



2 Nash Road  
Aidanfield  
Christchurch 8025  
Ph: (03) 338 8153



# Aidanfield Christian School

## Term 4 Week 5, 2018

Kia ora

Welcome to the last term, and in fact the last part of the last term of 2018.

In the next newsletter we celebrate Christmas and the powerful message that brings to a broken world. In this newsletter I want to conclude my reflections on bullying and let you know of the shape of our staff for 2019.

### **Continuing on my discussion on bullying**

Over the last few newsletters I have been reflecting on bullying. To sum up the last few comments, so far I have suggested that we are often too quick to leap to describing an 'incident' as 'bullying' when a child experiences something unpleasant at the hands of another, whether physical, verbal or emotional. I have described bullying as a repeated (ongoing) action over time with intent to cause harm and involving a misuse of power (or perceived power) in a relationship and involves behaviours that cause harm – these are not a normal part of growing up. I have suggested bullying is present in every place that people dwell, it is a part of the sinful nature that we all walk with. I have also suggested everything that goes wrong is not bullying – sometimes it is life, the struggles of people living and working in close proximity. I also talked about the freedom that we have to disagree and to hold different ideas or views. This is a gift that we enjoy in a society such as ours, and it can cause tension and disagreement and this can be a positive thing.

Over the last few years I have noticed there is a growing tendency for families to consider the school as the reason their child is being bullied. I am not so sure this is the case in every situation. Schools are simply the place where bullying happens. It is not the school that teaches children to bully or behave badly. Certainly, the systems within a school can encourage positive or negative behaviour, but very rarely do schools teach bullying. In fact, as a collective group of staff at ACS, we do a lot of work with children who are learning what it means to deal with the issues of life and growing up. That is one of our roles – to disciple young people as they grow through the various stages of learning to live effectively in this fallen world.

From time to time I ponder the notion that schools and prisons are the only institutions that all people in New Zealand are, by law, required to attend. No doubt some of our pupils will see strong parallels perhaps. If we forget the prison part and concentrate on the school part, we can see that there are unique social issues that arise in the school context that most other places don't have to the same degree. I have had many conversations over the years with parents whose child has been involved in being a bully or is treating other children inappropriately (notice I am making the distinction between the two). Quite often they will point out that their child is so different at home, or at church or at youth group and that they do not show the behaviours we are talking about in those places. There is nothing surprising about this.

At school each child spends six hours a day, five days a week with the same group of people. It's in this situation that each child needs to learn how to behave appropriately, in a Godly manner with those they don't or wouldn't normally choose to be around. Church doesn't provide this challenge and neither does youth group, Boys/Girls Brigade, sports clubs or almost any other situation. Any niggle or dislike in most situations only lasts for a couple of hours and then there is relief from it. If the niggle is reasonable there is the choice to simply not attend....problem solved! At school, such a choice is not present and the niggle can go on and on, day in and day out. This is where the learning about how to deal with these sorts of situations can occur. This is the invitation for parents and teachers to work together in partnership in an ongoing relationship to teach each child how to deal with what is to be a lifelong challenge - dealing with interpersonal relationships that become difficult. The process itself can be challenging but is also a gift that schools offer children.

[www.aidanfield.school.nz](http://www.aidanfield.school.nz)

*Growing in Wisdom and Stature Stand and be Confident*

# continued ...

In dealing with issues, there isn't a one size fits all solution. Every conflict has its own set of facts and issues that need to be understood before an appropriate response and way forward can be found. Simply telling off, separating, talking or rebuking does not generally solve a problem between children. There are, however, biblical principles that can be applied and this is what we seek to do as we are able at ACS. To do them in partnership with mums and dads (it is really important for dads to be involved where possible, especially when it involves boys!) can become a powerful tool for disciplining a child through the challenging journey of growing up in a fallen and sinful world. The principles of honesty, integrity, forgiveness, restoration, reconciliation, positive communication, and responsibility all apply. A commitment to finding solutions and being patient towards those solutions is required. Prayer and action are required hand in hand. Solving conflicts is not always easy but is achievable.

As the principles are applied into each situation, it helps to remember that every child is their own individual. Once all is said and done, each child will make their own choices about how they will behave. None of the principles are a guarantee of things going well in the future – and this is the most frustrating part of dealing with interpersonal issues.

Finally, a challenge to us as adults. Children often learn most by watching grown ups. So, this raises the question of how well we, as adults address our own interpersonal conflicts. As I have previously mentioned, adults are often more sophisticated in their conflicts than children are. However, I often think we ask more of children than we ourselves, as adults, are prepared to do. Children learn by watching us. If there is gossiping happening, back biting, exclusion, verbal aggression, arguing, physical aggression, it may be time to look inwards first. Do we demonstrate aspects of these? Do the things that we watch at home demonstrate these? Does the music we fill our home with advocate such things? I am certainly not suggesting that all situations like these are learned or seen at home - please don't get me wrong. Children are their own characters and make their own decisions no matter what they have seen, but sometimes...?

As a school community of believers we are called to walk in partnership to raise our children. We all contribute to a greater or lesser degree in this journey. We know that things will go wrong, people will disagree, argue and worse. We are blessed to have a Godly set of virtues to practice in every situation. And we are blessed to be able to lead our children in these. May you know Gods wisdom, patience and gentle encouragement as you continue to work with your children in leading them towards being resilient, resourceful and purposeful individuals.

## 2019 News

As you will be aware we have some changes to our staffing team for 2019.

- Mr Mike Coleman (Guidance Counsellor) is moving to a full time role at MGS,
- Mrs Karen Strijbis (Middle School English) is moving to Ashburton ,
- Miss Jody Lickfold (Year 4-6) is getting married and moving to Dunedin,
- Mrs Louise Cahill (Year 1-3) is adjusting her focus as is Mrs Joelle Nareki (Year 1 – 3),
- Mrs Kiri-Lee Williams (Sport Coordinator and Admin) is moving to the North Island with her family
- Mrs Heidi Ising is reducing her hours significantly and will have limited time supporting pupils next year.
- Mrs Von Hamilton is starting a years maternity leave with baby Hamilton due mid January.
- Known by some but not all is that Mr Richardson and Miss Nixon are getting married in January. Miss Nixon becomes Mrs Richardson and both will still be at ACS in the same roles in 2019 (no, this is not sudden with the journey being over a year long – God has been very good!).

With the group of staff leaving, we have staff arriving and I am really positive about the quality of those that are joining our staff permanently.

- Mrs Anna MacGregor (currently in year 1), Miss Naomi Skelton (also year 1) and Mrs Sharlyn Taylor (currently in Yr 7/8) have all won permanent positions at ACS.

We also have:

- Mr Elijah Tay (Year 7/8 teacher)
- Mrs Debbie Watkins (Year 9/10 English specialist teacher)
- Mr Alex Zorn (Year 2/3 teacher)
- Mr Lyndon McIntosh is returning and will be teaching Year 1 pupils.

# 2019 News continued...

These are excellent people and we look forward to what they will contribute to the Aidanfield community. It is also great to have the number of male teachers increasing as Mr Bibby and I have been a little outnumbered this year!

With these changes and the shuffle that we do at the start of each year, the teaching staff teams for 2019 are most likely to look like this (it is truly a fine bunch of professionals):

Principal	Mr Mark Richardson
Deputy Principal	Mrs Kaye Lawn
Head of Primary School (Year 1 to 6)	Mrs Janice Phillips
Head of Middle School (Year 7 to 10)	Mrs Teresa Thomson

## Junior Primary Learning Community Year 1 to 3

**Lead Teacher:** Mrs Sharon Burt

**Pastoral Care:** Mrs Nikki McAven

Matai 1	Matai 2	Horoeka 1	Horoeka 3	Matai 3	Kowhai 1	Kowhai 3
NE	NE/Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 2/3	Year 2/3	Year 2/3
<i>Mrs Phillips</i>	<i>Miss Skelton</i>	<i>Mid year appointment</i>	<i>Mr McIntosh</i>	<i>Miss Crawford</i>	<i>Mrs Burt/ Mrs McAven</i>	<i>Mr Zorn</i>

## Upper Primary Learning Community Year 4 to 6

**Lead Teacher:** Mr Andy Bibby

**Pastoral Care:** TBC

Kowhai 4	Kowhai 6	Ti Kouka 1	Ti Kouka 3
Year 4	Year 4/5	Year 5/6	Year 5/6
<i>Mr Bibby</i>	<i>Mrs Sunia</i>	<i>Mrs MacGregor</i>	<i>Mrs Lawn/ Mrs Eason</i>

## Middle School Learning Community Year 7 - 10

**Lead Teacher Year 7/8:** Mrs Richardson

**Pastoral Care Year 7-10:** Mrs Richardson

**Lead Teacher Year 9/10:** Mrs Thomson (HoMS)

Totara 1	Totara 3	Year 9	Year 10
Year 7/8	Year 7/8	Year 9	Year 10
<i>Mrs Richardson</i>	<i>Mr Tay</i>	<i>Mrs Taylor</i>	<i>Mrs Watkins</i>

We still have a couple of positions to fill. Can you pass this information around.

### Positions available at ACS – this could be for you

Information packs and applications forms available from the school office or the school website shortly for both positions.

#### Sports Coordinator/Office Administration

This position is for 22 hours per week of which 5 of those hours needs to be from 9 – 10am each morning in the school office. Experience preferable but not essential.

#### Guidance Counsellor

1 day/week. Appropriate professional qualifications required along with the ability and willingness to support the special Christian character of the school essential.

# Community News

**Aidanfield Christian School FAIR**

Saturday **march 30<sup>th</sup>**  
10am - 2pm

FUN GAMES AND RIDES, LIVE MUSIC, AUCTION, FACE PAINTING, INTERNATIONAL FOOD STALL, HOT CHIPS, CAKES AND MUCH MORE!

Aidanfield Christian School **2 NASH RD**



Bookings for the January Holiday Program are now open!

Monday 21st January - Friday 25th January 2019

\$65 for the week

Email: [info@starfishswimschool.co.nz](mailto:info@starfishswimschool.co.nz)

Or phone 338 1795

2 Nash Road, Aidanfield



## Free Workshop for Parents



## Managing Anxiety and Building Resilience in Your Children and Teens

**Dates:** Children focused workshop - Tuesday 13 November 2018, 6.30pm - 8.00pm  
Teen focused workshop - Tuesday 27 November 2018, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

**Cost:** Free (Cancellation fee may apply)

**Venue:** MHERC, 116 Marshland Road, Shirley, Christchurch

**Refreshments provided**

This workshop will help participants to understand anxiety in children and teens. Learn about different strategies and skills to help your young person manage anxiety/stress, and help them build resiliency.

- Understand how anxiety works in the body and mind
- Feel more confident to manage anxiety in your young people
- Understand resilience and building resilience in your children/teens
- Parenting strategies and skills to support children/teens
- Share and discuss with other parents and build shared knowledge in a confidential setting
- Take-away resources and ideas

Learn more about this workshop or register at [www.mherc.org.nz](http://www.mherc.org.nz)



## Join Creative Junk in the 2018 Santa Parade's

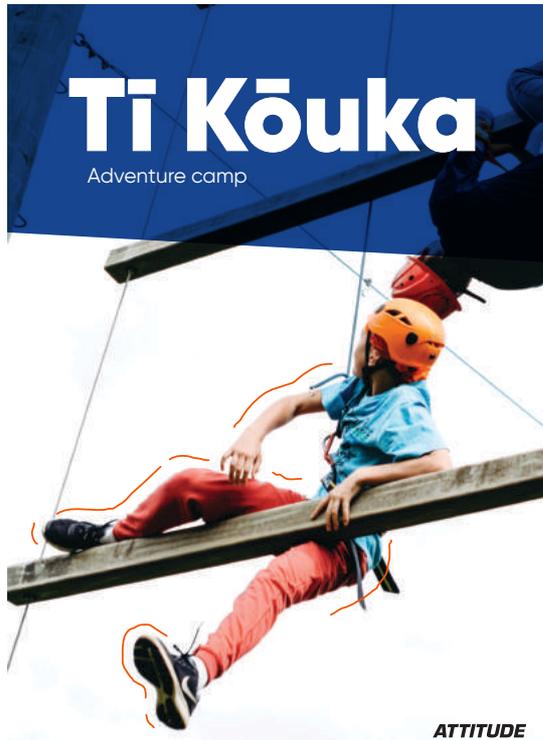
Creative Junk would like to invite children/families to come join us in being part of one or more of the Santa Parade's!

- Kaipoi, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 1.30pm
- Christchurch (Town) Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2pm
- New Brighton, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10am
- You can make a Christmas themed costume, OR borrow one of ours, decorate a scooter and join in with us to spread the Christmas cheer.

If you would like to be part of the fun contact Christine by phone 03 3794040 or 0211597299, email ([info@creativejunk.org.nz](mailto:info@creativejunk.org.nz)) or pop in to see us in our open hours, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11am-5pm or Saturday 11am-1pm.

## Ti Kōuka

Adventure camp



Parenting Place's Attitude team is excited to bring you Ti Kōuka - the ultimate parent-child adventure camp.

Most of us don't look forward to talking about self-esteem, technology, drugs, alcohol or puberty with our kids. We know it's really important, but it's difficult to find the right moment, or even know where to start.

Ti Kōuka is for intermediate aged children, accompanied by a parent/grandparent/caregiver/special big person in their life.

There will be challenging and fun activities, good food, great chats and the chance for you and your child to strengthen your relationship. Join us at Ti Kōuka.

For dates and locations, check out [parentingplace.nz/ti-kouka](http://parentingplace.nz/ti-kouka)

ATTITUDE

## 2 DRUM

...or not to drum?



Does your son or daughter want to learn how to play the drums?

Drum Tuition (in school)

Graham Thomson

e. [grayim@hotmail.com](mailto:grayim@hotmail.com) or m. 021 365 313