Dear St John’s School Community

Welcome back to the final term of 2014. It was wonderful to start the term with Pastor Mark leading our opening Chapel.

As you are all aware this year all Lutheran Schools across Australia are celebrating 175 years of Lutheran Schooling in Australia. Lutheran Education Australia has made donations available to all schools to plant a tree to commemorate this milestone. Mrs Gibbons shared with us the significance of this occasion and read out the prayer selected for this time, ‘the act of planting a tree signifies our desire to remember, to celebrate and to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools. We give thanks for the many leaders, teachers and most importantly students and families who have shaped a life. ’We have chosen a Silver Birch tree to be planted outside our Hall that we may see and watch grow.

We also welcomed Mrs Angela McLean who was recently appointed as our Wellbeing Coordinator. Other recent staff announcements include the impending retirement at the end of the year of our Music teacher, Mrs Carmel Schulze. Mrs Belinda Johnstone who is currently on maternity leave has announced her resignation and will not return to her position next year. Mr Stephen Illingworth will remain on staff in an ongoing position. We wish them all well with their new paths in life.

Our School Leadership Team is currently looking at the class structure for 2015. Although numbers are strong in the lower year levels our enrolment for Years 5 and 6 will restrict us to two classes in this area. Unfortunately, it won’t be viable to run three Year 5 and 6 classes for quality. More details, as they come to hand, will be announced in future Newsletters.

We received exciting news during the holidays regarding the recent National Quality Standards Assessment of our Kindergarten. Ratings promote transparency and accountability and help parents assess the quality of education and care services available including most long day care, family day care, preschool/Kindergarten and outside school hours care services. Every service receives a rating for each quality area and an overall rating. These ratings must be displayed by each service and are published on the ACECQA and the MyChild websites.

Our Kindergarten achieved the rating of Exceeding National Quality Standard. This places our Kindergarten within the top quartile of centres assessed nationally.

Congratulations to Our Director Natalie Blackwell and our amazing Kinder staff.

Robin Mann, singer and songwriter will perform at St John’s tomorrow, Friday October 10. I’d encourage parents and friends of our School community to come along and join us. What a way to finish off the first week back.

October is Walk to School Month. This is an annual event which encourages Primary School children to walk to and from school in October. Walking to school is great for children’s health and wellbeing, and helps to reduce traffic and parking congestion around schools. Schools and individuals are invited to visit the Walk to School website to: access great prizes, and plenty of fun competitions for students during October; order free posters, classroom calendars, stickers, fact sheets, classroom resources and more. For more information visit www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au or contact Thea Grenfell (City of Greater Geelong – Healthy Together Geelong) on 0407 953 926 or tgrenfell@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Hope to see you at Saturday’s Working Bee.

With God’s blessings
Brian Schultz

Hats

Students must wear their School hat at Recess and Lunch Play as well as during any outdoor sports and activities during Terms 1 and 4. New hats are available from Bellarine Uniforms.
**Devotional Thought**

Uncertain times...

We live in uncertain times in an uncertain world. In an instant our world can change as planes get blown out of the sky, others go missing, people lose their jobs, wars go on and on and terrorists plague the world with their militant intentions. A little closer to home, we also see that our own personal lives can often be filled with uncertainty—uncertainty about our health, our relationships, our future. Sometimes it seems as though the only thing that we can be certain of is ‘change.’

Thankfully one thing does remain the same. God’s love for us in Jesus Christ doesn’t change. When all around us things change and fall apart, we can be certain of God’s un-failing and enduring love, grace and mercy. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). God gives us certainty in the midst of all life’s uncertainties. We can be certain in Jesus Christ that God loves us. We can be certain through Jesus that God graciously forgives us. Also, we can be certain that in the death and resurrection of Jesus we are assured of our eternal destiny.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Mark.

**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to the following students who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>10th Oct</td>
<td>MG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle</td>
<td>10th Oct</td>
<td>J1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>10th Oct</td>
<td>MB</td>
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<td>Tess</td>
<td>12th Oct</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>13th Oct</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fletcher</td>
<td>14th Oct</td>
<td>JT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>14th Oct</td>
<td>MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isla</td>
<td>14th Oct</td>
<td>PG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>14th Oct</td>
<td>MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zechariah</td>
<td>15th Oct</td>
<td>SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgina</td>
<td>16th Oct</td>
<td>PG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elijah</td>
<td>16th Oct</td>
<td>J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tess</td>
<td>16th Oct</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lost Property**

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a good break.

There are a few sports jumpers without name tags in the Lost Property collection. If one of your jumpers has gone missing, could you please check the pile as it would be great to re-unite the jumpers with their owners.

**Canteen**

Thank you to Suzanne Sprague for helping in the Canteen today.

**Spelling Mastery**

All parents want their children to succeed at school, and most parents are willing to help their children toward this goal. Spelling is one area in which they are usually comfortable offering help.

Over the years, parents have learned that most teachers send home a weekly spelling list to be tested on Friday. Parents will often quiz their child on the spelling words because they are eager to help their child develop spelling mastery.

“Mastery” has traditionally been defined as the ability to spell the words correctly on the Friday test. We want to share the rationale and benefits of our new spelling program with you.

1. **Emphasis on Life Skills** - The new program is aligned with life skills emphasizing spelling in everyday writing.

2. **Benefit** - In real life, people need to know how to spell in writing, not just on spelling tests on Friday. Employers do not give spelling tests on Friday, but expect that job applicants and employees produce error free spelling in their communication. Your child will be prepared to meet this challenge using this new program.

Has the importance of teaching students to spell accurately been lost in the age of computers and spell-checkers? Certainly as much value and importance should be placed on spelling as other academic content areas.

This year at St John’s, we implemented **Spelling Mastery**. This is an evidenced-based approach to spelling instruction. It is taught by direct instruction and sequenced lessons so that students learn simple spelling strategies before more complex spelling strategies.

**How can you assist your child’s learning? - Parent Participation at Home.** One way you can help at home is by encouraging correct spelling and use in all writing. Parents can support the teacher’s random spelling checks of everyday assignments by checking their children’s work themselves. If spelling errors are found, parents can guide their child through the working out of the correct spelling. You are a key contributor to your child’s spelling growth in writing.

Kirsteen Byrne - Literacy Coordinator
**St John’s Team Photos**

Team photos are now available to order from Arthur Reed Photos at a cost of $10 per photo. Samples are available for viewing at the School Office. Teams that have been photographed are:

Year 6 Funny Photo, Senior School Choir, Middle School Choir, Debating, District Athletics, District Cross Country, Slamdunks Basketball Team, Bobcats Basketball Team, Gummibears Netball Team, Lollipops Netball Team.

To order please:
- Select St John’s Lutheran School Geelong from the drop down box and begin your order
- From this page you can decide which prints you would like to purchase. Select and enter the quantity of photos required next to the relevant group name and follow the steps to confirm your order and make your payment
- After payment is complete, your web browser will display your receipt. Please print this page for your records.
- If you do not wish to purchase photos online you may call Arthur Reed Photos on 5243 4390 to place your order.

Catherine Van Zetten – Administration

**St John’s Carols Service**

**First Sunday in Advent**

St John’s Carols Service: To celebrate the start of Advent and the Christmas season, St John’s Lutheran School will host a Christmas Carols evening on the oval on Sunday, November 30. The Carols Service will begin at 6.30pm and run for about one hour, including a nativity play by students and a choir performance.

Prior to the Service, a sausage sizzle will start from 5.30pm and there will be cold drinks available. Gold coin donations for these will help cover costs with any proceeds going to Australian Lutheran World Service. Please BYO camping chairs, picnic rugs and other snacks. All welcome. No alcohol please.

We look forward to a wonderful night of celebration, music and worship as a community. If anyone would like to help by setting up or cooking several hundred sausages from about 4pm (or whenever you are free), please let the School Office know.

**Jonny Hedt & Angela McLean – Wellbeing Coordinators**

**Music**

The Music Award for this week goes to: JI – For working well in Music.

Carmel Schulze – Music Teacher

**Concert DVD Order**

This is your last chance to order an Imagine if………… Concert DVD. Please contact the School Office by Monday 13th October if you wish to purchase the DVD at a cost of $20.

Catherine Van Zetten – Administration

**Parents and Friends**

**FILM NIGHT REMINDER – WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER.**

The St John’s Lutheran School Parents and Friends Committee invite you to a film night with a difference

The Cinema has been designed by a local man who is a movie buff. He has converted his old shearing shed into a small and unique cinema that includes 18 seats, as well as a supper area.

**When:** Wednesday 15th October 2014 – starting at 7.30 p.m.

**Where:** 1285 Barrabool Road, Gnarwarre (9.1 km from the ring road exit onto Barrabool Road).

**What to bring:** Tea and coffee will be provided, we just ask that you bring along some supper to share with everyone else. You can also bring wine if you choose to.

**Cost:** $5.00 a head (Please pay at the School Office prior to the night)

**Film shown:** The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

We will need a minimum number of 15 for the night to go ahead, so if you are interested, please register and pay at the School Office. (If there are inadequate numbers, we will refund your money). If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Keryn on 0407563123.

**Absent Students**

If your child is absent from School for any reason, you must notify the School. We are required to include details of absences as part of DEECD reporting regulations.

Shortly, we will be introducing an automated SMS message to parents and carers if we have not received notification regarding an absence from School.

You will be required to return an SMS or phone the School to advise the reason for the absence of your child.
City of Greater Geelong

New Road Safety website helps people of all ages!

The City of Greater Geelong’s new road safety website provides valuable tips and information for road users from young kids to senior citizens.

City of Greater Geelong Councillor Andy Richards, who holds the portfolio for Transport said the new website contains useful information for all road users. “If you walk, ride a bike, drive a car, truck, bus or motorbike this new website has many useful road safety tips, information and links to keep you safe on the road,” said Cr Richards. Cr Richards said people of different ages will find relevant information on the website.

The new website is located at: www.geelongaustralia.com.au/roadsafety

Geelong Lutheran College

Welcome back to term 4.

I would like to extend a very special welcome to Mrs Jo Kara-Cozens who is teaching Year 1/2L for the remainder of this year. We all pray that Mrs Tara Linke enjoys good health in the coming weeks as she prepares for the birth of her first child.

On Tuesday we welcomed two students from Germany into our community. Pascal and Tom will be here for the next three weeks and they are the exchange partners for two of our students who were in Germany earlier this year.

Congratulations to Mrs Hoffmann and her Year 9 German students. Their entry in the German Film Festival, “Masterchef Deutschland” has proceeded to the final round of the judging and it will be screened at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Well done!

In terms of College development, the playing fields are looking fantastic. It was a delight to see our PE classes using these grounds for the first time yesterday. Students will be given access to these grounds at lunchtimes later this term.

Earlier this week, Andrew Katos MP announced that Geelong Lutheran College has been awarded a grant under the ResourceSmart Schools Program for energy efficiency measures. Thank you to Mrs Soenderlund for working on this submission, which forms part of our drive towards developing sustainability as one of the key strands within our Curriculum.

In terms of staffing for our College, most of the appointments for next year have been made. Staff leaving us at the end of this year will be Mrs Belinda Gladman-Nuske, Mr Ahmed Mulla and Mrs Anna Eickhoff (on family leave for 2015). Thank you to each of these teachers for their service and every blessing on their remaining time with us.

This time is a pivotal time for our VCE students as they make their final preparations for their examinations. We wish our students well, and pray they have clarity of mind and singularity of purpose as they demonstrate their learning from their past 13 years.

Barry Kruger