

# CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

## TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

Good Morning to all our Wesley Family here at home and throughout the world. We pray the New Year has begun well for everyone and life continues to both surprise and challenge us.

After the school year ended last year we sadly received Mrs Annie Sio-Tema's resignation from teaching.

Annie and Stephen are off to China to teaching positions at an International School in Shanghai.

We were able to have a Staff farewell for Annie last month. They hope to be away in the next week or two. We wish them well.

We also received resignations from House Parents Mr Toni Alatini and Mr Saua Leaupepetele.

We wish Toni and Saua well in their new positions.

We have received notices of Retirement from Mr Barry Burrell Night Watchman who has been with us for more than thirty years, as well as Mrs Toni Calis from the Laundry. We look forward to acknowledging their service to the School.

CONGRATULATIONS to Staff and students for an excellent academic year for us in terms of NCEA results for our:

Years 11, 12 and 13 students. Awesome!

We welcome new Staff to the School.

Teaching

Mr Tim Fisher

English and Drama

Mr Gavin Sheppard

Technology

Ms Rita Fatialofa

Careers

Mrs Ngatia Vaike

HOD Science

Mr Dev Singh

Science/Maths

Miss Ana Clarke

Teacher First

Counsellor

Mr Fale Uaine

Our Service of Beginnings the official start to our School year was held on the 2 February. It was led by the Presidential team of the Methodist Church of NZ Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa - President Rev Prince Devanandan and Vice President Mrs Viv Whimster. The powhiri preceded the service where we welcomed approximately eighty Year 9 students, their parents and families.

New Staff were introduced to the Presidential team as well as the new Prefects who were also presented with their badges.

Senior Prefect - Tupou Vaa'I

Head Boy - Xavier Faitala

Head Girl - Bella Brewster

Prefects: Caitlin Smythe, Peter Leaupepe, Sione Fifita, Brent Tucker, Ronan Lawrence, Thomas Manase, Pasilio Kaufononga, Siosifa Latu, Viliami Kau

Our theme for this week is our School's Special Character.

The Bible reading was from Mark 12: 28-34 on pages 1069 and 1246 in the Wesley Bibles. There are 5 aspects to our Special Character statement –  
We are Christian  
We are Methodist  
We are Accepted for who we are  
We are Called to be God's people to do God's work  
We Belong to the Wesley College Family and the wider family of God.  
This statement is a living principle for us as we live, work and school together in this place. It provides a mandate for who we are and how we live in relationship with one another. The Bible reading reminds us of how we are to be all day every day, in school, out of school wherever we are.  
Together with God and with one another we are the people God intends us to be.

Have a blessed day

### **WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

Good Morning All

It's a bit overcast here at Wesley but warm.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Sepa Tala'imanu (Member of the BOT and Trust Board) and her husband Wes on the safe arrival of their baby daughter, AMARIS on 27 January 2017. Nice addition to the Wesley family.

GO WELL to all our Houses today as we hold the first of the Inter-House events SWIMMING SPORTS for the year.

We continue the conversation around what contributes to making our School unique. We are a School with a Special Character which along with the Methodist ethos undergirds all we do here at Wesley.

Both statements serve as living principles to be lived out daily in our life together as a school, family and community.

Both statements direct our way of being and living in ways which reflect our faith - the heart of the Wesley Way.

Aspect 3 of our Special Character states 'We are Accepted for who we are.'

The understanding is that whoever walks through our gates staff or students comes empty handed in terms of 'baggage.'

Whether students are red flagged from other schools for misbehaviour or we serve as the last chance for a student, that 'baggage' is left at the gate. Here we begin anew and every opportunity is given to that person to achieve their potential.

They are Accepted for who they are - wherever they come from, whatever their faith or non faith, whatever their ethnicity or background - at Wesley we are one and We Belong (Aspect 5) to the Wesley College family and the wider family of God.

Have a blessed day

### **THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

Good Morning All

CONGRATULATIONS to all our Houses for a wonderful Swimming Sports Day yesterday. Our School and House spirit was so on point it was a joy to see and to be a part of.

This is our Special Character living, breathing and at its best, exemplifying who we are.

We come from every walk of life and of living, and here at Wesley we are given the opportunity to be our best selves in an environment where our faith and our sense of family supports this journey.

We treasure our Christian heritage and history as a school and try to make it relevant. We want to provide learning opportunities which opens up a whole new world of experiences for our students.

We support those values which respects the integrity of every person.

We support the needs of others especially the marginalised.

We support the use of language and images which speak to inclusiveness and equality.

We provide a safe environment for everyone.

Violence, domination and exclusion are no go zones.

We want to be consistent by doing what is right, just and fair by everyone.

This is the Methodist ethos, a way of living which when we endeavour to live by it, brings forgiveness, justice, hope, joy and peace. In this way, our students are happy and encouraged to be their best.

The Bible reading is from Matthew 5:13-16 on pages 1007 and 1182 in the Wesley Bibles.

We are already a city on a hill - Wesley College on Puhitahi Hill and we cannot be hidden.

Our strongest source of light is our students.

May we together by faith, by learning and by hard work let our lights shine.

Have a blessed day

## **FRIDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

Good Morning All

It's finally Friday of Week 2.

It's a beautiful warm blue sky filled day here at Wesley.

Wherever you may be reading the chapel message from today, like Vietnam where Rev and Mrs Faulkner are, may the weather be kind to you all.

As the School begins to settle into our daily routine there are some of our young ones who struggle with leaving home for the first time. For some it's a struggle too big to handle. One such young man is Kevin Loto'aniu. We wish him well as he leaves us.

The practices for Polyfest and rugby training are underway and will challenge our young ones in terms of managing their time and remembering to sleep. We wish all our groups well in their preparation.

Our theme for this week has been Our Special Character and the Methodist ethos.

The Bible reading was from Matthew 19:13-15 on pages 1031 and 1206 in the Wesley Bibles.

While the conversation around our School's Special Character and the Methodist ethos comes to an end as our theme, it is an ongoing conversation which challenges us, asks us to continue the conversation in and through us in our everyday relationships with one another, but particularly with our students. It is only in our living it out, do we begin to grasp the life giving and changing opportunities we have to offer as a school and community.

Our approach then is a holistic one where alongside our academic learning our students are also learning to live in a way that many may not have experienced before coming to our School.

They learn what it means to be family.

They learn how to build relationships with people, for many of them which will last a life time and that it takes negotiation, compromise, communication and a giving of oneself unselfishly.

They learn that it's ok to make mistakes, that there will be consequences but their mistakes are not unforgiveable or places them outside of our ongoing care for them or God's love.

They learn that violence and abuse is unacceptable, that being threatened and feeling threatened is not the norm.

They learn that there is a sense of freedom that comes when they are not fearful or living in fear.

They learn that here in this place, they are enabled and permitted to just be children and young people.

V14 Jesus said 'Let the children come to me and forbid them not, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

Have a blessed weekend.

