ANZAC Ambassador

I was delighted to attend a special ceremony at the Castle Hill RSL Club this week at which Liam Christie (Y5) was introduced as one of the Club’s two ANZAC Day Ambassadors. Quite an honour!

Liam gave a fine speech about the meaning of ANZAC Day … to his family and to the community in general. The Christies have a rich connection to the armed services. Liam’s dad served with the RAAF for some 17 years, his grandfather served with the SAS for 20 years, his grandfather saw action during WW2, and his great-great-great uncle fought in WW1.

But Liam also pointed out that the community in general has so much to be grateful for. So many of the freedoms we take for granted have been hard won, at great personal cost to others.

The Castle Hill RSL Club is committed to keeping the ANZAC legacy alive and to educating the next generation about it. It has produced a fine school education kit, which was launched at this meeting, and it offers a special 1hr ANZAC tour for school groups, during which students are introduced to some ANZAC history and memorabilia.

Well done to the Club for showing this initiative. And well done Liam for your ambassadorial work! We are proud of you!

Art Show 2012 … positions vacant!

Planning for this year’s Art Show is well under way and the committee has had its first meeting. This will be another exciting event, which ultimately will involve virtually every member of the Prep School community.

However, we do need some key people to work as members of our planning committee right through the year … not just around the time of the Art Show itself. In particular we would welcome the following expertise:

- a person or persons to assist Jackie Clark in convening the art
- a person or persons to assist in promoting the Show and selling advertising space in our catalogue and on our Art Show website
- someone to coordinate the opening night
- someone to take charge of our décor

Please contact me if you are interested in one of these roles – or if you know of someone who I should tap on the shoulder!

Leave requests

I remind you that the School discourages families from taking leave outside of set school holiday periods, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is because a boy’s absence affects not only him, but also his classmates and teachers. So much of the boys’ learning is experiential – that is, they learn by doing – so it is not as simple as a boy ‘simply catching up on the work’ or covering the relevant sections of a textbook. Basically we do not use textbooks in our school.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “To accomplish great things, we must not only dream, but act.”

Bill Blackman
There is a growing tendency for families to tack a couple of extra days onto the school breaks. I do urge you to confine your travel plans to the set holiday periods, where at all possible.

I fully appreciate that sometimes there are very good reasons for taking additional leave. I am always willing to entertain these … but please contact me well in advance in the form of a leave REQUEST, not at the 11th hour in the form of an announcement! Leave requests should come via email … to kdh2o@kings.edu.au.

**Little Shop of Horrors!**

Folks, you'd be mad not to attend a performance of the King’s/Tara production of The Little Shop of Horrors! It is BRILLIANT! Diana and I had the great pleasure of attending the gala opening night on Wednesday of this week. Do yourselves a favour and book yourselves some tickets! I add the rider that it is best suited for Year 3 and upwards. I think the younger boys might find it a tad overwhelming or even scary!

**Parking Near Sports Fields ... Safety Concern**

Please be aware that parents and visitors are NOT permitted to drive through the Prep School grounds to park near the sports venues. Parking is restricted to the set parking areas at the front of the Prep School. This will require a short walk then to the relevant playing field or court.

Some parents have taken to parking near the Prep Woodwork building or the Prep basketball courts, resulting sometimes in traffic congestion. There have also been some near misses of potential pedestrian accidents.

The one exception to this no access rule is if a car is transporting a disabled person, and the relevant sticker is appropriately displayed.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Let's keep our boys safe!

**Jan Abbas ... Long Service Leave**

I am sure you will join me in wishing Jan Abbas every blessing for her upcoming Long Service Leave, which will see her engage in extensive travel through Europe with her husband Aiko. Enjoy! Jan will return to King's in Term 4.

I am pleased to announce the following temporary appointments to replace Jan (yes, two people are needed to replace her!):

Ms Lorna Murray ... will be our Acting Visual Arts specialist teacher. Lorna has experience teaching students from pre-school to tertiary level. This has included quite some work in our own Senior School, where she is very highly regarded. She has also taught extensively in a K-12 capacity at Hale School in W.A. and PLC (Perth).

We very much look forward to Lorna's contribution to things artistic in the Prep School!

**WEEKLY MINDBENDER:**

One snowy night, Sherlock Holmes was in his house sitting by a fire. All of a sudden a snowball came crashing through his window, breaking it.

Holmes got up and looked out the window just in time to see three neighbourhood kids who were brothers run around a corner. Their names were John Crimson, Mark Crimson and Paul Crimson.

The next day Holmes received a note on his door that read "? Crimson. He broke your window."

Which of the three Crimson brothers should Sherlock Holmes question about the incident?

Mrs Anna-Claire Coore ... will be Acting Housemaster of Harrison, in addition to her responsibilities as our Coordinator of Learning Support Services. Anna-Claire has a wonderful pastoral heart. She has held leadership and pastoral care positions in other schools, and is very well placed to look after the young men of Harrison House and their families.

Keith Dalleywater
Head of the Preparatory School

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**The King’s School Annual Women’s Dinner**

An evening of friendship and inspiration

Friday, 25 May 2012 in The Trophy Room

Commencing at 6.30 pm for dinner at 7.15 pm

$85 per head for canapés, main course and dessert

Beverages are included.

You are invited to hear guest speaker, Janine Shepherd

Janine Shepherd will take us on her inspirational journey from elite athlete training for the Winter Olympics to an horrific accident which left her fighting for life. Since then she has achieved extraordinary feats, defied doctors and taught herself to walk again, learnt to fly, had a family and embraced life despite disability. Come and join us for a women’s evening of fun, wine and inspiration.

Invitations and booking details to follow shortly

Enquiries to Donna Boyd 0419 629 962
Or Sandra Moore 0402 699 206
Fun and Learning in the Field

Over the last few weeks, I have had the pleasure of attending two of the four fabulous field trips experienced by our Years 3-6 boys. During this time, I have experienced friendships being forged, skills developed, teamwork relied upon and lessons in resilience learnt. The trips afforded a wonderful opportunity to further develop the PYP attitudes and learner profile attributes towards which our students are working (The PYP attitudes can be seen at the rear of this Newsletter).

Year 3 students explored the timeless charm of the Blue Mountains having their curiosity sparked by the physical formations of this dramatic wonder. Their respect for the original inhabitants of the region grew as they asked questions of an Aboriginal National Parks Ranger, during a bush trek, gaining knowledge about the area and people, participated in Aboriginal face painting, artwork and a corroboree. At the same time creativity was surreptitiously harnessed and developed. They also ventured on the Scenic Railway and Cableway. For many, this was their first experience of being separated from their parents in an overnight expedition.

Year 4 travelled to the Royal National Park, the oldest National Park in Australia, where they gained an appreciation of, and respect for, the crucial mangrove ecosystem while catching crabs and licking salty leaves; cooperated and showed independence through living in close quarters with one another; and learnt new skills while participating, and communicating, in initiative activities, navigation using maps and raft building. It was wonderful to see the boys cope with the torrential rain, and consequential modification of the programme, which we experienced during parts of the camp.

Confidence, respect and empathy came to the fore on the Year 5 Lake Macquarie Camp where the boys faced challenges such as abseiling and sailing. They supported each other through some of these testing activities demonstrating tolerance by understanding how others would be feeling and being responsive to their needs. As I chatted with the boys following the camp, it was clear to see that they had been exposed to some wonderfully exciting and enriching learning opportunities.
Learning 360 and ALTUS (‘nourished’)

ALTUS
It has been an exciting couple of weeks since the launch of ALTUS, our innovative approach to meeting the needs of Gifted and Talented (GAT) students in the Preparatory School.

As part of our ALTUS provisions from Kindergarten to Year 6 there have been many exciting and stimulating activities taking place.

In Literacy, Year 5 and 6 boys have been involved in an inquiry into Figurative Language in text through the analysis of many different genres. This week they actively rewrote a range of picture books by applying their knowledge of figurative language. It was exciting to see all groups of boys creatively express their narrative through figurative language.

Year 5 ALTUS boys have been reviewing the works of Lewis Carroll in the well-known poem, The Jabberwocky. Together each group pulled apart this ‘nonsense poem’ and analysed the use of Portmanteau. The result of this has been some very creative poems written by the boys using the ideas and structure of Lewis Carroll.

The Sieve of Eratosthenes

In Mathematics, as part of an inquiry into Prime and Composite numbers, Year 5 and 6 boys have applied their knowledge of Prime and Composite Numbers to complete the Sieve of Eratosthenes. This is an ancient algorithm used for finding all prime numbers up to any given limit. It does so by iteratively marking as composite the multiples of each prime, starting with the multiples of 2. Each group designed their own number chart and investigated the patterns and from this made their own conclusions and findings.

Voni Howard
GAT Specialist
ALTUS
Preparatory School
The Tara Great Day Out Committee would like to invite students and staff to participate in the inaugural digital Blue Box Photography Challenge. We are creating a fun and unusual online competition for anyone who can hold a camera!

All photographers will have their work publicly displayed over three innovative exhibition areas on 5 May at Tara Anglican Girls School. There are three entry categories and prizes for 27 people with a total pool of cash and prizes valued at over $5,000. After registration, the Blue Box Contents will be sent to your email. Three photographs are necessary per registration. The Blue Box contains the themes – one is an emotion, another is a colour and the third is an object.

As a bonus to your school when we receive 20 online registrations, which nominate you, your school will gain a complimentary advertising link within our very active Great Day Out website. The more registrations we receive, the more your business will be given a priority position.

Registration details and dates, Terms and Conditions, Judges Tips and Prizes can be viewed at www.tara.nsw.edu.au then click on the BLUE BOX PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE link.

Further details please contact Karen Gale on 0403 765 070 or blueboxphotography@tara.nsw.edu.au Alternatively, contact Wendy McDermott, on w.mcdermott@staff.tara.nsw.edu.au or 8838 2680.