Welcome

From the Principal

Thank you to everyone who attended Launch day on Friday 23 January. Despite the inclement weather we had tremendous support from almost every family. This initiative has meant that we start each year with improved preparedness and this year has been no exception. We apologised to all parents who were frustrated by not being able to connect their child’s iPad or laptop. A significant power failure late on Friday afternoon played havoc with our servers and instead of just being able to insert a password, users were being asked to create one.

At this time of the year parents are bombarded with advice and it is simply not possible to take it all on board. The staff at Genesis were fortunate to have two days of professional learning provided by Ms Kathleen Kryza during the week prior to school commencing. Kathleen is an internationally renowned presenter and certainly engaged and challenged staff. If we could arrange for her to be in Australia during a more parent friendly time of the year we would have her address our parents as well.

Kathleen is a huge supporter of Dr Carol Dweck from Columbia University. Carol has done ground breaking research on how students learn and so considerable time was spent looking at the importance of mindset which Dr Dweck identifies as all important when it comes to learning. Time and space does not permit me to do justice to this topic, however, I am going to touch on it as I address the topic “How to help your children be better students.”

Kathleen encouraged every teacher to allow students to make mistakes and to create an environment where taking educational or learning risks was okay. So let your children see you making mistakes. Parents are their child’s first teacher and their lifetime teacher. Part of your role as teacher is teaching your child to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it is not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.

The second point involves the all important aspect of mindset. Simply put, a fixed mindset says “I cannot do … maths, play sport, play a musical instrument, do art, etc.”

A growth mindset says “I cannot do …it yet”. The difference is the growth mindset recognises that with practice, effort and perseverance anything is possible. Parents need to capitalise on every opportunity to challenge the mindset of their children when they hear or see a fixed mindset. Importantly though, we need to demonstrate we have a growth mindset. So when your child comes home with maths homework, rather than them saying “I could not do maths,” say “I could not do it then but let’s learn it together now.”

Depending on your child or children, get organised with colour systems, checklists and reminders. Children as young as Prep can be trained to be independent. For example,
checking they have their lunch, hat, etc. The older the child the greater responsibility they should take for completing homework, assignments, having their swimming gear, etc. However, reminders in the form of checklists ensures you are not darting back home for the laptop or PE uniform.

Hand in hand with the above is ensuring you don’t do everything for your child. We all know sometimes it is faster to do things yourself rather than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don’t learn to take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

One of the myths middle school and high school students like to sell their parents is that "I know the ropes and therefore I can cope". Simply put, they are not ready to be put on autopilot. This is a crucial point in their lives when they are trying to sort out who they are. Peer pressure is intense and their connectedness to school can wane. High school students can have this air about them that they don’t need their parents anymore, despite the fact that they really do.

A very practical way of staying involved is checking their homework and then have them explain it to you. It’s not enough to just get the answers right. To make sure they understand it and are not just guessing, ask them to explain it to you or explain the process they used to arrive at their answer or conclusion. Deep learning occurs when they have to teach it to someone else.

Get into the habit of asking about your child’s day. A closed question is “What did you learn today?” Asking about various aspects of the day usually avoids the one liners. Staying involved in your child’s education beyond their homework reassures them you are interested in their learning. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.

Another hint, and one I relate to as the youngest in my family, don’t put pressure on your children to be just like the others. There is no such thing as the child that’s like every other child. We know that God made them all differently; they all have strengths and weaknesses, and they all have talents and challenges.

Finally, and one that is so important is to help your child make connections to literature. When they are young you can never read too much to them. As they get older help them get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. As children learn to read more widely they are able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, they improve their vocabulary, comprehension and general knowledge. Reading for understanding takes time but is an invaluable lifelong skill that all parents can assist their children with.

OSHC REMINDER
Please contact the school if your child is not going to OSHC on a particular day. The service is running almost at capacity currently and a vacancy on a particular day can be offered to other parents who are in need. Thanks for your assistance with the smooth running of this very valuable service.

COLLEGE PHONE NUMBERS
Please call the relevant reception to leave messages for your child or their teacher, to make appointments with teachers, chaplains etc, to arrange early pick-ups, make enquiries about Primary activities, letters sent home etc
Absenent Line (Direct call and/or leave a message) - 3882 9033
Absenent SMS - 0428 032 519
Email - absentees@genesis.qld.edu.au
Primary School Reception (Prep to Yr 6) 3882 9049
Secondary School Reception (Years 7 to 12) 3882 9014

Main Reception 3882 9000 - For enrolments, general inquiries etc
Finance Office 3882 9018
Uniform Shop 3882 9031

Genesis Aquatic Centre 3882 9091
Little Genesis Early Learning Centre 3882 9032
OSHC (Years 2 to 7) 3882 9013
(Please call these numbers not the College Main Reception number as the College closes at 4.30pm)

PARENT VOLUNTEER INDUCTION SESSIONS
Parents, if you wish to volunteer your time, either in the classroom or elsewhere in the College, you should attend one of these sessions, unless you have attended previously.
Mr Brian Barker (Principal) will conduct these sessions which run for approximately one hour and take place in the staff room in Main Admin. Please register your intention to attend a particular session (times slots listed below) with Mrs Julie-Anne Ball at Main Reception.

Tuesday 10 February 9.00am
Thursday 26 February 1.15pm
Wednesday 11 March 6.00pm

2015 CALENDAR

Term 1
Feb 5 Thu Prim. Class Photos
Feb 10 Tue Parent Volunteer Induction Session 9am
Feb 17 Tue Sec. Dedication Service
Feb 18 Wed Prim. Dedication Service
Feb 26 Thu Parent Volunteer Induction Session 1.15pm
Mar 3 T Mar 3-9 T-M
Mar 11 Wed Parent Volunteer Induction Session 6pm
Last Day of Term 1
April 2 Thu

Term 2
Apr 21 Tue June 26 Fri First Day Term 2
Last Day Term 2

Term 3
Jul 20 Mon Jul 25 Sat First Day Term 3
Sep 18 Fri Genesis Festival
Last Day Term 3

Term 4
Oct 6 Tue Dec 2 Wed First Day Term 4
Last Day Term 4

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
Monday - CLOSED
Tuesday - 8.15am to 9.45am
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Wednesday - 8.15am to 9.45am
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Thursday - CLOSED
Friday - 8.15am to 9.45am
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Uniform Shop Coordinator
Cathy van Vuuren
Ph 3882 9031/ Fax 3882 1581

FREE AFTERSCHOOL CARE (OSHC)
For students of Genesis College
Preparation for the upcoming school year.
OSHC (Years 2 to 7)

Induction
Session 1.15pm
Session 9am
Service
Session 6pm
Service
Session 9am
Session 6pm
Session 9am

This year the OSHC has expanded its offer to include the following:

- Morning session
- Lunchtime
- Afternoon

OSHC is being run by children and work in teams to help them.

The service is running almost at capacity currently and a vacancy on a particular day can be offered to other parents who are in need. Thanks for your assistance with the smooth running of this very valuable service.

ENROLMENTS 2016
We would like to have a record of the children that will be enrolling for next year. If you have a child starting school or moving into our College in 2016, please contact the relevant reception to leave your details and book an interview at your earliest convenience.

WINTER WARMER 2015
A very practical way of staying involved is checking their homework and then have them explain it to you. It’s not enough to just get the answers right. To make sure they understand it and are not just guessing, ask them to explain it to you or explain the process they used to arrive at their answer or conclusion. Deep learning occurs when they have to teach it to someone else.

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Dear Parents,

After a very successful Launch Day and more than a week of solid preparations by staff, the Primary School and classrooms were brilliantly displayed for the start of the school year. Thank you to all who were involved in presenting the school so well. We also appreciate the efforts of the teachers preparing their rooms. We welcomed a number of new students as well as a full cohort of new Preps. All new students in Years 1 to 6 have been allocated a buddy whose responsibility it is to assist them settle into the school with its many procedures.

**Class Photo Day – Thursday 5 February**

Primary class photos will be taken on Thursday, 5 February. A letter outlining full details of the day has been emailed to parents and an ordering envelope should have home with your child. Please ensure you complete an envelope for each student. The letter will be uploaded to the website as well, for your convenience. Please note that sibling (Family) photos can also be taken before school on this day, commencing from 7.45am.

**Swimming Lessons – Friday 6 February**

Swimming lessons commence this coming Friday. A note has gone home to all parents with full details and as well is uploaded to the website.

**Parent Information Sessions**

These will be conducted in Week 3 commencing on Tuesday, Years 2 and 4, Wednesday, Years 1 and 5 and Thursday, Years 3 and 6 – a note setting out details will be provided. Sessions for Years 1, 2 and 3 will commence at 2.40pm and Years 4, 5 and 6 at 3.10pm. Arrangements will be made for staff to supervise any siblings for the afterschool groups so that parents may be free to attend relevant sessions.

**Primary Dedication Service – Wednesday, 18 February**

The Primary Dedication Service will be conducted on Wednesday 18 February in the Bray Park Community Church commencing at 9.00am. Students from Years 3-6 will be involved. I do stress that this is a service and not a concert. Parents are welcome to join with us in dedicating our lives, our school and the forthcoming year to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Before and After School Procedures for Parents**

Now that we have settled into first term, could I please remind parents of procedures relating to school arrival and after school collection. Could we also remind parents when dropping off or collecting children, they should now be allowing the students to walk to classrooms or allocated waiting areas, unaccompanied. If you wish to wait with children then this should occur in the parent portico. In usual circumstances, there should be no parents on ovals, in covered areas or around classrooms before or after school. The exception for the first two weeks of the school year is, of course, Year 1 students and parents but this practice should be quickly phased out to the normal primary school routines.

**Before school**

Teacher supervision commences at 8.00am in the Primary Covered Area. Students should not be at school before this time except for those students who attend OSHC which operates from 6.30am onwards.

We do ask that students arriving with parents are taken to the covered area, not the playground, as the playgrounds are unsupervised until 8.15am. No students are permitted on the play equipment unless supervised by school staff in the designated play times. If students are arriving before 8.15am we ask that they bring their bags to the covered area and occupy themselves quietly with a book or a small snack until 8.15am. At that time, bags are taken to the classrooms and then students may proceed to the playground for a short play.

**After school**

Classes in Years 1 and 2 are escorted to the Pickup area/Set Down Zone. There are now allocated areas for Years 1, 2 and 3 children. We have teachers on duty in that area as students wait for parents. Students in Years 3 to 6 make their own way to the collection zone.

In an effort to alleviate congestion after school, we have staggered the finishing times of the Prep, Primary and Secondary schools. Prep collection time for the first two weeks has been changed to between 2.20pm and 2.30pm. We ask that you be prompt in the collection of your children.

**School Banking**

A reminder to parents, school banking will commence on Thursday 5 February for students with existing school banking accounts. The School Banking representatives will be visiting the Prep classrooms on Monday, 16 February and will also attend the Combined

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**DATE CLAIMERS**

**February**

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<td>5</td>
<td>Class Photos</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>School Banking commences</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Swimming lessons commences</td>
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<td>9-13</td>
<td>Yr 3 Edu testing</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Yrs 2 and 4 Parent Information Sessions</td>
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<td>Primary Dedication Service</td>
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<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>19-20</td>
<td>School Banking sign up for new accounts</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Parent Volunteer Induction Session</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Yr 6 Canberra Tour Information Meeting</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>P&amp;F Primary Social (Yrs 3-6)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Open Morning for Prep parents</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Whole School Non-Uniform Day – Anti Bullying</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Yr 2 BBQ and Dance</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Cross Country Carnival</td>
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<td>Easter Services</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**March**

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Primary Assembly on that day for a presentation. Sign up for School Banking for new accounts will be available in the Courtyard on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 February from 8.00am to 9.00am on each day.

Volunteers

We welcome volunteer parents to assist in classrooms with reading and excursions, activities and Camps. We also require a considerable number of parents to assist with our “Support a Reader” program. In the situation where more than enough help has been offered, teachers operate a fair and equitable system for choosing volunteers. For Camps particularly, teachers often approach or invite parents who can fulfill particular roles required eg nursing/first aid, as this activity carries a very high degree of accountability.

It is though, a requirement of the College, that all volunteer parents undergo our own Volunteer Induction Program, conducted by the College Principal, Mr Brian Barker. Sessions are offered at the beginning of each year. Parents can commence volunteering, but within a few weeks of working in classrooms, need to have attended one of the sessions. If you have already attended a session in a previous year, you are not required to attend again. Sessions are advertised in the College Chronicle. To register please call Main Reception. The first scheduled session for 2015 is Tuesday 10 February at 9.00am.

David Wylie
Head of School - Primary

NO HOMES FOR 15 SISTER SCHOOL STUDENTS!
URGENTLY NEED MORE HOST FAMILIES

In March, Genesis will host 57 Year 9 students (14 to 15 years old) from Minokamo High School, our sister school in Gifu Japan. All that is required is to make them feel a part of your family, three meals a day and a bed plus the safety of a caring family. The students will do some sightseeing so no need to go to the expensive tourist spots; they are just wanting to experience life in Australia. Remuneration is paid to assist with the family budget.

Please consider welcoming one or two of these students into your home from Tuesday 3 to Monday 9 March 2015.

Contact Learna Shimizu in Main Admin on 3882 9000 or email learnas@genesis.qld.edu.au

BUS TRANSPORTATION DEPARTURE FROM GENESIS (Please hand in at Main Admin office)

BUS LINE:............................. ROUTE NAME:......................... DEPARTURE TIME:.................

PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT/S:

Child's name:............................... Class: ..........
Child's name:............................... Class: ..........
Child's name:............................... Class: ..........

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT/S:

Child's name:............................... Class: ..........
Child's name:............................... Class: ..........
Child's name:............................... Class: ..........

Comments:..........................................................................................................................
Dear Parents

It has been exciting to watch the eagerness of students as they get back into the swing of their school routines.

Over the holidays a number of students managed some significant accomplishments. Samuel Stead was again selected in the 17 and under Queensland Indoor Cricket team. Charlie-Jean Clark has auditioned successfully for the Queensland Ballet Company Junior Program for 2015. Queensland Ballet Junior Program is designed to supplement the work of community dance teachers and offers both teachers and students the chance to work more closely with Queensland’s State Ballet Company. It gives a small group of gifted young dancers the opportunity to further develop their skills by working with a group of their peers under the guidance of the Company’s Artistic staff. Dean Cane was also named in the Australian Duathlon team for the World Championships later this year. Well done Samuel, Charlie-Jean and Dean.

Dedication Service

The Secondary Dedication Service will be held on Tuesday 17 February at 8:35am in the Auditorium for the Middle School and BPCC for the Senior School. Students from Years 10, 11 and 12 are to wear their College blazer. All boys are expected to wear ties.

The Service is held during school time to assist our parents with their busy schedules and to ensure that all students attend this compulsory event.

The Dedication Service is an event to dedicate the coming year to the Glory of God. Parents are welcome to attend. Due to seating limitations, we are requesting Parents to RSVP to Secondary Administration by 9:00am Monday 16 February if attending.

College Representation

The College Sporting Carnivals are an important part of College life. These events are a compulsory component of each student’s education. Accordingly, each student is to be involved in these events. Students selected to represent the College are expected to attend the District Carnival as a representative of the school, even if not expecting or wishing to be selected for Regional (Met North) or State teams. Students should consider it to be an honour and a privilege to represent their peers and College. I appreciate your parental support.

The clash with Year 8 and Year 12 Camp at the District Swimming Carnivals are unavoidable and neither is able to be changed. As a compromise, students selected into the School Swimming team will be transported to camp at the conclusion of the swimming carnival, either by car or mini-bus.

If you are able to assist at either our College Carnivals or District Carnivals as a volunteer, please make contact with Mr Innes by email b.innes@genesis.qld.edu.au. Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered their services.

Grooming and Uniform (Sport Shoes)

Thank you for your support in ensuring students arrived at school with the correct uniforms and well groomed.

At the end of last year I reminded students that sport shoes need to be predominantly white. Notice was also provided throughout last year via the Chronicle. Another courteous reminder was also offered in the Back of School newsletter.

I am again offering a final reminder that sports shoes must be recognised running, cross training, netball, tennis or low-cut basketball shoes, predominately white, which provide foot support and are to be worn with the sports uniform. Fashion sports shoes that do not provide ankle and arch support i.e. skate shoes, Volleys, canvas slip-ons or Converse shoes are not permitted. Only white shoe laces are acceptable in sports shoes. Coloured shoe laces including black laces are unacceptable. Shoes must be kept clean and in good condition.

If your child be unable to wear sports shoes that comply with the uniform regulations due to a medical condition, a letter from the GP, Specialist, Physiotherapist or Podiatrist is to be provided to me.

Japan Sister School Exchange

The College is requesting your support in hosting a Year 9 student from our sister school, Minakamo Junior High in Japan. We are seeking to place 57 students with host families. This is a fantastic way to gain a cultural experience for your own children in the comfort of your own home. Please contact Mrs Shimizu at the College for further details on learnas@genesis.qld.edu.au or by telephone. Remuneration is available for host families and is paid on a per student per night basis.

Library Opening Hours and Supervised Study Sessions

The library, including computer and printing facilities, will be open from 7:50am for
students before school. The library will close at 4:00pm each day. The library is available for students to study and is not a babysitting service. Supervised study sessions are held each Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:30pm. An attendance confirmation slip for this session is included in each Chronicle. Further details about this study session are available on the website and will also be distributed soon.

**Entry to College Grounds – Bicycles**

Construction of the Performance/Lecture Theatre centre is due to start next week. Accordingly the work site will be cordoned off. Secondary students riding bicycles to school are to enter via the gate between the BPCC office and church. The bike racks are in the same location however the route has adjusted and is the same as when the Science Centre was being constructed.

**Student Parking**

Students driving to school are to park at 7 Youngs Crossing Road – directly across from the College entrance. I would also like to offer a friendly reminder that students driving to school on their Learners license should be parking in the main car park so that they do not hold up the flow of traffic in the drive through when changing drivers.

**Secondary Sports Report**

Genesis sport has hit the ground running for 2015 with our first round of trials taking place this week. We will compete in the local district competition on a Wednesday afternoon for our Senior School and Thursday afternoon for our Middle School. We have 1 more week of trials for both age groups giving students an opportunity to trial for another sport if they would like to. Teams will then be selected in preparation for the summer season commencing on February 19 for our Middle school teams and February 25 for our senior school teams. We wish all our teams the best of luck for the season as they give excellence to their team in representing both school and God.

**Athlete Profile – Dean Cane**

Dean is a natural athlete who has shown talent across a number of different sports from Cross Country running to Triathlon and Mountain Biking. He has recently returned from rounds 2 and 3 of the Under 17 Australian National Cross Country Mountain Bike series held in Perth. Dean performed extremely well finishing 3rd in round 2 and 5th in round 3 which has him placed 4th overall in the series. It is worth noting that the racing was held on 2 consecutive days and for a 16 year old to have the physical strength to back up two days in a row in a very physically demanding sport is a credit to Dean for the hours of hard work he puts in on his Mountain bike every week. Congratulations Dean and we look forward to following your progress in the remaining rounds of the Australian National Cross Country Mountain Biking series.

If your child has excelled in the sporting arena, particularly in events that are not main stream school sports, please email their achievements so that we can publicly recognise the wonderful achievements of our students here at Genesis Christian College.

**Ben Innes, Head of Sport**

**WEEKLY ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR YEAR 7 TO 12 STUDENTS**

Academic assistance sessions on Wednesdays from 3.15 to 4.30pm in L5 in the library will commence next week. The final session for the term will be held Wednesday 11 March 2015. During the session, four teachers will be available to assist; two with Maths/Science and two with English/SOSE/Arts literacy, writing and research work. Students may attend provided they are in genuine need of specific teacher assistance with research/assignments, study or homework. Please note that once signed in, a student must stay for the full session i.e. until 4.30pm or until collected by a parent from the library. It is also essential that students bring writing equipment and class work with them. Completion of the signed tear-off slip (below) or a note from a parent/guardian is appreciated.

Student’s Name: ___________________________________                  Year Level: ________

Requires help with conceptual understanding for:

☐ Research/Assignment    ☐ Exam preparation    ☐ Homework

Attendance:

☐ this session only      ☐ all sessions this term

Parent/guardian’s signature: __________________________                 Date: ____________

Angus R Martin
Head of School – Secondary
Back to School for Teachers

During the week prior to students returning to a new year, all teachers were privileged to have a two day in-service with Kathleen Kryza from Infinite Horizons. Kathleen, who is based in the USA, has a lifelong goal to “transform educators’ instructional mindsets and skill sets based on the best research-based practices that benefit all children”. With a strong background in special education, she understands the need to differentiate lessons in a way that is inclusive of all students regardless of their abilities.

Kathleen began the sessions, by recapping on what was covered in the previous year and then building on our pedagogical understanding. This resulted in a great deal of reflection about how effective each teacher has been in implementing differentiated instruction in their classrooms. She repeatedly pointed out that, “It’s okay not to know, but once you know, it’s not okay to grow.” These words really resonated with teachers and cemented our beliefs that our professional responsibility as educators is to always strive to be better at our practice.

There was also much discussion about open and closed mindsets and how they apply generally to life not just teaching practices. Developing “risk taking, mistake making classrooms” requires a changed mindset from students and teachers alike. Teachers were challenged to develop open mindset classrooms and to help students to understand the lifelong benefits from having open mindsets when facing challenges and problem solving. Teaching staff really embraced Kathleen’s sessions, commenting on the warmth of her presentations, her ability to read her audience and pace the sessions appropriately and her transparency in sharing her own vulnerability when facing different situations. The College hopes to be able to secure Kathleen for a third visit at the start of 2016 and to continue to build our knowledge about differentiating classroom instruction and developing metacognition in our students about mindset.

Curriculum Foci for 2015

There are a number of whole school curriculum foci for this year including a continued focus on differentiation, the building and consolidating of subject specific vocabulary and a further emphasis on complex reasoning processes such as analysing perspectives, comparing and contrasting and decision making. Our focus on staff Professional Learning remains a priority in 2015.

Habits of Mind

Costa and Kallick define Habits of Mind (HOM) as “a set of 16 problem solving, life related skills, necessary to effectively operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship.” Understanding how we think and equipping ourselves with the tools to enable us to work through problems that may arise, are essential skills everyone requires. Putting these habits into practice so that they become habit and a part of our general vocabulary, is probably a little more difficult. As a whole school initiative (and dovetailing with the Program Achieve by the You Can Do It Company in the Primary School), there will be a focus on a particular HOM every three weeks. Please assist us in promoting these habits by using the language and modelling these life skills at home.

Persistence: Focus on remaining focused and stick to it! Students may find the first weeks of school slightly overwhelming, but encourage them to keep on trying and staying focused on their overall goals and aspirations.

Secondary School

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families, as another stream of Year 7s and new students join the Secondary School. The first few weeks always require some adjustment, particularly for students entering Middle School or moving up into the Senior School. Students are reminded about starting well by focusing on being organised and using their student diaries.

OP (Overall Position) Results

Once again, our OP results were very pleasing with 22.7% of the Year 12 cohort achieving in the OP 1 to 5 range and 53% in the OP 1 to 10 range. Congratulations are extended to all our 2014 Year 12 students. In particular, we would like to recognise Kimberley Hilton and Jason Lejcak for each achieving the top ranking of an OP 1, Gabrielle Lennox and Lillian Walker OP2, and Jeremy Schoenmaker, Nathan Brown and Sydney Chua who each achieved an OP 3.

Assessment

Assessment calendars will be published and distributed in due course, and students will receive a paper copy in their form class. Parents and students are also able to access electronic versions of the calendar via the website. Excel versions of the calendars are editable by students, who are encouraged to personalise their calendars as required.

Assessment for Years 7-10 can take a variety of formats such as research assignments, tests, practical activities and in-class tasks. In-class tasks will not be published on the assessment calendar as they are intended to provide a point-in-time indication of a student’s progression, and feedback on student learning. All assessment (in-class or other) makes up a student’s final semester grading.

Academic Support Sessions

Academic Support sessions are held in the library on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15-4.30pm, commencing on 11 February. The sessions are supervised by a member of staff, and there is always a Maths/Science and English/Humanities teacher available to assist students with homework and assignments.

The Rite Journey

Year 9 parents are reminded that The Departure is on the 27th and 28th February. Information about the program and The Departure can be accessed on the school website. Parents have also been emailed this information.

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Primary School

The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time as we witness the arrival of very eager children, many of whom are new to the College. Facing the next step on the learning journey, getting to know a new teacher and classmates, and learning new rules and procedures can be quite challenging, particularly for young children. The Program Achieve, commonly known as the “You Can Do It” program promotes positive dispositions and does much to teach students that, by having a Growth Mindset, great things can be achieved. This is definitely a strong message that will continue to be delivered in all classrooms this year.

Improving teaching practice and outcomes for students is always the focus at Genesis. This year, three primary staff members will be involved in a Government funded project entitled, “Teachers as Researchers: Coaching Professional Learning”. The aim of the project is to give participants the necessary skills and understandings to extend, enhance and deepen the coaching approach within the school context. This builds on the work already undertaken by the College Mentoring Team which last year saw the introduction of observing, videoing and providing feedback to some teaching staff. The project is facilitated by Independent Schools Queensland.

The Primary School will also continue its focus on reading. This year the Developmental Reading Assessment tool will be used to conduct assessment of reading with all students in Years 1 to 6. The information gained from this assessment allows teachers to target specific needs in students. An information session about reading will be held for Prep parents this term.

Our Support-a-Reader program gives parents and volunteers a wonderful opportunity to help those students who require a little extra practice and we encourage you to be a part of this if you have an hour to spare one morning a week. An information and training session will be held on Thursday, 12 February at 8:30 am in the staffroom. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Gayle Solly via email: g.solly@genesis.qld.edu.au.

Janet Barker, Kate Mitchell, Di Todd, Nichola Welsh, and Michelle Connors (Curriculum Team)

Welcome to all our Genesis families for 2015 from the Pastoral Care Department. I feel honoured and privileged to have joined the Genesis community and look forward to working with the staff, parents and students from Prep to Year 12. Since 2001, I was employed as a teacher at Nambour Christian College, with my role over the past six years being primarily as Student Support Coordinator. As an educator, husband and father of three sons, I believe in the concept that it takes a community to bring up a young person where quality relationships, a safe and nurturing environment and sense of belonging are paramount. Each child is special and their social and emotional wellbeing is one of our main priorities at Genesis.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our wonderful team of dedicated Counsellors and Chaplains. Louise Klar and Anthony Lyons will be based in the Secondary School, with Kila Clarke and Jennifer Younger in the Primary School. (See profiles and room locations below). Welcome to Jennifer who brings a wealth of experience in counselling having previously worked with Child and Youth services, Catholic and Indigenous Education and Lifeline. The Pastoral Care team will provide student support services as part of the team of Management, Year Level Coordinators and teaching staff dedicated to providing a positive school culture. Throughout the year we will also facilitate some of the parent information evenings and College events such as Chapels, the Shine program, Power up, Day for Daniel and National Anti-Bullying Day. (Please note that our First parent seminar titled “Raising Teens in a Hyper-Sexualised Society” will be held on Tuesday the 31 March – See flyer on College website)

If your child experiences any emotional concerns during the year or requires additional support, there is a process in place at the College designed to assist the student. In the Primary School, classroom teachers are the first point of contact for any parent concerns. The teacher will keep parents informed and initially manage the needs of the student. If further assistance is required, the teacher will lodge a request to the Pastoral Care Committee, where the issue will be discussed and the level of intervention identified and actioned. (Regular communication will be provided to parents).

In the Secondary School, classroom teachers and/or the Year Level Coordinator will be the first point of contact for any student concerns raised. Where additional support is required, a request will be made to the Director of Student Wellbeing and the level of care will be decided in consultation with the Pastoral Care committee and parents. God bless you for the year ahead.

Warmest regards

Anthony Arro
Director of Student Wellbeing
SAVE THE DATE!
TUESDAY 31
MARCH 2015
Parents of students in Year 5 and upwards, you are invited to the upcoming parent information evening presented by David and Katie Kobler from Your Choicez (www.yourchoicez.com.au) who will be addressing topics such as:
• The major challenges young men and women are facing
• The truth behind media, marketing and advertising and how it can affect young people
• Pornography, what you need to know as a parent
• The effects of poor sexual decision making
• Rites of passage; your son or daughter’s journey into adulthood
• How to parent your child through a sexually saturated society.
The parent seminar will be held at Genesis Christian College, upstairs in the Main Administration Building at 7pm. To RSVP and for more information please contact the College ph: 3882 9000.

SCHOOL FEES UPDATE - VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION
2015 FEE ACCOUNTS
All fee accounts will be emailed out during the next week, so all families should receive an account. Please add the finance email to your safe senders list to ensure your statement is delivered directly to your inbox: finance@genesis.qld.edu.au

PAYSMART ACCOUNTS
Your fee account will be issued for the whole year with the payment amount shown on your account. A PaySmart debit calendar showing all the debit dates can be downloaded from the College website under Payments/Orders>Direct Debit Calendars.
The 1st monthly PaySmart payment will be deducted on Wednesday 18 February.
The 1st fortnightly PaySmart payment will be deducted on Friday 27 February.
Please ensure that, on the day prior, your nominated account has sufficient funds to cover your direct debit. If your payment is rejected due to insufficient funds, you may be charged a Dishonour Fee by your financial institution and by PaySmart. The current Dishonour Fee for PaySmart is $15.00.

TERM ACCOUNTS
Term 1 fees are due for payment by Friday 20 February. All accounts not paid by the due date will be charged a $50 admin fee. Alternatively, if you wish to avoid this charge please use the PaySmart monthly or fortnightly system.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
Annual fees will be due for payment in full by Friday 27 February and will reflect a 4% discount on tuition fees only for payment by this date. If the Annual Account is not paid in full by the due date a further bill will be sent for the 4% discount.

In addition the successful candidate will be willing to become part of a caring team committed to providing high quality care. The role will initially be for 20-25hrs p/w on a casual basis and could lead to 30-38hrs p/w on a permanent part-time basis for the right candidate.

If you would like to work in a positive environment which caters for a group of very supportive families, please forward a comprehensive resume by February 2015 and include two Professional references as well as a recent Minister/Pastor’s reference to:
Elizabeth Green
Coordinator Genesis OSHC
lizg@genesis.qld.edu.au

COMMUNITY NEWS
TAE KWON DO CLASSES
Tae Kwon Do classes held at Genesis every Tuesday from 3:20 to 4:15pm. All ages are welcome, please phone Daisy or Damian on 3886 0967 or 0438 860 967. Sign up for two months and receive a free uniform. All classes are supervised by an instructor with a Blue Card.
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our Genesis Christian College children and families for 2015. To all of our new families joining us at Genesis Christian College this year, we extend a warm welcome to our wonderful College. We hope your children are settling in well, and we hope to meet you at some stage throughout the year.

Sausage Sizzle – Saturday 31 January

Thanks to those parents whom put up their hands to help out at the Sausage Sizzle for the State Election last week. We raised nearly $1000 to start off our year. Great job everyone!

Genesis Christian College P&F AGM – 3 March 7pm

Our first meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, 3 February at 7pm in the Main Administration building. Each meeting throughout the year is held on the first Tuesday of the month. Please come along and join us.

The 2015 AGM will be held on 3 March 7pm- 8pm and we would welcome a representative from each family at Genesis Christian College to attend. There are plenty of roles available, from subcommittee roles, to general committee members and of course the Management committee roles.

A nomination form will be emailed home to each family soon, please take the time to read the information and nominate for a position or come along to see if you would like to join us. There really is something for everyone. Please come along and make some fantastic new friends and find about the behind the scenes work done by the wonderful Genesis staff and educators.

Genesis Christian College Festival Saturday July 25th

We are now officially on the countdown. There are only 24 weeks to go until our fantastic, family friendly and fun Genesis Christian College 2015 Festival begins, but we NEED Your help.

Please put up your hand to help out, we all do this for our Children and many hands make light work!

Keep an eye out for emails and information that will coming home in the next few weeks about things we can do to help make our event a wonderful celebration of Genesis Christian College.

Gabby Holden and Andrea Maunder Festival Convenors

Primary School Dance

We are excited to be holding a Primary School Dance for Friday, 13 March for Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. Details will follow in future updates, please save the date in your calendars now!

School Banking

Welcome back to 2015. We will begin banking Thursday 5 February. Children will need to fill out their deposit slips and put their bank book into the Classroom school banking satchel. We will be visiting the Prep Children and the Primary children at an assembly on Monday 16 February. School banking new account signups will be happening 19 and 20 February before school at the front of the main administration building.

This year promises to be even bigger and better. School Banking’s new Outer Space Savers theme will take students on a mission to Planet Savings, with eight new reward items to choose from our Outer Space Savers range. Plus, in a School Banking first, there will be a Grand Prize competition offering one lucky family a trip to Disneyland California.

We’re excited to launch the new reward items for 2015 from our Outer Space Savers range:

- E.T. DVD and Planet Handball, released Term 1
- Invisible Ink Martian Pen and Intergalactic Rocket, released Term 2
- Glow-in-the-Dark Solar System and Cosmic Light Beam Torch, released Term 3
- Outer Space Savers Money Box and Lunar Light Band, released Term 4
1300 965 877
New electrical work & repairs
Repairs to cooktops & ovens
Queensland Electrical Contractors lic: 70265
Licenced Data cabler