There has been significant growth since the end of last year with many new students joining us in 2016. We also have five new teachers and an additional member of our administrative team.

Significant growth is often accompanied by equally significant changes and challenges. As our school gets bigger, we will all need to work together to ensure every member of the DCC community finds their sense of belonging. I fully expect to see students who have been here from the start reaching out in friendship to the newest members of their classes.

Embracing change and new people can be a challenge to us. Often it is easiest to keep doing what we have always done, remaining in our comfort zones and sticking with our established friends. I believe, however, that when we make that extra effort to look outwards and welcome in the stranger, we will experience wonderful personal growth both in ourselves and in the environment around us.

Inclusivity is an important idea for us to be aware of and it is one we will be exploring more this year as we implement our Friendly School program across all year levels both primary and secondary.

The Friendly Schools Program will supplement our existing Anti-Bullying policy to ensure that we build in each other the awareness of the needs and sensitivities of every child. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this program will have on the community as a whole.

Other exciting developments that we look forward to seeing this year include the construction of our latest school building, which will contain the new “Discovery Hub” Learning Centre. We hope to see this facility open early on in term 2. Also scheduled for construction during term 2 is our new covered sporting arena, which includes 2 full size basketball courts. This will be a wonderful addition to our campus and create whole new interactive opportunities for students.

As we plan for the future and see some of our previous planning become a reality, we are constantly reminded of our mission to provide a learning environment that enables every student to find their own pathway to success.

My prayer is that each student, as they work hard under the constant guidance of our staff, becomes more aware every day of their own road to Discovery.

Damian Higgins
Principal
Senior Art

Year 11 Art students started the year off by leaping into some big images.

Students created blind contour line drawings in their books before copying them to canvas in a new composition. They formed two groups with one group using warm colours to complete their image and the other using cool colours. They were very focussed and completed these images in two lessons!

Marine Science

Marine Science is a new elective authority subject offered at DCC for Year 11 students.

This subject will cover the main topics of oceanography, marine biology, marine research techniques, and marine conservation. So far this year we have been focusing on the scientific method including the process of how marine research is carried out and how it is reported. These will be important lessons the students will use later on in the year when they conduct their own marine research projects.

Before the end of Term 1 we will be moving on to oceanography. Students have already had one field excursion to the beach to learn about the importance of collecting observations in field journals, learning to be curious and asking questions about things we see everyday. We certainly have an exciting year ahead!
Welcome to the new staff of DCC

Mrs Marteniekie Forsyth

Marteniekie Forsyth is one of the new staff members this year. She was born in South-Africa and immigrated to Australia where she also completed her secondary schooling. After school she went on to become a Horticulturist and also gained her Education Degree. Marteniekie’s passion is teaching Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Biology. She has worked for a number of years as a Year Level Coordinator and a Head of Curriculum. As part of her role as a teacher here at DCC, she is responsible for looking after our Senior Schooling area as she brings her expertise of the Yr 11 and Yr 12 students to our school. She, and her three children moved from Biloela to Agnes Water at the start of this year and she is really enjoying the relaxed lifestyle our town has to offer.

Mr Louis Saayman

Mr Saayman is a very experienced and outstanding teacher in his 37th year of teaching and with experience and knowledge in most secondary subjects and leadership positions. He came from South Africa twenty years ago and has become a real Aussie. He has extensive experience in the Secondary areas and specialised in Mathematics, Science, Manual Arts, Agricultural, IT and Special Education areas. Furthermore, he is also a qualified Physical Education teacher, with experience also in the Agricultural area. He has experience of different Education systems as he taught in three different countries and several states in Australia. Mr Saayman taught all levels from years 1 to 12 in his teaching career and also served in leadership positions. Mr Saayman came to Agnes with the aim to settle permanently, to motivate and encourage students to perform to the best of their abilities, to serve God and to enjoy God’s given country. In his spare time he loves to fish and to spend time with his lovely wife, three daughters and grandchildren.

Mrs Sonja Vermaak

Mrs Vermaak has moved to Agnes Water from Kalgoorlie, WA where she was the Curriculum Leader for the Language Faculty at Goldfields Baptist College. She arrived in Australia from South Africa in 2013 to rewrite and teach the College’s Christian Education Curriculum, as well as teach Science and English. After graduating from university, she spent many years in the newspaper and printing industry where she was a sub-editor and page layout artist. As a result of her industry experience, Sonja was requested to join the staff at the local vocational training college, teaching business studies. She decided to complete her formal post-graduate teaching qualification because she loved being in the class. She taught at the same college for 12 years before leaving for Australia. Sonja has a solid background in Theology and is an experienced worship leader who has ministered internationally in many churches and at various retreats and seminars. She and her son, who is in year 8, are very excited about their move to DCC and believe this is exactly where they should be at this point in time.

Mrs Jessica Scannell

Mrs Scannell has come to DCC to establish and teach the new Marine Science course for Grades 11 and 12. She is originally from the state of Maine in the USA but has been living in Agnes Water for 4 years with her husband and 3 year old son. Jessica has a Bachelors degree in mathematics and a Masters degree in Marine Biology form JCU in Townsville. She is currently in the final year of her Doctorate undertaking research into the shark populations of Central Queensland which also includes coral reef fish ecology, genetics and fisheries management. With a passion for SCUBA diving, snorkeling and also being a qualified rescue diver the Marine Science students can expect to have a wonderful time exploring the aquatic environment of the Discovery Coast.

Mrs Stacey Hogarth

Stacey Hogarth joined Discovery Christian College in January 2016 as our new Bursar. Prior to joining DCC, Stacey has held senior management positions in schools on both the Gold Coast and in Hobart. Prior to this she was Company Secretary for Queensland Airports. She comes to us with extensive experience in financial and administrative management, governance and stakeholder management. She holds a Master of Business Administration and is currently studying towards a Master of Professional Accounting. Stacey made the move to Agnes with her husband and their 5 children. They are very much looking forward to being a part of our community.

Uniform Shop

Please be aware that the uniform shop is open Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon. Please contact Sandra Higgins on sandra.higgins@discovery.qld.edu.au should you have any questions or would like to purchase any uniform items.

Car Park Arrangements

Parents are permitted to use the round about at drop off and pick up times, solely as a kiss and go. Cars are not permitted to wait in this area, so if students are not yet ready please park in the car park area. The bus is to be given priority at all times so please move accordingly.
Year 1/2 Science

In science classes, the Grade 1/2 students have recently been learning about how the properties of materials change in different ways.

One of the ways this was demonstrated was through the students trying to make towers using cooked and uncooked spaghetti. Through much deliberation, their smart, little minds concluded in choosing the latter and they ended up with some creative and uniquely structured spaghetti towers to show off.

Fees

Please be aware that fees are payable in advance and all families should have received electronic statements earlier in the term. If you have not yet received a statement or have any questions regarding your account, please contact Helen Radford on helen.radford@discovery.qld.edu.au or by calling 07 4974 7336.

Maths Tutoring

Would you like some extra Maths help? Tutoring is available for secondary students on Monday afternoons in the library for free between 3:00 and 4:00 with Mr Saayman.

Chaplain

Hi, my name is Beth and I am the new Chaplain for Discovery Christian College.

I have been a chaplain for 8 years and during that time have worked with both primary and high school students within the Gladstone region. Although I have lived in the region for 30 years I have only been a resident of Agnes Water for the last 2 years. I am married and have 3 children who are now all young adults.

My passion is to see every child reach their full potential. The main role of a chaplain is Pastoral Care to the students, staff and parents. A chaplain is someone they can vent to or talk to without the ‘authority’ tag. Networking with other support services in the community is also part of my role. A large part of my job is being a trusted friend to the students, someone who will care for them unconditionally.

Should you wish to speak to me over concerns, I work at DCC every Tuesday.