



Weekly Newsletter

*Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women, old men and children.
Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.
And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful
servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the LORD. Psalm 148: 7-14*

Psalms 148 is a beautiful song of praise to God. In it the writer demonstrates that everything in all of the universe, in all creation can and does praise God, creator and sustainer. He calls on all of creation to praise God. This includes the stars and the skies, the animals from the biggest to the smallest and all of mankind.

All of life and creation was created to praise God, including people.

There is a sense in which we are all called to praise and worship God in our lives by the way we live and in the words we speak.

I find it interesting that kings, princes and rulers are especially called on to praise God. Later in the Bible Paul talks of those in authority being given their role and special authority by God in the first place. They are in 'power' because God has allowed them to take up that role. With that comes a real obligation to acknowledge God's sovereignty, praise Him and carry out the role and authority in a way that honours God and His word. There is a real responsibility for leaders to honour God in their work and to contribute to building His Kingdom on earth.

This means we need to pray for our leaders every day asking God to bless them and guide them as they make decisions and carry out their authority with humility, justice and mercy.

Occasionally our leaders don't do this or seek to implement decisions which conflict with God's pattern for living and even threaten the freedom we all enjoy to express our faith and to worship God responsibly.



SHOEBOXES DUE BACK TOMORROW

Coming Up

TOMORROW

Friday 16th September

- End of Term 3, finish at 2.10pm
- Free Dress Day - gold coin donation
- Assembly, led by the Grade 6 Leaders and Mr Boonstra

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday 17th September

Foundations ELC Open Morning

Monday 3rd October

Term 4 starts

Monday 17th October

Parents & Friends Meeting

Contact Us

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VISION STATEMENT

Our School is a vibrant community partnering with parents to educate, nurture and equip their children to the Highest standard so they shine wherever they are, discovering their unique gifts and serving God significantly and passionately in a complex world.

Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Bill 2016

Earlier this week the Andrews Government introduced the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Bill 2016* into Parliament. This Bill would again introduce an 'inherent requirements' limitations in the exemptions for Christian schools.

Religious freedoms are currently protected by way of exceptions and exemptions in equal opportunity or anti-discrimination legislation.

The amendments would remove the presumption that, as faith based educational institutions, our school ought to be able to employ staff on the basis of faith. Instead, the onus will be on the school to make a special case as to why this is necessary *for each position within the school*. This is a burdensome, overbearing and an unwarranted attempt by the state to make decisions about what are essentially matters of faith.

Should a faith-based school's decision to establish a position for which faith is a requirement be challenged, the onus will be on the school to prove the requirement, with little regard for the school's establishment as a faith-based institution. The matter will then be decided by a state instrumentality, the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission or VCAT.

More information about the proposed Bill, its impact and the importance of the current exceptions are shown on Fact Sheets which can be obtained at the school.

This kind of legislation slowly erodes our freedom as a Christian School to



Prayer Initiative

- Pray for the **Paliew** family this week.

Prayer Points

- Praise God our Creator and Sustainer.
- Thank God for a successful term and pray for a restful holiday break.
- Thank God for a successful BBQ in the Mall this Saturday.
- Pray for those in our school community coping with illness at the moment.
- Pray for wisdom for our State and Federal leaders as they govern and debate legislation, in particular with regards to the Equal Opportunity Legislation.
- Pray for the freedoms we have as a Christian School not to be eroded.
- Pray for our Board members as they continue the process involved in appointing a new principal for the school.
- Pray for the Paliew family.

A happy heart makes
the face cheerful.

Proverbs 15:13

A photograph of a young child with curly red hair, smiling and wearing a grey hoodie. The child is sitting on a red cushion. The background shows a playground with wooden structures.

THIS SATURDAY!
9am - 11am

Foundations
ELCC

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
OPEN MORNING
- OFFERING BOTH 3YO & 4YO KINDER -



operate consistent with our foundational beliefs and to faithfully praise God as the psalm above calls us to.

It is based on two false assumptions: (a) that belief and lifestyle can be mutually exclusive, one not affecting the other. This is false, what you believe in your heart will always come out in your actions, work or otherwise. (b) that not all staff in a Christian School need to be Christians. This is wrong, education and nurture of students occurs in and outside of the classroom. Our receptionist or our groundsman can and does have a genuine impact on children in our school. Children look to the adults in the school as role models in many ways.

The Bill was debated in the Lower House yesterday and will probably pass there but it still needs to get through the Upper house to be final legislated and to become law. Please pray for our leaders as they make decisions on this issue.

Please pray that this Bill would not become law and pray that this attempt to erode the freedoms we have to choose schools of our choice would fail.

If you would like more information and/or would like to lobby or write to your local MP, please see me for sample letters and background information.

Thanks for a Great Term

Thank you everyone for your support, encouragement and assistance this term. It has been a busy and blessed term of learning and achieving which I hope you can see in the Interim Reports which will be sent home tomorrow. We, staff and students, appreciate your involvement and your words of encouragement. It makes a huge difference and contributes to a successful learning community.

Term 3 will finish **tomorrow** at the earlier time of **2.10pm** in line with the earlier departure of the School buses.

As it is the last day of term we will have our usual 'Free Dress' day with students coming to school out of uniform bringing a gold coin donation to be contributed towards the sponsorship of Wayaputt, a boy we are continuing to sponsor in Thailand. He is currently in Grade 5/6 level at school.

Enrichment Activities

We have appreciated help from parents and friends in the past running an Enrichment activity for a small group of students so this year we would love to hear from anyone who is keen to help us take a group 6-8 students to learn about and experience activities that they would not normally do at school.

Any suggestions for activities would also be welcome. In the past we have had various cooking groups, Circus skills, Bush craft; Table tennis; Golf; Photography...we are always open to considering new suggestions. At this stage we are hoping to run Enrichment activities on Friday afternoons on the following dates: 7th, 14th and 28th October.

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE LIBRARY School Holiday Activity Session Tic Tac Toe

Join us for a special activity session to beat the school holiday boredom. Listen to stories, play games and make your very own Tic Tac Toe game.

For ages 5 – 12. All sessions run from 2.00pm – 3.30pm.

Thursday 22nd September
Bairnsdale Library

Monday 26th September
Paynesville Service Centre

Tuesday 27th September
Lakes Entrance Service Centre

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE LIBRARY The Jungle Book (PG) Movie Screening

Join us for Walt Disney Productions latest remake of the movie The Jungle Book which is based on the works of Rudyard Kipling. Mowgli, an orphaned human boy who is guided by his animal guardians, sets out on a journey of self-discovery while evading the threatening Shere Khan. *This movie contains mild threat and violence. Some scenes may scare young children.*

For ages 5 – 12, 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Wednesday 28th September
Bairnsdale Library

Just a reminder that bookings are essential and can be made in person at the library or by phoning 5152 4225.



School Happenings

A big thank-you to **Alisha & Craig Hutton** for organising and overseeing the BBQ in the Mall last Saturday. Given the type of day it was an amazing amount of money was raised. Thanks also to the many parents who volunteered their time to take a turn manning the BBQ or serving customers. We really appreciate your efforts supporting the school in this way.

Here are a few things coming up next term:

- Regional Athletics – Tuesday October 11th
- Camp week - Wednesday Nov. 2nd – Friday November 4th
- Run/Walk 4 Bibles – Thursday November 10th (**Note change of date**)
- Report-writing Day – Friday 25th November
- Grade 6 Dinner – Monday 5th December
- Family Night and Grade 6 Graduation – Thursday December 8th
- School finishes (students) – Friday December 9th
- School finishes (staff) – Wednesday December 14th

Richard Boonstra

LAST DAY TOMORROW!

Christian Bookstall @ School

8.30 - 9.30am and 2.00 - 3.00pm

Christian bookstall available in the staff meeting room. Cash sales only. All sales will help to contribute back to our school library.

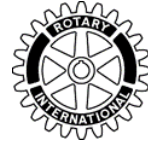
Enquiries: Helen 0431 996 627 (orders possible)

AWARENESS IN THE CARPARK

Our children's safety in the carpark is reliant upon us being vigilant to teach them correctly and to be safe in our driving and supervising. Could all parents please reinforce to their children not to cross the carpark unattended. If they need to get to the other side, they are to walk around the outside of the carpark and not behind cars. Could all drivers please use caution to check carefully when reversing and driving in our car park.

Uniform Changeover

It is time to change over to our summer uniform. Students will have a 2 week changeover period. Summer uniform also means hats! Our school has a 'no hat, no play' policy.



Rotary Club of Mitchell River, Bairnsdale

Students, Parents and Supporters,
Past and Present, are invited
to an Afternoon Tea to

**Celebrate the 20th Year of the
ROTARY JUNIOR
COMMUNITY AWARD
1997 - 2016**

Saturday 8th October

2pm – 5pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Bairnsdale

RSVP 23rd September

Email: lorna.hawkey@gmail.com

Mobile: 0429 318 272 Ph: 5152 9496

School Office Open During School Holidays

The office will be available at the
normal times during the first week
of the school holidays.

The second week at various times.

Please ring first if you need to
come in to check availability for
this week.



For Kids in Prep to Grade 6

Friday 7th October

4.30 - 6.00pm

@ Bairnsdale Baptist Church

134 Princes Hwy Lucknow

Free program. Dinner not provided.