

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Kia ora te whanau/Malo e lelei/Talofa lava/Bula Vinaka/Konnichi wa/Kia orana/Namaste/Welkom/Ni hao,

I came home from Year 10 camp late last night on a real high. When I left the Highland Home Christian Camp Chapel a full-on worship service was still underway – as it had been since 7.30pm. Year 10 students were standing in groups, singing, praying for each other, hugging, crying and allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to their lives. Similarly this week, I was blessed to see our year 9 students hard at work down at the Salvation Army food bank helping organise a mountain of food that had been donated over the past weekend on the food bank drive. I guess sometimes when you sit in the Principal's seat you only get to deal with problems and issues; this week was a good reminder of all that is good and incredible about Cornerstone Christian School and the students, you as parents, have entrusted us to disciple.

This newsletter is our last for the year, and if you can indulge me, I would like to share a Christmas story that has much meaning for me:

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous! So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow outside turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax in front of the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then another thump. He looked out but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently, they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.



The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely, they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So, he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then he watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe. "Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into the barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn and one by one the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!" Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese, blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow and prayed his first prayer.

As we finish up the year, can I please express a huge thank you, for all of your support for our school over the past year. Yes, it has been one of great challenge, yet it has also been one of great learning. Please remember this Christmas, the true reason why Jesus came all of those many Christmases ago. Christ came to show us what God was truly like and to show us the way so that each of us could find salvation in God.

Other Notices:

Tribes Fun Day Wednesday 9th December 9:30am to 1.00pm

Please remember that we are holding our Tribes Fun day next Wednesday from 9.30am to 1.00pm. All students need to come dressed in their tribe colours. Please don't forget to bring and wear a hat as the sun can be intense at this time of year.

Secondary Students Finish Early Thursday 10th December

On Thursday next week at 1.00pm, we have the Primary (Year 1 to 6) End of Year Celebration/Prizegiving in the school gymnasium. So that older siblings of Primary Students can attend this, school will finish for all secondary students at 1.00pm. Supervision will be provided for any secondary students who need to remain at school, e.g. to catch the Ashhurst or Feilding buses later in the afternoon.

Class Lists

Class lists will be released on the school website on **Friday 5th December at 4.00pm**. Teachers have spent a significant amount of time compiling these and balancing parent requests alongside educational needs. As a result, these class lists are final.

Library Books

Mrs Katharine Bracey in the Library would appreciate it if we could have all school library books back in early next week. Parents could you please have a check in your children's bedrooms and return any books you manage to uncover!!

Blessings on you all,

Chris Mitchell
Principal



Got five minutes? 

Your child's back to school class list is ready to shop now at myschool.co.nz or call us on **0800 724 440** Mon to Fri, 8.30am – 5pm.

School Notices

Not Returning to CCS in 2021?

Please can you let the school office know via email as soon as you can if your child **will not** be returning to Cornerstone in Term 1 2021 at office@cornerstone.ac.nz. Thank you.

School End of Year Prizegiving Thursday 10th December

The Year 1-6 End of Year Celebration/Prizegiving will be held in the gymnasium starting at 1pm on Thursday 10th December. Secondary students will finish school at 1pm also, so they can attend this. The Year 7-13 End of Year Celebration/Prizegiving will be held at Crossroads Church, 220 Church Street, Palmerston North starting at 6.30pm. All students to wear their school uniform.



Last Day of School – Early Finish

School finishes at the earlier time of 12pm on the last day of school (Term 4) Friday 11th December. Please note that the Ashhurst and Feilding buses will leave school at the earlier time of 12.15pm. If you aren't able to pick up your child/ren at this earlier time, for health and safety purposes, please email Mrs Jean Wilkins in the school office at office@cornerstone.ac.nz before 4pm on Thursday the 10th of December. A list will be created and these students will be cared for at school until 3pm.



2021 School Calendar

School dates (including term dates, public holidays and teacher only days) are listed on the '[Important Dates](#)' page of our website. Parents who are keen to plan weekend getaways may want to consider two Teacher Only Days which dovetail into public holidays: Tuesday 9th February (after Waitangi Day Monday) and Thursday 1st April (before Good Friday). <http://www.cornerstone.ac.nz/important-dates/>



Desktop PC's for Sale

The school still has a significant number of Desktop Computers (no longer needed in classrooms) for sale. These are available for \$100. This will come with everything you need; Monitor/Keyboard/Mouse/Cables, Windows 10 Pro. They are suitable for most day to day computer tasks. They are 'HP' brand (really reliable). Please email paul@cornerstone.ac.nz to order them. Payments can be made to the office or online (instalments, if needed. You can collect the computer once full payment has been received).

Preferred Payment Method

Our preferred method for payment is EFTPOS or online payment if at all possible, NOT CASH PLEASE. We have a very small float, and often don't have the capacity to give change. It is also getting increasingly difficult to get petty cash from the bank. Our account details are: **Cornerstone Christian School Account: 02 0727 0154852 00.** (PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS ACCOUNT FOR ATTENDANCE DUES)



2021 Class Lists

The class lists for 2021 will go live on our website on Friday 4th December at 4pm. www.cornerstone.ac.nz

2021 Stationery Packs

When you know what classroom your child is in next year, (see above) please click on the following link to order 2021 stationery packs: [Cornerstone Christian School Back to School Stationery List | OfficeMax MySchool](#). Click "Start" (View the Requirements List). From here you can select your child's class/year and/or subjects and follow the instructions. If you prefer, you can phone the OfficeMax/MySchool team on 0800 724 440 Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5pm.

School Notices Cont'd

Uniform Bookings for 2021

It is time to buy uniforms for 2021. The uniform shop (situated at the student reception) is open Mon-Fri 1.45pm-3.15pm.

The uniform shop is also open before school starts next year from Wednesday 20th January to Thursday 28th January 2021 (**by appointment only**). Please note that Monday 25th January is a public holiday.

To book your appointment to purchase your child's uniform please go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the event code **f5tqs** and follow the prompts.

Alternatively, you can go to our school website: www.cornerstone.ac.nz and click on the link "Uniform Bookings" under the announcements tab. (**Please note that we may not be able to assist you if you do not have an appointment**).

Congratulations Gabriel, Caragh & Joel

Last Sunday, No.10 (City of PN) Squadron Air Training Corps (Cadets) had their final parade and prizegiving for 2020. Three of our students were recognised for their achievements this year, receiving awards and promotions:

Gabriel Taylor-MacLean was awarded the Mitchell Rose Bowl Cup for a consistent high standard in dress and bearing. He was promoted from Leading Air Cadet to Corporal.

Caragh Aspden was awarded the Wilson Trophy for involvement, Social and Morale skills outside of normal squadron activities. Caragh was promoted from Cadet to Leading Air Cadet.

Joel Woodmass received the RSA Award for commitment. Joel was also promoted from Cadet to Leading Air Cadet.



We are very proud of these three, who have worked really hard this year and been recognised for their strengths and character.

Aroha & Manahau Star of the Week Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who received the Class Award this week:

Week 8

- A2 Theo Cooper & Ireliia Topp
- A3 Annabelle Sisson & Roman Seagar
- A4 Erceena Cabantug & Grace Calogaras
- A5 Abigail Yates & Sione Muli
- D1 Josh Feldon & Yohaam Gaur
- D5 Kingston Orpana-Scott & Siobhan Leauanae



2021 Important Dates

Monday 1st February: First Day for Year 1-13 Students. Powhiri in the Gym Period 1.

Wednesday 3rd February-Friday 5th February: Year 13 Leadership Camp.

Monday 8th February: Waitangi Day

Tuesday 9th February: Teacher Only Day

If you have any queries please email Jean at: office@cornerstone.ac.nz.

2021 Stationery

When you know what classroom your child is in next year, (*secondary students should already have made their subject selections*) please click on the following link to order 2021 stationery packs: [Cornerstone Christian School Back to School Stationery List | OfficeMax MySchool](#). Click "Start" (View the Requirements List). From here you can select your child's class/year and/or subjects and follow the instructions. If you prefer, you can phone the OfficeMax/MySchool team on 0800 724 440 Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5pm.

This year OfficeMax have introduced Laybuy*, so you can pay in 6 weekly, interest-free instalments - and still get your order right away.

If you order in December, you'll be able to choose to receive your order straight away or after you get home from holiday in January. In addition, all orders placed online in December will receive a FREE A4 Magnetic Family Organiser* - ideal for keeping activities and events on track throughout the year.

Please do not leave ordering your child/s stationery to the last minute. If the courier/post is busy, there may be a delay of up to 4 working days. We would suggest ordering no later than 2 weeks before school starts.

When you shop on myschool.co.nz you'll receive free delivery on orders over \$46. You will also help our school earn school rewards that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school.

- **Free delivery** on orders over \$46.
- **Pay now or in easy instalments** - internet banking, credit cards, debit cards or pay in 6 weekly, interest-free instalments with Laybuy.

Key Dates

Monday 30th Nov-Fri 4th Dec
Year 10 Camp

Friday 4th December
Tumanako Flip City Trip (Yr5's)
Road Patrol Parade & Movie
(8.30am)

Saturday 5th December – 7pm
Year 13 Graduation Supper

Monday 7th December
Year 10 Student Farm Trip
(11am-1pm)

Tuesday 8th December
D5 & D6 Flip City Trip

Wednesday 9th December
Top Tribe Day
NCEA Exams Finish

Thursday 10th December
1.00pm – School Gym
Year 1-6 Prizegiving
Early Finish for Year 7-13's
(1pm)

Thursday 10th December
6.30pm – Crossroads Church
Year 7-13 Prizegiving

Friday 11th December
Last Day of School (12pm
Finish)

Monday 1st February
First Day of School for all
students

Term Dates for 2021

Term 1 2021: 1 Feb-16 April
Term 2 2021: 3 May-9 July
Term 3 2021: 26 July-1 October
Term 4 2021: 18 Oct-15 Dec

Community Notices

Charlie Brown REAL LIFE Christmas Tree – Pre-orders!

Small trees \$15, medium trees \$20. Pick out your tree on Saturday 12th December in Roslyn. They will be cut fresh from our cousin's farm. Contact Steph Poulton: 022 436 8485.



Contact: office@cornerstone.ac.nz | 06 356 7326 | www.cornerstone.ac.nz

Absences: absent@cornerstone.ac.nz | Text: 027 315 7764

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WOW

Subway delivers to Cornerstone Christian School

Subway delivers every Friday
First delivery Friday 7th August - Order Now !!

It's simple; all you need to do is register at
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- 1 Register an account
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