St John’s Lutheran School

A co-educational Christian K-6 school located in the heart of the City of Greater Geelong.

St John’s is a Christian school providing quality education for the people of Geelong in a family friendly environment. St John’s Lutheran School promotes lifelong learning where staff and students are encouraged and assisted to realise their God-given gifts, helping them to be responsible, contributing members of the school and the wider community. At St John’s we endeavour to ensure that all students reach their fullest potential spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

Gary Jewson, Principal

I look forward to meeting you and sharing with you the attributes that make St John’s Lutheran School a great place to educate your child.
St John’s Lutheran School has a special ambience that is noticeable as soon as you step through the gate. The first thing you become aware of is students who are happy. They are open and friendly, confident and warm. They will look you in the eye, smile at you and say “Hello!”

The School motto is “Christ is all” from Colossians 3:11. This theme is central to life itself. For to the believer, life is a living, intimate, everlasting relationship with God Himself. Christ is the only way to that life in which the believer is committed to follow the way of Christ’s love in all aspects of living, both on earth and in heaven.

St John’s Lutheran School focuses on building positive relationships based in our knowledge of, and faith in Christ which encourages mutual respect and trust between staff and students. We are committed to the care and development of the whole child: their physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual wellbeing. In harmony with academic learning through a strong core curriculum, the students are nurtured through Pastoral Care, formal and informal worship and Christian Studies lessons. Our students therefore are members of a Christian community striving for excellence – our faith underpins all we are and all we do.
Pastoral Care is central to the ethos of St John’s Lutheran School and actively supports the school’s mission to *learn, grow, serve,* and *care* for one another. Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life and fosters positive relationships between individuals in the community.

Through its Pastoral Care program St John’s leads and supports the school community as we *care for one another.* Each student and parent can expect to be valued, listened to and cared for at St John’s Lutheran School. We aim to provide an environment that is *safe and welcoming to all.*

Pastoral Care also:
- provides direct counselling to staff, students and parents.
- supports teachers and staff as they care for the unique needs of every student.
- extends care to families and/or staff during times of crisis or trauma.
St John’s Lutheran School delivers a dynamic, engaging and holistic curriculum catering for the developing needs of learners from Kindergarten through to Year 6.

With engaging hands-on and inquiry based learning opportunities, students study their changing world and explore sustainable living with an urban community focus. At St John’s Lutheran School our dedicated staff nurtures each student to develop their talents and interests so that they may reach their full potential as valued citizens of the world.
Preparation for life
Kindergarten is the foundation of learning and preparation for life. We aim to provide a stimulating, Christ-centred educational program designed to meet the developmental needs of each child.

Opportunities are provided to encourage each child to develop socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and intellectually based on learning through constructive play.

What we learn
The curriculum is based on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. The framework uses five outcomes to describe the key elements of children’s learning and development which are:

- Identity.
- Community.
- Wellbeing.
- Learning.
- Communication.

Our aims
Our long term objectives/learning outcomes are for the children to:

- Develop positive self esteem and confidence.
- Be confident and involved learners.
- Be self-motivated and creative.
- Have a strong sense of well being.
- Gain effective communication skills.
- Be connected with and contribute to their world.
- Develop problem solving techniques; to question and be curious.
- Have a strong sense of identity.
- Develop physical skills.
- Be independent and self-disciplined.
- Consolidate skills and acquire new ones.
- To show respect for others, our equipment and our environment.
Empowering lifelong learning
Primary Years
During the Primary Years children are given opportunities to support and develop their God-given gifts whilst being individually valued and nurtured. Through a multi-age classroom structure, teachers intentionally focus on meeting the needs of the individual by adapting the curriculum to fit the students through differentiated learning.

Co-curricular activities include:
- Specialist teachers of German, Physical Education, Music, Art.
- Use of Middle and Senior School specialist facilities.
- Educational camps Yrs 3-6.
- Cultural and sporting opportunities.

Junior Primary Years (Prep-2)
Stepping Stones
Children are educated in a caring and nurturing environment that prioritises the building of essential skills and knowledge.

The Junior Primary classroom is recognised by:
- A calm and caring orderly learning environment.
- The laying of strong foundations in literacy and numeracy.
- Catering for differing learning styles.

Senior Primary Years (3-6)
Habits of Learning
Students build and extend on the skills learnt in the Junior Primary years as they progressively develop independence through structured, independent and group learning activities. Interpersonal development is consolidated and leadership skills are introduced and reinforced.

By developing the skills and strategies to become independent, inquiring and caring young people, students are well prepared for the Middle Years of learning in Secondary school.
Empowering lifelong learning
Beyond the Classroom
A strong commitment exists toward the holistic development of students. Off-campus learning, service learning, enrichment activities and Leadership training allow students to be challenged to try new experiences and develop toward their full potential.

- Cultural awareness activities.
- Creativity encouraged.
- Choice to follow interests.
- Engagement with others.
- New skill development.
- Sporting opportunities.
- Extension to maximise learning.

Empowering lifelong learning
A focus on Urban Living

Urban Living
St John’s Lutheran School provides a convenient connection to the urban environment of Geelong. We are ideally situated in the inner urban precinct enabling the school to participate in local festivals and develop partnerships with local community groups and programs.

Through interaction with the local inner-city communities we strive to:
- Develop positive relationships with each other and our local neighbourhood community.
- Provide a dynamic learning environment that stimulates imagination beyond the classroom and out into the community.

Through practical learning in the city, students are encouraged to enhance their understanding of the urban environment and the way in which they can interact with it in a positive and meaningful way.

Sustainability
As children of God we accept our role as stewards of His wonderful creation and foster in our students a deep sense of connection and concern for the well being of the world in which they live.

St John’s assists students to become more sustainable by increasing biodiversity in the local area and dramatically reducing water use, greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste output.
Geelong Lutheran College
Secondary Education
Geelong Lutheran College provides a new and exciting secondary schooling option for children from St John’s Lutheran School.

GLC is now in its fourth year of operation as it lays the foundations necessary to effectively grow into Years 11 & 12 in 2013 and 2014. The decision to offer Year 12 by 2014 has always been part of the planning of the College and we are looking forward to the next few years as we cement our place into the fabric of the establishing Armstrong Creek community.

Facilities for Learning
New state-of-the-art facilities are in place with further plans to continually develop the site for the growing needs of the College.

Geelong Lutheran College is an environment that fosters and values:
• Excellence in education.
• Quality teaching and learning.
• God’s influence in our lives.
• The individual strengths and gifts of each person.
• The importance of, and being, a community.
• Respect for the family.
• The education of the whole child.

Independence for Life
For families seeking a sound educational experience with the added value of a Christian-based approach in the Lutheran tradition, Geelong Lutheran College offers education to secondary students that encourages them to develop their ability to be analytical and critical thinkers and to apply their skills and knowledge to the world in which they live.

As they move to senior secondary school, students further develop independence as they build on the skills from the middle years of their schooling. They are challenged to become productive and engaged members of their community.