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To support and Encourage the Teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) at Hornsby and Normanhurst High Schools.

I wish to make a financial contribution to the work of the Normanhurst Christian Education Association which provides Christian Studies programs at Hornsby Girls' and Normanhurst Boys' High Schools.

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- **Or** I request a set of envelopes which can be placed in my Church's offering.
- **Or** Hand this form to a Management Committee member.
- Or Post to: Normanhurst Christian Education Association Inc. PO Box 2061, NORMANHURST, NSW 2076

(ABN 27 478 553 930) ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Enquires to the Treasurer - Mrs Glenys Porter - Phone 9489 3568

CHURCHES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION

Chinese and Australian Baptist Church, Thornleigh Hornsby Uniting Church Wahroonga Anglican Church St Stephen's Anglican Church, Normanhurst

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Normanhurst
Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church
Waitara Gospel Chapel

Northern Life Baptist Church, Hornsby Normanhurst Uniting Church St Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby Thornleigh Community Baptist Church Wahroonga Presbyterian Church



What is the Common Ground?



I try to begin my lessons by finding common ground with the students. What ideas, beliefs or values do we both hold to be true?

One of the first things that comes to mind is... eating! **Food is a big deal at HGHS**, and Year 9 students have overflowed with stories about their most memorable meals, given advice about where to find

the best pancakes, and relived their most awkward eating moments. There have been lots of laughs as we have shared what eating means to us, and it's been an easy way to springboard into the Bible, as we consider how Jesus intentionally used meals to accomplish his purpose "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

Another thing we have in common is **the value we place on education.** Studying and doing well academically, is an even bigger deal than eating for students! This term's one Year 10 lesson, begins with an auction. Students have \$300 (fake!) which they use to bid on, and buy "achievements". This has been a way to examine the value we place on certain types of achievements, and to wonder, **'What would Jesus say to the high-achiever?'** as we explore the story of the rich young fool (Luke 12:13-21).

Something I have learnt, is that finding common ground and using student's concerns and interests, has made it easier for students to engage with Biblical truths. Please pray that God will enable students to want to seek the truth.



Scan the QR code to see what the contents of my bag, says about SRE teaching!

Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS



WHO IS JESUS?

"Why do you think it is important to study the question, 'Who is Jesus?" This is a question that I have been asking my Year 7 students this term, as we begin to look at the life of Jesus. Is it just because Christianity is the largest religion in the world? Is it because he is considered important to both Christians and Muslims, who make up more than half the world's population?

I think it is the various responses people have to this question that makes it important. 2000 years ago, many Jews wanted him to be a successful revolutionary, overthrowing Roman

rule, but he resisted such a populist kingship, dashing their hopes when he was executed on the cross. Today, many people see him as a great teacher, who offered advice for life, but you choose whether to listen.

Yet as the Year 7 students work their way through the gospel of Luke, I pray that they will see that he came to overthrow a much greater power than the Romans, and that his teaching is something that no one can ultimately live up to by themselves. They will be challenged by seeing his authority to forgive sins, His authority over nature, over death and disease, claiming to be God, which he demonstrates powerfully, by rising from the dead!

Please pray that students would consider Jesus' claim to be God, for themselves, and accept him as their Lord and Saviour.

Tony Jones, SRE Teacher, NBHS

PRAYER POINTS

Normanhurst Boys'

- Give thanks for the number of Year 7 students in SRE, and that they are very keen to discuss and ask questions. Pray that they will read their new Bibles, especially Luke's gospel.
- Pray that Year 8 students see that the Bible, is one story that reveals
 Jesus as the Serpent Crusher, and give thanks for students asking more
 insightful questions.
- Pray that Year 9 and 10 students will be see that faith in Jesus is based on solid evidence and reason, and that only in Jesus is true joy found.

• Give thanks for the boys who come to the Christian group, 'Connect,' and pray it would continue to grow, with more from Years 9 and 10.

Hornsby Girls'

- Please pray for good class dynamics, and that students will feel comfortable to discuss, and ask questions.
- Pray that Christian students will see the opportunities in class to share their faith, and take initiative with leading discussion and serving their non-Christian friends.
- Pray for wisdom in knowing best how to challenge students, especially
 at the start and end of the lesson, where I hope to hook them in and
 then get them to apply what they have learnt to their lives.
- Thank God for the growth in the Christian group, 'Highlite,' and for the enthusiastic leaders. Pray that more year 7 and 8 students will attend.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR NEWS! – June 2023

The budget for 2023 is \$120,000 of which \$30,000 has been received by the end of May! Please pray that many will be enabled to respond with generosity to this need.

Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported.

The Australian Tax Office has endorsed the Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS(Religious Instruction In Government Schools in Australia) Fund as a tax deductible gift recipient. Our bank account details are identified over the page. However, receipts reflect the name Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS Fund.

Donations to support this ministry can be forwarded by cash, cheque, online direct debit, or credit card (see over page).

Glenys Porter, NCEA Treasurer, June 2023

❖ SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO COME! NCEA PRAYER MORNING TEA SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023-10AM TO 11.30AM. Normanhurst Uniting Church Buckingham Ave, Normanhurst