The final week of Term 3 is when we say farewell to Year 12. It is always a time of great excitement as they look forward to new adventures, but also days tinged with sadness as they close the door on 13 years of school. In this newsletter we say farewell to Year 12 2016 and endeavour to capture some of the fun of Activities Day and the emotions the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony.

From Mr Hartley’s graduation address

I trust that the school has recognised your strengths, qualities and valued you to be the person God created you to be. I truly hope that each of you has developed a healthy understanding of who you are. It is my prayer that you:

- Know your strengths and how to use them to honour God
- Are realistic about the things you aren’t so good at and have a desire to improve
- Don’t feel sad about your weaknesses or imperfections,
- And don’t wish that you were more like someone else

I trust that as you graduate, you will look back on your time with us fondly. I trust that we have celebrated your strengths and achievements while also supporting and strengthening you in your areas of need or struggle.

I trust that you have learnt a great deal from the Bible and in a range of different subjects you have studied.

I trust that you have built wonderful friendships with other students and that you will appreciate the contributions our teachers have made to your life, and remember us for many years to come.
Year 12 Graduation

Guest speaker: Mr Sean Johns

A present for Mr Manns

Guard of honour from staff as they say farewell.

Laura de Feyter: ‘Nostalgia’

Congratulations
Year 12 Activities Day

Morning devotions with Year 12 students.

Hi-5 a Year 12 student

A wonderful array of costumes.

Taking the giant leap ...
Please join us for a night of fun at our first Family Movie Night on Friday 21 October.

The whole family is welcome to bring picnic rugs, beanbags or cushions and set up camp in the hall to watch the Dreamworks classic “Home”.

Dinner and activities will start from 6pm with the movie screening from 7pm. The movie is free, but you might want to come for dinner, so book for our special Movie Night Dinner Deal, which includes a Lebanese bread wrap with salad, meat and all the trimmings, as well as a drink and piece of cake for $5 a person. Other movie treats, including popcorn, will be available for sale on the night.

Spaces are limited so book now. Tickets will be available at TryBooking from tomorrow: https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?id=232688.

You can book tickets just for the movie (no charge – but a ticket is required) or book a dinner deal which includes your entry to the movie. There is no booking surcharge on TryBooking for this event.

Please note this is not a supervised event and children must be with a responsible adult throughout the evening. The event will go ahead regardless of the weather. Tickets are non-refundable.
High Achievement Awards

ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award
Awarded to a student who demonstrates leadership and teamwork within the school and the broader local community.

Laura de Feyter

Academic Excellence
Awarded to students who have high achievement across all subject areas studied.

Liam Steacy

The Caltex Best All Rounder Award
Awarded to a student to acknowledge their all round contributions, to their school and community, including academic, attitude, personal conduct, leadership, service, sport and the arts.

Scott Hajinakitas

Academic Excellence
Awarded to students who have high achievement across all subject areas studied.

Jack Knight

The Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment
Awarded to a student to recognise and honour consistent effort and a desire to improve.

Laura Munckton

Bronze Principal’s Medal
Awarded for continued excellence and dedicated work ethic across all subjects.

Year 12 watching a video about their years at (Sutherland) Shire Christian School
As Term 3 draws to a close, it has been wonderful to have celebrated some excellent community events.

**Alice in Wonderland**

I thoroughly enjoyed every performance of *Alice in Wonderland*, including my cameo appearance on the final night! With 106 students on stage and many teachers and parents who invested hours into the production, it was bound to be a wonderful success.

So many people in the audience approached me to speak in glowing terms about what they experienced. While I would like to pass on my appreciation to Mrs Wright for directing the musical, I’m sure she would agree that the school owes a debt of gratitude to all who contributed. I thank them very much.

**Activities Day**

We held our annual activities day this week. Despite some rain later in the day, there was a great deal of positive energy, enthusiasm and good old-fashioned fun!

A lot of effort went into dressing up. Speaking as someone who is fairly clueless when it comes to dressing creatively, I would like to thank the parents who put so much effort into helping their children wear a costume for the day.

**Year 12 Graduation**

I write this week’s newsletter article immediately prior to our Year 12, 2016 graduation ceremony. This ceremony is particularly significant for our Year 12 cohort, because it recognises that their time as an active part of our Christian community has come to an end. This ceremony also gives the school an opportunity to demonstrate that each Year 12 student has been loved and valued and that we wish them all the very best for both their upcoming exams and their futures.

**Caring for others**

As many people in our community are aware, Nathan Barry (Year 10) is currently being treated for cancer. Please be praying for Nathan and his family at this time.

Please also be praying for the doctors and others who are supporting Nathan and his family. People who would like to provide support to the family are welcome to do so by writing to the following email address: barryfamily.scs@gmail.com

**Reminder to parents**

I would like to remind families that the enrolment contract requires parents to provide the school with the term’s notice if they wish to withdraw their child.

Therefore, if your son or daughter is moving on at the end of the year please, write a letter or email (principal@shirechristian.nsw.edu.au) advising me of this before the beginning of Term 4.

The school is required to record where exiting students are going to e.g. apprenticeship. I would also appreciate any feedback parents have on their experiences at school, because we are always keen to improve what we do and how we do it. This notification isn’t needed for students finishing Year 12.
I am very pleased to announce something new that the Music department has been working on for the past two months.

The “Vivace” ensemble has grown so much under Mrs Lisa McGovern’s leadership, that it now will be split into two ensembles with a specialist director for each.

Both ensembles will regularly be rehearsing in the Music rooms on Tuesday mornings from 8.15am to 8.50am. Mrs Lisa McGovern as our woodwind specialist will continue to work with students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone.

Students who play percussion will now be welcome to join this group as well. This will form a new ensemble called “Junior Concert Band”.

Mr Harry Harris is our strings specialist and the director of the Senior String ensemble. He will also direct a new ensemble that has been running for the past few weeks called “Junior String Ensemble”.

This group is perfect for students who are beginning to learn how to play violin, viola and cello, and also for students who would like to continue and extend upon the Year 4 Instrumental Program.

If you would like to learn more, please email music@shirechristian.nsw.edu.au

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**Enrol now for peripatetic guitar tutoring**

After having a seemingly endless waiting list of parents hoping to enrol their students in our peripatetic program on guitar, we are very happy to announce that we have been able to accommodate the demand.

Thank you to the families who waited patiently up to a year to commence lessons.

We are also pleased to share that there are now some additional places available. Please contact music@shirechristian.nsw.edu.au for more information.

For many years there has been a strong history of excellence in the Music department at Shire Christian, and we continue to strive to nurture this culture in each of the many opportunities provided for students.

This includes the quality of tutors we employ for the peripatetic program.

Our tutors not only are trained musicians, often with at least a Bachelor of Music and performing experience as professional musicians, but are also active members of their local church.

Mr David Humphreys, Head of Music
All Stage One (Kinder to Year 2) students enjoyed watching a SocS Puppet Show this week. Sammy was feeling very sad and just couldn’t bounce back to his usual happy self!

To make things worse, a big spider bit him on the neck! Luckily there was an antidote available. The teacher let everyone watch “The Bounce Back Track Race”.

In the race, Bouncing Billy and Bubbly Belinda were facing road blocks. When they drank in negative, “poisonous thoughts”, they became very sad and wanted to give up.

All the lovely encouraging children cheered them on, encouraging them to “take the antidote”! This antidote made them think of positive thoughts which cheered them up and made them keep going!

The Bible has a lot to say about what to do when we feel sad and it was fun to learn some of these things with Sammy, Sludge, Mrs Baker and three great Year 9 helpers, Emily Rattenbury, Claire Stafford and Julia Jacobson.

Mrs Diana Moes, Learning Support
All students are reminded to Tap on and Tap off at the beginning and end of each trip with their Opal Cards when travelling to and from school.

If students don’t tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.

Zach Smith from Year 7 has been selected in the side to play soccer in the National Youth Championship in Coffs Harbour in the second week of the school holidays. Congratulations Zach on your hard work and achievement.

Holy Family Vacation Care
Fun filled incursions and excursions for children aged 5-12 years. Contact the Menai Centre: 9541 4367 or email: holyfamilyinc1@gmail.com

Important Notices
• The drop-off zone is not for parking
• Be considerate to neighbours and do not park near or on driveways
• Drive slowly on school premises. The speed limit is always 10km per hour, even when you drop your child off very early in the morning or visit later. Please keep our students safe.

Community Notices

For One Night Only
an evening of performance excellence

Tickets $5 each
www.trybooking.com.au
Saturday 12 October 2016 - 9am

Friday 28 October @ 7pm
‘I’m late, I’m late

I’m laaaate’

My wife and I just l-o-o-o-ved ‘Alice in Wonderland’! It was so uplifting to see such a large cast of children executing such a difficult task so competently and with such infectious joy and happiness.

We were particularly taken with White Rabbit! But he caused me to reflect on the tyranny of time and what it is doing to our own culture and lifestyle!

I can remember in my childhood (yes, that was a long, long time ago) when no shops were open on Saturday afternoon or Sunday, and when there was no organised sport on Sunday. I know saying this might trigger the question: “What planet do you come from?”, but it is true.

Some of you will want to accuse me of thinking “nostalgia isn’t what it used to be” (although Laura de Feyter very ably put Nostalgia back on the map at the Year 12 Graduation Assembly!), but to me there were great advantages in living in a society that observed, willingly or unwillingly, a “day of rest”.

Of course, I should not be surprised that I feel like this because the God who designed us, created us, and is concerned to maintain us in good working order, laid down this instruction in his Manual for Life: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:8-11).

The reason God gives for requiring this of us is rooted in the very Creation itself - it’s a “creation ordinance”.

Is one of the basic reasons we are finding life more and more stressful today the fact that we are not taking time to rest and meditate on God’s Word?

The pressure of deadlines, trying to keep up with (over-)commitments, interacting with social media, all take their toll on us - often to the point of eating into the time the Lord wants us to set aside to be refreshed by him.

My wife and I use the ODB Ministries Our Daily Bread for our daily devotions together. Last Saturday it was both challenging and refreshing to read the comment on Psalm 55:22a: “Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you.”

The notes said, inter alia: “We don’t have to take charge of every situation and try to craft the outcome - that’s exhausting! God is in control of every aspect of our life. Instead of trying to do everything in our own effort, we can find rest in God. Sometimes it’s as simple as asking him to handle our problems. Then we can pause, relax, and enjoy the knowledge that he is sustaining us.”

We can only do this, of course, by heeding the “Manufacturer’s Instructions” - a task made so much harder by our society successfully robbing us of our “sabbath rest”. God intended this rest to be built-in to our lives.

Nevertheless, it would be good if we made a more conscious effort to swim against the tide, to “not let the world around us squeeze us into its mould” - as JB Phillips interprets Romans 12:2.

When Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28), he was probably assuming we would be serious about the underlying intention of the fourth Commandment - and that in spite of his harsh criticism of how the Pharisees had abused it!
For Prayer and praise

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” - Romans 6:23

- Praise God for the free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Pray that more and more students, families and members of our wider community will come to accept and love this incredible gift from God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Praise God for Term 3 and for school holidays.
- Pray for a refreshing break for staff and students.
- Praise God for the Year 12 students and pray for them as they study and prepare for their HSC exams.

Vision Screening results available soon

This week Years 1 and 6 completed a vision screening program coordinated by Gymea-based optometrist Ian Cleaver.

Ian has been conducting annual screenings at our school since 1985 and we continue to appreciate this voluntary service to our community.

The vision screening is designed to identify children who have undiagnosed vision problems that may affect their learning.

With the valued assistance of learning support staff and parent volunteers, students are screened for distance focusing, close reading, binocular vision, visual acuity, depth perception and colour vision.

Ian then spends time with each child individually, checking for long or short sightedness and focussing reflexes.

Parents will receive notification of the results of their child’s vision screening within the next few weeks. Those who have had issues detected will be recommended to visit an optometrist of their choice for a follow up appointment.

If your child was not present on the day of the screening you will need to make alternate arrangements with an optometrist of your choice if you wish your child to be screened.

A big thank you to parents Leanne Wilkes, Bree Young, Louise Rupenovic and Lauren Wasson for giving up your day to help with the screening. Without your assistance we could not continue this valuable service!

The Learning Support Team
Mrs Wright organised a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party for the Alice in Wonderland cast, and parent and teacher helpers this morning.

What a fantastic time everyone had as the students burst into song from the musical and danced around the beautifully decorated table, loaded with deliciously colourful goodies.

They also sang “A very merry unbirthday” to Mr Carter, who is celebrating his birthday today! Cast members received a Co-curricular merit award.

Award of Distinction
Brianna Abrahams, Laiana Chong, Caitlin Dorfling, Bryce Knight, Ella Luxton, Lily Oehlman, Danica Xu

Award of Credit
Danie Bredell, Ryan Dorfling, Caitlyn Hidayat, Jaydan Kepu, Kaylani Kepu, Emma Leach, Ella Leong, Hamilton Magrath, Bethany McKay, Montana Pantano, Kayden Salter, Caleb Stone, Scarlett Tran, Samantha Zhang

Award of Merit
Annalisa Hunter, Caitlin James, Michaela James, Bailey Thompson

Award of Participation
Hannah Barry, Stephen Barry, Jonathan Coffey, James Doyle, Zander Gall, Josephine Graham, Ezekiel Hulksamp, Charlotte Morrison, Aimee Rigg, Summerset Rigg, Eric Stonestreet, Joel Street, Chloe Tam, Joel Zabaras.
Each year there is a tradition for students in the Year 12 elective music class to organise and host a Recital Evening.

The purpose of this evening is to provide a calm, warm and encouraging environment for students to perform some of their HSC music repertoire to a receptive audience.

Students commented that it was the perfect night at the perfect time for them to play their pieces. Two weeks later, students perform for the HSC Markers.

As any musician who has done external music exams may know, sometimes the examination room can be stale and a little clinical.

The HSC Recital Evening is a great place for students to hear a live audience respond to their pieces, and to be affirmed in the work that they have been putting in up until this point.

It’s also a great place for families, friends and loved ones to hear the complete arrangements of the pieces that the Year 12 students have been working on for a year or two.

Thanks to all who came and contributed to the evenings success! Thanks also to Nathan Rathsam who took these incredible photos.

Mr David Humphreys, Head of Music
Wow! What an amazing term!

Congratulations to all students, teachers and parents for your contribution to the events this term.

There were many opportunities for us to work together as a community and to be part of making our school an even better place.

Beginning with Athletics Carnivals and Gala Days, to making of Book Week costumes, going on excursions, then all coming together to finish with a musical extravaganza, it certainly was a busy and varied term.

All children are to be commended for their contribution and achievements this term along with the outstanding support of many parents. These events bring our community together, staff, students and parents working together which was so evident in the musical.

I would also like to commend the whole cast of the musical who all did a fabulous job and showed great talent, courage, perseverance, commitment and enjoyment throughout.

English Competition

Additionally, congratulations to all students who participated in the English Competition. It is good to ‘have a go’ and learn these experiences. Results are listed below.

On leave

I will be on long service leave during Week 1 of next term and will be looking forward to returning on Monday of Week 2.

Mr Andrew Mellor and Mrs Sue Robinson will oversee the Junior School during this time.
worlds collide

Family Movie Night
Fri 21 October
6pm
Free entry
Details page 4

Shire Christian School

DreamWorks

HOME
Monday
17 October
Secondary Library
Starts 7 pm

Book we are reading in preparation is . . .
“Two Wolves”
Tristan Bancks
This was going to be a difficult decision to make as we had so many qualified candidates and limited positions on 2 teams to send to the Gala Day. The 2 teams played very capably on the day.

The B team won 2 of their pool games and drew one. They then won the final to come overall first on the day. The boys were ecstatic as were the parents, Mrs Ellis and super coach for the day Mr Shortt. A huge thanks to Mr Shortt for an excellent job of coaching the boys on the day. To the parents, thank you for such encouraging support and the boys, thank you for representing your school honourably.

You exhibited real sportsmanship and worked as a team to become a formidable opponent to anyone you came up against! Well done.

The A team worked hard as a team to share the load of running, passing and even shooting with the goals being shared among many of the players.

They started the day with a 6-0 win over Inaburra and then fought a very closely matched St George, winning 1-0. Our last pool match was William Carey.

The boys continued to pass, outrun the other team and won 2-0. We were in 1st position coming into the final and knew it could be anyone’s win as St George were also very strong.

After an incredibly exciting game to watch, St George managed to put away a goal and beat us 1-0. The boys were exhausted but never once backed down and ran all day.

They showed real sportsmanship as a team and a high level of skill in the game. They also represented our school admirably as they supported and encouraged one another and even made sure the opposition were okay.

This gave us the opportunity to head to the State Soccer at Penrith 2 weeks later to play teams from around NSW.

Again the team did sensationally. They worked tirelessly in every game, backing each other, working their passing game to their advantage and sharing the goal scoring around.

They came first in their pool after winning all their games. The quarter final was challenging but the team won 1-0 to set themselves up for a semi final against Pacific Hills CS. We knew it would be a hard game, with the winner facing Mamre for the final.

Unfortunately we went down 1-0 in a very evenly matched game. Thanks to the team for their fantastic efforts and great attitude toward the game and other teams!!

Mrs Sandra Ellis, Teaching Staff
“A fantastic, affordable school full of compassionate, dedicated Christian teachers and like-minded parents.”
- Melis Knight (Shire Christian parent)

Limited vacancies for 2017

Contact our Registrar: 8525 5111
enrolments@shirechristian.nsw.edu.au
shirechristian.nsw.edu.au

Shire Christian School

fresh new look
Same values and mission
Students from Years 8 and 9 attended the Secondary Girls Oztag Gala Day on Wednesday 7 September at Mamre Anglican College.

The girls started with a strong win against Covenant Christian School and continued throughout the rest of the day, undefeated.

These OzTag girls displayed admirable sportsmanship throughout the day and played with great agility, skill, competency and fairness.

Isabelle Mullins captained the team and lead them with clear strategy and motivation. Well done girls on an exceptional day.

Mrs Helen Bull, Teaching Staff

A winning try for our Matty Johns

Picture of our current Year 12 student Matty Johns scoring the winning try in the Preliminary Semi Final against North Qld in the NYC
### What’s on

**Prep to Year 6** | **Secondary**
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**Mon 10 Oct** | First day of Term 4
**Thu 13 Oct** | HSC Exams start: until Friday 4 November
**Tue 18 Oct** | Year 9 Drama Excursion
**Wed 19 Oct** | PSSA Primary Schools Athletics
 | Kindergarten 2017 Orientation Day #1
**Thu 20 Oct** | CSSA Primary School Biathlon
 | CSSA Secondary Triathlon - Regatta Centre Penrith
 | German Student to Goethe Film Competition
 | School Board Meeting @ 6.30pm
**Fri 21 Oct** | Year 9 Students to Seminar at Covenant CS
 | Year 9 Food Tech Exc to the Grounds
 | Family Movie Night from 6pm. Free entry. $5 for Lebanese meat wrap, cool drink, cake.
**Mon 24 Oct** | Year 4 and 5 Camp at Deer Park
**Tue 25 Oct** | Year 4 and 5 Camp at Deer Park
 | 411 Discipleship Training for CRU Leaders
**Wed 26 Oct** | CSSA Primary Girls Softball Gala Day
 | Year 9 Kokoda Walkway Excursion
 | Kindergarten 2017 Orientation Day #2
**Thu 27 Oct** | Year 12 Food Tech Excursion 1/2 day
 | Year 10 Drama Excursion
 | School Association Meeting @ 7.30pm
**Fri 28 Oct** | FONO - For One Night Only @ 7pm

### Extension Maths

The Year 7 and 8 Extension Maths Classes have recently completed their fifth and final Mathematical Olympiad for the year.

Once again, all students made a valid attempt at the problems.

Joel Stokes and Lara Knight in Year 8 achieved an outstanding 4 out of 5 in this Olympiad.