

**JUNIOR SCHOOLING THANKSGIVING NIGHT
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOLING ADDRESS
NOVEMBER 2008**

Welcome!

Good evening and welcome to the Official Party, including; Ms Jennifer Rankine Member for Wright, Deputy Chairman of the College Board, Reverend Dr Malcolm McArthur, Board members, our College Principal, Dr Eddie Groughan, families and friends of the Junior Schooling Campus and our wonderful R-5 students.

Tonight in this our Junior Schooling Thanksgiving Service 2008, we come together to celebrate the many gifts and blessings we have received from our loving God throughout this school year.

2008 has been another action packed year given a range of advancements in various areas. Some of which include:

- the installation of five additional interactive whiteboards deployed to classrooms.
- the continued development of LEAP through the initiatives developed by Ms Julie Bruce as Coordinator of LEAP; including, specialised speech intervention for students in Reception and where possible LEAP programs, continue to support students within the context of the classroom, so as to reaffirm each student's sense of belonging amongst their peers.
- as a staff we continue to review and refine our curriculum, to ensure that it is both dynamic and student centred. During this term teaching staff have visited a range of schools including state, independent, single gender and co-educational with a view to further developing a sense of inquiry based learning in 2009.
- Given this year's allocated increase in Music and P.E our passionate specialists have been able offer more for our students within their specialist area. In Music, Mr Mark DeLaine and Miss Fiona Bailey-Wiggins have introduced a Junior Schooling singing group and commenced the exciting introduction of the Year 5 Band Program. In 2009, there will be further increase in Music, which will be provided by Miss Fiona Bailey Wiggins, to cater for our ever expanding R-12 Music Program.
- In P.E Mr Heath Perry has been able to facilitate additional time for P.E classes R-5 and coordinate a specialised gross motor program for our younger students. This provision of a full time specialist program for both Music and P.E has been of great benefit to the learning development of our children.
- In 2008 our College Community has embraced the commencement of Mr John Morton as College Chaplain. Already in his first year at Pedare, Mr Morton is a friendly and familiar face to our students, providing them with important pastoral support and also assisting in the development of the overall spiritual and pastoral life of the Junior School.
- After many months of watching the exciting transformation of our campus with an upgraded car park and a new building, the relocation to the new Administration Centre occurred on Monday 18th August.

This new facility is a wonderful milestone in the life of the College; and one which evoked great interest from our little treasures, who wanted to get a sense of the new First Aid areas as soon as possible!

Special thanks to our College Board, including our College Principal and Business Manager for their continued support and strategic planning of this project. Over many months there has been significant involvement occurring behind the scenes. In particular I wish to acknowledge the untiring support and contribution of Mr David Baker throughout this project. As the College Board's representative on this project, Mr Baker's leadership and wealth of experience has been of utmost assistance to the College.

As the year draws to a close we look forward to the commencement of the Resource Centre redevelopment, which will include a restructure of the existing space and an external upgrade.

Staffing Changes for 2009

2008 has been a wonderful year in the life of the Junior Campus, given a dedicated staff team, willing to provide an increasing range of learning opportunities for our students. Many thanks to all of our staff, both teaching and non-teaching; we are very blessed to have a staff team who are untiring in their care for students and families, willingly share their gifts and talents, and approach each day with dedication and commitment.

In 2009 there will only be a few staffing changes:

- Mrs Belinda Mountford will be on leave during 2009 and we wish her well throughout the coming year.
- Mrs Sarah McLoughlin will be on maternity leave throughout 2009; we wish Mrs McLoughlin every blessing during this exciting new phase of her life journey - for those members of our community who have had the opportunity to get to know Mrs McLoughlin, I am sure you will agree that Mrs McLoughlin's baby is very lucky indeed to have such a lovely person to call 'mum'.
- Mrs Christie Corbett is returning from maternity leave in 2009 and will work in conjunction with Mrs Ey, enabling Mrs Ey to fulfill her Coordinator of Curriculum responsibilities and we congratulate both Ms Jessica London and Ms Emily Shaw who have been appointed to permanent positions in 2009.

In particular tonight, I would like to give special acknowledgement to Dr Groughan our College Principal. As a College community of staff, students and parents we are very fortunate to be led by Dr Groughan who is untiring in his endeavours, in making Pedare the best possible learning environment for the most important people here; our students. Thank you Dr Groughan for your wonderful leadership and for the many ways that you are bringing vision to reality at Pedare.

Student Efforts

This term our staff have worked particularly hard to complete student Semester Two reports a few weeks earlier than usual, giving parents an opportunity to clarify any aspects of the Semester Two report if needed. Semester Two reports will be sent home with students tomorrow and we certainly hope that parents find this timing helpful in celebrating all that your children have achieved this year.

In our SHINE Expectations E stands for 'Expect to be successful; try your best'.

During this Thanksgiving Service we celebrate this next stage of learning for each of these students. As a College community we look forward to seeing these children continue to grow and develop in our learning environment at Pedare; not just how they progress academically, but also their social/emotional development.

From the time a child is born, they are immersed in their home learning environment and as they grow each critical stage of their development, presents them with new challenges and new opportunities, whether it be learning how to walk, or talk; learning how to share, learning how to read or learning the value of persistence, each opportunity for learning presents both its positives and its challenges.

At Pedare children continue to learn more about the value of belonging, how to make friends, how to be a friend, how to manage difficult situations, they also learn that there are many things that they are good at and that learning opportunities can be fun and that mistakes provide valuable learning experiences and feedback about how to do things differently next time. These experiences are both important in developing how they feel about themselves and in developing resilience. Importantly all experiences enable children to develop their understanding about who they are and what they are capable of, as they grow and develop as a child of God. Looking at our Receptions tonight it is extraordinary to think about all of the learning and growing they will show during their time at Junior Schooling.

Tonight I would like to thank one particular cohort of students who have certainly been letting their light shine since Reception. I refer to our Year 5 students.

Year 5s as this is your last Thanksgiving as a student of the Junior Schooling Campus, I hope that you take with you to Middle Schooling a sense of PRIDE in who you are and all that you have achieved in Junior Schooling. I also want to thank each of you for all that you have contributed to our Junior Campus over the years. It has been a privilege to watch you grow and develop and share with you both your joys and your challenges.

Not to mention the encouragement you have shown me at different times, especially the comment at a Year 3 camp orientation activity when a student was so impressed with my leadership that they said, 'Ms D'Angelo, you should be a teacher'.

I wish you all every blessing for the future and look forward to hearing how your learning journey continues to progress throughout your years in Middle and Senior Schooling.

A special thank you to Mr Justin Henriks and Miss Jessica London who have been our outstanding Year 5 teachers this year.

Final Comments

There have been numerous occasions this year where I have been in awe of the generosity of parents and volunteers who have willingly contributed their time, energy and resources for the well being of our students. Some of this support has included classroom support, assistance on special days such as sports day, assistance in the Library, LEAP and Canteen help and of course the Friends of Music. Thank you to all parents for your support during 2008.

A tremendous celebration such as this is only possible because of the hard work and attention to detail of staff and students working together. Thank you to Mrs Bernadette Mullen-Davey, Mr Mark DeLaine, Mr Justin Henriks, Ms Deborah Hansen and Mrs Liz Morgan, our student leaders who have been our MCs, and all students who are involved tonight; thank you to all of you for creating such a wonderful celebration.

Christmas is a time when we acknowledge and celebrate God's love for us through the birth of His Son Jesus, it is also an opportunity for us to reflect upon the ways in which God's love and hope influences our daily life. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas I wish all families a safe, peaceful, joyous, and loving Christmas season and look forward to working in partnership with you for the benefit of your wonderful children again in 2009.