

TERM 4, 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the College,

Among the foundational beliefs that our College holds as it pursues delivering quality Christian Education is that "school" and "home" must work in an aligned and informed partnership, each playing its part in the educational process of the students, respecting the role of each and supporting the work of both.

In keeping with our desire to live authentically in response to our convictions and principles, we want to take this partnership seriously and to help facilitate good communication and community with parents.

With that intent, the College offers a program we call **PARENT CONNECT**.

More than being a single event or even series of events, **PARENT CONNECT** operates as a banner under which varied types of activities are arranged and different conversations are facilitated - all with the common goal of building capacity and connection in the relationships with and between the parents who are part of the ACC Marsden Park community.

At times, **PARENT CONNECT** will allow us to share with parents information about the current practice or future plans for the College. At others it provides an avenue for comment and contribution from parents. At still others, it will be offering opportunity and resources that will help you understand and meet the demands of your roles as parents and carers and to help your family navigate family life together.

Please accept my warm invitation to be part of this growing conversation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brendan H. Corr'.

Brendan Corr
Principal

Overview

The specific intent of the **PARENT CONNECT** program is fourfold:

- to **involve** parents in the life of the College, to hear feedback and ideas, and help them form connections with other parents
- to **inform** parents about projects and initiatives planned for the improvement and development of the College
- to **inspire** parents about what is possible for their children and what they can hope for them
- to **instruct** parents in strategies and techniques to equip them for their role

PARENT CONNECT therefore includes varied activities, tailored towards meeting one or more of these intended outcomes.

To help you make these connections with the College and with each other, we map a program of intended events over the course of the year. Each event has been identified as targeting one of the areas of focus of the **PARENT CONNECT** program.

The program is developed and hosted by members of the College Leadership Team. Events are usually held in a part of the campus that suits its intent and usually you do not need to pre-register, although for some events we will ask you to RSVP.

You are warmly invited to be part of every event and you are welcome to participate as your circumstances allow.

We look forward to seeing you at as many of the events throughout the year as you can manage.

For questions relating to the **PARENT CONNECT** program, please email marsdenpark@acc.edu.au.

PARENT CONNECT Program - Term 4 2025

EVENT / ACTIVITY	DATE / TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Parent Seminars			
Parent Seminar - Patricia Weerakoon "Parenting Teens in Turbulent Times" CLICK HERE TO BOOK (spaces are limited)	Wednesday 29 October 7.00 pm	Lecture Theatre (Tech Centre)	Today's teens are facing tsunami tides of influence in all areas of their lives about who they are, what they should be, and how they can be happy. Often they are not able to navigate these currents without a significant shipwreck or a catastrophic capsizing. What does our Christian faith tell our young people about their emerging identity and what does it tell us, as the adults in their lives, about helping them see the unseen dangers and steer safely to meaningful purpose and personal flourishing? Find out in our 'Parenting teens in turbulent times' seminar. About the Speaker: Patricia Weerakoon is a sexologist, sex educator and writer who trained in medicine at the University of Sri Lanka and did her postgraduate study in Sexology at the University of Hawaii. She retired in 2011 after a 22 year career as an academic at the University of Sydney. Since retirement, Patricia has followed her passion to educate people of all ages on good holistic sexual health by speaking and writing in the area from a Christ-focussed Biblical framework.
Parent Seminar - Collett Smart "Finding Balance: Helping Families to Restore Balance and Build Healthy Connections in a Digital World" CLICK HERE TO BOOK (spaces are limited)	Thursday 13 November 7.00 pm	Lecture Theatre (Tech Centre)	The 'Finding Balance' seminar is based on current up-to-date research on technology use, current recommendations and will provide parents with very practical, take home tips for setting boundaries. It is also centred around parent-child connection. About the Speaker: Collett Smart is a psychologist, qualified teacher, speaker and internationally published author, with more than 25 years experience working in academia, private and public schools, as well as in private practice. She has a podcast called, 'Raising Teens – with Collett Smart', with Sydney's Hope Media and is the resident psychologist, on 'Helping Hands' on Channel 9.
Regular Opportunities			
Parent Prayer Group	Weekly each Monday (during term time) at 8.30 am	Outside D1 (near the MPC)	Join a group of ACC parents who meet weekly to pray for the College and for each other. <i>"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with</i>

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			<i>thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"</i> You can also send through Prayer Requests (anonymously if you wish) for the group to pray about. CLICK HERE to submit a Prayer Request
'Cafe Connect' for Kindergarten Parents	Weekly on Mondays 8.30 am - 9.30 am Term 4 dates: 13 Oct 20 Oct 27 Oct 3 Nov 10 Nov 17 Nov 24 Nov	At the ACC Cafe (outside in fine weather, inside Reception area in wet weather)	An opportunity for ACC Kindergarten parents to connect informally. Come and meet other parents and enjoy some great coffee from the Cafe. Attend weekly or when you can! The first morning (13 October) will include a free morning tea - please CLICK HERE to RSVP for the first session .
'Cafe Connect' for Year 7 Parents	Weekly on Wednesdays 8.30 am - 9.30 am Term 4 dates: 15 Oct 22 Oct 29 Oct 5 Nov 12 Nov 19 Nov 26 Nov	At the ACC Cafe (outside in fine weather, inside Reception area in wet weather)	An opportunity for ACC Year 7 parents to connect informally. Come and meet other parents and enjoy some great coffee from the Cafe. Attend weekly or when you can! The first morning (15 October) will include a free morning tea - please CLICK HERE to RSVP for the first session .
Primary Assemblies & Chapels	Mondays	MPC	Primary Assemblies in Term 4 will occur on the first Monday of the term, and every fortnight thereafter, at 9.00 am Primary Chapels in Term 4 will occur on the second Monday of the term, and every fortnight thereafter, at 9.00 am. Parents are most welcome to attend!
Secondary Assemblies & Chapels	Mondays	MPC	Secondary Assemblies occur on the first Monday of each term, and every fortnight thereafter, from 10.25 am - 11.15 am.

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			Secondary Chapels occur on the second Monday of each term, and every fortnight thereafter: • Senior Chapel (Years 10-12) runs from 10.25 am - 11.00 am. • Junior Chapel (Years 7-9) runs from 11.05 am - 11.40 am. Parents are most welcome to attend!
Facebook Group (ACC Marsden Park Parents Group)	N/A	Link to Group	ACC Staff will occasionally post announcements, photos, alerts or reminders in this group, but the primary intent is for this group to be an avenue for you to ask questions, answer questions that others ask, share information and interact with other ACC parents. Note: • This group is ONLY open to current ACC parents and you will need to answer membership questions to be admitted to the group. • This group is for connection only, not for advertising purposes.
Future Opportunities			
Christianity Explained	Are you interested in finding out more about Christianity? Do you have questions about what a Christian believes? We are planning to run a 4-6 week course for parents exploring God, the Bible and who Jesus is. If this sounds like something you might like to attend, please CLICK HERE to register your interest		
Upcoming Parent Seminars in 2026	• Principal's Q&A • Decoding the HSC Do you have other ideas for Parent Seminars you think would be useful for our College community? Are there seminar topics about which you would be interested in attending a seminar? CLICK HERE to submit your ideas!		