



30th OCTOBER TERM 4, WEEK 3

## PRINCIPAL'S BLURB THREADS

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At Northern Christian School our purpose is to prepare and equip students for life by providing the highest quality Christ-centred education. In pursuing our purpose, Northern Christian School values Christ centred education and we seek to ensure that Jesus Christ is honoured in and through all aspects of education.

Each term teachers review their teaching and learning programs and intentionally plan '**threads**' into their units of work. Last week in our school newsletter, we explored biblical perspectives. Threads are the responses that the teacher wishes to draw out after understanding God's revelation as articulated in the biblical perspective in the unit of work. "Threads are action responses. They are expressions of what it means to be responsive disciples of Jesus. Threads are the challenges that God calls us to live out." (NICE, 2015). Teachers also plan and identify **enduring understandings**. These are understandings that they would hope students grasp as a result of studying the unit of work.

In every unit of work at our school teachers also create **essential questions**. Essential questions are created to help focus and capture the main idea of a unit and to help students to think deeply about the topic. We want our learning at Northern Christian School to help prepare and equip students to serve God now and in the future. A teacher at Northern Christian School has written an example below that will help give you a glimpse of how we use **threads**, **enduring understandings** and **essential questions** in our teaching and learning at Northern Christian School.

**Main idea of unit:** Using God's gift of water wisely! (Earth Sciences Unit)

**Threads:**

Caretaking Earth - Students actively respond to God's call to carefully manage all of creation.  
Pondering Creation - Students contemplate both the creator and His handiwork and respond in delight and praise.

**Essential understandings:**

- Explore that God is the creator of water
- Explore that God sustains the Earth and its resources
- Be inspired to sustain and protect water
- Be inspired to be good Stewards of water

**Essential questions:**

- What is special about water?
- Where does water come from?
- How can we use water responsibly?
- What does water tell us about God and His provisions for us?

How can we encourage others to use water wisely?

Please find a copy of the threads that we weave into our curriculum at our school in this newsletter.

Bethany Armstrong,

Acting Principal





## FEEDBACK—YOUR FEEDBACK IS WELCOME



As part of the school's commitment to improve things for our parents and carers we're launching a [feedback section](#) on our school website. If you have any suggestions on how to improve our school or you'd like to say thank you or pass on your appreciation we'd love to hear from you! If your concern is of a serious nature you'll also find a link where you can begin a formal complaint process.

Bethany Armstrong  
Acting Principal

## PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) will take place this week and next week for students in Year 1 to Year 6. The testing involves a series of assessments designed to provide teachers with information provide about their students' skills and understanding in a range of key areas. They also provide data to help teachers examine and see student's progress in their learning. For further information about the testing, please contact your child's teacher.





## E- NEWSLETTER



I'm excited to announce that as part of our commitment to improve communication at the school from next week all parents and caregivers will be receiving our new look school newsletter (a new E-newsletter) in an email from our school. Links to our new look E-Newsletter will be also be published weekly via our school's [Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Please be aware that links to the E-Newsletter will still be distributed via the Skoolbag App until the end of term. I want to encourage and remind parents and caregivers to check your email as a priority. This is another way we will continue to communicate with you when we have important concerns regarding your child.

Please share our E-newsletter with friends and families. They will be able to subscribe to our E-Newsletter by visiting our website and "signing up" at the bottom of our webpage (All current parents and primary caregivers will get it automatically). We wish for all parents and caregivers to use our school's website to read our E-newsletter a to check our [School Calendar](#) for upcoming events. Please note hard copies of our school newsletter will still be sent home with families that have previously asked for a hard copy of our newsletter this year. We welcome and value feedback from Parents and caregivers on this new communication strategy. You can do this by emailing myself or by visiting [our website](#).

Bethany Armstrong  
Acting Principal

## DRAMA CLUB

We are excited to announce that due to the enthusiasm of some students and staff this term we will be starting a Drama Club on Friday lunch times as part of the Care and Well Being focus in our school. The club will be open to any student who would like to come and who may be looking for something fun to do and to make new friends. It will be a safe space where every child will be encouraged to develop their creative talents and their capacity to take on different roles and characters, and to gain confidence in performing in front of others. Finally, if you have any old dress up clothes, we would love to use them for costumes if you would like to bring them in.



Jenny Berry  
Chaplain





## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

This is an event that started in the UK and has over 15 countries participating. Last year saw over 300,000 students from around Australia participating and this year Northern Christian School is joining in. From the organisation behind the event:

When teachers take learning outdoors they report some powerful impacts: Children's behaviour improves, whole classes are excited to learn, and individuals who feel inhibited by the curriculum often thrive in an outdoor environment. When adults think back to their own happiest memories of childhood, they frequently recall the joy of playing outdoors. Play is not only central to children's enjoyment of childhood, but teaches critical life skills such as problem-solving, teamwork and creativity.



Here at Northern Christian School we will be spending the day on Thursday 7th of November participating in a variety of different learning experiences in the outside environment. These will include taking our regular classroom routines and putting them into different settings for the day. Some classes may participate in some additional activities to engage with our local bush as a part of this event. More information about this event can be found at <https://outdoorclassroomday.com.au>

Samuel Whittle  
Senior Teacher

## 2019 DATES TO NOTE

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st November      | Athletics Carnival             |
| 7th-28th November | Kinder Orientation (Thursdays) |
| 7th November      | Music Count Us In              |
| 15th November     | Swimming Carnival              |
| 19th November     | Glenview Concert               |
| 25th Nov- 6th Dec | Kinder—Grade 2 Swimming        |
| 6th December      | Bump Up Day                    |
| 12th December     | End of Year Performance        |
| 17th December     | Year 6 Graduation              |
| 18th December     | Kinder Graduation              |
| 18th December     | End of Term 4                  |

## BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the following students celebrating their birthdays this week:

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Charlie Pearce | Jax Canham   |
| Lily Bracken   | Kailyn Riley |

We hope and pray that your day is as special as you are!

happy  
birthday