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Junior School Compassion Children Sponsorship

Junior School students have added a fourth child to their sponsorship family. Virginia Wambui from Kenya is just three years old. We look forward to watching her grow with us. She joins our three other children Wilber and Dora (from El Salvador) and Solomon (from Kenya) as much loved members of Junior School.

Junior School raises money for their sponsor children through the annual mufti day held in March. On this day the students engage in activities to deepen their awareness of the issues of poverty and its impact on the world. This year the students were involved in building cardboard “slum” shelters, and creating soccer balls from recycled materials.

Throughout the year, the Compassion Bear also visits each classroom individually, giving the classes the opportunity to further contribute funds for the sponsorship of the children and to remind them to pray for them. The students are encouraged to raise their own money for this, through extra jobs at home, or from their pocket money.
Kindergarten – Westmead Children’s Hospital

Kindergarten staff and students have established links with Westmead Childrens’ Hospital. Over the course of a year Kindergarten students will be involved in fundraising for the Bandaged Bear Appeal; making Easter cards for sick children; compiling care packages for parents who need to stay at the hospital with their sick child. At Christmas, students will have the opportunity to help stock the shelves with Christmas food for parents staying at the hospital, and also have the opportunity to donate Christmas gifts for sick children.

Stage One – Operation Christmas Child

Stage One staff and students oversee the facilitation of Operation Christmas Child. This is an initiative of Samaritan’s Purse, an international relief organisation, which seeks to practically demonstrate God’s love through showing mercy and bringing hope to those in greatest need. Stage One students are responsible for offering each Junior School family the opportunity to participate in this wonderful initiative through the packing of a shoebox with gifts for a needy child. Students are made aware of the needs of less fortunate children through our Chapel program and view photographs and videos of children receiving their gifts. Boxes are sent home to the eldest child and extra boxes are made available to families who would like to contribute further. Families are encouraged to donate the delivery fee for a box.
Stage Two – Anglicare

Stage Two staff and students have established links with Anglicare. Through a very successful ‘Hobbies on the Hill’ program, students make wooden toys and Christmas stockings filled with craft treats that are donated to Anglicare for distribution at Christmas. Stage Two staff and students also invite residents from the local Anglican Retirement Village to an Easter Chapel, followed by an afternoon tea prepared and hosted by another ‘Hobbies on the Hill’ team. Craft gifts made at ‘Hobbies on the Hill’, are given to the ARV residents.

Stage Three

Stage Three are involved in many areas of service both across the College and assisting charities off site.

Year Six staff and students run a calendar artwork fundraiser, as well as a cake stall. Whilst part of the funds raised, go to the Year Six Graduation Dinner, a large proportion of the funds are donated to charities which are voted upon by the students. Charities supported have been: additional support for the College Compassion Sponsor Children, ‘Adopt a Cru Camper’ through Crusaders, and the Anglicare Bushfire Appeal.

Stage Three also have a Compassion Sponsorship focus and one class per week hosts the ‘Compassion Bear’. The class attempts to raise funds by doing extra jobs at home or contributing from their personal pocket money or canteen snack money to contribute additional support the Junior School fundraising program.
Year Six are involved in three main areas of service across the college on a weekly basis.

1. Students organise the collection of paper recycling from all Junior School classrooms, all staff rooms across the College and the administration areas.

2. Students support Kindergarten to Year Two teachers with various tasks from cutting and pasting, putting up art work, working with small groups of younger students to cleaning desks.

3. General cleaning maintenance of student seating in the Kindergarten and Stage One play area.

A group of Year Six students assist on a weekly basis at Junior School Chapels, Assemblies and other activities where technology support is required. Students attended training sessions in their own time and commit to serving for a Semester in this role.

We also encourage students to participate as CRU leaders in our Friday group. Year Six students attend training and commit to serving in this capacity for the full school year.
Senior School - Sponsorship of Compassion Children and Sunshine Cambodia

Each year group in the Senior School help children around the world who are in need. Two programs operate through Senior School, one through Compassion and the other with Sunshine Cambodia, an educational day centre for children whose families are living below the poverty line. The Centre works to help break the poverty cycle through education and provision of food for the children and parent/adult education sessions for the families. Year Ten sponsor Sunshine Cambodia.

Payel, a thirteen year old girl from East India is sponsored by Year Seven. Year Eight sponsor Bereket, who is eleven and from Ethiopia. Year Nine sponsor a nine year old Ugandan boy, named Abel. Year Eleven sponsor Rizky, a thirteen year old boy from Indonesia and Year Twelve sponsor Rainane, a fifteen year old girl from Brazil. The children’s letters to us are displayed on Homeroom walls as we encourage students at the College in their relationship with, and their care for, our sponsored children.

Students donate loose change each Friday in their Homerooms, as well as organising additional fundraisers throughout the year to ensure we are able to make an extra donation to each child as a community gift at Christmas. Food stalls are always very popular!
Student Service Projects

Senior School 40 Hour Famine and Launch Party

As part of the Stage Five Welfare Program, students focus on service, through education, fundraising and providing for others. The students facilitate the 40 Hour Famine program which helps our students to understand the impact of the Global Food Crisis and how the money they raise by going ‘without’ can make a difference. In 2013, the money raised was allocated to the World Vision projects in Malawi.

To raise their money, students attend a launch Dance Party at the College and count down to the beginning of the Famine. Some students raise additional sponsorship funds ($50) which allows them to ‘sleep over’ at school on the Friday night. In 2013 together the students raised in excess of $6000 at their jungle themed launch and sleep over.

Years Seven to Nine Service Days

It is our desire to help our students recognise the needs of others within the College and wider community, and more importantly, respond to and serve those needs. It is our yearning to see a practical out-working of our College Core values, beyond the school gate. In the book of Micah, the Bible clearly reminds us of our responsibility to care for others. “The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands: “See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God.” (Micah 6:8) The words of James call us to act upon our faith by serving His people, reminding us that “Anyone who doesn’t breathe is dead, and faith that doesn’t do anything is just as dead!” (James 2:26)

As part of these service days, we ask the students to consider what justice for all people looks like. Who needs mercy? How can we humbly obey the call of God? How can we actively live out our faith? How can we demonstrate care, commitment, respect and responsibility? What gifts and skills have they been given that they can use to serve others? These are big questions and ones we are keen to explore through a reflective learning component in our Service Days program, which focuses on actively serving the needs of others.

The program runs in the last week of Term Four, with students will be engaged in a three day Service Learning Program, which aims firstly to educate the students about the broad range of need in our local and global communities and then provide them with an opportunity to respond with practical service in an activity of their choice.
Student Service Projects

In 2013, 33 groups ran, and included:

- Gardening and maintenance groups who served the elderly, the sick, Youth Works camp sites and St. Alban’s Church in Leura
- Recycling coloured pencils and preparing them for underprivileged children
- Making candles to be sold at Hills Harvest to support the work of the P&F
- Baking cookies and sweet treats for the Kairos prison ministry and the homeless
- Making Christmas cards to give to Anglicare for them to provide to the underprivileged to use to send Christmas greetings
- Making wooden toys and musical instruments for local child ministries
- Constructing picnic tables for Junior School
- Creating beaded jewellery for to bless women who are in crisis care facilities
- Enhancing the gardens around the College
- Assisting with stock taking in the Library and sport resources
- Sewing pyjamas for the children of Cambodia
- Making material bags to accompany the Operation Christmas Child boxes
- Making puppets as something to play with for the Operation Christmas Child boxes
- Filming the reading of picture books to assist children with their language development
- Running a children’s bookstall to both provide Junior School students with new books and donating the funds ($900) to Sunshine Cambodia
- Writing and illustrating picture books to send to Sunshine Cambodia
- Cleaning, sorting and stock taking the Riverstone Toy Library bus
- Singing and sharing in conversation with local residents in retirement homes
- Creating educational resources and play mats for young children

In partnership with:

- Anglican Retirement Village Castle Hill
- Anglican Youthworks
- Anglicare
- Carramarr Early Interventions
- Constitution Hill
- Groundz Care
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Leura Anglican Church
- Mobile Toy Library
- Pathways Community Church
- RHAC P&F
- Rivergum Community Church
- Rouse Hill Anglican College
- Samaritan’s Purse
- Sunshine Cambodia
- The Willows
Student Service Projects

Year Ten Service Week

The Service Week program for Year Ten students provides the opportunity for students to be involved in service activities which focus on the local, community and global needs. In their Homeroom groups, students undertake a week of service in Term Four following their semester examinations. Locally the students serve in the school by making playground benches, garden edges or tables or contributing to improving an aspect of the College grounds. The students also serve in our Junior School by assisting with making resources, helping to facilitate sport lessons or work with Junior School children. In the community the students volunteer in the local regional park, helping with bush regeneration and path maintenance. The students also volunteer their time at the Hills Special School assisting with grounds maintenance and school activities. Globally the students work with Samaritan’s Purse at their warehouse in Kings Park, checking the boxes of gifts and packing Operation Christmas Child containers.

Fundraising for the building of houses in Cambodia

As a Christian College it is our desire to demonstrate the practical outworking of our faith and model service to our students and College community. The book of James reminds us that ‘Faith without action is dead.’ and that ‘we should not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.’ We aim to provide an education which prepares our students to become successful, contributing members and leaders of the community.

As part of this, our Senior School works over a two year period to raise the money for the houses we build on our Service Trip to Cambodia. Our Year Seven and Eight students have a Dance Party, ‘Raise the Roof’ in Term One each year, Year Twelve host barbecues at sport carnivals, house days and picnics throughout the year and other Year Groups hold food stalls before school breakfasts, and at recess and lunchtimes.

Our biggest fundraising day is our Houses for Houses day which comprises a mufti day and each of our College House building coin houses which are traced onto the concrete, using their loose change.
Student Service Projects

College Service Trips (open to students in Years Nine to Twelve)

Our hope as a College is to develop our students in a corporate sense where students recognise the needs of others and more importantly, respond to and serve those needs. Engaging our students in a program which aims to educate the students about the need in our global community, as well as providing them with an opportunity to respond with practical service is an important part of focus on service.

On our overseas Service Trip in 2013 to Cambodia, we will partner with two organisations: Sunshine Cambodia and The Tabitha Foundation, with our house building program.

House building in Cambodia:
The Tabitha Foundation aims to reach out and improve the lives of the poorest of the poor people in our world, especially in Cambodia, through its well-developed programs. Amongst other ventures they build houses for those impoverished and homeless providing help to the poorest of the poor people in Cambodia through works and programs funded by generous donations. On the Service Trip our students spend time learning about the culture and history of the country and building houses (with the funds raised by the College) for the people of Cambodia.

Working for Crossroads International in Hong Kong:
Service work at Crossroads in Hong Kong involves students loading shipping containers, cleaning donated furniture, working in a model world village and participating in life experiences which helped the students to understand the impact of disease on people living in poverty.
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