To raise up effective leaders of godly character who will blend academic achievement and biblical truth, to influence society for the glory of God.

**What’s Happening in Middle School?**

**Fri 26 Feb:** CSSA Zone Swimming Carnival

**Thurs 10-Fri 11 March:** Stage 4 Dubbo Camp

Medical notes have gone home and are due back by Fri 26 Feb

**Tues 15 March:** OCS Athletics Carnival

Parent helpers contact the school to sign up!

**Tues 22-Wed 23 March:** Parent/Teacher Meetings

Come along to discuss how your child is progressing in their school life. 15-minute timeslots can be booked via the front office.

**Thurs 24 March:** OCS Easter Assembly

**Fri 25 March:** Good Friday

**Mon 28 March:** Easter Monday

**Fri 1 April:** Stage 2 Sleepover

**Fri 8 April:** last day of Term 1

**Tues 26 April:** first day of Term 2

**What’s happening after school?**

**Sports training (Yrs 3-12)**

Wednesdays 3:15pm—4:15pm: This term has a focus on Athletics.

**After school care**

All school days 3:15pm—5:30pm: Supervised time with afternoon tea, sport/games and homework.

**Library (Years 5-12)**

All school days 3:10pm—4:30pm: Time to use the library’s resources for homework, study and assessments.

**Homework Help (Years 5-12)**

Tuesdays 3:15pm—4:00pm: A teacher is rostered on to lend a hand with assessments, research or regular homework.

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**“Begin as you mean to go on...”**

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

Our Middle School students have settled happily into the daily routines and expectations of school. We have worked together to provide clear direction and support for our classes. One aspect of the academic school routine that carries over directly into home life is establishing positive habits for homework and assessments.

“Parent Partnership” means working together as a team to establish good work practices which can be carried through the rest of the year and beyond. We discuss with our classes the best strategies for setting up a positive homework schedule and the most effective ways of working through assessment tasks. In addition, utilising some of our after-school options can be of great help (see info at right).

Feel free to chat to us about homework and assessments at the Parent-Teacher meetings in Week 9.

*Kath Berry*

*Middle School Coordinator*

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**Stage 4 Camp**

Medical notes due back this Friday please!
The activities presented at this workshop were all practical ones that required children to experiment and observe before thinking about their mathematical problem solving. The problems tested knowledge of length, reasoning, properties of two and three dimensional shapes amongst other things. The activities were challenging and different to the type of maths we can do in class so the visit was a valuable experience for our children.
On Tuesday, Primary students had great fun at the World of Maths, learning how to solve maths problems and testing their brains. We learnt new and interesting things. Maths can be fun, but only if you have a go, try your best and have a good time!

Some of the trickier problems took quite a while to solve even though we worked in teams.

By Faith & Greta (Year 6)
Year 6 have been studying the properties of Light this term in Science. This week they got to use the Light Ray Boxes in the Science laboratories to investigate reflection and refraction with prisms and mirrors. Adding colour to this activity made it even more exciting! Below are some of the creative images that the groups obtained using their knowledge of how light behaves.
This week, our Stage 4 classes reached that sacred rite of passage in secondary science — learning how to use the Bunsen burner! Students analysed possible risks and devised safety plans for their activities. Once all preparations were made, each student took turns in their group to light the Bunsen burner and change the flame from safety (orange) to blue. It was an exciting skill to learn and one that will be in use for the next six years of high school science. Our students were mature and responsible in their procedures and it was great to see the encouragement and cooperation in each group. Well done Stage 4!
ICAS competitions
Note coming home soon

ICAS is a highly regarded and internationally recognised assessment program for schools.

These competitions provide your child with excellent opportunities to participate in National Competitions. Each child will receive certificates of participation as well as a certificate of achievement.

Competitions are available in Maths, Science, English, Spelling, Writing and History.

We would like to encourage everyone to participate in these competitions.

A letter will be coming home soon with further details and a registration form.

CWA PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This is a wonderful opportunity for students in Stages 2 and 3 to participate in a Public Speaking Competition with their peers from many other schools in the Central West, on Tuesday 31 May 2016 at All Saints College, Bathurst.

The teachers from Stage 3 will provide opportunity for their students to write a 2 minute response on a topic offered in each Section. As only one student from each class is allowed to enter, the two Stages will conduct a “Speech Off” to decide upon our entrants. See the topics below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If I could be someone else</td>
<td>Seeing the difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it good news?</td>
<td>Family matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport is a health hazard</td>
<td>The finishing line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to remember that personal iPads, iPad minis and other tablets are **not** to be brought to school.

Mobile phones that must come to school are to be left at the front office on the way into school and picked up at 3:10pm. The consequence for defying this procedure is loss of the phone for a week.

Primary Assemblies have a new format in 2016.
Join us in the Hall at 9:20am each Friday.