



Christian Renewal School

Term 3—Week 10— September 2010

This term has rapidly passed, and we are looking at the third holiday break for the year. Over the term the spiritual climate in the school has continued to improve.

The assembly times on Monday morning are becoming a highlight in each week. Student are participating more and more in our times of worship during assembly. There is a growing tangible sense of the presence of God at these times also. Some of the recent class presentations have been excellent.

I want to commend the junior school on their presentation of "Showcase" last Thursday. It was so God glorifying, and so powerful. It is wonderful to see the gifting and talent in these students being used for the Lord.

Things have been happening with staff also. Over this term, we have not only had our normal staff prayer meetings before school (at 8.15 am), but a group of staff members have been meeting for prayer starting at 7 am on Thursday mornings, and going through to 8.30 am. These latter meetings were initiated by a burden that I got from the Lord from Zechariah 10:1, where we are to pray for rain **in the season of rain**. God was challenging me that the momentum of what He is doing in the school needs to be maintained. Since He is doing some wonderful things in the lives of staff and students, there was no room for complacency. We need to keep the prayer levels up for the work of God to keep going.

Next term starts on 11 October, and the last day of the year is 9 December. Our school concert will be held on the evening of that date.

Next term will also see the NCEA exams being done. These start for the school on Monday 15 November, and conclude on 30 November.

The building work is coming along well. The end is well in sight. Currently painting is being done, hung ceilings, heat pumps, kitchen cabinetry and floor coverings are all going in. There is some concreting of paths and general tidying up to do on the outside. Final electrical and computer network installation is still to be completed. The time frame for completion

appears to be close to the end of school year, which will provide ample time to get the furniture in. At this stage we are looking at starting next school year in the new facilities.

The financing for the building itself is the responsibility of Christian Renewal Trust, the trust that oversees Christian Renewal Fellowship. The school Board of Trustees, a separate entity from the Christian Renewal Trust, is responsible to furnish the facilities and we are at present getting quotes for this. We are working towards having a fresh clean start throughout, with an up-to-date learning environment for the students. The school is about to enter into a new phase in its life. We are moving from being a pioneer school to a settler school.

May God get all the glory for this onward growth in the school.

Richest blessings

Rod



AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Even the largest full-grown creatures were once small!

Education Renewal Transformation

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..... (Rom 12:2a)

Secondary News

Senior Secondary students are sitting practice NCEA exams week 10, and personally, I have been really encouraged by the students' efforts over the past few weeks preparing for these. I hope this is reflected in some encouraging results for them!

However, the importance is to 'learn and grow' from these so that performance in the *real* External standards is maximized. For this reason, students should not lose hope if they don't do as well as they had expected in these practice exams. They should use them as a stepping stone and learn what valuable lessons they can about exam conditions and exam answering techniques. It could also serve as a 'wake-up call' for some. Achievement in the externals should be sought after, no matter how many 'credits' students already have. It's a way to prove they have mastered a subject well enough to proceed to a higher level, or to gain subject endorsements at Merit or Excellence level.

Many parents and students enjoyed the recent Primary Showcase. It was a happy event marred only by the minority of mainly secondary students or students not attending CRS in the audience who thought it was alright to talk while people were doing their items on the stage. I find this kind of attitude very selfish and simply bad manners - to spoil others enjoyment of the event and show little regard for the hard effort the people on stage

are making. They don't usually talk when at a movie or concert elsewhere. I would like to ask parents to take greater responsibility for their children at future events and sit with them or near them so their behaviour can be more closely monitored.

I would like to finish with something a little more light hearted. A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, miss, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

Larry's class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. 'Yes,' said the policeman. 'The detectives would like to arrest him. Larry asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his photograph?"'

I would like to wish students a happy holidays and suggest a few hours of study during the week would not go amiss.

Blessings Rodney Lloyd

(Associate Principal—Secondary)

From Plugged In—Focus on the Family

Digital diversions often fill much of the downtime in our lives, whether it's listening to iPods on the treadmill, surfing YouTube videos on a lunch break or maintaining a vigilant lookout for new texts or e-mails on our smartphones. But researchers at the University of California, San Francisco are discovering that those habits may keep our brains from necessary rest and ultimately hinder creativity and learning. "Almost certainly, downtime lets the brain go over experiences it's had, solidify them and turn them into permanent long-term memories," says Loren Frank, a University of California, San Francisco assistant professor in the department of physiology. When brains are constantly engaged, **"you prevent this learning process."** University of Michigan neuroscientist Marc Berman adds, **"People think they're refreshing themselves [with digital diversions], but they're fatiguing themselves."** [nytimes.com, 8/24/10]

Some interesting research for us to consider. We all need to learn to rest—and to "wait on the Lord to renew our strength" (Isa 40:31). There are times for quietness in our busy worlds and we need to teach this to our young people as well. Learning to rest in God builds real strength.



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