

# KILLARA DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

PROVIDING CHRISTIAN SRE AT KILLARA HIGH SCHOOL



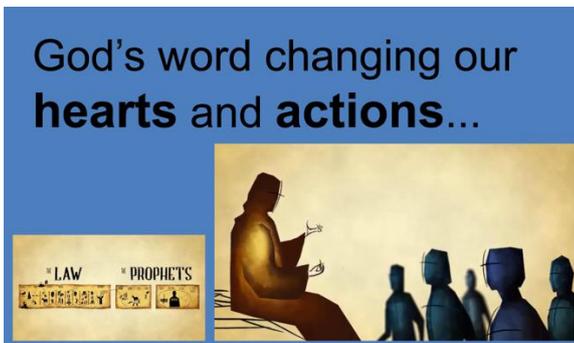
## TERM 4, 2016

I can't believe we're nearing the end of the Term 4 with students and staff and Killara High School! It's been a fabulous year. We've implemented new curriculum at 56 SRE classes and we've connected with many students over 37 Friday lunchtime groups in 2016. Thank you for partnering with us!

We are grateful for your prayer and encouragement! "May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:11-13).

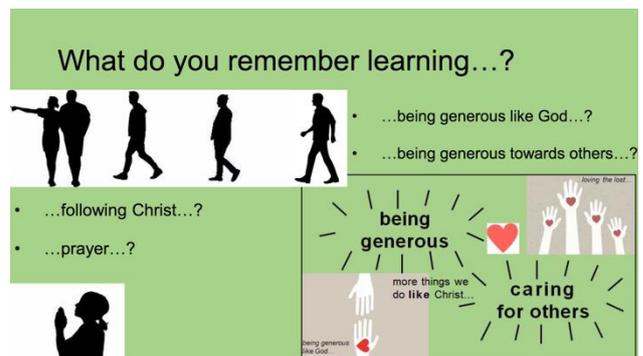
### Year 7 and Year 8

Our Year 7 and Year 8 classes explored the very broad topic: What is the bible? This unit was focused around many questions: What is the text we have been consulting? Is it fact? Is it reliable? What is its story and message? Why do people read it? and How do people use it? Students made brilliant contributions to our discussions, learning about the organisation of the bible, Scripture's overarching story, some themes and genres, the historicity of the gospels and finally, the impact of the Word of God on individuals and communities. We traversed various subjects, and students shared an inspiring renewed appreciation for the biblical story.



### Year 9

Our Year 9 cohort explored the topic: What does it mean to follow Christ? We consulted the second part of Luke's gospel to learn from how Jesus taught his disciples to follow him. What did this look like? It looked like trust and thankfulness, prayer and generosity. Students deliberated on the differences of following political leaders and following individuals on Instagram. They moved through this unit inquisitively and thoughtfully and asked honest and brilliant questions.



To the question of *What does it mean to follow Christ*, one student responded: "It means to love him, to follow him, to trust him with your life and to follow his teachings, to respect everyone and to treat everyone as your equal. To follow God is to devote your life to him and to give him your all." How encouraging! It's such a pleasure to come alongside students as they explore faith. Thank you to our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 teachers who similarly come alongside students. They have thoughtfully and prayerfully given up their hours each week to teach our SRE classes – thank you for inspiring faith amongst our young people.

We will continue using the Youthworks *Think Faith* Curriculum in 2017. We've found this to be a relevant and engaging resource. Read more at: <http://oursre.org.au/content/oursre-curriculum/>

KDCEA

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## Seminars

Our theme for the Year 11 /12 Seminar this Term was everyday life and faith. We had the privilege of having our Scripture Union representative Adam Smyth as well as musicians and music students Ella Sterland and Josh Long, sharing their personal journeys of faith and their commitment to God in the period of their life after school. This group were full of questions about what faith looks like for 17 and 18 year olds, what they wished they knew when they were in Year 12, and when faith has been difficult as Christians. Following a panel discussion on "the everyday faith" of Adam, Josh and Ella, Adam elaborated on his own testimony, how he came to faith, and eventually what led him to work at Scripture Union. Adam's work involves supporting ISCF groups in High School's, including ours! Adam's been an incredible support to us, and it was wonderful to have him visiting. Students were also thrilled about the prospect of having Ella and Josh visit us again next year to share their worship music and their testimonies. We were so grateful to have them join us!

## TAG (Talking About God) lunchtime group



It's been another wonderful term of TAG lunchtime groups. This term we prayed the Psalms! Students shared their favourite Psalms and we spoke about what we learnt about God and ourselves through them. Then, we got to writing our own Psalms! We incorporated our own narrative, our emotions and our fears into the structure of our favourite Psalms. This was a wonderful creative exercise, involving everyone in the theme of praying *with* the Psalms. Amazingly, students felt comfortable and confident enough to share their Psalms. We learnt so much about God, one another and ourselves. Praise God for wonderful lunchtime groups, a safe space for students to converse about life, faith and God.

## Commencing Year 7, 2017

We are really excited to welcome a new group of students! Please encourage the Year 7 parents and carers you know to nominate Protestant SRE for their Scripture stream. Our teachers and I would love to welcome new friendly faces to our classes. If

there is any way I can assist in the (sometimes challenging, albeit exciting!) transition into High School, please don't hesitate to email me. I would love to assist in any way possible! We'd also love to encourage new students to our Friday lunchtime group, a wonderful space to meet new Christian students from all Year groups. We'd love to make your child feel so welcome to Killara High School.

Please pray:

- For our commencing Year 7 students in 2017, that their transition is smooth and that they feel so welcomed at Killara High School
- For our students starting Year 12, that God would strengthen and encourage them in their studies this coming year.
- For our graduated cohort of Year 12 students 2015-16, that they would have a great peace about their marks and that God would prepare them for their plans for next year.
- For students who regularly visit TAG, that they would continue to be so encouraged in faith, and also for students considering TAG, may God give them the boldness to come and visit.
- For staff and students, for safe and happy holidays, and a Christmas time that reminds them of God's great light.
- For our SRE teachers, and partner churches, that they would be so blessed in their partnership with us!

Again, pray and thank our SRE teachers who volunteer their time to teach our classes. May they have a wonderful (and well deserved!) break. Please note: we are still looking for casual SRE teachers to support our current teachers during the school term in 2017. SRE classes run on Friday 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!

It's a pleasure to share Christ at Killara, thank you for all of your prayers for me! Let's continue to partner together to make His great love known.



**Renee Evans**

KDCEA Staff Worker /SRE Co-ordinator

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## Treasurer's Report

This year, we have again been blessed by the very generous support of our members and friends. The last three months, though, have been particularly quiet with very little donor support being received. Your committee has been active in supplementing our income with two fund raising events which raised \$2285. We try to use our funds wisely and have been able to arrange events with outside Christian organisations which have helped to stimulate excitement among students about SRE. These events unfortunately do come with a cost. We would therefore ask our supporters, where they are able to, to consider financial support for KDCEA as Christmas approaches.

**Derek Cornelius**

KDCEA Treasurer

## Chairperson's Report

2016 has been a successful year for KDCEA. As described in this newsletter, Renee Evans and her team of volunteers have faithfully taught the word of God at Killara High School and have maintained a consistent and welcomed Christian presence at the school. I would like to thank my colleagues on the KDCEA committee for their faithful service and wise counsel during the year, and our partner churches and all our supporters for their prayers and assistance during 2016. Above all, I would like to thank Renee Evans for her commitment and enthusiasm. Please continue to support us and pray for us as we continue this important work in 2017. Also, please accept my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

**James Cox**

KDCEA Chairperson

## Positions Vacant

KDCEA Secretary

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)*

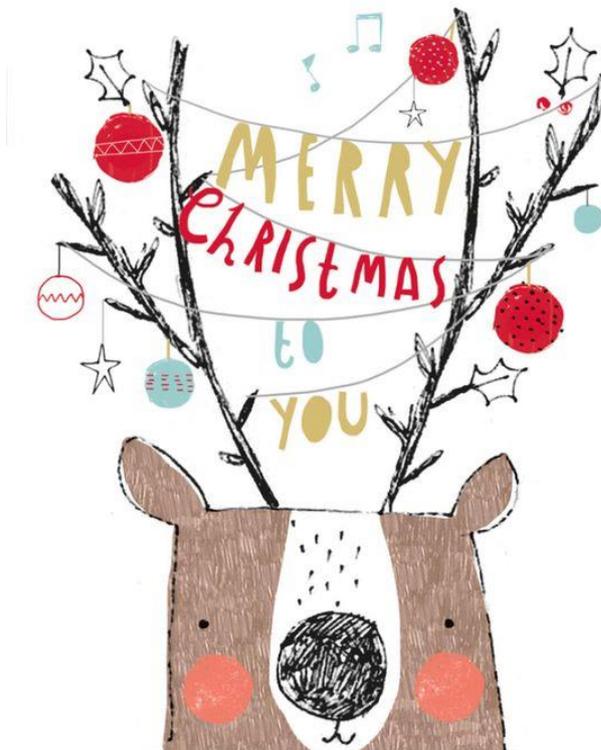
*St Martin's Anglican Church (Killara)*

*St Peter's Anglican Church (East Lindfield)*

## And to our supporting Churches:

*Metropolitan Baptist Church (Lane Cove West)*

*St Andrew's Anglican Church (Roseville)*



May you have a blessed Christmas! See you in 2017.

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