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Growing in Wisdom and Stature Stand and be Confident



Kia ora

Exciting times at Aidanfield Christian School!

Firstly, are you coming? I hope so! We need you to! To a point I expect every family to support the work that a team of really hard working staff and children have been giving their heart and soul to over the last couple of months.

Two years ago we had two half full theatres for the children to perform to – not good! This year I am hoping that with your support we can have three totally full and enthusiastic theatre's for our production of 'Courageous'. This would really show support for the effort that so many of our people have put into this significant undertaking. Order your ticket now! Get the grandparents, friends, uncles, aunts, cousin, neighbours, (forget the dog) and anyone else you can think of along and enjoy what will be a really well produced production by the children of ACS. This is a production suitable for all ages.

Secondly, the school BOT have approved the new vision. This is exciting and points us in a direction for the next number of years. It might seem like just words on a page to some but the new vision will become the backbone that we build a range of new initiatives and directions on. Thank you to all those who provided feedback and comment on the ideas over the last 12 months. All of these have been considered and taken into account as we have prayerfully looked for a refreshed direction. The

Aidanfield Christian School
Quality learning based on a biblical Christian worldview
Weaving the threads in Christian community
Biblical – Relational – Transformative

Here are some thoughts related to the vision and also links to what I wrote in the last newsletter. I started talking about bullying in the school. This is a topic that is on the minds of many. It is also a topic in the wider community and seems to be to one that is spinning a little out of control. I mentioned last time that I wanted to discuss this over a series of newsletters and here is the next instalment.

www.aidanfield.school.nz

From tolerance to intolerance to bullying or inaction

To be absolutely clear, I completely accept that bullying is present and harmful. Any school or community that says that bullying does not exist in their community does not truly know what is happening in their community. I am not belittling actual bullying nor the effects of actual bullying. What I am questioning is, what is 'actual' bullying and what is simply life in a broken world? What are targeted actions that are meant to hurt and what are simply expressions of imperfect relationships that we need to be resilient in and find ways to deal with?

Aidanfield Christian School does not accept nor tolerate bullying of any type. Where we are aware of incidents of bullying we will act to resolve the issues. So, let's talk about bullying.

Actions or words that are being described as 'bullying' appear to be getting a lot of air time across all media in this period of time. I hear a lot of people in the wider community referring to being bullied, or that someone in their family, social circle or workplace is being bullied. If everything is bullying then the real issue of bullying may be getting lost in the clutter of the simple issues of daily life. Where most actions of dislike are labelled as bullying the impact is to create a culture of uncertainty and hesitancy. Uncertainty has the danger of leading to a reluctance of anyone to make a decision that might go against someone else's ideas lest that be seen as an attempt to bully. There appears to be a growing sense that if someone else disagrees with 'me' or says or does something 'I' don't like then 'I' am being bullied. Really?

The discussion around 'tolerance' has been building for a decade or more. However, it appears to have transformed into an expression of 'intolerance'. Tolerance means that there is space and respect for a difference of ideas, thoughts and expressions. However, it now seems that anyone that speaks against (or critiques) an idea or expression is being 'intolerant' of the expressed idea. In other words, I cannot hold and verbalise a personal opinion on anything that might be different to what 'others' think for if I do, I am being intolerant and intolerance is bad. I wonder if this intolerance is now becoming defined as 'bullying'? Again, in other words, if 'I' speak against your idea or expression 'I' am labelled a bully.

What is the nature of the human heart?

From our school vision we are biblical, both in world view and in expression. If we are biblical then scripture needs to inform our understandings about the nature of people and the human heart. From scripture we know that we are all sinful and have a natural leaning away from the things of God. This means there should be no surprise when relationships between people (of any age) have issues, as it affects the young right through to the old. Strained relationships occur within age groups and across age groups, within cultures and across cultures, between the sexes and within gender groups. I have seen bullying within cultural groups as strongly as I have seen it between cultural groups in many parts of the world that I have visited.



Equally so, if our school community is biblical then our response to bullying and imperfect relationships (no matter what the context) should be informed by biblical principles. This leads us to see the restoration of relationships through authentic forgiveness and biblical love and acceptance as a key pathway to follow. It calls us all to truly embrace those that are not only different to us but also that are the same. It calls us to put others ahead of ourselves and to seek the best of others. Biblical expression challenges us to love others as we love ourselves. The working out of the school vision in real life is a challenging task for all of us no matter what part of the equation we find ourselves in – be it in disagreement or in actual bullying.

Children are not little adults

As a school we have perhaps 350 people on site at any one time, all who are tainted with the impacts of both living in a sinful world and affected by a sinful nature. Children will disagree with each other, niggle each other, pick on each other and bait each other. They will often say things that adults assume mean something far deeper than what the child said (or intended) because the adult brings adult thinking and interpretation to a situation while the child or children have a very different frame of reference. I say this with the understanding that children are not little adults. They do not think as adults, act as adults nor have adult understanding or the ability to think as adults. They are children who are growing up through the stages of childhood towards being adults.

continued...

In relation to school based 'bullying', often times situations are being interpreted as a bullying situation when in fact they are not bullying at all but children being children and struggling with how to live and work in community together and getting it wrong. 'Conflict between two or more people who have a disagreement is not always bullying. Not liking someone or a single act of social isolation or rejection is not bullying. One off acts of meanness or spite are not bullying. Isolated incidences of aggression, intimidation or violence are not bullying'. These situations do cause offense and are hurtful but are not bullying. They are part of normal life in a broken world and our children need to learn how to cope with these situations as they grow so that they can stand and be confident in this world.

The adult response to issues that make our children uncomfortable or hurt can be to coach the child on how to handle offense or how to handle issues that do not happen as the child wants. Increasingly it seems the adult response in our wider society seems to be to jump to the defence of the child seeking to protect the child. This does not teach resilience nor coping skills. It does not help a child to grow through the stages of childhood into adulthood with the skills to do life well. It does teach them dependency and that they are always right, should always get their own way and that the adult is always on their side.

Please do not get me wrong. Children should be listened to and supported well when things go wrong. However, support does not mean to believe every word they say as children. Children will have a version of what is or has happened but not necessarily the whole truth...just a side of the truth that they can see. They will have a child interpretation of what is happening and why, but not a mature and complete overview. Strong support is to help them to see the whole picture, to understand what or how they have contributed to the situation and to help them to structure their response to lead to resolving the situation. All of this is in relation to the issues of living in a fallen world – to the 'it's life' issues. I am not talking about actual bullying here.

As parents and caregivers to children our challenge is to teach our children how to be proactive in managing in the life long struggle to live in right relationship with others. In this way we lead them to be able to stand and be confident.

So what is actual bullying?

This is the subject of my next newsletter. Bullying is something specific and beyond 'it's just life'. Bullying can be physical, emotional or verbal. Bullying involves a repeated (ongoing) action over time with intent to cause harm. Bullying involves a misuse of power (or perceived power) in a relationship and bullying involves behaviours that cause harm and are not a normal part of growing up.

The next newsletter will unpack this idea further.

No doubt you will have thoughts or reactions to my discussion above. I would be more than happy to sit and talk with anyone who would like to unpack this topic more, to disagree or debate the points. What I would ask though is that, if you feel the need to talk negatively to others about my thoughts, please include me in the discussion so we can learn and grow together.

Grace and peace.

Mark Richardson
Principal





Aidanfield Christian School *presents*

COURAGEOUS

Script by Alisha Woods



Tickets available from the School Office
Adults \$14 Child (under 13) \$8

SEPTEMBER

Thurs	Friday	Friday
20th	21st	21st
7pm	1pm	7pm

The Grange Theatre Middleton Grange School
Tickets available from Aidanfield Christian School office

Ferrymead Trip - Junior School

Recently the Junior School went on a trip to Ferrymead Heritage Park. The day began by everyone dressing up – the girls in long dresses with aprons and bonnets; the boys in suits and caps. Once they had all stepped back in time, they were off to explore different forms of communication. This involved writing a letter and posting it via snail mail; watching a telegram being sent using morse code; being a phone operator in the manual telephone exchange; making phone calls using the automatic exchange; using a printing press that was over 100 years old; and watching old films in a small, cosy theatre. A huge thank you to the many parents and grandparents who came with us, making the trip possible.



William Pike Challenge Award - Yr 7 & 8

On Thursday 16 August the Year 7 / 8 completed their first EOTC trip for the William Pike Challenge Award. We descended on the Arion Riding Centre where the students participated in the following four rotations; horse trekking, horse riding lessons, farmyard visit and horticulture.

It was a brilliant experience where all students exhibited the Challenge values of excellence, pride, resilience, team work, compassion, and enthusiasm.

A highlight for many was having the courage to face and overcome a real fear of horses to experience successful independent control over a horse during a riding lesson.



Cantamath

On Wednesday 22nd August, the following students represented Aidanfield Christian School at the Cantamaths Competition:

Both teams competed well and enjoyed the evening. They finished with strong results, in the middle of the pack. The Year 7 team finished with 45 points and Year 8 team were happy to have just beaten them by getting 55.



Year 7: Cole, Lois, Zachary & John



Year 8: Liam, Jack, Nathan S & Samuel B

Middle School Speeches

The ACS Middle School Speech final was held on Wednesday, 22nd August 2018. This was the culmination of four weeks of preparation to write and perform a persuasive and informative speech in each of the Year 7-10 classes. The Term theme of 'Courage' was evident in the way that class finalists demonstrated conviction and confidence as they spoke about issues that were both topical and challenging. The following students represented their year group with these speech topics:

Year 7

Cole - True Friendship
Jessica - Deforestation
Toby - Animals

Year 8

Briana - Be Yourself
Liam - Technology
Rachel - LOL

Year 9

Viki - Orphans
Lorelei - Identity

Year 10

Divyana - A Gender Equal Society
Aemrich - Ignorance
Tomasz - Male Privilege
Melelupe - Compassion



Our judges : Mr Richardson, Mrs Thomson, & Mrs Anthony selected the following winning ACS Middle School finalists:

Year 7 - Toby, Year 8 - Rachel, Year 9 - Lorelei, & Year 10 - Divyana.

Congratulations to our winners! Toby, Rachel, and Divyana will now have the opportunity to compete at the Middleton Grange Speech Final on Wednesday, 5th September against MGS, Hillview, and Emmanuel Christian School. Unfortunately, they do not have a Year 9 speech final this year.

My personal thanks for the support given by teachers and parents, who have encouraged their children and students to have a voice on important issues. This is an important skill for all our students as they represent themselves and their faith in our community and culture.

Karen Strijbis

Sport

We had some fantastic results from our Friday travelling sports teams. A huge congratulations to the following teams. Well done! What an awesome achievement.

Yr5-6 Football team, C Grade, coached by Kerry Highsted placed 2nd

Caleb B, Oakley B, Tyler B, Harrison C, Nathan P, Samuel M, Hugo L, Brandon K & Samuel H.



Yr 7-8 Table Tennis team, C Grade placed 1st

Zachary P & Jack A.

Both Yr 5-6 teams placed 1st in their individual grades

Isaac G & Sophia S (D Grade)
Yuu N & William P (E Grade)



Yr 5-6 Hockey team, C Grade, coached by Jo Eason placed 2nd
Noah C, Lorraine C, Emmanuel M, Faiva O, Tupou O, Theo P, Nathan W & Coen-James W

Yr 7-8 Hockey team, coached by Arthur (Jasper's grandad) placed 2nd

Elina W, Alexandria Y, Benjamin A, Samuel B, Kyle B, Jasper H, Mieke H, Theodor K & Benjamin M



Community News



Canterbury Softball are pleased to be able to offer free Softball Skills coaching again in Term 4 & 1. Bookings are now open so get your school in quick as spaces will be limited. Our programme runs for 5 weeks with a progression of skills aiming at Years 4-8. We have some awesome coaches on board this round to continue presenting a high quality programme. Along with our usual programme we are also introducing a couple of new aspects, with the opportunity to compete against other schools within a cluster if you wish. Along with the coaching, EVERY teacher that participates with their class will receive our great "Kiwi Sox" Softball Coaching resource which is full of fun games to play once the sessions are finished.

For more information or to book, either email or give me a call on the number below.
Looking forward to another season of supporting the schools throughout Canterbury.

Sprinkles Homebased Education is here to offer children all the benefits of Homebased Early Childhood Education with an emphasis on God's love. We are recruiting Educator's to offer families the following;



- Authentic, nurturing, and positive educators.
- Low ratios 1 adult to 4 children.
- High quality interactions.
- Outings and nature play.
- A strong sense of belonging.
- Time to be heart centred in our relationships, and practice.
- Small group sizes with up to 4 children.
- Mixed ages and family focused.
- Child paced and unhurried.
- Beautiful thoughtful invitations to play.
- A Strengths-Based approach.

If you are interested in being an educator or looking for childcare

Contact- Delaine: 027 922 3697, email: homebasedsprinkles@gmail.com, or find us on facebook.



Bookings for the October Holiday Program are now open!

Week One:

1st October – 5th October - \$65

Week Two:

8th October – 12th October - \$65

Or \$110 for both weeks.

Email: info@starfishswimschool.co.nz

Or phone us at: 03 3381795

2 Nash Road, Aidanfield

Selwyn Athletic Club Registration and Info Day

Sunday 16th September 2018

Brookside Park, Rolleston

10am-2pm

Everyone welcome

Juniors (Age 4yrs -14), Seniors and Masters.

Athletes and those keen to assist and coach.

If you would like to know more and/or are unable to make it to registration day and would like to receive an electronic registration form

please email selwyn.athletics@gmail.com

Registrations after 16th September will still be accepted.



Boys and Girls...
Do you like to have FUN?
Want to make new FRIENDS?
Enjoy learning new SKILLS?

PLAY CRICKET THIS SUMMER!

Anyone can get involved!
Year 0 - 8

- Saturday games start 20th October (School Yrs 1-8)
- Superstar Cricket Academy starts Wednesday 31st October (Age 4 – School Yr 2)

Come down and have a try or ask us any questions about our fun game!

HJCC Open Day

Halswell Domain, Sunday Sept 9th

10am – 2pm

Register Online from Aug 20th – Sept 23rd

Visit www.halswellcricket.co.nz

For further club information contact us on juniors@halswellcricket.co.nz



THE SEASON STARTS SOON!

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