

Term 1 2011

We hope you have enjoyed a great summer with your children.

Our teachers started last week with three days of professional development (the fancy name for inservice training) and today we welcome several new families. We look forward to a year of blessing!

We have been able to start this year with three home class groups:

Room 1 is home room for the Senior College (year 11 - 13) with Mrs Hall
Room 2 is home room for the primary class (years 1 - 7) with Mrs Fisher
Room 3 is home room for the Middle School (years 8 - 10) with Mr Stewart.

These home class teachers will of course be supported by a range of part-time staff working in similar team-teaching arrangements as in the past.

Some grades are almost full, but there are still some places available: if you know anyone looking for enrolment please encourage them to get in touch.

Mrs Holmes is on long-term leave for this year, although she is expected to help with some relieving. Mr Pope will extend his hours to pick up the subjects previously taught by Mrs Holmes.

Last year we announced **Mrs Hall** had been appointed **Associate Principal**. Her duties include day-to-day management of the school, enrolling, course guidance and supervision, attendance issues, and Cambridge Exam management.

Mr Drake, our **Principal**, retains responsibility for leadership of the school, policy, liaison with CIE, finance and accounts, and publicity, and shares guidance and discipline with Mrs Hall. Both Mr Drake and Mrs Hall will continue to teach a variety of subjects.

Staff Training Last week staff spent three days in professional development. The course started with a presentation on Teaching as Vocation by Associate Pastor Joe Fleener (Howick Baptist Church). As well as working on curriculum and management issues, staff also

- Engaged in in-depth study of a text we are using to develop understanding of the Bible in a way that informs biblical-Christian teaching across the curriculum (*Dig Deeper* by Beynon and Sachs).
- Took video-based workshops from Paul Tripp *A Culture of Grace*. We take seriously Christ's call to be his instruments of heart change in the children we teach. That means we not only want our school to be a place of learning, but a place where a culture of grace prevails.
- Began a comprehensive review of our school standards that will lead to the publication of Key Indicators for every subject at each class level: these will be published for the information of parents and children as they are completed over the next year.

School opens 1 February We have our usual 10 week term. Note that state schools have a strange arrangement of terms this year to allow for attendance at Rugby World Cup matches, as if many children will be able to be there!

School Assembly 3 February Assemblies this year will be held on the first Thursday each month. Our theme for this first assembly is on aiming to serve God in learning.

School Barbecue 6:00 pm 11 February This is an annual event enabling school families to meet and get to know each other and the staff informally. We supply barbecued sausages and onions on bread (oh,

with tomato sauce of course!) and invite you to bring anything else to eat/share & drink. Details will be sent home this week.

CIE Information Evening 11 February Following the picnic, at 7:30 pm we are holding our annual meeting for parents and pupils with Mrs Hall in Room 3 explaining how Cambridge Examinations work and how the Senior College (years 11 – 13) courses are structured. Everyone is welcome to that meeting – but it is a requirement that every Senior College student, accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver, attends.

School Assembly 3 March

CIE External Applications close 15 March External candidates (ie students not attending Carey College but wanting to sit CIE exams here) must complete their application by this date to be eligible to sit any exams this year.

Parents' Meeting "Keeping Children Safe 7:30 pm 24 March. We are planning this special meeting to provide parents with information about keeping their children safe. Late last year the Ministry of Education warned that the problem of children playing games that led to death had reached primary schools. The reality is that children of all ages - our children - are now exposed to a culture that puts enormous pressures on them to take part in games and substance abuse that puts them at risk. More details are to be announced soon. [This meeting was cancelled]

Parent Interviews 31 March Parent interviews are held twice a year to help keep the information flowing between home and school. Booking forms are in this term's Primary Course Record books and will be in Module 2 Secondary Course Records.

School Assembly 7 April

Term Break begins 8 April School closes at 2:00 pm for all classes