Our need to know and extend grace …

“In 1987, an IRA bomb buried Gordon Wilson and his twenty-year-old daughter beneath five feet of rubble. Gordon alone survived. And forgave. He said of the bombers, ‘I have lost my daughter, but I bear no grudge … I shall pray, tonight and every night, that God will forgive them.’

His words caught the media’s ear – and out of one man’s grief the world got a glimpse of grace.

Grace is the church’s distinctive. It’s the one thing the world cannot duplicate and the one thing it craves above all else – for only grace can bring hope and transformation to a jaded world” (Phillip Yancy).

It is hard to imagine the response of Gordon Wilson, but prayer is an orienting act – an event like the one experienced by Wilson would have turned his world upside down, disorienting and creating confusion and anxiety. We lose our place momentarily but prayer restores us and reorients us to remember what God has done for us and to extend grace. At times this can be challenging and just plain hard.

Yet Psalm 8 is a reminder to us of God’s great love for us and how he values us:

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.
Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, o silence the foe and the avenger.
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:
all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Grace is unmerited favour something we really don’t deserve yet the Son of God extended grace to us when He died to save us from our sin. It is good to remember again, and again what God the Father has done for us and to extend that grace to others.
Meet the Teacher Evening – Thank you

These evenings are an important communication opportunity for a successful learning year between home and school. We appreciate so many parents who took the time to come. A special thank you also to Debra Walls our Principal, who took the time to visit each class. Thank you so much.

Class Handouts have been prepared for those parents who were unable to attend. Please ask your child’s class teacher for a copy.

Head of School Awardees plus Cupcakes, Chat and Celebrate!

We congratulate the following students for achieving the Head of School awards for this week:

- Mitchell Ryan, 1MM; Marcus Haig, 1PB; Ethan Taylor, 1SM;
- Ryder Mitchell, 2B; Samantha Bourke, 2D; Lachlan Roach, 2W;
- Sophee Uzelac, 3P; Bryce Turner, 3W; Bailey Wengi, 3/4D;
- Daniel de Lore, 4H; Mikalah Strickling, 4S; Glori Pembroke, 5B;
- Stella Newman, 5L; Lachlan Duggan, 5/6L; Ben Sheather, 6M

and Ella O’Keeffe, 6P.

Beginning on Thursday 4 February, awardees are invited to a special morning tea, hosted by Mrs Walls, Mrs Stowe, Stage Co-ordinators and Mrs Paterson, in front of the canteen. This will continue each Thursday, after the Wednesday Chapel certificate awards.

Congratulations to our Junior School House Captains and Vice Captains for 2016

1 Corinthians 9:24 “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.” Let the race begin for 2016! Please see page 5 (Sport Section) for a full list of House Captains/Vice Captains. Let the race begin for 2016!

Friday 5 February – Primary Sports Carnival (Years 3-6)
Mingara Aquatic Centre 9:00am - 3:00pm

Year 2 children who are competitive swimmers, are welcome to join this carnival as well. We want to remind families that the Swimming Carnival is a normal school day and full day participation is an expectation. Relays, parent/teacher/student races and novelty races are all held in the afternoon. We hope to finish the Carnival day with the announcement of the winning team! We love to see parents attending, cheering on the students. You might even want to join the parent/teacher/student challenge race. Bonus House points will be awarded.

Uniforms - Thank you to all our families who have sent children to school in the correct uniforms, including white joggers for sport. This week we have noticed many children wearing excessively bright coloured sport shoes. Teachers will be addressing this in classes and asking parents to replace these with predominantly white sports shoes or muted colour as per our uniform requirements.

Please see Alex Ritchie in the uniform shop if you need assistance finding retail outlets selling white joggers.

Grade Parent Meeting – Friday 12 February, 9:00am – 10:00am in the Staff Common Room

I am so looking forward to meeting our Grade Parent Representatives. Please join myself, Debra Walls and Julie Stowe as we launch 2016 with a morning tea together.

Computer Coding Club with Mr Turner on Thursdays at Lunchtime.

Parents if you are not sure what this is, your children (Our Digital Natives) will probably know. Years 5 and 6 students are invited to join Mr Turner in Mrs Munro’s room each Thursday lunch time. They need to eat their lunch first and then take their laptops with them. If the interest level is high, we can start Computer Coding Clubs for younger grades as well. Thank you so much Mr Turner.

Junior School Choir (Years 1-6) Wednesday Morning 8.00am in the CAPA rooms

We invite all budding singers to join Mrs Munro each Wednesday morning. What a great way to start the day!

Chess Club Monday Lunch Time: 1.15pm – 2.00pm (Years 2-6)

Chess classes are run by the Sydney Academy of Chess and can be booked online at www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au at the cost of $64 for Term 1. The classes start next Monday 8 February. Mrs Peterson from 3P is our contact person here at school if you need further information.

Communication between the school and home is vital in our partnership.

To ensure we can contact you in the case of an emergence, please do update your data immediately if anything has changed via email: office@gpcc.nsw.edu.au

Please feel welcome to make an appointment to speak with myself if there are issues or celebrations that arise during the year. We are in partnership together, for the benefit of our precious students.

Blessings, Kerry Paterson
Mr Peter McLellan
Head of Secondary School

It is great to have the new year under way. My prayer is that we will have a productive and peaceful year. I would like to highlight a number of things to remember:

1) The Messenger is one of our primary methods of getting information out to parents. Please read it to keep up with all the happenings that occur during the year. It can be accessed from our web page.

2) Year Advisors are usually the group of people you need to contact if your child is experiencing problems at the College. These dedicated people are: Year 7 - Mrs Rachael Wilesmith, Year 8 - Mr Paul Chambers, Year 9 - Mrs Kerrie Rochford, Year 10 - Mrs Rebecca Gavin, Year 11 - Mr Jay Brown, Year 12 - Mr Keith Mills.

3) Detentions must be attended by a student who has stepped outside the boundaries of the College and we really need parent support in the implementation. Detentions are not given out without careful consideration and the desire to influence change in a student.

4) Uniform Policy must be adhered to during the year. Students are expected to be dressed correctly when they arrive at school wearing the correct uniform in an appropriate manner. A student may only wear the sports uniform on a day they have practical PDHPE or PASS. Please note that girls’ hair is to be tied back in Years 7-10 and boys’ hair if long, needs to be tied back in Years 7-12. This is all day.

5) Parent/Teacher Night – 23 February for Years 7 and 12. Further information will be directed out in the newsletter regarding instructions for booking appointments. Bookings will open on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

6) Class Placements – as the year commences many students will be changed in their classes. This is done with consideration of their performance and ability, as well as other factors. We try to the best of our ability to place students in classes that will enable them to achieve their best. We have limited capacity to move students at the start of the year. Classes are reviewed throughout the course of the year.

7) Attendance: School starts at 8:45am and students need to be in class on time. They must sign in at the College Office if they arrive late but this should be an exception, not the rule. If a student needs to leave the College for any reason they must have parental written permission and sign out at the back window of the College Office before they leave.

It is very important that students are not late because it affects their own learning and disrupts lessons when they enter a settled classroom late.

Year 7 Camp (10-12 February)
Next week is our Year 7 Camp, a time of fun where students really get connected with each other. It will be a great experience for all.

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 on the following dates:

Year 7 students: *1st visit – Tuesday 23 February, 2nd visit – Wednesday 18 May, 3rd visit – Monday 12 September.

Year 8 students who missed any of the HPV Vaccinations last year will be able to have catch up vaccinations on the above dates.

• *dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) as a single dose
• varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
• human papilloma virus HPV) vaccine in a three 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)

Parent Information Kits for Year 7 will be sent home to parents/guardians during Week 3. To consent to the vaccination of your child, you are advised to:

Read all the information provided;

Complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s you would like your child to receive;

Return the completed consent form to the College; no vaccine will be given unless there is a consent form signed by the parent/guardian.

Ensure that your 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 Principal. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

Students will have the opportunity to catch up on 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 your 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.
Our vision at the College is to see our students grow in their love for God, which is demonstrated through loving and serving others. For this reason we will continue to encourage our students to be involved in the wide range of mission and service activities that will be on offer throughout the year. Examples of possible missions and service opportunities include:

**Our Jerusalem:** The College and Green Point Baptist Church
- Lunchtime Bible Study groups
- Prayer at the Pole
- Backyard Blitz
- Youth Camps

**Our Judea and Samaria:** The Central Coast
- Scripture teaching in local Primary schools
- Leading prayer and Chapel at local Nursing Homes
- Serving meals at Coast Shelter
- Bringing Christmas message via Carols at Erina Fair

**Our ends of the earth:** Regional Australia and the rest of the World
- Indigenous Outback Link (Year 9 boys)
- Hope Vale Indigenous Outreach (Year 9 girls)
- Samaritan's Purse mission
- Fundraising for Samaritan's Purse education projects
- 40 Hour Famine
- Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Below is some information about a new initiative called “Heart 4 Service”. Mrs Justine Collins will be providing direction and support for this fantastic program which will make a significant impact in the lives of our students as well as those they serve.

**“Heart 4 Service” Program**

This term the College will be introducing a new initiative called “Heart 4 Service”. We are seeking to encourage all students in Years 3-12 to serve, whether in our College, our local community or overseas in response to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Service demonstrates our understanding of God’s grace expressed through Christ. Service expresses our love, care for and support of others.

*“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28*

Aims – The aims of “Heart 4 Service” include:

- To encourage and engage students in Years 3-12 to participate in service activities within our College and/or wider community;
- To encourage students to be aware of and identify with the needs in the College, local community and broader national and overseas communities;
- To engage students to reflect on their feelings about service and the injustices and disadvantage suffered by many;
- To establish skills and a long term commitment to service.

In Junior School the focus will mainly be on serving in our College community. Secondary School students are able to serve within our College community, as well as extending their service into the local community and overseas communities.

All parents have been emailed a letter outlining our new “Heart 4 Service” program. We look forward to introducing this new initiative at Green Point Christian College this term and encouraging our students to develop a heart for service. If you have any questions, please contact Justine Collins in the College office or email jcollins@gpcc.nsw.edu.au.

Mrs Justine Collins
Supervisor of Service
Water Polo

Congratulations to Cerys O’Grady-Cousins (Year 9) who was represented the Central Coast in the U/16 State Water Polo Championships held on 28 - 29 January in Orange.

Junior School House Captains 2016

**EUA EAGLES**
Captains: Zoe Kongonis, Brock Symington  
Vice Captains: Lauren Goodey, Mitchell Fyfe  
House Patron: Mr Lambert

**HA’APAI HURRICANES**
Captains: Eliana Bootes, Ronan Casey  
Vice Captains: Glori Pembroke, Rex Allwood  
House Patron: Mrs Reynolds

**TALOA WARRIORS**
Captains: Olivia Filo, Peter Read  
Vice Captains: Lacey Ezzy, Darcy Lloyd-Phillips  
House Patron: Miss Wengi

**VA’VAU BREAKERS**
Captains: Charlotte Morris, Levi Hamoni  
Vice Captains: Stella Newman, Noah Evans  
House Patron: Mrs Smith
Small changes,
Big differences.

Mental Health and Parenting Program
Are you living on the Central Coast, parenting or caring for children 2 – 12 years old? Have you experienced Mental Health Problems? Would you like to develop a better relationship with your children, as well as learn some different strategies to assist in your parenting role? Then this program may interest you.

Aim of program  To make parenting easier and more enjoyable

The program offers suggestions, ideas and practice around positive parenting techniques. There is no single “right way” to parent. In this group we will be discussing a variety of ideas and strategies.

Topics covered

- Positive Parenting – What is it?
- Possible Causes of Child Behaviour Problems
- Mental Health and Parenting
- Developing Positive Relationships with Children
- Supporting Children’s Development
- Managing Misbehaviour
- Developing Family plans

The program is FREE and consists of six weekly group sessions (3 hours) and four individual follow up home visits to help implement new strategies. The program runs each school term in either the Gosford or Wyong area.

OUR NEXT GROUP:

Dates: Thursdays 11th February – 17th March 2016
Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm
Where: Level 2
4 Watt Street
Gosford 2250 (opposite Centrelink)

Places are limited and booking is essential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK INTO ONE OF OUR GROUPS, CALL:

Ruth Phelan  4328 7350      OR        Joanna Heap     4328 7350

Children & Young People’s Mental Health
Prayer

“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

A small group of staff and parents meet each week to place College staff and families into God’s loving care. Please join us to pray on Tuesdays @ 2:00pm until 3.15pm. (Meet in the College Office). For prayer requests, please contact Ann McLellan on 0400 349 429 or fill out the blue form at the College Office reception.

Music Tutor Program

Unlock that God given gift in Music! The Tutoring Program is open again this year for interested students from the whole College (K - 12). Tuition is open for Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Violin, Singing, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Cello, Trombone, Trumpet and Drums. Any students (new and old) who wish to join the Music Tutoring program, please pick up a Registration letter for 2016, from Mr Muir in the Music Department.

College Family Directory

Each year the College makes available to parents a College Family Directory to facilitate communication within the College community. The directory contains name, address and contact number of College families. If you do not want your details published in the directory, please contact Mrs Blanche Moody on 4363-1266 or email bmoody@gpcc.nsw.edu.au.

Family Information Forms

It is important for families of new students to please complete and return the Family Information Form to the College Office as soon as possible to enable College records to be updated.

School Banking

School Banking recommences on Friday 12 February 2016.

Upcoming dates

Term 1, 2016
- Friday, 5 February
  JS Swimming Carnival
- Saturday, 6 February
  GPCC Netball Club Registration
  10:00am -11:30 outside MPC
- Monday, 8 February
  After School Drama Club
- Tuesday, 9 February
  JS After School Art Club
- Wednesday, 10 February
  Years 11 and 12 Drama Excursion to Onstage
- Friday, 12 February
  School Banking Starts

GPCC Netball Club Registration
Saturday
6 February 2016
10:00am - 11:30am
Outside the MPC
For help email:
registrargpcc@gmail.com

Green Point Baptist Church

Green Point Youth is a group of young people from across the Central Coast who meet together each week with other high-schoolers for a night of fun and adventure. It’s a place where we play big games, meet new friends, enjoy some supper and discuss issues of life and faith.

Everyone in years 7-12 is invited to come along.

We meet from 7-9pm each Friday during school term at Green Point Baptist Church in the Jacaranda Room, though we sometimes go off-site for adventures (with permission notes required.)

We’d love to see you there on Friday night. If you have any questions about GP Youth, please don’t hesitate to call GPBC’s Youth Pastor Will Richards on 0424 278 948 or email at
will@gpbc.net.au

Green Point Baptist Church
Sunday Service
9:30am
Visit: www.gpbc.net.au
Canteen Volunteers
Week 3 Term 1
Monday, 08.02.2016

Tuesday, 09.02.2016

Wednesday, 10.02.2016
Renae van Es

Thursday, 11.02.2016
Jo Summargreene

Friday, 12.02.2016
Nancy Blanch, Sue Guest

Coast Shelter Restaurant
346 Mann Street, Gosford
If you would like to be on the roster, please email office@gpbc.net.au or 0419 986 740.

6 February 2016
Volunteers from Coast Shelter

13 February 2016
OIC and Food Pickup: Penny Williams
Helpers: Alex Smith, Amy Connolly, Di Smith, Julie (with Harrison and/or Sally) Stowe, Tosca Brand, Vicki Wickert and Tony Cunningham

20 February 2016
OIC: Stephen Hay
Food Pickup: Arthur Pickersgill
Helpers: Bonnie Gardiner, Jo Schofield, Leena Pretlove, Sonia Dawes

Green Point Trader


For Sale: 2 x boys taupe trousers size 15, 2 x red GPCC ties. Good Condition. $40. Phone 0413 319 184.

For Sale: Junior Secondary School white short sleeve shirts size 14 x 2 (brand new) and size 14 x 4 (fair condition); GPCC tracksuit jacket size XS x 1 (vgc, small repairable tear); GPCC tracksuit pants size XS x 1 (new condition); GPCC black sport shorts size 12C (used, small tear); grey boys socks x 3; GPCC black peak hat 58cm x 1 (brand new) and x 1 58cm (used). All items for $50.00. Phone 0400 314 214.

For Sale: 1 x jumper size 16, 1 x tracksuit jacket size L, 1 x senior (boys) blazer size 18 (worn once). 1 x pair senior boys’ pants size mens 6XL. Selling for $100 for the lot. Phone 0438 662 241.

For Sale: Guitar and guitar bag. 6 string. Fabulous guitar for learner – intermediate. Excellent condition. $150.00 Phone 0400 314 214.

Piano Lessons at School: Beginners welcome all ages catered for. Call now and begin tomorrow. Tutor, Harry Stowe - 0423 821 940.

Piano Tuition: Piano lessons available with flexible hours at school or in Springfield. For more information contact Eleanor Campey on 0433 453 623.

Term Dates 2016

Term 1, 2016
- Wednesday 27 January 2016 (Years 1-7, 11 and 12);
- Thursday 28 January 2016 (Kinder, Years 8-10) to Friday 8 April 2016

Term 2, 2016
- Tuesday 26 April 2016 to Friday 1 July 2016

Term 3, 2016
- Monday 25 July 2016 to Friday 23 September 2016

Term 4, 2016
- Monday 10 October 2016 to Thursday 8 December 2016

Uniform Shop

Operating Times
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday during the School Term:
8:30am - 11:00am
(Closed Wednesdays)

Afternoons by appointment only.

Alternate ways to make purchases:
1. Write items on a lunch order bag, enclose cash or cheque and lodge through the Canteen.
2. Lodge order and payment through Reception.
3. Phone order to Uniform Shop and pay by credit card.
4. Email uniform@gpcc.nsw.edu.au

Always include your child’s name and Year Group for delivery.

Credit card slips and a receipt are always issued.