

## CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2018

### MONDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

Good Morning All

A beautiful sunny day here at Wesley. We think of family and friends in UK and Europe who are snowed in and going nowhere.

THANK YOU to our whole School - staff and students who together worked very hard to provide the opportunity for us to be represented at Polyfest this year. It is a collective effort from everyone whether directly involved with the individual cultural groups or not -THANK YOU!

Our theme for this week is EXCELLENCE.

The Bible reading was from Philippians 4:4-9 on pages 1297 and 1468 in the Wesley Bibles.

Chinese philosopher Confucius 551 BC wrote: 'The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach our full potential – these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal EXCELLENCE.

The Apostle Paul in his writing to the Church at Philippi reminds us: Finally whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is EXCELLENT or praiseworthy - think about such things.

Whatever you have received or learnt or heard or seen me do, put it into practice.

EXCELLENCE is a way of living which realises our full potential as humans and as humanity.

It speaks to the characteristics which come from our being created in the image of the Creator.

The way of EXCELLENCE is humanity at its best and when we are at our best, Paul says this is praiseworthy stuff.

This morning we praise the excellent job done by Blue and the Boys who on Wednesday afternoon laid down the carpet for Fiafia Night then set up all the chairs. Thank you to the Boys who helped bring chairs from the Dining Room down to the Rec. We praise the excellent effort of the Caughey Boys who picked up all the rubbish from the top of the drive and all around the Rec Centre on Thursday morning. We praise the excellent effort of ten Boys from Maia - Albert, Kali, Leki, Vili, Junior, Sione, Ben, Cacee, Peli and Soni who at 6.30am Thursday came down and helped to clean up all the rubbish left after Fiafia night ... they stacked all the chairs stored them and delivered chairs to Rms P and the Lounge for the classrooms there.

This morning we also praise the excellent effort of the Niuean group who placed 2nd overall on the Niue stage.. We praise also the Tongan group for their 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Taufakaniaua and their 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Lakalaka on the Tongan stage.

Well done to the Kapa haka group who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Waiata Aringa, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Meta o te reo and 6<sup>th</sup> in their division.

When we work together and help each other in the ways we do, when we do our best at everything we are practicing EXCELLENCE.

This most EXCELLENT way is the way of God and the Wesley Way which speaks to our Special Character and Methodist ethos.

May our thoughts and our practice be praiseworthy and worthy of praise because this is EXCELLENCE and it is us at our best!

Have a blessed day.

## **TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

There was no Chapel message today.

## **WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2018**

Good Morning All

THANK YOU to Mr Smythe and Yr 13 Prefect Lepolo Paea for leading chapel yesterday.

We continue with our theme of EXCELLENCE.

The Bible reading was from Colossians 3:12-17 on pages 1303 and 1475 in the Wesley Bibles.

This morning the School watched a Youtube video entitled 'Ode to Excellence' a strategy to live life by.

The Bible reading offers us also a strategy to help us to live each day for God.

... imitate Christ's compassion, a forgiving attitude

... let love guide our lives

... let Christ's peace rule our lives

... always be thankful

... keep God's Word within you all the time

... live as an ambassador for Christ

The strategy of a way to live each day is bound together by love.

To attempt to practice this strategy without love makes life difficult because strategically it speaks to the heart of the matter which is Christ .... from the heart of Christ to our hearts. It's a matter of God's love through Christ Jesus to and for us.

Love matters! Love is a matter of the heart but more than a feeling and fuelled by the decision to meet others' needs.

To live in love is life lived in peace and this ultimately is what our God of EXCELLENCE provides for us ... a most EXCELLENT way.

Have a blessed day.

## **THURSDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2018**

Good Morning All

A bit overcast and somewhat colder in the mornings now. We give thanks for each new day.

THANK YOU to all who attended the Blessing yesterday of the new road named in memory of Old Boy the late Jonah Lomu.

THANK YOU to Mrs Lomu Jonah's wife Nadene and their children Dhyreille and Brayley for attending.

Malo 'aupuito to Mrs Lomu Snr Jonah's Mum Hepi and the family who were also able to join us.

THANK YOU to the Kitchen staff for the afternoon tea.

THANK YOU to the Prefects for their contribution to the Blessing ceremony.

EXCELLENCE is our mantra this week.

The Bible reading was from Philippians 1:3-10 on pages 1290 and 1465 in the Wesley Bibles.

EXCELLENT people exceed expectations. They go the extra mile, do more than is asked and take extra steps to ensure whatever they do, they do their best. The late Ronnie Oldham musician wrote ...

‘EXCELLENCE is the result of caring more than others think is wise

Risking more than others think is safe

Dreaming more than others think is practicable

Expecting more than others think is possible.’

EXCELLENCE doesn't mean that we don't make mistakes, but it does mean that with a faith and determination to grow an attitude of EXCELLENCE towards the way we live our lives, we can still strive for EXCELLENCE. We don't give up when we make mistakes nor do we avoid doing stuff because we think we might fail or get it wrong.

Don't think of today's failures but of the success that may come tomorrow because we have failed and learnt from our mistakes.

We will succeed if we persevere; and we will find joy in overcoming obstacles.

The true goal of EXCELLENCE is to do the best we can with what we have at every moment.

Jim Elliot an American evangelist and missionary once said, "Wherever you are -be all there."

If we're in the classroom 'be all there' in heart, mind, body, soul and strength or we may miss the moment to learn.

If we're on the rugby field 'be all there' or we may miss the moment to learn a new skill.

Most of us are given only one life to live and often we hear people say 'make the most of it.'

So we are given the gift of life, we are created in the image of God. We are given gifts and talents with which to find our potential and to live life to the fullest. What then is our responsibility? What do we do with all that we have been given and blessed with?

v6 'He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.' How EXCELLENT is this!

I was in an interview earlier this week with a Year 9 boy.

The adult conducting the interview said to the Year 9 'you must be glad to be missing class.'

The young student replied 'No, I have a 100% attendance and I don't want that to change because I am here at this meeting.'

How EXCELLENT was that!

Have a blessed day.

**FRIDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2018**

Good Morning All

A beautiful sunny morning here at Wesley. God is good!

TGIF the end of Week 8 and so too our theme of EXCELLENCE.

Our Bible reading was from 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-18 on pages 1310 and 1484 in the Wesley Bibles.

We're reminded by Paul the writer of the reading what EXCELLENCE looks like, especially in our relationships with God and with one another. It is respectful, it's about working hard, love, encouragement, patience, kindness and no pay backs.

When we live in the realisation and understanding that this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus, then it follows that we will always be joyful, will always be thankful in all circumstances and will always pray.

How EXCELLENT it is when we understand God's will for us in Christ Jesus ... all good all the time!

We're blessed with so much ... life, gifts and talents, people giving us help and advice, all with the hope that we will strive for and pursue EXCELLENCE. The outcome when we do ... is peace ... is happiness. Think about it ... when we speak to and about one another respectfully no one gets upset or angry ... when we're quiet walking past classrooms or when we are in class ... no one yells at us to be quiet ... when we don't drop rubbish no one tells us to pick rubbish up because there won't be any to pick up ... when our attendance is where it should be, no stress ... but more importantly if our attendance is good it means we are learning ... we will gain credits ... we will pass assessments ... you will be happy, your parents will be happy, your teachers will be happy ... our School looks good. It's kind of a win win situation ... for all of us together to live life in an EXCELLENT way ... why wouldn't we want this for all of us?

I think what we've learnt this week about EXCELLENCE is that it's a good thing ... it's an attitudinal thing meaning when we set our mind to it we can do it ... it's a lifestyle, a living principle which isn't about being perfect but about doing our best ... that it's ok to make mistakes and to learn from them so we don't keep making the same mistakes. The most important thing about EXCELLENCE is that this is what God is about and what God wants us to be ... the best that we can be so that in the end we will all be happy. God is good!

Have a blessed day.

Have a blessed Palm Sunday and weekend.

