Relief’, ‘happy’, ‘excitement’ and ‘thankfulness’ that the HSC was finally over. These were just some of the words used by the Year 12 students from 2015 to describe how they felt when they received their HSC results on Wednesday, 16 December. On the morning that results were released, many of the students returned to school to share and reflect with teachers over coffee and pastries.

Each student from our 2015 Year 12 cohort is to be congratulated on completing the HSC and doing their best. Whilst the results were particularly pleasing in many subjects, a number of students achieved outstanding results that require particular mention.

Samuel Cuthbertson received an Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking (ATAR) of 97.7. He achieved Band 6 results in Extension 2 and 1 Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. It was particularly exciting that Samuel achieved an outstanding result of 100% in Extension 1 Mathematics. Samuel placed in the Distinguished Achievers List and was placed 9th in the state in Extension 1 Mathematics. He thoroughly deserves such results after dedicating himself to his studies and honouring God through such diligence. Samuel is at present taking a gap year and is travelling in Canada. He will return in 2017 to study a Bachelor of Science Advanced Mathematics at the University of Sydney.

Ashleigh Gates received an ATAR of 90.45 and achieved a Band 6 in Ancient History and Hospitality. Ashleigh was also placed in the HSC Distinguished Achievers list for 2015. She is to be congratulated also on her dedication to her studies and her faithfulness to honour God in all areas of her life. Ashleigh will study a Bachelor of Law/Arts Degree at the University of Wollongong this year.

All of our students are currently pursuing their goals and dreams. James Friend is undertaking a Mechatronics Engineering Honours Degree and Computer Science Degree at UOW; Nathan Barnett and Kathryn Gill are both studying a Bachelor of Science (Biology) at UOW; Natalie Cunzolo is following her passion in dance this year and will undertake a degree next year at UOW; Catherine Stolk and Kaitlin Rochester are both starting a Bachelor of Social Science at the UOW with the hope to move into teaching and Kiamay Smith is attending the International School of Colour. Chris Milliken is planning to follow his passion and study Music at UOW. Jessica Hawkins, William Clarke and Daniel Rainey are each completing different courses that will enable them to transition to the UOW the following year. Michal Woolley is undertaking a Librarian course via distance through Wollongong TAFE, whilst James Edwards is busy working at Murrells and is hoping to secure an Aircraft position with the Defence Force. Matt Cignarella will complete his Early Child Certificate at TAFE and is to be congratulated on securing a job with Big Fat Smile.

ICS congratulates each of the 2015 Year 12 students and wishes them God's richest blessing in their future endeavours. We pray that they will seek and trust God as they begin this new season of their life.

Mrs Bartley

Year 12 Roll Teacher 2015
In Biblical Studies, I always provide students with the opportunity to ask questions about anything. Yes, that’s right, anything! This is an unsettling idea for many people, especially in front of a large group. What if the question embarrasses you? What if you don’t have the answer? What if the question forces you to rethink what you believe? All these thoughts can go through your head when you give children the opportunity to asks questions.

What I have noticed though, is children have really good questions that need answers. If left to themselves, they will seek to find the answers through one of the following formats; a) Experience, b) Ask their peers (never a wise option) or c) What I have come to call, Mummy and Daddy Google.

We live in an age where answers abound in the internet to all of life’s questions. The dilemma is, the internet provides no moral or ethical guidelines, no parameters for exploration, and no personal touch. I often explain to our children that Google has replaced our parents as moral guides.

So what do we do?

The answer, I believe, is simple. Encourage an environment in classrooms and homes where questions are ‘good things’ to pursue, in order to find the truth. Encourage an environment that fosters learning and that provides what the internet cannot - love, acceptance and wisdom. Without conversations being a natural part of family life, our children will not feel comfortable asking us questions and will look elsewhere for answers.

Mr Nicholls

Year 9 - 12 Co-ordinator
Parents and Friends

We have changed our name this year to ‘Parents and Friends’. Our first meeting for 2016, was held on Tuesday, 16 February. It was a great night of planning. We would really like to encourage all of our parents and friends, to partner with the committee members in creating community, and providing resources for our children.

The Parents and Friends of our school community help to raise funds that are used to purchase valuable resources for our school. Some of the items the P & F have contributed to are: sandpits in the infants/primary playground, colourful furniture in the Learning Hub, and two 3D printers.

We will be running a new format for our meetings this year. The committee members will meet at night. All are welcome to attend. We will then hold a Parents and Friends Forum during the day to discuss unique topics relevant to our school. Our first Parents & Friends Forum will be on Thursday, 10 March, 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the Green Room. The topics on the agenda are: Healthy Eating and Fundraising. We look forward to seeing you there.

A ‘big thank you’ to all of our wonderful Parent Coordinator volunteers. They will be looking after your classes this year.

Key P & F supported events:
1. Masters Sausage Sizzle - Saturday, 26 March
2. P & F meeting – Wednesday, 4 May, 7.30 pm in Green Room
3. Pit fire – Thursday, 5 May
4. Tongarra Spring Fair – Saturday, 22 October

Linda Scherlowski
Parents and Friends Secretary
Visual Arts - Coil Pot Making

The Visual Arts faculty began the year with a flurry of ceramic coil pot making across Years 5 to 8, and my Stage 5 class. Every Tuesday, students are invited to the open art room to work in more detail on class work, make up for missed lessons, or try out new things. The purpose of this is to create pieces that will be fired in an above ground pit firing - the process is called Raku. This is a highly experimental exercise, and one which I hope will bring collaboration between Stage 3 and 4, and the parent community.

The Pit Firing is scheduled for **Thursday, 5 May**. If you have a child involved, please save the date. Further information will follow regarding the after school voluntary component of this activity, ending with a BBQ around 6 pm.

**Parent Workshops** will run **Thursday afternoons**, from 2.15 pm in the art room until school ends. No booking required, just show up. If you prefer, you can simply request some clay and work on it at home. Your pot would need to be finished by the end of term.

**Parent Help**
In order to fire the Pit, I will require lots of the following combustible materials. If you have access to any of the following materials please contact me:
sawdust, timber off cuts, twigs, dried seaweed, dried banana skins, dried leaves and dried cow pats.

*Mrs Gillett*
*Art Teacher*

(Stage 3 and 4 working together during lunchtime at our new **ART NOW program**).
Year 12 Business Studies trip to Sydney

On Tuesday, 16 February, Year 12 Business Studies travelled to Sydney to study two businesses: ABC Studios in Ultimo, and IMAX Theatre in Darling Harbour.

ABC Studios related to our coursework in Term 4, 2015 on the topic “Operations”. We participated in a guided tour of ABC Studios and listened to several staff talk about the processes and systems that are set up. We saw preparations for filming, including for the news and “Good Game SP”.

IMAX Theatre related to our Term 1, 2016 coursework on the topic “Marketing”. We observed many marketing strategies adopted by the business, and these will assist us in our preparation for an upcoming assessment task. We also had an opportunity to watch “Shackleton”, which was a moving account of the famous explorer’s experiences in Antarctica near the start of last century.

Mrs Brennan
Business Studies Teacher
Combined Primary Swimming Carnival

The first annual Tongarra- Cordeaux Swimming Carnival was a wonderful success with great energy, enthusiasm, participation and competition. All students are to be commended for their brilliant attitudes, willingness to participate and spirit. The weather made a perfect day for swimming with the warmth drawing students into the pool.

There were many Tongarra students who excelled on the day, and of special note are the following students who were age champions on the day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>Zoe Falconer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>Benjamin Gregory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Zachary Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 years</td>
<td>Matthew Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Samuel Byron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yallah placed second overall in total points between all five houses. They valiantly beat Calderwood to become the 2016 winning house at the Swimming carnival. Yallah demonstrated the greatest spirit and developed a fantastic war cry, which all students participated in enthusiastically.

This swimming carnival was a great foundation for future sporting competitions this year such as, cross country, athletics and City vs Country. It’s a promising beginning to great and energetic, cross campus competitions in years to come.

Mrs Gold, PDHPE

From the students:

The primary swimming carnival was AWESOME!

It was a Tongarra and Cordeaux combined carnival. There were five different houses. The Cordeaux houses were called Nebo, Kembla and Keira. The Tongarra houses where called Yallah and Calderwood. Keira won and Yallah came second! It was a hot day, so it was great to swim! It was one of the best carnivals ever and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Matthew Walker and Sahra Middleton
Indoor Soccer at Lunchtime

Every week at school, there is an opportunity for students to play an energetic, exciting game of indoor soccer (ok, ok football/Futsal). Nevertheless, whatever it’s called it’s fun, and each session ends with students and teachers dripping with perspiration (particularly, Mr Walker - must be because he’s playing in a tie!). If you are in High School, and are keen to be intensely active for the lunchtime break, head to the hall, jump on a team and test yourself with the best (I put myself in this category...) and the rest.

Years 5 and 6 are able to play with Years 7 and 8 on a Thursday, with no concerns about size or opportunity.

Looking forward to seeing you in the hall at lunchtimes,

Mr “Better the Diego” Ho!


A Book Review,  
with Sylvia Vaartjes

Surf-loving Heidi impersonates her horse-mad twin sister in this rural romance from Australia's queen of teen, Kaz Delaney.

**PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION**

Heidi Gage is all about sun, skating and waves until her twin sister, Harper, dislocates her knee.

If Harper doesn't go to Jillaroo camp at Winmaroo - and seriously impress the teachers - she can kiss her dream school goodbye. And what's the point of having a twin sister if you can't switch places now and then, right?

Blame it on guilt, or on sisterly love, but before the dust has settled Heidi is heading to the country for ten days of horses, snakes, rats and creepy crawlies and trying to look like she knows what she's doing.

Heidi's about to learn a lot can happen in ten days. Flying under the radar isn't easy when you're falling in love.

**REVIEW**

When Heidi’s carelessness with her skateboard causes her twin sister Harper to trip over and injures her knee, Harper is devastated. She was to travel to the Hunter Valley the following day to attend a weeklong camp at Jillaroo School. It’s not just the camp that matters – this was her doorway to a scholarship for the school of her dreams. In a moment of guilt-induced craziness, Heidi agrees to take her place. But how will a surfer girl handle herself as a jillaroo? They might look the same but these two girls are very different.

Things get even more complicated when Trent, Harper’s apparent arch-nemesis and main competitor for the scholarship turns up. How long will it be before he figures out Harper isn’t Harper at all? And when it becomes clear that someone is out to cause trouble, will the truth come out before it’s too late?

An enjoyable, light rural romance with a hint of mystery.

**RECOMMENDED AGE:** 12-16 years

**GOOD READ RATING:** ***

**LITERARY VALUE RATING:** ***