



Week 9 - Term 1, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

26
MAR

K-10 PARENT
TEACHER MEETINGS
(IN-PERSON)

26
MAR

K-6 BREAKFAST
CLUB

26
MAR

7-12 ASSEMBLY

27
MAR

K-10 PARENT
TEACHER MEETINGS
(ONLINE ONLY)

28
MAR

K-12 EASTER
ASSEMBLY 1.30PM
(PARENTS WELCOME)

29-1
APR

EASTER LONG
WEEKEND
(FRI TO MON)

2
APR

7-12 BREAKFAST
CLUB

2
APR

K-6 TO MORVEN
GARDENS & K-2
STORY TELLING

8-12
APR

YR 10 WORK EXP
YR 9 SNOWY CAMP

9
APR

K-6 BRKFAST CLUB
YR 7&8 DAVINCI
DECATHALON

11-12
APR

PRELIM EXAMS

12
APR

LAST DAY TERM 1

From the Principal

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16,17

Easter is a time of profound significance for Christians around the world, commemorating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that God brings us the gift of eternal life. So let me encourage you over the Easter period to pause and reflect on the boundless love and grace that God has bestowed upon us.

PARENT/TEACHER EVENINGS K-10

Parent/Teacher meetings are being held this week, both in person and also online. Today is the final day to make an appointment. If you have missed making an appointment, then please contact the office and they will be able to place you in contact with the appropriate teacher.

SCHOOL OPENING HOURS

Please note that the College opens from 8:30am and that teachers supervise the playground from when the first bus arrives (which is also approximately 8:30am). The main gates are only open for staff access, and we would appreciate it if students do not arrive before this time.

EXCURSIONS

Congratulations to Year 3/4 for their fantastic behaviour on their recent trip to the apple orchards in Bilpin. They had a fantastic day, and learnt a lot about the orchard industry which also used to thrive in the local area of Blackheath.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

There are lots of activities coming up on our calendar:

Year 10 will be completing work experience in the last week of term and we wish them well and hope that they gain some valuable experiences through this activity.

Year 9 will be leaving for their annual camp in the Snowy Mountains also in the last week of term. They should have a fantastic time and we look forward to reading about their adventures in the coming weeks.

continued over....

The whole school will be celebrating with an Easter Assembly this Thursday at 1:30pm. The aim of this assembly is to pause in the busyness of life to reflect on the love of Jesus shown through His death and resurrection.

Year 11 & 12 will be completing their Preliminary Exams at the end of term. Please pray for our students as they study and prepare for these important exams, and pray that they will be able to express themselves fully and clearly as they complete each paper.

Selected Year 7 & 8 students will be travelling to Bathurst to compete in this year's Annual Da Vinci Decathlon. The competition stretches the minds of students and while not for everyone, is a great opportunity to experience some fairly complex academic challenges.

ATTENDANCE

Over this term we have been looking at student attendance, and areas that can be improved. The current data across many schools shows that school attendance has dropped since Covid, and that it is time to reset and to work on moving back to full attendance.

It is important that students are here as much as possible, and in particular, that they arrive on time. School starts promptly at 9am, so please try to ensure that your child arrives a little before then so that they can be in class on time.



Ian Samways
Principal



TERM 1 2024 SCHOOL FEES – NOW DUE!

Term 1 fees were payable in full by Sunday 17th March. As this date has now passed - and if you still have fees outstanding and have not made alternate payment arrangements with Rachel Wagstaffe - please phone the College office as a priority (4787 8645) to discuss your circumstances.

UNIFORM SHOP 2024

The Uniform Shop is open each Wednesday morning from 9am to 9.45am during school terms and it would be helpful if parents could please make a note of this.

Should you require uniform items at any other time we would appreciate you emailing the office with the items and sizes needed (office@mountainscc.nsw.edu.au). Once we have gathered your order together, we will phone you to arrange payment and collection.

From the Chaplain, John Burke

Building on the Rock...

When we were building our house a number of years ago, we had to drill some holes down into the earth so that the building was built on a firm foundation. Here is a picture of that happening at the time. The other pictures are of the house part built with the straw bale walls up and then with the straw bale walls rendered for protection.



When houses are built it is good to ensure that they are built correctly on the right foundation so that they stand for a very long time. Ours has now been there for about 15 years and still going strong.

Jesus told a parable, (an earthly story with a spiritual meaning), similar to this in the Bible, in the book of Matthew Chapter 7 and verses 24 to 27 where He said-

'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But every one who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.'

The point being that the storms and winds of life come and go at different times for everyone. What Jesus is saying here is that having the foundation of our lives set on Him means that there is a different perspective when those things happen. It doesn't mean that they will necessarily disappear, or that they won't be hard to go through but it means that we can know that there is something greater underneath it all- God always loves us and cares for us through Jesus.

It's just like that with our house as well. To look at it now you wouldn't even know that those big holes filled with concrete are even under the house providing a good foundation and holding it firm when the wind and storms come. Building on something dependable and secure is the key, spiritually, personally and also when constructing something.



John Burke
College Chaplain

Wishing you every blessing over the Easter period, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus for us all.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock..." Matthew 7:24

School Happenings...

Yr 5 and 6 Camp to Canberra

The students of years 5 and 6 went to a camp in Canberra in early March for three days. We went to many places: some fun, some educational.

On day 1, we went to The National Portrait Gallery. Our tour guide showed us lots of exciting portraits and told us about the stories behind them.

On day 2, we travelled to a building where they held the War Memorial. We split into different groups. Year 5 went with their tour guide, and 6 with theirs.

We learnt about many bold soldiers, fearless dogs and warplanes. We were all very excited when we were asked to take part in the War Memorial Ceremony! We sat by a small pool where the Eternal Flame licked the water's surface.

On day 3, the 5 and 6 classes went to their last destination, which was very interesting and fun for all the kids, Questacon. We went through a variety of rooms where we could interact with other children and play with experiments to learn the science behind them. In the final room, we experienced one of the scariest things ever. We went down a massive slide at will. Our hands were sweaty as we clutched the pole and dropped down the two-storey slide.

Everyone enjoyed our trip.

Finally, we waved goodbye to Canberra and headed back home.

by Anna Murphy



The students in Years 5 and 6 went on a camp to Canberra in early March for three days. We went to many different places, including Parliament House, POD playground, which was the same place we did orienteering and Greenhills campsite.

When we went to Parliament House, we had a tour guide to visit the House of Representatives, where we learned about the colours of the chamber. There was one main colour in the room: a dark teal fading to white and just one shade of teal, a light teal. They chose the colour because it represents gum leaves. The tour guide also took us into the Senate, where we learned about the colour, representing gum leaves only when they have fallen. We also talked and asked questions about the big chair below the Coat of Arms, where the Monarch sits, and when they are unavailable, the governor general sits in the chair. Everybody was very excited because afterwards we visited the roof of Parliament House and looked up at the giant Australian flag.

We also visited the POD playground, where the class had a great time playing a big game called Tip. We then played on all the equipment. Afterwards, we had a tour guide take us to the National Arboretum. She explained to us the meaning of the Arboretum, a botanical garden devoted mainly to trees and looking after plants. In groups of 2 or 3, we then had a short amount of time to do orienteering. There was a large area to find them, each number having varied points.

The campsite where we stayed was called Greenhills campsite. The accommodation was very clean, and we also had our own bathroom. There was a soccer field where lots of kangaroos gathered in the evening. We played a game called Foot Ninja, which is technically a game of Tip with your feet. Then, we had a trivia night about the earth, animals, and food.

Everybody had a great time going to all of these places and learned a lot of new interesting facts.

by Ivy Decker



PACER – Parliament and Civics Education Rebate

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government has contributed funding to Mountains Christian College in the amount of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards these costs. This rebate was paid directly to the school upon completion of the camp.

STE(A)M Excursion to Western Sydney International Airport Site



Mountains Christian College once again thank the CSIRO Generation STEM Project for organising an outstanding STE(A)M excursion to Western Sydney International Airport site on 1st March 2024. We had student representatives from years 7, 8 and 10, boys and girls.

Our students were enthralled by the multimedia presentation which was presented by Asha Frost, Senior Community Engagement and Social Impact Officer, as well as a brief presentation by a Bechtel speaker about the use of drones at the airport for various important functions including compliance and security.

The students really enjoyed the virtual drone piloting experience, with the massive multimedia screen and a REAL drone controller!!

Both Speakers said they were impressed by our well-behaved students and the insightful questions that they asked.

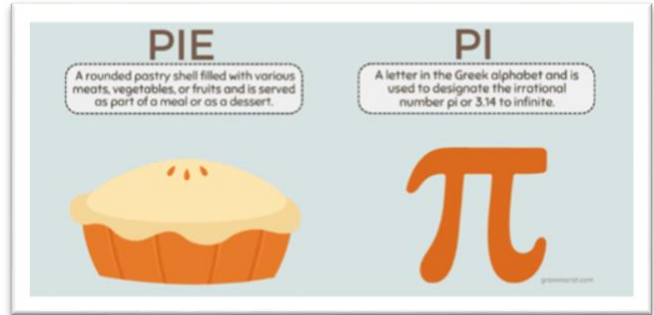
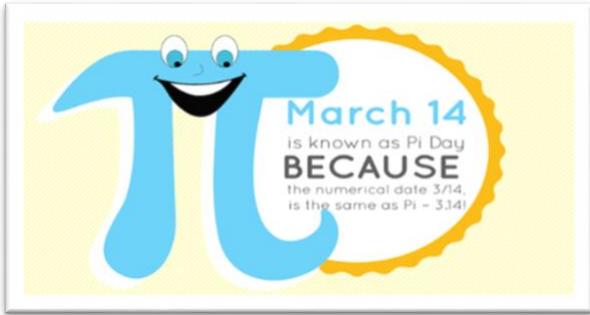
LATEST NEWS

Mountains Christian College invited to speak at major regional event at Katoomba

Our College was also invited to send some Teachers to speak about our enthusiastic support of the CSIRO Generation STEM Project at the "Community/Industry STEM Engagement Workshop" for the Blue Mountains City Council LGA last Tuesday 19 March at Katoomba. Mr Phil McKenzie and Mr Adrian Cayzer were delighted to attend.



Pi Day



What an exciting day! High school students memorised the first 5 decimal digits of pi and Primary students engaged in some circular activity in class. This earned us all a delicious round party pie at lunch time.

After fuelling ourselves with delicious pie the hotly contested digits of the pi competition took place with amazing results. We are very proud to announce our winners:

1st place (197 decimal places)	Poppy Newman
2nd place (184 decimal places)	Barney Steele-Smith
3rd place (68 decimal places)	Sophie Clapham

Pi is a very special number that is the answer we get if we divide the circumference of a circle by that circle's diameter.

