Well the school year is almost over and you may now be looking forward to the holidays ahead, time with family and friends, rest and relaxation and also Christmas.

I wonder what thoughts come to mind when you hear the word Christmas. Perhaps, trees, lights, turkey, mistletoe, Father Christmas or Santa Claus, family functions, and of course, presents or gifts.

The sense of anticipation followed by the delight of seeing and thankfulness for Christmas gifts is still a vivid memory from my childhood.

Unfortunately, too often in our world today the true purpose and meaning of Christmas is marginalised, minimised or ignored in a blur of consumerism, political correctness and either ignorance or shunning of Christian beliefs. We sometimes give only very brief or minimal recognition of, and even less thanks for, the gift of the Christ Child.

We openly talk about, celebrate and express our thanks for this gift here at Cornerstone, as it is at the heart of our mission and purpose. We also talk of other gifts that flow from or grow through the Christmas story.

So, what gifts can our children unwrap and share with those around them? What gifts do they possess and how do they let them flow and grow through their time at Cornerstone and beyond in our community.

These gifts may be in areas such as the academic, service, leadership, pastoral, environmental, artistic, ...continued on next page
It has been a fortnight of change. A week and a half ago we welcomed 2016's new Year 7 and 8 students and then just a few days ago, bid farewell to the Cornerstone College Class of 2015. Out with the old and in with the new; that seems to be the nature of the beast when you work in such a transitory place as Cornerstone.

Every year, graduating Year 12 students are presented with their Student Achievement Record and as they do so the picture on the projector screen morphs from their Year 8 photo (or the earliest one we have) to their Year 12 portrait. Sometimes there is surprisingly little change, yet, most of the time, the young man or women in the Year 12 photo bares very little resemblance to the innocent face contained within the Year 8 photo. In some cases, the change is downright startling because the changes of adolescents, physical as well as mental, emotional, intellectual and spiritual, happen so slowly that they are barely perceptible. These changes, although often challenging and filled with strife, are also a source of great joy. We are privileged to watch these small boys and girls grow into the men and women that we as a staff come to know and respect. Every year I am reminded how difficult it can be to say good-bye to a young person who you have worked with every day for half a decade.

So, as we bid farewell to the class of 2015 and, at the same time, welcome the class of 2021 I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul:

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man I put the ways of childhood behind me.” 1 Corinthians 13:11

It is our hope that the young boys and girls entrusted to us in Year 7 grow and mature into the men and women that God would have them be. It is our prayer that they come to embrace their creator as he embraces them with faith, hope and, above all, love.

God bless and congratulations class of 2015.

Mr Adam Yeager
College Chaplain

Lost Property
We have many items in lost property that we are keen to return to their owners. Please drop into Student Reception to check if anything belongs to you and reclaim your items.

Ms Amy Perone
Senior School Student Receptionist

Attention Parents
Don’t forget to like our ‘Parent Connect’ page on facebook to connect with other parents and the College. Click the image below to visit the Cornerstone College Parent Connect.

Gifts of Grace - ALWS
Year 7 – Gifts of Grace Fund Raising

After nearly 2 weeks of guessing the number of lollies in a jar, pinning beards on teachers, wolfing down cupcakes, brownies and biscuits, buying raffle tickets, knocking over skittles and shooting hoops, the Year 7s have raised a grand total of $900 for Australian Lutheran World Service (Gifts of Grace). This will be used to buy a pig farm in Burundi, a water filter and a fishing kit for the people in South Sudan, a long drop loo for a village in Nepal, and training for a teacher in Indonesia.

Well done Year 7s; we are all so proud of your generosity, compassion and efforts. You HAVE made a difference!

Year 7 Teachers

Musical, sporting, extension or extra-curricular. There are many wonderful opportunities for Cornerstone students to discover, develop and use their gifts to flourish as a student and a person. It is important we encourage them to be courageous, persistent and determined to make the most of the gifts that they have.

Everyone can make a significant contribution to their own achievements and benefit the wider community.

In a way, the person we are is God’s gift to us, the person we become is our gift to God.

Mr Craig Fielke
Principal

Prayer Points
- End of year celebrations.
- German exchange students.
- Staff transitions.
- A very busy time for our amazing Maintenance team.

Ministry Matters

Year 7 Gifts of Grace Fund Raising

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Wow, another year over already!
Helen, Virginia and I wish every possible success to students who have finished their secondary learning at Cornerstone this year.

We would like to remind all students who have applied to TAFE SA or the Universities to keep up to date with any changes of schedules directly via their respective websites. Also after results are released there is time to change listed preference orders and in some case course selections. This of course must be done through the SATAC website.

VET success
Finalisation of VET for 2016 has been delayed for some students but verification should have been received in the last two weeks for the majority. Any queries can still be directed to Mr Doyle next week as well as finalisation of subject changes for VET students.

Congratulations to all of our VET students in 2015, many of whom have now completed their qualifications and will be looking at gaining employment, further training or focussing on their SACE completion. This year we had 83 students enrolled in either a VET course or a School-based Apprenticeship/Traineeship, with 55 of those students completing full qualifications, including 35 Certificate IIs. This was largely due to the continued success of our Certificate III in Fitness course and our Vetamorphus program.

Special mention must go to the following students:

Grace Sierp (Year 12)
Awarded the Cornerstone College Vocational Education & Training subject prize for her high level of success in Certificate III in Children’s Services. Grace is now using her qualification in England where she is currently working as a nanny for two small children.

Maayan Goldstein (Year 10)
Awarded the VET Network Outstanding Student award for Semester 2 Certificate III in Fitness.

Kristy Pearce (Year 11)
Awarded the VET Network Outstanding Student award for Semester 1 Certificate III in Fitness. Since gaining her qualification, Kristy left school to go on to successfully complete her Certificate IV in Fitness (Personal Training), is studying Nutrition and has written an e-Book on healthy eating, set for release next year. She currently runs her own business here in the Adelaide Hills (http://www.kristypearcepersonaltraining.com) and spends her weeks conducting PT sessions, group training sessions and boot camps. Kristy has a real passion for being a healthy role model for young girls and hopes to study business and to open up her own studio in the near future. An outstanding achievement and we wish her all the best in the future!

Mr Anthony Doyle, Mrs Virginia Gare and Mrs Helen Mason - Careers Team
Call for potential Homestay places in 2016 for Aboriginal girls

While our Year 10 students were visiting Hermannsburg (an Aboriginal community in Ljarapinta Ward of the MacDonnell Shire in the Northern Territory of Australia, southwest of Alice Springs) in early November an approach was made to us about 4 girls from that community coming to Cornerstone College in 2016. For this request to come to us was a very exciting prospect. In reality for such an arrangement to occur and then be successful, will require much planning and research.

We would like to hear from families who would like to register interest in providing Homestay for these Aboriginal girls, potentially for the long term. As many details are yet to be determined such an expression of interest is not binding but would just give us some indication of the level of interest in our community. If we know that Homestay places are available in our community we can go ahead with further planning.

Please call me on 8398 6012 or email rrohde@cornerstone.sa.edu.au to register interest or to seek clarification.

Mr Rob Rohde
Deputy Principal

Launch of Edition 2015

During lunch of Friday Week 7, contributors, friends and family gathered for the launch of our English KLA publication. The collection of quality student work from Years 7-12 was distributed. During a brief presentation, I emphasized how students produce a range of compelling pieces for assessment or for personal enjoyment. Given that the literary forms of prose and poetry tend to dominate, it is particularly pleasing to note that 2015 is the first year in which playscript is represented.

Once again, it has been a pleasure to work with a small team to produce a modest publication and to be part of a process that seeks to emulate aspects of the writing industry. This year’s memento includes a beautiful cover designed by Year 12 student, Natasha Harvey. The scope of concerns and themes presented in EDITION 2015 is a credit to our many contributors and is reflective of the teaching and learning that characterizes Cornerstone College.

Mr Ben Brazzalotto
English KLA Leader

Arts Alive

Atelier was once again alive with Middle School Music, Art and Drama on Tuesday, 17 November. This was superbly supported by the Senior School Art and Design exhibition. The Year 9 Music students were a standout, performing in their own bands a song that they had composed, arranged and rehearsed themselves. All the performances and exhibits were a wonderful showcase of the vibrant semester we’ve had over here in Atelier. Well done staff and students.

Ms Laetitia de Braconier Harders
Arts KLA Leader
Year 7 and 8 2016 Orientation Day

Last Friday, 20 November, Cornerstone played host to the newest cohort of students to walk our hallways, the 2016 Year 7s and 8s.

After finding their way to inbarendi and navigating to the correct House flag, students were whisked off to Home Group to meet their new school family, their Home Group. Following this, they met their new extended family in their first ever House meeting, where they played the first of no doubt many get-to-know-you activities. The fourth and final stop on the morning’s agenda was their Core Class room, where the Year 7s met their 2016 class teacher, as well as the other 25 or so bodies forming their Core Class. The Year 8 students for 2016 spent their morning together finding out more about each other and the College.

College tours were had, names were learnt and games were played. At lunch the students had the opportunity to participate in games lead by House Leaders and Middle School House Leaders. The giant game of dodgeball in inbarendi proved particularly popular with the students as did the food at cibo bello. After lunch, the new Year 7s and 8s were treated to an extravaganza of music and drama as various current Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 classes showed off their talents.

Thank you to all who helped make the newest additions to our school feel welcome. We look forward to next year when our new students return to stay on as students of Cornerstone College.

Mr Tim Vanderbom
House Leader
Class of 2014 - 1 Year Reunion
On Saturday, 28 November around 60 old scholars from the Class of 2014 returned to ‘cibo bello’ on a beautiful evening to catch up. There was plenty of chatting and laughter as they shared their stories with staff and each other. We all enjoyed a fun night and it was fabulous to hear how these ex-students were enjoying their work, training and lives since leaving the College. Thanks to all those who attended, it was great to see you again.

Mrs Tricia Rich
Marketing Support

Year 11 Drama Production “The Haunting of Lady McBeth”
In the final throws of the term Mrs Sierp’s incredibly hard-working drama class presented “The Haunting of Lady McBeth”. A true ensemble piece, all actors were challenged and stretched, producing a unique piece of theatre that the audiences raved about. It really is a blessing to work with such a wonderful cast!

Mrs Karen Sierp
Year 11 Drama Teacher
Summer Reading Suggestions
Prime Minister’s Literary Awards shortlists which recognise exceptional literary achievement by Australian writers in fiction, non-fiction, young adult fiction, children’s fiction, poetry and Australian history have been announced.

Young adult fiction
- Are You Seeing Me?, Darren Groth
- The Astrologer’s Daughter, Rebecca Lim
- Tigers on the Beach, Doug MacLeod
- The Minnow, Diana Sweeney
- The Protected, Claire Zorn

Children’s fiction
- Two Wolves, Tristan Bancks
- My Dad is a Bear, Nicola Connelly and illustrated by Annie White
- My Two Blankets, Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
- One Minute’s Silence, David Metzenthen and illustrated by Michael Camilleri
- Withering-by-Sea, Judith Rossell

Senior Fiction
- Amnesia, Peter Carey
- In Certain Circles, Elizabeth Harrowe
- Golden Boys, Sonya Hartnett
- The Golden Age, Joan London
- To Name Those Lost, Rohan Wilson

Ms Barbara O’Connor
Resource Centre Coordinator
Chinese Language Award
On Friday, 20 November, the South Australian Chinese Language Award Ceremony of 2015 was held at the Bonython Hall Adelaide University. The ceremony was to award enthusiastic and successful students from SA schools who have made an extraordinary achievement with the learning of Chinese language.

Cornerstone student Brooklyn Hassold was selected to receive this special award. Brooklyn is a Year 10 student, and yet due to her exceptional determination and perseverance, she was accelerated to the Year 11 Chinese class studying Stage One Chinese. Brooklyn has demonstrated amazing maturity and motivation towards her studies and she will complete Stage Two Chinese next year when she is in Year 11. Brooklyn is a great example to her fellow students and her dedication and positive approach to her learning is highly commendable.

Congratulations Brooklyn. Well done!

Mrs Wendy Lampard
Chinese Teacher and Languages Learning Area Leader

Three Australians head to Germany
Bethany Harris, Isabel Richards and Mikayla Schwarz left on their German exchange trip on Thursday, 21 November. They will spend nine weeks with their host families in Hamburg or Bavaria, attend school and participate in a one week cultural program in Berlin.

We look forward to hearing their stories on their return at the end of January.

Mrs Ingrid Synwoldt
German Teacher

Thank you to our generous sponsors who supported the Subject Awards at the Year 11/12 Closing Celebration.

- My Physio SA (Vicki Lindon)
- Eagle Boys Pizza (Keith & Alison Thacker)
- Trekset International Tours (Louise Campbell)
- Southern Cross Cleaning (Rudi Mandemaker)
- Valerie Travers (Dion Hueppauff)
- Reflex Technology Group (Danny Gruber)
- Programmed Property Services (Brenton Harslett)
- Woolworths (David McCarthy)
- The Uniform Shop (Jenni Bailey)
- AA Windows & Doors (Ron Versteeg)
- Finance Mount Barker (Glen Thornley)
- William Buck (Grant Martinella)
- iSeek Computing (Simon & Debbie Lindsay)
- Home Timber and Hardware (Brett Keast)
- Openbook Howden (Greg Hassold)
- Country Blinds (Rhett Payne)
- Mount Barker Fresh Markets (James Fraginno)
- Sportspower (Bill & Tracy Pizimolas)
- EFM (Rob Tyndall)
- Westlab (Russell Grace)
- Waterman Psychology Services (Michael Waterman)
- Lighthouse Books (Andrew Pierson)
- Westpac (Chris Lindsay)
- Lofty Coaches (Dean McGinty)
- Reece Plumbing (Tony Johnson)
- Eckersleys (Jessie O’Brien)
- Peter Moeck Architect (Peter Moeck)
- Sandra Berry Real Estate (Sandra Berry)

Sean McCullum
Australian Indoor Cricket Representative
Sean McCullum was selected to play for the Under 16 Boys Australian A team in the recent World Indoor Cricket Federation Junior Series. Selection to an Australian team in this prestigious event is an amazing achievement considering that over 165,000 players play indoor cricket throughout Australia including 40,000 under-age players.

Congratulations Sean!

US Basketball Tour - Sebastian Bald
Sebastian Bald is currently on an elite playing tour of the United States of America. Sebastian will join 10 other identified U/16 athletes on a tour that will take place over 18 days, from November 20 to December 8, 2015, and feature several cities along the south-east coast of the country in the states of North Carolina and Florida. The focus of the trip will be on the education and development of eleven Under 16 SA Metro and SA Country boys, who have been selected from the South Australian National Intensive Training Program (NITP)

Good Luck Sebastian.
Demi Harford
**Hobbies:** Reading and playing netball.
**Senior School House Leadership means to me:** It is such an important role, as you become an important figure, not only in House Meetings, but for the students whenever they need.

Erika Mullins
**Hobbies:** Swimming, painting, reading, listening to music and being active.
**Senior School House Leadership means to me:** Being a Senior House Leader to me means that I get to represent my House by being a positive role model and I also get to give back to the Battunga community in my last year of schooling.

Jake Pollard
**Hobbies:** Soccer, hanging out with friends, sport in general.
**Senior School House Leadership means to me:** Being a Senior House Leader to me means I can be the leader of the best team in Cornerstone College and playing a big role in making Battunga even better than it already is. GO BATTUNGA!!!

Rhiannon West
**Hobbies:** Netball, swimming, spending time with friends and family, having a good ole' laugh.
**Senior School House Leadership means to me:** Being able to put myself out there and become more confident in myself whilst helping others to grow and improve. Lead Battunga to another House Shield victory.

Cooper Stoeckel
Profile unavailable at time of print.

**SENIOR SCHOOL HOUSE LEADER PROFILES // 2016**
WANTED

No longer need your uniform or calculator? The PT&F can sell them for you through the second hand uniform shop on consignment.

Please bring good quality items (blazers must be dry cleaned) to the Marketing Department (next to EFM Gym).

(60% of the sale is returned to you, 40% of the sale is retained by the College as a fundraiser).

Second Hand Uniform Opening Dates
Saturday, 23 January 2016, 9:30am - 11am
Saturday, 30 January 2016, 9:30am - 11am

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New Canteen Online Ordering
Order your lunch online.
Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”.

Click here for information about online ordering

EFM Fitness Coaching Special: At EFM, you’ll have a Fitness Coach that works through your program with you each and every session. It’s like having a personal trainer, but at a fraction of the cost.
Enquire now - JOIN NOW and get the rest of 2015 FREE.
Call Rob on 0419 810 410 or register online at: efm.net.au/mount-barker *conditions apply.

Attention parents, extended morning sessions at EFM 6:00am to 10:00am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Convenient club location, more sessions, more equipment, more fun. Come and see what we can offer or click here to see it for yourself!

Ray White Christmas Giving Tree: Ray White have partnered with the Salvation Army to collect and distribute gifts to less fortunate families this Christmas. We encourage those who can, to ‘dig deep’ and donate a gift to put a smile on a disadvantaged child’s face this festive season. Simply place your gift under our giving tree in our office at the Homemaker Centre of Mount Barker. Please call David Parkins at Ray White for further information 8391 6866.

DanceSA School of Performing Arts: Enrolments for our dance fitness classes in 2016 are now open. Free trial lesson with great fees and family discounts. Enquiries and Enrolments 0408 988 483, info@dancesa.com.au.
Or visit the website for more details: www.dancesa.com.au

Titjikala community is a remote Aboriginal community with a new found passion for music.
Gabriella Smart (artistic director - Soundstream) is working with the elders of this community to create a music/arts centre with experienced visiting teachers. To make this happen, the Titjikala musical instrument fund is looking for any donations of keyboards, saxophones, wind instruments and percussion. Any contribution could be life changing so dig around for those old instruments not being used anymore! Please contact Gabriella Smart on 0409 673 585 for collection.
I don’t know about your house, but at my house my kids greet school holidays with great joy... and at least some of that is glee about the increased gaming time they know is coming their way. I’ve also spoken to a couple of families this week with older teens who are also dealing with the issue of gaming over holidays. If you can relate - here are a few ideas that I think often work.

1. **Don’t get mad**
   I’ve said it in previous blogs, gaming is not evil. In moderation, playing computer/video/console games challenges young people, increases some of their cognitive skills, can be an opportunity to hang out with or play with friends and makes life fun. If you are consistently negative, disappointed or frustrated about your child or teen’s enjoyment of gaming - you will alienate them. This won’t help them stop gaming, it will just mean they talk less to you.

2. **Have clear, specific limits for the holidays**
   You might have guidelines for gaming during the school terms, but possibly not during the holidays. If you really don’t mind how much gaming they do on holidays then an absence of guidelines is fine. But if you do care - and you want them to do other things over the next two weeks than be in front of the computer - then you need to have some SPECIFIC holiday guidelines. “Don’t spend all your time on screens” is nowhere near specific enough. Instead, write down (that old fashioned pen device works quite well in this situation) specific times and conditions for the gaming limits. For example you might write “Two hours of gaming a day unless we are going out, in which case 90 minutes - half before 12noon and half after”. OR “Gaming every afternoon between 2 and 5pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week”. OR “Gaming happens for 1 hour max, 4 times during the day, on 3 days this week”. Even better, if you have younger kids, write out a school holiday schedule and colour in the gaming times.

   If you can’t think this far ahead, then tell kids and teens you will tell them the night prior what their gaming times will be the next day.

3. **Distinguish between gaming and other computer based activities.**
   Many creative and amazing things are done on computers and tablets other than gaming. For example, website design, reading, writing stories, using art programs, photography, making movies and so on. You may be happy with your child/teen doing these things so make it clear what are gaming activities, and what are non gaming activities. In our house, gaming time includes gaming itself on the x-box, computer or tablet, OR watching youtube videos about games OR reading websites about games. Other computer activities do not count as gaming time and are not subject to the same restrictions.

4. **Monitor what is happening and consistently enforce the rules**
   Once we have made the rules, we now need to monitor what young people are doing and make sure they stick to them. This means we need to be around, watching and keeping an eye on what is happening. And then to use gentle, persistent, non-negotiable reminders about turning gaming off once the time is up. It’s better to have smaller, less ambitious rules for shorter periods of time than to set up something for the entire holidays that you can’t continue to monitor.

5. **Help kids and teens find other fun non gaming activities to do.**
   We need to put effort into helping young people both identify fun non gaming activities (at home) and get started on these non gaming activities. There are lots of websites which provide school holiday game/activity ideas - sit down with your young person and brainstorm, what else they might like to do. Write a list of holiday activity options with them.

   For teens, this might mean help out with finding part time jobs, work experience, cooking, holiday activities, social opportunities, classes, board game days, exercise/sport options etc. Some of these things will take time so it might be a good idea to start these longer term ones ready for the next holidays.

   For younger kids, you can set up craft activities, play dates, get out boardgames, put out drawing things, get them involved in imaginary play, get out old toys etc.

   Helping young people get engaged in and started on non gaming activities takes some effort usually. Sometimes we need to provide materials, transport and our company in the beginning stages. Once they have taken an idea and got into it - we can then withdraw gradually. We will have to do less of this when they get better at entertaining and finding activity options themselves, but this does take some time.

**Article from** [http://developingminds.net.au/](http://developingminds.net.au/)