Finding a balance at exam time can be difficult for both students and their parents. There are students who struggle academically, like I did when I was at school, and there are students who worry excessively about grades. Sometimes, the pressure which parents place on academic achievement can also add to a student’s stress.

Teachers and parents do want students to work hard, to achieve their best and learn without buckling under the pressure. Here are some ways to help keep things in perspective.

Debunk the myth of the perfect score, or as Myth-Busters would say, “The Perfect Score? BUSTED!” Not everyone will achieve straight A’s, and grades are not the only indicators of success. Different classes place different demands on students, and moderation and scaling in SACE subjects can cause grades to change. By acknowledging these variables, we can help students focus on more important goals, such as gaining helpful knowledge, determining strengths and developing a love of learning. You don’t need perfect results to be successful.

We definitely want to see academic rigour at Cedar College, but not at the expense of students leading unbalanced lives. University is often the path which many of our students choose, but a trade course or the workforce can be just as rewarding for others. A focus on the value and dignity of the individual will help students grow and make good choices for their futures.

IT is important to foster independence and give students the freedom to experiment, problem-solve, self-advocate and make mistakes. Hovering over them may help them do better in school, but it’s not the best preparation for when they will have to stand on their own two feet.

Character counts - and we value it highly at Cedar College. If school is a struggle for your child, point out other strengths such as integrity, resilience, critical thinking, perseverance and teamwork - all of which will be equally, if not more important when they enter the workforce. After all, success is measured over the course of a lifetime, not just at the end of a school year.

I would like to wish all of our Cedar families a safe and happy Christmas. The annual CityReach CarolsAlive will be held on the Cedar College oval this Sunday, from 5pm, and promises to be a fantastic night for the whole family - we'd love to see you there! And as we prepare for Christmas and are reminded of the birth of Jesus Christ, I ask you to consider the role that Jesus plays in your family? Where is God in your life? Look to Him this Christmas and let Him change your life.

Have a blessed Christmas and a safe New Year.

Mr Peter Thomson
Principal

From the Principal
Recognising Achievement

At our Graduations and Awards Nights, Cedar College seeks to recognise outstanding academic excellence, as well as outstanding character and improvement.
2017 BOOK COLLECTION DAYS
Please note, as in previous years, if we have not received your Book Collection forms (which were sent home in November) you will be unable to pick up your child’s books until the form is completed. If you have not received these forms, please contact the Front Office ASAP.

Primary School students collect all books & stationery from High School E-BLOCK, Room 1, High School students collect from High School C-BLOCK, Room 1, on the following days:

**Students whose surname falls between A - K,**
Book Collection is **Thursday 19th January, 8:30am - 2pm.**

**Students whose surname falls between L - Z,**
Book Collection is **Friday 20th January, 8:30am - 2pm.**

Please ensure that you collect your books on the allocated day, to ensure smooth processing.
Further information will be emailed to you in January.

Book Collection Information
If you are unable to collect your books on your allocated day, please contact the Primary or High School Office to negotiate a different day for collection before school commences.
Please note that Year 12’s do not have anything to collect on Book Collection Day.

Tissues
We would appreciate it if every student could supply a box of tissues. These can be brought in on your allocated Book Collection Day and handed in when you collect your stationery pack, or on the first day of school.

Book Covers
All exercise books will need to be covered.
A great selection of book covers can be ordered from ezcover.net.au (Cedar College receives a donation for each cover purchased if you use the code EZ15), or you may source your own book covers. Primary School Book lists will be available on the school website.

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop will be open during both Book Collection Days from 8:30am – 2pm, and the Student Free Day, Monday January 30, from 10:00am - 4:30pm. For further information, please refer to the school’s website.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER
Finalising 2016 School Fees
Thank you to all the families that have finalised their school fees or are continuing to pay them as per an approved payment plan. Your attention to this is appreciated, as Cedar College does not receive the full government funding that a public school receives, and relies on school fees being paid in a timely manner to help pay the many costs associated with running the school.

If you have not paid your fees when they were due, or you have missed payments as per an agreed payment plan, your school fee account is now considered overdue and will have interest and a late payment charge of $25 added to the account.

Please note that continued failure to pay your fees will result in a recommendation to the Principal that your child(ren)’s enrolment is suspended, pending payment of your fees to date. This is an action that you have agreed to in your enrolment contract. Additionally, any siblings that are enrolled as 2017 students will lose their place and be moved back to the waiting list. Continued non-payment will result in your child(ren)’s enrolment at Cedar College being withdrawn and further action taken to recover the outstanding debt.

If you need to discuss payment of your fees please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office on 8261 3377, up to and including this Thursday 15th December, or after the 9th January 2017.

Mr Jeff Thorpe
Business Manager
NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Junior Primary Celebrates

The excited jumping and laughing of the Junior Primary students on Monday night could mean only one thing - the annual Junior Primary Celebration and Awards Evening.

A packed house enjoyed the rhythmic performance and light show from the Year 2 Cup Symphony, who showed that great music can be made using simple items. The Year 1s followed, with a rap version of "Away in a Manger", displaying some great moves and attitude, in their colourful choreography and costumes. But the cameras all came out when the Receptions hit the stage! Always a crowd favourite, the Receptions tipped the cute-meter off the scale with their performance of "We are Lambs", complete with fluffy lamb masks and lamb tails. With a finale of "O What a Glorious Night", the Junior Primary reminded everyone of the real meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to all of the award winners, and all of the students who took part, and thank you to Mrs Webster, the Junior Primary teachers, and all of our parents/caregivers and friends for helping to make it a very special night.

Primary School Band

It was my pleasure to take the Primary School Band to perform at Northgate Helping Hand again this term.

The band was also able to play at the AVEO Nursing home and the staff and residents at both venues were very welcoming and really enjoyed having our students perform. We played as a band as well as small groups, duets and solos by our talented musicians. The students did a wonderful job of interacting with the residents and they were amazing ambassadors for Cedar College. Thank you to Mrs MacLean for joining us and for opening and closing our time by playing piano. And thanks to Mr Upton for driving the commuter bus and helping on the day. We concluded the morning with a special McDonalds lunch, in celebration of an exciting year of playing music together. Thank you to the band for their hard work and commitment this year!

Mrs Joanne Thorpe, Instrumental Co-ordinator.
**Planning for Liveability**

This term, in Humanities, the Year 7 Humanities classes took on the roles of Town Planners for a new city.

The unit this term, called "Sense of Belonging and Liveability", examined the criteria of what makes a town liveable and the perception of what gives it a sense of belonging. Students observed towns and cities around the world that fit this criteria, then, in small groups, the students designed, developed and presented their "real life" cities (on PowerPoint) to Cedar College Board Chairman, Mr Lou George.

Mr George has had a wealth of experience in the planning and management of major infrastructure for South Australia, and with these high-level credentials was the ideal person to critique and evaluate the students' work. The Year 7s were nervous presenting to Mr George, but to their credit, all of the groups withstood his questions and responded with confidence and much poise!

**Mr Andrew Mooney**  
Middle School Humanities Teacher

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**CarolsAlive! 2016**

CarolsAlive is a free community event featuring live music, children's entertainment, live nativity, community carol singing, and a spectacular fireworks display!

Bring the whole family for dinner and enjoy the festive atmosphere from 5pm with face painting, kids’ rides, bouncing castle and more! Then settle in for an evening of fantastic music and entertainment by local artists beginning at 7:30pm. Celebrate Christmas with your community!

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**Year 8 Science Full of Energy**

All Year 8 students have just completed their last assessment task of the year, which was to design, construct and test a sliding vehicle that could carry 750ml down a ramp with obstacles.

The assessment was a STEM challenge where students had to use their science knowledge of energy transformation and apply engineering processes to complete the challenge. Marks were awarded for maximum speed that the vehicle travelled at, and the amount of water that was retained in the vehicle once at the bottom of the ramp. Some vehicles slid down the ramp at a high speed with lots of water spillage, where other vehicles slid down the ramp slowly with minimal water loss.

The Year 8 students enjoyed the challenge which allowed them to develop skills in collaboration, problem solving and creativity.

**Mrs Kerri-Ann Sweet**  
High School Science & Mathematics Teacher

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**STUDENT FREE DAY**  
Friday December 9.

**Last Day of Middle School**  
Monday December 12, 3:20pm finish.

**Middle School Graduation**  
Monday December 12, 7pm.

**Book Collection 2017**  
**A-K**  
Thursday January 19, 8:30am - 2pm.  
**L-Z**  
Friday January 20, 8:30am - 2pm.

**Student Free Day**  
Monday January 30, 2017

**First Day of School, 2017**  
Tuesday January 31, 2017

**High School Information Night**  
Monday February 6, 7:30pm

**Year 12 Camp**  
Wednesday February 22 - Friday February 24

**High School Sports Day**  
Friday March 3

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**Carols Alive! Sunday December 11**

Food from 5pm, carols from 7:30pm

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**Cedar College**  
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