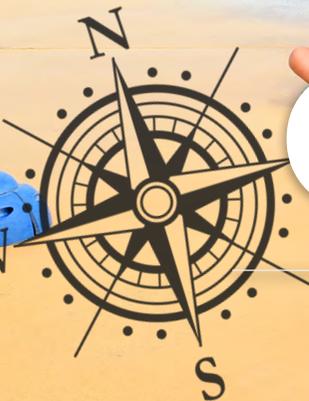




COMPASS

All things through Christ



The Christmas Truce of 1914



Today, in chapel, I shared one of the most incredible stories ever to transpire in the theatre of war. The Christmas Truce of 1914. What the German population called the *Weihnachtsfrieden* – which literally

means Christmas Peace. Movies have been made about it, books have been written, newspaper articles were printed at the time of it happening and to unbelieving readers from around the world they couldn't help but wonder in amazement that humans could become so humane in a place where orders were to be patriotically obeyed during conflict as they saw photographs and read the report.

Two enemy units, one German and one Scottish, faced one another in brutal trench warfare leading up to Christmas Eve. But what happened still astounds historians and people today. The trenches of the opposite sides were very close at certain sections of the trench line (as close 30 metres apart), that soldiers would often call out across the 'no man's land' to call 'ceasefire' or even 'taunt' the opposition, among other things. It was not uncommon

at night (during the typical cease fire) for the soldiers to sing songs to their own countrymen.

During the evening of Christmas Eve 1914, the German trenches started to put candles in their Christmas trees. Then one of the German soldiers started singing a Christmas carol. When a nearby Scottish military unit heard the Christmas carol, they became silent as they listened to the familiar sound of the song, yet sung in a foreign tongue. A Scottish bagpiper responded to the German's singing the Christmas carol by playing along with the melody on his bagpipes.

Soon, the German soldier started another carol, *Silent Night*, a very familiar melody for all the soldiers on both sides. A song that speaks of the night the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ was born. The German soldier picked up a Christmas tree and walked into 'no man's land' singing the beautiful hymn. The other soldiers on both sides were astounded that he would be so brave to do that – the risk of him being shot was substantially high.

But no sooner had the German soldier ventured to the middle of 'no man's land' when a Scottish soldier walked out singing *Silent Night* with him. More soldiers on both sides joined their comrades until all the soldiers were standing together singing Christmas carols in the middle of 'no man's land'. Furthermore, the two enemies agreed to have a ceasefire on the next day, which was Christmas Day, 1914.

Two soldiers who fought in the battle and were present that night wrote these messages:

Bruce Bairnsfather wrote:

"I wouldn't have missed that unique and weird Christmas Day for anything.... I spotted a German officer, some sort of lieutenant I should think, and being a bit of a collector, I intimated to him that I had taken a fancy to some of his buttons.... I

brought out my wire clippers and, with a few deft snips, removed a couple of his buttons and put them in my pocket. I then gave him two of mine in exchange."

Henry Williamson, a nineteen-year-old private, wrote to his mother on Boxing Day:

"Dear Mother, I am writing from the trenches. It is 11 o'clock in the morning. Beside me is a coke fire, opposite me a 'dug-out' (wet) with straw in it. The ground is sloppy in the actual trench, but frozen elsewhere. In my mouth is a pipe presented by the Princess Mary. In the pipe is tobacco. Of course, you say. But wait. In the pipe is German tobacco. Haha, you say, from a prisoner or found in a captured trench. Oh dear, no! From a German soldier. Yes a live German soldier from his own trench. Yesterday the British & Germans met & shook hands in the Ground between the trenches, & exchanged souvenirs, & shook hands. Yes, all day Xmas day, & as I write. Marvellous, isn't it?"

It was a beautiful moment in history. Perhaps the first and only time in the history of warfare that the peace of heaven inhabited the midst of warring soldiers. Why? Because man laid down their arms and contentions long enough to allow God into their lives – albeit

for a brief moment. The soldiers were brought together by songs dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ.

This verse the Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples when He was on earth comes to my mind when I think of this amazing story:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

- John 16:33

May you all allow the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, come into your hearts and homes this Christmas. He has a way of bringing down defences and blessing people with hope when there is not much hope around.

Regards,

Peter Connell



Fun at the Waterpark!



The Foundation and Year ½ classes cooled off at the waterpark to celebrate the end of a big year of learning.

For most of them it was the very first time on the school bus too so it was even more exciting!



A New Chapter Begins...

Last Friday, Year 6 celebrated coming to the end of their Primary School education.

The transition visit to the Science Lab and the Wood Technology was great fun!

In the morning they created their own Graduation T-shirts. They had a delicious lunch at Nature's Powerhouse. This was followed by Chocolate Mud cake. Students then played games in the Botanical Gardens where they had lots of fun with Water Pistols!!!



Recycling For Charity

Over 2021, the school has participated in the Blue Bin for The Win project, collecting recyclable containers to cash in for funds towards a local charity.

The Year 7/8 Marine Studies students have counted all the containers each term and have exceeded the goal of \$120.

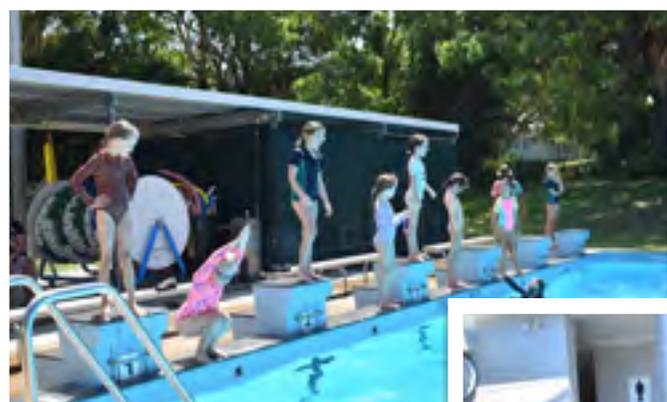
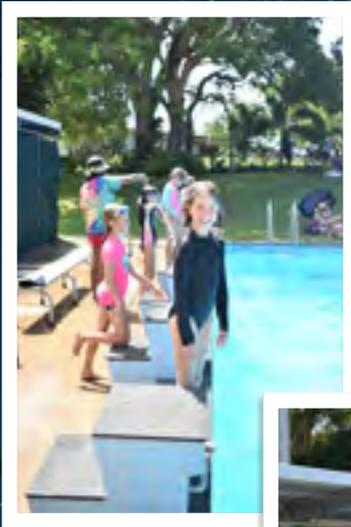
Together as a school we have collected \$156.90 to go towards the College compassion Charities.

Teila Hunt



Swim Fun Day

Our Foundation to Year 2 students had heaps of fun at the pool. Everyone swam so well!



A prayer for my students

Mrs Cassie Grover

The school year is finally coming to an end and in a few days the teachers will be cleaning empty classrooms and walking through quiet grounds. We will be having meetings about what was great about the year and what we can do to make next year better. As I finish off these last few days of classes, I can't help but reflect on the years that have passed. I think about the days where I came home exhausted from constantly repeating myself over and over, the days where I came home sad because students opened to me about how they feel, and the days where I came home happy because that student who never handed in any homework finally submitted an assignment. These years have been filled with ups and downs, but it was a great learning experience. Funny how that happens... Us teachers are paid to educate and yet, we learn a whole lot more than we teach. So as this chapter of my life closes, I pray for all my students.

I pray because during the holidays I don't get to keep an eye out for them like I did during school time. I know I'm not their parent but keeping an eye out for certain students every day for the whole school year has become a part of my daily routine.

I pray because I know the students who are classified as "troublesome" have a good part in their hearts. I've witnessed the good in them and I know they can make good decisions. So, I pray that they continue to make wise choices while they continue their life journey.

I pray because some students are not coming back to this school next year and I hope their transition is easy. I pray for the students who are leaving this school, that they may find good friends and caring teachers.

I pray because holidays can be boring and lonely for some students. Parents are doing the best they can, so I pray for those students who stay home and make their own fun.

I pray for my students who are graduating or moving on to the next chapter of their lives. That they may grow and learn and find their passion.

I pray for the students who had a hard time this year, that they come back in 2022 with an open mind, an open heart, and a new perspective.

I pray for the students who struggle academically, that they may continue to have courage to study hard and ask lots of questions.

I pray for the teachers and administration, that they may use the holidays to clear out anything that is cluttering their minds and anything that causes stress. May they take time for themselves to relax and figure out how they can reflect the Lord more.

And so, for this I pray...

Heavenly Father,

I ask You to bless each one of our students with time to reflect on the journey they've successfully endured this school year. I pray that each student may leave this school as a better person who has learned more about life than how to find x.

May each day bring more joy and more peace so that they can bring their happy hearts with them as they enter each new year.

I pray that You may forgive them for any wrong they've done this year and teach them to make smarter decisions next year. I pray that you may bless them for the good they've done and reward them with your mercy.

Lord, I pray that each student has a fruitful life. One that is memorable and exciting. A life that they will be proud to share with everyone when they reflect. I pray that their holiday is filled with family time and bonding. May their relationships with each member of their family be strengthened and deepened by Your grace.

I pray that their hearts may be renewed as they prepare for a new school year. Bring them a sense of openness and willingness to learn and explore. Assure them that they are capable of understanding and being successful. Take away their insecurities and negative thoughts.

Lord, I pray that you fill our students with love and joy this summer. May they know You and how much You love them and care for

them. Keep them safe and healthy. Help them to grow and mature. Prepare them for a new year with an open mind and new ideas.

Lord, I pray all our many students know how much we, teachers, love them and care for them. Bless them today, tomorrow and every day.

Amen.

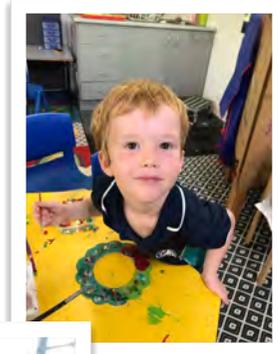
Love always Miss Cassie



Wrapping up...

In Foundation we have been using the TLC magnets to represent the sounds in words and then use this knowledge to explore alternate spelling choices.

Our writing has improved so much! It has been great fun to finish off the year with messy play, Christmas craft, a swim carnival and waterpark excursion.



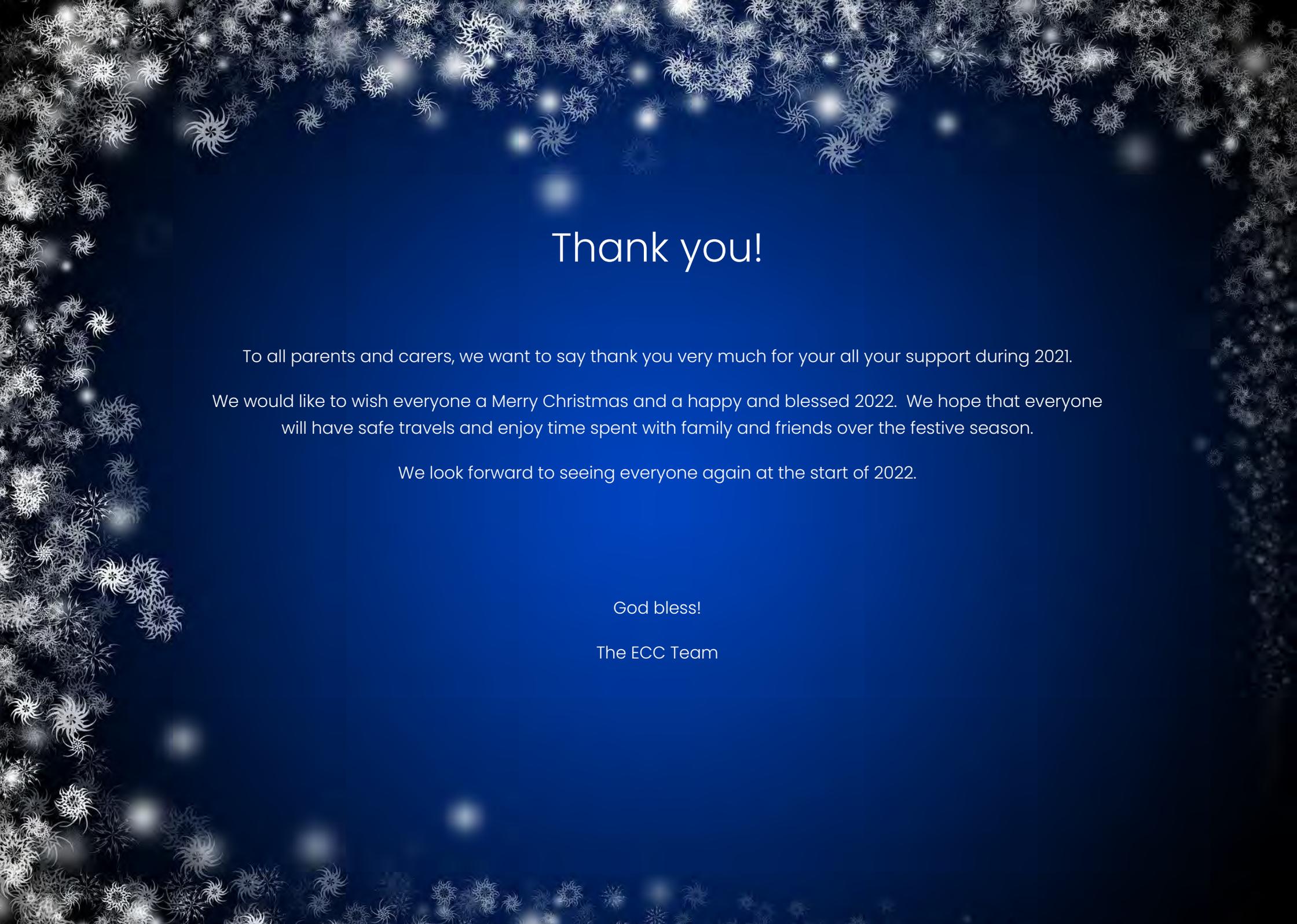
Happening in 2022!

We are all very excited and looking forward to construction work starting on our new sports oval as well as the new Foundation/Prep building.

Both these projects have been in the pipeline for years with many obstacles to overcome, but we are finally moving ahead.

Work on the sports oval is set to start in early 2022 and the Foundation/Prep building will be completed towards the end of 2022, ready for 2023.





Thank you!

To all parents and carers, we want to say thank you very much for your all your support during 2021.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and blessed 2022. We hope that everyone will have safe travels and enjoy time spent with family and friends over the festive season.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at the start of 2022.

God bless!

The ECC Team