Dear St John’s School Community

Last week I reflected on our School Vision Statement - ‘A Christian community striving for excellence.’

As we approach the season of Advent we are reminded that the next few weeks is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ child. Advent marks the beginning of the Church year. Our School Mission Statement reminds us as a Christian School, that we are all encouraged to prepare ourselves and others to realise our God-given gifts and be responsible, contributing members of our School, Church and the wider community - “St John’s Lutheran School is a Christian school which promotes lifelong learning in a Christ-centred environment. Staff, students and families are encouraged and assisted to realise their God-given gifts, helping them to be responsible, contributing members of the school, church and wider community.”

This Sunday our School and its wider community have the opportunity to come and celebrate together at our Advent and Carols evening beginning at 5:30pm with a sausage sizzle (gold coin donation). I’m looking forward to seeing you all there.

We have received a cheque for $1,333.00 which was the amount raised by our St John’s families in purchasing the 2013/14 Entertainment Book this year. We sold 121 books and this is a 33% increase of last year’s sales. This money will assist with our latest Interschool Sports uniforms purchase. I would like to pass on our sincere thanks to Christine Duncan for coordinating this fantastic effort.

A reminder to all School families that our Closing Service is on Thursday December 12 at Barrabool Hills Baptist Church at 7pm. More details to follow.

Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ. Ephesians 4:32

Comment - The alternative is to be irritable and bitter - and who can live with that sort of person? No one!

With God’s Blessing
Brian Schultz

THE BALANCE OF THE LEVEL 4 CANBERRA CAMP 2014 PAYMENT IS DUE ON DECEMBER 13TH

Head of School

Term 4 Week 8 28th November, 2013

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEC</th>
<th>Mon 1st</th>
<th>Carols Service at St John’s School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>Prayer Group – 9.05 in the School Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9th</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12th</td>
<td>Last day of Term – Closing Service – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12th</td>
<td>Canteen Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13th</td>
<td>Term 4 Holidays Commence</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>Mon 3rd</th>
<th>Term 1 – Students Commence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3rd</td>
<td>Welcome to Parents Morning Tea - Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th to Fri 14th</td>
<td>Level 4 (Yrs 5 &amp; 6) Canberra Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21st</td>
<td>St John’s Family Picnic – 6pm</td>
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Devotional Thought

The Prodigal Son is among Jesus’ best known and loved parables; and for very good reason. It captures the enormity of God’s love for us, each as individuals, and God’s eternal willingness to forgive and restore us, no matter how much we have messed up our lives and sinned against him.

A man had two sons. The youngest was itching to get out and see the world, so he asked his father for his share of his inheritance. He was impatient for his father to die, so he asked for the money he would inherit up front. His father didn’t refuse this request or limit his freedom, but gave him the cash.

The son then headed off to distant countries and wasted it on wild living. However, the money was soon spent, his friends evaporated, and the only job he could find was feeding pigs. The son realised that even his father’s servants lived better than he did, he also recognised his foolishness, selfishness and how he had wronged not only his father but also God.

So he headed home but his father saw him while he was still a long way off and ran to meet him. The son asked for forgiveness. The father not only forgave him, but was so delighted with his return and change of heart that he showered him with new clothes, delicious food, presents and love, and restored him to his place, not as a servant but as a son.

We don’t use the word prodigal much anymore, but it means “spending money or using resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant”. There were two prodigal people in this story. The first was the youngest son, who used the money and things the father had given him for his own pleasure. The second was the father. Many commentators call this the story of the Prodigal Father. The father in the story is God and God is reckless and extravagant in his love for us, far beyond anything we can ever repay him. We don’t even come close. He was so reckless he gave his life for us, knowing that some people wouldn’t even care and that some would turn their back on him. In 1 John 3:1 it says: “See what great love the father has lavished upon us, that we should be called children of God (Luke 15:11-32).

Jonny Hedt – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Canberra Camp Payments
Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthdays in the coming week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>SI</td>
<td>29th November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxon</td>
<td>JT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>JG</td>
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<td>JT</td>
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<td>SI</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td>3rd December</td>
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The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have decided not to publish names in the newspapers this year for students involved in the Premiers’ Reading Challenge. They will instead list the names on their website and we are expecting the Certificates in the next couple of weeks. Your child’s name will have been listed on the Premiers’ Reading Challenge Honour Roll which is included on the Education Victoria website. To access this information, the website address is www.education.vic.gov.au or type in “prc honour roll 2013” in a web browser and the Premiers’ Reading Challenge Home Page should come up as the top choice.

At the bottom of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge Home Page, you will find a link to the Honour Roll area. On this page you will need to click on the Honour Roll button which has categories such as “Early Childhood”, “Prep” and Years 1 to 7. Children are listed alphabetically by surname in these categories. I hope this is self-explanatory – it should make sense once you give it a go.

Lynn Lytzki - Librarian

St Paul’s Youth meets next Friday, December 6 for a Christmas break-up with Christmas games and festive food. Gold coin donation. Sign in at St Paul’s Community Centre, corner Heyers Road and Torquay Road at 6.45pm. Pickup at 8.30pm. RSVP to Lee Smith 52417182 or text 0425870136, or email Jonny Hedt at hedtj@stjohns.edu.au.

**YOUTH PLANNING 2014:** Parents and year 8+ youths are invited to join a St Paul’s Youth planning evening to map out activities and ideas for 2014. We are considering splitting into a senior and junior youth with senior youth mentoring junior youths. Please bring your ideas and join us for hot chips at St Paul’s Community Centre, corner Heyers Road and Torquay Road at 6.45pm tonight, November 28. The meeting will finish at 8pm. RSVP to Lee Smith 52417182 or text 0425870136, or email Jonny Hedt at hedtj@stjohns.edu.au.

**Premiers’ Reading Challenge**

**Christmas Carols Evening**

**Where:** St John’s Lutheran School

**When:** Sunday December 1

**Time:** 5.30 pm for Sausage sizzle (gold coin donation) 6.30 pm for carols

**Bring:** Please bring along chairs/picnic rug and your best singing voices!

**Canteen**

Thank you Louise McMartin and Kathryn Vick for your help today.

**Roster - Term 4**

**Thursday 11.00am – 1.30pm**

**TERM 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th December</td>
<td>Belinda Yockins</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th December</td>
<td>Canteen Closed</td>
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**Level 2**

Students in JT and MG are shown working together during ‘Buddies’ to create something from one piece of newspaper.

The challenge was to create something, using a variety of paper techniques, like folding, scrunching, tearing and rolling. They made some interesting things and had a lot of fun together.

**Melinda Troeth – Level 2 Leader**

**Cyber Safety**

Do you have questions or concerns? The Australian Government’s Easy Guide to Socialising Online provides information on how internet users can protect themselves and their information when using social networking sites, search engines and online games. Please visit www.communications.gov.au/easyguide

**Jonny Hedt – Pastoral Care**

**Birthday**

Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthdays in the coming week:

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**Basketball**

The basketball fixture for the following weeks is as follows:

**St John’s Slamdunks**

Wednesday 6th December – 4.40pm
Wednesday 13th December – 5.20pm
Wednesday 20th December – 4.40pm
Wednesday 27th January – 4.00pm

**St John’s Bobcats**

Saturday 30th November – 9.00am
Saturday 7th December – 9.50 am
Saturday 14th December – 10.40am
Saturday 1st February - bye

Leanne Williams

**Closing Service**

During the service there will be an opportunity to make an offering towards Typhoon Haiyan disaster relief in the Philippines through Australian Lutheran World Service and its partners.
Message from McHarrys Buslines

The importance of wearing seat belts on buses.

Many of McHarrys school buses are fitted with seat belts.

Seat belts are fitted to improve passenger safety. They reduce the risk of serious injury if there is an accident.

It is a legal requirement for a bus passenger wear a seat belt where there is one fitted.

The law states that is it the responsibility of the individual passenger to wear it.

It is important that all students are aware of the requirement that seat belts must be worn where provided.

It is appreciated if you could please advise your students of this information, and recap with them again at the start of the 2014 school year.

Thank you.
Felicity Hunter
Service Development Manager
McHarrys Buslines Pty. Ltd.
P: 03 5223 2111
W: mcharrys.com.au

Volunteer Gardeners

Would anyone have a few spare hours each month, fortnight or week that they could do some minor work in the garden? Our beautiful Kinder garden needs a little TLC to establish the new plants and some of our School’s garden beds have a few weeds that appear and could also use some watering from time to time.

We would like to have volunteers to help keep our gardens growing and you are welcome to place your name on a roster by contacting the School Office. There is no specific time or day that we require a volunteer.

We have started a roster and would love to hear from parents, carers, friends, grandparents, staff or anyone who would like to help.

Garden equipment and relaxation provided!

Geelong Food Relief – Food for Fines

In partnership with Geelong Food Relief Centre Geelong Libraries will once again celebrate Christmas by helping to gather food for people in need of community support. Between 25 November and 8 December, overdue fees will be waived in return for donations of packaged, non-perishable food items which will be given to our region’s largest food charity, Geelong Food Relief Centre.

Please give generously to this worthy cause – Xmas puddings, cakes, spreads and breakfast cereals are particularly needed.

Rod Gurney - Operations Manager - Geelong Food Relief Centre

Preps

The Prep children are really ‘getting their teeth into’ some brilliant writing.

This week we are working on retelling a story.

Prayer Group

St John’s Prayer Group is a group of parents who gather regularly to bring the school and school community before God in prayer. All welcome. In Term 4, the group will meet after morning assembly (9.05am) in the St John’s Hall on Friday December 6. For more information, please contact Pastoral Care Coordinator Jonny Hedt at hedtj@stjohns.edu.au

Thank You from the McLeod Family

The following letter was received from the McLeod Family who sadly lost their beautiful son and brother, Gregor, to cancer earlier this year.

“We are writing to express our appreciation of the St John’s Lutheran Kinder and School community in their support of our family. Gregor was a very special and unique child who had a thirst for knowledge and a love of his early education, not to mention his teachers Mrs Blackwell and Mrs Bayfield.

Time has moved on and Gregor’s kinder mates are coming to the end of their first year of school and Alice is under-taking orientation for school next year. As we marked the second anniversary of Gregor’s diagnosis on the 11/11/13 it allows us to reflect on the last two years.

Gregor attended St John’s in both 3 and 4 year old kinder. 4 year old kinder was the best time of his life, in spite of undertaking multiple surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatment. He wished to attend kinder as a ‘normal child’, he wished to make friends on his own merits and be accepted into the kinder community. This was allowed to occur and for that we are grateful.

Gregor had a wonderful sense of humour, an eye for detail, a love and passion for making the most of every day. His actions spoke louder than words and his gratitude and love of St John’s was reflected by attending and participating in Alice’s father’s day kinder activities whilst extremely unwell in the final week of his life. We miss Gregor deeply, his special phrases, his little dances and the way he would sum up a situation. Gregor’s life was short, however very full.

On behalf of our family we wish to thank all those St Johns families who provided support and practical assistance through Gregor’s journey. This enabled us to make the most of every moment with Gregor and also enabled us to celebrate his life in a way that was befitting the way in which he lived.

We feel very fortunate to have been involved in the St John’s community and appreciate the way in which this created such a special time for Gregor. For this we are forever thankful.

Regards,

Bryan, Suzi, Alice and Bridgette McLeod*
Thank you to our Parents and Friends for their organisation of the “Picnic on the Green”. Although I wasn’t able to be present, by all accounts it was a very enjoyable community-building night. Another highlight of last week was the Year 9/10 Commerce class’ organisation of their Market Day. Thank you to Mrs Varley and our Commerce students for the fun way they involved others in their learning.

Planning for next year continues in earnest. Teacher staffing is complete and many of our new teachers are already engaged in planning for next year at GLC. Details of our 1:1 laptop scheme for Year 7 and 10 students will be provided later this week for parents.

This is an important step forward for our students’ learning but it must be emphasized that this is not the only way that students will be learning. For example, there are different cognitive skills involved in constructing and editing digital and written work.

Next year we will be hosting four Japanese exchange students from Meisei High School. Previously, we hosted Kana Sakurai from this school in Term 3 of this year. Please consider hosting one of these students in your home.

Looking ahead to our calendar, I would like to highlight next Tuesday night’s Celebration of Christmas and Year 6 Graduation, as well as the Closing Service and Awards Night on Wednesday, 11 December.

Barry Krueger

Our Extend Superstar is...Liam P for his wonderful, imaginative ideas that create fun for all.

Activities for next week:
Monday 2 December: Mosaics
Tuesday 3 December: Stalagmites ‘N’ Stalactites
Wednesday 4 December: Finger Puppets
Thursday 5 December: Nachos
Friday 6 December: Modelling Clay Sculptures

ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au
CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437