“My friend Tony wanted his daughter to be a good kid. Good kids are a product of the real goal of parenting: mature character. When children grow up with mature character, they are able to take their place as adults in the world and function properly in all areas of life. Character growth is the main goal of child rearing.

But what is character? For some, the word character brings to mind pictures of a person who has integrity, takes responsibility for her life, and stands up for the right thing. Others may see character as the child’s personality – those attributes that make her unique, such as energy level, interests, and a sense of humour. Personality is a child’s emotional fingerprint – there’s only one like it.

People with mature character do have traits of integrity, responsibility, and courage, but we understand character in a bigger-picture way. We view character as the structures and abilities within ourselves that make up how we operate in life. In other words, character is the sum of our abilities to deal with life as God designed us to. Reality makes certain demands on us, for example, to relate to other people in good ways, to do what we say we will do, to take ownership of our own mistakes, and to solve our own problems. Our success (or failure) in meeting these demands shows our level of character development.

You may know adults who look good and perform well but have character flaws. These character flaws – a bad temper, a tendency to withdraw, or self-centredness – rear their ugly heads over and over again to diminish that person’s life experience. More often than not, these flaws began in childhood and continued on in adulthood. This is why parenting is so critical; childhood is the time when character strengths and weaknesses are laid down. We are not telling you to scare you, but simply to point out a truth. You can make great strides in helping your child be a person of character, or you can also miss its importance and see its effect in painful ways later in life. Better the first than the second. As the Bible teaches, make the most of your opportunities because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16).

Randall found out early in life that if he failed, his guilt-ridden parents would accept just about any excuse he made for his failure. They didn’t want to be mean or harsh with their son. So Randall found out early in life that if he failed, his guilt-ridden parents would accept just about any excuse he made for his failure. They didn’t want to be mean or harsh with their son. So when he brought home conduct reports and bad grades from school, Randall would complain to his folks about that unfair teacher who had it in for him. Then mum and dad would march to the Principal’s office to straighten out the bad teacher.

Randall developed a character weakness in the area of personal responsibility. By the time he was in high school, he was an underachiever who blamed every problem on his environment, his lot in life, his circumstances, or his parents. His lack of character development was
extremely costly to him. His underachievement caused him to lose friends, academic goals and sports opportunities.

When you help your child develop character, you are addressing the heart of parenting. Character provides a tool kit of spiritual and emotional skills that prepare a child to succeed in life. You can give children all the ‘advantages’ – security, good schools, churches, and camps – but if they don’t develop character, they can quickly lose the advantage of the advantages. There are so many stories of children who had it all and squandered it; or children who didn’t have the character strength to meet life’s rigors and broke down at some level in their career, their marriage, or their own parenting; or those who had talents and gifts, but ended up falling far short of the mark.”

What an incredible responsibility we have as parents. The character we build into the lives of our children will guide them as they journey along in their own lives.

Mr Hugo de Ridder
Principal

School News

25th Aerial Photo
On Monday, November 9, as a whole school community we had the opportunity to gather on the front oval and form the number 25 with our school logo, using all the students and staff. Visit our website to see more!

http://www.grace.wa.edu.au/News--Events/News/25th_Anniversary_Aerial_Event/

Remembrance Day
Remembrance Day is a time to observe and honour those who have lost their lives in war and an opportunity to reflect on the blessed country we live in. This year, Mrs Shaw’s Year 6 class created poppies out of 2L cool drink bottles and placed them under the Grace Christian School flags. Read and see more on our website. http://www.grace.wa.edu.au/News--Events/News/Remembrance_Day/

Bali Excursion
In the Term 3, a small group of Year 9 and 10 students were able to go on an Excursion to Bali. The students raised funds to take to an Orphanage in Bali. Read and see more of their adventure on our website.


Spring Concert
All parents and friends are invited to a Spring Concert on the evening of Monday 16th November in the library from 7pm to 8.30pm. Performers will include bands from Years 6 to 11 as well as small ensembles and individuals drawn from those who study piano, guitar, vocals and drums at the school. Refreshments will be available. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening with the incredibly talented musicians and vocalists we have in our community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Online Resources
Did you know you have access to great Worldbook Online encyclopaedia products at home? Did you know your children can set up research accounts, save files at school in their account and access them at home? Did you know you have access to hundreds of Worldbook eBooks that can be read or downloaded at home on your iPad or computer? Pop into the Library to see Megan or Maureen with any questions or give them a call on 9726 4200.

School Fees
Direct debit forms for 2016 must be completed before the start of the next school year. Thank you to all parents who have already returned their forms. Reminder to please return your direct debit forms to the school before the close of school this year.

If you have any fee related queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Bursar, Mrs Fiona de Ridder at the school office.

Canteen
Please note that the school canteen will be closed on Monday, 23 November. (one day only) The canteen will operate as per normal for the rest of that week, i.e Thursday, 26 November and Friday, 27 November.

2015 Book lists
Booklists for the 2015 School year have gone home with all students. Please be on the lookout for the list either in your child’s diary or school bag. Book/stationery orders can be placed with OfficeMax online: www.officemaxschools.com.au

Follow the easy to use instructions on the front page of the booklist. If you are unsure, please contact Student Services.

Lost Property
Please check for missing uniform items at home. We have numerous jumpers in the lost property box at Student Services. All unclaimed items will be recycled via the second hand rack in the uniform shop, sent to an opshop or disposed of at the end of term.

Grace Helpers Afternoon Tea
Invitations have been mailed out for the “Grace Helpers Afternoon Tea” which will be held on Thursday, 26 November between 2pm—3pm. If you are attending, please RSVP to Sharyn on 97264200 or email sharris@grace.wa.edu.au