



KILLARA DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

PROVIDING CHRISTIAN SRE AT KILLARA HIGH SCHOOL



TERM 1, 2017

Easter is fast approaching, and every year, my church celebrates by gathering together at Dee Why Headland to watch the sun set on Friday night and the sunrise on Sunday morning. I love this opportunity to reflect on what God has done and what God is doing. It is such a special time, and a deeply reflective one.



May Easter be such a rich time of reflection for you, too! I am thanking God for our work at Killara High. Please be thankful for what God has done and is doing through our SRE ministry and our investment in the school community.

Year 7 and Year 8

This year, in Terms 1 and 2, Year 7 and Year 8 explore 'The Grand Story of the Bible', focusing on the themes of Scripture and the person of Jesus. We've explored 'beginnings', 'humanity's connection and separation' and 'God's promises', and next term, we'll explore more of the biblical narrative, learning about 'God's initiatives through covenants and kings', how 'God is with us' in Christ, and more about 'the Age to come'. This course is designed thematically, exploring the key themes of the Bible through the person and perspective of Christ. I've been so inspired by the contributions of our students this term, especially from our new cohort. They are a

wonderfully enthusiastic group! As always, our teachers facilitate this so well. We've kept encouraging our students to return to Luke 24 to think about how Christ explained himself *through* the Scriptures:



An enormous thank you to our wonderful teachers: Rachel, Annika, Rachael, Mike and Luke who generously give up their time to facilitate classes. We'd also like to extend a special thanks to our newest teachers Rachael Perry and Annika Williams. We are grateful for their time, commitment and expertise with our newest SRE groups. Thank you!

Year 10

This term, we revised a Think Faith unit that our Year 10 cohort missed in the new implementation of this CEP curriculum in 2016. These students learnt the 'Understanding the Bible' unit, developing their skills in critical thinking. Our volunteer teachers have facilitated this brilliantly. We've raised various questions: What is the text we're consulting? Is it factual? How is it used? What does it mean? We designed these classes with the specific intention of preparing our students for the more robust discussions about faith and life that start to happen in the late teen years. Students have been challenged to develop their own opinions and perspectives, exploring basic questions and thinking critically:

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this lesson...

- We focus on **truth**:
 - How do we know that the story of Jesus is **true**?
 - Are the accounts **reliable**?

We've also experimented with new technology, which has proved to be a wonderful and engaging opportunity for our Year 10 students. Students have keenly tested their knowledge with **Kahoots** using their personal devices, and bravely explored the ancient sites using Google's **Virtual Reality Expeditions**. I've been asked to write about this technology specifically on the Killara BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Learning Hub blog. So watch this space! (www.killarabyod.com.au)

Students have loved these fun and interactive learning opportunities, and we are looking to continue to implement these technologies in our future curricula.



Google



Year 10 SRE classes will continue in Term 2 with a study of Ecclesiastes, before we shift over to the Year 9 cohort in Terms 3 and 4.

We will continue to use and apply the CEP Youthworks *Think Faith* Curriculum which we've found to be relevant and engaging. Read more at: <http://oursre.org.au/content/oursre-curriculum/>

Seminars

We were so honoured to have the wonderful Eliza – Advocacy Coordinator at Baptist World Aid – return to us from Baptist World Aid. Eliza and I ran a seminar last year for our senior students, and we were thrilled to organise another seminar together for 2017. Eliza engaged our senior students in a thoughtful discussion on exploitation, poverty and advocacy. We explored God's heart for justice and thought critically about the ways in which Christians engage in God's world. Students were asked to participate in various advocacy activities like consulting reports, communicating with their favourite brands and reading stories about workers, which all inspired them to advocate for those who cannot speak. Eliza was absolutely engaging and the students were fascinated by her work and her heart for justice and Christ. Thank you Eliza and the team at Baptist World Aid for advocating for the powerless, and including us in your plight for justice. It is such a privilege to continue to partner with you.

TAG (Talking About God) lunchtime group



We've met, we've discussed and we've eaten a lot of chips! We've had an inspiring pair of young people commit to our group, and we are in prayer that it grows and becomes a space for many to gather and talk about life, faith and belief in God. This term, we've explored Scripture Union's introduction materials on faith. The topics have included 'prayer', 'reading the bible', 'God's love', 'What it means to be a Christian' and 'Christian community'. It's been great to get inspired, to pray for our youth groups and to think of others. Please do pray that more students come! It's a wonderful and encouraging space that's welcome to all. It's been a great term!

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Meet the new Year 7's!

Earlier in the term, I joined the Year 7 camp at Galston's Vision Valley. It was a fabulous opportunity to meet and connect with our new students. I was thrilled to be invited and had many opportunities to bless and encourage this cohort of fabulous and energetic students, and also to support the teachers.

Prayer:

- There are lots of things I hope and pray for our SRE ministry this year. I hope that students will feel welcomed and noticed in our classrooms, I hope that many would feel comfortable to share and challenge their personal journeys of faith and life and God, and above all, I hope that we would be a light to the entire school "sharing the hope we have" "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). I love working with our students, and I love hearing their stories of hope. God is still at work doing wonderful things.
- It's been a challenging start to the year with policy revisions and rule changes, but God has made a way for us to remain, to teach and to love Killara High School. Please do continue to pray for us and our ministry.
- Again, pray and thank our SRE teachers who volunteer their time to teach our classes. May they have a wonderful break over the Easter holidays
- Pray for the wider school community, that they would be so blessed by us and all God is doing at Killara High School

A practical point for prayer and consideration: we are still looking for casual SRE teachers to support our current teachers during the school term. SRE classes run on Wednesday mornings and we are looking for available and willing volunteers who could relieve our classes on a casual basis. Please contact me if you are interested! And of course, pray!

Bless you in this rich time of reflecting over Easter.



Renee Evans

KDCEA Staff Worker / SRE Coordinator

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Treasurer's Report

With the generous support of our members and friends we finished our December 2016 year end with a surplus. We are again grateful to God for the giving hearts of our supporters who understand the important work that is taking place at Killara High. We are blessed with the enthusiastic work that Renee and her team are doing in presenting Jesus to our youth. There can be few things more important than giving our young people a firm Christian foundation as they start out in life. By supporting KDCEA you are making this possible. The support of our members and friends has continued into 2017 with half of our financial support having been received.

Derek Cornelius

KDCEA Treasurer

Chairperson's Report

KDCEA has made a successful start to 2017. We held our commencement service and Annual General Meeting at St Alban's Church, Lindfield on Sunday 19th March. We are grateful to the members who were able to join us and St Alban's church for hosting us. It was good to be able to meet and talk to our supporters and members of the St Alban's congregation.

As you can see from this newsletter, the work of KDCEA continues to flourish under Renee's leadership. This is a challenging time for SRE in many ways. But we intend to continue to provide a professional and engaging SRE programme at Killara High School.

We are most grateful to our member churches and personal members who support us so generously. As noted at the AGM, we would benefit from having more personal members and churches with representatives on the committee of management. Please pray for this outcome and encourage those interested to join us.

James Cox

KDCEA Chairperson

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Positions Vacant

KDCEA Publicity Officer
Relief SRE Teachers

Thanks to our Partner Churches:

All Saints Anglican Church West (Lindfield)
East Killara Uniting Church
*Gordon Baptist Church**
Killara Uniting Church
*LifeSource Christian Church (Willoughby)**
Lindfield Evangelical Free Church
Lindfield Uniting Church
*Philadelphia Anglican Church (Killara)**
*Salvation Church (Pymble)**
St Alban's Anglican Church (Lindfield)
*St John the Evangelist Anglican Church (Gordon)**
*St Luke's Presbyterian Church (Roseville)**
*St Martin's Anglican Church (Killara)**
St Peter's Anglican Church (East Lindfield)

*We are seeking representatives from these churches: please contact us if you are interested.

And to our supporting Churches:

Metropolitan Baptist Church (Lane Cove West)
Evangelical Free Church of Australia (East Lindfield)
St Andrew's Anglican Church (Roseville)



*May you have a blessed Easter! From:
Killara District Christian Education Association*

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