NZ Association for Christian Schools

# NZACS The Whiteboard

# FROM THE CHAIR

### Kia ora NZACS Whānau,

Welcome to the 2025 school year. Whether you are in your first year of Christian Education or your 40th, we pray that this will be the most rewarding year of your education journey. I am constantly aware of the privilege that Christian Education is.

Every time I interview a teacher to join our team, the question, 'Why do you want to work in a Christian School?' is asked. I imagine this question is asked in Christian Schools worldwide, and you were likely asked a similar question when you were appointed to your current position. I could not tell you how often the answer is something along the lines of, 'Well, it would be great to have the opportunity to pray with the students'. I am not saying that praying with students is a bad thing, of course, praying with our students is a great honour, and it is something that we must do and model well to them.

However, Christian education needs to be viewed as more than 'opportunities'. The amazing privilege of Christian Education is not that we have the *opportunity* to pray with students, use the Bible in class, or to invite the Holy Spirit into our classroom. There must be an absolute *expectation* that we pray with our students, use the Scripture with our students and that we invite the Holy Spirit into our spaces.

# **Term 1, 2025**

# In this edition:

- From the Chair
- NZACS News
- Article Sharpening Your Focus
- NZACS & other Resources
- Professional Development
- Sponsors
- Opportunities
- Term 1, Prayer Diary
- 2025 Teachers' Conference





### **SAVE THE DATE**

2025 Teachers' Conference 26-28 June | KingsWay School



### FROM THE CHAIR continued...



I pray that this year, you and all of your students will experience the fullness of Christian education in the spaces that you have dominion over.

Don't forget that we have our Teachers' conference later this year. It will be a great time to connect with other Christian educators and to be challenged and affirmed about all that we do in the ministry, which is Christian education.

Blessings,

Shaun Brooker Chairperson, NZ Association for Christian Schools Principal, Hamilton Christian School

# Flourishing in the Classroom NZACS Teachers' Conference 2025

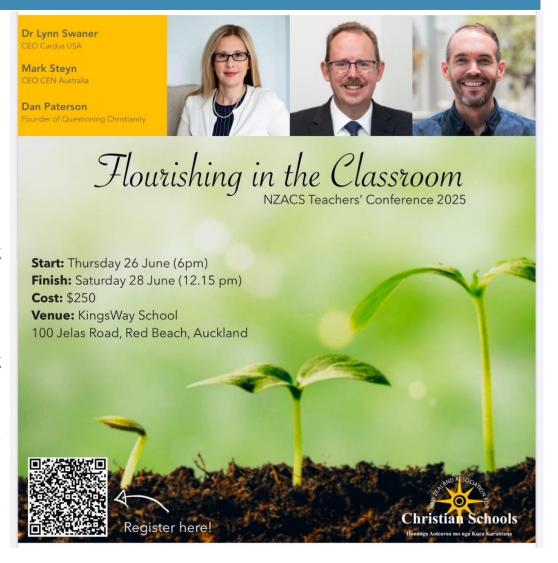
Welcome to 2025. Wishing you a blessed year of ministry in your schools. I trust you are refreshed and ready to serve Christ in your schools.

Registrations now open. Use the QR Code to register or the Rego Link.

We have limited billeting offers to help save on accommodation costs and allow more teachers to attend. Please state on your registration form whether this is something that interests you.

Please register an expression of interest in presenting a workshop by completing the form at this <u>link</u>.

Someone will contact your school early this term to confirm the number of attendees for the conference.



### SHOWCASING the Exec

Each edition of The Whiteboard has a brief bio on an Executive member, to help you get to know those serving the Association.

### Colette Budler | Associate Principal | KingsWay School

For many years, I have told my children that I would like two songs sung at my funeral- 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' and 'The Goodness of God'. Both of these songs tell of the story of grace and God's goodness that I have experienced over my life. I am married to a wonderful, faithful husband, Graeme, and will celebrate our 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary soon. We have three children and two more who have married into the family. All of these young people went through Christian education in New Zealand and their outlook on life and worldview have definitely been influenced positively by their Christian schools.

I am grateful to have worked in both the education and business sectors, having sales and recruiting experience as well as having taught a range of subjects and age groups. I trained in Secondary Science but have taught a range of subjects in both state and Christian schools. Over the past 22 years at KingsWay, I have watched it grow from 250 students to its current roll of 1974 students. It has been a privilege to work under the leadership of fantastic Christian educators and alongside competent and passionate Christian teachers. In my current role as an Associate Principal, my absolute passion is seeing students and staff growing in their faith, helping teachers to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian teacher, what Christian education entails and how to faithfully engage with scripture. I am also passionate about missions and seeing how involvement in a mission trip can absolutely transform people's

lives for Jesus. Having taught in both a tiny independent Christian school, and now in a large state-integrated school, I would love to see how we can better share expertise and

resources as both environments have something to offer the broader Christian network.

On my best days I would have walked the beach, read a book and possibly walked the golf course having spent quality time with family and with God. However, I am also aware daily of the immense privilege we have in Christian education to reach the next generations and disciple them so that they can share their faith, hope and love for Jesus, impacting the world around them.



# **FUTUE PLANNING – How can the Association best support you?**

The executive is committed to ensuring that the Association continues to serve all its members well in the next 20-30 years.

Thanks to everyone who attended our regional consultation meetings and who filled in the strategic planning survey in Term 4. The Executive will consider your feedback during Term 1 with a view to putting together a proposal to put to the vote at the 2025 AGM.





# **Sharpening Your Focus in 2025**

By Gavin Clark Principal, Hastings Christian School

The NZACS Executive invites association members to contribute articles and reflections to **The Whiteboard** publication. The purpose of such articles is to promote thought and information for other association members. The thoughts and position of the contributions reflect the beliefs of the author and not necessarily the beliefs of the executive.

My father had a vision problem. In his late thirties he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, or as it's more commonly known - 'tunnel vision.' Some who know me well may cheekily think that explains a lot about me too! Dad made this discovery about his sight when playing squash with his mates. They quickly figured out that if you lobbed a ball behind him, you were sure to win a point!

While dad's physical sight slowly deteriorated over the next 30 years - to the point that he was legally blind - his spiritual vision came increasingly into clear focus. This was because as his sight began to fail him, one of his goals was to learn large passages of scripture. In this way he was doing what the Psalmist encouraged when he said that we should set the Lord before us (**Psalm 16:8**) or as the author of Hebrews exhorted when he said, 'Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus...' (**Hebrews 12:2**).

Our great calling and challenge as Christian educators is to help our students have a clear, high and accurate view of who God is. As **John Calvin** astutely noted, 'Our wisdom, insofar as it ought to be deemed true and solid wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves'. We can't truly know ourselves, appreciate His creation, or understand our calling without reference to God as He has revealed Himself in His word the Bible.

The special character theme we have chosen for this year at Hastings Christian School is, 'learning to see well'. This follows on from last year's theme of, 'learning to listen well. 'No doubt next year's theme will be 'learning to speak well' - a mission impossible goal according to the epistle of James 3:8!

As you would expect, scripture has a lot to say about both seeing God and seeing others rightly.

A sobering indictment that God charged His people with, following their neglect of Him and errant lifestyles, is recounted in **Psalm 50:21**. God calls His people to stand before him in the dock, as it were, and makes the following charge: "...you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you". Sadly, the same accusation could be levelled at so many professing Christians today, and dare I say it - even Christian educators.

A faulty or deficient view of God is the product of our fall in the garden of Eden. From the time mankind sought to think independently of God's revealed will and doubted God's good design for their flourishing, people have gone after their own schemes and pursued their own agendas (Ecclesiastes 7:29). As a result our tendency is to rely on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-7) and think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Romans 12:3).

This deficient and provincial view of God and the understanding of what He is like, is perfectly illustrated in the oldest book in the Bible – **Job**. Following a week of providing perfect support for their friend Job, his friends undo all the good work with the counsel they gave in the subsequent chapters. Ironically while much of what they said was true of who God is, their application was clearly deficient. This should be a sobering reminder for us not to think we can figure out all the things God is doing through the struggles and challenges we face in this life.

What is also interesting to note is that following God's stinging rebuke, for nearly four chapters, Job no longer felt the need to have his day in court or to understand God's purposes in his suffering. What is also fascinating to read is Job's contrite assessment of the situation after God's relentless interrogation of him

and mind-blowing revelation of Himself. At the end of the book Job humbly acknowledged, "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, <u>but now my eye sees you</u>; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."" **Job 42:5-6** 

Like Job, **Moses** was sustained in his trial because of his face-to-face communion with God. Earlier in his life Moses had asked to see God's face. Obviously, he wasn't able to do this, firstly because God is Spirit (**John 4:24**), but also because no man can see God and live (**Exodus 33:20**). **Hebrews 11:27** summarises the source that sustained his faith through the trials he faced by stating, "By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible."

Another biblical figure that gives us an insight into the importance, not only of seeing God, but also of being seen by Him, is the account in Genesis 16 of Sarai's handmaid **Hagar**. This account not only highlights the transcendence of God, (He is far above and beyond us) but also His immanence - His nearness and sustaining presence. Having fled with her son Ishmael, the fruit of a misguided attempt to try and help God out, Hagar, at the point of death, is rescued by God. What is fascinating from this account is the fact that God's revelation of Himself prompted Hagar to introduce a new name for God. El Roi is the Hebrew name for 'the God who sees me.' In **Genesis 16:13** we read, "She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me.""

From this we learn, as one commentator put it, "The God who sees us" (El Roi) is the God of impatient heroes (Abraham) and powerless runaways (Hagar). He's the God of the wealthy and well-connected as well as the destitute and lonely. He hears and sees and cares, achingly and deeply, for each of us.

One final Bible character illustrates not only the importance of having a high and right view of God but also the importance of seeing others from God's perspective and not using our own faulty and limited assessments. 1 Samuel 16 records the account of Samuel being sent by God to Jesse's house to anoint a new king for Israel. Having examined each of Jesse's sons, bar David the youngest, God said they were all inadequate – despite their obvious and observable physical qualities. In verse 7 God helped Samuel to understand the criteria by which he measures true worth. "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."" 1 Samuel 16:7

Over the summer break, I have been enjoying a book by Tim Shorey called 'Respect the Image - Reflecting Human Worth in How We Listen and Talk.' In the forward to this book Tim's friend, pastor Marty Machowski, provided a helpful picture that should inform how we see each of the students in our schools. Imagine a man working in a dark mine. All day long, he tosses aside worthless rubble. But if he discovers the glint of a carbon crystal among the other stones, his whole outlook will change instantly ... assuming, of course, that he is aware that a diamond is in his grasp. Without this knowledge, he will see only rocks. Too often we fail to see that the people around us are diamonds in the rough. We need help with recognizing the priceless treasure of every person. Not only will having this understanding keep us from tossing others aside like so much rubble, but, it will also change the way we communicate with them on a daily basis.

I finish this brief reflection, on the importance of not only having a clear vision of who God is, by sharing some of Tim's insights about the importance of also having a clear vision of others' worth and value as image bearers of God.

### CHOOSING OUR VOWEL CAREFULLY

How we define humanness will decide the quality of every relationship in our lives.

- Chimps?
- Chumps?
- Champs?



Although only a single letter separates each of these options, they represent vastly different views of life and of what it means to be us. Everything good in human relationships depends on whether we choose the right vowel. As this book will argue, we are not chimps; though there is no denying that, due to cosmic rebellion and sin, we are spiritual and moral chumps. But, at the same time, we are much more than chumps. We are made to be champs—immortal sin-conquering and world-ruling victors.

Even though "we are immortals traveling through life with immortals [and] eternal splendors conversing with eternal splendors" (p. 27), when our gaze is weighed down by our sinful nature, we miss the incredible worth of the lowest of men. If we should see them for who they are—bearers of the heavenly seal and reflectors of the majestic creator—then we would surely speak to them with honor... Consequently, we should reflect the image that we bear and respect the image that we share.

I pray that in 2025 our vision for God would come into clearer focus and our view of others, as image bearers of God, would inform all we do think and say.

### ROBUST DISCUSSION

Do you (or does someone you know) have an area of passion or expertise that you would like to share, or around which you would like to encourage robust, helpful debate?

We are keen to have members contribute articles or viewpoints.

If you have a topic you would like to see some discussion around, or a viewpoint you would like to share, please contact: <a href="mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz">secretary@nzacs.nz</a>

\$100 per article will be paid for selected articles. Selection is at the NZACS chairperson's discretion.

The recommended article length is 600-700 words.



ABOUT SCHOOLS & ORGANISATIONS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

### **VACANCIES**

A reminder to check the **VACANCIES PAGE** on our website.

Throughout the year a number of positions need to be filled within our network.

Please prayerfully pass these on.



### **NZACS WEBSITE**

sponsored by

www.rocketspark.com/nz/ www.creationfilms.com





Check out our <u>NZACS FACEBOOK PAGE</u> to keep connected to our community, for conversation & discussion points, ideas & news and vacancies. Don't forget to Like, Follow & Share

# **NZACS RESOURCES**

Our **RESOURCES** site is up and running and we would love for you to make use of all that is available. Check it out! <a href="https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/">https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/</a>

[This is a password protected site, so please ensure you sign up to gain access, as this will be verified with your school/organisation.]



THE WHITEBOARD EVENTS MEMBER DIRECTORY CONFERENCE RESOURCES

### **CATEGORIES**

- Christian Teacher Development
- Inclusive Education Classroom
- Leadership Development
- Service & Mission
- Bicultural Practice
- Student Wellbeing
- Curriculum
- NZACS Conference Key Note Speakers
- University Courses
- Links to other Organisations



# Resources

Resources for your staff, leaders & teachers

# Media Resources

### **Promotional Videos**

Available for you to use in the promotion of Christian Education to your community and beyond. There are bite size social media clips, or longer length videos available to choose from.



### **TEACHER VIDEO**



https://vimeo.com/648419275

### STUDENT PROMO



https://vimeo.com/651436170

### **Digital Brochure**

### WELCOME TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Designed to encourage parents to think about key precepts underlying Christian Education.

# **Other Resources**



### **INFOODLE APP**

Have you seen the Infoodle APP?

This will give you quick access to the contacts of other Christian Schools, our latest newsletter, and other items – all from the comfort of your phone/device.

We can also send you push notifications of important events such as conferences, meetings, etc.

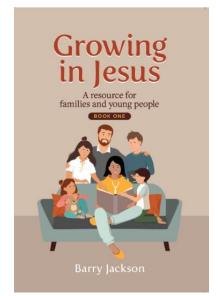
IT IS FREE! Download on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

Connect to [nzacs] New Zealand Association for Christian Schools









In Christian schools we seek to 'support parents in their God-given responsibility to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.'

*Growing in Jesus - Book One* authored by Barry Jackson is written to support that aim and help foster Biblical literacy.

Growing in Jesus (published with Castle), is the first of a series of 2 books. It covers the tenets, values and practices of the Christian faith in 52 chapters.

Growing in Jesus has been thoroughly trialed in both school and church contexts, is highly engaging and written for a Kiwi audience. A weekly reading is followed by recall and discussion questions and a fun practical activity.

Growing in Jesus is written for Year 7 upwards and is suited as a text for class devotions. Parents can also discuss the questions further with their children at home while doing the practical activity together with them. Growing in Jesus includes a simple pedagogy to access prior understandings and caters to multiple learning styles.

Growing in Jesus can be ordered at <a href="www.growinginjesus.nz">www.growinginjesus.nz</a> where there is also

a sample of 5 chapters and other supporting resources. It is priced at \$29.99 (RRP is \$32.99). Orders of 5 or more copies are freight free to schools in New Zealand. An e-book version is also available via the website.

Before retirement the author has been a secondary teacher and educational leader in state and Christian schools in New Zealand and overseas.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Wanting to grow in your love for God, God's word, God's people, and God's mission? We would love to have you journey with us.

# **Interns at Christian Schools**

Here's why partnering with Pathways Bible College is a win-win for everyone.

AN OPPORTUNITY TOO GOOD TO MISS ...

FOR YOUR SCHOOL FOR YOUR INTERN

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

- ✓ Investment in student growth
- Increased people resources
- Encourages teaching as a career
- Systems put in place to ensure student wellbeina
- a missional purpose in a school context Indepth biblical & theological study Practical school operations experience
  - Personal mentoring & pastoral care
  - NZQA accreditation for future study

# A HEALTHY BALANCE

- 16 hours pwk in school context
- 16 hours pwk study

BENEFIT

- 6 one-week long block courses at a beachside camp setting (Sun-Fri)
- Students have schoolbased mentors and Pathways College support staff
- Students are police

- checked
- Staff participate in student's spiritual & personal growth
- · Opportunity for school staff to be supported as they grow in their expertise with supervision and/or mentoring.

# POSSIBLE CONTEXTS FOR SERVICE

Alignment of unique traits & passion with

- Sports Days
- **Sports Coaching**
- Cultural events
- Missions events
- Camps
- Administration
- School assemblies
- School productions
- Reading support
- **ESOL** support General teacher

- assistance
- Running small group activities
- School devotionals
- Supporting teachers on playground duty
- · Setting up equipment
- Providing extra tuition
- Library support
- · Helping students with diverse needs.



Dr Francine Bennett, Principal E francine@pathways.ac.nz

Request an information pack E info@pathways.ac.nz

**W** pathways.ac.nz

**Pathways** 



HOW DO WE APPROACH THE ACT OF TEACHING IN A WAY THAT'S REFLECTIVE OF THE GOSPEL?

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### **COURSE DETAILS 2025**

Online evening classes Wednesdays, 26 Feb – 18 June

Block course on campus 14-16 April 2025 | 9:30am-5pm Henderson & Christchurch Campuses "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 4 14-16



# Christian Early Childhood Education Association of Aotearoa

### Our Vision

To advocate for and relationally support members towards excellence in Christian Early Childhood Education in the best interests of tamariki.

### Our Mission

Connecting, building capacity and ensuring continuity in the best interests of tamariki, members, whānau and community from a Christian kaupapa.

www.ceceaa.org.nz



Shining Lights Trust and Big Book Publishing have some amazing resources available for schools. Check out their websites and get in touch, they'd love to help you be a shining light in your community.

Reasons for Faith - WhyChristiansBelieve.nz | NZ Bicultural History - BigBook.nz

# **Opportunities**

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NZACS: Teachers' Conference – Jun 26-28, 2025 | Auckland Registration Link

Check out conferences available with our Partner Organisations

CONVERGE Global Christian School Leadership Summit Feb 24-26, 2025 Converge link

Orlando

ACSI: Association of Christian Schools International Apr 27-30, 2025 IELC link

International Educational Leaders Conference Spain

CSA: Christian Schools Australia Aug 20-22, 2025 CSA link

National Leaders' Summit Melbourne

CEN: Christian Education National (Aus) TBC CEN link

Christian Schools Conference

# **NZACS SPONSORS**

We are very thankful for the attendance and support of our sponsors at Conference.

Please remember to give them an opportunity to quote!

# **GOLD SPONSORS**

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Specialising in quality NZ and Australian made furniture, we're passionate about creating the best learning spaces for both staff and students.

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www.sebelfurniture.com/en-nz





Growth Culture exists to provide excellent professional learning and development to educational facilities wanting to up-skill their staff in leadership development. For more on their programmes, check out their website.







# **NZACS SPONSORS Continued**

# **BRONZE SPONSOR**



Educated Furniture has over 26 years' extensive furniture experience, providing the perfect balance of quality and value, along with innovative solutions for today's schools. Educated Furniture has over 26 years' extensive furniture

www.educatedfurniture.co.nz

We cover all areas of the school; classroom, ILE, staffrooms, libraries and other specialist areas.

If you are aware of any businesses who would be interested in sponsoring NZACS, please contact the Executive via <a href="mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz">secretary@nzacs.nz</a>

# A new BRONZE sponsor will be advertising here soon!



The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it: for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

**PSALM 24:1-2** 

**Term 1, 2025 PRAYER DIARY** 

over the page



# Term 1, 2025 PRAYER DIARY

Always be full of joy. Never stop praying.

Whatever happens, always be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

### Week starting Monday 3rd February

### **Prayer Point**

 For new staff in our Christian Schools. That they will settle quickly into the way we model Christ and unpack the scriptures in our classrooms.

### Week starting Monday 10th February

### **Prayer Point**

• For new students. That they will quickly integrate into our school cultures. That they would find new friends well and that their parents will also lean well into their partnership with their new school.

## Week starting Monday 17th February

### **HAWERA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (YL, 40 students)**

#### Praise Point:

- For the temporary school site the Lord has provided for us for 2025 (after we were given 7 weeks' notice to vacate our site).
- For the church communities who came together to help us move a true blessing!

### **Prayer Request:**

- We need to secure funds and a permanent site for 2026.
- We have set up a give a little page to help us: <a href="https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/new-location">https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/new-location</a>



### Week starting Monday 24th February

### **ROLLESTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-8, 300 students)**

### Praise Point:

- This term we celebrate 10 years since we opened the school.
- This year we will reach our roll cap, having grown from 30 students on day one to 300 students this year.
- Great provision of wonderful staff.

### **Prayer Request:**

- Vision and direction for the next 10 years.
- More parents to help in our parent community group.
- Board elections later in the year.
- A positive year ahead.



# Week starting Monday 3rd March

### PONATAHI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Carterton, Y1-13, 127 students)

### **Praise Point:**

- Thanks to the Lord for a new Senior Leadership Team.
- Praise the Lord for giving us the strength every day so that we are able to do what we have to do.
- Being able to have Christian Education and being part of the Lower North Island Christian Kāhui Ako.



### **Prayer Request:**

- We are looking for a new teacher to teach Materials Tech.
- We need God's guidance and wisdom to create a long-term vision for our school.
- Wisdom and strength for the new principal and SLT.

Photo: A student shares her testimony at a Tongan church in Auckland while on our senior mission trip in 2024.

### Week starting Monday 10th March

### **HASTINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-13, 330 students)**

#### Praise Point:

- For a Celebration Service at the end of 2024 that was both God honouring and an appropriate recognition of the efforts of our students .
- For a stable staff going into 2025.
- For the opportunity to continue our cultural responsive journey at this year teacher day.
- We are thankful for the opportunity celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness at this year's annual Founders Day assembly. Andrea Vosslamber, a past staff member, did an excellent job of reminding us of these truths through the stories she shared.
- For the opportunity to again work with an incredibly passionate and dedicated group of Christian schools in the lower North Island Christian Kāhui Ako (LNICK).

### **Prayer Request:**

- For the senior leadership team as they step up to fill Gavin's duties while he is away on sabbatical for the remainder of term one and part of term two.
- For the successful transition into retirement of a long serving husband and wife duo and the provision of two suitable replacements when they finish at the end of term one and term two respectively.
- That God would use our new senior student leaders to be a blessing and also be blessed in their service this year.
- That our secondary school peer mentoring students would be helped to have many "significant" conversations as they seek to support younger students in the school this year.



# Week starting Monday 17th March

### KINGSWAY SCHOOL (Orewa, Y1-13, 1974 students)

### Praise Point:

- The many new families that have joined Christian education through the growth in our roll.
- Praise God for filling our staffing positions with wonderful educators who love Jesus.
- Praise for our two 'in-service' teacher trainees, and prayer as we launch this programme in 2025.

### **Prayer Request:**

- Prayer for the proprietors and school leaders as we progress the new Arts building required for growth.
- Please pray that children would come to know Christ and develop a robust faith through their years at KingsWay.
- Please pray for the leadership team as they prepare for the NZACS Teachers Conference in June.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### Week starting Monday 24th March

### PALMERSTON NORTH ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-6, 103 students)

### Praise Point:

- Committed Christian staff and a close-knit, supportive community.
- Happy children.
- Property improvements that make the school brighter and safer.

### **Prayer Request:**

- Health and wellbeing for our staff.
- That our students will know God and experience His love.
   Photo: Palmerston North Adventist Christian School's new mural, painted by Joe McMenamin in 2024



### Week starting Monday 31st March

### LIBERTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Dunedin, Y1-8, 110 students)

### Praise Point:

- We are thankful for our supportive community, and our dedicated board members and proprietor.
- We are thankful for our teaching staff who are committed and faithful to the Christian character of our school.
- We are thankful for our MRI being successful and allowing us to serve more families in Christian education.

### **Prayer Request:**

- The Christian character of our school would remain strong and faithful to the vision laid down by our founders.
- Our students would have hearts that desire to serve God in their learning and lives.
- Our new students and families would settle into our school well and make good friends and connections in the school community.
   Photo: Our students at 2024 Polyfest



# Week starting Monday 7th April

### CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Palmerston North, Y1-13, 610 students)

### **Praise Point:**

- For being able to be a part of State-Integrated Special Character (Christian) Education here in Palmerston North we don't take this privilege for granted!
- For a stable staff team going into 2025.
- For being able to reinstate Digitech as a senior subject line in 2025 and the opportunity to start Te Reo Māori classes in years 7 through to 11, in the secondary school.
- For being able to start our long held dream of 'The Learning Centre' or TLC for secondary students with special learning needs.
- For our school proprietor CCET, who are starting work in term 1, building our Middle School interchallenge playground.
- For the MoE staff and being able to achieve a change to our enrolment scheme that gives our school an 'Area of Reasonable Convenience' that encompasses all of Palmerston North, Feilding and Ashhurst.

### **Prayer Request:**

- For all Christian Schools and Pre-schools across the Manawatu to continue to flourish.
- For guidance for our Lower North Island Christian Schools Kahui Ako senior leadership as we launch into our mahi for the year.
- For wisdom as we navigate all of the changes to curriculum and pedagogy this year.
- For our staff as we seek to write a Special Character Framework for our school that details how special character will be integrated and taught through the curriculum at all year levels.
- For our partnership with Emmaus Bible College as they establish their premises on our school grounds.



Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
And whose hope is the LORD.

For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,
Which spreads out its roots by the river,
And will not fear when heat comes;
But its leaf will be green,
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8





