Welcome to our first newsletter for 2015.

At the start of every year much is promoted in the media about whether being educated in a private school is any better than in a public school.

You will often see news headlines like the one below:

Private schooling no better than public in jobs market: Sun Herald, August 17.

“A research fellow at Canberra University, Jenny Chesters, analysed data from the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia project and found private school students were no more likely to get a full-time job than public school students.”

It is interesting that this article focuses solely on one aspect of a child’s education—the financial outcome as a reason why parents might consider enrolling their child at an independent school.

It ignores the fact that for most of us education is about more than an employment placement program that moulds our young people as “fodder” for the marketplace with remuneration the only measure of success.

Yes, creating employment potential through knowledge and skills is important, but we would like to think we do more than that. Having spoken to many parents, I believe I can say with some accuracy that most families want more from their child’s education than a promise of a highly paid career.

They want their child to be safe, to be known, to be inspired and to be given the opportunities to develop as individuals who will enhance the society in which they live.

They want their sons and daughters to explore, through knowledge, experience and community where they will fit in an ever changing world and how they will be able to continue to grow and excel after they have left SAS.

In order to help achieve this goal of well educated young people we have decided to focus on the concept of “Connectedness” in 2015—connectedness with learning, connectedness with our families and students, connectedness with our community and connectedness with our God.
Welcome back to 2015 at Shoalhaven Anglican School. As I speak to students, families and staff members about the summer holidays, it seems that they were filled with a mix of rest and relaxation, adventure, travel, time with family and friends, sun, sand, swimming, study, preparation and planning for a year ahead. I am sure that there are many things that I have left off the list, but all in all I think we all got the change of pace that we needed.

Several of our Year 12 students expanded their minds and their horizons while attending programs at the University of Wollongong and the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra. Charlie Guerit, Patrick Devlin and Jacob Monte attended the UOW Summer School. The three boys got a real taste of what University life is all about during this immersion program and all have a renewed passion to extend themselves and focus on their future studies.

UOW Summer Master-class - Patrick Devlin

“The program was cutting edge in terms of preparation for the HSC. I found it helpful in terms of knowing how things work in a university setting and feel more confident about heading to university as a result. I definitely feel more equipped leading into the HSC having completed this summer course”.

Exemption from Attendance Changes in 2015

The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015 which implement the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting. This includes the following regarding holidays being taken during term time:

“As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations.”
Jake Adlam’s inclusion in the National Youth Science Forum was celebrated last year by our school community. The opportunity to mix with some of the sharpest young science minds in the country during the summer break was a great experience for Jake. He made the very most of his time as he explored the great possibilities that lay in front of him in the science field and beyond.

Jake Adlam

“It was an awesome experience. I made lots of new friends both from Australia and overseas. It has given me great direction for the future and clarity. I know now that I am keen to pursue a science degree”.

The refurbishment of the junior school classrooms was completed on schedule and it has been fantastic to watch both the staff and students enjoying these wonderful new learning spaces. The construction and electro-technology rooms have been put to use by our Trade Skills Centre students and the Primary Industries farm is looking better than ever under the combined care of Mr Cash and Mrs Emans. The school oval is looking greener and greener by the day as the grass takes hold and we benefit from the regular deluges that Milton has received since December. We are looking forward to the reopening of this much improved resource in the coming months.

Our Trades Skills Centre Advisory Group met last week and the school received some very encouraging feedback from the panel of industry representatives. We now have 83 students engaged in a vocational based course (VET) across the Milton and Nowra campuses of the Shoalhaven Region Anglican Schools, studying a diverse range of subjects including:

- Electro-technology
- Construction
- Hospitality
- Primary Industries Horticulture
- Information Digital Media and Technology
- Entertainment Industries

Hope is a great thing and there is much to be hopeful about as we start the 2015 school year. We have some amazing young people to work with, great facilities and teaching spaces and a committed team of educators who are ready to give their best and encourage and engage our students in their learning. I was reminded recently of a quote that suggest that “schools are the social institutions with the greatest impact on the lives of young people and families, and a good school enlarges the lives of those in and around it”. This passage from Hebrews serves as a great reference point for the start of our new year.

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23)*

Mr. Tim Knowles

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.

The Sunday following presentation evening in December saw 15 Year 12 students from SAS and NAC come together for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition in Kosciusko National Park. The group were accompanied by Mrs Sampson, Mr Orchard, Mr Knowles and Mr Hemsworth, on his first expedition with the school. The weather forecast leading into the trip was predicating some wild weather for the second half of the expedition and in the end, this was what was delivered!

Day 1 and 2 provided clear skies and cooler weather which was perfect for our trek into the Australian Alpine. The students took in the Rams Head range, summited Mt Kosciusko and were treated to one of the most spectacular sunsets in the park, overlooking the imposing Mt Sentinel. The group woke on the morning of day 3 to the sounds of nearby thunder claps and quickly hustled themselves into the lightning protection positions they had learnt about in their training. A break in the weather saw the staff and students pack and break camp, only to be lashed by rain and hail as we made our way back on to the main range walking track. The hail quickly gave way to wind gusts of up to 90 kilometres an hour as the group negotiated their way to the summit of Mt Twynam.

The students made the call that standing on some of the highest peaks in Australia was not the most ideal place to be during the prevailing conditions, so the decision to descend to the valley below was made and off we all went towards Illawong Hut.

The hut which is just a few kilometres from our exit point at Guthega, provided safe refuge for the group. The afternoon was spent in weather conditions which could not have been any more different from the morning we experienced. The sun was out and the staff and students used the down time to read, sleep and relax by the small stream that passed by the hut.

Day 4 saw the group negotiating the trail that follows the Snowy River back to Guthega Village and the comfort of our waiting mini bus. It really was a delight to spend four days with this inspiring group of young people. Not every 17 or 18 year old is prepared to take up the challenge provided by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, but for those who do, they take from their involvement a range of “experiences that last a lifetime”.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23)
**NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM**

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

**In 2015 the following vaccines will be offered:**

- **Year 7 students***
  - dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
  - varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
  - human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)

- **Year 11-12 students***
  - measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine as a single dose as part of a catch-up vaccination program for students who are not fully protected.

* The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child’s school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and (for female students only) link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

**FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL**

“It has been a wonderful start to the new school year here in the JS @ SAS!”

Anna Carswell
Head of Junior School

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year here in the JS @ SAS! Whilst the numbers are smaller than last year, the students have taken to the new atmosphere like ducks to water. Yes, it will seem a little different, yes, some of their friends may no longer be at SAS, but what I have seen in the classrooms already is exciting! It truly will be a year of wonderful opportunities for these students.

I would like to welcome the students who have entered ‘big school’ this year, our Kindergarten students. I wish them and their families a wonderful first year at school. I extend that welcome to our new SAS families. Wishing you too a great start to the year and welcome to the SAS family.

As I mentioned, I am most grateful to the JS families that supported us throughout the events of last year. Thank you, your support is much appreciated.

My newsletter articles will be based on introducing and developing the skills that students in the 21st Century require to be successful life-long learners. There will be items from JS classes each newsletter, so that the students’ work and achievements will be showcased. The launch of the class websites will also provide opportunities for the showcasing of student work, which is very exciting, as will the School’s Facebook and Twitter sites.

*All in all, let’s make 2015 a exciting year!*
What your Child Needs from You

On Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm at Nowra Christian School an exciting speaker, Dr Justin Coulson, will be conducting a Workshop on “What your Child Needs from You”.

Justin comes highly recommended from other schools and parents. In this Workshop, Justin takes you from confusion to clarity. Combining through the past several decades of parenting research and literature, Justin will share the three essential keys to get to the heart of raising a happy child and creating a connected family.

How to build a strong connection with your children

The key to creating a strong connection to your child is being emotionally present. You’ll learn how to really be present in a busy world. This could be the single most important key to creating a high level of success and wellbeing in your child.

How to really understand your child

You’ll discover the secrets to really understand your child’s emotional world. Learn proven and practical strategies that will increase your child’s emotional security and feelings of worth, and help them regulate their emotions more easily.

Proven discipline strategies that teach

Make life easier for yourself and your child by learning a whole new way of teaching him/her the best way to act. No more resorting to threats, bribes or rewards just simple, proven ways to teach good ways to behave.

Who is it for?

Mums, Dads and anyone who is responsible for the raising of a child.

What can I expect if I participate?

• Solutions to the parenting problems that are driving you crazy
• Effective discipline strategies where you can stop being the drill sergeant
• A better relationship with your children (and other relationships will get better too!)
• Better understanding of your child’s emotional world
• A happier home where everyone looks forward to being together.

SAS parents are welcome to attend.

Kid’s Alive!!!

Kid’s Alive is for children in primary school (k-6) and has been running for over ten years. Kid’s Alive enjoy various activities including, games, cooking, craft and much more. In addition to being a lot of fun, our vibrant program also helps kid’s develop healthy self esteem and life skills, plus the chance to make new friends and connect with various community groups (in the past we have been visited by the Shoalhaven Zoo, Rural Fire Service, the Police, and local Ambulance officers). Another benefit enjoyed at Kid’s Alive is learning about God’s love and how he has a plan and purpose for every person. Every kid is welcome!

Who can come: all kid’s in years k-6.

When: every Tuesday afternoon, 5pm-6:30pm

Where: Milton Ulladulla Baptist Church (Matron Porter Dr Narrawallee)

Cost: $3 per child or $6 per family

Want more info: please contact Pastor Justin Ratcliffe or Jenny Webb on 4455 5322, or www.mubc.org.au

Attention babies, Attention Pre-schoolers, Attention Parents... its Play Group Time!

All mums, dads, carers and grandparents are invited to be part of playgroup at the Milton Ulladulla Baptist Church. We meet every Thursday morning and have a wonderful time playing, making craft, singing, morning tea, and we always finish with story time. Playgroup is a wonderful time for both children and adults (it is often hard to tell who enjoys it more—the children or the adults).

When: Thursday mornings.

Time: 9:30-11:30 (but arrive when you can and leave when you need to)

Where: Milton Ulladulla Baptist Church (Matron Porter Drive)

Cost: $2

(and please bring a piece of fruit to share and it will be added to the morning tea).

Please note that we are a peanut free facility, so please do not bring peanuts or peanut products.

Want more info: please phone Pastor Justin or Danielle Ratcliffe on 4455 5322.