

OUR NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 2



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Carers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As we commence another enriching year at Annandale Christian College, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible efforts demonstrated by our staff, parents, and students in ensuring a successful start to the school year. It was a wonderful start to the year to see the Townsville Bulletin report on our 2023 NAPLAN results. I thank everyone's contribution in these excellent Year 9 results that placed them as the highest achieving group in Townsville and the 29th highest year 9 group of any school in Queensland. Our ATAR results last year were also amazing! While there were many who have had offers of work or apprenticeships, we also had a high number of students accepted into the course of their choice. This year we had 4 students either accepted into medicine or dentistry with another heading into the field of nuclear medicine.

Given the events over the weekend, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the work that was undertaken, caused by TC Kirrily and the Heatwave. My thanks to all staff and students for the exceptional preparations and the clean-up work that followed the storm. Your dedication and commitment to maintaining our college is truly commendable.

While we embark on this new chapter, I urge everyone to keep a watchful eye on the low forming some distance off the Queensland coast. As Christians, we understand that we should be prepared, while ever prayerful in all circumstances. Let us remember Proverbs 22:3 (ESV), which states, "The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." Trust in the Lord's guidance and utilize reliable sources to stay informed about any developments that may impact our school community.

Despite the challenges faced by some families due to power outages and internet disruptions, your resilience and determination have been inspiring. The positive attitude demonstrated by our parents, staff, and students in overcoming these obstacles is a testament to your faith and commitment to our mission. For those who remain affected by the events of the past week, please contact the office or our Chaplains.

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members who have joined our ACC family. They bring with them a wealth of experience and dedication to both their profession and their faith in Jesus. I look forward to subsequent newsletters where we will help you get to know them better. As they settle in, let us uplift them in prayer as they contribute their unique gifts and talents to our College community.

We would also like to welcome and celebrate our new Kindergarten families and the students in Group 1 or Group 2 who have embraced their new routines. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) tells us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Our experienced educators have been working diligently to create an environment that nurtures their academic growth, while also

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fostering their social, emotional, physical and spiritual development. What a privilege we have in guiding these young minds on their educational journey of some 13 years.

Over the course of this year we will begin to provide feedback on some of your ideas submitted in the 2023 School Opinion Survey (SOS). There are many which we have considered and are working towards full implementation. For example, behaviour management was once again flagged as an area that students, staff and parents would like reviewed. Consistency of practice was something identified which I am pleased to report is well underway with our recent professional development on the student free week and with the implementation of a range of strategies across the school. Other feedback found in last year's National Church Life Survey for Teens will also be communicated in due time. These results are fascinating in terms of their faith formation from Year 7 to Year 12.

Every year all our staff complete child protection training. This year our goal is to also provide training to interested parents and to students (age-appropriate training). Child Protection is everybody's responsibility and I thank our community for their contributions to caring for all our children within ACC.

Thanks to all involved in the Student Representative Council (SRC) Induction on Friday morning. Every year we are blessed to support some incredible young people who lead our students from Kindergarten to Year 12. On Tuesday night I was fortunate enough to observe our Year 6 – Year 12 leaders work together to develop their skills. The Admin. team have already received some interesting ideas for approval and feedback which is indicative of the enthusiasm and organisational skills of very a talented student executive team. I am equally impressed by the Year 12 cohort and similarly look forward to the leadership these seniors will provide collectively to the College student body.

Lastly, I encourage all parents to actively participate in our school community by joining the Parents and Friends Association or the Townsville Christian Education Association (TCEA). Applications for the TCEA can be collected from the Main Office "The Hub". Through these parent groups, you will have the opportunity to forge meaningful connections with fellow parents, contribute to the development of our school, and create lasting memories for your children. Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of our students. Without you, the work falls to a few. We have grown to a school of over 660 students now, so we are now desperate for your assistance and help. Together, let us embrace the partnership of parents, staff and students that lie ahead of us, knowing that we are walking this journey in Christian faith, unity, and love. As we face each day, remember the encouraging words of Joshua 1:9 (ESV), which says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. May God bless you and your families abundantly this school year.

In Christ's love,

Andrew Jones

College Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL PRIMARY



I want to start by welcoming all our new families to our school! I hope you have all settled in well to the new year and the new school. I enjoyed visiting all the classes in the first week and look forward to visiting them throughout the year to build relationships and celebrate with our students.

New Staff

We have a couple of new staff in our Primary team this year. I would like to welcome Mrs Hope Griessel (Year 5) and Mr James Van Maanenbergh (Year 2). We also have Mrs Claire Turner working as our Head of Primary Curriculum as Mrs Melissa Harris finished at the end of 2023.

Contacting Staff

We understand the importance of quality and timely communication and we value building positive relationships with our families. For most staff, emailing is the most effective way to communicate, especially when there are more than one teacher in the classroom. Our staff endeavour to respond within two working days (ie not weekends or scheduled days off). You can also contact the school via phone to pass on a message if the matter is time sensitive. Informal catch ups before and after school are great ways to build community, however once class time has started, please be mindful of the teacher's responsibility to the class. All staff emails follow the same format: initial of first name, followed by last name @acc.qld.edu.au Example: Mr Adam Vale's email is avale@acc.qld.edu.au

Primary Swimming Carnival

An eForm has been sent out for students in Years 3 to 6 for our Inter-House Swimming Carnival coming up in Week 4 (Monday 12th February). The students will come to school and be transported by bus to and from the venue. Parents are welcome to attend.

Reflection Room

Throughout 2023 and continuing into this year the College has been reviewing our Student Code of Conduct. In January we had Janet Thompson from Classroom Profiling Association come to the College to present a professional development on the Essential Skills to Classroom Management, which has been a great way to start the year as we prepared for the students' return. This term we will be trialing a new system called the 'Reflection Room'. This will not simply be a detention room for minor behaviours, and more details will be communicated to our students and parents over the coming weeks about how this consequence will be used to support our students and teachers in maintaining a safe learning environment.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

In the Primary College, we have two formal Parent-Teacher Interviews, in Terms One and Three. The first of these are scheduled for Week 6 this term. More information about how to sign up to the interviews will be sent via email closer to the interview dates.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL PRIMARY

Code Club

Code Club has previously been run during a lunch break for students in Years 3 to 6. This year we will trial running the program after school on a Wednesdays from 3:15pm-4:00pm in H1 Computer Lab. An email will be sent out to parents in Years 3 to 6 about how to sign up for Code Club.

Term 1 Primary Assemblies

Most weeks we have assemblies on Friday mornings which will be run by a class or the Primary SRC. Every class has been allocated a week to present some items at the assembly. Your classroom teacher will send reminders closer to the date of your child's class assembly. The classes that will be sharing items at assemblies this term are:

Week	Date	Class	Details
8	17 th March	L1 (Year 2)	8:30-9:15am
9	24 th March	D1 (Year 4)	8:30-9:15am

God bless,

Aidan Frewen-Lord

Deputy Principal – Primary

Study Skills Handbook

Our school is a subscriber to the study skills website www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

This is a website that helps students develop essential skills for academic success. There are units of work on topics such as improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, summarizing, technology use, brain and memory.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and **login** with these details:
username: **annandalecc**
password: **learnsmart**



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SECONDARY



Welcome to a new school year. A special welcome to our new families as well. Despite the disruption of Cyclone Kirrily, our Year 12 student leaders and SRC have already started the year with great energy and enthusiasm, organising a pancake breakfast all students last Wednesday and a welcome morning tea on Tuesday for newbies. We look forward to formally inducting them into their positions at the ceremony in Pioneer Hall on Friday 2nd February. All parents are welcome to join us in the hall at 8.30am.

Secondary Meet n Greet

Secondary families new and old are invited to nibbles & soft drinks with the Secondary staff on 'The Terrace' (Upper G-block) on **Tuesday 6th February 6.00pm - 7.00pm**. No RSVP is necessary. Formal parent-teacher interviews for Secondary do not occur until early Term 2, after Term 1 progress reports are completed. This meet n greet is a great opportunity to meet with the secondary teachers in an informal atmosphere, where you can put faces to names and introduce yourself. It would be great to see a big turn out as we have tried to schedule the meet n greet to be out of working hours and before family dinner times.

Year 7 & 11 Camp Postponed

Unfortunately, the combined ongoing impacts of Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily on North Queensland, especially at Mungalli Falls, has meant that we have had to make the hard decision to postpone the Year 7 & 11 camp until further notice. I have deliberately used the term 'postponed' rather than 'cancelled', because we are looking at some alternatives. I would ask that you hold off asking for refunds for at least a couple of weeks until we have more clarity about what we'll be doing.

Study Skills Handbook

Our school subscribes to the online resource "Study Skills Handbook". It is a treasure trove of advice and structured activities to assist your child to develop effective study skills. In this newsletter is information about how to access the site and I commend it to you.

2023 Subject Prize Winners

In response to earlier feedback, in 2023 we made the decision to present subject prizes to Year 12 students at our Celebration & Awards evening, based on the point-in-time evidence available, knowing full well that after external exams that the eventual result may change. And sure enough, we had four subjects that had a change of subject prize winners. Congratulations to Kiran Craperi and Declan Davies who have turned out to be eventual subject prize winners. Kiran, as well as taking out the Physics prize, adds Biology, Chemistry and English to the list - a remarkable achievement. Declan takes out the prize for General Mathematics.

Mal Schneider

Deputy Principal - Secondary

Our Parents and Friends team need you!
We have projects happening all through the year
that we need help with.
You can sign on to be a part of one thing or
everything, it's up to you.

Join the P&F!

For more info, please contact Maryanne Martin
P&F President on 0408075535
Or come along to our first team meeting for 2024
on Monday 5th February from 6.30pm in G2.

The Reading Room

Do you want homework assistance for English or Humanities?
Help is available!

Where: in P1
(upstairs in Pioneer Hall)

When: First break every Monday
Bring along your lunch!



Volunteer Needed!

The P&F are seeking a dedicated person to take
on the role of interim Treasurer for the next 6 months.
The role requires the person to attend team meetings where possible.
If this sounds interesting to you
please send a letter of interest including a Pastoral referee to
pandf@acc.qld.edu.au

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HOURS OF DUTY

TEACHERS ARE ON DUTY DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY -
8.15AM TO 8.35AM & 3.00PM TO 3.20PM

Coffee Cart

NOW ON FRIDAYS!

7.45AM – 8.45am

In front of OSHC
(undercover area if raining)

Coffee is \$3.50 (\$1 off if you BYO cup)

Alternative milks available

If you have time, stop for a chat
at our tables under the trees.



All
Welcome

**SCHOOL
LOADING ZONE**



**Kiss
AND GO
Zone**



Kiss 'n Go Key Points

- Please do not hold up traffic while waiting in the Kiss 'n Go Zone.
- Please do not wait in no standing zones unless preparing to enter Kiss 'n Go Zone.
- Please do not allow children to exit the vehicle while in the no standing zones.
- If your student is not ready and waiting, please exit the zone.

Thank you!



KEY DATES 2024

Date	Event
Tuesday, 6 February	Secondary Meet n Greet
Tuesday, 6 February	Bronze Duke Info Session
Thursday, 8 February	Year 7 and 10 Vaccinations
Monday, 12 February	Secondary College Photos
Monday, 12 February	Primary Interhouse Swimming Carnival
Tuesday, 13 February	Secondary Interhouse Swimming Carnival
Tuesday, 13 February	Kindy (Group 1) Individual Photos
Wednesday, 14 February	Kindy (Group 2) Individual Photos
Thursday, 15 February	Primary College Photos
Monday, 19 February	Yr 11 Aquatic Practices Excursion
Tuesday, 20 February	Hands on Wildlife Visit to Prep
Wednesday, 21 February	Elevate Education Study Skills (Yr 7, 11, 12)
Wednesday, 21 February	Yr 12 Chemistry Trip to Copper Refinery
Thursday, 22 February	Creation Ministries Guest Speaker at Assembly
Thursday, 22 February	Senior MAD Night
Wednesday, 28 February	Interschool Chess Round 1
Friday, 1 March	Rugby Union Gala Day