From the Head of Junior School
Mr Chris Jackman

Infants’ Thanksgiving Service
On Friday 20th November we will have our Infants’ Thanksgiving Service on the lawn next to the Chapel. It will begin at 9.15am.

Year 6 Valedictory Chapel Service and Dinner
The Valedictory Chapel service will begin at 6.00pm in the College Chapel. Guests can arrive at The Carrington from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. I look forward to a wonderful evening of celebration and entertainment.

Pre-Kindergarten Christmas Concerts
Next week our Pre-Kindergarten students will be performing in their annual Christmas Concerts. The concerts are Pre K 3 Day on 25th November, Pre K 2 Day on 26th November and Pre K 5 Day on 27th November. I look forward to seeing all of the parents and friends there in support of the children.

Junior School Assemblies
All parents are welcome to attend Junior School assemblies. In the warmer months they are conducted on the Outdoor Assembly area and during the colder months we move into the Kemmis Building. Assemblies begin at 9.00am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>20 November</td>
<td>No Assembly – Infants Thanksgiving Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>No Assembly</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>JS Presentation Day 9.00am</td>
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Important Dates for the Calendar

20/11/15 Infants Thanksgiving Service
20/11/15 Year 6 Chapel Service and Valedictory Dinner
25/11/15 Pre K 3 Day Christmas Concert
25/11/15 Pre K 2 Day Christmas Concert
25/11/15 Pre K 5 Day Christmas Concert
30/11/15 Infants Macquarie Care Centre Visit for Carols

 Annual Equestrian Awards night

Last Friday night the ASC Equestrian Team held its annual awards night at Britton House. The evening was MC’ed by the newly appointed Equestrian Captain Libby Crampton who did a brilliant job. The night was well attended with over fifty people enjoying the BBQ cooking and live music from Isabella Jacobson and Thomas Card. It was wonderful to get together with parents, staff and of course the student. We were grateful to the assistance of the grounds staff, cleaners, caterers and IT support team for preparing the area and the facilities to make the night run smoothly. We also appreciated the guest waiters, Dylan Boyd, Thomas Card and Felix McClymont. A number of awards were handed out over the course of the evening, including;

EQUESTRIAN TROPHIES 2015

JUNIOR
Highest Interschool Point score: Megan Redpath
Participation/Sportsmanship Award: Megan Redpath
Most Improved Rider: Adelaide Cunningham
Junior Equestrian of the Year 2014: Megan Redpath

SENIOR
Highest Interschool Point score: Madeline Sinderberry
Highest North West Equestrian Expo Point score: Madison Harley
Most Improved Rider: Jakiya Whitfeld
Participation/Sportsmanship Award: Amber Stockman
Senior Equestrian of the Year: Madeline Sinderberry
With two weeks to go we are full steam ahead practicing Christmas Concerts, making gifts and Christmas craft, creating memories and enjoying time with our friends. Dress up day was a great hit with everyone making a wonderful effort and we all had a lot of fun. It has been a big week for Birthdays with Bridget and Phoebe both turning 5. Happy Birthday. This week’s News is one of my favourite with children telling their three favourite things about Pre-Kinder. The range is wide and varied and sometimes surprising. We hope these wonderful memories go with them and know they will always look fondly on their time in Pre-K.
Christians have been guilty of despicable acts of violence. Too often we see religion being blamed for the senseless loss of innocent lives; the bombing of the Russian airliner, the suicide bombing in Beirut, and the attacks on Paris. Our students have been showing their respect and sympathies in Chapels this week in silent prayer and in the lighting of candles. These terrible events have us rightly asking “why?” It is difficult to see what the perpetrators hope to achieve when the response of governments whose people have been attacked is to retaliate with increased force. It is also puzzling why the perpetrators claim religious authority when this further alienates Muslims who are trying to live a peaceful and compassionate life.

Too often we see religion being blamed for terror and war. No religion is immune to this. Christians have been guilty of despicable acts claiming the authority of Christ. Even Buddhists are guilty of terror and murder of Muslims and Christians. We need to understand that it is not their religion that demands these acts but is a distorted view of specific and often minute writings that drive them. I heard an academic on the radio yesterday who noted that the young men and boys who are radicalised often have never read the Qur’an and do not have a proper understanding of Islam.

Whilst all religions have distinct differences in their world view, and we cannot claim that they are all different paths to the same destination, we should recognise that at the heart of all of the main religions of the world is an understanding that we are to love one another, care for one another, and live at peace with one another. This can and must happen, but it can only happen if we make the effort to understand each other’s point of view.

With every blessing,

Rev. Tony Card

Thought for the week: Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. (Baruch 3:14, NRSV)
UNIFORM SHOP

WILL BE CLOSED

FROM

MONDAY

16\textsuperscript{TH} NOVEMBER 2015

TO

FRIDAY

27\textsuperscript{TH} NOVEMBER 2015

Thank you
Evans Crown Horse Sports Day 2016

CLAIM THE DATE

MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2016

- Venue: Lithgow Pony Club
- Riders 8—18 Years *(must be 8 on the day)*
- Entries Close Friday 11th March *(or earlier if event is full).*
- Late Entries not accepted.
- Entry forms to be released early Term 1 2016.

All enquiries, please call Trish or Sandra at O’Connell Public School.
Tel: (02) 6337 5725