

31 August 2009

Dear Parents,

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

There are a lot of exciting things that we are in the middle of right now:

- Preparation for Accreditation Assessment Visit on the 18th September, 2009
- New Digital Education Revolution funds becoming available
- ICT Infrastructure Grant approval
- Covered Games / Assembly Area preparations
- High School Camp Preparation

The most time consuming of these at present is the preparation for our Accreditation Assessment Visit. The Staff have been reviewing all policies and procedures to ensure that they are relevant and up-to-date. At the same time, we have been placing all our policies and procedures on our website to create an "Online Handbook" for the College community.

Due to all these wonderful things happening, there has been a significant increase in our administrative load this year. Accordingly, I am now working at the College full-time. I remain a leader at Peace Apostolic Community and engage in leadership function there, but am no longer trying to divide my time between the two offices. It is important for the College to have a full-time Principal at this time, and I am very pleased to carry this responsibility in a greater capacity.

COLLEGE GROWTH

This is a great time in the life of our College. In the last three and a half years we have gone from 25 students to 63. With current facilities and staffing levels we have vacancy for another 37 students, particularly in the lower school. We have the capacity for 10 Preps, 10 Year 1s, and 20 Year 2-3s. Across the entire College we have the capacity for at least 100 students. I believe it is important that more

families be made aware of the excellent educational service that we provide. We are planning a promotion in the Stockland Shopping Centre to promote the College and invite more enrolments. If you would like to help, please let me know.

P & F

I was very pleased at the last P&F meeting to see the interest and discussion being expressed in the planning of fundraising events for the future.

ANNUAL REPORT

The College is happy to provide parents and the public with information and reports for accountability purposes. Our Annual Report each year is posted on our website on or before the 30th of June. Our report for the year ending December 2008 is available for your viewing at www.cqcc.org/2008report

THE PROBLEM WITH LEAGUE TABLES

The Queensland Government recently published a table comparing schools based on the National Literacy and Numeracy testing. While we are happy to participate in public accountability, it is important that parents understand the numbers they are being presented with. The National testing was designed as a test for students, not for schools. It is a tool to help us see how students are going and report back to you in case there is any intervention or extension needed.

When an average score is published for a school, it tells us the average that the students achieved on the test. It doesn't tell us how well the school is teaching or not teaching. Every student has a context for their learning. If a student is recovering from a significant traumatic experience, their learning is normally hindered and this will show on the test. The test will show that the student needs help, but it doesn't show how hard the teachers have already been working. The same is true for students with learning difficulties, etc. The whole system encourages schools to become more exclusive and turn away students that are unlikely to do well on the test, or at least ask them to stay home that day. All of this defeats the purpose of the test.

We cannot run schools in such a way that will as to focus on achieving greater scores on the National test. Our focus has to be on students and their needs. Teachers need to be able to get on with the job with providing excellent education in the classroom and let the tests be used as a tool in evaluating student progress.

I believe that parents know a good school when they see one. The numbers on paper tell very little. A teacher's patient hours of work and effort are not measured in a test. Neither is the change and growth in the life of each student. This is what makes a school "great".

BUILDING FUND – TAX DEDUCTION OPPORTUNITY

Some of you might not be aware of the tremendous benefits we have at hand with our Tax-Deductible Building Fund. It might be best to explain using an example:

Example

Bob and Mary have two children. Bob has a job that earns \$50,000 per year. Mary is at home with the baby while the older child goes to school. She receives Family Allowance from Centrelink.

Each year Bob pays \$8,850 in tax. For every dollar over \$35,000, he pays 30c tax. If Bob and Mary were to give a generous gift of \$100 per week to the building fund, it would be a total of \$5,200 for the financial year. A very generous gift indeed.

Because the government believes in building schools, it would like to help families put money into such projects. When Bob files his tax return, his taxable income is reduced by \$5,200 because the building fund is 100% tax deductible. His taxable income is now \$44,800. This would bring him a tax return of \$1,560. But that's not all: when Mary reports Bob's taxable income to Centrelink, she gives them the figure of \$44,800. This increases the amount of support that Mary is entitled to.

Every family's circumstances are different, but some might find that more than half of their giving is returned to them through this government support for school buildings.

For people in a higher tax bracket, the return can be even greater.

CQCC needs to develop a steady flow of income into its Building Fund for the following reasons:

- To pay its mortgage and save interest
- To take advantage of government grants that provide partial funding. In the case of some grants, the government will give a dollar for every dollar that we raise ourselves.
- To enter into future projects without the need to borrow from the bank.

In this year alone we will have spent \$18,000 in interest to the bank. With a healthy building fund, such payments are reduced or eliminated.

Every dollar counts. Every cent counts.

Unlike many other schools, I have not wanted to charge a building levy to parents. I always felt that it is more enjoyable to freely give an offering to the Lord than to pay another bill.

Could you please take the time to consider how you might be able to assist the College with this mechanism for government support. Together we can build an even greater College for our children's future.

I am grateful for the virtue of generosity in our community. From those who volunteer to those who give time in prayer, to those who are able to contribute financially; I say, "Thank you!"

Warmest regards to you and your family,



Michael Appleton
PRINCIPAL

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon	31 Aug	Excursion to WIN TV 3pm	Yr 8-12
Tue	01 Sep	Law Association Visit	Yr 8-12
Wed	02 Sep	Market Day 10am-12noon	Yr 4-7
Mon	14 Sep	High School Camp Departure	Yr 8-12
Thu	16 Sep	High School Camp Return	Yr 8-12
Fri	18 Sep	Accreditation Assessment Visit	(school as normal)
		Last Day of Term 3	
		Two Weeks Holiday!!	
Mon	05 Oct	Pupil Free Day	
Tue	06 Oct	Term 4 Starts	
Wed	18 Nov	Year 10 Dinner	
Fri	20 Nov	Year 7 Lunch	
Wed	25 Nov	Presentation Night	
Fri	27 Nov	Last Day of Term 4	

Yet to be scheduled: Parents Coffee Night

P.S. Our thanks to Kyeta Bead Jewellers for their donation to the College. An advertising leaflet is enclosed.