

Opening Service 2018 – College Council

Dr Dolling, Member for Kawana, Honourable Jarrod Bleijie, Councillor Rick Baberowski, fellow College Council members, staff, students, parents and friends of our Pacific Community, first let me welcome you to a new school year and wish you an eudemonic journey this year.

Flourishing, by definition, conveys images of thriving, developing rapidly and successfully, but also one of striving for sustainable happiness; achieving excellence while pursuing actions that demonstrates a grander sense of purpose.

That we live in a rapidly changing world no one will deny, and so it is with education. Students, ask your parents about their colourful maths rod sets or the intricacies of finding a resource using a microfiche at the library and then explain to them about Khan Academy, Mathletics, Spark Notes and the u-tuber Crash Course. Hmmm... 3-2-5 breathing needed!

This is the challenge of education that we face today, ensuring that a healthy philosophy of thinking and creativity, values and connectedness is being pursued in a nurturing, safe environment so that the whole community of students, staff, parents and indeed humanity itself is flourishing.

This year Council will continue to develop facilities and strive to find ways to manage improvements that will enhance the learning opportunities that the College offers. During the holiday break, the Year 1 classrooms have been refurbished, the Year 7 rooms have been furnished to support a flexible approach to learning and the Outside Schools Hours Care Centre has been extended to cater for increased demand. A Japanese inspired sculpture garden outside of the art room and purpose built seating for the senior outdoor space have extended the outdoor spaces available for reflection and socialising.

Visitors to the College will have noticed the first of the preparations in place to allow for the construction of the new Administration Building with an upper level learning space for Years 3-5. This is an important stage in the development of the College and is likely to have an impact on some of the logistics of day-to-day College life. We would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we move forward with this important build.

2018 will also see the continuation of planning for the library extension to provide additional flexible learning spaces and an undercover play area for Year 6 and 7, as well as the proposed environmental wellness centre adjacent to the existing rainforest area.

As STEM rapidly becomes a standardised area in education, plans are underway to enclose the area between the Science Labs to better utilise this space as a flexible learning environment for STEM activities including robotics. We thank both the Federal and State governments for their contributions to the construction of facilities that will contribute to a thriving educational environment within our College.

Barbara Fredrickson a noted Professor of Psychology in the area of positivity once said:

“Flourishing is not a solo endeavour. It’s scientifically correct to say that nobody reaches his or her full potential in isolation. Every person who flourishes has warm and trusting relationships with other people.”

As a community of students, staff, councillors and parents, in 2018 we will be reminded of our wider connection with Lutheran Education Australia as they conduct their biannual Quality Schools Survey. This is a valuable tool in providing feedback in the areas of Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Student and Staff Wellbeing and Mission and Ministry. One third of our Pacific families will be invited to participate. In our time poor society, yet another survey could easily be classified as a chore, but I encourage your honest participation if possible. This 'report card' is a valuable tool with which we are able to identify areas of celebration and consider areas of opportunity in which improvement may be made.

Later this year we will hold our strategic planning day. This day, which is held every four years, provides an opportunity to come together as a College and review our achievements over the last four years and to brainstorm and document our ideas and dreams for the college to the year 2022.

Let's remember what Martin Luther once said, "When schools flourish, all flourishes".

We pray that God will give us the grace to pursue the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead with wisdom, courage, determination and the collective power of community.

Mrs Ruth Zerner, College Council Chair