

# Aidanfield Christian School

2 Nash Road, Aidanfield, Christchurch 8025

Phone: 338 8153

Email: [office@aidanfield.school.nz](mailto:office@aidanfield.school.nz)

Website: [www.aidanfield.school.nz](http://www.aidanfield.school.nz)



## School Newsletter - Week 5, Term 3, 2016

*Growing in Wisdom and Stature*

*Stand and be confident*

Kia Ora Aidanfield whanau

### Opportunities

I have had the privilege of interviewing many families who are interested in sending their children to ACS over the last months. I still have a lot of interviews to do as this year's applications climb past 130 for our 35 places in 2017. I am sometimes amused when people comment on how much bigger the school is than they thought. It is a delight to wander around the classrooms and grounds with interested parents and to see the focused, engaged, lively and very well mannered pupils we have. More so, it is a privilege to know that at the heart of all of this is a constant focus on helping pupils to see the world as God created it and to help them unfold and understand that – and to find their place in it!

Another comment I often address is the perception that our pupils may have limited opportunities. Not only are the regular events in the school year happening day in and day out but we have a multitude of other opportunities on the go!

There is a description of some of the work being done through our Fostering Strengths programmes in this newsletter and this outlines some of the examples of what is going on week by week. We also have many of our ACS pupils involved in lead roles in 'Annie', a full on and impressive production. Pupils are involved as both performers and backstage crew. The outcome will be superb and the result of significant work by a large team. Have you got your tickets yet? – they are selling out!!

We have the William Pike Challenge happening all year in year 7/8. Skiing has been the latest challenge for many of them and the day was stunning! The Christian Schools Middle School Conference will have 17 of our middle school pupils at it next week. Two of our strong year 10 leaders are being sponsored to take part in the Boyle River Leadership Camp over the holidays, and three of our middle school pupils were at a film making training day this week.

Our kapa haka group is performing at the Tuhono Festival in a couple of weeks time. Our whanau group is developing its after school programme. Our Mandarin speakers after school group continues to grow. Our middle school are working alongside Halswell Residential College in a shared project. Our primary pupils have enjoyed the mini Olympics. World Vision has visited to congratulate the pupils on a stunning effort in raising \$5400 this year. I have received feedback from an ex staff member now working at Middleton who says she sees ACS ex pupils taking lead roles across all areas of the Middleton Grange senior college. The list goes on. Are the opportunities limited? I think not! The work of all our staff at ACS is amazing and our kids really do benefit.

### Service week and hall opening

At the end of this term we will extend an invitation to anyone who would like to visit to come and view static displays in the hall. This will be the culmination of service projects that each class is doing through this term. The Parents Association will be providing the coffee and cake and we will have an official opening of the new hall space. More information will come later in the term.

### Building

Part of our growth and to help with the increasing number of pupils is the addition of a new building that will be open for the start of term two next year. It will be for our year 9 and 10 pupils. The building will sit between the year 4 to 6 block and the current year 9 and 10 block. The intent of the design and placing is to help us continue to develop a strong and vibrant middle school space for our emerging adolescents.

### Finally

Growth and programmes are good! They add flavor and life to a place. But, these are not the important things – they are just what we do. What is important? The answer to this question is summarised, "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God". If we can lead our children in a deep understanding of this, show them what this looks like while they enjoy the energy of everything else – then we are doing well! The challenge is to us as a school and to you as parents. As we do this we support each other in the real vision of the school.

Grace and peace

Mark Richardson, Principal



### Term Dates for 2017

Term 1 - Wednesday 1st February - Thursday 13th April

Term 2 - Monday 1st May - Friday 7th July

Term 3 - Monday 24th July - Friday 29th September

Term 4 - Monday 16th October - Wednesday 13th December

Serving and working together with families, equipping children in a Biblical community to:

\* *pursue excellence in academic learning*

\* *become discerning thinkers*

\* *understand their identity*

\* *be faithful in service to God*

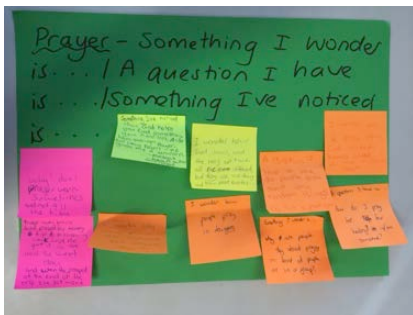
# Fostering Strengths Programme

The ACS Fostering Strengths Programme aims to provide a variety of teacher-led extension and enrichment learning opportunities for pupils who have been identified with specific strengths. So far this year there have been a variety of programmes to ensure that pupils from Year 2-10 can have an opportunity to be challenged and encouraged in their particular gifting. Teachers with particular strengths and passions have invested time into facilitating the strengths of these pupils. This has been a very worthwhile endeavour that has enabled teachers to model stewardship as we encourage these young people to use their gifts generously to the glory of God and the service of others.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

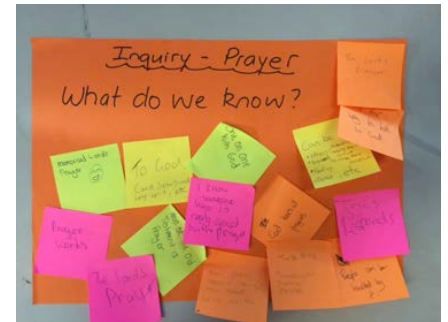
Science strong pupils had an opportunities to participate in a Year 5-6 Science extension investigation with Mrs Willard during Term 2.

In Term 3, Mrs Willard is overseeing the research of four Year 10 pupils who are participating in an EPIC challenge research project for Year 10 Science and Technology pupils. The EPIC Challenge is a two-week programme to help students examine career options in New Zealand's primary industries. Students work in teams to research the primary industries and available careers. They then create a promotional strategy to market one career to their fellow students and choose whether to enter the EPIC Challenge National Competition. The aim of this programme is to encourage science and technology pupils to engage in career opportunities for the future.



## SPIRITUAL INQUIRY

In Term 2, six pupils participated in a Year 9&10 Spiritual Prayer Inquiry with Miss Nixon. Miss Nixon was able to guide pupils through a biblical inquiry about prayer. This inquiry facilitated rich discussion for pupils to extend personal faith in prayer whilst developing their understanding of the way God uses prayer to help us communicate with Him and pray for



others. Some of the thinking in the group discussion resulted in pupils sharing experiences and extending understanding together through brainstorming and sharing experiences.

## MATHEMATICS

Miss Smit runs a Maths and Problem Solving extension programme for Year 8 & 9 pupils on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes to extend our gifted mathematicians. Currently extension is also provided through Canta-Maths projects to extend creative representations of mathematical concepts.

## THINKING SKILLS AND PROBLEM SOLVING

In Term 3, Mrs Strijbis facilitated a group Year 5 & 6 pupils in thinking skills and problem solving using resources from Tournament of the Minds and other thinking tools. All pupils demonstrated a high level of engagement using problem solving skills to develop a conceptual invention. They researched an invention, viewing and discussing a number of inventions developed by teenagers. They were required to use



Tony Ryan's 'Thinkers Keys' to critique their own inventions and use a range of strategies to improve their designs before developing a model. Group discussion and collaboration became an important vehicle for thinking 'outside the box' and provided opportunity for feedback and problem solving application to their design. Some of the criteria specifications included the need for the invention to be helpful to a specific group of people, to be ecologically sustainable, include safety features and security identification. Improvements and embellishments resulted in a variety of



inventions including a wheelchair attachment to help a disabled person brush their teeth, a food order computer (with food allergy options), hair dye attachment to a brush! We look forward to seeing the models developed later this term.





# Primary News

This term will no doubt unfold with a real rush – especially with so many of our young ones involved in the amazing opportunity that our production “Annie” gives! It’s exciting to see these younger students so excited and enthusiastic about this learning opportunity – watch for ticket sales in August!

This term sees classrooms very busy and full! We have a number of International students (from Taiwan and China) sharing our learning environments – it is such a positive learning time for our children to share cultural and language diversity. This is an aspect of ACS that makes it a pretty unique school and sets us all up for being involved in global communities!

We have a lot to work through in the Primary in term 3. We focus on the Olympics with an integrated unit – having the theme of Olympics in as many curriculum areas as possible. We go from that theme into a Health theme which will link from Olympics in a great way, and is supported by the Life Education classroom later being on site.

Classroom programmes are one thing, but such a key area of learning is the social interaction that happens in playtimes, buddy class work, library sessions, sports games and so on. We see younger children playing with older ones, and thoroughly enjoying the interactions. Sometimes it’s easy to forget how important play is in teaching key life lessons – sharing, winning with humility, losing graciously and so on. That is of course, on top of the physical learning that happens – balancing, kicking balls, skipping, co-ordination in a range of ways. The school hall will open up opportunity for our Juniors to do gymnastics each week, and the interchange programme which happens from Year 4 – 6 will be working around dance, drama and visual art this term (amongst other things).

Look out for emails from classes each week, keeping you all up to date with what is happening in our classrooms. They are busy places but we really look forward to working in partnership with you, in our rooms – your extra pair of hands is really valued.

Please keep in touch as the term unfolds and may you be able to share with family, friends, and neighbours, the warmth of God’s love over these winter months!





# Community Notices



" SHARP TRUST WILL HELP TO ENRICH YOUR CHILD'S LIFE EXPERIENCES THROUGH QUALITY, LOW COST, CHRISTIAN CARE. "

**After-School Programme**

**Holiday Programme**

**Rowleyz SHARP**

**CONTACT US**  
**www.sharp.org.nz**

Visit us at 244 Lyttelton st, Spreydon  
Email [sharp@swbc.org.nz](mailto:sharp@swbc.org.nz)  
Phone 338 0673



Supporting  
**our**   
Community



Bookings for October holiday program are now open

Week one: 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September

Week two:

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October

Cost is \$60 for the week

Email

[info@starfishswimschool.co.nz](mailto:info@starfishswimschool.co.nz)  
phone 03 3381795, 2 Nash Road,  
Halswell



Do you have a desire to reach out and help the disabled in the community?

At the Chapel of the Holy Family at 225 Kirk road in Templeton we hold a service designed to meet the needs of the intellectually and physically challenged in our community.

We would love it if you could come out and support us to look after the clients and those that care for them with the love of Christ.....

Our service starts at 11am and only runs until 11:30am with a drink and bicuit afterwards.

We would love help with music, teas and coffees and talking with people and sharing the love of Christ with them.

If you are interested please contact Jennie Brittenden on (021)2236644 or email her at [jenniebrittenden.enrich@gmail.com](mailto:jenniebrittenden.enrich@gmail.com)



# cont... 2 Fostering Strengths Programme



## SOCIAL AND ETHICAL STRENGTHS

### **Coffee-Cart Fair Trade Ministry**

Mr Ferguson is working with a group of year 9 and 10 pupils to develop a Fair Trade inquiry in the marketing, selling and customer service of coffee. The group went to visit the Addington Co-op to see how their operation uses Fair Trade coffee in an ethical way to meet the needs of others. They were amazed to discover that the Addington Coffee Co-op puts 70% of its profit back into local and overseas community needs, investing the remaining 30% back into the business. The group are working on developing an enterprising way to develop coffee-making as a ministry to others.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

Fostering Strengths In Visual Arts Teacher: Kathryn Renner

Every term we run small extension groups fostering those who shine in artistic ability. These groups cover a range of school levels and the projects are both diverse and exciting. We aim for projects that would not be possible to undertake with a whole class, are pitched at an advanced level for the age of the children and sometimes involve a field trip or interaction with a real-life artist!

In Term One Mrs Renner worked with a group of Year 5-6 students looking at the work of a NZ artist Warren Pohatu and the students created some wonderful pastel artwork on New Zealand birds and animals.



### Year 7 & 8 Art Extension

This term Mrs McAven has been tutoring a small group of Year 7-8 students studying still life painting. We are so fortunate to have staff members such as Mrs McAven who are talented artists themselves and are keen to share their passion. The Year 7 & 8 Art extension group focused on Cultural Still Life Painting with the expertise of Mrs McAven. The Art extension programme has continued into Term 3 and is currently a 'work in progress' with exceptional detail and skill being applied to current projects using colour to create three dimensional effects with curve and line represented in objects that are meaningful to the pupils and represent their cultural identity.



# cont... 3 Fostering Strengths Programme

## LITERACY

### Lit Quiz

Mrs Judith Anthony has been running a Lit Quiz programme on Thursday lunchtimes to encourage keen readers to extend their reading and comprehension skills. Children read a variety of genres and complete questions to check their understanding and depth of thinking. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to foster a love for books through sharing responses to literature in a meaningful way with like-minded children.

### Gifted Writers Group

During Term 2, Mrs Renner facilitated a group of Year 3 and 4 pupils who were developing their creative writing skills. Some samples of their vivid imagery and writing skill can be enjoyed as follows:

When I raced into Room A  
I was confused! Instead of  
seeing a table and an empty  
classroom, I saw something  
wrapped up and some plastic  
mats on one of the red and blue  
tables!

When Mrs Renner unwrapped it  
I saw a goldy, brown thing. I  
thought it was plasticine but it  
was clay!

You can mold it, shape it, squish  
it, mash it and crash it. You can  
even stretch it like a rubber  
band! It feels squishy and it  
smudges all over your hands! In  
some countries they made jars  
out of it. You can pretty much  
make anything out of it.

By Samuel B (Year 3)

### Clay

Squishy and cold  
Roll it, stretch it, mould it  
Slimy like glue  
Cold like ice  
Hold it, press it, bake it  
Dusty, musty  
Join it together  
By Isaiah (Year 3)

### Clay

Puffy, lumpy  
Stinky, crushy, mushy  
Gold like a bald king's head  
Soft like butter  
Slimy, soft and golden  
Smudgy hands  
By Andre (Year 3)

### TAWANASHE AND THE SUSPICIOUS FIGURE

I shivered as I descended down the long, gritty grey  
pathway with the stars twinkling in the night sky.  
There was a sudden crack of twigs sounding like a  
thousand fireworks popping. Leaves were rustled in  
the thick, cold air.

Suddenly there was a crack! Every second my breath  
got quieter and thick air came out of my mouth. Then  
a furry figure past me, as slowly as a sloth. My heart was  
beating as loudly as a drum. I was the wind trying to  
get away. Every time I tried to get away, the figure  
would charge at me at full speed with an evil smirk on  
its face. A howl of wind brushed my numb skin and it  
felt like a wave trying to wipe me out.

Quickly the figure ran like a charging bull then did a  
gigantic leap in the air and glided gracefully. Then it  
landed with a thump and the thump sound made a  
boom! I took a look – it had yellow beady eyes, fur that  
swayed in time with the air and claws that dug into the  
ground. It was a small pussy cat.

By Tawanashe (Year 4)

## PHYSICAL

Mrs Von Hamilton has been working hard to provide an extension of physical coordination skills through dance, enabling pupils involved in the Annie production to develop their repertoire of dance moves under her skilled choreography tuition. We look forward to celebrating the results of this training in the Annie production very soon!

## LEADERSHIP

Opportunities for servant-leadership across the school have included supporting the Annie production in various ways, leading assemblies and serving others through initiatives with World Vision fundraising. It has been fantastic to see students lead in heart and action.

In the September holidays two of our senior boys in Year 10 will attend a Rotary Outdoor Leadership Challenge that will include physical and decision making challenges and the development of leadership strategies.

By Karen Strijbis, Fostering Strengths Coordinator