Life today can be both very busy and yet rewarding. Sadly we don’t always take the time to enjoy it to its full. We live in a world with more labour saving devices than our grandparents could possibly have imagined. Yet for all that—I suspect we do not have any more free time to spend with family than our grandparents did. In fact—if anything—our society has neglected family time. We also tend to live our lives with the assumption that the next year or ten years are guaranteed, often without reference to the bigger picture of why we are really here in this world. The fragility of life is something that only tends to be brought home to us when either a tragic accident happens or a near miss occurs.

Late in July this year I was flying back from Melbourne to Mackay. We had left Brisbane slightly late in the evening and about 15 minutes into the flight I heard the plane engines make a very different sound. I have travelled in planes since before I could walk. I am flying almost weekly this year in my job. The sound I heard on that Thursday night was unique. I had not heard plane engines sound like that before.

A couple of minutes after hearing that sound the captain came on the PA and told us we had “technical difficulties” and we were returning to Brisbane. The lady sitting beside me said to me, “Wouldn’t it be better to go on to Rocky?”, and then in a very worried voice, “Do you think we will make it back?”

All I could do was assure her that I felt we would and I was sure the captain would do his best. It took us over half an hour to get back. Another hour or so later and we were in a different aircraft heading back to Mackay, landing safely sometime after 11:30 pm. The lady beside me was very relieved to be home.

It drew home for me the importance of making sure that we are prioritizing our relationships rather than the stuff that often takes our attention. I can replace the TV, or the car or even the house. I cannot replace my family. I cannot replace a relationship with God. It was that relationship with God that provided me a sense of peace as we were returning to Brisbane on that aborted flight. Would we get back safely? I certainly hoped we would. Could I guarantee that? No. It was out of my hands. However, I also had a sense that God knew the outcome, and if had not ended as happily I was fine with that outcome, because my time spent with God every morning was the basis of my peace during that final leg of the first flight.

Time with your family is an investment in their future. If you want to enjoy the teenage years, then you need to develop and enjoy a relationship with your children prior to that. Sociologists recognise that families are the most important building block of society. God also recognised that in Deuteronomy 6:4–9. He encourages us to surround our children with the God-factor, to take the time in all our family dealings to recognise that God is at work in our lives.

Yet we can only share that if in fact as parents we too are building a relationship with God. I would encourage you to have your own time with God each day. That is the first part of relationship building. Worshipping with fellow Christians on the weekend is great—but does not replace your own time with God. Don’t get so busy that you crowd out God and your family. Make these relationships a priority and you will find life has new meaning.

Dr David McClintock
NAC Education Director &
Secondary Curriculum Officer
Adventist Schools Australia
NOTICES:

HATS

Would you please check that the hats your children are taking home are their own hats. We have students frequently looking for lost hats that are nowhere to be found. We understand sometimes children may accidentally grab the incorrect hat and if this is the case please return it to the school. We thank you for your attention on this particular point.

TERM FEES

As the end of term fast approaches please ensure all your fees are paid up to date. The last day of Term 3 is Friday September 18 - just over 3 weeks to go!

STILL LOOKING FOR HELPERS FOR TUCKSHOP & FRUIT PROGRAM

Parents, friends and family, if you are available and can provide any assistance for any of the following please let the office know:-

• Tuckshop on Mondays 10.30-11.30
• Cutting fruit between 12.30-1.00 everyday

HERBS & VEGIE’S FOR SALE

For a gold coin donation you can come and purchase some of our vegetables and herbs from the school garden. You can even harvest them yourself!

Enquiries at the Riverside office.

WORKING BEE THIS WEEKEND!!!

This weekend is our annual working bee. Please come along and provide us with assistance as many hands will make light work!! We have a set list of tasks and equipment for the job.

Work will commence at 8.00am and conclude at 12.00pm! There will be snacks and cool drinks afterwards.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

SUNDAY AUG 30
WORKING BEE 8.00am to 12.00pm

MONDAY AUG 31 TO FRIDAY SEPT 4
WEEK OF WORSHIP (more info page 4)

FRIDAY SEPT 18
LAST DAY OF TERM 3

TUESDAY SEPT 22-27
JUNIOR CAMP MAGNETIC ISLAND

SEPT 27-OCT 4
TEEN X 2015 HINCHINBROOK

TUESDAY OCT 6
FIRST DAY TERM 4

WEDNESDAY OCT 7
SWIMMING COMMENCES

It’s back!
Help make a difference for your local school or ELC
Principal’s Awards:

Samara Jalaleddine - For friendly, positive ways at Riverside.
Ary Jalaleddine - For selfless & willing efforts at Red Track Athletics.

Prep-1

Bailey Murison - For a big effort in craft.
Lucas Marshall - For great work in Maths.
Stephen Caldwell - For neat work.
Mark Lambayong - For being a studious student.
Alexander McNabb - For outstanding performance at Red Track, excellent behaviour and great work.
Damien Acres - For excellent behaviour and great work.

Grades 2/3/4

Rachellie Savuro - For enthusiasm in Technology and a fantastic effort in writing.
Dakota Murison - For always trying hard in her work and for listening well this week.
Sara Jalaleddine - For very neat handwriting.
Ella Wilkinson - For hard work in Maths.

Grades 5/6

Joshua Dawes - For wonderful behaviour and diligent classwork.

ENDLESS PRAISE

We were blessed to end the week with the Endless Praise Worship Team. Marcus, Jade, Sondra, Tamika, Sina, Kenrick & Sam treated the students at chapel last Friday morning.

The Endless Praise team have requested that the school families keep them in their prayers. As they travel around Australia they have left their families and friends behind to spread the word. What an inspirational group of youth!
Next week is our Term 3 Week of Worship at Riverside. Mr J, our Chaplain, will be presenting each morning from 8:50 to 9:30 each morning, Monday to Friday.

Parents, we would love for you to join us when you are able so that you can hear the awesome news that the students will be hearing.

Mr J’s theme, ‘Heir Force’, will share the exciting news that we have been created to be heirs of God and co-heirs of Jesus for eternity. To be like Him is one thing, to be WITH Him... WOW! Spread the news!
BOOKFAIR DRESS UP DAY:

What an exciting day to dress up as your favourite book character or Bible hero. Thank you to all the families that participated and came to our parade.

Congratulations to the winners of our Best Dressed Awards who won a $10-$15 Book Fair Voucher:

- Aurora Kawana as Mary (with Baby Jesus)
- Damien Acres as Robin Hood
- Rachellie Savuro as Little Red Riding Hood
- Lochlan Rogers as The Green Sheep

See more photos of amazing costumes on Page 6.

FOR SALE:

Secondhand Acer Aspire One Laptops. These laptops are old school laptops.
The ‘AS IS’ price $15.00/ laptop.
Enquiries at the Riverside office.

Jasper Thomson recently returned to our school for a week as part of his Year 10 community service project. Jasper kindly donated his time and services around the school. We cannot thank him enough for the help he provided and we are very proud of him as a past student.

Mrs Thomas has returned from her long service leave. Whilst we are happy to have Mrs Thomas back we have had to say a very sad goodbye to Mrs Ross. Mrs Ross was so very kind to leave her home in New South Wales to assist us. A big thank you, Mrs Ross, and may God bless you in your future plans.
FROM MOSES TO MUTANTS, QUEENS TO CROC HUNTERS!