“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” – Isaiah 40:31

Living the Values
by Mr Paul Schnabel - VCE Coordinator

The start of the school year brought many things to our community; a fresh start for some students, a new school for others, a new set of subjects and opportunities for engaging and exciting learning and for me a new role as VCE Coordinator.

The Hillcrest mission statement is something I have looked at many times as it provides an opportunity for us to share the why behind what we do. The values help us to identify with what we consider to be the important and non-negotiable ingredients to who we are as a Christian school community. These values are something that have a visible presence in our school grounds and, when you visit our school, you will see evidence in our students and staff depicting the values that we have placed at our core as a school.

The hope for Hillcrest is that these values are more than something symbolic, more than merely words printed on a banner or in a brochure with a nice photo. We want to see these values lived and breathed by our whole school community. It is encouraging and has genuinely warmed my heart to see our students reflecting our values in different ways this year right across the school. It was a pleasure to see some of our students welcoming potential families to the recent Arts Exhibition and Open Day.

The confident, friendly and respectful way in which this group of students welcomed and escorted families was a practical outworking of the students’ desire to interact with our school and wider community. Their welcoming and engaging nature when interacting with families is more than just good manners, as the practice of love seeks to serve others first and embraces kindness.

One of the many aspects of my role, which I enjoy, is to interact with the students and get an opportunity to hear about the successes and challenges of their learning. I especially enjoy hearing how students have overcome the challenges of getting stuck in their learning, and the way in which they have been proactive in navigating through the obstacles that are presented in their learning journey. The ability for a student to embrace problems and challenges with a sense of perseverance is a quality that empowers students to carry on and commit to overcoming such obstacles to achieve success and shape their character.

A school is not built on facilities, subjects and programs. Rather, a school is built on the values that are held by the people within it. It is these values that shape our school and make Hillcrest Christian College a place that brings hope and purpose to our community.

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:4)
**Exciting Events**

By Mr Gregg Weaver - Head of College

This is an exciting and frantic time of the year. We have our very fine Year 12 students sitting their final VCE examinations over the next few weeks, concerts, outings and the continuation of solid classroom learning.

**Celebration Of Student Achievement**

This is the season for celebrating in special ways, the wide variety of achievements by our students across all ages. We value, and are proud, of all our students’ progress and achievements over the year but particularly want to acknowledge those who have excelled in some way. Two events are particularly significant.

The first is our College Presentation Night to be held on the evening of Friday, 27th November. The numbers of awards has been extended this year along with items showcasing a little of our wonderfully talented students. This is an event that is open to all families and we look forward to a wonderful time together.

The second event is the first of its kind at Hillcrest. We are holding the inaugural Celebration of Sport evening being held in our Theatre on Friday, 6th November. We will be presenting over 80 awards to secondary students who have been members of successful College teams across all sporting codes plus all students who have gained State or National representation status during the year.

**Staffing Matters**

Since the last Bulletin the College is pleased to announce that the following positions have now been filled for 2016:

- Mary Khalil – Head of Humanities (internal appointment)
- Diana Ng - Director of our Early Learning Centre
- Magdelana Doslov – Head of LOTE (Languages) and teacher of German
- Martina Thaler - Teacher of German

**Nationally Significant Education News**

I would like to bring to your attention important announcements about Australian education that affects everyone at Hillcrest Christian College. A meeting of state/territory/federal ministers of education on 18th September agreed a number of national reforms including Curriculum, Teacher Education and the My School website. I would like to inform you as parents of the key developments and decisions regarding curriculum content and delivery.

For over two decades, Australia has been moving towards a national approach to schooling, including a national curriculum. After all this time, and through collaborative efforts led by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and involving all Australian states and territories, the first truly Australian Curriculum is now available for use in Australian schools.

- Revisions have been made to previously available Australian Curriculum to make the curriculum easier to manage, particularly for primary schools, simplify the curriculum’s presentation and strengthen the focus on literacy.
- The revised Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical Education.
- Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Languages for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Technologies introduces computer coding from Year 5; History and Geography will no longer be stand-alone subjects at primary level; and there will be references to Australia's Christian heritage. Implementation of the curriculum will be at the discretion of the states and territories.
- Australian Curriculum: Work Studies, Years 9–10 (an optional subject designed to ready young people for work).

But curriculum is only one part of the story of school learning. The Australian Curriculum does not specify how content must be taught. Schools and teachers have flexibility to make decisions about how they teach the curriculum in accordance with the needs of their students, the requirements of their school and local curriculum authorities. From late October, the newly endorsed curriculum will be made available on the Australian Curriculum website as version 8.0.

Friday, 6th November 2015
Hillcrest Theatre Gate 3
500 Soldiers Road Clyde North
6:30pm: Light refreshments
Awards Ceremony: 7:00 - 9:00pm
RSVP:
Nicola.Buchanan@hillcrest.vic.edu.au

You are invited to a

Celebration of Sport

An event that recognises the sporting accomplishments of Hillcrest students

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You are invited to a
Community Survey Response Thanks
By Mr Geoff Grace - Executive Principal

I have now completed my major analysis of the Hillcrest Community Survey which many of you completed some weeks ago. I have presented my initial report to the Crest Board and to the Hillcrest Executive Team. I shall write a summary article of the main findings and publish it in the next Hillcrest Bulletin in a fortnight.

Preserving and Growing Culture

As a young Christian a few years ago (well about 25 to be exact...) I read an article which has shaped a lot of my thinking about the world ever since. It spoke of how we interact with the culture around us. When it comes to any idea or new fashion, we tend to do one of three things:

1. We can embrace it – basically absorb it into our psyche and include it into our lifestyle. Sometimes this will be a positive thing like deciding to eat a healthier diet or exercising regularly. Sometimes, however, we adopt attitudes and trends which are not good for us – a habit or a lifestyle which drags us down. Far too many people simply get caught in things which become destructive in their lives and they are left rueing their decisions. We need wisdom, discernment and courage to know when to embrace a new thing.

2. We can reject it outright. This can be a healthy thing when what is being rejected is damaging or distracting. Often to reject a thing is a matter of self-preservation. It can also be a trap – sometimes we can reject things which are true and wholesome and valuable simply because we are not willing to examine the facts and make a decision on evidence rather than prejudice. A lot of people reject the Good News of Jesus in an uncritical way.

3. We can redeem an idea by neither rejecting it nor embracing it. Instead we positively critique it and engage with it in a way which leads to change for the better. This is the hard ‘middle’ road which requires perseverance, patience and a willingness to enter into the messiness of life. I believe it is what we are called to do as Christians. We are called to be ‘in the world’ but not ‘of it’. This is part of the core mission of the Christian School and the challenge is all about encouraging the students to develop faith, wisdom and discernment that they may themselves be culture-shapers as they seek to engage with a broken world through the message of reconciliation through faith in Jesus.

Uniform & Community

Part of this development of self-discipline is to be seen in the way we seek a consistent standard in our monitoring of the wearing of uniform. I have often likened the wearing of uniform to the skin of our body. It is the first line of defence against infection. When the skin is ruptured, then infection can run deeper. As it is with students and their uniform. If the battles are fought at the level of shirts and ties and tying hair back and monitoring makeup and jewellery, then we tend to avoid deeper issues of defiance and ‘attitude’.

Once we become weary of the daily focus on these somewhat superficial issues of compliance and self-discipline, the problems tend to surface in more difficult contexts. As such I make no apology for wanting the students to wear their uniform well. Not only is it a sign of self discipline and maturity, but it also demonstrates a willingness to be a productive and others-focused member of the College community. The focus is off ‘me’ and onto ‘us’ and how I can contribute. A big Thank You to parents who actively support the students in the wearing of what is a terrific Hillcrest uniform.
‘STEM’ Night
By Mr Jason Mustin - Science Faculty Coordinator/Teacher
Science was an exciting place of discovery and wonder in Middle School. Last week, the Middle School staff, students and parents took time out to celebrate the sciences in STEM night. During this evening teachers and student put on various demonstrations and interactive activities that displayed the topics encountered in the STEM areas: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

From playing with robots to the dissection of organs, parents got to experience the joy of discovery – a wonderful night spent celebrating the sciences. It was also wonderful to see some of the 2016 Year 5 students and their parents engage with the Middle School community on the night, after attending their 2016 Information Night.

Hands on History
By Ms Kerri Weidemann - Humanities Faculty Coordinator/Teacher
A new way of learning history was introduced this week, with a series of ‘Archaeological Digs’ – one per class. Students worked as a small team of historians to ‘excavate’, clean, record and analyse a collection of artefacts. As each find was made, the treasure was passed to another team member to clean, number and record. Once the trench was cleared, the teams went to work to bury new artefacts for the next dig.

Back in the classroom, students began analyzing and forming hypotheses about each of their finds. Some artefacts required joining with another team, to fit pieces together, in order to draw informed conclusions.

Work continues to establish the true ‘identity’ of each artefact and will culminate in a presentation of findings, to the class, as well as an individual student report.

Student Leadership Coaching
By Mrs Bernadine Maloney - Junior School Teacher
Luci Hendrickse, Cayla Naude, Lachlan Foster and Rhys Hadfield who are Year 5 students, have been involved in providing leadership coaching for some Year 2 students who are inspired to develop their leadership potential. Mrs Maloney oversees the group on Fridays fortnightly, to offer support and encouragement. It has been very inspiring to observe our Year 5 students impart their leadership skills to younger students and to see positive relationships being forged.

LOTE/Japanese
By Mrs Kiko Arakawa - Japanese Teacher
Year 8 students had a great LOTE incursion on Friday, 23rd October. We invited a Japanese manga cartoon artist to teach us how to draw manga. Students didn’t originally think they would be able to draw like the artist, Kenny, but they actually managed to do so before the end of the lesson. German students made traditional Advent calendars and teddy bear puppets. At lunchtime students lined up for delicious Japanese chicken noodles and scrumptious Black Forest cake. They enjoyed their lunch very much.

The Year 7 LOTE excursion was on Monday, 26th October. Students of Japanese visited various stores which related to Japanese culture and cuisine and filled out a whole booklet. They also enjoyed a tasty lunch of Japanese teriyaki beef, vegetables and rice.

LOTE/German
By Miss Kylie Wallace - German teacher
Year 7 students of German spent Monday, 26th October practising and learning vocabulary in the Melbourne CBD. They used their food nouns when ordering from the Lueneburger Bakery, impressing the manager who was delighted to hear so many young Australians learning his language.

The delicious cakes and pretzels gave the students energy to complete their research on other German businesses in the CBD such as the Hofbrauhaus restaurant and Adidas shop. Students also learnt about German-Australian artists such as Hans Heysen und Eugene von Guerard as they toured the Ian Potter Gallery. It was a busy but successful day.
Year 12 Graduation Assembly
By Mr Michael Swanborough - Head of Senior School

Year 12 classes for 2015, and 13 years of formal education, culminated with an exceptional Graduation Assembly on Thursday 22nd October. The atmosphere was positive and heartening, as students were presented with Graduation scrolls and received words of encouragement.

A staff item, dedicated to the Year 12 students, saw the whole auditorium rise to their feet in a standing ovation. Students left through a Guard of Honour formed by their teachers and then had celebratory photos taken. It was a memorable service that touched the hearts of all who attended.

As I write, the Year 12 students have just completed their English examination. They will be completing examinations for their other subjects over the next few weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with our students as they study and prepare to complete the final tasks of their secondary education.

Year 9-11 Examinations

The Year 9-11 Examination program commences on Tuesday, 9th November and concludes on Thursday, 12th November. All students should now have received an individual Timetable for the Examination period.

Kick Start Program

All current Year 9, 10 and 11 students are reminded that the 2016 Kick Start Program commences on Tuesday, 17th November and runs through to Thursday, 26th November. Students will commence formal studies in their 2016 classes and, as such, attendance is expected. Further details regarding the Timetable for the program will be sent shortly.

Annual sheep shearing

Recently the Year 9 Agriculture class had the unique experience of participating in the annual shearing of Hillcrest’s sheep. Most of the class had never seen sheep being shorn, so it was an amazing sight to behold. A number of students were so engrossed in the action that they grabbed a chair and watched with ‘ring-side’ seats, from the first ‘blow’ when the shearer removes the belly wool, through to the final blows along the back leg.

Michael Harris and Andy Neal both volunteered to have a go at holding the sheep and getting a sense of how to shear a sheep. Several other students helped the shearer by catching sheep and holding them for him. Everyone was involved with some introductory wool classing activities; we removed the short, fribbly and sweaty ends around the fleece (a process called, skirting the fleece) and then we classed the wool into the correct industry-approved lines of wool. It was a very positive experience for the students and we are blessed to be able to offer such unique learning experiences.
S.D.G. Choir Rehearsal Cancellation – 5th Nov
By Mr Peter Thomsen - Director of Performing Arts

Parents were notified by email earlier this week, of next week’s S.D.G. Choir Rehearsal cancellation next Thursday. Students are reminded that the Choir will be performing at Presentation Night on Friday, 27th November 2015, and the correct uniform attire for this evening is full Winter Uniform.

Combined Strings Recital – 24/11/2015
Parents and friends are welcome to attend the Combined Strings Recital to be held on Tuesday, 24th November in the theatre studios, at which time, Mrs Lucy Miribyan and Ms Ela Steplewski’s Junior School students enrolled in the instrumental program, will be performing.

Parents please note
Students taught by Ms Ela Steplewski will be having 2, 30 minute group rehearsals leading up to this Recital. These will be held in Studio 2 of the Theatre at 12:30pm on the 12th and 18th of November. The recital will be held from 4:00pm – 5:00pm, and all students are to be neatly attired in full summer uniform. Correspondence was emailed to all families concerned, earlier this week.

We look forward to another afternoon of blessing as we see the young learners step boldly into the performance arena, some of them for the very first time.

Year 5P Band Concert 25th Nov
Parents are advised that the last Year 5 Band Concert for 2015 will be held on Wednesday, 25th November at 4:00pm in the Performing Arts Theatre. Letters about this concert will be forthcoming, in the near future, by email.

Students in Year 5P are reminded to please bring their instrument to school for their band class, in the weeks leading up to this concert. Students can then receive the full benefit of their music tuition with Ms Kara-Lee Walker. Students should also keep practicing on their instrument whilst at home.

AMEB & ANZCA Examinations
Congratulations to Sandy Wu in Year 7 on receiving a wonderful result for her recent Grade 1 AMEB Piano exam. Please continue to pray for the large number of students who will sit guitar, strings and piano exams later this term. It is a very anxious time for all of them, but very rewarding when they receive their Certificate.

Instrumental Tuition 2016
Parents with students currently enrolled in the Instrumental Tuition Program will be receiving a Continuation form for instrumental tuition, during Term 4. The purpose of this form is to have tuition enrolments confirmed for instrumental tutors prior to the commencement of Term 1, 2016, and to enable the finance department to issue invoices for Term 1 fees towards the end of Term 4, giving plenty of notice for payment by the 1st week of February.

Parents are advised that all instrumental lessons will commence from Week 2, 2016, and the new instrumental tuition fees are now available on Moodle.

Thank you once again to the many parents who support their children in their performing arts activities, which is a blessing to all concerned.
Finance News

By Mrs Lauren Ward - Finance
School Fees
The 2016 fee schedule is currently being emailed to all families. Copies can be obtained from Reception.

Dare To Serve

By Catriona Wansbrough - Principal of St Andrews Christian College
I would like to invite you to attend Australia's first Expo on Service Learning called DARE TO SERVE.

This Expo is sponsored by New Hope International and is being held at St Andrews Christian College in Wantirna South, Melbourne on Tuesday, 17th November, from 10am – 4pm and in Sydney at Pacific Hills Christian School.

The Expo will be a wonderful opportunity for people in Victoria to learn how service to God and others helps to shape their understanding of their purpose in God's kingdom. DARE TO SERVE will feature outstanding international speakers, stimulating workshops and purposeful networking opportunities for schools, churches, mission organisations and individuals.

We serve in response to our relationship with Jesus. An outpouring of our love for our Saviour leads to a life that wants to love others and serve in a way that brings glory to God.

The 'Dare to Serve' Learning Expo in Melbourne is supported by CSA (Christian Schools Australia) and CEN (Christian Education National) and will be attended by many varied organisations/churches, as well as students, staff and leaders from schools throughout Victoria.

Go to the DARE TO SERVE website, www.daretoserve.net.au for details on:
- The program and speakers
- Costs and registration - $30.00 per participant (includes lunch)
- Registrations Close - 9th November, 2015

I am looking forward to schools, missions and churches coming together to be inspired and encouraged through what people are doing in service. When we serve God, lives are changed and communities are transformed.

PIP Opportunities

By Mrs Tanya Maher - PFA President
Family Portrait Day
The following PIP Opportunities will be coming up during the PFA Photo Day Fund Raiser:
- Saturday, 31st October: 8:00am to 6:00pm – these hours can be broken up into 2 x 5 hour slots or 1 x 10 hours
- Saturday, 7th November: 1:00 - 6:00pm
- Sunday, 8th November: 8:00am to 6:00pm – to be confirmed

Please contact Marisa Walters (HCC PFA) on 0424 751 951 for any inquiries.

Lets Fight Diabetes

By Mrs Deb Bayley

The following PIP Opportunities will be coming up during the PFA Photo Day Fund Raiser:

Cost:
- $30.00 per participant (includes lunch)

PIF Opportunities

By Mrs Tanya Maher - PFA President
Family Portrait Day
The following PIP Opportunities will be coming up during the PFA Photo Day Fund Raiser:

Family Photo Fundraiser

By Hillcrest PFA

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PIP Opportunities

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Family Portrait Day
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Family Portrait Day

By Hillcrest PFA

We are pleased to once again offer Hillcrest families a Family Photo Day this year. The photoshoot will be held outdoors in the beautiful gardens surrounding Hillcrest. Narelle Bailey is a professional, natural light photographer who specialises in child, baby, newborn, family and lifestyle photography: www.narellebaileyphotography.com.

For the price of $25 you will receive a 15 minute sitting which includes a professional matte 20cm x 25cm print. Approximately one week after the photo shoot you will receive a link to your own online password protected gallery. Your gallery will present 5 – 10 of the best images from the session with basic editing completed. You will also have the opportunity to purchase further prints and high resolution digital files online at affordable prices.

There is absolutely no obligation to purchase additional prints. Parents can view all images at their leisure after the shoot via the online gallery and if you would like to purchase photos, just do so online. Prints will be sent to the home address approximately 3 weeks later, well and truly in time for Christmas.

Families will be able to choose whether they would like the whole family photographed or just the children. You can even bring the grandparents along if you want. Please feel free to bring along any favourite things that might help relax the children.

Details:
- Saturday, 31st October, Saturday 7th or Sunday 8th November 2015
- 8.30am – 5:30pm (with 15 minute time slots)
- Hillcrest Christian College, Gate 2, outside the Main Reception. In the event of inclement weather, a suitable indoor venue will be available.

Cost:
- $25 (inclusive of photo shoot and one free 20cm x 25cm matte portrait)

Bookings:
- To secure your booking please return the booking slip that was sent home together with $25

Contact:
- Marisa Walters 0424 751 951 (Hillcrest PFA)

Please show your support and help us raise awareness and much needed funds for researchers to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

Details:
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